

Myanmar now closer to sustainable peace

Vice President attends ceremony to mark 69th Anniversary of United Nations



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses the ceremony to mark 69th Anniversary of the United Nations.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Oct —Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attended the ceremony to mark the 69th Anniversary of the United Nations held at the Myanmar

International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

In his speech delivered at the ceremony, the vice president said that Myanmar

joined the United Nations as the 58th member on 19 April 1948 and various challenges around the world must be overcome under the leadership of the UN.

Myanmar, being a country that appreciates peace, always supports nuclear-free world and the draft motion for nuclear-free world annually

submitted to the UN by Myanmar, which shows Myanmar's commitment for world peace and security, is also supported by most member countries,

the vice president added.

Myanmar, while proudly serving as the rotating chair of the ASEAN, is exerting efforts to realize the development potentials of the regional organization whose cooperation contributes much to world peace, security, stability and sustainable development of mankind, the vice president pointed out, reiterating the commitment of the regional organization to promote cooperation with the UN in areas of mutual benefits.

As peace and stability is the fundamental requirement for political stability and socioeconomic development, Myanmar is now closer to sustainable peace as it is making efforts to develop a draft framework for political dialogues, which is a national cause and will be a historic milestone, after putting an end to the 60-year internal conflict, according to the vice president. In conclusion, the vice president explained Myanmar's efforts to meet (See page 3)

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Myanmar to host ASEAN financial inclusion conference on 29-30 Oct in Yangon

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 24 Oct—Myanmar as the chair of the 18th ASEAN Finance Minister's Meeting 2014, will host the ASEAN financial inclusion conference titled "Enhancing Access to Finance for Unbanked People in the ASEAN Region" at Sedona Hotel on 29-30 October.

The information was released at a media briefing hosted by officials of UN Capital Development Fund at UNDP Myanmar Office in Yangon on Friday.

The UNCDF officials told the local media that the conference is expected to see key stakeholders in the region including ASEAN finance ministers, policy-makers, academics, practitioners and officials from UNDP, UNCDF, World Bank and Asian Development Bank join. They said that exchange of views,

thoughts, experiences and best practices will take place during the two-day regional dialogue for ensuring financial access for the low-income people in the region.

The conference will focus on challenges of CLMV countries—Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam—in striving for having access to finance, officials continued.

According to the media briefing, two key papers will be presented during the conference. The first paper will be about how financial inclusion can help government policies and measures to ensure sustainable, equitable economic growth in ASEAN, reducing inequality and creating sustainability.

The second one that will be presented during the plenary session is about women's economic empowerment in the role of finance. Moreover, there

will be papers presented, numbering 13, by specialists during the four breakout sessions.

There will be three

key outputs from the conference. The first one will be the presentation of draft outlines for Myanmar roadmap for financial

inclusion conducted by UNDP and UNCDF for more than a year in the country and seeking the feedback of other ASEAN countries on it. The second one will be presentations and discussions to have (See page 2)



(From right to left) Shobhna Decloitre, UNDP communication specialist, Paul Luchtenburg, UNCDF programme specialist and Isvary Sivalingam, UNCDF programme design consultant seen at media briefing on ASEAN financial inclusion conference to be at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 29-30 October.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct — The framework and fundamentals of the additional budget allocations bill for the 2014-2015 fiscal year came under discussion at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Friday.

Daw Sanda Min, a representative of the Zabuthiri constituency, said that the attempt to ask for enormous amounts of budget allocations for the second time is likely to harm the budget rigidity, stating that allocations and appropriations are in unanticipated amounts and putting the blame on lack of scrutiny in the first budget allotment.

Some organizations are found to have asked for 20% more of the agreed budget allowance, according to Daw Khin San Hlaing of the Banks and

Monetary Affairs Development Committee.

She said the calculation of approximate amounts is vital in allotting annual budgets, noting that budget allocation plays a critical role in shaping the country's macroeconomy.

Regarding police forces, an MP from the Kunhing constituency called for the need to strengthen the capacities and efficiencies of police forces as in other democracies across the world and turn them into proficient police. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also heard proposals for repairing the damaged sections of the Hanmyintmo-Myogyi-Aungban road, the disbursement of compensations to farmers who have lost their farms to new dam projects, uniform formats of expenditure reports submitted by

Additional budget allocations come under discussion at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



ministries to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and agricultural loans.—MNA

Representatives focus on additional budget at Friday's session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA

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further understanding of ASEAN region and on what are the key issues and challenges in terms of financial inclusion. The third and final outcome of the conference will be to report Yangon outcomes for financial inclusion to the ASEAN Finance deputies working group.

Regarding The GNLM's question on whether there will be discussions on the development of small and medium enterprises

in the region, Myanmar in particular, at the conference, Isvary Sivalingam, Bangkok-based UNCDF programme design consultant, replied that paper regarding challenges for SME financing will be presented at the breakout session I while there will also be presentation of a paper about educating entrepreneurs that means financial education for SMEs at breakout session IV which is talking about managing risk.

While answering The GNLM's question on benefit to Myanmar, which is making great strides for its people to escape poverty, what they will be able to obtain from this financial inclusion conference, Paul Luchtenburg, UNCDF programme specialist, said that this conference focuses on financial inclusion and the government wanted to bring the ASEAN members to focus on financial inclusion ensuring financial inclusion in the region and for the poorest people; and that this is the way that we

can help the government to systematically reach the poorest people and bring up some of the key issues for some of other ASEAN countries, particularly Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, to learn from each other.

UNCDF is the UN's capital investment agency for the world's 48 least development countries. It creates new opportunities for poor people and their small businesses by increasing access to microfinance and investment capital.

GNLM

UMFCCI schedules its vocational trainings to launch in November

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 24 Oct—The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry will launch its vocational trainings on 3 November, aiming to produce more skilled workers,

entrepreneurs and innovators, an official said.

U Myint Zaw, a member of the central executive committee of the UMFCCI, said that the federation will conduct vocational training courses on envi-

ronmental hygiene, solar technology, energy management, electronic instrument, commercial writing, and machine tools for maintenance.

All courses are designed to provide trainees with 30% of course-related knowledge plus 70%

of practical operations. Interested applicants will be interviewed by the local experts, with classes limited to 20 students each.

The CEC member said that vocational trainings play an important role in promoting the country's economic sector, adding that young people should try to become entrepreneurs as the country still has a few small and medium entrepreneurs.

He went on to say that the UMFCCI welcomes other vocational training organizers and pledged to give necessary recommendation to them so as to increase the number of skilled people in specific fields of business.

The federation invites enthusiasts with education levels of grade four and above to send their applications to the UMFCCI Office Tower.

GNLM



CEC member U Myint Zaw explains UMFCCI's vocational training courses at the press conference in Yangon.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw

Announcement No. 39/2014
2nd Waxing Day of Tazaungmone, 1376 ME
(24 October, 2014)

New Society Democratic Party allowed to register as political party

The Union Election Commission announced on Friday that New Society Democratic Party that headquarters at No 251 on the third floor of Seikkantha Street in Kyauktada Township of Yangon Region has been allowed to register as a political party as of 24 October, 2014 in accord with Section 9 of Political Parties Registration Law. The party's registration number is 77.

By order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw

Announcement No. 40/2014
2nd Waxing Day of Tazaungmone, 1376 ME
(24 October, 2014)

Kayin National Party allowed to register as political party

The Union Election Commission announced on Friday that Kayin National Party that headquarters at No 636 on 1st Khawegyan Street in West Gyogon ward of Insein Township of Yangon Region has been allowed to register as a political party as of 24 October, 2014 in accord with Section 9 of Political Parties Registration Law. The party's registration number is 78.

By order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

NATIONAL

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Director-General U Kyi Min of the Amyotha Hluttaw Office on expiry of the one-year probation period.

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the millennium goals of the UN in 2015, saying that Myanmar welcomes the cooperation of UN agencies and international partner organizations.

Then, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin read out the message of President U Thein Sein.

Afterwards, the resident representative of

the UN to Myanmar read out the message of UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon.

Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw and U Thant Shin presented prizes to winners of the essay competition to mark the event, and the attendees viewed around the exhibition commemorating the 69th United Nations Day.

MNA

Women Forum in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 Dec



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin receives CEO of the Women Forum Mrs Jacqueline Franjou of France.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin received CEO of the Women Forum Mrs Jacqueline Franjou and party of France at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

They discussed cooperation of the ministry and French Embassy to Myanmar and Women Forum in holding the Women Forum 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 December and in Yangon on 6 December based on experiences of previous forum.—MNA

Standing table of 3rd SEA Vovinam Championship 2014 from 22 to 24 October 2014

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1. Vietnam	9	13	2	24
2. Myanmar	7	3	10	20
3. Cambodia	3	3	8	14
4. Laos	2	3	6	11
5. Indonesia	2	1	4	7
6. Thailand	1	1	1	3
7. The Philippines	-	-	1	1
Total	24	24	32	80

Indonesian, Singaporean entrepreneurs seek ways for investment in agriculture sector

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing held talks about investment in agriculture sector and cooperation with Senior Vice President Mr Richard Neli Mclellan of Moxsaic Company of Indonesia and Senior Vice President Mr David Rogiani of Canpotex Limited Company of Singapore and party at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The Union minister explained investment opportunities in the agricultural sector, mutual interests, job opportunities and prospect of increasing in-



Union Minister U Myint Hlaing holds talks with Indonesian and Singaporean entrepreneurs about investment opportunities in agriculture sector.—MNA

come for local farmers.

The Indonesian and Singaporean guests discussed investment in cultivation of oil palm, sugarcane, tapioca and rubber cultivation, establishment

of finished goods factories and export of products.

The foreign guests visited the vegetables and fruit shop, net house farms, long staple cotton plantation, high yield sugarcane plan-

tation, vegetables plantations, 3000-acre Paletwe paddy plantation, and combine harvesters of Alliance Stars Company in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

MNA

CSC, evidence for enjoying citizens' rights

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct—Citizenship scrutiny card is an evidence for a citizen to enjoy full of citizens' rights, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi said at the ceremony to issue CSC to students at No 5 Basic Education High School in Myaungmya of

Ayeyawady Region on 20 October.

He continued that ministry manages issuance of the cards to eligible citizens, adding that the people are not to hold duplicates of CSC and abandon the citizenship.

Staff of the Myaungmya Township Immi-

gration and National Registration Department issued the cards to students.

The union minister and wife donated one set of computer and one set of Sky Net receiver to the school through the headmistress.

MNA

Prizes awarded to winners in 3rd SEA Vovinam Championship

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct—The 3rd SEA Vovinam Championship 2014 continued for the third day at Nay Pyi Taw Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium A on Friday.

At the prize presentation ceremony, Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan presented first, second and joint third prizes to Myanmar, Vietnam and Laos & the Philippines in the men's singles weaponless event.

Deputy Minister U Thaung Htaik also gave first, second and third prizes to Myanmar, Vietnam and Cambodia in the women's weaponless event. Deputy Minister U Zaw Win awarded first, second and third prizes to Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar in the men's stick event.

Officials also presented prizes to winners in the men's 51-kilo attack event, women's 50-kilo attack event, men's doubles event and women's quadruple weaponless event.

According to the standing table, Deputy Minister U Thaung Htaik presented first championship trophy to Vietnam, Deputy Minister U Zaw Win, the first runner-up

trophy to Myanmar and Vice President of Myanmar Martial Arts Federation U Myo Naung, the second runner-up trophy to Cambodia.

MNA



Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan and prize winning athletes celebrating victory of Myanmar in Vovinam Championship.—MNA

Inntha nationals' get-together day marked

NYAUNGSHWE, 24 Oct — The Inntha nationals' get-together day was held for the fourth time on the platform of Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda in Inlay Lake in Shan State on Thursday.

On the commemorative day, local Inntha nationals rowed 23 boats to the Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda from the gathering point. The remaining local people attended the ceremony by motorboat and boat. Shan State Minister for Electricity and Industry U Sai Tun Yin read the message sent by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Thura U Shwe Mann, Inntha national race affairs minister

U Win Myint, the message sent by Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and officials, the messages by political parties, national races culture and literature committees and Inntha nationals from countryside.

In commemoration of the fourth anniversary Inntha nationals' get-together day, the people participated in the offering of Kathina robes and alms to 122 monasteries in the Inlay region, volleyball tournament, traditional Chinlone contest, traditional dances, music and educative booths, attracting globetrotters and visitors from various parts of the nation.

Nay Myo Thurein



Local people get techniques for maintenance of agricultural machinery



MYAUNGMYA, 24 Oct — The mechanic course for maintenance of agricultural machinery was conducted in villages of Myaungmya Township in Ayeyawady Region.

Myaungmya District and Township Agricultural Mechanization Departments opened the mechanic course for agricultural machinery to 25 trainees of village-tracts in the township. Technicians

trained them to maintenance of engines, gear-boxes of tractors and power-tillers.

The training course is aimed at enabling the local people to maintain their agricultural machinery, said Staff Officer of the district department U Zaw Min Naing.

The training course is being conducted from 21 to 26 October.

At the opening cere-

mony, Myaungmya District General Administration Department Deputy Commissioner U Htwe Myint made a speech and the head of District AMD explained the purpose of conducting the training course.

The district staff officer expressed the plan to give training to the villages through one-stop services free of charge.

Aung Min (Myaungmya District IPRD)

Price of industrial zone manufactured vehicles rise in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 24 Oct — Prices of vehicles manufactured from industrial zones are hiking at Pyigy Myet-shin automobile market in Mandalay.

Automobile dealers controlled prices of vehicles manufactured from Mandalay, Monywa, Myingyan and Ayethaya industrial zones at K3.8 million in the early Octo-

ber but the prices rose to K4.5 million on 22 October due to fewer numbers of sellers.

As the Directorate of Road Administration allows the return of overage vehicles with the number of 2A/--- as of 6 October, the overage vehicle price reached K6.5 million depending on its conditions.

As of 1 January 2015,

the directorate will not practise the system of levying tax with some exemption for the return of overage vehicles and import of new ones. So, entrepreneurs emphasize the return of industrial zone vehicles and import of new ones, said a automobile dealer.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)



Quality paddy cultivation and production clarified

MYAUNGMYA, 24 Oct — Ayeyawady Region Agriculture Department, Cooperative Department, Ayeyawady Region Cooperative Syndicate Ltd, Agricultural Research Department, Myaungmya Research Farm and Toe Pwar-Mandalay Co Ltd jointly conducted the observation of quality crops production and demonstration at Myaungmya Agricultural Research Farm on 21 October.

Chairman of Ayeyawady Region Cooperative Syndicate Ltd U Saw Andrew Pan explained plans for disbursement of loans for development of agricultural development in the region and distribution of agricultural machinery and fertilizers.

The in-charge of Myaungmya Agricultural Research Farm ex-

plained cultivation and production of quality paddy and crops in the farm.

Responsible person of Toe Pwar-Mandalay Company Ltd explained quality of fertilizer manufactured by the factory of the company and distribution of fertilizer to the local farmers.

They visited quality paddy plantation of the research farm.

It was also attended by region, district and township level officials, staff officers of 26 townships from Ayeyawady Region, chairmen of Township Cooperative Syndicates, agriculturalists and local farmers totalling 320.

Aung Min (Myaungmya District IPRD)

REGIONAL

Japan gov't adopts bill to tighten regulations on false labelling

TOKYO, 24 Oct — The government on Friday worked out a bill aimed at strengthening regulations on false labelling on goods and services. The government will submit the bill to the Diet during its current session through on 30 November.

The bill, which will revise the 1962 law on unjustifiable premiums and misleading representations, sets penalties for those who violate the regulations by such acts as false labelling on foods and false representation of dieting effects of foods. If the bill is enacted during the current parliamentary session, the revised law will come into force by the spring of 2016.

State Minister Haruko Arimura, who is in charge of consumer affairs and food safety, told the day's news conference that there must be no false labelling that could mislead consumers in selecting goods and services. The bill also sets penalties for false labelling that misleads consumers to think that the goods or services concerned are better than actuality or offer advantages to consumers. Last year, many hotels and department stores admitted to false labelling on menus at their restaurants.

Under the bill, penalties will be set at 3 percent of the sales of the goods or services in question over the past three years. No penalties will be imposed if the three-year sales are less than 50 million yen.

The penalties will be cut in half if the dealers voluntarily file reports on their misconduct.

Kyodo News

Indonesia president submits new cabinet list for anti-graft review

JAKARTA, 24 Oct — Indonesian President Joko Widodo submitted a revised list of cabinet ministers to the country's anti-graft agency on Thursday, in the hope that his new ministerial team will be considered free of corruption.

Sworn in on Monday, Widodo took the unprecedented step of asking the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) to vet his cabinet picks to fulfil a campaign pledge for a clean government. He had to make last minute changes after eight candidates were rejected.

"We submitted (our cabinet list) again to KPK. Until now we are waiting for KPK's recommendations," he told reporters. "If KPK gives me this second (list), I will announce it immediately."

Widodo declined to reveal the names of his cabinet, saying it would be announced as soon as possible.

The first Indonesian leader from outside the political or military elite has tried to steer clear of the traditional trading of cabinet posts for political support, aiming for a ministerial team dominated by professional technocrats.

In a last minute change, Widodo added one more cabinet post that will be a political appointee, presidential adviser Andi Wijajanto told reporters.

The cabinet will now be made up of 34 ministers, con-



New Indonesian President Joko Widodo walks with heads of the military, police and intelligence to address the media at the presidential palace in Jakarta on 22 Oct, 2014. —REUTERS

sisting of 18 technocrats and 16 from political parties in his coalition.

The former Jakarta governor plans to merge several ministries and introduce a coordinating ministry for maritime affairs.

All eyes are on Widodo's choices for the main economic ministries. They will inherit

problems ranging from a widening current account deficit and cooling investment to the slowest growth since 2009.

He has promised that top ministerial positions, including finance, energy and state-owned enterprises, would be filled by technocrats.

Widodo's ministerial choices by law must first be

submitted to the head of parliament before an announcement can be made, Wijajanto said. The president does not need parliamentary approval for his cabinet.

"The president will politically communicate with the speaker of parliament to maintain good relations," Wijajanto said.—Reuters

Time to end Occupy Central movement: Tung Chee-hwa

HONG KONG, 24 Oct — The Occupy Central movement will tear Hong Kong's community apart and affect the city's economy and livelihood severely, Hong Kong's former Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa

said here on Friday, calling on protesters to end the occupation.

Tung, who is also the vice-chairman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, made the remarks at a press con-

ference held in the former chief executive's official mansion.

Tung expressed concern over the harm caused by the nearly month-long protests over the political reforms.

"The occupation is approaching one month and now it's the time to end it," he said. Tung also expressed worries that the civil disobedience movement was "a little bit out of control." "In civilized soci-

eties, conflicts are resolved through dialogue, not in streets. Students should not use the occupation as bargaining chips for negotiation with the government," Tung said.

He also stressed that

the idea of civil nomination, which violates the Basic Law and the decision made by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, cannot be carried out.

Xinhua



Visitors experience a hyperbaric oxygen chamber at the 72nd China International Medical Equipment Fair (CMEF Autumn 2014) in southwest China's Chongqing on 23 Oct, 2014. The fair kicked off on Thursday and has attracted 2,800 companies of 26 countries and regions from home and abroad, with 80,000 visitors expected to attend the event in four days.—XINHUA

Two Nobel physicists among year's seven Order of Culture winners

TOKYO, 24 Oct — The government said on Friday it has chosen Nobel physics prize laureates Shuji Nakamura and Hiroshi Amano and five others as this year's winners of Japan's top cultural award, the Order of Culture.

Nakamura, 60, and Amano, 54, won this year's Nobel Prize in Physics along with Is-

amu Akasaki, 85, who received the Order of Culture in 2011, for their development of energy-efficient blue light-emitting diodes, or blue LEDs.

Among the other five is Takemoto Sumitayu, 89, who has contributed to the development and diffusion of ningyo joruri bunraku, Japan's traditional puppet theater.

The seven will re-

ceive the award on the on 3 November Culture Day national holiday at the Imperial Palace in the presence of Emperor Akihito.

The government has also chosen comic artist Tetsuya Chiba, 75, and 16 others as this year's Persons of Cultural Merits to be honored on 4 November at a Tokyo hotel.—Kyodo News

BRUSSELS, 24 Oct — European Union leaders agreed on Thursday to cut their greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent from 1990 levels by 2030, European Council President Herman Van Rompuy said following the accord at a summit in Brussels.

The decision is part of global efforts to create a post-2020 framework for tackling climate change prior to the Conference of the Parties to the UN-Framework on Climate Change, or COP21, to be held in Paris late next year.

At a Press conference following the agreement's conclusion in the early hours of Friday, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said Europe is now in a position to guide international negotiations on the issue.

The deal also calls for at least 27 percent of the European Union's energy to come from renewable sources by 2030, and for energy efficiency to improve by at least 27 percent

compared to estimates set in 2007.

Some elements of the agreement are up to individual member nations to enforce, however, and Poland has expressed opposition to the targets, citing the high cost of reducing its dependence on fossil fuels for power generation.

Reflecting this, the agreement provides for the establishment of a mechanism to assist members in meeting their emissions trading scheme quotas.

The energy efficiency target was reduced from the originally proposed 30 percent after the opposition from some members including Britain.

Under previous medium-term targets, European Union members had pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent from 1990's levels, have at least 20 percent of energy generated from renewable sources, and improve energy efficiency by at least 20 percent.

Kyodo News

EU leaders agree on deal to cut emissions, expand renewable energy



(L-R) Finland's Prime Minister Alexander Stubb, Netherlands' Prime Minister Mark Rutte, Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel and Lithuania's President Dalia Grybauskaitė attend an European Union leaders summit in Brussels on 23 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

Food for Europe forum: Export products, not raw materials

SUBOTICA, (Serbia), 24 Oct — Serbia has to create products that will find their place on shop shelves around Europe instead of producing raw materials for foreign food industries, participants of the two-day agricultural forum entitled Food for Europe stated.

This is the only way to increase the value of agricultural production from the current EUR 2.6 billion to EUR 9 billion in the next five years, or EUR 30 billion in the next ten years, forum participants concluded.

The expert meeting ended in Subotica, northern Serbian province of Vojvodina, on Thursday and it was organized by the Economics Institute in cooperation with the Association of Agricultural Economists of Serbia.

Director General of the Economics Institute Dragan Sagovnovic recalled that Serbia adopted the Strategy of agricultural and rural development for the period from 2014 to 2024 and underscored that experts from the area need to be included in its re-



alization.

The government cannot be expected to solve all the problems in Serbia's agriculture on its own, and relevant national institutions and specialized companies should be the holders and role models in the development of the agriculture's development, he said.

Sagovnovic noted that Serbia needs to reindustrialise its processing industry.

We need to export candy products and not wheat and sug-

ar, we need to focus on increasing meat production and export instead of corn export and start exporting juice instead of apples and raspberries, Sagovnovic said.

During the panel debate, participants of the forum also discussed regional experiences, application for European funds, privatisation in agriculture, bio-economy and organic production, as well as the problems in the neglected cooperative sector in Serbia.

Tanjug

Russia vows to preserve relations with Europe

MOSCOW, 24 Oct — Moscow was not going to replace its relations with Europe by the cooperation with Asia-Pacific region, Russian foreign minister said on Thursday.

"We've never pretended that our links with the East and Asia-Pacific regions would go ahead to substitute those with Europe and the West as a whole," Sergei Lavrov said at a

meeting of the Valdai Club, an annual gathering of international experts.

Russia hopes to maintain its cooperation momentum with European countries despite the position of the European Union (EU) over the unsettled Ukraine crisis, the diplomat added.

"Now when Russia's European, US and some other partners decided to enact a list of unilat-

eral measures of enforcement, we understandably go on to intensify the eastern direction," Lavrov said, noting that has been done only "in parallel with relations with Europe."

On 14 October, Lavrov said Russia saw no alternative to relations with the EU and was ready to discuss the establishment of a free trade zone with the bloc.

Xinhua

Iran will be seen as responsible if nuclear talks fail — US

WASHINGTON, 24 Oct — Iran will be widely seen to be responsible if a comprehensive deal to curb its nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief is not reached, the top US negotiator said on Thursday.

US Under-Secretary of State Wendy Sherman also said major powers negotiating with Iran have offered it ideas that are "equitable, enforceable and consistent with Teheran's expressed desire for a viable civilian nuclear programme."

Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States are seeking to reach a deal with Iran by 24 November. Sherman said Iran's best chance to escape economic sanctions was to strike an agreement before that deadline.

In a speech, Sherman said the United States and the other major powers were prepared to reach an agreement and suggested it would ultimately be seen to be Iran's fault if one did not materialise.

"We hope the leaders in Teheran will agree to the steps necessary to assure the world that this programme will be exclusively peaceful and thereby end Iran's economic and diplomatic isolation and improve further the lives of their people," she said.

"If that does not happen, the responsibility will be seen by all to rest with Iran," Sherman added. Iran's best chance to have sanctions relief is to strike a deal with major powers in the next



US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman

month that ensures its nuclear programme cannot yield a bomb, she said.

"Our goal now is to develop a durable and comprehensive arrangement that will effectively block all of Iran's potential paths to a nuclear weapon," she told a conference organized by the Center for Strategic and International Studies and Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

Such an arrangement, she added, would prevent Iran from producing fuel for a bomb with uranium or plutonium and would have inspections and monitoring that offered the best chance to prevent Iran from covertly processing these materials.

"If Iran truly wants to resolve its differences with the international community — and facilitate the lifting of economic sanctions — it will have no better chance than between now and 24 November," she added. "This is the time to finish the job."

Reuters

WORLD

Brazil's president widens lead in polls ahead of Sunday vote

BRASILIA, 24 Oct — President Dilma Rousseff has a clear lead over opposition candidate Aécio Neves and would win Sunday's presidential election runoff by six to eight percentage points, two opinion polls showed on Thursday.

In Brazil's tightest election in decades, the leftist incumbent's aggressive campaign against pro-business senator Neves has succeeded in bolstering her support while increasing rejection of her rival, the surveys showed.

Rousseff has gained ground by reminding voters of the rising wages and expanding social programmes many have enjoyed over the past 12 years of Workers' Party rule, benefits she said would be at risk because Neves would govern for the

elite.

The new surveys were the first by Brazil's major polling firms Ibope and Datafolha to show Rousseff with a lead greater than the margin of error, which is plus or minus 2 percentage points for both.

Rousseff has 49 percent of voter support against 41 percent for Neves, according to Ibope, and 48 percent versus 42 percent for Neves, according to Datafolha. Excluding undecided voters, spoiled and blank survey responses, Rousseff would win the runoff by 54 percent of the valid votes against 46 percent for Neves, Ibope said. Datafolha shows her winning by 53 percent versus 47 percent.

"We are seeing a turnaround. It's visible on the streets," Rousseff, 66, who

was trailing Neves last week, said at a news conference at a Rio de Janeiro hotel where she was preparing for Friday night's final television debate.

An undaunted Neves dismissed the polls as unreliable, saying they had failed to detect his surge in the 5 October first round vote in which he unexpectedly placed second ahead of popular environmentalist Marina Silva.

Neves, 54, told reporters in Rio that Rousseff had run a "sordid" campaign that was a full of lies about him. His attacks on Rousseff — he called her a "liar" and "flighty" in an acrimonious debate last week — have lost him support among women voters who perceived his comments as male chauvinist. Rousseff



Brazil's President and Workers' Party (PT) presidential candidate Dilma Rousseff (R) greets her supporters during a campaign rally in Duque de Caxias near Rio de Janeiro on 22 Oct, 2014. —REUTERS

has overtaken Neves among women voters by a margin of 6 percentage points.

The number of Brazilians who say they would never vote for Neves has increased 7 percentage points since last week, to 42 percent, Ibope said.

preserve social programmes while curbing other government spending, taming inflation and ending what he calls heavy-handed industrial policies in order to restore investor confidence in a economy that slipped into recession in the first half of the year. But his promise of economic recovery appears to have lost weight among many Brazilian voters who are increasingly optimistic about Brazil's economy, according to a Datafolha poll released on Wednesday.

Rousseff has gained momentum in the last two weeks mainly among Brazil's lower-middle class, which has gained access to modern consumer goods and education under the Worker's Party and does not appear to have been swayed by Neves. —Reuters

US to delay wartime operation control transfer to S Korea until 2020

SEOUL, 24 Oct — South Korea and the United States have agreed on delaying until mid-2020 the transfer of wartime operation control to South Korea, South Korea's Defence Ministry spokesman said on Friday.

The agreement was finalized at the 46th annual security consultative meeting between South Korean Defence Minister Han Min Koo and US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel in Washington, Wi Yong Seop said at a Press briefing wrapping up the just-concluded defence talks.

Wartime operational control, known "OpCon," was delayed once to 2012 and then to 2015 at the request of the South Korean government.

South Korea has cited North Korea's growing



US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel and South Korean National Defence Minister Han Min Koo attend a news conference at the Pentagon in Washington, on 23 Oct, 2014. —REUTERS

military threats such as nuclear weapons and missile programmes as behind the requests.

South Korea regained operational control during peacetime in 1994. The United States had exercised both peacetime and wartime control since the

end of the 1950-1953 Korean War. The United States has called for transfer of the OpCon to South Korea to reduce the South's dependence on the US military.

As for the exact timing, the two sides failed to specify a date, only stating at "an appropriate date,"

Wi said.

"The transition could take place in mid-2020s after South Korea develops its own defence capabilities such as Kill Chain pre-emptive strike and Korean Air and Missile Defence systems by that time," Wi added. —Kyodo News

Supporters of rival presidential candidates clash in Sao Paulo, Brazil

BRASILIA, 24 Oct — Supporters of Brazil's two rival presidential candidates clashed in downtown Sao Paulo on Thursday, as the race heats up ahead of Sunday's election runoff.

Brazil's leading *G1* news service published an image of a street scuffle between supporters carrying the red flag of the ruling Workers' Party (PT) and its candidate, President Dilma Rousseff, and those holding the blue-and-white flag of the conservative Social Democratic Party (PSDB) and its candidate Aécio Neves.

"Flags from both parties were used as weapons in front of the Municipal Palace," *G1* reported, adding no one was arrested and no injuries were reported.

The skirmish broke out after three buses carrying about 200 PSDB supporters arrived at a site near City Hall where some 40 PT loyalists were handing out leaflets and other campaign materials.

Members of the Metropolitan Municipal Guard intervened and broke up the fight. Both parties issued statements afterwards, lamenting the incident and calling for calm in the lead up to Brazil's most contested presidential race in two decades. Thursday's polls showed Rousseff with a six- to eight-point lead over Neves, though the candidates are close enough that a small portion of as yet undeclared voters could swing the vote one way or the other. —Xinhua

Much needs to be done to help world's poorest nations out of extreme poverty

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Oct — With the world's 48 most vulnerable countries continue to make in-roads into poverty reduction, a far greater effort is needed if these countries are to eradicate extreme poverty by 2020, a new UN report said here on Thursday.

The report was conducted by the UN Office for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS). It noted that since the adoption of the 2011 Istanbul Programme

of Action on their sustainable development, least developed countries (LDCs) have seen incremental economic and social gains.

This is mainly because of an increase in public spending and stronger investment and activity in mining, construction, manufacturing and service sectors. However, the report cautions that despite the uptick, the LDCs continue to be among the most vulnerable to external shocks, such as economic crises, climate-related events, natural disasters and health-related

threats. The recent outbreak of Ebola, which is concentrated in three least developed countries — Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, highlights the importance of comprehensively addressing structural vulnerability, requiring joint efforts by such vulnerable countries and their development partners, the report said.

It also underscored that deepening inequality threatens to exacerbate existing poverty with implications for political and social stability in these countries.

The study identified

four main determinants of the reduction of extreme poverty in the LDCs: gender inequality, institutional frameworks, infrastructure development and service delivery, and external factors.

The authors encouraged leadership at the national level to implement policies that improve service delivery, address gender inequality and enable the poor to acquire investment assets that can improve their future income. Women and girls are especially in need of better access to economic

opportunities through vocational and managerial skills training.

At a Press briefing here on Thursday for launching the report, Gyan Chandra Acharya, high representative and head of UN-OHRLLS, said the survey noted that since the 2011 Istanbul conference, progress of LDC's on many of the goals and targets has been "mixed".

While some countries had seen improvements in human and social development — in particular in education, health and youth

development — others remained mired in extreme poverty. During the same period, official development assistance (ODA) from partner countries had been "volatile."

Given extreme vulnerability and high-levels of poverty within these countries, the UN was recommending that their needs remain of particular concern, he said. "There is still a long way for these countries to go, even to catch up with other developing countries, not to mention (developed nations)." —Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 25 October, 2014

Underground water resources important for Yangonites

By Myint Win Thein

Sustainability of water resources is of utmost importance for people around the world. Therefore, almost all countries have laws to protect water resources. One of the major water resources for mankind is underground water, which most cities in Myanmar rely on heavily as some water supply systems are not efficient.

However, the excessive use of underground water can result in water resource depletion, ground subsidence and saltwater intrusion.

In Myanmar groundwater resources are protected by the Burma Underground Water Act (1930), but the law is not strictly enforced. One of the cities that relies heavily on underground water is Yangon, the most populous city in Myanmar.

As a result, almost every apartment building in Yangon has dug a tube-well to supply water for daily use of families living in the apartments. Every apartment building under construction is digging a tube-well each in booming apartment markets where most tube-wells are only 20 feet apart from one another.

Yangon was built on alluvial land that is prone to ground sinking while salt water intrusion is an-

other possible danger for the city. If underground water resources are depleted, Yangon will not be a livable city anymore. It is time underground water use was monitored strictly and the water supply system was upgraded to supply water from other water resources to all Yangonites.

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.

Boosting Monitoring in the Basic Education Sector

By Myo Myint

The basic education sector in Myanmar is experiencing a huge growth in the number of students, schools and teachers. Therefore, apart from increasing the number of school buildings, there is also the need to enhance the capacity of school heads and teachers, the knowledge and thinking skills of students, and the quality of the curriculum, the methodology and teaching aids. To ensure that there are no huge gaps among schools, it is necessary for the school monitoring system to be effective. In the majority of countries, monitoring of schools is conducted by school inspection teams. Wilcox, B. (2000), in his monogram, Making school inspection visits more effective: the English experience, published by International Institute for Educational Planning/ UNESCO, defines school inspection as a process of assessing the quality and/or performance of institutions, services, programmes or projects by external agents and he notes that inspection is perhaps the oldest method of supervising teachers and schools. There is no doubt that regular and effective school inspections have a great deal of impact on promoting the quality of schools, and help them solve many of the problems they face.

In Myanmar, school inspections are conducted three times a year by inspection teams from the Departments of Basic Education designated for each level, and the inspections focus on evaluation of three areas, namely, academic, administrative and financial. Evaluation of academic performance of the school is based on assessment of the efficiency of the school head, implementation of the monthly syllabus, the performance of students, and the use of prescribed methodology and teaching aids. Evaluation of administrative matters focus on appearance and maintenance of school buildings, greening of the school grounds and staff administration matters. Inspection of financial matters relate to compliance of financial rules and regulations. The inspection is usually based on records and students' written work. The inspectors' findings are submitted to the education authority of the basic education department concerned in the form of a written report.

The following developments in the basic education sector necessitate an eval-

uation of the effectiveness of the current system of inspection:

- * questions raised by those with a keen interest in the development of education in the country, regarding the effectiveness of school inspections, the actual number of inspections done each year, and actions taken in response to the findings of inspections
- * rapid increase in the number of schools, students and teachers in order to promote access to education
- * need for the inspection system to be in line with the pragmatic reforms being introduced in other areas of basic education to improve quality
- * need for the appointment of an adequate number of inspectors with the required training, expertise and trustworthiness
- * need to carry out both inspection and supervision at the same time by school inspectors as warranted by the current lack of human resource in the Departments of Basic Education

In response to the above mentioned factors, the following remedial measures are suggested for the enhancement of the role of school inspection in raising the standard of basic education. Proper recognition must be given to the important role that school inspection plays in the general improvement of schools and in raising the quality of teaching and learning. Adequate number of qualified school inspectors needs to be appointed in commensurate with the number of schools to ensure that all schools are inspected regularly. If at present more school inspectors cannot be appointed, then assistance from faculty of education colleges and qualified senior teachers from neighbouring schools should be sought to increase the size of the inspection team. A common checklist for inspection should be drawn along with specific objectives, and additional items added for regions with special needs. It is also important to ensure that all inspectors are carrying out their responsibilities effectively, in a transparent and accountable manner, and that there is no malpractice. Hence, the performance of current school inspectors should be evaluated and they should be provided the necessary training to ensure that they can perform their responsibilities in a professional manner. Necessary financial and administrative support should be provided to inspectors to enable them to travel to schools conven-

iently and to carry out their tasks without being a burden on schools. Although inspection and supervision are two different tasks, due to current financial and human resource constraints, they may need to be merged. Consequently, inspectors should not just check records of attendance, test and exam performances of students, but they ought to give adequate time to observe teaching, learning, and student work, hold discussions with school heads and teachers to review their performances, and give them feedback, guidance and solutions. On their part, education administrators need to give the necessary attention to the findings of inspection reports and carry out the necessary actions to redress shortcomings. It is also important to ensure that schools are inspected as specified, so that both the authorities and the schools get feedback about the performance of schools. Lastly, monitoring should not simply be to find fault, or to take action against individuals, but to observe the actual state of schools and provide practical solutions to improve individual schools as well as the whole system.

School inspection is as important as administration and teaching, as it can not only identify strengths and weaknesses of schools, but it also provides the necessary opportunity to give guidance and assistance for improvement. At this juncture, when pragmatic reforms are being introduced in the education sector, it is vital that school inspections are conducted in a systematic and effective manner to make certain that all schools are on the right track to improvement and all students receive quality education.

**GOLD PRICE, FE RATE
(24-10-2014)**

Yangon Gold Price
Buying K656,500 per tical:
Selling K657,500
Mandalay Gold Price
Buying K656,200 per tical:
Selling K657,200

FE RATE
USD Buying K995:
Selling K1,000
SGD Buying K779:
Selling K787
Euro Buying K1,250:
Selling K1,270

Letter to the Editor

Dear sir,

I would like to discuss the use of the word "Myanglish" in the article, which appeared in your daily paper of 23 October, titled "Myanglish-- Singlish--Hinglish etc." It was used to describe the latest trend in text messaging and chatting on mobile phones, which is popular among our youths today.

In my humble opinion it wasn't appropriate to use that word, because what they are doing amount to transliterating or transcribing the Myanmar language using Roman or Latin alphabets. Thus it would be more appropriate to term it Romanizing or Latinizing Myanmar.

However, if it is called "Myanglish" it will fall into the same category as the Singlish, which is an English creole language used by the Singaporeans and considered to be of inferior prestige. It is a mixture of different languages, as mentioned in that article, based on the English language. What our youths are doing is definitely not creating a creole language, but this trend of writing Myanmar language using Roman or Latin (not English) alphabets came into vogue a few years back when Myanmar font was not yet available for mobile phones. So, they had to improvise a way to communicate with one another using the Myanmar phonetics, spelled with Roman characters or phonetic transcription of Myanmar language. Once when every mobile phone user has access to Myanmar fonts, this trend will definitely fade out.

Furthermore, the habit of inserting some common English words while conversing in Myanmar language had been around for quite a long time. I don't think that should be complicated with what the youths of today had done to simplify messaging and chatting, without Myanmar font, to be termed as "Myanglish".

There are only three accepted English creole languages in Asia. They are Singlish, Manglish used in Malaysia and Taglish used in Philippines. I agree that everybody has the right to coin new words, which are relevant and useful. However, I believe that the word "Myanglish" is totally inappropriate in this case.

Khin Maung Myint (Retired Deputy General Manager, Admin: Dept., Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications)

LOCAL NEWS

Naval medics give health care services to people on board vessel



MYANAUNG, 24 Oct—Naval Vessel Yadanabon together with other naval vessel led by Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Head-

quarters Commodore Maung Oo Lwin arrived in Myanaung of Ayeyawady Region on Thursday.

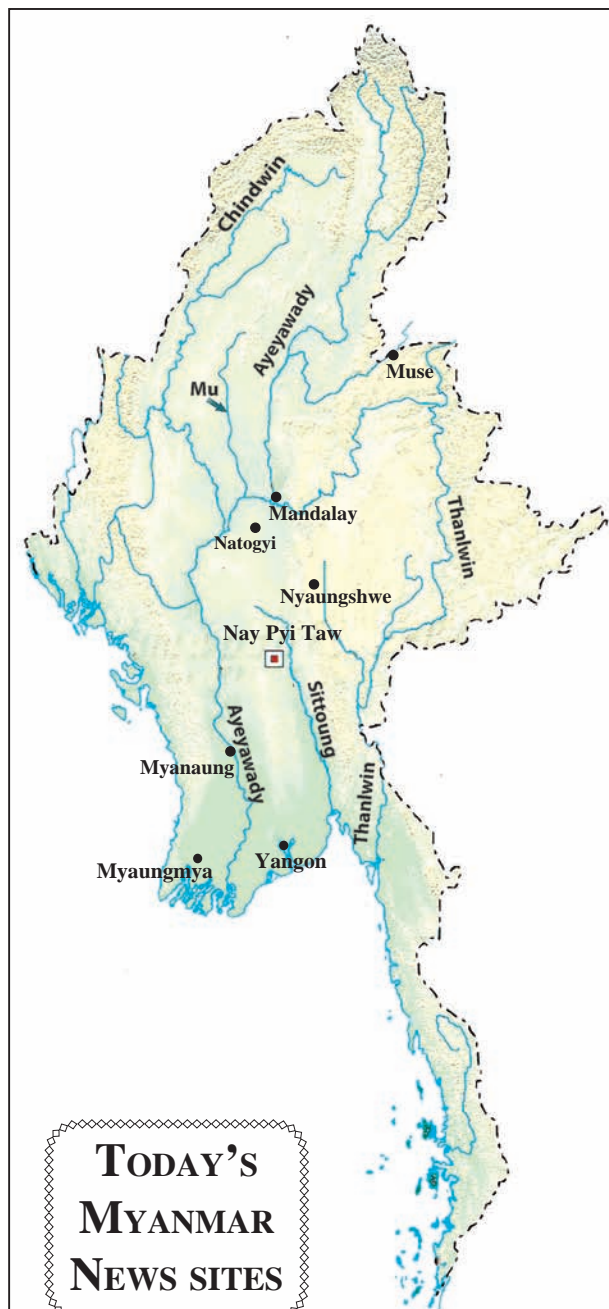
Local authorities welcomed them.

Students, local people, servicemen of local battalion and families visited Naval Vessel Yadanabon and Gun Boat 311. Officers and other ranks of the ves-

sels conducted the students round the vessels and presented gifts to them.

On board the Yadanabon vessel, medics give health care services to the local people free of charge. While staying in Myanaung, they will provide health care services to the people.

Win Bo (Myanaung IPRD)



Plan underway to build rural library for raising reading habit



NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct — A coordination meeting to build library was held at the monastery in Lewun Village of Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council

Area on 22 October.

Staff Officer Daw Swe Swe Moe of Ottara District Information and Public Relations Department gave talks on raising reading habit and advan-

tages of reading.

The participants discussed construction of the library spending K1 million funded by the State.

Shwe Ye Yint

Elimination of poppy cultivation discussed in Pangnai in northern Shan State

MUSE, 24 Oct—A meeting on elimination of poppy cultivation and assessment for rural development project was held at the administrator office in Monepaw village-tract of Pangnai (Kyukok) in Muse of northern Shan State on 23 October.

Shan State Hluttaw MP U Kein Mai made a speech

and Township Administrator U Ko Ko Zaw called for cooperation in elimination of growing poppy and cultivation of crops in the places of poppy plantations.

Chief Advisor U Roger of JICA explained the plans to provide assistance to the people by observing the living standard.

Township authorities

and the senior engineer of Great Hawkham Company inspected the plot for construction of the market and design.

In meeting with local people at the monastery in Manpon village, they made clarifications on regional development, agriculture and livestock breeding sectors.—*Muse District IPRD*

Driving licences issued in Myingyan Tsp

NATOGYI, 24 Oct—With the aim of turning out qualified drivers, Head of Myingyan District Directorate of Road Administration and staff issued driver licence to the candi-

dates for the third time in Myingyan of Mandalay on 18 October.

At first, the staff gave lectures on traffic rules to the applicants of 72 villages and wards and issued li-

cences to 468 persons.

On the second day, the applicants were checked under the driving test and traffic rules.

Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)



Swiss banker detained in connection with Hoeness case



Bayern Munich's former President Uli Hoeness leaves the stage during an extraordinary general meeting of the German Bundesliga first division soccer club in Munich on 2 May, 2014.
REUTERS

MUNICH/WARSAW, 24 Oct — Police in Warsaw detained a Swiss banker on Wednesday in connection with the recent conviction of former Bayern Munich president Uli Hoeness for tax evasion, German and Polish authorities said on Thursday.

Hoeness was sentenced in March to a 3-1/2-year prison term for evading 28.5 million euros (22.5 million pounds) of

taxes and quit as president and chairman of Bayern Munich, the club he made into one of the world's most successful football dynasties.

He used an account at Swiss bank Vontobel for complex currency transactions that helped him reap gains in the millions of euros, it emerged during his trial.

A spokeswoman for Vontobel confirmed on

Thursday that an employee of the bank had been arrested abroad but declined to further comment.

The man detained by police in Warsaw on Wednesday was released on bail following a court hearing on Thursday, according to Warsaw prosecutors and the Warsaw Regional Court.

He has been told not to leave Poland and was forced to relinquish his

passport, a court spokeswoman told *Reuters*.

He is the latest Swiss banker to face legal troubles over Switzerland's banking secrecy. Former UBS executive Raoul Weil is currently on trial in the United States for his alleged role in the Swiss bank's illegal offshore operations that helped thousands of Americans evade taxes.

Reuters

Ground offensive against Islamic State months away in Iraq

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, (Florida) 24 Oct — Iraqi forces are months away from being able to start waging any kind of sustained ground offensive against the Islamic State and any similar effort in Syria will take longer, officials at the US military's Central Command said on Thursday.

In Iraq, the timing will depend on a host of factors, some out of the military's control — from Iraqi politics to the weather. Iraqi forces also must be trained, armed and ready before major advances, like one to retake the city of Mosul, which fell to the Islamic State in June. It's not imminent. But we don't see that that's a years-long effort to get them to a place to where they can be able to go on a sustained counter-offensive," a military official said, instead describing it as a "months-long" endeavor.

The officials, briefing a group of reporters, said the priority in Iraq was halting the Islamic State's advance but acknowledged Iraq's western Anbar Province was contested, despite



Shi'ite volunteers, who have joined the Iraqi army to fight against militants of the Islamic State, take part in a field training in Basra, southeast of Baghdad, on 27 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

US-led air strikes.

Iraq's main military divisions in Anbar — the seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth and twelfth — have been badly damaged. At least 6,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed through June and double that number have deserted, say medical and diplomatic sources.

Asked about whether US military advisers in Iraq might head to Anbar, the

first official acknowledged discussions were underway broadly about efforts to enable the Iraqis "as far forward as we can" but did not disclose details. The official said talks were also underway with coalition partners about where their advisers might be placed.

Anbar's dominant Sunni population resented former Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's Shi'ite

majority government but the officials saw positive signs among tribes since Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi was sworn in this September.

Still, the official cautioned Abadi's government must still prove itself and added that the US military would not "squander our credibility" by vouching for it now. Instead, it is limiting itself brokering

talks between the government and tribes.

"Until the Abadi government can get on its feet and kind of deliver some small successes, I don't think, I don't think we're in a position to make any promises on behalf of that government," the official said.

As the officials outlined a long-term battle in Iraq, they portrayed a longer-term effort in Syria.

Much of the timing in Syria is wrapped up in a planned training mission for US-backed forces whose first goal, one official said, would be defensive — to ensure more towns do not fall.

"We're trying to train them initially to be able to defend their towns and villages," the first official said. But training fighters to be able to challenge the Islamic State offensively requires a greater degree of instruction, and it will take longer to get enough fighters ready.

It might take a year to 18 months "to be able to see an effect on the battlefield," the official said.

Reuters

Syrian Kurds sign power-sharing deal to draw more support

ARBIL, (Iraq) 24 Oct — Syrian Kurdish factions have signed a deal to share power and set their rivalries aside to capitalize on growing international support for their fight against Islamic State militants.

The agreement was reached late on Wednesday after nine days of talks and coincided with a decision by Iraqi Kurdistan to send its own peshmerga forces to relieve fellow Kurds in the Syrian town of Kobani, under attack by Islamic State (IS).

The planned deployment marks the semi-autonomous region's first military foray into Syria's

war and is also part of a surge in support for the Kurds, whom the United States have been helping with airdrops and strikes.

Kurds have taken advantage of more than three years of civil war in Syria to carve out their own zone of influence in the north of the country, but have been beset by internal rivalries.

Early this year, the dominant Democratic Union Party (PYD) established three "cantons" in northern Syria and declared self-rule, but other Kurdish parties rejected the move.

Wednesday's deal, which was signed in Iraqi Kurdistan under the aus-

pices of the region's President Masoud Barzani, puts decision-making in the hands of a new body in which all parties will be represented.

It also seeks to address one of the main sticking points between the parties: the PYD's insistence that no armed force other than its own militia, the Popular Protection Units (YPG), is viable.

The existing administration created by the PYD is to be "developed" and elections will eventually be held for a Syrian Kurdish parliament, although no timetable has been set.

Reuters



Turkish Kurds watch the Syrian town of Kobani from a hill near the Mursitpinar border crossing, on the Turkish-Syrian border in the southeastern town of Suruc in Sanliurfa Province on 23 Oct, 2014.

REUTERS

Turkey's Erdogan says 200 Kurdish fighters from Iraq to enter Kobani



Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan

RIGA, 24 Oct — Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Thursday agreement had been reached on sending 200 Kurdish peshmerga fighters from Iraq through Turkey to help defend the Syrian border town of Kobani against Islamic State militants.

A senior official in Iraq's Kurdistan region told *Reuters* the peshmerga would be equipped with heavier weapons than those being used by Kurdish fighters in Kobani, who say they need armour-piercing weapons to fend off Islamic State.

Iraqi Kurdish lawmakers on Wednesday approved sending the fighters, marking the semi-autonomous region's first military foray into Syria's war.

"I have learned that they finally reached agreement on a figure of 200 (fighters)," Erdogan told a news conference in the Latvian capital Riga.

Peshmerga spokesman Halgurd Hikmat said preparations to deploy to Kobani were going on, but it would not happen on Thursday. Islamic State, keen to consolidate territorial gains in northern Syria, has pressed an offensive on Kobani even as US-led forces continue bombing the militants' positions.

Reuters

HEALTH & BUSINESS

Britain slams EU budget demand

BRUSSELS, 24 Oct — British Prime Minister David Cameron has challenged a demand from the European Union for an additional 2.1-billion-euro payment into the EU budget in the coming weeks following a revision of economic statistics.

A British spokesman at an EU summit in Brussels on Friday said Cameron discussed the issue, triggered by a revision of EU data for national income and hence for coun-

tries' contributions to EU funding, with his Dutch counterpart Mark Rutte. His country also faced a large bill, to be paid by 1 December.

"This is money the European Commission was not expecting and does not need, and we will be working with other countries to do all we can to challenge this," the British spokesman said.

Responding to a question at a summit news conference, Jose Manuel

Barroso, the president of the Commission, the EU's executive branch, said he was unaware of the matter.

An EU official said the budget revision was a "technical matter" that came up every year.

The request for additional funding came at an awkward time for Cameron, who faces an election in May with the anti-EU UK Independence Party cutting into his Conservatives' share of the vote.

Reuters



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron arrives at an European Union leaders summit in Brussels on 23 Oct, 2014.
REUTERS

AIIB to set up high-standard, feasible safeguard policies, says Chinese finance minister

BEIJING, 24 Oct — Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will fully respect and draw upon the good practices of existing multilateral development banks (MDBs) and set up high-standard and feasible safeguard policies, Chinese Finance Minister Lou Jiwei said on Friday.

Existing MDBs, such as World Bank and ADB, have accumulated many good experiences and practices during the past decades, Lou said in a media interview, noting that they have set up many high-quality standards and policies with regard to governance structure, environmental evaluation, procurement, debt sustainability and management of projects including the in-

frastructure projects.

AIIB will fully respect and draw upon the good practices of existing MDBs and set up high-standard and feasible safeguard policies, Lou said, stressing that it is noteworthy that existing MDBs are now reviewing their safeguard policies and improving some of the bureaucratic, unrealistic and irrelevant policies.

AIIB will avoid repeating these mistakes to reduce operation cost and increase efficiency, he said.

Twenty-first Asian countries that are willing to join AIIB as founding members on Friday signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing AIIB (MoU).

Xinhua



A general view of the signing ceremony of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 24 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

Nissan to recall cars over defective Takata air bags

TOKYO, 24 Oct — Japanese automaker Nissan Motor Co said on Thursday it would recall a further 260,000 vehicles worldwide, including 104,905 units sold in Japan, over defective air bags made by Japanese auto parts maker Takata Corp. The recall covers seven models, including the March and Cube compact cars and some Infiniti luxury vehicles.

The Japanese carmaker reported the recall to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, *Kyodo* reported on Thursday. No deaths or injuries have been report-

ed as a result of the defect, Nissan said. The latest recall came amid growing global recalls of vehicles installed with potentially faulty air-bag inflators that could rupture causing metal fragments to injure occupants.

Since April 2013, major Japanese carmakers, including Toyota Motor Corp, Honda Motor Co. and Nissan, have all recalled vehicles with Takata air bags. So far, a total of about 2.35 million units domestically and more than 10 million cars around the world have been recalled, the ministry said.

Xinhua

Doctor who worked in Africa first Ebola case in New York City



New York Mayor Bill de Blasio (L) and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo attend a news conference in Bellevue Hospital in New York on 23 Oct, 2014.
REUTERS

NEW YORK, 24 Oct — A New York City doctor who treated Ebola patients in West Africa became the first person to test positive for the virus in America's largest city, setting off fresh fears about the spread of the disease.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said residents were safe to travel around the city, even as officials disclosed that Dr Craig Spencer had ridden subways, taken a taxi and visited a bowling alley since returning from Guinea on 17 October.

Spencer, 33, had worked with the humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders in Africa. He first developed Ebola symptoms on Thursday morning and was taken from his Manhattan apartment to isolation at Bellevue Hospital by a team wearing protective gear, according to city officials. He had been taking his temperature twice a day since coming home, said city Health Commissioner Mary Travis Bassett.

Two friends and his fiancée are quarantined, she said. His fiancée was quarantined at the hospital, and all three were healthy. The taxi driver did not come

into close contact and was not considered at risk, she said.

Spencer is the ninth Ebola case seen in the United States and the first case in America's largest city, setting off renewed fears about the spread of the virus, which has killed nearly 4,900 people, largely in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

The virus is spread through direct contact with bodily fluids from an infected person and is not airborne. "There is no reason for New Yorkers to be alarmed," de Blasio said at a news conference at Bellevue. "Being on the same subway car or living near someone with Ebola does not in itself put someone at risk." Spencer was not feeling sick and would not have been contagious before Thursday morning, the health commissioner said.

"We consider that it is extremely unlikely, the probability being close to nil, that there would be any problem related to his taking the subway system," Bassett said.

The US stock market reacted to the new Ebola case after Spencer's test result was announced late on Thursday. S&P futures fell

9 points or 0.45 percent. The dollar slipped against the euro and the US 10-year Treasury rose, lowering its yield to about 2.24 percent.

The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will confirm the test results within 24 hours, Bassett said.

Spencer's apartment in Manhattan's Harlem neighbourhood is isolated and sealed off, the health commissioner said.

"I see no reason for the tenants in the apartment building to be concerned," she said.

Joyce Harrison, who lives in the building across the street, said, "I feel sorry and hope they can nip this in the bud. 'I'll go right on with my daily routine and hope to God it doesn't come my way,' she said.

The health commissioner said Spencer completed work in Guinea on 12 October and arrived at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York on 17 October.

Spencer's Facebook page, which included a photo of him clad in protective gear, said he stopped over in Brussels.

Spencer has specialized in international emer-

gency medicine at Columbia University-New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York City since 2011.

Columbia in a statement said he has not been to work nor seen any patients since his return.

A woman named Morgan Dixon was identified on Spencer's Facebook page as his fiancée. Her Linked In profile described her as working in nonprofit management and international development with the Hope Programme, a career development programme for homeless and welfare-dependent adults.

The first person diagnosed with Ebola on US soil flew from Liberia to Texas and died in a Dallas hospital. Two nurses who treated him became infected and one took a commercial flight with a fever, prompting officials in several states to take steps to become better prepared to contain the virus.

The CDC did not name Spencer but said he "participated in the enhanced screening for all returning travelers from these countries" at Kennedy.

The enhanced screening was introduced this month at five major US airports — including Kennedy — for travelers coming from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The doctor "went through multiple layers of screening and did not have a fever or other symptoms of illness," the CDC added in a statement.—Reuters



Spencer

Canada's spies face tough questions after militant attacks

WASHINGTON, 24 Oct — On Monday one of Canada's top spy officials assured Canadian lawmakers that there were no signs of an imminent terrorist attack on the country. Within hours a disaffected Muslim convert had run down two soldiers, killing one of them.

Two days later, another Muslim convert armed with a rifle shot dead a Canadian soldier guarding the national war memorial in the capital, Ottawa, and then raced into the nearby parliament, where he exchanged fire with security personnel before being shot dead. Police said on Thursday they had no information indicating the two attacks were linked, and no Islamist militant group, such as Islamic State and

al-Qaeda, has claimed credit. The absence of an apparent organized conspiracy by the two men is of cold comfort to Canada's security agencies, who are facing uncomfortable questions about what they knew and when and why they were unable to stop the attacks since both attackers were known to them as potential security threats.

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Canada's main spy agency, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Parliament attacker Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, 32, who was shot after passing a room in which Prime Minister Stephen Harper was meeting lawmakers, was not under surveillance at the time of the attack, a

US government source told *Reuters*. The source said Zehaf-Bibeau was regarded as a security threat by Canadian authorities but not a high enough threat to warrant constant surveillance, which is often costly and labour intensive.

Western intelligence and security officials have said that few if any Western spy and security agencies have sufficient personnel to closely monitor all suspects linked to the Syrian and Iraq conflict. They need to prioritize surveillance and focus on the suspects considered most dangerous, US officials said.

Police said on Thursday there were at least 93 Canadians who were viewed as "high risk" because they wanted to travel



Police officers stand guard near the National War Memorial in downtown Ottawa on 23 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS

abroad to join Islamic militant groups. Zehaf-Bibeau, however, was not on that list, they said.

It takes between 10 to 12 personnel to plant a listening device and up to 28 agents to follow and con-

stantly monitor a suspect, a lawmaker told Monday's hearing by the Senate Committee on National Security and Defence, citing testimony from CSIS personnel. Since the 11 September attacks in the United States,

heightened monitoring and investigation of potential threats has put a strain on Canada's security apparatus at a time when Ottawa has been trying to bring a wide budget deficit under control.—*Reuters*

Japan business community looking to accept more foreign workers

TOKYO, 24 Oct — Japan should accept more foreign workers to address labour shortages in the economy, the head of the country's largest business lobby said on Friday. "It is essential to create a system" for Japanese firms to more aggressively accept workers from abroad, Japan Business Federation Chairman Sadayuki Sakakibara said in a speech.

"Labour shortages are about to become a significant problem" in Japan with its aging population, Sakakibara said, suggesting the government and business community should cooperate in dealing with the pressing "national issue."

Sakakibara, who was speaking at a seminar organized by *Kyodo News*, also said the federation, better known as Keidanren, will restart dialogues with its South Korean counterpart following a seven-year hiatus. Tensions between the two neighbouring countries over territorial and wartime historical issues have spilled over into their economic relations.

Kyodo News



Japan Business Federation Chairman Sadayuki Sakakibara gives a speech at a Tokyo seminar organized by *Kyodo News* on 24 Oct, 2014. He said Japan should accept more foreign workers to address labour shortages in the economy.—*KYODO NEWS*

Japan warns of increased activity at volcano near nuclear plant

TOKYO, 24 Oct — Japan warned on Friday that a volcano in southern Japan located roughly 64 km (40 miles) from a nuclear plant was showing signs of increased activity that could possibly lead to a small-scale eruption and warned people to stay away from the summit.

The warning comes nearly a month after another volcano, Mt Ontake, erupted suddenly when crowded with hikers, killing 57 people in Japan's worst volcanic disaster in nearly 90 years.

Ioyama, a mountain on the southwestern island of Kyushu, has been shaken by small tremors and other signs of rising volcanic

activity recently, including a tremor lasting as long as seven minutes, an official at the Japan Meteorological Agency's volcano division said. "There is an increase in activity that under certain circumstances could even lead to a small scale eruption, but it is not in danger of an imminent, major eruption," the official said.

The warning level on the mountain has been raised from the lowest possible level, normal, to the second lowest, which means that the area around the crater is dangerous, he added. Ioyama lies in the volcanically active Kirishima mountain range and is roughly 64 km from the

Sendai nuclear plant run by Kyushu Electric Power Co, which the Japanese government wants to restart even though the public remains opposed to nuclear power following the Fukushima crisis. Critics point out that the Sendai plant is located about 50 kms (31 miles) from Mount Sakurajima, an active volcano that erupts frequently. Five giant calderas, crater-like depressions formed by past eruptions, are also in the region, the closest one 40 kms (25 miles) away.

The plant still needs to pass operational safety checks as well as gain the approval of local authorities and may not restart till next year.—*Reuters*

Second White House fence jumper faces mental evaluation



A member of the US Secret Service stands guard in front of the North Lawn of the White House in Washington on 23 Oct, 2014.—*REUTERS*

WASHINGTON, 24 Oct — The man arrested after jumping the White House fence on Wednesday night was charged in court with two federal offenses on Thursday, including harming a dog the Secret Service used to stop him from entering the presidential mansion. Federal Magistrate Judge Deborah Robinson ordered a mental screening for the man, Dominic Adesanya, 23, of Bel Air, Maryland.

Adesanya was also charged with unlawfully entering the restricted grounds of the White House. Both charges are misdemeanors that carry up

to one year in prison.

The incident came about one month after an intruder with a knife scaled the White House fence and entered the executive mansion, raising questions about security at the heavily guarded complex, and spurring the resignation of Julia Pierson as Secret Service director.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the Secret Service's response to the most recent incident was an improvement over its work to last month.

Adesanya also faces two misdemeanors from earlier incidents charged in a lower court, which also

ordered a mental evaluation. Video showed the intruder punching one of the dogs and Secret Service agents surrounding him on the north lawn of the White House. In an interview with ABC's Baltimore affiliate, WMAR, Adesanya's father said his son was "mentally disturbed" and had previously gone to the White House seeking to talk to President Barack Obama, but had been stopped at the gate. "He'd done it before. He didn't get that close," his father, who declined to be named or shown on camera, told WMAR. He said he has been unable to find help for his son.—*Reuters*

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Australia talks set to tackle most difficult TPP issues: New Zealand Trade Minister

WELLINGTON, 24 Oct — Negotiators at the Trans-Pacific Partnership talks in Australia this week will be dealing with some of the most contentious issues in the controversial pact, New Zealand Trade Minister Tim Groser said on Friday.

"Negotiations are entering a crucial stage, with some of the most difficult issues remaining to be addressed in the negotiations such as agricultural market access, intellectual property and disciplines on state-owned enterprises," Groser said in a statement before departing for the talks in Sydney.

"The objective for this meeting will be to achieve further progress in these areas, which still require

substantial work in order to move parties closer to conclusion."

New Zealand continued to be guided by the instructions from Leaders in Bali for ministers and negotiators to resolve all issues consistent with the Honolulu objectives established by Leaders in 2011, to achieve a comprehensive and balanced regional agreement, he said.

Earlier Friday, agriculture industry leaders from New Zealand, Australia and Canada issued a joint call for negotiators to seal a trade deal with equal access across all 12 participating nations, saying select market access to some countries over others might make regional supply chains worse off.

Xinhua

Japan to require report on stay in four African nations over Ebola

TOKYO, 24 Oct — In the face of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and beyond, the government on Friday ordered immigration authorities and quarantine stations to check whether incoming travellers have recently stayed in any of four African nations.

Starting Friday, travellers arriving from abroad at 30 Japanese airports where quarantine checks are conducted are required to report any stay in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone or the Democratic Republic of Congo in the past 21 days.

If immigration officers discover that travellers arriving from these countries have not gone through airport quarantine checks before reaching the passport control counter, they are instructed to direct them back to the quarantine stations.

The total number of travelers to Japan from abroad annually reaches 28 million, of which



Health, Labour and Welfare Minister Yasuhisa Shiozaki explains on 24 Oct, 2014, in Tokyo that Japan will strengthen its airport quarantine system to prevent the spread of the Ebola virus. All immigrants from overseas will be asked if they stayed in any of four African nations — Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Congo.—KYODO NEWS

40,000 people, including 16,000 foreigners, arrive daily in Narita airport near Tokyo.

Last Tuesday, the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry said it was strengthening anti-Ebola measures by obliging travellers arriving from the West Africa nations of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to report on their health condition to quarantine stations twice a day for 21 days.

As the number of cases of the deadly disease continues to grow in West Africa, countries are stepping up efforts to prevent its spread.

On Wednesday, the World Health Organization said the number of Ebola virus cases chiefly affecting West Africa has neared 10,000 globally, with close to 5,000 deaths so far.

Local transmission was also reported in the United States and Spain, according to the WHO.

Kyodo News

Russian female tourist molested in India's Goa

NEW DELHI, 24 Oct — A Russian woman tourist has been allegedly molested twice in the western Indian state of Goa, a senior police official said on Friday.

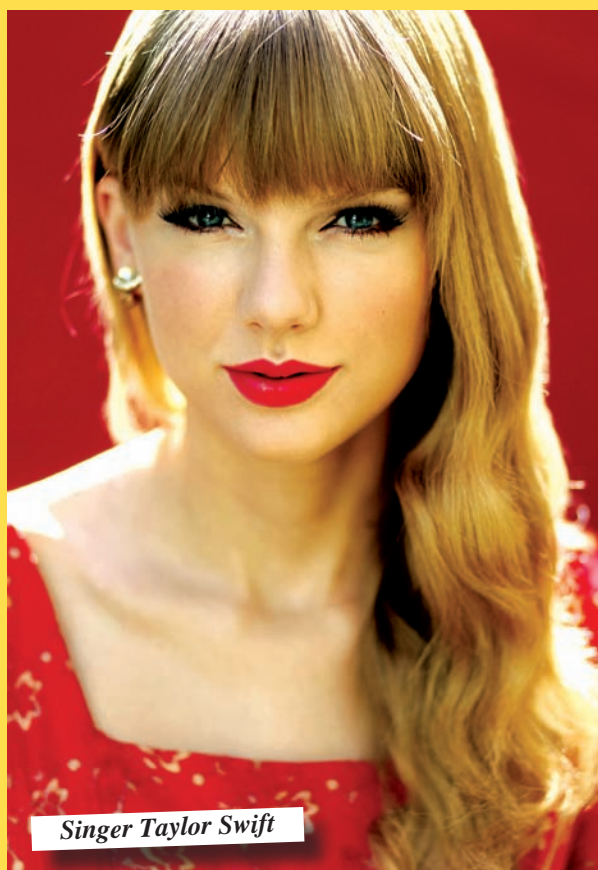
"The 32-year-old has lodged a complaint with the police that she was first sexually molested on a beach by some unknown men and later at a government hospital by a doctor," the official said, on condition of anonymity.

The Russian woman arrived in Goa on 20 October. A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official said.—Xinhua

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 25th October, 2014: Weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing and Magway Regions, Kachin and Chin States, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, scattered in Kayin and Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).



Singer Taylor Swift

Men have tried to harass me: Taylor Swift

LOS ANGELES, 24 Oct — Singer Taylor Swift says provision of constant security is important to her because she has faced harassment by men in past. Swift, 24, said men tried to kidnap, kill and marry her and such incidents have made her extra cautious about the issue of security, reported *Us* magazine.

"I fought the idea of having security for a very long time, because I really value normalcy. I really do. I like to be able to take a drive by myself. Haven't done that in six years. "They have to be in a car behind me. Because just the sheer number of men we have in a file who have showed up at my house, showed up at my mom's house, threatened to either kill me, kidnap me, or marry me," she said.

Earlier this year, Swift obtained a restraining order against one such man. A stalker named Timothy Sweet reportedly believed he was married to Swift and wrote threatening messages on social media.

"This is the strange and sad part of my life that I try not to think about. I try to be lighthearted about it, because I don't ever want to be scared. I don't want to be walking down the street scared. And when I have security, I don't have to be scared," Grammy-winning singer added.—PTI

Komal Pagarani to represent India at Mrs World in US

MUMBAI, 24 Oct — Mrs Asia International-2014 Komal Kalra-Pagarani will be representing India at the Mrs World pageant which will be held in Solomon Islands, Maryland, USA on 19 November.

She won Mrs Asia International in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in June this year.

In a statement here, Pagarani said it was an honour to be invited for the coveted pageant and she was all geared up to bring laurels to the country.

PTI



Komal won Mrs Asia International in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in June this year. —PTI

'Big Hero 6' to the rescue at new-look Tokyo film festival

TOKYO, 24 Oct — Hello Kitty and Doraemon anime characters strutted their stuff on the red carpet on Thursday, as Disney's "Big Hero 6" kicked off a new-look Tokyo film festival that taps into Japan's love of animation.

The 27th Tokyo International Film Festival, which runs from 23 to 31 October, will hold special events alongside the main festival, including a "cosplay summit" and a Japanese food fair aimed at promoting Japan's cultural and content industries.

"Big Hero 6", Disney Animation's next big feature after last year's hit, "Frozen", centres on the bond between 14-year-old Hiro Hamada and the inflatable robot Baymax, as they and their friends battle a Kabu-

ki-masked villain who has stolen Hiro's microbot technology. The 3D comedy-adventure, which screened out of competition, takes place in the futuristic city of San Fransokyo, a mash-up of San Francisco and Tokyo, and Japanese viewers will easily recognize the influence of Tokyo life and landmarks in the film.

"The film has such a strong Japanese influence. It really is a love letter to Japan," Don Hall, co-director of "Big Hero 6," told *Reuters* on the red carpet at Tokyo's Roppongi Hills.

"So to have it coincide with the Tokyo film festival, it's probably the perfect place to debut it," he said, explaining why the Tokyo festival was picked for the world premiere.—*Reuters*



James Corden to debut as CBS's 'Late Late Show' host in March

LOS ANGELES, 24 Oct — CBS late night talk show "The Late Late Show" with new host James Corden will premiere on 9 March, the US broadcast network said on Thursday.

Corden, a Tony Award-winning 36-year-old British actor, will replace Scottish comedian Craig Ferguson, who will leave the late-night show in December. Corden will also play one of the leading roles in Disney's December musical movie "Into the Woods."

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti praised CBS for keeping the show in the city as California politicians have sought to stem the outflow of entertainment production which has been

lured by tax incentives from other states.

"I want to thank CBS for keeping 'The Late Late Show' in Los Angeles," Garcetti said in a statement. "We are proud to be home to so many CBS productions that provide thousands of jobs for Angelenos."

NBC's "Tonight Show" moved to New York from its longtime home in Burbank, California in February when new host Jimmy Fallon took over from Jay Leno.

California politicians fought to keep the "Tonight Show" in Burbank, and they also unsuccessfully tried to lure CBS's "Late Show" to Los Angeles from New York when Stephen Colbert takes the reins from David Letterman next year.

New York was able to keep the "Late Show"

by offering tax credits and grants for job commitments from CBS.

Reuters



Actor James Corden

Scarlett Johansson named most fascinating people of 2014

LOS ANGELES, 24 Oct — New mother Scarlett Johansson has been named most fascinating people of 2014 by Barbara Walters. Walters had been working hard in finalizing her list of the 10 Most Fascinating People of 2014 from few months, reported E!Online.

Talk show queen Oprah Winfrey sat on the second position after beating Chelsea Handler and Neil Patrick Harris. "I was absolutely delighted when ABC approached me to do another year of '10 Most Fascinating People,'" Walters said in a statement.

"I know we said last year was our last, but there are just too many fascinating people out there...and you never pass up the opportunity to interview Oprah, Neil, Chelsea or Scarlett." We can't argue with that!, she added.—PTI



Scarlett Johansson

Garber says political will key to Beckham's MLS Miami plan



Former soccer player
David Beckham

BRIDETOWN, (Barbados), 24 Oct — Major League Soccer commissioner Don Garber says an apparent lack of political will is making the bid to set up a franchise in Miami “complicated” and

that David Beckham will need to find a stadium — or no club will be formed in the city.

Former England international Beckham has an option for an MLS franchise, which he has intended to use in Miami. But he has so far had two proposals for stadium sites rejected by local politicians.

“I’m neither optimistic (nor) pessimistic,” Garber told *Reuters* in an interview.

“It really is a very simple position we are in — if we can’t get the right stadium, we can’t go to Miami.

“We have been challenged to find a site that we

believe will be successful.

“We had two sites on the waterfront. Both were supported by the city mayor and the county mayor, and then we lost that support, so it is clear to me that it is a complicated market in a wide variety of ways,” Garber said on the margins of the Soccerex Americas Forum, where in a panel discussion he had described Miami as a “conundrum”.

MLS will expand to Florida next year when Orlando City join the league, and the growth in the south-east will continue with the addition of Atlanta in 2017.

In both cases local gov-

ernments backed new stadium plans and supported the creation of MLS teams in those cities, and Garber says that is the missing ingredient in Miami.

“Politically I am not sure that there is the same alignment on developing a vision in the way that there has been in a city like Orlando or a city like Atlanta.

“If we can’t find an alignment we aren’t going to be able to go there,” said Garber, who declined to comment on whether Beckham’s option could be transferred to another city if his Miami plans do not come to fruition.—*Reuters*

MYANMAR TV

(25-10-2014, Saturday)

- 6:00 am**
 - Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:35 am**
 - Nice & Sweet Song
- 7:00 am**
 - News / Weather Report
- 7:20 am**
 - Business News
- 8:00 am**
 - News / International News
- 8:30 am**
 - TV Drama Series
- 9:00 am**
 - News / International News
- 9:30 am**
 - Documentary
- 10:50 am**
 - TV Drama Series
- 11:30 am**
 - Game for Children
- 12:00 noon**
 - News / International News / Weather Report
- 1:30 pm**
 - Round up of the Week’s Hluttaw News
- 2:20 pm**
 - Business News
- 3:15 pm**
 - Teleplay
- 4:15 pm**
 - University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Fourth Years (Law)
- 5:30 pm**
 - Game for Children
- 6:00 pm**
 - News / Weather Report
- 8:00 pm**
 - News / International News / Weather Report
- 8:35 pm**
 - Business News
- 9:00 pm**
 - News
 - Myanmar Series
 - Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

MITV MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(25-10-14 07:00 am~
26-10-14 07:00 am) MST

- Local News
- Historic and Mysterious Places
- World News
- Traditional Snack
- Local News
- Tazaungmone
- World News
- Trishaw Man
- Local News
- Myanmar Charitable Labour Association
- World News
- Distinguished Myanmar Lady “Kyin Po”
- Local News
- Myanmar Toys... for your eye-catching
- World News
- “Myanmar’s Beauty and Nature” Beach
- Local News
- Dawei -Tavoy, Travel to The Southern Part of Myanmar
- World News
- Dengue Fever
- Local News
- A Day Life of Kayan Padaung Tribe
- World News
- Parents’ Day
- Local News
- Myanmar Wedding Dress
- World News
- Porcelain and Glass
- Local News
- Up Against The Tide
- World News
- Hip-Hop and Design

Massive gold nugget goes on sale for \$400,000 in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO, 24 Oct — A 5-pound gold nugget dug up in Northern California this past summer and believed to be the largest privately held piece of its kind from the state was offered for sale at \$400,000 on Thursday.

The chunk of gold, which is the size of a misshapen baked potato and weighs 72 troy ounces, or about 5 pounds (2.3 kg), is on display at the San Francisco Fall Antiques Show from Thursday through Sunday, said David McCarthy, senior numismatist for Kagin’s Inc.

The California-based numismatic firm was billing

it as the “Butte Nugget” because it was unearthed in Butte County in Northern California by a man prospecting for gold on public land in July, according to the company.

The firm did not identify the man for whom it is selling the nugget or where in the county it was discovered.

“There are bigger ones in museums and there were bigger ones certainly near the Gold Rush period, but today it’s believed to be the largest gold nugget in private hands in California,” said Donald Kagin, president of Kagin’s.

McCarthy, who evaluated the find, said the man who

found it photographed its excavation step by step and took McCarthy to the spot where it was unearthed, but not before blindfolding him.

“I’ve seen the pictures of the nugget being slowly exposed as he was digging it up, it was very obvious it had been in the ground for a very long time,” McCarthy said.

Kagin’s earlier this year offered for sale pieces from a trove of rare Gold Rush-era coins that were discovered in California last year by a couple walking their dog and assessed at more than \$10 million. Many of the coins were offered on Amazon.com.—*Reuters*



The Butte Nugget is shown in Tiburon, California in this undated handout photo provided by Kagin’s Inc and received by Reuters on 23 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS

Moratti ends Inter link after 19 years

MILAN, 24 Oct — Former Inter Milan owner Massimo Moratti has resigned as honorary president, ending his 19-year association with the club. The 69-year-old quit almost exactly one year after selling a 70 percent stake in the club to a consortium led by Indonesian business tycoon Erick Thohir, who replaced Moratti as club president. “Massimo Moratti has today resigned as honorary president of FC Internazionale Milano Spa, a position kindly offered to him by Mr Erick Thohir in November last year,” said a statement issued by Internazionale Holding Srl, a holding company owned by Moratti and his two sons. No reason was given for the decision.

Inter won five Serie A titles in successive years during Moratti’s 18-year reign, between 2006 and 2010, and

also clinched the Champions League and UEFA Cup once each and the Coppa Italia four times.

The highlight was the Champions League, Serie A and Coppa Italia treble under Jose Mourinho in 2010.

Moratti, whose father Angelo owned the club from 1955 to 1968, brought a host of big signings to Inter, including Brazilian Ronaldo, Hernan Crespo, Adriano, Roberto Baggio, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Luis Figo, Patrick Vieira and Samuel Eto’o. However, he had little patience with coaches, employing 18 during his presidency including the hapless Gian Pieri Gasparini, who was fired after only five matches in 2011. Inter finished fifth last season and have made an inconsistent start to the new campaign, currently in ninth place.—*Reuters*

California community suffers as wells dry up in drought

EAST PORTERVILLE, (Calif), 24 Oct — In one of the towns hardest hit by California’s drought, the only way some residents can get water to flush the toilet is to drive to the fire station, hand-pump water into barrels and take it back home.

The trip has become a regular ritual for East Porterville residents Macario Beltran, 41, and his daughters, who on a recent evening pumped the water into containers in the bed of his old pickup truck to be used for bathing, dish washing and flushing. As if to emphasize the arid conditions that led them there, an emergency broadcast warned of a brewing dust storm.

The state’s three-year drought comes into sharp focus in Tulare County, the dairy and citrus heart of the state’s vast agricultural belt, where more than 500 wells have dried up.

Donna Johnson’s tap went dry in June. Since then she’s been trying to help neighbours connect with help from the county and the state. She began making door-to-door deliveries of water donated by charities

and such supplies as hand sanitizer — often in withering 100-degree heat.

“I saw all these people who couldn’t take a shower: kids, pregnant women,” the 72-year-old said.

Gov Jerry Brown, who

declared a state drought emergency in January, signed an executive order last month to buy drinking water for residents with dry wells. He also signed bills to regulate groundwater.

Reuters



Pastor Frankie Olmedo, 56, (L) who volunteers four hours a day to hand out water, fills up a container for Luis Bocanegra, 35, in Porterville, California on 14 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS

Sharapova grinds out first win but still exits WTA Finals

SINGAPORE, 24 Oct — Maria Sharapova recovered from a second-set meltdown to record her first victory at this year's WTA Finals with a 7-5, 6-7(4), 6-2 triumph over Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska on Friday but the Russian still bowed out of the elite eight-woman tournament.

After losing her opening two Red Group round robin matches, Sharapova needed to win in straight sets to stand any chance of advancing to the semi-finals and maintaining her pursuit of Serena Williams' number one ranking.

The Russian looked set fair to keep her side of the bargain when she roared into a 5-1 lead in the second set but she ran into a wall

called Radwanska with the Pole returning everything Sharapova threw at her to save three match points and reel off five straight games.

Sharapova held a nervy service game to send the second set into a tie-break and with her booming forehands suddenly unable to find their range, Radwanska ended her opponent's interest in the tournament when she claimed the breaker 7-4.

For Radwanska, winning the set was crucial as it now means any victory for Caroline Wozniacki in the final Red Group game against Petra Kvitova later on Friday will send her through to the semi-finals along with the Dane.

Wozniacki is already



Maria Sharapova of Russia celebrates a point against Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland during their WTA Finals singles tennis match at the Singapore Indoor Stadium on 24 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

guaranteed a last four berth so even if she loses to Kvitova, the Czech Wimbledon champion will advance with her instead of Radwanska.

"It's so great to finally get a win in Singapore, I really wanted it today as it was so tough in that second set. We have always had tight matches and today

was no different," Sharapova said in a court-side interview.

The first set was an edgy affair with neither player able to hold serve in the first four games before Sharapova got the better of another three-game run of broken serves to close out the opener in a little over an hour.

Confident and finding the paint with her booming forehands, the Russian appeared to be racing through the second set at 4-0 and 5-1 but Radwanska showed her incredible defence and fighting spirit to even the match from an almost impossible position.

Sharapova took a short break before the deciding set and returned looking

more determined than ever, seizing the momentum with a booming forehand down the line in the sixth game to open a 4-2 lead.

Two games later, Sharapova had won the match with her 32nd forehand winner of the three-hour, 12 minute contest, the Russian clearly delighted with her third set performance after her struggles at the end of the second.

"I had to regather my thoughts and my gameplan and just go back to the basics. She gets so many balls back that sometimes I felt I was rushing a little too much. But in the end I was able to tough it out and am so happy to get a victory here," she added.

Reuters

Stellar Lamela is hot Spur as Tottenham hit five

LONDON, 24 Oct — Tottenham Hotspur's Erik Lamela scored a stunning 'rabona' goal to light up Thursday's Europa League ties, wrapping his left boot round the back of his right leg 20 metres out and blasting the ball into the top corner. That goal, a second Lamela volley and a Harry Kane hat-trick helped secure a 5-1 victory over Greek side Asteras Tripolis but the result seemed almost insignificant in comparison to the sheer technical brilliance of the Argentine's moment of magic.

Elsewhere, the goals were liberally spread among the games in Europe's second tier competition with Borussia Moenchengladbach hitting five while Besiktas, VfL Wolfsburg, Salzburg and Villarreal all netted four times.

Rijeka's Andrej Kramaric underlined his status as one of the hottest prospects in European football with a hat-trick while trouble flared in eastern Europe again and Napoli lost 2-0 to Young Boys.

Nothing, though, came close to matching Lamela's 30th-minute goal for wow factor, a rare glimpse of the talent that Tottenham fans had heard about but not seen much of since his club record 30 million pounds move from AS Roma last year.

After Kane had given the hosts an early lead, the ball was rolled across the edge of the penalty area and Lamela strode purposefully towards it.

In a flash and almost imperceptible to the naked eye, he performed a gymnastic act of balance and flexibility to

put one leg behind the other and arc his shot into the net, leaving the goalkeeper rooted to the spot and the crowd stunned.

It was a suitable way to grace the 10th anniversary of the death of former manager Bill Nicholson who led Tottenham to the English league and FA Cup double in 1961.

I have seen Erik do that in training — he has that in his locker," said Kane whose eventful evening culminated in him going in goal following a red card for Hugo Lloris late in the match and subsequently letting in a howler from a set piece. "I quite fancied myself in goal but when I saw the free kick wobbling towards me I wasn't too happy," the striker told ITV Sport.

The result breathed life into Tottenham's Europa League campaign, giving them five points from three games, level at the top of Group C with Besiktas who crushed Partizan Belgrade 4-0, their heaviest home defeat in European competition.

Besiktas took an 18th-minute lead through midfielder Veli Kavlak who buried a swerving piledriver from 30 metres past goalkeeper Milan Lukac before Demba Ba doubled the advantage on the stroke of halftime.

Roared on by 1,000 raucous away fans, who lit several flares in the first half, Besiktas continued to dominate and Oguzhan Ozyakup made it 3-0 in the 52nd minute before winger Gokhan Tore scored the fourth two minutes later. — Reuters

Torres struggling to keep his place at Milan

MILAN, 24 Oct — Top scorers in Serie A with 16 goals, fourth in the table and beaten only once in seven games, the new season is going well for new-look AC Milan and new coach Filippo Inzaghi — with one glaring exception.

Spain forward Fernando Torres, signed on loan from Chelsea in the close season hoping to rediscover his best form, is once again struggling to impress.

The misfiring 30-year-old has managed only one goal in five outings, scored in a 2-2 draw against lowly Empoli, and has been totally overshadowed by team mate Keisuke Honda, who has been in unstoppable form with six already.

Torres' team mates have been diplomatic about his contributions, praising his unselfish role in holding up the ball and his movement, and he is certainly an improvement on maverick forward Mario Balotelli last season. "Fernando Torres is a really important player for us," said midfielder Sulley Muntari after last Sunday's 3-1 win at Verona. "He moves well on the pitch, so we are happy that he plays for us."

Italian media, however, said that Torres needed to do much more on Sunday, when he was taken off midway through the second half, and that his starting place could be under threat for the first time when they face Fiorentina on Sunday (1945 GMT). Torres has so far played as the central striker in Milan's 4-3-

3, with Honda on the right and Jeremy Menez, who has three goals, on the left.

Menez was not fully fit when Milan faced Verona, and Stephan El Shaarawy took his place, but with the Frenchman ready to start against Fiorentina, Inzaghi faces a tricky decision.

"I need to watch the training sessions and take my indications from there," Inzaghi told reporters after the Verona game. "It's good that I have so many choices, it's something of a luxury for a coach."

The former Italy striker, famously described by former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson as having been "born offside" as a player, has enjoyed a better than expected start in charge of the seven-times European champions, who finished a miserable eighth last term.

"We have to get better at the back, but the fact we are top scorers is very satisfying for a coach, as that means we have the attacking and entertaining approach I wanted," said Inzaghi. "But this team still needs more confidence after a very tough year and our spirit is to always attack."

"We know that we have to improve. Looking at the goals we have conceded, there were four in that bizarre game at Parma (Milan won 5-4), Empoli's two were from set pieces (in a 2-2 draw) and against Cesena (1-1), we practically scored their goal ourselves." —Reuters

Free agent Valdes to train with Manchester United

LONDON, 24 Oct — Former Barcelona goalkeeper Victor Valdes will continue his rehabilitation from a knee injury at Manchester United, the Premier League club said on Thursday. The 32-year-old, who came through the youth ranks at Barcelona and won six La Liga titles, tore his cruciate knee ligaments in March and is without a club after leaving the Nou Camp at the end of last season.

"Valdes will have his recovery supervised by the United medical staff before training with the first team as he bids to regain full fitness," United said on their website (www.manutd.com). Sixth-placed United host Premier League leaders Chelsea at Old Trafford on Sunday.—Reuters



Former Barcelona's goalkeeper Victor Valdes (bottom), surrounded by his teammates, gestures as he lies injured after a freekick during their La Liga soccer match against Celta Vigo at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 26 March, 2014.—REUTERS