

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Spain

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Oct—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty King Felipe VI, King of the Kingdom of Spain, and His Excellency Mr. Mariano Rajoy Brey, President of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Spain, which falls on 12 October 2014.—MNA

2nd Meeting of ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision; Joint Preparatory Meeting held

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—The 2nd Meeting of ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision was held at Grand Amara Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw, on Saturday. The ACCWG was chaired by Director-General of ASEAN Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Aung Lynn, and attended by Senior Officials from Political and Security Community Pillar (SOM leaders), Economic Community Pillar (SEOM leaders) and Socio-Cultural Community Pillar (SOCA leaders) and delegates from ASEAN member states. The deputy secretary general of ASEAN Secretariat was also in attendance.

The meeting discussed matters related to central (See page 3)



Joint Preparatory Meeting (JPM) was held in Nay Pyi Taw to make preparation for the 25th ASEAN and related Summits to be held from 12 to 13 November 2014.—MNA

Growth forecast for Asia remains unchanged, paving the way for strengthening reform efforts of policymakers in the region

By Ye Myint

WASHINGTON, D.C., 11 Oct—Despite markdowns in forecast for many other regions, Asia which is considered as the main engine of global growth maintains the IMF's growth forecast at around 5.5 percent, unchanged since the Fund's April economic outlook, in 2014, ticking up slightly to 5.6 percent in 2015, said Changyong Rhee, director of the Asia and Pacific Department of the International Monetary Fund at a press briefing on October 2014 Economic Outlook for the Asia and Pacific Region on Friday.

The APD director called on Asia-Pacific policymakers take advantage of the resilient growth mo-



Changyong Rhee and his colleagues, authors of the latest Asia and Pacific Regional Economic Outlook update report, say economic outlook for Asia remain solid at a regional press conference on Friday.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

ment in order to strengthen their reform efforts to maintain the region's medium-term growth prospects.

In the latest Asia and Pacific Regional Economic Outlook update, the IMF economist highlighted the

two factors contributing towards the steady growth rate at 5.5 percent in 2014 (See page 3)

Yangon police force holds press conference

YANGON, 11 Oct—Police Lt-Colonel Myint Htwe explained crimes, lawsuits, activities of police to prevent crimes, investigations, drug seizures and security efforts at a press conference on Saturday.

He also said that Yangon region police force has got training supported by European Union, and could set up trust for the people.

He acknowledged public cooperation in taking security measures, while the government is providing police force members with more salaries, rations, uniforms, travel expenses and health care.

A total of 1,200 criminal cases under the 10 major categories happened in Yangon region from 2012 to 30 September 2014, with the highest number of murder cases.

MNA

Correction

Please read Mr Tony Blair in the news and photo caption under the heading "President U Thein Sein meets former Prime Minister of United Kingdom". Error is regretted.—Ed

Myanmar to host 2nd MEPC

YANGON, 11 Oct—The 2nd Myanmar Electric Power Convention (MEPC) 2014 is scheduled on 21 October at Sule Shangri-La Hotel former Traders here, according to the event organizer.

Some of the topics to be discussed during the three-day meeting will include the power market of southeast Asian country, current status and challenges, investment policy and potential hydropower project, latest updates in new electricity law, the role of hydropower in Myanmar and Thailand's future power system, support of Tokyo Electric Power Corporation in power sector development of Myanmar, the perspective of Korea Electric Power Corporation, and the assessment of Myanmar's power sector by the Asia Development Bank.

MEPC is one of the most important power con-

ferences in Myanmar.

The event will be attended by more than 250 delegates and speakers to discuss and find out the opportunities in this reformed country's booming power market. Electricity demand in Myanmar is increasing because of recent economic growth. The Ministry of Electric Power on 9 October signed MoUs with Thai electricity firms.

Moreover, the ministry and Marubeni Corporation of Japan also signed an agreement carry out a feasibility study for a coal-fired power plant in the southeast Asian country.

The plant, if developed, would generate as much as 2,000 megawatts of electricity by using environmentally friendly and highly efficiently technology, said the company.

GNLM

Myingyan-Hsakha rural road under construction



MYINGYAN, 11 Oct—The government is striving for narrowing the development gap between rural and urban areas across the nation.

The Department of Rural Development funded construction of one mile long Myingyan-Hsakha rural road in Myingyan Township of Mandalay Region.

Upon completion, the local people will get easy access to urban area of Myingyan.

District Deputy Commissioner U Myint Thin Aung and Assistant Director U Kyaw Min Naung of District Department of Rural Development inspected progress of the road.—Zaw Min Naing

Important role of people in education reform process discussed

MAWLAMYINE, 11 Oct—A seminar on education promotion was held at the hall of Mawlamyine University in Mon State on Friday, attended by Chief Minister of Mon State U Ohn Myint.

Director-General U

Zaw Htay of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) explained reform process in education sector and participation of the people.

Rector of Yangon University of Education Dr Aung Min gave lectures on

the important role of people in educational reform process, provisions in the national education law, and preparations for drafting the higher education law, basic education law, teacher training law and university charter.

The seminar was participated by local people and those of six political parties and townelders.

The meeting came to an end with a remark by Mon State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Hla Oo.

State IPRD



Medical team gives health care services free of charge

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—A medical team of Township Health Department made a field trip to provide health care services to the local people free of charge in Uttarathiri Township.

On Friday, the medical team com-

prising two assistant surgeons, nurses and health staff together with Red Cross members led by the Township Medical Officer gave health care to 172 local people free of charge in the compound of U Han Shein in Mayankhon Village.—Shwe Ye Yint



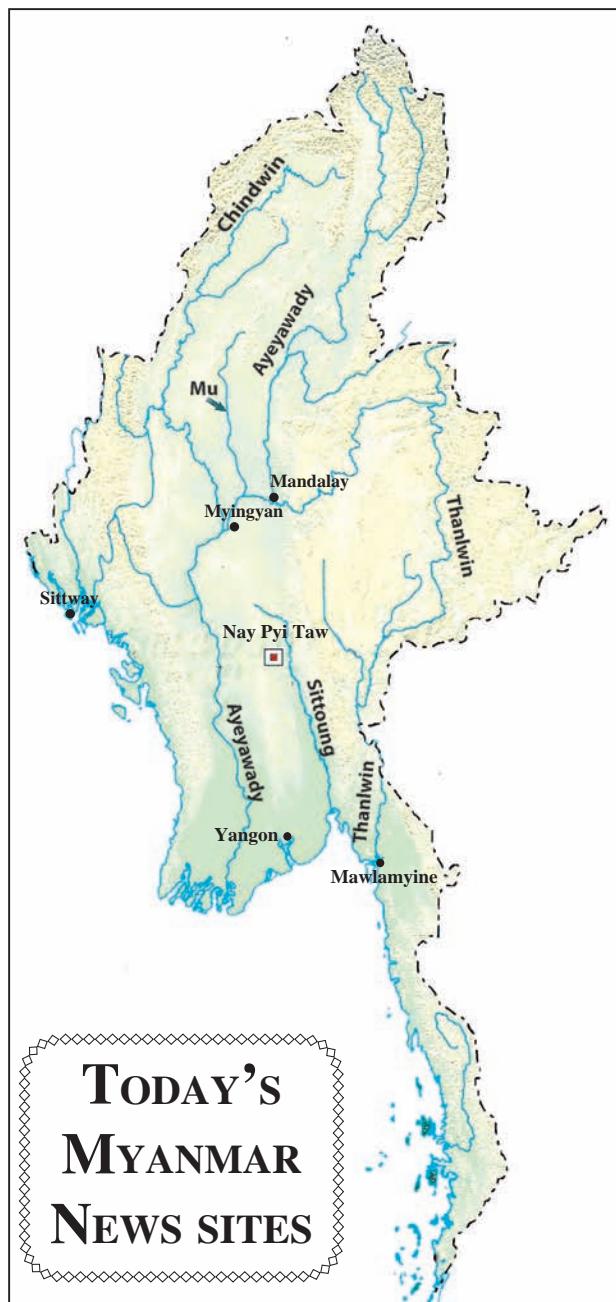
Rakhine State to host ISR Wrestling Contest

SITTWAY, 11 Oct—A coordination meeting to hold Rakhine State Chief Minister's Trophy Inter-State/Region Wrestling Contest was held at the hall of the secretary of Rakhine State government in Sittway recently.

Secretary of the state government U Min Chit Oo explained preparations of each committees for successfully holding the contest as national level. Officials of the respective subcommittees reported on preparations for opening and closing contests and requirements.

Officials attended to the needs of subcommittees.

Rakhine State IPRD



CSCs issued to eligible people in Myebon Tsp



SITTWAY, 11 Oct—Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Htein Lin delivered an address at the ceremony to issue citizenship scrutiny cards to the eligible citizens in Myebon recently.

Head of State Immigration and National Registration Department U Khin Soe explained the implementation of the Moe Pwint Plan-6. Col Htein Lin and officials presented cards to the people.

The minister and party presented duty assignments to Shwe Pauk Too Company, MZY Company, Thazin Gonhsaung Company and Development Affairs Committee for construction of the people hospital in Myebon in 2014-15 fiscal year.

The state minister and party met local people, departmental officials and state Hluttaw MPs at the Township General Administration Department.

Rakhine State IPRD

Promoting cooperation between Myanmar, China discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw met Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Liu Zhenmin and party at the Ministry on Saturday here to discuss further co-operation between Myanmar and China.

They also discussed matters relating to strengthening of bilateral ties between both countries as well as regional and international issues.

After the meeting, U Thant Kyaw hosted a luncheon in honour of the visiting Chinese del-



legation at Horizon Lakewood Resort Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

A meetin between the two deputy foreign affairs ministers from Myanmar and China in Nay Pyi Taw in progress.—MNA

NGOs to sign Charter 14 for Older People in Disaster Risk Reduction on 13 Oct

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 11 Oct—More than ten local and foreign agencies will sign a Charter 14 for the Older People in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) on 13 October, the International Day for Disaster Reduction, in Nay Pyi Taw, according to the Myanmar Consortium for Community Resilience (MCCR).

The charter focuses on the adoption of an inclusive approach vital to the

reduction of disaster risk. It calls for stronger commitment from governments, donors and organizations to address the shortcomings in policies, strategies and practices in response to older people's disaster risks, the agency said.

Despite this, the charter is still found lacking specific requirements and strong action plans.

Thet Naing Win, Project Manager of the Help

Age International, said that MCCR is now holding discussions with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to sign the charter, adding that the NGOs expect the ministry to sign the charter soon.

Khin Win Kyi, a Training Officer of Action Aid Myanmar, said that they have given training to more than 20,000 older people on awareness of disaster risks reduction in cooperation with partner agencies.

According to a survey by the World Health Organization, the global percentage of the population of older people is on the increase. People aged over 60 constitute 11% of the global population while 9% of the total population in Myanmar is senior citizens.

To systematically and expeditiously implement natural disaster management programmes, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has enacted the Natural Disaster Management Law in 2013.—GNLM



Michael Pan, Project Director of Internews Myanmar Media Lab, discusses disaster-related information at a press conference in Yangon.

PHOTO:
KHAING
THANDA
LWIN

2nd Meeting of ASEAN Coordinating...

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elements of ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision that will be the basis for future ASEAN Community's vision. These elements will be submitted to the ASEAN leaders at the 25th ASEAN Summit to be held in November 2014 through 15th ASEAN Coordinating Council.

The central elements in generally focus, among others, on further promoting ASEAN as an inter-governmental organization, continued adherence to the fundamental principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and other instruments of ASEAN in relations among ASEAN member states, continued consolidation of

ASEAN Community that is politically cohesive, economically integrated, and socially responsible as the foundation for its post-2015 vision, redoubling efforts to enhance the physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity within the region and beyond, strengthening of the capacity and capability of ASEAN institutions and increased

effectiveness and efficiency of ASEAN's working methods.

At the meeting, the Chair tabled the draft Nay Pyi Taw Framework on the post-2015 ASEAN Community's Vision in order to give an impetus for the adoption of a new vision of ASEAN by 2015. ASEAN

Union FM sends congratulatory message to Spanish counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Oct— U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo Y Marfil, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Spain, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Spain, which falls on 12 October 2014.—MNA

Swiss solar aircraft to stop over in Myanmar

YANGON, 11 Oct— Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Christoph Burgen organized a press conference at his embassy here on Friday to give



Growth forecast for Asia remains...

(from page 1)
and accelerating slightly to 5.6 percent in 2015, in the region.

The first one is that the recovery of advanced economies increased exports from the region and the second factor is still low interest rate environment in global market and robust credit growth in many countries help to boost the domestic demand in the region, Rhee told the press briefing.

Regarding economic outlook updates for China and India, the director said China is projected to be around 7 growth rate— 7.4 percent this year and 7.1 percent next year, lower than the 9-10 percent growth rate

in the last couple of years while India growth will rise to 5.6 percent in 2014, accelerating further to 6.4 percent in 2015.

Talking about the growth forecast of ASEAN economies, economic growth rate will slow at slightly under 5 percent this year due to slow growth rate in Thailand, but ASEAN will see pickup in economic growth, reaching 5.4 percent next year as global trade recovers and domestic demand rebounds.

For Japan, its growth rate slows down to 0.9 percent in 2014 and will be 0.8 percent next year.

On risks and challenges, he pointed out downside risks associated with

member states agreed to submit their inputs on the draft framework for adoption by ASEAN leaders at 25th ASEAN Summit.

In preparation for the 25th ASEAN and related Summits to be held from 12 to 13 November 2014, the Joint Preparatory Meeting (JPM) was held the same

briefings on a Swiss-made solar-powered aircraft on its round-the-world flight, sources said.

The plane requires the optimization of new kinds of technology and a drastic reduction in energy consumption, a product of 80 engineers and technicians, under André Borschberg's leadership, have had to apply highly innovative solutions.

The flight is scheduled to start its round-the-world journey from the deserts of the Arabian Gulf in March, 2015. It is expected to fly over the Caribbean Sea, India, Myanmar, the Pacific Ocean, America, the Atlantic Ocean, and Southern Europe or Northern Africa, Pilot André Borschberg said.

The pilots have plans to share their knowledge of solar facilities and their benefits during their stopover in Myanmar, the ambassador said. Myanmar President U Thein Sein observed the solar-powered plane during his European tour in September.—MNA

higher interest rates and decline in asset prices and own home-grown challenges of the region, saying that potential growth could weaken further if reform implementation stalls. He stressed the need to keep structural reforms as a priority to strengthen both medium-term growth prospects and resilience to global financial risks.—GNLM

day. U Aung Lynn also chaired the meeting.

The meeting discussed the tentative programme of activities and Indicative List of Topics to be discussed at the respective Summits as well as Order of Proceedings of the 25th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits.

MNA

Indonesia's new president to face challenges in first 100 days

JAKARTA, 11 Oct — Indonesia's new president, Joko Widodo, would face a testing period of the first 100 days in office with a hike in the price of subsidized fuel as the most pressing task.

During that period, investors would closely watch gesture of the president's new cabinet in handling domestic issues that have been lingering the nation, particularly on subsidized fuel price, that might largely affecting their business. Increasing the price of subsidized fuel would boost up trust of investors toward the nation's economy as the policy would give government ample fiscal space in



Indonesia's president-elect Joko Widodo walks with security as he leaves City Hall after resigning as the Jakarta Governor on 2 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS

addressing poor infrastructure problem, an analyst said on Friday.

"November would be a

non-negotiable time for the government to do so (increasing the process of subsidized fuel), therefore it

would see less burden in its 2015 state budget," Tony Prasentiantono, an economy analyst from Gadjah Mada state university said.

The government of the outgoing President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has increased fuel subsidy allocation to 291.1 trillion rupiah (about 24.8 billion US dollars) from a total of 2,019.9 trillion rupiah (about 172.5 billion US dollars) next year.

That figure was significantly higher than 246.5 trillion rupiah (about 21 billion US dollars) set for this year that made government unable to address poor infrastructure problem properly.

Should the new government prolong the move to increase subsidized fuel price to 2015, burden from the subsidy would be carried on and make government hard to run its programs with limited budget.

He said that inflation would be high in January next year due to flooding that increases distribution costs. Inflation would remain high in the following month as it would still be affected by the previous month. March would be too late because the burden would already be piled up, he added.

"The best condition is that the new government enters New Year with lighter budget," Tony pointed out. According to the analyst, investors' assessment toward the new government can be seen from fluctuation in stock exchange

index and exchange rate of the nation's currency of rupee against US dollar.

Like what was happened in India with its new Prime Minister Narendra Modi that fits with market expectation, Indonesia would see its financial market more vibrant with the new president, Tony expected. Mahendra Siregar, head of Indonesia's Investment Coordination Agency (BKPM), said on Thursday that investors were expecting policies issued by the new government to address domestic issues rather than responding political hullabaloo that pits the president and his arch-rival camps in feuding parties. "They believe that the new government would bring new energy, new spirit and is promising. They still have high trust in Indonesia," Mahendra said.—Xinhua

Chinese premier says HK gov't able to keep HK safe

BERLIN, 11 Oct — Visiting Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said here on Friday that he believes the Hong Kong government is able to keep the international financial hub a safe place for not only its residents but all investors from across the world.

He made the remarks at a joint Press conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel after they co-chaired the third round of bilateral governmental consultations.

Asked for comment on the situation in the Chinese special administrative region, Li said the Hong Kong government can maintain economic prosperity and social stability in line with the law while safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of Ger-

man and other foreign investors.

Since China resumed to exercise sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997, Li said, the central government has always followed the principle of "one country, two systems" and "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong with a high degree of autonomy."

The principled policy has never been and will not be changed, Li said, adding that a prosperous and stable Hong Kong serves the interest of both the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong itself.

Meanwhile, he warned against foreign meddling in the affairs of the Chinese special administrative region, stressing that Hong Kong affairs are China's internal affairs.—Xinhua



Soldiers from the Philippine Marines march during the closing ceremony of the 2014 Philippines Bilateral Amphibious Landing Exercise inside Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City, the Philippines on 10 Oct, 2014. Around 5,000 soldiers from the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the US Marines participated in the annual training.—XINHUA



A man works at a 70-year-old hand wash laundry workshop in Cochin, India on 10 Oct, 2014. Some hand wash laundry workshops still exist and provide services for the hotels, factories and local residents in most of the cities in India.—XINHUA

Two killed, dozens injured after research vessel capsizes off Penghu

TAIPEI, 11 Oct — A maritime research vessel capsized near Taiwan's outlying islands of Penghu late on Friday, leaving two killed and dozens injured, according to Taiwan's transport authority on Saturday. The 2,700-ton vessel carrying 45 people is believed to have run into a reef before capsizing in stormy waters late on Friday, the transport authority said at a Press conference.

The 27 researchers and 18 crew members on board were stranded after the ship tilted toward one side and began to take on water. Several passengers managed to scramble onto rubber rafts to row to safety.

Taiwan's rescue boats and helicopters found all 45 people, but two researchers were pronounced dead after medical treat-

ment. Among the survivors, 5 were in critical condition, 13 mildly injured.

Investigation into the cause to the accident is still under way, and results may be released within two weeks, according to the authority.

The 1.46 billion new Taiwan dollars (47.98 million US dollars) RV Ocean Researcher 5 built by Taiwan was the island's largest maritime research vessel, with a maximum range of 13,000 nautical miles (24,076 km) for a single expedition.

The two-year-old ship departed from Tainan's Anping Harbor on Thursday and was scheduled to return on 16 October. The eight-day mission was aimed at learning about the pollutants in the atmosphere and how they move through the air.

Xinhua

WORLD

LAS VEGAS, 11 Oct — A commercial plane was briefly quarantined on a Las Vegas airport tarmac on Friday, sending airline shares down as worldwide fears increased that Ebola could spread outside West Africa, where it has killed more than 4,000 people.

Airline and hospital officials said a Delta Air Lines plane was held at McCarran International Airport, but it turned out to be a false alarm and an all-clear was issued. A Delta spokesman said the concerns arose after a passenger on the flight from New York's John F Kennedy International Airport reported feeling unwell.

It was the latest Ebola scare involving aircraft in the past week, which have been reported by US media. On Wednesday, a passenger on board a US Airways flight from Philadelphia said he had Ebola.

Officials in the Dominican Republic investigated and cleared the aircraft, the airline said. Video from a passenger showed officials in blue-coloured protective suits boarding the plane after landing and escorting a man off. The same day, an American Airlines plane made an unscheduled landing in Midland, Texas, after a woman vomited on board.

Health officials in pro-

Las Vegas sounds false alarm as global Ebola fears spread



A medical personnel looks at a screen while checking temperatures of passengers arriving at Aleksandar the Great airport in Skopje on 10 Oct, 2014. —REUTERS

tective clothing removed passengers from a plane in Newark, New Jersey, on Saturday over fears a Liberian man and his daughter who were on board were showing symptoms.

These and a rash of

incidents in countries from Macedonia to the Czech Republic to Brazil worry doctors and emergency medical professionals about available resources.

"If this really becomes a widespread Ebola panic,

and EMS crews are getting 50 Ebola false alarms a day, the system will become seriously overextended," said Dr Peter Taillac, professor of emergency medicine at the University of Utah School of Medi-

cine. "The response will be worse than the reality."

Airline stocks fell after initial reports of the Las Vegas incident. Delta Air Lines Inc was down 1.7 percent; Southwest Airlines fell 1.8 percent,

United Nations \$1 billion Ebola appeal severely underfunded



United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson addresses the United Nations General Assembly during a special meeting for a briefing on the West Africa Ebola outbreak at the UN headquarters in New York on 10 Oct, 2014. —REUTERS

on record, was identified in March in a remote part of Guinea and has spread to West African countries Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria and Senegal. Cases have also been reported in Spain and the United States.

Nabarros told a special briefing of the 193-member UN General Assembly that the disease was spreading so rapidly the number of cases was likely doubling

Congo is unrelated to the one in West Africa.

On Friday, WHO raised the death toll to at least 4,033 from 8,399 probable, suspected and confirmed Ebola cases.

Nabarros told a special briefing of the 193-member UN General Assembly that the disease was spreading so rapidly the number of cases was likely doubling

every three or four weeks.

Deputy UN Secretary-General Jan Eliasson appealed for more money and resources, including numerous healthcare personnel. "Of the \$1 billion sought by UN agencies under (the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) consolidated appeal only one quarter has been funded," Eliasson said.

US Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, praised Cuba and East Timor for "punching far above their weight" with their contributions to the global Ebola response and appealed for assistance from more countries.

"According to the UN's financial tracking service, only 24 countries have pledged \$1 million or more to the efforts, 24 countries," Power told the General Assembly. "We have a responsibility to come together to meet this challenge." —Reuters

Iran — nuclear talks might be extended if November deadline missed

ANKARA, 11 Oct — Talks over Iran's nuclear programme might be extended if disagreement over remaining issues cannot be resolved by a November deadline, Iran's top negotiator was quoted as saying on Friday, in the first hint an extension was being contemplated.

"Iran and the P5+1 (major world powers) are very serious on resolving the remaining disputes by November ... but everything including an extension is possible if we cannot reach an agreement," Abbas Araghchi was quoted as saying by the semi-official Fars news agency.

Iran and the six — the United States, France, Germany, China, Russia and Britain — hope that resolving the more-than-decade-long nuclear standoff with Iran will reduce regional tensions and alleviate the risk of another war in the Middle East.

Israel has repeatedly threatened to use military force against Iranian atomic sites if diplomacy fails to defuse the standoff.

Iran rejects allegations from Western powers and their allies that it is seeking a nuclear weapons capability, but has refused to halt uranium enrichment, and been hit with US, European Union and UN Security Council sanctions as a result.

Top diplomats of the United States, Iran and the European Union will meet in Vienna next week to work on a comprehensive deal ahead of a 24 November deadline, aimed at curbing Teheran's sensitive nuclear activities in exchange for gradually lifting sanctions against Iran.

"Iran and Western powers are very determined and serious to reach a result. Issues like enrichment and lifting of sanctions will be discussed in Vienna," Araghchi said.

"We are still optimistic about meeting the deadline." —Reuters

and United Continental Holdings lost 2.5 percent. A Thomson Reuters index of U.S. airline companies .TRXFLDUSPARLI fell 2.1 percent.

The death this week of the first person diagnosed with Ebola in the United States and the hospitalization in Spain of a nurse who was the first to contract the virus outside West Africa have changed the perception of Ebola to a global threat from what had been seen as a problem for poor West African countries.

A study last month by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) projected there could be as many as 1.4 million cases of Ebola in West Africa by mid January. Liberian Thomas Eric Duncan, who flew on commercial planes from his home country to Dallas in late September, died of Ebola on Wednesday morning. His body has been cremated, Texas health officials said on Friday.

Growing awareness of the disease and accompanying fears have led to several people being tested as a precaution.

Doctors in Macedonia have "serious indications" that alcohol, not Ebola, may have killed a British man visiting the Balkan country, a senior health official said. —Reuters

ASEAN-plus-3 sign pact to upgrade AMRO to international body

WASHINGTON, 11 Oct — The Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus Japan, China and South Korea on Friday signed an agreement to upgrade their ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office to an international organization in the future. AMRO, an independent surveillance unit based in Singapore to monitor regional economic and financial conditions, will be raised to the same level as financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Established in April 2011, AMRO is expected to play a key role in overseeing the operation of the “Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization” — a multilateral currency swap scheme launched in 2010 to tackle a lack of credit liquidity in financial markets at times of unusual volatility.

An agreement among the same 13 East Asian countries took effect in July to double the funds of the Chiang Mai Initiative to \$240 billion, in a bid to prevent a reoccurrence of the “Asian currency crisis” in the late 1990s.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.— Kyodo News

10 more victims of MH17 identified, crash site still inaccessible

THE HAGUE, 11 Oct — This week another 10 victims of the MH17 flight disaster in eastern Ukraine have been identified, resulting in a total of 272 identified people now, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte declared on Friday, also expressing his anger about the inaccessibility of the crash site.

A total of 26 victims remains unidentified. During the crash on 17 July a

total of 298 people died, of which 196 had the Dutch nationality.

Of the 10 new identifications seven persons had the Dutch nationality. At the request of the embassies of the countries concerned, the specific nationality of the non-Dutch victims was not made known.

On 23 July the first aircraft with remains and bodies of the victims arrived at Eindhoven Air-

port, followed by several other flights. The coffins were brought to Hilversum, where a team of specialists have the task of identifying the victims. Rutte on Friday emphasized once again that it may take several more months before every victim will be identified.

It is uncertain if remains of all victims are currently in Hilversum. On 5 August the Netherlands stopped the recovery

and repatriation mission on the crash site in eastern Ukraine until further notice due to the deteriorating security conditions in the area. Therefore currently no new remains can be found or transported to the Netherlands for identification. On Thursday the Dutch government wrote in a letter to the parliament that it is still too unsafe to return to the crash site.

Xinhua



US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel (R) takes part in a ceremony during his visit to the Tolemaida battalion in Melgar, Colombia, on 10 Oct, 2014. —XINHUA

Colombia says FARC rebel chief travelled twice to Cuba for peace talks

BOGOTA, 11 Oct — Colombian FARC rebel leader Rodrigo Londono has travelled to Cuba twice to meet with his negotiating team as part of peace talks to end to five decades of war, the government said on Friday.

Interior Minister Juan Fernando Cristo said in a statement the trips were made to guarantee agreements made so far at the negotiations and to push the talks between the rebels and the government forward. Londono did not meet with government representatives or take a place

at the negotiating table, Cristo said.

Until now, it was assumed that Londono, whose nom de guerre is “Timochenko,” was taking a more secondary role in the peace talks through messages and consultations with rebel negotiators rather than direct leadership.

“At the request of the government, guarantor and observer nations facilitated conditions for the healthy development of the process that seeks to end the armed conflict, including internal consultations by the FARC,” Cristo said. Ven-

ezuela, Cuba, Norway and Chile are acting as guarantor and observer nations in the negotiations.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos authorized the visits, he told a business conference in Cartagena on Friday, adding that it was “normal” and “part of the process.” “Why did I authorise it? Because we are in negotiations, and just like my negotiators have to go to the presidential palace to consult me, their counterparts also have to consult on their decisions,” the president said.— Reuters

Spain to send 300 troops to Iraq

MADRID, 11 Oct — Spain is to send 300 troops to Iraq help train the Iraqi military as part of the ongoing operation against the Islamic State (IS), it was confirmed by Spain’s Minister of Defence Pedro Morenes.

Morenes gave the information during the Press conference held after Friday’s Cabinet meeting in which the measure was approved.

He said that the mission would see the Spanish work alongside Italian forces in the training of an Iraqi brigade “from individual to company battalion level,” and that the training would last for between “seven and eight weeks.”

The Spanish would give training in deactivating explosive artifacts, clearing mines and in carrying out special operations.

“It is not just about containing the advance of the Jihad of the Islamic State, but also to give Iraq a state structure which is strong enough to allow Iraqi unity and to assure the prosperity and security of their citizens,” said the Minister.

Morenes explained the training would be given in Iraq, where “immediate protection” had been established and insisted Spanish forces would not be entering in combat against the IS.

“We exclude direct combat as an operative element,” he said, explaining that Spain’s contribution to the operation against the Islamic State could still see some “variations.”

Spain will also increase the capacity of several military air bases in order to “support the needs of American High Command”.—Xinhua

Malaysia to cut income taxes to ease pain of new tax, subsidy cuts

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 Oct — Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak is seeking to ease the pain of subsidy cuts and the introduction of a new sales tax by reducing both corporate and personal income taxes and increasing allowances for the poor in a proposed 2015 budget announced on Friday.

The Malaysian economy is expected to grow between 5.0 percent and 6.0 percent next year, Najib said in his speech during the presentation of the 2015 state budget in the

lower house of parliament.

In 2014, gross domestic product is set to rise between 5.5 percent and 6.0 percent, from 4.7 percent last year.

While the economy appears to be in good shape, Najib is mindful of popular concern about a recent 10 percent rise in fuel prices and a 6.0 percent goods and services tax that will kick in from 1 April next year.

Last week, Najib raised the price of Ron95-grade gasoline by 0.20 ringgit to 2.30 ringgit (\$0.71) per lit-

er and diesel to 2.20 ringgit per liter.

At present, the government allocates more than 21 billion ringgit a year in subsidies for Ron95 gasoline, diesel and cooking gas.

Najib said a new, more targeted subsidy mechanism will be unveiled soon.

Meanwhile, the government expects to collect 23.2 billion ringgit from the introduction of the goods and services tax next year. The new tax will replace the sales tax and the services tax.— Kyodo News



French President Francois Hollande (L) meets with US actor and former governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France, on 10 Oct, 2014. — XINHUA

UN says thousands likely to be massacred if jihadists take Kobani

GENEVA / MURSITPINAR (Turkey), 11 Oct — Thousands of people most likely will be massacred if Kobani falls to Islamic State fighters, a UN envoy said on Friday, as militants fought deeper into the besieged Syrian Kurdish town in full view of Turkish tanks that have done nothing to intervene.

UN envoy Staffan de Mistura said Kobani could suffer the same fate as the Bosnian town of Srebrenica, where 8,000 Muslims were murdered by Serbs in 1995, Europe's worst atrocity since World War Two, while UN peacekeepers failed to protect them.

"If this falls, the 700, plus perhaps the 12,000 people, apart from the fighters, will be most likely massacred," de Mistura said. The United Nations believes 700 mainly elderly civilians are trapped in the town itself and 12,000 have left the centre but not made it across the border into Turkey.

"Do you remember Srebren-



Smoke rises after an US-led air strike in the Syrian town of Kobani on 10 Oct, 2014. —REUTERS

ica? We do. We never forgot and probably we never forgave ourselves," said de Mistura, the UN

peace envoy for Syria. "When there is an imminent threat to civilians, we cannot, we should

not, be silent."

The plight of mainly Kurdish Kobani has unleashed the

worst street violence in years in Turkey, which has 15 million Kurds of its own. Turkish Kurds have risen up since Tuesday against President Tayyip Erdogan's government, which they accuse of allowing their kin to be slaughtered.

At least 33 people have been killed in three days of riots across the mainly Kurdish southeast, including two police officers shot dead in an apparent attempt to assassinate a police chief. The police chief was wounded.

Intense fighting between Islamic State fighters and out-gunned Kurdish forces in the streets of Kobani could be heard from across the border. Warplanes roared overhead and the western edge of town was hit by an air strike, apparently by US-led coalition jets. But even as the United States has increased its bombing of Islamic State targets in the area, it has acknowledged that its air support is unlikely to be enough to save the city from falling.—Reuters

Greek PM wins confidence vote, snap election fears remain

ATHENS, 11 Oct — Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras comfortably won a confidence vote aimed at rallying support for his plan to abandon a widely-reviled EU/IMF aid package and ending speculation that his government is on its last legs.

Having endured party defections, riots and various government crises in his nearly two and half years in office, Samaras could face the prospect of snap polls if he fails to push through his candidate in a presidential election in early 2015.

The confidence vote is an effort by Samaras to show Athens is determined to avoid early elections and force grumbling lawmakers into publicly backing him, allowing him to present a united front at negotiations with EU/IMF lenders on exiting a 240-billion-euro (\$300-billion) bailout a year early.

"The only thing that seems to be worrying mar-

kets now is the so-called political risk, which means whether the political stability which we restored will be maintained," Samaras said. "With this vote of confidence we are cementing this stability."

All 155 lawmakers from Samaras's New Democracy and Socialist PASOK parties backed the government in the 300-seat parliament early on Saturday. Samaras's parliamentary support rose to 155 deputies after a rebel lawmaker returned to the conservative fold on Thursday. The confidence vote, in effect, sets in motion a frenetic government campaign to woo independent and some opposition lawmakers ahead of the presidential election in February.

Samaras needs the support of 180 lawmakers to secure victory for his candidate for president, which the second-largest party in parliament — the radical-leftist Syriza party — and other small anti-bailout parties

have promised to block.

Under Greek law, parliament must be dissolved and elections called if it cannot elect a president. Opinion polls say Syriza would almost certainly win an early ballot, and its leader Alexis Tsipras repeated an impasioned call for new elections.

"Tonight, when the lights in this room go out, we will all see that this confidence is far from the 180 deputies needed for a president to be elected," Tsipras said in parliament, turning down an invitation to back the coalition.

In a warning to Samaras's government that is set to begin crucial talks on debt relief, reforms and funding, Tsipras said

Syriza would not respect prior decisions when it comes to power. "Don't make crucial moves, don't proceed with crucial negotiations or decisions which will bind future governments without the consent of the party that ranks first," he said.

Reuters

IS militants execute journalist, 3 relatives in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 11 Oct — The Islamic State (IS) militants executed on Friday a cameraman works for an Iraqi television and three of his relatives in Iraq's central province of Salahudin, a provincial police source said.

Raad al-Azzawi, 37, cameraman for local news Sama Salahudin satellite channel, was kidnapped about month ago with his brother and two relatives by the IS militants for alleged collaboration with Iraqi security forces, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

While the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders group said that US war with Iraq was the most lethal for journalists since World War II, statistics of the Iraqi Union of Journalists showed that more than 300 of its members and media workers were killed since the start of the US-led war in March, 2003.—Xinhua

US says sees higher chance of Islamic State reprisal attacks

WASHINGTON, 11 Oct — The United States said on Friday that it sees a higher chance of reprisal attacks on members of the US-led coalition against the Islamic State militant group since they began airstrikes against the fighters last month.

In a periodic update of its "Worldwide Caution" on potential global threats, the State Department noted the United States and regional partners began military action against Islamic State, also referred to as ISIL, on 22 September.

"In response to the airstrikes, ISIL called on supporters to attack foreigners wherever they are," it added.

"Authorities believe there is an increased likelihood of reprisal attacks against US, Western and coalition partner interests

throughout the world, especially in the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, and Asia," the warning said.

The State Department, echoing its last warning on April 10, said "current information suggests that ISIL, al-Qaeda, its affiliated organizations, and other terrorist groups continue to plan terrorist attacks against US and Western interests in Europe."

"Authorities believe the likelihood of a terror attack in Europe is increased as European members of ISIL return from Syria and Iraq," it added in language that did not appear in the earlier warning.

The Middle East has been transformed in recent months by Islamic State, a Sunni militant group that has seized swathes of Syria and Iraq, crucifying and behead-

ing prisoners and ordering non-Muslims and Shi'ites to convert or die.

The United States has been building a military coalition to fight the group, which requires intervening in both Iraq and Syria, countries with complex multi-sided civil wars in which nearly every state in the region has allies and enemies.

After months of resisting additional US military action in the Middle East, US President Barack Obama in August ordered US airstrikes on Islamic State targets in Iraq and then, last month, in Syria.

Among the nations that have taken part in the airstrikes in one country or the other are Australia, Bahrain, Britain, France, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.—Reuters



Kurdish protesters in Austria attend a demonstration in solidarity for Syrian Kurds in front of the Chancellery in Vienna on 10 Oct, 2014. —REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 12 October, 2014

Foreign investments will propel national economic growth

By Kyaw Thura

Foreign direct investment is of great importance to national economic growth for the simple reason that investors coming from the developed world have potential to render financial support and expertise to local companies.

One primary advantage of foreign direct investment is that money freely goes to businesses with the best prospects of growth anywhere in the world. It is clear that people, regardless of race and religion, make investments in the hope of the best return for their money with the

least risk.

With a favourable economic outlook led by rising gas production and somewhat steady inflation alongside stable exchange rate, Myanmar is now at a low risk of debt distress.

It is however important for the government to ensure that borrowing is kept under control and external concessional borrowing prioritized.

Despite this, there are risks to this budding outlook, a few of which are low levels of international reserves, rising public debt and weak policy frameworks. For instance, loose taxation policies will lead to low revenue collections. To address them, the Central Bank of Myanmar should start to fine-tune its monetary policies and regulatory framework so as to attract more foreign investments and allow greater foreign participation in the financial sector. It is hoped that the CBM will increase its international reserves as foreign inflows are expected to intensify in a few years' time.

It seems that the government should strive for the continued progress with its economic reform, which has contributed to the recent entry of foreign banks.

All in all, Myanmar still needs to make efforts to reinforce its institutional frameworks and pursue its structural reforms. Given its transformational needs and limited capacity, the country still finds itself in a situation to seek technical assistance from international institutions.

Write for us

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

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

CHANGE

Kyi Mun

Change is the law of life.

A Universal Saying

Let us try to penetrate into the meaning of change in the following way:

C for Catalyst for Change

H for Hope for a Better Future

A for Action Plan

N for New & Better Ways of Doing Things

G for Goal

E for Excelling in Creating Innovation

CATALYST FOR CHANGE

Life is always in a flux. Everything is impermanent. So, life is a process of changes. As all the phenomena are subject to the natural law of impermanence, life is like riding a series of waves.

In the face of changes, there are many kinds of responses to changing circumstances. Among them, the following are the typical responses to change:

* Ignoring the change

* Reacting to change

* Anticipating opportunities to take advantages of change

Those who believe and practice the third type of response to change is called Change Catalysts. They are not adverse to Change. They adapt to the changing circumstances. They seek and seize opportunities from changes in the environment such as:

* Political Changes

* Economic Changes

* Socio-Cultural Changes

* Technological Changes

* Ecological Changes

* Educational Changes

* Legal Changes

HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Any kind of change that we have to face should be made to be a harbinger of an improved, better future. Life is never static. Life is dynamic. So, we have got to be dynamic in our vision for the future and we must make sure that we have a dynamic strategy to successfully deal with the changing circumstances. Strategically, we must get ourselves ready to ride out the waves of change, and tactically make every move to preserve ourselves and to prevail over the changing circumstances. We have got to dare to combat the changing conditions and also to dare to win over the obstacles. We must dare to triumphantly travel the changing journey with resourcefulness and tactfulness and dare to reach our coveted destination.

ACTION PLAN

It is said: "Failing to Plan is Planning to Fail", "Plan Your Work, and Work Your Plan", "Prior Purposeful Planning Plus Proactive Preparations Promote Peak Performance".

Action Plan must be effective, meaning the Right things must be done; and implementation of the Action Plan must be efficient, meaning the things must be done Right (in the right way.). Without an effective Action Plan, we are liable to grope in the dark.

NEW & BETTER WAYS OF DOING THINGS

We all are destined to be getting old getting old in body at least. Getting old physically is inevitable. But, we should not allow ourselves to get old in spirit and in heart. We should always be fresh and rejuvenated in moods, feelings and emotions. We should be emotionally strong, stable and sound. With an emotionally and mentally transformed attitude, we should constantly practice renewal in our thoughts, ideas, vision, strategy, tactics and day to day activities. We should always be looking forward to finding

nomic fields.

Now, in Myanmar, many people go with the stream to make a killing but are blind to ethical code our people have esteemed highly in our society. Lastly, I would like to suggest that our people should live with "brahma-vihara" (four divine states) such as metta (love), karuna (pity), mudita (sympathy) and upekkha (equanimity) and then our society will be peaceful, and justice be prevalent.

Yours truly
Maung Shein
(Shwe Myaing)

and using new and better ways of doing things.

GOAL

Children, idiots and simpletons are excused from adopting and keeping goals in their lives. All sober, sane adults should have goals in their lives. For example, we should ask ourselves in the following manner:

* What do we want in our lives?

* What business are we in?

* What sort of job do we do?

* Where are we now?

* Where do we want to be?

* How can we get where we want to be?

* Which is the best way?

We should very carefully ask ourselves the above questions and seek the appropriate goals in our lives.

EXCELLING IN CREATIVE INNOVATION

Just as life itself is always changing, we should also change our mindsets appropriately. It will never work to be obstinate, dogmatic, narrow-minded, and myopic in our world outlook. We should focus on something and drive, strive, thrive, and revive in creating new and better ideas, and also in producing innovative processes, products and services. Without being creative and innovative, we cannot survive in the competitive world of meeting/exceeding people's needs, wants and expectations. Just remember: "Innovate or die".

CONCLUSION

The world is ever changing. Life is always in transformation. Everything is impermanent. All are temporary in their existence. So, we have got to be relevant, adaptable, flexible and pliant in our mindset to be able to flow with the currents of change, or ride out the waves of Change.

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

Letter to the Editor

Sir,

Your editorial which appeared under the caption "Justice is vital for a safer and peaceful society" on the 9th instant, is very informative and educational. It is true that justice plays an important role in every society. Justice is done if everyone receives his fair portion, so to speak. Mostly the word, justice, is usually found in the administration of lawsuits where two opposite men or two parties, as being creatures,

Firefighters attend refresher course in Yinmabin Tsp

YINMABIN, 11 Oct—The refresher course for firefighters 1.2014 was opened at the hall of Basic Education High School Branch in Htanzin Village of Yinmabin Township in Sagaing Region on 7 October.

Township Administrator U Soe Min Htet made a speech. Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Zaw Win explained arrangements for conducting the training course.



Staff Officer U Aung Zay Moe of Township Fire Services Department explained the purpose of training course. A total of 100 trainees from villages are attending the training course up to 31 October.

Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)

HKAKABO-RAZI THE UNIQUE BIOGEOGRAPHIC WONDER OF NORTHERN MAYANMAR FOR PEACE, NATURE AND AYEYAWADY LANDSCAPE

The Union of Myanmar is endowed with an unusually array of biogeophysical diversity, from tropical evergreen forests habited by Malayan fauna and flora in the south to the snow capped mountains with Himalayan flora and fauna in the north, capturing the grandeur and real beauty of the country.

Myanmar constitutes within the Indo-Malay Realm and it contains three ecological subregions - the Indian Subregion along Myanmar and Bangladesh-India border, the Indo-Chinese Subregion in the north, bordering China, and the Sundiac Subregion in the south sharing its border with Thailand. The ten biounits included in the three subregions representing diverse geophysical features and biodiversity are the richest biological reservoirs in Asia according to the World Bank Technical Paper Number 193. These biounits are spatially important ecosystems for the formation of protected areas system within Myanmar and if offers the greatest opportunity of biodiversity conservation in the Indo-Malay Biogeographic Realm. Northern Biogeographic Region of Myanmar extends 27 Miles north of Myitkyina, at the confluence of the two branches of the Ayeyawady river to the frontier of Tibet. Forest types vary from other part

of the country, fall within Subtropical Biounit and lie entirely outside the tropics. The region is mountainous and is traversed by heavy summer rain. The lower hills and valleys are covered with lush tropical and subtropical evergreen rain forests. Their forests are relatively diverged from monsoon rain fed deciduous forests in terms of species and ecosystems that are found over greater part of the country. The mountainous northern region is characterized by the presence of broad-leaf evergreen rain forest, sub-tropical forest, temperate forests and the alpine vegetation. The significant vegetation types may be summarily classified into three belts;

- (1) sub-tropical broad-leaf evergreen rain forest up to 6,000 ft;
- (2) temperate semi-deciduous broad-leaf rain forest, 6,000 - 9,000 ft;
- (3) evergreen coniferous or subalpine snow forest, passing gradually into alpine scrub, 9,000 ft - 11,000 ft. (F. Kingdom Ward, 1954)

PLANT HUNTING

Since the year 1895, many plant hunters including Mr C, M, D.Kermode (late Professor of Forestry of Yangon University) and Mr. F Kingdom Ward (a prominent British Botanist) travelled in the northern part of My-

anmar to inventory the flora and fauna. In 1931, the best collections of birds and mammals were undertaken on the transfrontier areas of the northern region of Myanmar by Mr. J.K . Stanford, Deputy Commissioner of Myitkyina. It made almost complete collection of avifauna, comprising 472 species of northern Kachin State. [Mr. J.K Stanford writes,] It can safely be said that naturalists have so far only guessed at the surface, as it were, of an enormous sea of some of the dense and least known jungle in the world. It is also equally true for the flora because there was good reason to believe that many species might be expected from the diverse biogeophysical conditions of the region. Among all the earlier travellers, Mr.Kingdom Ward explored the region eight times, as early as 1900, with two objectives. First, to inventory the botanical species at the snow capped mountain range which serves as the source of the great Ayeyawady river of the country. The second objective was to reconnoitre the approaches to Hkakabo Razi, the highest mountain in South East Asia. His last trip of plant hunting expedition in the triangle area of Kachin State was carried out in 1953 and it was joined by U Tha Hla and U Chit Ko Ko of Forest Department, Myanmar. Since

line mystic natural beauty, leaving behind scripts, poems and botanical nomenclature.

The radiating colourful blooming flowers amid the melting snow offer the breath taking view and charm the visitors with fascination. It is a sylvan heaven of flora and a unique natural feature. It will surely occupy a very special place in the hearts of the nature loving tourism. The natural beauty and grandeur of the Hkakabo-Razi will engender the mountain climbers and ecological minded tourists with wonder.

Hkakabo-Razi is the unique wonder and it will become a major attraction of nature-based tourism in the near future, as the environment is closely interwoven with human way of life. Important natural resources like Hkakabo-Razi contribute the happiness and well-being of mankind, particularly considering the unspoilt naturalness of the biogeographic features of the northern frontier of Myanmar.

Forest Department under the Ministry of Forestry is on the way to inventory the flora and fauna for the establishment of a Nature reserve or a National Park to represent the Indo-Chinese bio-region and the Malaya-Realm, since Myanmar possesses the best opportunity in the region for developing a truly representative protected area systems. Snow capped Hkakabo-Razi, accentuated amid the lush and verdant mountainous country, offers the unparalleled opportunity for the preservation of invaluable national heritage and natural

beauty of Ayeyawady.

Today, the needs for protection of the natural world and the establishment of friendly relations among neighbouring countries are called for the formation of Transfrontier Reserves to support the regional environmental cooperation with the purposes of conserving biodiversity and of building confidence between the countries straddling one or more national boundaries. In other words, Transfrontier Reserve being addressed here is aimed to be jointly administered, demilitarized and fully protected, extending over the buffer zone of the interstate boundaries. It would, then, assure the environmental security and social security with its political, economic and ethical elements.

In the joint efforts to form Transfrontier Reserve, Hkakabo-Razi with its unique biogeographic features at northern Myanmar, will contribute the achievement of environmentally sound and equitable/sustainable development of Ayeyawady landscape for present and future generations of neighbouring countries at both their local and national levels. It would strengthen confidence, friendship, and cooperation among contiguous countries. Indigenous flora and fauna would be subsequently guarded, thereby contributing to the protection of global biodiversity.

(The author is a retired Deputy Director General of the Forest Department and former Director of Wildlife and Sanctuaries Division.)

Transboundary cooperation key to biodiversity conservation



(10 Oct 2014, Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea)

Participants at the meeting of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity emphasize the need for sharing and collaboration across borders to achieve global biodiversity conservation targets.

Conservation scientists, development practitioners and policy makers attending a side event at the Convention on Biological Diversity highlighted the need for greater cooperation among

different countries to conserve biodiversity in landscapes that cross international borders.

The side event on 'Opportunities and Challenges in Conserving Biodiversity in Transboundary Landscapes for Sustainable Development in Hindu Kush Himalayas' raised awareness among the international community on the importance for transboundary cooperation to achieve global conservation and development targets, particularly in mountain re-

gions like the Hindu Kush Himalayas.

Prof Wu Ning, Ecosystem Services Thematic Leader at the International Centre for Integrated Development (ICIMOD), spoke about the significance of ecosystems in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region, emphasizing the linkages between the upstream and downstream areas.

"We need to adopt integrated ecosystem management approaches to conserve biodiversity and cultural values and ensure the flow of ecosystem goods and services across interconnected landscapes", he said. He stressed the need for researchers from different countries to use common methodologies.

The meeting also highlighted the need for enhanced collaboration in terms of capacity development, technology transfer, generating bottom-up critical evidence,

greater sharing of research data and learning, and the creation of an enabling policy environment to contribute to global biodiversity conservation.

"Transboundary networking and cooperation at a regional scale is needed to enhance knowledge and data sharing", said Prof Ma Keping, Secretary General for CNC-DIVERSITAS and professor at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He added that ICIMOD's regional initiative focused on promoting transboundary landscape management has made valuable data available through the Asian Biodiversity Conservation and Database Network (ABCDNet).

Mr Hem Pande, Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, emphasized the concept of "ecology without

borders". Sharing examples of community-based forest management in Nepal, he stressed the value of sharing learning from these types of successful experiences at the transboundary scale.

"Nepal has already endorsed its National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan, which provides policy instruments for transboundary cooperation in biodiversity conservation in Nepal. This will contribute to CBD objectives and Aichi Targets", said Dr Bishwa Nath Oli, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal. He also recognized Nepal's bilateral working agreement with the governments of India and China for effective transboundary cooperation and action. "Working collaboratively provides opportunities to implement effective biodiversity conservation tools, like conservation corridors, as is being

done in the Kangchenjunga Landscape between Bhutan, India, and Nepal", said Prof. Ram Prasad Chaudhary, from the Research Centre for Applied Science and Technology at Tribhuvan University in Nepal. He added,

"Sharing learning from local level conservation efforts in the Kangchenjunga Landscape will add value to work in other similar landscapes".

The side event was co-organized by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD); Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India; and Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal during the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 8 October 2014 in Pyeongchang, Korea.

(International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development)

G-20 discuss infrastructure investment for growth, details due in November

WASHINGTON, 11 Oct — Finance chiefs of the Group of 20 major economies agreed on Friday to work out details of an initiative to promote investment and foster growth worldwide at a time when the global economy faces a raft of slowdown risks.

"We will establish a global infrastructure hub to be announced in detail by the leaders' summit" next month, Australian Treasurer Joe Hockey, the chairman of the G-20 gathering, said at a Press conference.

The comment came as the finance ministers and central bank governors concluded their two-day meeting in Washington without a joint communique. The latest meeting will be followed by a G-20 summit in November in Brisbane, Australia, with the member states aiming to adopt a comprehensive strategy to meet a growth target set

earlier this year.

The 20 members, representing over 80 percent of global economic output, seek to raise their collective gross domestic product by 2 percent by 2018, by sparking private-sector investment and employment.

But the target comes at a sensitive time when the global economy is facing a string of major challenges including deflation risks in the eurozone, unrest in the Middle East and sanctions over the Ukraine crisis, as well as the expected monetary tightening in the United States.

While the 20 members see some key economies recovering, they also acknowledge others are facing renewed weakness, Hockey said.

Japan is "neither optimistic nor pessimistic" about its economic outlook, given its GDP growth of 1.3 percent in the first half



G-20 finance ministers and central bank governors meet during the IMF-World Bank annual meetings in Washington on 10 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS

of 2014 despite some data showing the consumption tax hike in April continues to be a drag on consumer spending, Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso said at a separate Press conference. The International Monetary Fund on Tuesday cut its projection for the global economy for this year and

2015, while slashing its Japanese growth outlook for 2014 and 2015 by a much larger margin, citing the tax hike impact.

US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew expressed wariness about the outlook for Japan's economy Friday, saying it is "uncertain."

"Policymakers need to

carefully calibrate the pace of overall fiscal consolidation and to move decisively to implement requisite, growth-boosting structural reforms," Lew said in remarks prepared for a session of the International Monetary and Financial Committee.

At the gathering on

Friday, the 20 members including the United States, China and Japan discussed ways to spur investment to meet growing demand for infrastructure in emerging markets in an effort to meet the growth target.

"Infrastructure investment is critical in our plan," Hockey said. The discussion followed an agreement reached earlier on an initiative to promote the gathering and sharing of data concerning infrastructure projects worldwide.

Japan and many other members were largely in favor of a proposal by Australia to set up a new body for the data operations, a Japanese government official said after the meeting.

While supporting the proposal, Aso said Japan urged full use of similar functions at existing international organizations such as the World Bank.

Kyodo News

US and UK to test big bank collapse in joint model run

WASHINGTON, 11 Oct — Regulators from the United States and the United Kingdom will get together in a war room next week to see if they can cope with any possible fall-out when the next big bank topples over, the two countries said on Friday. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew and the UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, on Monday will run the first-ever joint exercise simulating how they would prop up a large bank operating in both countries that has landed in trouble.

Also taking part are Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen and Bank of England Governor Mark Carney, and

the heads of a large number of other regulators, in a meeting hosted by the US Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

"There is no doubt that in 2008 the judgment taken by my predecessor and others was that banks ... like the Royal Bank of Scotland and others were too big to fail," Osborne said.

"Now I want to make sure that ... we have real options, and that we are able to avoid bailing in taxpayers with a bailout. And I'm pretty confident that's the case now," he said.

Six years after the financial crisis, politicians and regulators around the globe are keen to prove they

have created rules that will allow them to let a large bank go under without spending billions in taxpayer dollars.

They have forced banks to ramp up equity and debt capital buffers to protect taxpayers against losses, and have told them to write plans that lay out how they can go through ordinary bankruptcy. The plans are so-called living wills. Yet salvaging a bank with operations in several countries — which is the norm for most of the world's largest banks such as Deutsche Bank, Citigroup Inc and JP Morgan — has proven to be a particularly thorny issue.

Reuters

recent years, researchers have discovered that not all lipids are bad for you, such as the much touted omega-3 fatty acids that are found in fish oils.

FAHFAAs had not been noticed previously in cells and tissues because they are present in low concentrations, making them difficult to detect.

In the new study, the researchers engineered mice to have more of a sugar transporter, called Glut4, in their fat because people with low levels of this transporter are prone to developing diabetes.

They were surprised to notice more fatty acid synthesis in mice that had improved insulin activity and thereby were less likely to develop diabetes.

"While many of the other lipids were essentially the same between normal mice and these diabetes-resistant mice, we saw these FAHFAAs elevated by 16 fold in mice that were resistant to diabetes, standing out really clearly as a big change," said Kahn.

Further research showed that when the mice eat FAHFAAs, blood sugar levels dropped and insulin levels rose, indicating the potential therapeutic value of FAHFAAs.

Lipids, like cholesterol, are typically associated with poor health. But in

measured FAHFAAs levels in humans who are insulin-resistant, a condition which is often a precursor to diabetes, and found that their FAHFAAs levels were lower in fat and blood, suggesting that changes in FAHFAAs levels may contribute to diabetes. Unlike omega-3 fatty acids, which are not made in mammals, FAHFAAs are actually produced and broken down inside the human body.

"This important feature gives FAHFAAs an advantage in terms of therapeutic development because we can potentially modify the rate of production and breakdown throughout the body," said Kahn.

"Because we can measure FAHFAAs levels in blood, low levels may turn out to be an early marker for the risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Consequently, if restoring FAHFAAs levels in insulin resistant individuals proves to be therapeutic, we may potentially be able to intervene before the development of frank diabetes."

In addition, these novel lipids can also reduce inflammation, suggesting that these molecules may be used to treat inflammatory diseases, such as Crohn's disease and rheumatoid arthritis, as well as diabetes, the team added.



People hold candles to commemorate the World Mental Health Day 2014 to raise awareness of schizophrenia and support mental health in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 10 Oct, 2014. According to the World Health Organization, the World Mental Health Day is observed on 10 Oct every year, with the overall objective of raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health. — XINHUA

GT to cut jobs, wind down sapphire plant; takes aim at Apple

SAN FRANCISCO, 11 Oct — GT Advanced Technologies Inc said it will cut 890 jobs, close an Arizona plant expected to make scratch-resistant screens for Apple Inc, and suggested it could pursue legal claims against the iPhone maker while revamping under bankruptcy.

"Only if GT winds down these operations will it be able to stop its mounting losses and re-focus its resources on the operation of its core business of selling sapphire furnaces and other products," the company said on Friday.

GT Advanced said it was burning through \$1 million a day at the operations it intended to close.

"GT believes that it has many claims against Apple arising out of its business relationship with Apple," the company said in a filing

with the US Bankruptcy Court in Manchester, New Hampshire.

The company said it could not pursue the unspecified claims at the outset of its bankruptcy, but that the claims would allow GT Advanced to terminate several Apple agreements that it said were burdensome and of no value.

Apple responded by pointing to its earlier statement that it remains committed to preserving jobs in Arizona and was consulting with state and local officials on its next steps.

Shares of Rubicon Technology Inc, a rival maker of sapphire material, surged about 23 percent to \$4.93 on Nasdaq.

"It looks like if GT has its way, they will wind down their sapphire operations, and that's a positive for the industry generally,



The Apple logo is lit on the first day of sale for the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus, in Sydney on 19 Sep, 2014. Hundreds of customers waited in lines outside the store on the first day the new iPhone became available.—REUTERS

and more specifically, as a primary supplier, for Rubicon, too," said Andrew Abrams, an analyst at JG Capital.

However, Srini Sundararajan of Summit Research said Rubicon's rally was "an over-reaction to

the cause of its bankruptcy and turnaround plans.

The company said in Friday's court filing it needed to wind down operations in Mesa, Arizona and Salem, Massachusetts as soon as possible to preserve its dwindling cash. The process would take until the end of the year, it noted.

GT Advanced reached an agreement with Apple last year to transform itself from a supplier of sapphire furnaces to a manufacturer of sapphire for Apple. The iPad maker provided \$578 million in funding for the Arizona plant, and GT Advanced agreed to repay the money over five years, starting in 2015.

The first sign of trouble came in September when Apple indicated its iPhone 6 would use rival Gorilla Glass instead of

sapphire material.

GT Advanced asked the bankruptcy court to end 13 contracts with Apple, including a confidentiality agreement that has forced the bankruptcy to be conducted with unusual secrecy.

GT Advanced would be liable for \$50 million for each violation of the confidentiality agreement, court papers show.

On Nasdaq, GT fell 38 percent to 80 cents, and Apple was little changed at \$101.05 late Friday afternoon.

A hearing will be held on GT Advanced's requests on Wednesday in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The bankruptcy case is In re: GT Advanced Technologies Inc, US Bankruptcy Court, District of New Hampshire, No. 14-11916.

Reuters

China's ailing moon rover weakening

BEIJING, 11 Oct—China's ailing moon rover *Yutu* has entered its 11th dormancy as the lunar night falls, with its functions degrading gracefully, its designer said on Friday.

The rover is currently in good condition and works normally, but its control problem persists, said Yu Dengyun, deputy chief designer of China's lunar probe mission.

"*Yutu* has gone through freezing lunar nights under abnormal status, and its functions are gradually degrading," Yu told *Xinhua* at an exclusive interview. He said that the moon rover and the lander of the *Chang'e-3* lunar

mission have completed their tasks very well. The rover's designed lifetime is just three months, but it has survived for over nine. *Chang'e-3* mission was the second phase of China's lunar exploration program, which includes orbiting, landing and returning to the Earth. The program is scheduled to end around 2020. The *Chang'e-3* probe was launched on 2 December last year and landed on the moon on 14 December. The rover, *Yutu*, named after the pet rabbit of the lunar goddess Chang'e in Chinese mythology, separated from the lander and touched down on the moon's surface on 25 January.

The lunar program authorities said the problem was probably caused by the "complicated lunar surface," including stones and dust, but this has not been confirmed.—Xinhua



A robot is on a barrier-crossing show during the 2014 China Robot Competition and the Robocup China in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province, on 10 Oct, 2014. Over 2,000 contestants from colleges and universities took part in the competition.—XINHUA

After gaffe, Microsoft board to look at gender pay gap, male culture

SEATTLE / SAN FRANCISCO, 11 Oct — A well-known picture in tech circles, taken in 1978, shows the first 11 employees at Microsoft. Two are women. One of them left two years later after a pay dispute.

Almost four decades later, the ratio has improved: About a third of Microsoft's 110,000 or so employees are women. But the company's pay practices and attitude towards women are still open to question and will likely be taken up at the board level, according to one director, Maria Klawe.

The issue hit the head-



Satya Nadella, Microsoft Corp chief executive, attends the unveil event of the new Microsoft Surface Pro 3 in New York on 20 May, 2014.—REUTERS

lines and social media on Thursday when new Chief Executive Officer Satya

Nadella suggested women in tech shouldn't ask for pay raises but should in-

stead trust the system and rely on "karma" to get what they deserve.

He later said he was wrong, but the damage was done, reinforcing the view that Microsoft — and the tech industry generally — is a boys' club.

"He blew that question," said Klawe in a telephone interview on Friday. "He's retracted it. I think it's going to take us all to a better place. I'm pretty sure he's going to be thinking really hard about pay equity."

It was Klawe, a long-time campaigner for women in tech, who asked Nadella the question onstage

on Thursday that led to his remarks, and she has since led the company's efforts at damage limitation.

Klawe, 63, said she has been pressing for hiring and promoting women at Microsoft since she joined the board five years ago,

but the issue of pay raises for women had not been discussed by the board.

"I suspect it might be now," she said.

Klawe pointed to the recruitment of Peggy Johnson from Qualcomm as head of business development in September as a recent success, but she conceded there have been backward steps - notably,

the ousting of Tami Reller and Julie Larson-Green, who ran the flagship Windows unit until a breakup in 2013.

"I did feel badly that we had Tami and Julie on the executive team and then had two fewer people. But it really had to do with what made sense in terms of who was the right person for which job," said Klawe. "I'm sure we'll see more women in those levels."

Reller has since left Microsoft, while Larson-Green is responsible for the overall look and feel of Microsoft's software services.

Reuters



An employee works on electric pylons at a power station in Greater Noida on the outskirts of New Delhi on 8 June, 2012.—REUTERS

Severe coal shortage at power plants hits industries

NEW DELHI, 11 Oct — A power plant in New Delhi is among 37 across India that have either exhausted their coal or have less than four days' supply, a shortage that has forced some states to ration power for industries and homes.

Many states have been hit by a severe power deficit which has dealt a blow to small-scale factories that produce everything from steel to textiles and cannot afford alternatives such as diesel generators.

"The situation is very bad, with power cuts of up to 16 hours a day," said Vijay Agarwal, a director at Puja Ferro Alloys in Goa. "The shortage has raised our costs while output is at 60 percent of what it should be."

The New Delhi plant, run by India's largest power producer NTPC Ltd (NTPC.NS), has shut one

of its five units due to coal shortage, a company official said.

Sixty of India's 103 power plants have coal enough for less than a week, mainly due to lower supplies from Coal India (COAL.NS), according to the Central Electricity Authority.

The level of coal stocks is the worst in about six years, forcing power companies to import huge consignments and leading to congested ports. In early September, 53 plants had less than a week's supply on hand. To deal with the power deficit, Telengana has started cutting supplies to industries for two days a week, a move that industry body ASSOCHAM said will badly hurt small and medium sized companies.

"While all the segments of the industry will bear the impact, the small

scale units will face death knell," ASSOCHAM Secretary General DS Rawat said in a statement. State-owned Coal India, the world's largest miner of the fuel, accounts for more than 80 percent of the country's total production but has failed to raise its output fast enough to cater to the increasing needs of the power sector.

Its April-September production fell short of its target of 220.11 million tonnes by more than 9 million tonnes. Coal India's production shortfalls have already made India the third-largest importer of coal despite sitting on the world's fifth largest reserves.

But a Coal India official told Reuters on Friday that the company cannot be expected to supply all the coal that power companies need and that they should

import a percentage of their requirement. Forced by populist governments to sell power at regulated rates, many debt-laden state power companies shy away from importing coal, given the higher costs. Importing coal can cost twice as much as buying it from Coal India.

Still, India's coal imports hit 168.4 million tonnes in the fiscal year through 31 March and are rising as the new government has promised to scale up power output to light up every home. About 400 million of the 1.2 billion Indians still live without electricity.

India's inbound shipments of thermal coal, used in power generation, are expected to surge 11 percent to 150 million tonnes this fiscal year, according to online market operator mjunction.—Reuters

Suicide attack kills two police, wounds five in S Afghanistan

LASHKAR GAH, (Afghanistan), 11 Oct — Two police were killed and five others injured as a suicide attack rattled Helmand's provincial capital Lashkar Gah, 555 km south of capital Kabul on Saturday morning, a senior police official Pacha Gul Bakhtiar said.

"A terrorist with explosive device and wearing police uniform was attempting to enter a police compound in Lashkar Gah city at 08: 15 am local time. When police asked him to prove his identity, he exploded himself leaving two police dead," Bakhtiar told Xinhua.

The bomber was also killed in the blast, while five other police personnel sustained injuries, the official said.

He also put the attack on Taliban militants. However, the armed outfit is yet to claim responsibility.—Xinhua

Indian railways cancel 40 trains due to cyclone "Hudhud"

NEW DELHI, 11 Oct — Indian railways on Friday canceled 40 trains and diverted many others due to threat of upcoming severe cyclonic storm 'Hudhud' which is expected to land fall in its eastern coast.

India's East Coast Railway said 35 trains were canceled and 31 diverted, while the South Central Railway said it canceled five other trains.

"Hudhud", which is now moving in the northwest direction in the Bay of Bengal, is nearing the coast of the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh and is expected to cross the coast around Visakhapatnam Sunday.

The Indian authorities have asked people living in the coastal areas likely to be hit by the cyclone to evacuate to safer places.—Xinhua

Thousands of students demonstrate in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY, 11 Oct — Thousands of students from Mexico City's National Polytechnic Institute (IPN) marched through the capital Friday, demanding greater say in university matters. The students, who originally took their demands to the streets on 25 September, called for transparent election of the university's leadership, among other things.

The Interior Ministry last week agreed to respond to their demands, and proposed changes to the institution's administration. However, student leaders said on Friday the changes were not enough.

Deputy Interior Minister Luis Enrique Miranda said their demands would be reviewed along with the Ministry of Public Education, and an answer would be provided by noon Tuesday, the El Universal daily reported. In September, more than 10,000 IPN students blocked one of the city's main roads and forced the cancellation of classes. Interior Minister Miguel Angel Osorio Chong offered dialogue with them, saying: "We will listen to the demands of the students of the IPN to resolve the situation."—Xinhua



Palestinians look at a calf before it is slaughtered as they stand on the remains of a mosque, which witnesses said was hit by an Israeli air strike during a seven-week Israeli offensive, on the first day of the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday in Gaza City on 4 Oct, 2014.— REUTERS

also use the conference to re-commit Washington to a two-state solution and keep the door open to negotiations, the officials said. But they offered no specifics, and the chances for restarting the peace process soon appear dim.

Reuters

Gaza aid conference may fall short of \$4 billion sought by Palestinians

WASHINGTON, 11 Oct — Senior US officials voiced doubts on Friday that an international donors conference to be held in Cairo this weekend will meet the Palestinians' full request for \$4 billion (2.5 billion pounds) in aid pledges to rebuild the Gaza Strip after it was devastated by a 50-day war between Israel and Hamas.

Secretary of State John Kerry will join with his counterparts from dozens of countries on Sunday at a meeting where the Palestinian Authority

is hoping that moves by a new unity government towards assuming control in Hamas-dominated Gaza could make wealthy donor governments less wary of providing reconstruction funds.

But it remains unclear how generous they will be, given the lack of progress towards resolving the broader Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the risk that hostilities could erupt again, destroying whatever has been rebuilt.

"It's fair to say there are serious questions be-

ing raised by the donors," a State Department official told reporters, citing concerns that unless the cycle is broken they will be "back here doing the same thing again in a year or two."

He predicted the conference would yield "significant contributions" for reconstruction, with the Gulf states providing the bulk of it and Washington and the Europeans offering "meaningful and appropriate" amounts as well.

But the official said, "I don't know whether anybody thinks we're going to

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV NINOS VOY NO (1023)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO (1023) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.10.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1440)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1440) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.10.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT**

Phone No: 2301185

Weather report

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs M.S.T today, the Severe Cyclonic Storm (HUD HUD) over West Central Bay of Bengal moved Northwestwards and intensified into a Very severe Cyclonic storm and it is centered at about (440)miles Northwest of Coco-Island (Myanmar) and (190)miles Southeast of Visakhapatnam(India). It is likely to move West-Northwest ward and will cross North Andhra Pradesh Coast (India) on afternoon of 12th October, 2014. Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

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**Slovakia to sign new treaty for supplies of Russian oil**

BRATISLAVA, 11 Oct — Slovakia will sign new treaty with Russia for long term supplies of Russian oil, local news agency TASR reported on Friday.

The proposal of the agreement between the governments of Slovakia and Russia has been drafted and submitted for comments by the Slovak Economy Ministry, according to the report.

According to the agreement, Slovakia plans to buy as much as 6 million tons of Russian oil a year at least until the end of 2029 for domestic consumption and the same volume for transit across Slovakia to third countries.

Slovakia's production of oil is almost negligible when compared to its consumption.

"The conclusion of the new treaty is thus viewed as a strategic priority for the Slovak Republic. We consider the inking of a new agreement also important in terms of continuation and follow-up with respect to the tradition of relations between the two countries and the existing agreement on oil deliveries," stressed the Slovak Economy Min-

istry in its statement.

Slovak consumption is covered with oil supplies via the Druzhba pipeline. "The consumption of Slovakia's oil is fully realised with this pipeline system from the deposits of the Russian Federation. Slovakia has an interest in maximising the utilisation of the given pipeline," said the ministry.—Xinhua

Gov't mulls freezing certification of solar power projects

TOKYO, 11 Oct — The government is considering freezing certification of new large solar power projects planned under the so-called feed-in tariff system, people familiar with the matter said on Saturday.

The move comes after some power companies have suspended signing

contracts to buy electricity from renewable energy suppliers due to shortage of transmission network capacity.

Under the feed-in tariff system, utilities are obliged to purchase power generated from renewable sources at fixed prices.

The system's introduction in July 2012, following

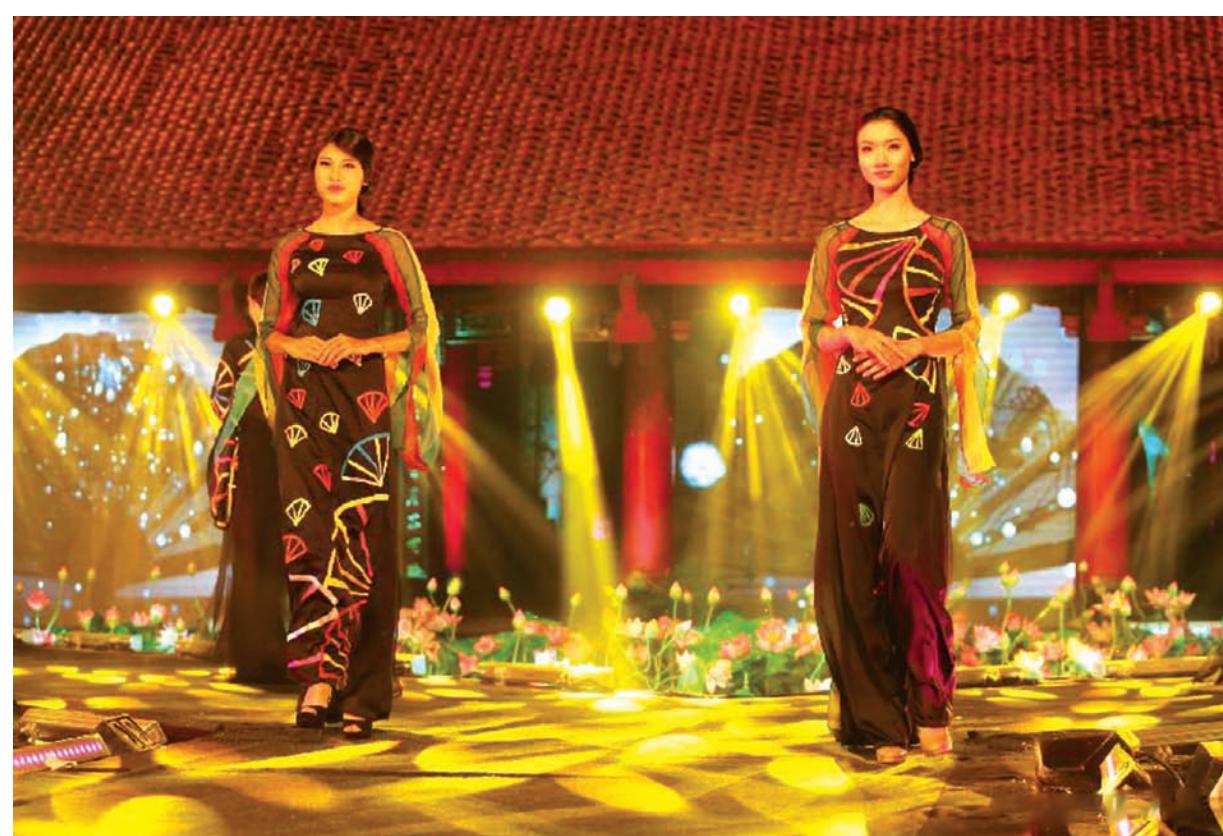
the Fukushima nuclear crisis in March 2011, caused new suppliers to flood into the solar power business.

Freezing of project certification is part of the steps to be presented at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry's meeting on Wednesday to deal with the grid capacity problem, the sources said.

Other proposals include setting a cap on surcharges on electricity bills which finance the higher cost of power from renewable sources.

The ministry will also propose allowing higher prices for electricity from other energy sources, they said.

Kyodo News



Models present Ao Dai, a Vietnamese traditional costume, at a show to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Hanoi's Liberation Day in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam on 10 Oct, 2014.—XINHUA

Brazil's Neves would improve ties with United States — adviser

Brazil's Social Democratic Party (PSDB) presidential candidate Aecio Neves attends a news conference in Rio de Janeiro on 9 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 11 Oct — Brazilian presidential challenger Aecio Neves would seek to repair ties with the United States and finalise a long-delayed free-trade agreement with the European Union if he is elected in an 26 October runoff, his top economic adviser said on Friday.

Neves, a centrist favoured by the business community who has vowed to reinvigorate Brazil's struggling economy, is running neck-and-neck with leftist President Dilma Rousseff ahead of the vote, recent polls showed.

"We are keen to move back to a broader, more open approach to foreign policy," Arminio Fraga, a former Brazilian central bank chief, said in a teleconference with investors on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings Washington.

"I am sure we will be getting much closer to the US and will try to wrap up negotiations with the European Union," he added.

The US-educated fund manager is Neves' pick to be the next finance minister if the Brazilian Social Democracy Party leader wins the presidency.

Relations between the United States and Brazil were strained last year by revelations the US National Security Agency spied on Rousseff with secret Internet surveillance programs made known in documents leaked by former NSA analyst Edward Snowden.

Tensions between the Americas' two largest economies started to ease recently after a series of diplomatic accords that included the settlement of a decade-old trade dispute over cotton subsidies.

Meanwhile, Brazil and its Mercosur trade partners—Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay—are stuck in talks with the EU to ink a free-trade deal in the works for nearly two decades. Venezuela joined Mercosur in 2012, but it is not a party to the talks.

The Brazilian economy tumbled into a recession this year and the inflation rate hit its highest level in nearly three years in September, rising above the central bank's official target of 4.5 percent, with a tolerance range of 2 percentage points.—Reuters

Britain's Queen Elizabeth makes actress Angelina Jolie a Dame



Actress Angelina Jolie is presented with the Insignia of an Honorary Dame Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George, by Britain's Queen Elizabeth in the 1844 room at Buckingham Palace in London 10 Oct, 2014. —PTI

LONDON, 11 Oct—Britain's Queen Elizabeth made actress Angelina Jolie an honorary Dame at a private ceremony at Buckingham Palace on Friday in recognition of her campaigning to end sexual violence in war zones and for services to UK foreign policy.

The queen presented Oscar-winning Jolie, who is special envoy to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with the Insignia of an Honorary Dame Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George. Dressed in a pale suit, she shook hands with the queen during an audience in the 1844 Room, named for the year when Russian Emperor Nicholas I made a state visit.

Jolie, 39, co-founded the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative with former Foreign Secretary William Hague in 2012, and the award was announced in June when Jolie was co-chairing the End Sexual Violence in Conflict summit in London with Hague.

"To receive an honour related to foreign policy means a great deal to me, as it is what I wish to dedicate my working life to," she said at the time. She was among 1,149 people to receive an honour for their contribution to British society in the 2014 Queen's Birthday Honours list. Jolie is not a British citizen and therefore cannot be addressed as Dame. She receives the award on an honorary basis.—Reuters

Adele's new album not before 2015?



LONDON, 11 Oct—Singer Adele will reportedly not release her third album until at least 2015.

The 26-year-old 'Skyfall' hitmaker released her last album '21' in early 2011, which sold more than sold more than 25

million copies worldwide, reported CNN. According to a financial report from Adele's label XL Recordings reveals that there

are no plans to drop an album from the 'Rolling in the Deep' singer in 2014.

"There will not be a further new release by Adele during 2014 and consequently there will be a fall in XL's turnover and profits," reads the report.—PTI

Taylor Swift named Billboard's Woman of the Year for second time



LOS ANGELES, 11 Oct—Country-turned-pop singer Taylor Swift has been named Billboard's Woman of the Year becoming the first artist to win the honour more than once, the music industry trade magazine said on Friday.

Swift, 24, who shot to prominence in 2006 as a teenage country sensation and has been able to successfully cross over into pop music, will release her fifth album "1989" on 27 October.

Swift also won the award in 2011. Past winners include Beyoncé, Katy Perry and last year's honouree, Pink.

Last month, the seven-time Grammy winner scored a No 1 hit on the Billboard Hot 100 song chart with "Shake It Off," her most pop-oriented song to date.

Swift has built a strong following among teens and young adults with a mix of emotional love songs and empowering breakup songs like "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together" and "I Knew You Were Trouble."

"As one of the most influential artists

of her generation, Taylor Swift has seen incredible success on the Billboard charts," Janice Min, the co-president of the magazine's owner, Guggenheim Media, said in a statement. Each of Swift's studio albums have sold more than 4 million copies in the United States to date and her last four albums have topped both the US album chart and US country album chart.

Swift is the best-selling digital music artist of all time, according to the magazine. She will be honoured in December with the award at Billboard's annual Women in Music event in New York.

Reuters

mance on a London bus at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and his 2012 Kennedy Centre culture award.

"It just goes to show a career in music," he said. "When I see autobiographies or biographies of musicians I always look to see what photographs they have chosen."

This does, perhaps unintentionally, allow the book to skim over some of the wilder sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll episodes in his history.

But the pictures of frenzied stage performances interspersed with quite exhausting world travel do not suggest a bunch of choirboys on a church outing.

All the famous gigs are there such as Wembley in 1971, Knebworth in 1979 and the 2007 reunion, but there are many more obscure moments, such as meeting Andy Warhol, playing in a Danish club in 1968 as The New Yardbirds, and jamming with rapper Puff Daddy.—Reuters

Selena Gomez visits patients at children's hospital



Wearing a white top, black pants and a wide-brimmed hat, Selena Gomez went to the Children's Hospital Los Angeles. —PTI

LOS ANGELES, 11 Oct—Singer-actress Selena Gomez made a surprise appearance at a children's hospital and spent some time with the sick kids.

Wearing a white top, black pants and a wide-brimmed hat, Gomez went to the Children's Hospital Los Angeles to talk to the children and their family, reported Ace Showbiz. Gomez, 22, then took to Instagram to share some photos from her visit. One photo shows her posing with a girl whom she calls "princess." Another photo shows her talking to a boy. She rests her head on her hand while the boy sits on his bed. The "Come & Get It" singer also took to Twitter to share her excitement. "Spending time with @ChildrensLA," she wrote. The hospital retweeted the post and added a reply, "Thank you for visiting and spending a special moment with our kids!"—PTI

Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page comes up with a whole lotta book



Guitarist Jimmy Page of the band Led Zeppelin is introduced during the Berklee College of Music Commencement Concert in Boston, Massachusetts on 9 May, 2014. —REUTERS

LONDON, 11 Oct—Truth be told, it will take a pretty strong fan of Jimmy Page and his erstwhile band Led Zeppelin to buy the celebrated rock guitarist's new book.

Weighing in at just shy of 3 kg (more than six and a half pounds) and containing some 650 photographs, "Jimmy Page" is appropriately heavy for the man who popularised the hard-rock guitar riff.

It is also quite costly at a recommended 40 pounds in Britain and \$60 in the United States. But fans are fans and when a far-pricier limited-edition was published a few years ago, it sold out quickly.

It is clear, in an interview with *Reuters*, that Page is proud of the new, updated book, which begins with a picture of him singing sweetly as a choirboy and

ends with him greyed and beaming, clutching his favourite guitar.

"It's an awful term, but it's a journey," said Page, now 70. "You see the changes in fashion, you see the changes in guitars, you see the changes in attitude. You see this man growing and gaining years as he goes on

Edward Snowden and girlfriend reunited in Moscow, new documentary shows

NEW YORK, 11 Oct — Edward Snowden, the former National Security Agency (NSA) contractor who blew the whistle on the US government's mass surveillance programs, has been reunited in Russia with his long-time girlfriend, according to a new documentary shown on Friday.

Lindsay Mills, a dancer who was living with Snowden when he left Hawaii for Hong Kong in May 2013, joined him in Moscow in July 2014, the documentary disclosed.

The two are filmed cooking together in an apartment in Moscow, where Snowden, 31, has been living since he was given temporary asylum and later a three-year residency permit.

Mills had remained



NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden

silent and her whereabouts were largely unknown after Snowden's release of tens of thousands of classified US intelligence documents in 2013.

"Citizenfour," made by US film maker Laura Poitras, who shared a Pulitzer Prize this year for her role in publicizing the Snowden documents, had its world premiere at the New York Film Festival on Friday.

It gives a fly-on-the-wall account of Snowden's tense days in a Hong Kong hotel and his encounters with journalists from the *Washington Post* and Britain's *Guardian* newspaper as they prepared to divulge details of NSA programmes that gathered data from the Internet activities and the phones of millions of ordinary Americans and dozens of world leaders.

"Citizenfour," takes its title from the email alias that Snowden used when he first approached Poitras in early 2013 through a series of encrypted emails with a view to leaking details of the top-secret programmes to the media.

Marketed as a "real-life thriller," it is the first of several major films in the works about Snowden, who is wanted by the United

States on charges brought under the Espionage Act.

"I already know how this will end for me, and I accept the risk," an outwardly calm Snowden says.

"This was a film we had to make as privately and secretly as we could," Poitras said after the screening, which received thunderous applause from an audience that included Snowden's father and other family members.

"We very much wanted to communicate in this film that (it) was about people who take risks and come forward at huge personal sacrifice," added Poitras, who says she has been stopped and questioned when entering the US numerous times in the past 10 years. She now lives in Berlin.—Reuters

Powerful typhoon churns toward Okinawa with strong winds

TOKYO, 11 Oct — A large powerful typhoon moved slowly towards Japan's Okinawa island chain on Saturday, packing heavy winds that disrupted flights and knocked out power.

Typhoon Vongfong, Japan's strongest storm this year, at 0500 GMT Saturday was about 150 km (94 miles) southeast of Naha City, the biggest city in Okinawa, and moving north at 15 kph (9 mph), Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said.

Rights mess keeps Brazil clubs out of best-selling game

LOS ANGELES, 11 Oct — Best-selling video football game "FIFA 15" was released in Brazil this week but a lack of organization by players means that for the first time since the 1990s there are no Brazilian clubs featured.

The popular game is the market leader in soccer-mad Brazil, but makers EA Sports could not reach a deal with Brazilian players over their image rights, or even work out who to negotiate with.

Although EA officials in California and Sao Paulo would not comment on the affair, their distributor in Brazil said the lack of a local

Its winds gusted up to 234 kph (146 mph). Fourteen people in Okinawa and Kagoshima prefecture in Kyushu were injured due to strong winds, the *Mainichi* newspaper reported.

It was likely to be closest to Okinawa - 1,600 km (1,000 miles) southwest of Tokyo, and the home of the largest contingent of US troops in Japan - on Sunday morning Japan time, local media reports said.

The typhoon was expected to weaken as it

moved north, however, and likely to hit land on Monday morning on the westernmost main island of Kyushu, before moving northeast towards Japan's main island of Honshu on Tuesday.—Reuters

of Kyushu, before moving northeast towards Japan's main island of Honshu on Tuesday.—Reuters

presence was a blow.

"It's terrible," Daniel Landi said in an interview with sports newspaper *Lance!*

"The obstacle is that the contracts of athletes from around the world are covered by an entity called FIFPro. But this year the Brazilians are no longer represented by this association.

"The big problem is there is no one legal entity that represents Brazilian players and so the way round that would be to negotiate with each one and there are more than 600 players," he added.

"We want to negotiate a collective contract but

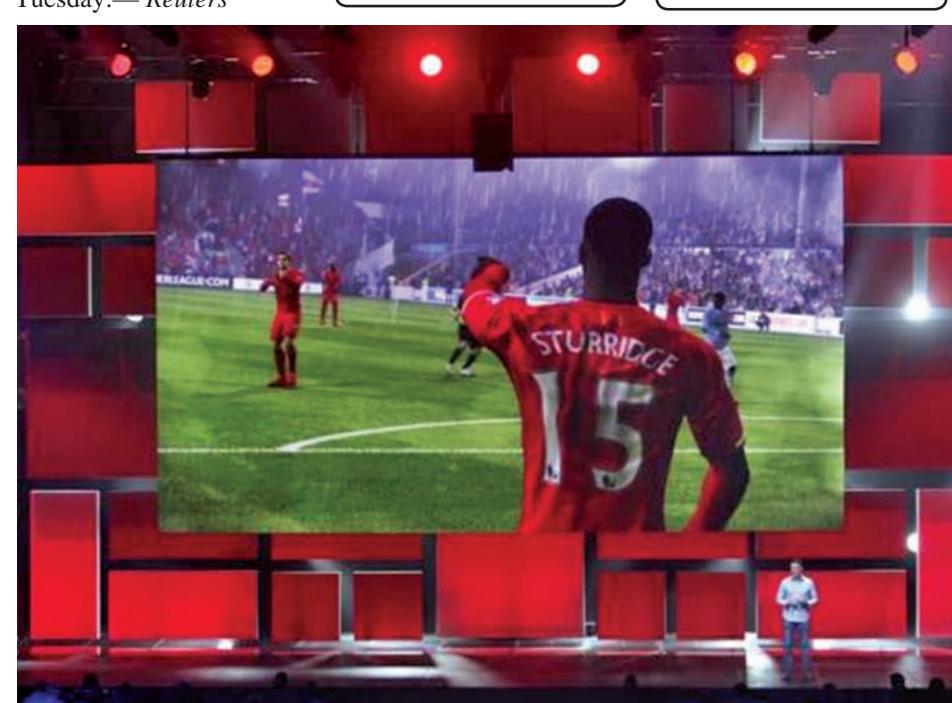
we don't know how yet, if it is with the clubs or the agents."

FIFPro, the Amsterdam-based players' group that negotiates a collective bargaining agreement with games' manufacturers, said the Brazilian union had not provided them with the proper guarantees and that they were working to get Brazil back into the game.

"We understand the situation in Brazil and it is extremely unfortunate that we are unable to provide the collective image rights for that particular market," FIFPro's communications director Andrew Orsatti told Reuters.—Reuters



Typhoon Vongfong is seen in the Pacific Ocean as it approaches Japan's main islands on its northward journey, in this Moderate-Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) image taken from NASA's Aqua satellite at 0425 GMT on 9 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS



People watch a demonstration of "FIFA 15" at the Electronic Arts (EA) World Premiere: E3 2014 Preview Press conference at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, California, on 9 June, 2014. — REUTERS

MYANMAR TV

(12-10-2014, Sunday)

- 6:00 am**
* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:25 am**
* Physical Exercise
- 6:35 am**
* Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troup)
- 7:00 am**
* News / Weather Report
- 7:20 am**
* MRTV's Youth Programme
- 8:00 am**
* News / International News
- 8:30 am**
* Amazing World
- 9:30 am**
* Documentary (ASEAN)
- 10:00 am**
* News
- 10:20 am**
* Science and Technology Programme
- 12:00 noon**
* News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 12:30 pm**
* Round up of The Week's International News
- 3:00 pm**
* News
- 3:15 pm**
* Myanmar Movies
- 4:45 pm**
* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Psychology)
- 5:00 pm**
* News/ Weather Report
- 6:30 pm**
* Documentary
- 7:20 pm**
* Weekly Entertainment News
- 8:00 pm**
* News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 9:00 pm**
* News

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(12-10-14 07:00 am~
13-10-14 07:00 am) MST

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- * Stone of the Heavens
- * World News
- * Today Myanmar "Visiting Neighbours Thailand"
- * Local News
- * Lisu: Their Life and Customs (Part- II)
- * World News
- * Kyauk Gu Umin Cave Gu Pha Ya
- * Local News
- * Come and Visit, no matter the distance (Pathein)
- * World News
- * The Photographer (Portraiture) "Aung Kyaw Moe"
- * Local News
- * A Glance At A Naga Family Life
- * World News
- * Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations (Gem Stone Painting)
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Peng retires as Bencic into Tianjin final



Chinese star Peng Shuai

TIANJIN, 11 Oct — Chinese star Peng Shuai retired while trailing 1-3 in the first set on Saturday, sending Belinda Bencic of Switzerland into the Tianjin Open tennis final. "I am exhausted and I can barely move my feet,"

said Peng, who also quitted in the middle of a US Open semifinal.

The third-seeded Swiss will take on American Alison Riske, who crushed Chinese Zheng Saisai 6-0, 6-1.

Xinhua

Scotland in the right mood for Georgia, says Strachan

LONDON, 11 Oct — There is a feelgood mood among Scotland's players, coaching staff and fans that bodes well for Saturday's European Championship qualifier at home to Georgia, manager Gordon Strachan said. Unusually, much of that optimism stems from a defeat. In their opening Group D game away to the world champions Germany, the Scots were only beaten 2-1, equalising Thomas Mueller's first goal before he scored the winner. It was their first loss for a year. "The performances over the last year have allowed us to feel good," Strachan told a news conference on Friday. "The players make me feel good, and confident. They've trained intensely and we're in a good place at the moment. "We seem to be adding to the spring in the step of Scottish sports fans and that makes us happy."

Georgia lost their opening game 2-1 at home to Ireland, but Strachan described them as "a very good team who were unlucky not to get anything against the Republic." The visitors have important players missing in Guram Kashia, a defender from Dutch club Vitesse, and Levan Mchedlidze of the Italian club Empoli. The other teams in the group are Poland and Gibraltar, whose meeting last month ended in a 7-0 away win for the Poles.

Reuters

Sumptuous Simon ends Lopez run in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 11 Oct — Unseeded Frenchman Gilles Simon moved into his first Masters Series final in six years after outclassing big-serving Spaniard Feliciano Lopez in Shanghai on Saturday.

The world number 29 faced little pressure on his serve and dominated the match from the baseline with some sumptuous ground strokes as he blasted away the 33-year-old Lopez 6-2, 7-6(1) on stadium court.

Simon, whose only previous Masters Series final appearance came in 2008 in Madrid, will face the winner of Saturday's second semi-final between world number one Novak Djokovic and 17 times grand slam singles champion Roger Federer.

The Frenchman knocked out Australian

Open winner Stan Wawrinka and sixth seed Tomas Berdych en route to the last four in Shanghai and once again took down a more fancied opponent by moving him around the hardcourt with strong groundstrokes.

Lopez, who knocked out world number two Rafa Nadal in the second round, netted a backhand volley to hand Simon the first break of the match in the third game and the tall Spaniard only had himself to blame as a double fault gifted a second break and made it 4-1.

The frazzled world number 21, under pressure from the class of Simon's winners, did finally hold to make it 5-2 but the Frenchman wrapped up the set in 25 minutes with an ace up the middle that swerved teasingly away from the left hander. The Spaniard mixed



Gilles Simon of France returns a shot during his men's singles semi-final match against Feliciano Lopez of Spain at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai on 11 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

up his tactics in the second set, opting to attack the net more to hustle his opponent with some success.

Lopez came through seven deuces in the third game to avoid another break as the pair both held serve with mixed success — the Spaniard fending off break points, while Simon only

dropped four points on his serve in the set.

The pressure finally told on the 33-year-old Lopez, bidding to reach his first Masters series final, in the tiebreak as he crumbled under a mix of double faults, netted returns and wild smashes to lose it 7-1.

Reuters

Chiellini scores all three as Italy beat Azeris 2-1

ROME, 11 Oct —

Defender Giorgio Chiellini scored three times, including an own goal, as Italy beat Azerbaijan 2-1 in their Euro 2016 Group H qualifier in Palermo on Friday.

It was a struggle at times for Antonio Conte's team against an Azerbaijani side who defended in numbers and showed little ambition to go forward, but in the end they secured the three points thanks to a player who had managed just four goals in his previous 71 internationals.

Italy should have had an early lead when Ciro Immobile broke free in the sixth minute and found Claudio Marchisio in a promising position, but the midfielder blasted his shot

high and wide. Andrea Ranocchia then missed a great chance with an unchallenged header from an Andrea Pirlo free kick but Chiellini finally put Italy in front a minute before the interval.

Again Pirlo was the creator with a corner, which Azerbaijan keeper Kamran Agayev came for but failed to reach and Chiellini powered in a header.

Simone Zaza, partnering Immobile in attack, went close after the break with an acrobatic effort after fine work from Leonardo Bonucci. Zaza should have scored at the near post shortly after, but his effort from a low Matteo Darmian cross was wide.

The Azzurri really



Italy's Simone Zaza performs a scissors kick past Azerbaijan's Rasim Ramaldanov during their Euro 2016 qualification soccer match in Palermo on 10 Oct, 2014.
REUTERS

should have had the game in the bag, but were shocked in the 76th minute when Chiellini was unable to deal with a Dimitrij Nazarov corner, the ball crossing the line off the centre back's leg.

Chiellini though made

amends six minutes later by

angling home a near-post

header from a fine cross by substitute Sebastian Giovinco to ensure Conte's team secured a second straight win in the group.—Reuters

Belgium thrash Andorra 6-0 to make flying start



Belgium's Dries Mertens (C) is congratulated by teammates after scoring during their Euro 2016 qualifying soccer match against Andorra at King Baudouin stadium in Brussels on 10 Oct, 2014.

REUTERS

from Divock Origi for De Bruyne's second made it

3-0 at halftime. Mertens and beat another for number four, before Dries Mertens bagged two, a header after a superb long ball from Radja Nainggolan and a shimmy and sharp shot to make it six.

Before a sell-out crowd in Brussels, the hosts rested

Eden Hazard in the hope that his bruised toe would be fully recovered in time for Monday's tougher qualifier against Bosnia.

They did, however, field Chelsea goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois just five days after he suffered a head injury in a collision with Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez in the Premier

League, although he barely had a touch.

Belgium were to have opened their qualifying campaign with a trip to Israel, but the match scheduled in September was postponed due to the Gaza conflict.

The visitors, ranked 203rd in FIFA's ranking of 208 nations, won one match and drew two in qualifying for the 2006 World Cup, but have lost every competitive match since, although were only narrowly beaten by Wales last month.

Cyprus and Israel are the other teams in group B.

Reuters