

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of ambassadors of Denmark, Israel and New Zealand

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, accepted credentials from newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen, newly-accredited Ambassador of the State of Israel Mr. Daniel Zonshine and newly-accredited Ambassador of

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President
U Thein Sein shakes hands with Ambassador of Denmark Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen at presentation ceremony of Credentials.
MNA



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ASEAN Financial Inclusion Conference's Yangon Outcomes recommend regional collective commitments for financial inclusion

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 30 Oct—The ASEAN Financial Inclusion Conference hosted by Myanmar in Yangon concluded with the release of “Yangon Outcomes for Financial Inclusion” on Thursday, producing a set of recommendations on realization of objectives to accelerate financial inclusion in the ASEAN region.

“We made a successful conference as international organizations including UNDP, UNCDF and Australian Aid gave pledges in a spirit of goodwill to continue to support for implementation of financial inclusion programmes in the region,” said Managing Director Daw Yin Yin Mya of Myanmar Economic Bank, who presented the Yangon Outcomes for Financial In-

clusion in ASEAN at the conference.

Ways and means of making access to financial services possible for people without access to banking in the region were sought and approved to accelerate actions for financial inclusion, she added.

According to the Yangon Outcomes statement, the ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies Working Group (AFDM-WG) will be asked to realize the success of the objectives of the Yangon Outcomes, including engagement with other working groups and the establishment of a Financial Inclusion Advisory Group to support their activities.

The AFDM-WG will present the Yangon Outcomes to the ASEAN

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Inland Water Transport to build 37 passenger ships to compete with private rivals

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 30 Oct—Inland Water Transport is planning to build 37 ships for passengers in attempts to compete with private navigation services across the country.

“We are still practicing the old system and still

using the British-colonial era ships,” said U Win Pe, managing director of Inland Water Transport under the Ministry of Transport.

He told reporters Wednesday that the passenger-cum-cargo ships owned by the IWT are not helpful today to fulfill the demand of passengers as

they want to arrive their destinations on time.

The number of navigable transportation service routes operated by IWT has been spirally decreased as the ministry's decades-old ships experience delays and higher costs and cannot compete with modern ones run by private entrepreneurs, according the

ministry.

Meanwhile, Inland Water Transport is facing challenges for transforming its services from public service to a commercial basis with its decades-old ships to be able to stand on its own budget as the new government adopted a new policy.

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Inland Water Transport urgently needs to replace its decades-old ships running along the navigable waterways with modern and faster ones to recover from losses.—PHOTO: www.allthingsburmese.com

Representatives divided on purchase of farm machinery in installments form South Korea

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives had different opinions on purchase of farm machinery worth of US\$ 100 million from Daedong Industrial Co, Ltd of South Korea.

Defence Services Representative Lt-Col Moe

Kyaw Oo supported the purchase, saying that the government is responsible for raising the living standards of peasant farmers who are suffering losses due to the shortage of farm machinery.

Another representative who supported the purchase was Representative

U Min Swe who said farm machinery form the Korean company are of high quality and the term for repayment for the purchase is not burdensome.

However, Representative U Sein Win said that the union government is responsible for the loan for the pur-

chase when the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has been approved the program and thus the program should be handed over to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, which is concerned with peasant farmers and is more likely to make the program successful.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Representative Daw Khin Hmway Lwin was of the opinion that the Korean company should be invited to Myanmar to sell their farm machinery in installments to farmers instead of taking loan by the union government from the Korean company.

Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan re-

sponded to the discussions of the representatives by saying that peasant farmers have been trained to use farm machinery and the detailed plan to repay the loan has been arranged, adding that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is incapable of going to every village to implement the plan.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Defence services representative raises question on future challenges for national development tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct — Defence Services Representative Brig-Gen Tint Hsan raised question on handling future challenges for national development plans and how to handle them at the Pyithu Hluttaw Session on Thursday.

Pyithu Hluttaw Right Committee responded to the question with the secretary of the committee saying that compared to parliaments in other countries, the Hluttaw office does not have enough staff and skill but capacity building programmes are being carried out with international organizations including National Democratic Institute, Open Society, German Foundation, Westminster Foundation, the DFID, Hanna Siedel Foundation, the GIZ and the UNDP. As the major responsibility of the Hluttaw is to enact laws, it has been enacting, amending and repealing laws in the interest of the nation and the people, he added, pointing out that the major challenge facing the Hluttaw is to interact with administrative and judicial branches pos-

itively and harmoniously. In conclusion, he said that the Hluttaw will address the challenges in enacting laws in cooperation with representatives and defence services representatives in the interest of the people and the nation, and will interact with administrative and judicial branches in the interest of the nation and the people. As for another question raised at the session, Deputy Minister for Education U Thant Shin said that the government is making preparations to change the current basic education system into a KG+12 system which includes the kindergarten and 12 grades in accordance with the National Education Law but holding basic education final examination and university admission examinations separately is still under discussions.

However, the deputy minister denied that basic education final examinations will be held by respective schools instead of current system of the government examination. Under the National Education

Law, universities are required to make independent efforts to raise their education standards, to guarantee the quality of their education system and to be recognized by international educational institutions, the deputy minister added. Requirements to enroll at universities may differ from one university to another as universities will have the right to select the students whom they want to admit based on the qualifications, the deputy minister said. Another question raised at the Pyithu Hluttaw Session was responded by Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Htin Aung, who said that the ministry is providing job opportunities to youths who lack proper education through labour offices, occupational trainings and disseminating labour laws. Then, representatives discussed the report on appropriate electoral system for Myanmar. Two representatives submitted their opinion in support of the combined electoral system.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Only member countries propose their cultural and natural sites as world heritage

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct — A defence services representative asked the Amyotha Hluttaw on Thursday about the procedures of listing world heritage sites and ongoing arrangements for the inclusion of cultural heritage sites which are still left.

Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sandar Khin responded that only countries that have signed the World Heritage Convention can submit nomination proposals for their properties on their soil to be included on the World Heritage List, adding that member countries are entitled to submit one cultural site and one natural site a year.

The nomination list is to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review, which will assign a team of experts to evaluate the proposed sites.

Speaking of current undertakings of her ministry, the deputy minister said arrangements are

under way to have Bagan considered for inscription on the World Heritage List by the World Heritage Committee.

Daw Sandar Khin stressed that world heritage sites bring in national pride and national integrity as well as technical and financial assistance, thereby promoting tourism and creating job opportunities.

Another question was concerned with the possibility of giving out low-interest loans to casual labourers as in agricultural

loans to farmers.

Deputy Minister for Cooperative U Than Tun said that small capitals are being disbursed to members of cooperative associations at all levels of communities, adding that plans are under way to set up new cooperative associations and organize casual labourers to become members so that they will be entitled to small loans.

The Amyotha Hluttaw will meet on 10 November.

MNA

Public announcement for remonstrations

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct — Wa National Unity Party that headquarters at No.36, Byuha Street, Region-2, Ward-1, Lashio, Shan State, as a political party under the Article 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law, submitted applications to change its flag and seal.

It is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's flag and seal they may submit a complaint along with the strong evidences within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement in line with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rule.

Union Election Commission



Flag of Wa National Unity Party



Seal of Wa National Unity Party

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker receives Danish Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct — Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Thura U Shwe Mann received

Ambassador of Denmark Mr Peter Lysholt Hansen at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday afternoon.

Also present were Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, member of Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Daw Aye Aye Mu and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann cordially greets Ambassador of Denmark Mr Peter Lysholt Hansen at their talks.—MNA





President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Israeli Ambassador Mr. Daniel Zonshine.—MNA



President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of newly-accredited Ambassador of New Zealand Mr. Bruce Rata Shepherd.—MNA

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of...

(from page 1)
New Zealand Mr. Bruce Rata Shepherd at the Presidential Palace in

Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.
Also present on the occasions were Union

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U

Thein Nyunt and Director-General U Thurain Thant Zin of the Protocol Department.—MNA

EIRA seeks opportunity to cooperate in Dawei SEZ Project

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct—Vice President U Nyan Tun received ERIA Executive Director Hidetoshi Nishimura of Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and officials of Harvard University at the hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

They discussed outcomes of the Myan-

mar-ERIA-Harvard Symposium: Maximizing AEC benefit towards a Peaceful and Prosperous Community, recommendation for policy affairs, reviews to achieve the highest contribution of ASEAN Economic Community for SME industries in the regional countries, and opportunities for EIRA to cooperate in Dawei Special Economic Zone Project.—MNA



Vice President U Nyan Tun receives ERIA Executive Director Hidetoshi Nishimura of Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and officials of Harvard University.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win receives Special Envoy on Asian Affairs of China



Vice-Senior General Soe Win holds talks with Mr Wang Yingfan, Special Envoy on Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China.

MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win received Mr Wang Yingfan, Special Envoy on Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday afternoon.

They exchanged views on peace and stability process in border regions between the two countries and implementation of peace talks.

After the meeting, Vice-Senior General Soe Win and the Chinese guests posed for documentary photo—Myawady

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Press Release Team Press Release (7/2014)

30 October, 2014

8th Waxing Day of Tazaungmone, 1376 ME

Press release to submit a special report on human rights

1. The State-owned newspapers issued on 25 October 2014 carried the press release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the death of Captain Aung Naing, communication in-charge of the Klohtobaw Karen Organization (KKO).
2. The President Office has ordered the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission to submit a special investigation report to the President at the earliest after conducting investigation on the death case in line with the provisions of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law.

Press Release Team

Statue museum of King Mindon and Queen under construction



MANDALAY, 30 Oct — A museum in which the statues of King Mindon who built the Mandalay Palace in 1221 Myanmar Era and Queen will be kept is under construction near Kyauktawgyi Pagoda at the foot of Mandalay Hill.

Managing Director of Mann Myay Yazar Company Ltd Thudhamma Dr U Kyaw Win and wife Thudhamma Theingi Daw Myint Myint Than and

family of Mandalay will bear the cost of construction of the museum.

The museum hall will display equipment and regalia of the royal palace in addition to the statues of the king and queen with the aim of enabling the new generation youth to have a wider knowledge about benefactor King Mindon and cultural heritage.

The 40 feet by 60 feet museum hall being built on

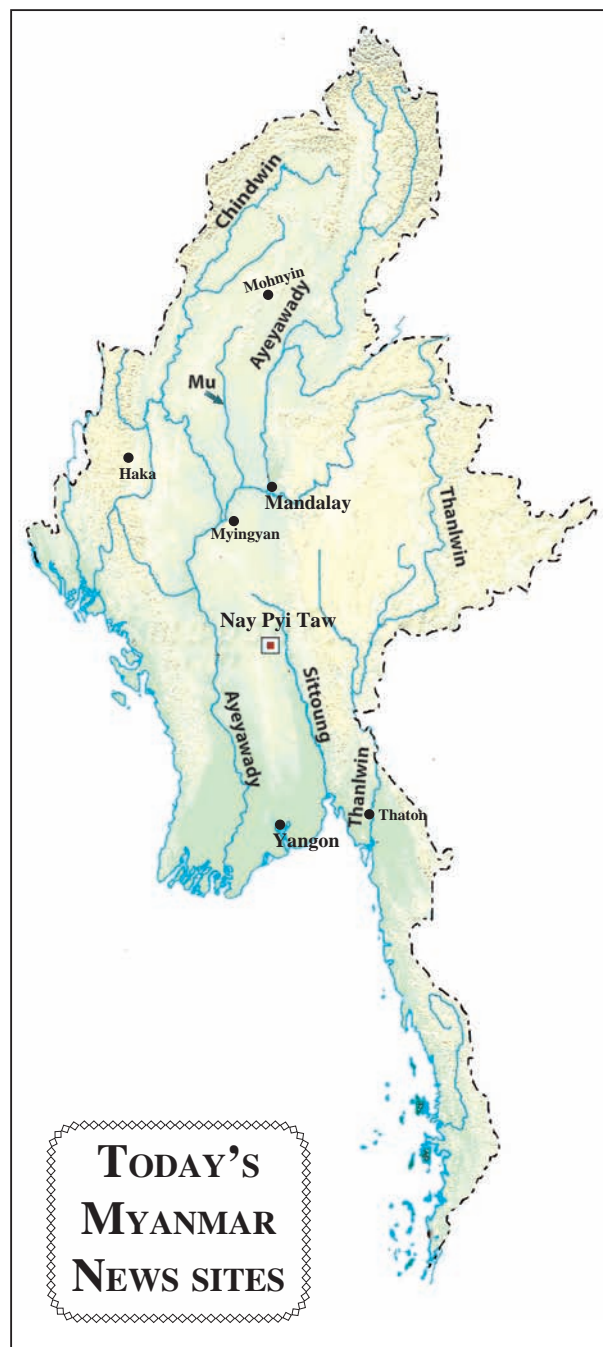
an 80 feet by 60 feet land plot will be decorated with Myanmar handicrafts. Four corners outside the building will be kept with four statues of gods and the gate with mythical statues. The fencing of the compound will be installed with steel fixings. It is expected to complete the construction tasks in the last week of December 2014.

The wellwisher family donates construction

of Pitakat Chamber, Maha Pathana ordination hall and Sudhamma Public Rest House in Mandalay.

Moreover, wellwishers donated construction of buildings at Bo Tree and golden throne, Sanu Hall, King Mindon museum, archways and installation of steel fixing for fencing at the park.

*Min Htet Aung
(Mandalay Sub-printing House)*



Mohnyin District emphasizes public health care



MOHNYIN, 30 Oct — Spending the fund of the Ministry of Health in 2014-15 fiscal year, the construction and stake driving ceremonies were held for extension of basic health structures in urban and rural areas of Mohnyin Township in Kachin State, according to Head of Mohnyin District Health Department Dr Win Htay.

Construction of the extended patient ward commenced for upgrading the 16-bed Hopin Hospital to the 25-bed facility spending

K250 million on 22 September. A station hospital construction started in Nantmon Village of the township on 14 October, funded with K20 million for the first phase. On 15 October, a ceremony to launch the construction of a rural health branch was held in Hepu Village, with the fund of K60 million. On 1 September, a stake driving ceremony took place in 10th-Mile village to build a rural health branch, spending K30 million.

A medical team for mobile clinic from the Town-

ship Health Department made field trips to remote areas of Mohnyin Township in the last week of October so as to provide health care services to the older persons, pregnant women and children under five free of charge, said Dr Win Htay.—GNLM-001

MESB transformed to electricity supply corporation

MANDALAY, 30 Oct — A ceremony to reorganize the Mandalay City Electricity Supply Board was held at the hall of Mandalay Region electrical engineer office in Mandalay on Tuesday.

Mandalay Region Electric Power and Industry U Kyaw Myint explained the purpose of reconstitution of

the service organization.

At the ceremony, Mandalay City Electricity Supply Board was re-set up as Mandalay City Electricity Supply Corporation.

Managing Director U Myint Aung of Electricity Supply Enterprise under the Ministry of Electric Power explained the supply of electricity, procedure for

transform of a corporation.

Rector Dr Tin Win of Meiktila University of Economics, official of Region Judge Advocate Office and personnel of private electricity supply companies participated in the discussions. The MESB will be transformed into the corporation in December 2014.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Capacity of staff enhanced in training course

HAKA, 30 Oct — Aiming at enhancing capacity of staff to be able to carry out social economic development of rural people, Chin State Rural Development Department organized the staff capacity building course 2/2014 at its hall in Haka, Chin State, on 28 October. U Ram Mahn, Chin State Minister for Planning and Economic, gave an introductory speech. Head of State Department of Rural Development U Htay Win explained the purpose of conducting the training course and Head of Chin State Fisheries Department U Paw Lwin, matters related to fisheries sector. Officials gave lectures on office letter writing, financial rules and regulations and policies of the government.

Altogether 19 staff from the Rural Development Department and four from Fisheries Department, totalling 23 attended the course.—Chin State IPRD



LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar to host Super Series Myanmar 2014-2015

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct — The International Sepak Takraw Championship “Super Series Myanmar 2014-2015” hosted by Myanmar for the first time will be held at Nay Pyi Taw Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium (B) from 30 October to 2 November.

The press conference on the championship was held at the media room of the gymnasium on Wednesday morning.

The general secre-

tary of International Sepak Takraw Federation Dato Abdul Halim Bin Kader presented trophy for Super Series Myanmar 2014-2015 to Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan.

The Union minister, deputy minister U Thaung Htaik, president of Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation U Soe Naing and the general secretary of ISTF made speeches and replied

to queries raised by media.

Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, China and host Myanmar will take part in the men’s regu event. Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia and Myanmar will participate in the women’s event. Sky Net channel, Sport3 and Asta Sports Ventures (ASV) will broadcast live the competitions in the series to 80 global countries.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



Public digital library service device installed at No 6 Industrial School

MYINGYAN, 30 Oct —Staff Officer of Myingyan District Information and Public Relations Department Daw Hnin Yi, Head of Township IPRD U Zaw Min and staff installed a public digital library service device at No 6 Industrial School near Kokke Village in Myingyan Township of Mandalay Region on 29 October.

Staff Officer Daw Hnin Yi and staff demonstrated use of the machine and technology for down-



loading the files. Principle of the school U Han Nye-

in Swe expressed thanks for installation of the de-

vice.—*Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)*

Farmer gets temporary farming certificate for cultivation



THATON, 30 Oct — Thaton Township Land Utilization Management Committee returned temporary permissions to owners of confiscated farmlands released by Ministry of Home Affairs on Wednesday.

Farmland owner Daw Naw Hla Thein applied for doing farming works on 23.01 acres of land in southeast field of Khwayh-machaung in Okpochaung Village-tract in Thaton Township of Mon State.

According to the decision of Mon State Land Utilization Management

Committee, Chairman of the township committee Township Administrator U Tun Tun Naing presented temporary farming certificate to the owner farmer at the land utilization management committee meeting.

“I am very pleased for officially doing my farmland. This year, I have put the farmland under monsoon paddy. I know the permission form will be issued to me soon, so I thank all officials for their management,” said farmer Daw Naw Hla Thein.

Thet Oo (Thaton)



Mandalay GEC to deliver profits to members

MANDALAY, 30 Oct — Since early October, the walls, tiered roofs and archways on four sides of Royal Mandalay City are illuminated with LED lightings.

Mandalay City Development Committee and

Dream Light Technology Company jointly carry out lighting at the walls for enabling globetrotters to enjoy illuminated night scenes of Royal Mandalay City.

Electricians of Building and Warehouse De-

partment of MCDC and engineers of the company tested lightings to be installed at the southern and eastern parts of the walls in the early November when the Tazaungdaing Festival will be held on a grand scale.

Flocks of globetrotters and local people enjoy the lighting scenes at the walls, tiered roofs and archways on four sides of Royal Mandalay City and took photos.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

MANDALAY, 30 Oct — Mandalay Region Government Employees Cooperative (GEC) will deliver profits to its members as of 3 November.

The members are to submit consumer book, receipt of share holders, employee ID or citizenship

scrutiny cards to the GEC section on the third floor of northern wing at the Zaygyo Market on 84th street in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay. Moreover, the members may take out the profits of previous years.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)



Photo taken on 29 Oct, 2014 shows the sign of APEC staged in Beijing Olympic Park.—XINHUA

Cambodia, Thailand vow to promote ties

PHNOM PENH, 30 Oct — Cambodian foreign minister Hor Namhong on Thursday held talks with his visiting Thai counterpart Tanasak Patimapragorn to discuss ways to broaden relations and cooperation between the two neighbours.

“Your visit is important to further enhance friendly ties and cooperation between our two nations,” Hor Namhong said in a greeting remark.

Tanasak said Thailand and Cambodia are good neighbours like a family and it is vital to further develop bilateral relations for the benefits of the two countries and peoples.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Cambodian foreign ministry spokesman Koy Kuong said the two top diplomats had touched on several topics, ranging from security cooperation

along the border, illegal Cambodian labourers in Thailand and trade and economic development.

“Both sides agreed to prevent cross-border crimes,” said the spokesman. “They also discussed a plan to open four more border checkpoints between the two countries to better serve tourists and trade activities.”

The spokesman said, to date, the two neighbours have opened six international checkpoints.

The two ministers also agreed to set up a telephone hotline between them in order to discuss any urgent issue.

Tanasak invited Hor Namhong to visit Thailand in any convenient time and Hor Namhong accepted the invitation.

Tanasak arrived in Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia, on Wednesday evening for a two-day visit.—Xinhua

Laos hosts ASEAN environment meeting

VIENTIANE, 30 Oct — The 15th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (15th IAMME) officially opened here on Thursday.

In his opening speech, Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the National Environment Committee Asang Laoly emphasized the value of dialogue in identifying and tackling environmental issues and challenges.

“We will review our current strategic plan and discuss measures to build our strong regional cooperation and to agree on the Strategic Framework for ASEAN Cooperation on Environment,” Asang said.

“Our meeting today will also allow us to view the role of natural resources and environment which significantly contributed to the socio-economic development under the green

growth framework and drive ASEAN to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication.”

The official highlighted the abundance of natural resources throughout ASEAN and the benefits of sustainable socio-economic development.

Drawing parallels to the Laos, Asang stressed the importance of adequate provisions to protect the environment and stave off ecological disaster.

“I do hope to see our frank discussion on the concrete measures to increase the cooperation in ASEAN Community as well as with our dialogue partners towards the overarching goal of sustainable natural resources and environmental protection.”

Meetings for the 15th AIMME started unofficially on 27 October and will conclude on 31 October.—Xinhua

Recycling of waste substances by food firms increasing in Japan

TOKYO, 30 Oct — Food companies in Japan are increasingly introducing programmes to recycle waste left in the production process.

Starbucks Coffee Japan Ltd launched a “food recycle loop” system in March to recycle coffee grounds brewed at its chain shops, using them as compost for vegetables and feed for cows. The vegetables grown and milk from the cows are served at the shops.

Authorized as a project under the food recycling law requiring food companies to recycle waste substances if they produce a set amount of them, the programme is the first that uses coffee grounds.

Some 7,000 tons of used coffee grounds are produced from the nationwide Starbucks chain of some 1,000 shops per year. Joining hands with other firms such as a company that collects and processes the grounds into feed and compost, the recycling programme currently involves a limited number of shops in the Kanto region around Tokyo and the Kansai region with Osaka at the centre in order to reduce the production of waste by 40 percent.

Starbucks Coffee plans to expand the programme to half of

the chain by fiscal 2018.

“Coffee grounds have antioxidation effects, improve the functions of the intestines and are good for vegetables,” said Yuichi Ishikawa, manager of the project. Grounds produced in large amounts in cities can be reutilized in farming villages “without cost,” he added.

Among other companies adopting recycling programmes, Ito En Ltd, the top producer of green-tea products, began to recycle used tea leaves, which are known to have antibacterial and odor-killing effects, in 2000. It has developed boards, resins and

paper products by mixing the leaves with other materials, and now supplies them to some 150 companies as building products or materials for household utensils. In particular, “tatami” straw mats containing such boards have aroused strong demand.

Takanori Sato, an Ito En official, developed the new tatami mat because “I remembered my grandmother sweeping tatami floors after spreading used tea leaves over them.”

“I would like to make the mat into a core business” of Ito En by recycling more used tea leaves, he said.—Kyodo News



Photo shows products made from recycled tea leaves, which are known to have antibacterial and odor-killing effects.—KYODO NEWS

Malaysia's Anwar says hopeful, lawyers question DNA evidence

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 Oct — Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim said on Thursday he was a victim of a conspiracy but was hopeful of winning an appeal against a sodomy conviction and five-year prison term that could stymie his political ambitions for good.

Anwar was the ruling party's rising star in the mid-1990s before he fell out with then Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

Since then, Anwar has been beset by legal problems and spent several years in prison after being convicted of corruption and an

earlier sodomy charge.

But the charismatic Anwar, who heads a three-party opposition alliance, remains the greatest threat to Malaysia's political establishment. “Based on the facts and the law, I see no other possibilities, no other options, except to acquit me of all these frivolous charges,” Anwar told supporters outside the court after his legal team wound up their arguments.

“Clear people can see now, with the evidence of fabrication, of conspiracy, of the powers that be,” he said.

On Thursday, his lawyers

questioned DNA evidence.

They said a DNA sample taken from a male former political aide who in 2008 accused Anwar of sodomising him had taken 96 hours to reach a chemist and was contaminated and possibly tampered with. The government has rejected the notion of political interference in Anwar's conviction saying Malaysia had an independent judiciary and the case was a matter for the courts.

A court convicted Anwar in March and sentenced him to five years in prison. Sodomy is illegal in Malaysia.—Reuters

Abu Sayyaf militants free child hostage in S Philippines

MANILA, 30 Oct — The terrorist group Abu Sayyaf released on Wednesday an 8-year-old girl whom they kidnapped more than three months ago in southern Philippines, a military official said on Thursday.

Lt Col Harold Cabunoc, spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said the child was found at the Jolo wharf in Jolo town, Sulu Province.

Cabunoc said the child was snatched by four armed men from a store in her hometown Olutanga, Zamboanga Sibugay Province, on 25 July last year.

She was later brought to Sulu Province, a known bailiwick of the Abu Sayyaf.

The Philippine military said the child was released due to the ongoing law enforcement operation against the militants. The military operation was launched on 17 October, the same day the Abu Sayyaf released two German captives. Military officials said the terrorist group is currently holding nine hostages, including two European wildlife photographers who were nabbed in Tawi-Tawi Province in February 2012.—Xinhua

UN & WORLD

United States praises China's growing role in Afghanistan

BEIJING, 30 Oct — The United States welcomed China's growing role in trying to ensure Afghanistan's stability on Thursday, saying a Beijing conference of foreign ministers on Afghan reconstruction this week shows its commitment to the region as Western troops pull out.

The comments, made by a senior State Department official, are rare US praise for Beijing, which this week hosts Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on his first visit abroad since assuming office in September. Washington and Beijing, which have typically contentious relations on geopolitical issues from Iran to the South China Sea, have both said they see Afghanistan as a point where their security interests converge.

On Tuesday, China pledged to give Afghanistan \$327 million in aid through 2017, more than the \$250 million contribution it has so far offered since the fall of the hardline Islamist Taliban regime in 2001. "China's view of engaging in Afghanistan over the course of these past few years has really changed



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai attend a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 28 Oct, 2014. —REUTERS

significantly, and in our view, in a very positive direction," the official told reporters during a telephone briefing.

On Friday, foreign ministers from Asian and Central Asian countries will gather in Beijing for a fourth round "Istanbul Process" conference on Afghanistan, which China hopes will help boost development and security there. White House counsellor

John Podesta will attend the meeting. "It's a real demonstration of China's commitment to Afghanistan, to its role in the region and one that we greatly welcome," the official said.

Additional support on counter-terrorism "would be very valuable", the official said, noting that improving coordination on "terror-finance" issues at the United Nations would be an area of US-China dis-

cussion in the future.

China, connected to Afghanistan by a narrow, almost impassable mountain corridor, has been preparing for more responsibility in Afghanistan after the bulk of US-led troops pull out this year.

It says it does not seek to fill a void left by the US withdrawal but has promised to play a big commercial role in reconstruction. —Reuters

Vucic: Gov't resolved to privatize Telekom Srbija

BELGRADE, 30 Oct — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said that the Serbian government is resolved to privatize the public company Telekom Serbia, while in the case of the public company Electric Power Industry of Serbia (EPS) it is ready to sell the minority package of shares.

"We are currently looking for an investment partner for Telekom, and are then going to announce a public and transparent tender, and resolve the issue of Telekom," Vucic told the blog of the London School of Economics.

The prime minister said that he does not think that the EPS must be sold, and that it is quite certain that the state will not sell out the majority package of shares, but is looking for an investor interested in the minority package, as a strategic partner.

Tanjung

Russian humanitarian convoy for eastern Ukraine reaches Russia's southern Rostov region

MOSCOW, 30 Oct — Russian emergencies ministry's humanitarian convoy for residents of Ukraine's eastern Lugansk and Donetsk regions has reached Russia's southern Rostov region, Oleg Voronov, a deputy chief of the ministry's national crisis management centre, told TASS on Thursday.

"The convoy of 100 trucks has arrived to the Rostov region, with no accidents or incidents," he said, adding that the drivers were

feeling well and the vehicles were in good condition. The convoy is carrying about 1,000 tonnes of cargoes — building materials, foodstuffs, medicines and equipment necessary to get prepared for the upcoming winter. Earlier, the ministry's planes delivered some 100 tonnes of humanitarian cargoes to Rostov-on-Don. These cargoes will later be transhipped to motor vehicles. Earlier, Deputy Emergencies Minister Vladimir Stepanov said that the Rus-

sian humanitarian convoys would deliver up to 3,000 tonnes of relief aid to the Lugansk and Donetsk regions within a week.

This is the fourth Russian humanitarian convoy to eastern Ukraine. The previous three convoys delivered an aggregate of 6,000 tonnes of cargoes — foodstuffs, including cereals and canned foods, medicines, electricity generators, warm clothes, bottled drinking water — to Donetsk and Lugansk. —Itar-Tass



The convoy is carrying about 1,000 tonnes of cargoes — building materials, foodstuffs, medicines and equipment necessary to get prepared for the upcoming winter. —ITAR-TASS

UNSG's message on World Cities Day 31 October 2014

The following is UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message for World Cities Day, to be observed on 31 October:

With the decision by the United Nations General Assembly to establish World Cities Day, we now have an annual date on which to celebrate one of humankind's greatest and most complex creations.

This new day is one of the legacies of Expo 2010 Shanghai, at which the international community explored urban best practices and concepts from all over the world. So it is fitting that Shanghai is hosting the main inaugural event of this new United Nations observance.

The theme of this first World Cities Day — "Leading Urban Transformations" — highlights the pioneering power of cities. In a world where already over half the population lives in urban areas, the human future is largely an urban future. We must get urbanization right, which means reducing greenhouse emissions, strengthening resilience, ensuring basic services, such as water and sanitation, and designing safe public streets and spaces for all to share. Liveable cities are crucial not only for city-dwellers but also for providing solutions to some of the key aspects of sustainable development.

Today is also a moment to recognize the contributions of mayors and other city leaders. Urban transformations require political will and the capacity to coordinate many actors and stakeholders. Mayors give voice to their citizens and play a central role in building well-planned cities and making them engines of prosperity, innovation and inclusiveness.

In 2016, the international community will come together for the third United Nations Conference of Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). As we reflect on our urban future, let us seize all the opportunities cities offer to create a new and transformative urban agenda. — UNIC/Yangon

South Korean court-martial jails soldiers in hazing death case

YONGIN, 30 Oct — A South Korean court-martial convicted four soldiers on Thursday of homicide for the beating death of a fellow conscript and sentenced them to long prison terms in a case that sparked an outcry about how enlisted are treated. Private First Class Yoon Seung-joo, 20, died in April after more than a month of almost daily beating and other abuse. The case shocked South Korea, which maintains a military of about 630,000, many of them conscripts who serve about two years, and led to the resignation of the army chief of staff.

A panel of three military judges sentenced the four defendants to prison terms ranging from 25 to 45 years. The military prosecutor had sought the death penalty for one of them, a sergeant accused of being the main offender. The four did not speak in court on Thursday and their lawyers were not available for comment after the verdict. The defendants said earlier they had not intended to kill Yoon. Members of Yoon's family, angered by what they regarded as a lesser charge of homicide, tried to rush the defendants after the sentences were handed down and had to be held back by military police.

"How is this not murder?" Yoon's crying mother, Ahn Mi-ja, told reporters after the sentencing. "I'm going to leave this country. I can't live here any more."

Military prosecutors said they would appeal to seek tougher sentences. During the trial, witnesses testified that Yoon was beaten and denied food and sleep. The defendants had beaten and tormented him in the moments before he collapsed and died, one witness said.

Military leaders have pledged to reform the armed forces and the treatment of conscripts. Under changes introduced by military leaders, conscripts are allowed more visits at their bases and days off and barracks have been upgraded.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 31 October, 2014

Understanding learning as a resource for successful life

By Kyaw Thura

Increased voices for national education reform have hinted at an eagerness by the Myanmar people to contemplate how schooling should become radically different than old practices.

It is widely accepted that active participation in a transition to democracy takes a level of literacy and understanding to deal with complex issues of legislative, executive and judiciary processes. In

this context, the formal education system is of utmost importance in providing students with the perception that intellectual engagement offers a way of considering what kind of learning situations they need to build competencies crucial for life. This commitment makes it necessary to create room for understanding learning as a resource for successful life.

It is worth noting the academic success of young people is of great help to the nation for economic, social and political reasons. It is therefore necessary to turn learning institutions into important places capable of equipping young people for success in modern society.

The education of the 21st century has called for new objectives of what students need, how learning should occur and who the learning is for, all of which are concerned with how to create learning environments that can guarantee students a quality education. It would be better if the new national education law could engage students in bringing their discrete

skills learned at schools to deeper levels of understanding in real life so they would be ready for compelling challenges this century is likely to pose.

It is, however, understandable that the successful implementation of this dream education environment is not an easy task. No matter what, it is worth every bit of effort. School curricula should be designed to foster skills through diverse learning experiences that sharpen the ability of students to take on adult their roles with confidence and competence.

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.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I fully agree with the observation of fellow reader of your paper, namely, U Khin Maung Myint, whose letter to the editor appeared in the paper on 28.10.2014. I have also noticed spelling, grammar and sentence composition mistakes mostly in the domestic and local news. I think these are the result of inefficiency on the part of the translators who translate the news items from Myanmar language into English. They sometimes translate directly with no regard of the nuances of English language. I have seen more than once phrases like "..... the delegation has reached Manila of Philippines" or ".....Cairo of Egypt" which I think is the result of direct translation from Myanmar to English. This may imply that there are more than one Manila or Cairo. In English the correct expression should be ".....Manila, Philippines" or ".....Cairo, Egypt".

At a time when foreigners are coming into our country in ever-increasing numbers the standard of the country's only English newspaper should be at par with, if not better than those of other regional

countries. Not only in the use of language but also in the formatting and lay-out of the paper, we should improve ourselves gradually. It is regrettable to note that one cannot find weather forecast, rainfall inches and temperatures of main Myanmar cities in the GNLM on regular basis. It must be a regular feature of any newspaper.

I wish to share with fellow readers of GNLM one amusing typography mistake that happened about forty years ago. In those days there were two English dailies in Myanmar, the Working People's Daily and the Guardian and as I used to read both, I do not remember now in which one of the two I had noticed this error. At that time, Thanlyin was mentioned as "Syriam" in local English papers (like Patheingyi was Bassein, Sittoung was Akyab etc). After the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, conflict and war of attrition was going on in that region, involving Egypt, Syria and Israel. One day I was shocked to see a big heading in one of the two papers "ISRAELI JET FIGHTERS ENTER SYRIAM AIRSPACE". Obviously it was meant to be Syrian airspace. Just a little typo error made it hilarious.

SAN LYNN, Pabedan Township, Yangon.

ACHIEVEMENT

Kyir Mun

Achievement means : (1) A thing that somebody has done successfully; especially using their own effort and skill;
(2) The act or process of achieving something. Synonym is accomplishment

- A = Abilities, Skills & Knowledge
- C = Commitment
- H = Hope & Courage
- I = Initiative
- E = Endeavour
- V = Vision
- E = Excellence
- M = Mission
- E = Exceeding Expectations
- N = Networking
- T = Timeline

ABILITIES, SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

Generally, 'ASK' can be in (3) kinds, namely Technical 'ASK', Conceptual 'ASK' and Interpersonal 'ASK'. Nothing worthwhile can be achieved without the necessary capability, expertise and knowhow. An achievement is usually accomplished by ability on the one hand, and by willingness to do, on the other. 'ASK' only can achieve nothing, without making an effort. Even 'ASK' have to be accumulated by long efforts. First you must be able to do something; then you have got to be willing to put forth an effort to achieve something.

COMMITMENT

Commitment means : (1) A promise to do something or to behave in a particular way ; a promise to support somebody/something; the fact of committing yourself.
(2) The Willingness to work hard and give your energy and time to a job or an activity.
(3) A thing that you have promised or agreed to do or that you have to do.
(4) Agreeing to use money, time or people to achieve something.

-Oxford Dictionary

Commitment is a quality of the heart. Commitment is a kind of passion, attachment, devotion or dedication. A great heart, I believe, usually has a great commitment, especially in the matter of love and belief. **Nothing can beat a person who has a combination of love, belief and commitment.**

HOPE & COURAGE

Hope and courage can give a tremendous power of drive. If there is no hope and courage, a person must be said to be a paper tiger. It is ancient saying that **hope is a shield, and courage is a sword**. We should have the courage to hope, and hope to have courage under all circumstances.

INITIATIVE

Initiative means : (1) A new plan for dealing with a problem or for achieving a particular purpose.
(2) The ability to decide and act on your own without waiting for somebody to tell you what to do;
(3) The power or opportunity to act and gain an advantage before other people do.

A formula for success is to reinforce the initiative with resourcefulness. Another one is to combine initiative with insight for innovation. You should have common sense and prudence to take an initiative to do something of great importance or serious consequence. Initiative should be tempered with foresight and insight.

ENDEAVOUR

We should sometimes work hard, sometime work smart, and sometimes, we have to work without working. To work without working means **wei wu wei** in Chinese. It means you don't have to make a conscious effort to make something happen or to get something done. It can be said to work effortlessly. Without any endeavor, nothing will happen. In order to get a maximum best result from an Endeavour, every effort should be made with:

- Positive / Right Mental Attitude
- Can-Do-Spirit
- Habit of Going the Extra Mile
- Bulldog Tenacity of Purpose

VISION

VISION means : (1) The ability to see; The area that you can see from a particular position;
(2) An idea or a picture in your imagination;
(3) A dream or similar experience, especially of a religious kind;
(4) The ability to think about or plan the future with great imagination and intelligence. Synonym is foresight.

-The Oxford Dictionary

Your vision is what you want to become in the future. Vision should be solidly based on your core values and staunch beliefs. A vision must be translated into reality with a good strategy. A vision is also said to be a dream. If you want to be somebody of consequence, you have got to dare to have a dream.

(See page 9)

Myanmar, UNCTAD to promote partnership and cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct—The Chairman of the United Nations and International Organizations Relations Subcommittee Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Mr Kukhisa Kituyi, Secretary General

of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) at the ministry on 28 October to hold talks about implementation programmes for Myanmar graduation from LDC status and promotion of the partnership and co-

operation between Myanmar and UNCTAD.

The union minister hosted a winner to the UNCTAD secretary general at Aurum Palace Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw in the evening.

MNA

ISTAF Super-Series Myanmar 2014-2015 starts



Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan delivers an address at ISTAF Super-Series Myanmar 2014-2015.—MNA

ASEAN Financial Inclusion Conference's...

(from page 1)

Finance Deputies Meeting to be held soon and implementation of the outcomes will take place following the decision of ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting in Malaysia next year, Daw Yin Yin Mya, the working group chair, told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

On the final day of the conference, paper presentations and panel discussions on the role of finance in women's economic empowerment took place, focusing on how to effectively empower women in the

economy.

Throughout the two-day conference, presentation of two key papers at the plenary sessions and 13 papers at the four breakout session were carried out.

In his speech at the opening of the conference, Union Minister U Win Shein said financial inclusion remains lower than 30 percent in Myanmar and around 20 percent in Indonesia, the Philippines, Laos and Cambodia, pointing out that much work remains to be done.

GNLM



Myanmar Economic Bank MD Daw Yin Yin Mya reads out Yangon Outcomes for Financial Inclusion in ASEAN on the final day of ASEAN Financial Inclusion Conference hosted by Myanmar in Yangon for enhancing access to finance for people in the ASEAN region.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

ACHIEVEMENT....

(from page 8)

EXCELLENCE

If you dare to dream a dream, you should dream to achieve EXCELLENCE in your chosen field. You have got to BETTER THE BEST which means DANTOTSU in Japanese. You should aim to be No.1, it is usually said. Dare to aim at becoming the No.1 in something.

MISSION

Mission means **your Duty**. It is a particular work that you feel it is your duty to do; e.g. their mission in life was to work with the homeless. Another important meaning is: REASON FOR BEING (IN BUSINESS, IN SOME OCCUPATION, or IN LIFE or TO BE ALIVE.) Mission can also mean to be a specially designated purpose such as a MISSION impossible.

For example, the reason for being a student is to pass the examination honorably. And the season for being a manager of a business organization is : **"to meet**

the needs of a customer profitably." The mission of a medical doctor is to relieve pain or to cure a disease. The reason for being a parent is : "to grow the children to be responsible citizen with some good accomplishment in a productive life."

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

Parents should be able to meet or exceed expectations of the offerings. Husbands should meet or exceed the expectations of their Better-Halves and vice versa. Business should meet or exceed the expectations of their customers. And every citizen should meet or exceed the expectations of their Motherland.

NETWORKING

People live with people, for the people, by the people. No man can live alone like, Robinson Crusoe. Man is gregarious by nature. People should consistently be in touch with friends, relatives, workmates and customers. Business should be in constant communication with their customers and suppliers, etc. Profits come from customers and suppliers, etc. Networking with appropri-

U Kyaw Zwar Minn presents Credentials to King Harald V of Norway

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct—U Kyaw Zwar Minn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipo-

tentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Norway, presented his Credentials

to His Majesty King Harald V, King of Norway, on 23 October 2014 in Oslo.—MNA

Agriculture and Farmer Federation of Myanmar holds 2nd Congress

YANGON, 30 Oct—The 2nd Congress of Agri-

culture and Farmer Federation of Myanmar (AFFM) was held at South Dagon Township Hall in Yangon on Wednesday.

The AFFM, which was founded in November 2011 in accordance with the Labour Law, is a federation of over 500 farmer's organizations and has a membership of hundreds of thousands, according to Vice President U Than Lwin.

The federation is also drafting a bill for farmland and land policy covering seven sectors related to farmers and inviting youths to participate in the federation.

"A bill for farmland and land policy will be submitted to the Hluttaw, the Supreme Court of the Union and the ministries concerned," said President U Than Swe of the federation.

At the congress, rep-

resentatives discussed the election of new representatives for townships and districts in states and regions and the drafting of sound rules and regulations, procedures for the post congress period, proper financial system and the measures for development of socio-economic life of rural farmers.

At the congress, farmers elected a representative each for townships with at least 150 farmers while those with less than the 150 members were permitted to join with a similar township to elect a representative each.

Some representatives who attended the conference wanted settlement of land disputes while other representatives hoped to acquire knowledge for systematic use of fertilizers, soil test equipment and modern farming technologies.—Phoe Thant

Inland Water Transport to...

(from page 1)

Inland Water Transport had been operating its transportation at loss and at affordable prices for the people for decades thanks to budget allocations from the successive governments.

IWT has been operating passenger and freight services along the navigable waterways in Myanmar and ferry services,

with a fleet of more than 400, including 225 powered vessels, 138 passenger-cum-cargo ships, 27 cargo ships, 30 powered barges, one water tender, 22 tugs, one oil tanker, 149 non-powered vessels, 138 cargo barges, 11 oil barges and 39 station pontoons, according to the last year statistics of from the ministry.

GNLM

ate people is one of the most important requirements for success. People matter; people count. Live, mix and grow with people. And please don't forget to love the people, just to be loved by them, at least.

TIMELINE

Everything should be done within the allotted time. Time is one of the most precious things in life. Manage your time with common sense. Time is always ticking away. Time and tide wait for no man. Ask a man on deathbed the value of time. Make time a good friend, and be a good friend to time.

CONCLUSION

Live a good life. Build a fine life. Try to make your life a MASTERPIECE of SIMPLICITY, FRUGALITY, DILIGENCE, BEAUTY, LOVE AND TRUTH.

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

Australia passes laws cracking down on foreign fighters

SYDNEY, 30 Oct — Australia passed laws on Thursday aimed at preventing young people from becoming radicalized and going to fight in overseas conflicts such as those in Iraq and Syria, where scores of Australians have joined militant groups.

Last month, the United Nations demanded that all states make it a serious criminal offence for their citizens to travel abroad to fight with militant groups, or to recruit

and fund others to do so, in a move sparked by the rise of Islamic State.

Security analysts have put the number of foreign fighters in Iraq and Syria, travelling from scores of countries around the world, in the thousands.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott told parliament at least 70 Australians were fighting in Iraq and Syria backed by about 100 Australia-based “facilitators”.



Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott

The government had cancelled the passports of about 70 people, Abbott said. “It’s to protect other

countries who shouldn’t have to host Australians intent on mayhem, and it’s to protect us, Madam Speaker, because Australians do have a right to come back to this country, and the last thing we should want is people on our streets who have been radicalized and brutalized by participation in terrorist activities overseas,” Abbott said. Australia is on high alert for attacks by radicalized Muslims or by home-grown militants returning from fighting in the Middle East, having raised its threat level to high and undertaken a series of high-profile raids

in major cities.

The government, which recently warned that the balance between freedom and security “may have to shift”, is also introducing controversial data retention laws it says are needed to tackle security and criminal threats.

Critics say the data laws go too far in compromising privacy, will be too costly and could open journalists and whistleblowers to hefty prison sentences.

Reuters

US says working with Iraqi Kurdistan to stop Islamic State oil smuggling

SINGAPORE, 30 Oct — The United States is working closely with the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government to clamp down on oil smuggling in a bid to cut off a key source of funding for Islamic State, a senior US official said on Thursday.

Islamic State militants have seized oilfields and refineries in north Iraq and have been exporting oil through smuggling networks to help finance their campaign, along with ransom, extortion and other criminal activities.

“We are working with the regional government in Arbil to support their efforts in stopping those shipments and those smuggling operations,” Acting Energy Envoy for the United States, Amos

Hochstein, told Reuters at an energy conference.

“It is of critical importance to the United States, the international community and to Kurdistan itself to see an increased effort to stop that smuggling.”

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has arrested a number of people for smuggling, said Hochstein, who is meeting with officials in countries neighbouring Syria and Iraq to stop the illegal oil flow. Reuters reported in July that Islamic State had sold oil via smugglers to Turkish traders at vastly discounted prices while some of the crude had also been refined in Syria and sold as gasoline in Mosul. An oil ministry adviser had estimated that in the first

two weeks of July, Islamic State made nearly \$1 million a day.

The United States is working with the KRG to identify oil routes, trucks and traders involved, and trying to block smuggling via border crossings and the purchasing side, Hochstein said. “The oil is being smuggled through different routes, into different countries,” he said. “So it has to be an entire value chain effort to stop Islamic State smuggling efforts.”

But oil routes keep shifting and coalition airstrikes have also changed the dynamic of the flow.

“The routes change, there’s some maybe going through Turkey, Iran, KRG and potentially through Jordan,” he said. “It’s not static

and that makes it difficult but I think the effort is succeeding in slowing that process down.”

Hochstein was hopeful that the new government of Iraq could reach an agreement on oil exports from Kurdistan. Baghdad has claimed that Kurdish oil shipments are illegal.

“We believe that it would benefit all parties, if oil was exported from all parts of Iraq through agreement, and that will expand the pie and therefore expand the revenues for all Iraqi people,” he said.

“We also believe that this is the right time, this is a great window of opportunity, for the two parties to get together and reach that agreement.”—Reuters

Sweden to officially recognize Palestinian state on Thursday

STOCKHOLM, 30 Oct — Sweden’s centre-left government will officially recognize the state of Palestine on Thursday, becoming the first major European country to do so, Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom said.

Prime Minister Stefan Lofven told parliament in his inaugural address in October that his Social Democrat government would deliver on a manifesto promise to recognize a Palestinian state, drawing criticism from Israel and the United States.

“Today’s recognition is a contribution to a better future for a region that has for too long been characterized by frozen negotiations, destruction and frustra-

tion,” Wallstrom wrote in the daily *Dagens Nyheter*.

“Some will state this decision comes too soon. I am afraid, rather, that it is too late.” Palestinians seek statehood in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the blockaded Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem as their capital. They have sought to sidestep stalled peace talks by lobbying foreign powers to recognize their sovereignty claim.

Wallstrom said Sweden’s move aimed at supporting moderate Palestinians and making their status more equal with that of Israel in peace negotiations, as well as giving hope to young people on both sides.—Reuters

France investigates mystery drone activity over nuclear plants

PARIS, 30 Oct — France has launched an investigation into unidentified drones that have been spotted over nuclear plants operated by state-owned utility EDF, its interior minister said on Thursday. Seven nuclear plants across the country were flown over by drones between 5 October and 20 October, an EDF spokeswoman said, without any impact on the plants’ safety or functioning.

“There’s a judicial investigation under way, measures are being taken to know what these drones are and neutralise them,” Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve told France Info radio on Thursday, without specifying the measures.

The drone sightings may renew concerns about the safety of nuclear plants in France, the world’s most nuclear-reliant country with 58 reactors on 19 sites operated by EDF.

Activists from environmental campaigning group Greenpeace forced their way into the Fessenheim plant on the German border earlier this year and have

a history of breaking into nuclear plants in France. Greenpeace denied any involvement in the pilotless flight activity.

“For all its actions, Greenpeace always acts openly and claim responsibility,” Yannick Rousselet, head of Greenpeace’s anti-nuclear campaign, said in a statement. “What is happening is very worrying,” he said, adding that France’s nuclear research institute CEA near Paris had also been flown over, citing unspecified sources. EDF named the plants over which drones had been spotted as Creys-Malville and Bugey in the southeast, Blayais in the southwest, Cattenom and Chooz in the northeast, Gravelines in the north and Nogent-sur-Seine, the closest plant to Paris. The unmanned aircraft were spotted late in the evening, at night or very early in the morning, EDF said. It is prohibited to fly less than 1,000 kilometres above nuclear plants and within a 5 kilometre radius.

Each plant has filed a formal complaint with the police against the anonymous people behind the drone flights.—Reuters

Israeli far-right activist shot and wounded in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, 30 Oct — A far-right Israeli activist was shot and wounded in Jerusalem on Wednesday as he left a conference promoting a Jewish campaign to permit praying at a flashpoint Old City compound holy to both Jews and Muslims, Israeli officials said.

Police confirmed that an unnamed man on a motorcycle had shot a Jewish man in his 50s outside the Menachem Begin Centre complex located near the walled Old City, and named for the late Israeli prime minister.

Jonathan Halevy, director of Shaarei Tzedek Hospital, said the

wounded man was in serious but stable condition, undergoing surgery for gunshot wounds in the chest and abdomen.

Israeli officials identified the man who was shot as Yehuda Glick, a US-born activist who is part of a movement to grant Jews permission to pray at the site known to them as Temple Mount and to Muslims as Noble Sanctuary.

The elevated marble and stone compound is the third-most sacred site in Islam and the holiest in Judaism, where two ancient Jewish temples once stood. It contains the 8th century al-Aqsa mosque and the golden Dome of the Rock, where the Prophet Mohammad is said to have ascended to heaven.

Seeking to avert friction, police took the exceedingly rare step of shutting the flashpoint holy site to all worshippers and visitors until further notice, after far-right Israeli activists urged adherents to respond to the shooting by heading en masse to the site on Thursday.—Reuters



Israelis wave national flags next to security personnel securing an area in Jerusalem where a far-right activist was shot and wounded, on 29 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS

First Iraqi Kurdish forces enter Syria's Kobani: monitoring group



A convoy of peshmerga vehicles is escorted by Turkish Kurds on their way to the Turkish-Syrian border, in Kiziltepe near the southeastern city of Mardin on 29 Oct, 2014. —REUTERS

BEIRUT, 30 Oct — The first Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga fighters entered the besieged Syrian town of Kobani through the border crossing with Turkey on Thursday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The British-based monitoring group said 10 fighters had moved in and the others were expected to enter the town, which has been under attack by Islamic State for more than a month, “within hours”.

A convoy of peshmerga fighters arrived close to the Turkish town of Suruc on Wednesday night, meeting up with others who had flown in earlier in the day.

“Minutes ago, about 10 members of the Kurdish peshmerga forces entered the town of Ayn al-Arab, ‘Kobani,’ through the bor-

der crossing between the town and Turkish territory,” the Observatory said.

Ayn al-Arab is the Arabic name for mainly Kurdish Kobani.

Syrian Kurdish officials have said around 150 peshmerga were expected to aid their fellow Kurds in Kobani.

The president of Iraqi Kurdistan, Masoud Barzani, said on Thursday the region is prepared to deploy more forces to Kobani if asked.

Neither side has gained a decisive advantage in the fighting, which has forced almost 200,000 Syrian Kurds to flee into Turkey. The town’s fate has become a test of the US-led coalition’s ability to combat the Islamic State insurgents.

Reuters

French soldier killed in clash with Islamist militants in Mali



France's Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian

PARIS, 30 Oct — France said on Wednesday a French soldier was killed during a fierce clash between its forces and Islamist militants in northern Mali earlier in the day. The offices of President Francois Hollande and Defence

Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian both confirmed the death on Wednesday of Thomas Dupuy, a sergeant from a commando parachutist unit in the air force.

His death raised to 10 the number of French soldiers killed since France intervened militarily in Mali in January 2013 to help drive out Islamist insurgents who had seized control of the former French colony’s north.

Le Drian’s office said in a statement that French forces had battled a militant group of some 30 fighters in the Tigharghar valley, part of the mountainous Adrar des Ifoghas area.

“Particularly violent

combat took place. Our soldier was mortally hurt and two of his comrades were wounded.” Operations will continue in the coming hours, the statement said.

A defence ministry source said French forces had launched an operation at the weekend against dozens of militants who had returned to the region after being driven out last year.

Addressing a parliamentary hearing earlier in the day, Le Drian said the militants might be linked to al-Qaeda’s North African wing, AQIM, which has thrived in a largely lawless and sparsely populated desert region.

Reuters

Canada wrestles with low-key security approach after attacks

OTTAWA/HAMILTON, 30 Oct — Just over a week after an armed man charged into Canada’s Parliament and fought a gun battle with guards as lawmakers were meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, there are few signs of increased security in the nation’s capital.

Leading politicians and top officials can still be seen in the streets without any obvious protection. The visible new security measures at the Parliament building have been modest, and some have even been eased in recent days. After telling lawmakers on Monday about the threat from homegrown extremists, Assistant Director for Intelligence Michael Peirce — one of Canada’s top spies — stepped out of a parliamentary office building and onto an Ottawa sidewalk where he strolled several blocks protected only by his long overcoat and mirrored sunglasses. There were no bodyguards in sight.

Minutes later, Justin Trudeau, leader of the opposition Liberal Party and son of late Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, passed by, also unencumbered by security detail.

In contrast, in Washington, DC senior officials spend much of their time cocooned in heavily secured government buildings and

on the move they are often accompanied by armed guards. There has been soul-searching in Canada about the nation’s low-key approach to security after two soldiers were killed in the two attacks last week — the Ottawa assault and an earlier one outside Montreal.

Canadians are struggling with the need to better protect their leaders without creating such a fortress mentality that the public loses access to them. In Canada, where gun laws are much tighter than the United States, people are also wary of creating a gun-based society. The low level of security surrounding politicians was demonstrated in August when an intruder broke into Trudeau’s home while his wife and children were sleeping there. The intruder turned out to be a drunk 19-year-old who thought he was entering a friend’s place and not the house of the Liberal leader and son of former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, but it underlined vulnerability.

“I hope they increase security a little more but I would hate things to get like they are in the United States,” said Kim Sass, a 49-year-old medical assistant, as she stopped in Hamilton, Ontario, to write a note of gratitude to Corporal Na-



An emergency worker wears a hazmat suit during a mock “crisis response” exercise in Toronto, on 26 Oct, 2014. —REUTERS

than Cirillo, who was shot dead on 22 October by the gunman who later charged into Parliament.

“We are Canada, we’re supposed to be more relaxed,” Sass said. “It’s a balance, I suppose.”

The reaction in the capitals of Canada’s allies was anything but relaxed in the wake of the Ottawa attack, which began when Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, 32, shot Cirillo while he was standing a ceremonial and unarmed watch at Canada’s war memorial in the city.

Officials in London stationed armed soldiers at the Horse Guards Parade, where the military pomp draws crowds of tourists.

US Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson ordered stepped-up security at government buildings in Washington and other major cities. —Reuters

Pakistan civilians flee as military steps up Khyber offensive on Taliban

PESHAWAR, (Pakistan), 30 Oct — Twenty-nine people were killed and thousands of civilians forced to flee Pakistan’s northwestern region of Khyber, the military said on Thursday, as it stepped up a two-week-old offensive against Taliban militants in the area.

Twenty-one suspected militants and eight soldiers were killed on Wednesday, the military said in a statement, but gave no figure for civilian casualties.

National disaster officials say the fighting has forced more than 18,000 people to abandon their homes.

Residents of the area say many people are caught between the two opposing forces, as the military orders them to leave and the militants urge them to stay.

“Security forces were asking us to leave their area as there would be heavy bombing against the militants,” said one villager, Muddasir Shah.

But the militants had set up bunkers and were patrolling villages to prevent residents from leaving, he added. “The militants were saying we shouldn’t flee the villages. We don’t know whom we should trust.”

The military said it had killed dozens of militants in airstrikes and fighting since the fighting began in Khyber.

“The militants wanted people not to leave their houses so that the military don’t use fighter jets and artillery against them,” said Khair Zaman, 47, who had spent nine hours wandering on unfrequented back roads moving his family to safety. —Reuters

NATO's allied command in Europe claims Russian Air Force showing unusual activity



A report alleged that four groups of Russian warplanes held exhibition maneuvers over the Baltic, North, and Black Seas, as well as over the Atlantic Ocean on 28 October and 29 October.—REUTERS

BRUSSELS, 30 Oct — Allied Command of NATO's Armed Forces in Europe claims that it is registering an unusually high level of Russian Air Force activity in the skies over Europe.

Specifically, a report issued on Wednesday al-

leged that four groups of Russian warplanes held exhibition maneuvers over the Baltic, North, and Black Seas, as well as over the Atlantic Ocean on 28 October and 29 October. These flights demonstrated what NATO believes to be an unusual level of activity in the European Air Space.

The report claimed that four strategic missile-carrying bombers *Tupolev-93* and four *Ilyushin-78* refueling tanks made a flight in the airspace over the Black Sea overnight to 29 October. They did not provide the plans of their flight and did not respond to the inquiries from civil air navigation services, thus allegedly putting commercial flights at risk.

Wednesday afternoon, NATO radars tracked down

two *Tupolev-95* bombers and two *Sukhoi-27* fighter jets over the Black Sea. The same group included two *Sukhoi-34* fighter-bombers, a fourth-generation *Su-34* all-weather fighter, and two *Sukhoi-27* jets with variable-sweep wings.

NATO claims that two *MiG-31*, two *Sukhoi-34*, one *Sukhoi-27* and two *Sukhoi-24* jets were sighted over the Baltic Sea. The combat group did not issue a flight plan either and it did not contact civilian air controllers. NATO officials say the warplanes of the alliance have made more than a hundred sorties since the beginning of this year to intercept Russian military jets and the figure exceeds by a factor of three the sorties made last year.

Itar-Tass

Ludvigsson: Serbia has a long way to go before joining EU



BELGRADE, 30 Oct — European Parliament (EP) member Olle Ludvigsson says that radical measures in segments such as economy, the rule of law, and the fight against organized crime and corruption, are among key conditions for Serbia's membership in the European Union.

Therefore, we can say that Serbia has a long way to go before joining the EU, added Ludvigsson, member of the delegation to the Parliamentary Committee for Stabilization and Association of Serbia to the EU, in an interview

to Belgrade-based daily *Danas*.

Progress in those domains will pose the greatest challenge in the next phases of Serbian EU integration, he pointed out, specifying that demands will be put forward in the course of negotiations regarding the level of the rule of law and achieving a balanced economy. Ludvigsson expressed hope that Serbia will join the EU by 2020, as Belgrade anticipates, and stressed that it is important for the country to continue down the same path.—*Tanjug*

UN Secretary General says at least three million in Somalia in need of aid



Rukia Nur feeds her child outside her makeshift dwelling after fleeing famine in the Marka Lower Shebelle regions to the capital Mogadishu on 20 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

MOGADISHU, 30 Oct — At least three million people in Somalia need humanitarian aid and the country is threatened with famine, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Wednesday.

The United Nations said in September more than a million people in the war-ravaged Horn of Africa country were struggling to meet daily nutritional needs.

"Over three million Somalis are in need of humanitarian assistance and unfortunately that number is growing. I urge donors to step up contributions to avert another famine in So-

malia," Ban said during a visit to the Somali capital on Wednesday.

In August, the UN humanitarian coordinator for Somalia Philippe Lazzarini said rapidly rising malnutrition and food shortages resembled the warning signs that preceded a 2011 famine in which about 260,000 people died. A month earlier, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for Somalia said agencies were unable to meet the needs of 350,000 people who had fled to Mogadishu because they were hindered by a shortage of funds and by violence.—*Reuters*

Prosecutors launch probe into ex-minister's funds irregularities



Former trade and industry minister Yuko Obuchi

TOKYO, 30 Oct — Prosecutors launched a formal investigation on Thursday into irregularities in the political funds reports of groups related to former trade and industry minister Yuko Obuchi, searching the home of her former secretary.

Following the move by the special investigative arm of the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office, some lawmakers within Obuchi's Liberal Democratic Party began calling for her to give up her parliamentary seat in addition to her Cabinet post, which she left last week.

In the morning, the prosecutors went through the home of Kenichiro Orita, the former aide who claims to have prepared the funds reports of some of the groups related to Obuchi. They have already questioned him on a voluntary basis.

It has been revealed from the funds reports of Obuchi's support group and three other political bodies related to her that for the period between 2008 and 2011, expenses for outings to theaters and baseball games exceeded money booked as received from participants by a total of roughly 55.1 million yen.

Even though a similar theater outing was also held in 2012, no entries were made for either rev-

enue or expenses in the funds reports of her support group and another political body related to her.

Orita has said he prepared and submitted funds reports to authorities for three of the four bodies in question. He resigned as mayor of Nakanojo, Gunma Prefecture, last Friday, citing his difficulty continuing to serve while dealing with issues stemming from the funds irregularities.

For decades, Orita

served as a secretary to former Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, and after his death in 2000, to his daughter, Yuko, who succeeded her father in representing a constituency in Gunma in the House of Representatives.

A civic group has filed a criminal complaint with prosecutors against Obuchi and Orita over possible violations of the political funds control law and the public offices election law.

Kyodo News



Photo shows the office of a group of supporters of former trade and industry minister Yuko Obuchi, in the city of Takasaki, Gunma Prefecture, on 30 Oct, 2014. Prosecutors raided the office the same day as they launched a formal investigation into irregularities in the political funds reports of groups related to Obuchi.

KYODO NEWS

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

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Phone No: 2301185

Hawaii lava crosses residential property, threatens more homes



In this file photo, Lava surrounds the home of Gary Sleik and ignites the staircase, Kalapana Gardens, Hawaii.—REUTERS

PAHOA, (Hawaii), 30 Oct — A slow-moving river of molten lava from an erupting volcano crept over residential and farm property on Hawaii's Big Island on Wednesday after incinerating an outbuilding as it threatened dozens of homes at the edge of a former plantation town.

The lava flow from the Kilauea volcano has been slogging toward the village of Pahoa for weeks, moving at speeds of 10 to 15 yards (metres) an hour as it bubbled over a cemetery and reached the community's outskirts.

As of late Wednesday morning, authorities reported the lava had advanced to within 250 yards of Pahoa Village Road, the main street through the town of about 800 people built on the site of an old sugar plantation.

Pahoa's commercial district lies mostly to the south of the area in greatest danger, and most homes and businesses are believed to be out of harm's way, based on the lava's current trajectory, civil defence chief Darryl Oliveira said.

But residents of about 50 dwellings in what civil defence officials called a "corridor of risk" have been urged to be prepared to leave, and many have been slowly emptying their homes of furniture and belongings.

Oliveira told a news conference that officials had met about a dozen residents and business owners closest to the leading edge. He said all were prepared to leave, but added they intended to wait until the last minute before evacuating.

No mandatory evacuations have been ordered.

Oliveira added that 83 national guard troops were undergoing training and would be deployed to the community on Thursday.

Besides anxiety, some residents, like Aaron Milewski, voiced resignation about the forces of nature they faced.

"This energy is coming from the centre of the Earth, so you have to respect it," he said.

Molten rock topping temperatures of 1,650 F (900 C) engulfed a storage shed on Tuesday but bypassed a rental house that was already evacuated, Oliveira said.

A slower-moving, narrower finger of lava then branched out off the main flow and oozed back toward the abandoned home, crawling to within 100 feet (30 metres) of it on Wednesday, Oliveira said. It remained to be seen whether the house would be spared.

The main lava front continued to creep over adjacent farm property, taking aim at a warehouse and home. Another property owner built a tall berm of soil and rock hoping to divert the approaching lava around his house.

The flow is expected eventually to reach the ocean, still 6 miles (10 km) away, authorities said.

Kilauea has erupted continuously from its Pu'u O'o vent since 1983, with its latest lava flow beginning on 27 June. The last home destroyed by lava on the Big Island was at the Royal Gardens subdivision in Kalapana in 2012.—Reuters

WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 31st October, 2014: Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, scattered in Chin State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the Upper Myanmar areas.

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Yoyogi Park to reopen on receding risk of dengue infection

TOKYO, 30 Oct — Yoyogi Park in central Tokyo will reopen to the public on Friday after nearly two months of closure due to the low possibility there are still mosquitoes carrying the dengue virus, the Tokyo metropolitan government said on Thursday.

A large part of the park premises was closed on 4 September after visitors to the park developed dengue fever and virus-carrying mosquitoes were found there. The virus, which causes the fever, can be transmitted by mosquitoes.

The decision to reopen the park comes as the mosquito population there has fallen due to cold temperatures and no mosquitoes caught there have tested positive for the virus since 18 September, according to the metropolitan government.

Given that mosquitoes are known to have a

lifespan of 30 to 40 days, a metropolitan government official said, "It's extremely unlikely for virus-carrying mosquitoes to remain in the park."

The park, located in Tokyo's Shibuya Ward and near the Harajuku district, a centre of Japanese youth culture and fashion, will reopen at 9 am.

Roughly 160 people have been infected with the virus in Japan since August, most of them believed to have gotten the virus at the park or its surrounding area.

In seeking to prevent a similar development next year, metropolitan government officials will now take such measures as spraying insecticide at fountains and other spots with water to keep mosquitoes from breeding. No domestic infection had been confirmed in Japan since 1945.

Kyodo News



Katie Holmes

I have no fear now: Katie Holmes post divorce from Tom Cruise

LOS ANGELES, 30 Oct — Actress Katie Holmes has moved on from her divorce to Tom Cruise and does not want it to define her life.

“I don’t want that moment in my life to define me, to be who I am. I don’t want that to be what I’m known as. I was an actor before, an actor during and an actor now,” Holmes told *People* magazine in an interview.

The actress, 35, who is

all set to turn director, says she wants to explore new challenges. “I don’t have any fear now, I don’t have a lot of rules for myself, and I don’t take myself that seriously,” said Holmes, who appears on the cover of the magazine. “I feel ready for new challenges,” she added. Holmes is also reprising her role as Jackie Kennedy besides starring in ‘Miss Meadows’.—PTI

I was nervous to deliver gender equality speech: Emma Watson

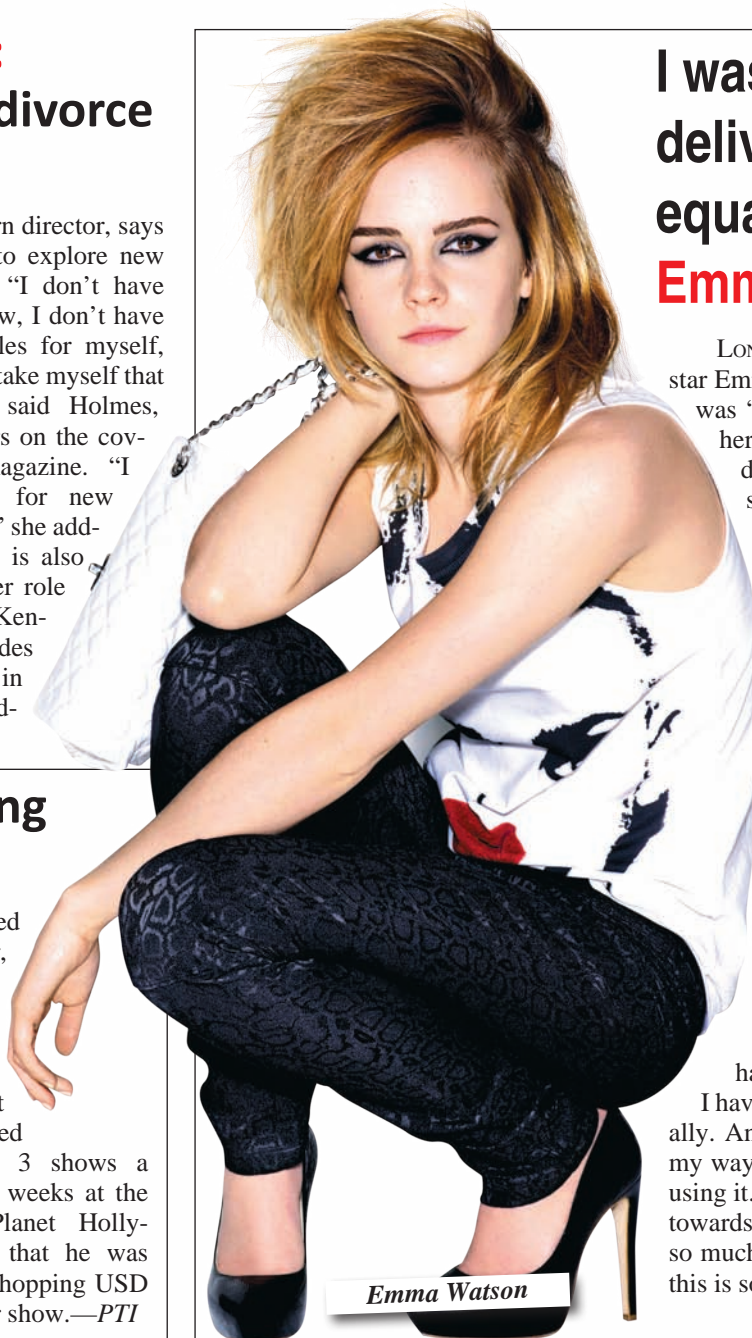
LONDON, 30 Oct — ‘Harry Potter’ star Emma Watson has admitted that she was “very nervous” before delivering her highly-praised speech on gender equality at the United Nations summit last month.

The 24-year-old actress and United Nations Women Goodwill Ambassador covers December’s *Elle* UK, the magazine’s inaugural feminism issue, which is focused on inspiring and empowering women.

“I was very nervous. It wasn’t an easy thing for me to do. It felt like, ‘Am I going to have lunch with these people, or am I going to be eaten? Am I the lunch?’,” she said. Watson said her celebrity status had affected her decision to become an activist.

“Fame is not something I have always felt comfortable with; I have really grappled with it emotionally. And, in a funny way, doing this is my way of making sense of the fame, of using it. I have found a way to channel it towards something else, which makes it so much more manageable for me. And this is something I really believe in.”

PTI



Emma Watson

Kanye West turns down high paying Las Vegas show offer

LOS ANGELES, 30 Oct — Kanye West reportedly turned down an offer to perform in Las Vegas for USD 4.5 million. West would have become the highest paid artist on the Las Vegas strip had

he accepted the offer, reported *TMZ*. According to the written offer West was required to perform 3 shows a week for 3 weeks at the Axis at Planet Hollywood. For that he was offered a whopping USD 500,000 per show.—PTI



Slipknot tops Billboard album chart as Swift eyes big debut

LOS ANGELES, 30 Oct — Heavy metal rockers Slipknot took the lead on the weekly US Billboard chart on Wednesday, a week ahead of Taylor Swift’s projected year’s biggest album opening.

“5: The Gray Chapter,” the second chart-topping record for Iowa-based Slipknot, sold 132,000 copies in its first week according to sales figures compiled by Nielsen SoundScan, and led seven new debuts in the Billboard top 10 this week.

Swift meanwhile released her first all-pop album “1989” on Monday to big fanfare, and it is already on course to be the year’s biggest album, opening with 1 million copies sold in its first week, Billboard said citing industry sources.

Rapper TI landed at No 2 with “Paperwork” selling 80,000 copies, while veteran singer-songwriter Neil Diamond landed at No 3 with “Melody Road” selling 78,000 copies.

Rapper Logic’s “Under Pressure” debuted at No 4, country music group Little Big

Town’s latest album “Pain Killer” notched No 7 and a cappella group Pentatonix came in at No 8 with its festive record “That’s Christmas to Me.”

Pop veteran Annie Lennox rounded out the top 10 with “Nostalgia.”

Last week’s chart-topper, Florida Georgia Line’s “Any-

thing Goes,” dropped to No 5 this week. For the week ending 19 October, overall album sales were down less than 1 percent from the comparable week in 2013 to 4.45 million, while year-to-date album sales tallied 193.4 million, down 14 percent from the comparable point last year.—Reuters



Taylor Swift performs “Mean” at the 46th annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas on 3 April, 2011.—REUTERS

Katy Perry celebrated 30th birthday with trip to Morocco, Paris

LOS ANGELES, 30 Oct — Pop star Katy Perry visited Marrakesh and Paris with a group of about 30 friends to celebrate her 30th birthday. DJ and music producer Diplo, travelled with the group, and, once again, the romantically linked pair looked cozy, reported *Us* magazine.

“When they got off the plane (in Paris), Diplo was carrying Katy’s pillow for her and they stopped to pose for pictures together on the tarmac. They had their arms around each other, and she was resting her head on his shoulder. They both seemed tired after the weekend in Morocco,” a source said.

Prior to their Parisian outing, Perry, Diplo, and their close friends traveled around Morocco, having dinner on the beach in Marrakesh one night.—PTI



Katy Perry

Ferdinand suspended for three games for Twitter comment



Queens Park Rangers' Rio Ferdinand

LONDON, 30 Oct — Queens Park Rangers defender Rio Ferdinand has been suspended for three matches and fined 25,000 pounds (\$40,030) after he was found guilty of misconduct by the Football Association (FA) for

an “abusive” comment he made on Twitter.

The 35-year-old was also ordered to attend an education programme as part of the punishment handed down following an Independent Regulatory Commission hearing.

The former England defender was found guilty of tweeting a remark, which was deemed “abusive and/or indecent and/or insulting and/or improper”, to a member of the public in September.

“It was further alleged that this breach was aggravated pursuant to FA Rule E3(2) as the comment included a reference to

gender,” the FA said in a statement on Wednesday.

“Ferdinand was also fined 25,000 pounds, severely warned as to his future conduct and ordered to attend an education programme, arranged by The FA within four months.”

The tweet — which was broadcast to Ferdinand’s 5.9 million followers — used the word ‘sket’, which is a derogatory term defined as “a promiscuous girl or woman”.

The defender had been tagged in a message that read: “Maybe QPR will sign a good CB (centre back) they need one.”

Ferdinand, who played

81 games for England, was previously found guilty of improper conduct and fined 45,000 pounds in 2012 for comments he made on Twitter about Ashley Cole.

In 2013 the former Manchester United defender was appointed a member of FA chairman Greg Dyke’s England Commission aimed at improving English football.

The ban, subject to any appeal, means Ferdinand will miss struggling QPR’s Premier League fixtures against table-topping Chelsea, champions Manchester City and Newcastle United.

Reuters

Filled with artifacts, ancient Mexican tunnel may lead to royal tombs

MEXICO CITY, 30 Oct — A sacred tunnel discovered in the ancient Mexican city of Teotihuacan is filled with thousands of ritual objects and may lead to royal tombs, the lead Mexican archaeologist on the project said on Wednesday.

The entrance to the 1,800-year-old tunnel was first discovered in 2003, and its contents came to light thanks to excavations by remote-control robots and then human researchers, archeologist Sergio Gomez told reporters.

The site is located about 30 miles (50 km) northeast of Mexico City. The ruins have long been shrouded in mystery because its inhab-

itants did not leave behind written records.

The artifacts found inside the tunnel, located below the Temple of the Plumed Serpent, include finely carved stone sculptures, jewelry and shells.

An estimated 50,000 objects, 4,000 made of wood as well as scores of obsidian blades and arrow heads, provide clues into how the city’s priests and rulers conceived the underworld.

“Due to the magnitude of the offerings that we’ve found, it can’t be in any other place,” said Gomez, who works for Mexico’s national anthropology and history institute, referring



Stone figurines are seen in a tunnel that may lead to a royal tombs discovered at the ancient city of Teotihuacan, in this 19 Nov, 2013 National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) handout picture made available to Reuters on 29 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS

to the possibility of finding royal tombs.

“We’ve been able to confirm all of the hypotheses we’ve made from the be-

ginning,” he added, saying ongoing excavations could yield more major discoveries next year.

Reuters

Holders City exit League Cup to resurgent Newcastle

LONDON, 30 Oct — Manchester City suffered a shock League Cup defeat at the hands of a reinvigorated Newcastle United, who reached the quarter-finals with a superb 2-0 away win on Wednesday that left the holders nursing the wounds of a bruising past eight days.

Newcastle’s 18-year-old winger Rolando Aarons struck in the sixth minute to hand the visitors an unlikely lead before Moussa Sissoko ended any hopes of a City fightback with a brilliant goal to gift underfire manager Alan Pardew a third win in 11 days.

“We are buzzing in the dressing room. It has given the club a massive lift. It’s been a great week,” Aarons told Sky Sports.

The result completed a miserable week for City, who are now without a win

in three games, after they lost to West Ham United on Saturday and threw away a two-goal lead to draw with CSKA Moscow in the Champions League last

Tuesday.

Elsewhere, Graziano Pelle scored twice as in-form Southampton let slip a 2-0 lead before advancing to the last eight with a

thrilling 3-2 victory against Stoke City.

Tottenham Hotspur eased through to the quarter-finals with a routine 2-0 win against Championship

(second tier) Brighton & Hove Albion.

Newcastle, buoyed by successive Premier League wins started with plenty of intent and their harassing and tenacity in midfield gifted them an early goal.

City’s Fernandinho was caught in possession and the ball was seized upon by Aarons who surged into the box and finished superbly through the legs of goalkeeper Willy Caballero.

That set-back sparked the hosts into life, but the closest they came in the opening period was when Newcastle’s Fabricio Coloccini miscued a relatively routine cross onto his own post.

For all City’s pressure, they could have found themselves 2-0 down at halftime but Martin Demichelis’s timely challenge denied

Adam Armstrong. City continued to press after the break but could have conceded a penalty when Aleksandar Kolarov felled Gabriel Obertan, who earlier had a goal ruled out for offside, as the Frenchman burst into the box.

In the 75th minute Sissoko powered his way through City’s static defence and clipped a brilliant finish past Caballero with the outside of his right foot to give the visitors an unsailable lead.

City had late chances, but the visitors remained resolute. Southampton’s top scorer Pelle has been a revelation since his close-season move from Dutch side Feyenoord and the imposing Italian forward gave the visitors the lead with a superb goal.

Reuters



Newcastle United’s Moussa Sissoko (3rd R) celebrates his goal against Manchester City with team mates during their English League Cup fourth round soccer match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, northern England on 29 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS

MYANMAR TV

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- 7:00 am**
 - * News / Weather Report
- 7:20 am**
 - * Hyper Sports
- 8:00 am**
 - * News / International News
- 8:30 am**
 - * Documentary
- 9:00 am**
 - * News / International News
- 11:35 am**
 - * Cultural Dances
- 11:45 am**
 - * Myanmar Series
- 12:00 noon**
 - * News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 12:25 pm**
 - * Hluttaw Image
- 12:40 pm**
 - * Myanmar Movies
- 3:15 pm**
 - * Hyper Sports
- 4:15 pm**
 - * Teleplay
- 4:30 pm**
 - * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Years (Law)
- 5:00 pm**
 - * News
- 6:50 pm**
 - * TV Drama Series
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 - * News
- 7:25 pm**
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- 8:00 pm**
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Dramatic first defeat for Juve, Napoli draw

MILAN, 30 Oct — Genoa handed Serie A leaders and titleholders Juventus a dramatic first league defeat of the season when Luca Antonini scored in the fourth minute of stoppage time to give them a 1-0 win on Wednesday.

Napoli continued on their erratic way as they threw away chances in a 1-1 draw at Atalanta where Jose Callejon fired over an open goal and Gonzalo Higuain scored a late equaliser, only to miss a stoppage time penalty.

Inter Milan, for the second successive match, won 1-0 with a controversial penalty, this time against previously unbeaten Sampdoria, as Mauro Icardi converted in the 89th

minute amid angry protests from the visitors.

Mattia Destro and Daniele De Rossi gave AS Roma a 2-0 win over promoted Cesena as they pulled level with Juventus at the top. Both have 22 points from nine games, six ahead of AC Milan, Sampdoria and Udinese.

Genoa goalkeeper Mattia Perin kept Juventus at bay, his repertoire of saves including two brilliant stops from Alvaro Morata, and Angelo Ogbonna hit the crossbar for the visitors, before Antonini scored with almost the last kick of the game.

Napoli, who beat Verona 6-2 on Sunday with an Higuain hat-trick, found life much tougher at Ata-



Genoa's Luca Antonini (L) shoots to score past Juventus' goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon during their Italian Serie A soccer match at Luigi Ferraris Stadium in Genoa on 29 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

lanta and fell behind when German Denis scored with a diving header against his former club just before the hour, only Atalanta's fourth goal of the season.

Callejon should have

levelled five minutes later but managed to fire his effort over from almost underneath the crossbar.

Atalanta had Luca Cigarini sent off for a second bookable offence before

Higuain scored on the turn with four minutes to go.

But the Argentine turned villain when his penalty was saved by Marco Sportiello in the second minute of stoppage time, leaving his side joint sixth alongside Lazio, Inter and Genoa with 15 points.

Under-pressure Inter produced another scrappy performance and were preparing for a crescendo of jeers at the San Siro until Alessio Romagnoli was judged to have pushed over Zdravko Kuzmanovic and Icardi converted from the spot, as he did against Cesena on Sunday.

Sampdoria coach Sinisa Mihajlovic pushed away his players as they remonstrated with match officials

at the end.

Juan Cuadrado set up two goals, the first finished off with a brilliant touch by Khouma Babacar and the second by Borja Valero, in a 3-0 win for Fiorentina over Udinese. Senegal's Babacar also opened the scoring when he tapped in from a rebound just before halftime.

Cagliari and AC Milan drew 1-1, Victor Ibarbo opening the scoring before Milan's Giacomo Bonaventura replied with a superb curling effort, and Palermo beat Chievo 1-0.

Matteo Darmian's early goal gave Torino a 1-0 win over Roberto Donadoni's Parma, who are bottom after losing eight of their nine games.—Reuters

Nishikori into Paris Masters 3rd round

PARIS, 30 Oct — Sixth seed Kei Nishikori came back from a set down to defeat Tommy Robredo in his opening match on Wednesday at the Paris Masters.

Nishikori, playing for the first time in three weeks and trying to qualify for his first ATP Finals, advanced 6-7(6), 6-2, 6-3 to the third round, where he will face Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Nishikori can book a spot in the eight-man field for the 9-16 November ATP Finals in London if he reaches the semifinals at the Paris Masters.

Four places are still up for grabs, and Nishikori is currently sixth in the race for London, a competition he describes as "a very special stage for tennis players."

"I'm pleased with the result," world No 7 Nishikori said. "I felt good. I thought I played well. My drop shot was effective today, and the tide turned completely from

the second set."

Nishikori, who had beaten Robredo twice in as many previous meetings, held serve throughout the match against his Spanish opponent.

Nishikori broke former fifth-ranked Robredo for the first time in the sixth game of the second set, after neither gave away much in the first.

The 32-year-old Robredo, who was runner-up in last week's Valencia Open and was nursing a sore lower back, had begun tiring in the second set before Nishikori completely took over.

"He was tough on the baseline early on," said Nishikori, adding that the hip he had injured felt fine after the match lasting nearly two hours. "But it all changed with (the first break point won). I tried to be more aggressive on my returns and kept moving my feet."—Kyodo News



Switzerland's Roger Federer

Chardy makes Federer fight for third round berth

PARIS, 30 Oct — Roger Federer kept up his hopes of finishing the year as world number one when he downed Frenchman Jeremy Chardy 7-6(5), 6-7(5), 6-4 in the second round of the Paris Masters on Wednesday.

The world number two, who has a chance of leapfrogging Novak Djokovic at the top of the rankings and equalling Pete Sampras's record of ending six seasons as the number one, knew Chardy would be a tough nut to crack and he did not disappoint at Bercy.

"I was expecting it to be difficult... Chardy has made it hard for me in the past," Federer told a news conference.

"I thought it could be tough, and it was. I could have lost the first, I could have won the second, but it went the other way. So I think as the match went longer, the better I actually started to play and created more opportunities."

Chardy, who beat Federer in their previous encounter at the Rome Masters earlier this year, saved two match points in the second set. The second-seeded Swiss, however, claimed the deciding set in more comfortable fashion to set up a third-round meeting with France's Lucas Pouille or Italian Fabio Fognini.

It went much more smoothly for eighth seed Andy Murray who is within one match of securing his place in the ATP World Tour Finals next month after easing past local favourite Julien Benneteau 6-3, 6-4.

The Scot, who needs to reach the last eight here to book his ticket to the 9-16 November Finals in London, next meets ninth seed Grigor Dimitrov.

Bulgarian Dimitrov, who also has a chance to qualify for the season-ending tournament, destroyed Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas 6-0, 6-3.

"He gave me a good start," Murray told reporters. "He served three double faults in a row in his first service game. 'I served very well in the first set. There were no really long or physical rallies at all in the first set.'"

After dropping outside the top 10 following his US Open quarter-final exit, Murray began a late push for a spot in the London showpiece event which features eight of the best players this season.—Reuters

Record scorer Rooney set for Manchester derby return

LONDON, 30 Oct — Manchester United are likely to welcome back captain Wayne Rooney from suspension for their visit to Premier League champions Manchester City on Sunday, hoping the striker can add to his record scoring tally in the derby.

Rooney, who missed three matches because of a red card last month and hopes to recover from a minor foot injury picked up in training, tops the all-time goal-scoring list for Manchester derbies having netted 11 in 22 games for United. The return of the England striker will add a further spring to manager Louis van Gaal's step, after United snatched a 1-1 home draw with league leaders Chelsea last week thanks to Robin van Persie's stoppage-time goal.

"It's a massive boost for us to have him back," United defender Luke Shaw told British media this week. "It's something I think he's



England's Wayne Rooney controls the ball during their Euro 2016 qualifying soccer match at the A. Le Coq Arena against Estonia in Tallinn on 12 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

looking forward to. Wayne hates sitting on the sidelines watching."

The 20-times English champions, after a dreadful campaign last term under David Moyes, have endured a torrid time away from home so far this season and are six games without a win on the road in the league, their worst run for 18 years.

Van Gaal and some of his new-look team will be experiencing a Manchester derby for the first time but

Shaw, a close-season signing from Southampton, is sure the recent arrivals understand the fierce rivalry.

"It's pretty obvious what this match means to the fans and the club," the 19-year-old said. "I don't think I need to be told about it and the others (new signings) will be aware too."

"It's a massive occasion for everyone involved in it. We need to come out firing on Sunday."

United's indifferent

away form has been costly, with the team eighth in the table on 13 points, 10 adrift of Jose Mourinho's Chelsea at the summit.

City have suffered their own stuttering start to their title defence and a 2-1 defeat at in-form West Ham United last weekend left them third on 17 points.

Boss Manuel Pellegrini is not concerned by the champions' form and pointed out they are in a better position than they were this time last season.

He was also unmoved by Rooney's United return.

"I think Rooney is a very important player for Manchester United but I think that big teams never depend on one player," he said.

Following their draw at Old Trafford, Chelsea will be looking to steal a march on their Manchester rivals when they host their own local adversaries Queens Park Rangers on Saturday.

Reuters