

ASEAN leaders discuss regional and global issues at summit in Nay Pyi Taw



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with leaders of ASEAN at opening ceremony of 25th ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

**By Kurt Stanton
(GNLM)**

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov—Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations gathered here on Wednesday for the 25th summit of the regional grouping, being held in Myanmar's new capital for only the second time.

The heads of state and government of the 10-member association discussed a

number of issues including the ASEAN Community slated to go online in 2015, territorial issues in the South China Sea, the threat posed by Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria, and the spread of the Ebola virus.

They adopted the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision and the Declaration on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN

Organs and the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change at the 25th ASEAN Summit.

In his opening address at the Myanmar International Convention Center, Myanmar President U Thein Sein, chairman of this year's summit, highlighted the importance of ensuring the realization of a "politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible ASE-

AN Community."

The president pointed out that despite uncertainties in the global economy, ASEAN's domestic growth is growing "and economic growth remains strong at 5% with positive projections in coming years."

U Thein Sein said ASEAN will continue to broaden its external relations that will bring benefit to the ASEAN Community.

"It is time for us to

consider strategically in expanding our external relations with potential trading and investment partners. We should also look into ways to engage more with G-20 and emerging global economies, namely BRICS and markets in other regions," he said, referring to Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

However, in addition to natural disasters and external factors such as global economic uncertainty, the president said the spread of the Ebola virus from West Africa and extremism are also challenging ASEAN.

He called the coming ASEAN Community a "new beginning for a new ASEAN calling for greater unity and integration, enhanced operation efficiency, better cooperation, stronger resilience and greater competitiveness of the community."

The ASEAN Community will create a single market and production base for the ASEAN region, allowing for the free movement of goods, services, investment and capital, as well as skilled labour among its members.

But before entering that next level of integration, he said ASEAN needs to "sustain efforts in promoting a culture of compliance to the established rules and norms of ASEAN and to promote them to a broader extent."

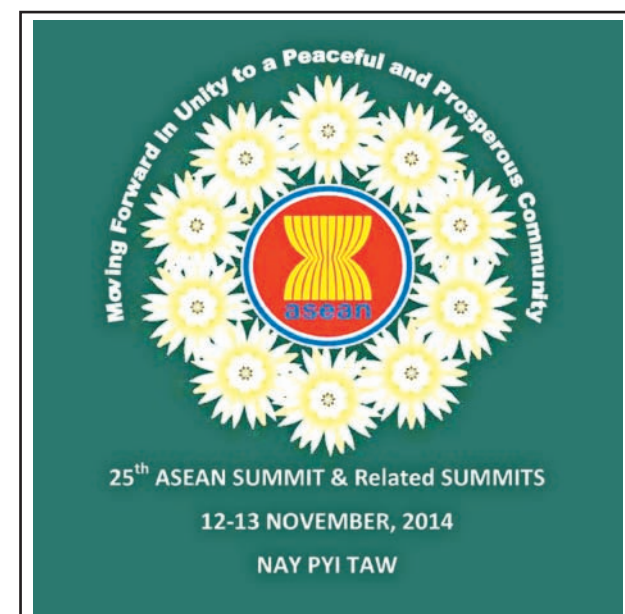
"Rules-based and norm-based ASEAN will elevate our stature and transparency, which are key to building confidence and trust among ourselves and with our partners," he said.

The president also said the grouping needs to have a strategy to promote its "central role in existing regional mechanisms and in evolving regional architecture."

In addition, U Thein Sein said ASEAN needs to "sustain economic dynamism by intensifying integration and pursuing a sustainable development path that would guarantee inclusive development, reduce poverty and narrow the development gaps."

The president in his speech did not specifically touch on the territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

(See page 2)



ASEAN, UN discuss maintaining peace, sustainable development

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov—Leaders of the Association of South East Asia Nations and UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki Moon, held a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday, focusing on maintaining peace, security and sustainable development of the region and the world.

During the 6th ASEAN-UN Summit, they also

discussed settling disputes peacefully in line with international law, enhancing ASEAN-UN cooperation by promoting and protecting human rights, cooperation in environmental preservation, climate change and disaster management as well as in tackling the emerging threat of the Ebola virus and the threat of extremism and fundamentalism

particularly, extremist Islamic State groups in Iraq and Syria.

U Thein Sein, President of Myanmar, and the chairman of the summit, in his speech, highlighted political and security cooperation, economic cooperation, and socio-cultural cooperation between ASEAN and the UN.

ASEAN and the UN also adopted the ASE-

AN-UN Work Plan for 2015.

The leaders also shared views to promote cooperation between ASEAN and the UN on issues related to the United Nations Post-2015 Vision, poverty alleviation, promotion of rural development and small and medium enterprises, and narrowing the development gap.—GNLM



UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki Moon.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

U Thein Sein meets Indonesian President Widodo



President U Thein Sein cordially greets Indonesian President Dr Joko Widodo at the talks in Nay Pyi Taw.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov—President U Thein Sein held talks with new Indonesian President Joko Widodo here Wednesday on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit. During the meeting at the Myanmar International Convention

Center, they discussed further cooperation between Indonesia and Myanmar in regional and international arenas, boosting the trade volume between their countries to US\$1 billion by 2016, which is more than twice the amount in 2013,

and political reforms and the peace processes being launched in Myanmar.

Widodo, who was inaugurated as president last month, is visiting Myanmar to take part in the ASEAN and East Asia summits in the capital.—GNLM

Japan supports peace-making process in Myanmar



President U Thein Sein exchanges gifts with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the talks at MICC-1 in Nay Pyi Taw.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov—President U Thein Sein held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Room 2006 of Myanmar International Convention Centre at 1 pm on Wednesday

They discussed coop-

eration in health and education sectors, development of construction sector and constructional human resources, enhancement of SME sector, development Thilawa and Dawei industrial zone, reform in Yangon City transport system, supply of electricity and development, peace and stability in Rakhine State.

The Japanese Prime Minister said he supports democratization process in Myanmar and pledged to provide assistance for the work process. He expressed his support for the peace-making process in Myanmar and his expectation for signing of the nationwide ceasefire agreement in the near future.—MNA

President joins commemorative summit of 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo at ASEAN-Australia 40th Anniversary Commemorative Summit.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov—President U Thein Sein attended the Commemorative Summit of the 40th anniversary of the ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations held at the Sapphire Hall of Myanmar International Convention Centre here on Wednesday.

The summit was also attended by the leaders of ASEAN countries, sen-

ior government officials, Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott, ministers and secretary of ASEAN.

At the event, U Thein Sein discussed to strengthen future relations between ASEAN and Australia and people, rule of law, development of democracy, systematic administration and prevalence of human rights, promotion between

interfaith groups, prevention of trans-border crimes and more cooperation in maritime sector.

The state leaders of both Australia and the members of bloc exchanged their views on politics, economy and social affairs between the bloc and its very first dialogue partner since 1974.

MNA

ASEAN leaders discuss regional and global issues...

(from page 1)

However, on the spat between China and the Philippines, Philippine President Aquino's spokesman Herminio Coloma told reporters that Manila's position has "gained traction" among other ASEAN members.

"It has gained acceptance because it has been acknowledged by all the other member countries and it is something that all the countries of ASEAN are willing to recognize as an important regional issue," he said.

"It's up to all the concerned parties to do what

is needed in order to promote peace-building in a more complete way," he added.

The issue is certain to be raised at the ASEAN-China summit scheduled to be held Thursday.

China claims almost all of the South China Sea, including islands and other land features claimed by the ASEAN members Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo, Thai Prime Minister Gen. Prayuth Chan O-cha are attending their first ASEAN summit.

GNLM

Voter list collection computerized in 10 downtown townships

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov—Computerized compilation of voter lists for 2015 general elections is being carried out in Botahtaung, Pazundaung, Dawbon, Seikkan, Dagon, Latha, Kyauktada,

Lanmadaw, Kamayut and Seikkyi-khanaungto townships, Yangon region, as of 11 November.

The Union Election Commission urged the voter people to cooperate with the staff of

compilation teams for ensuring the correct voter list and check the voter lists at respective election sub-commissions.

Union Election Commission

President U Thein Sein attends 12th ASEAN-India Summit



President U Thein Sein seen with leaders of ASEAN countries and Indian PM at 12th ASEAN-India Summit.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov — President U Thein Sein, together with ASEAN heads of state and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, attended the 12th ASEAN-India Summit held at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday

afternoon.

President U Thein Sein held discussions on implementation of the joint declaration on co-operation in international anti-terrorism between ASEAN and India-2013, realization of the goal to reach US\$ 100 billion of

trade between ASEAN and India in 2015 adopted in 2012 ASEAN-India Summit, linking Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam with India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway, and cooperation for food security between ASEAN and India.

Leaders of ASEAN

and India held talks on the review of dialogue partner relations between ASEAN and India, future cooperation and the future plan for peace, development and wealth sharing contributed by India to ASEAN Economic Community.

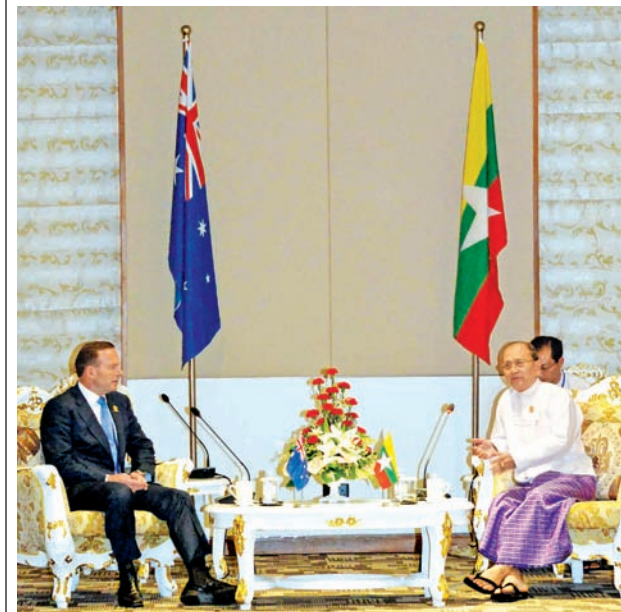
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Myanmar, Australia focus on assistance for development of Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov — President U Thein Sein held talks with Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott MP at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday evening.

They exchanged views

on progress of reform process in Myanmar, achievements and challenges, assistance of Australia for Myanmar's development tasks and future plans to give assistance, ASEAN-Australia relations and regional issues.—MNA



President U Thein Sein receives Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott MP at MICC in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA



UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon and party call on Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham at President Office in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives UNSG Mr. Ban Ki-moon

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon and party at the hall of President Office in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday afternoon.

They discussed implementation of development in Rakhine State and resettlement process, scrutiny of

citizenship and progress of Rakhine State work plan.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and U Khin Yi, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, U Thant Kyaw, Dr Win Myint and Daw Su Su Hlaing.—MNA

Japan offers Myanmar 25.8 bil. yen loan for development projects

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday offered Myanmar a 25.8 billion yen loan to help development and called for a nationwide settlement of conflicts with ethnic minority rebels, Japanese officials said.

Abe made the offer in a meeting with Myanmar President U Thein Sein soon after he arrived in Nay Pyi Taw to attend a

series of events related to the Association of South-east Asian Nations.

The Japanese government envisions the yen loan will be used to improve infrastructure of a port and power facilities in Thilawa, southern Myanmar, reinforce the country's electricity distribution network and help lenders for small and mid-size corporations, the officials said.

Kyodo News

Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee meets Indian Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov — Indian Prime Minister Narandra Modi who has arrived in Nay Pyi Taw to attend the 25th ASEAN Summit and related meetings met Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at Parkroyal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday evening.—MNA

Indian Prime Minister Narandra Modi meets Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
PHOTO BY AYE MIN SOE



President attends 17th ASEAN-Japan Summit



President U Thein Sein delivers an address at 17th ASEAN-Japan Summit at MICC in Nay Pyi Taw.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov —President U Thein Sein attended the 17th ASEAN-Japan Summit held at the Sapphire Hall of Myanmar International Convention Centre Wednesday.

The event was attended by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, leaders of ASEAN members, ministers and the secretary general of ASEAN.

The meeting discussed promotion of ASEAN-Japan tourism through ASEAN-Japan Centre, trades, full implementation of ASEAN-Japan Free Trade Area, and regional cooperation through Thilawa

Special Economic Zone where Japan is a major investor.

The state leaders at the summit exchanged views on the implementation of plans adopted at the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit held in December 2013 in Japan, and promotion of disaster management programme of ASEAN and Japan.

The participants also discussed the preparatory process of the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which is scheduled to hold at Sendai, Japan from 14 to 18 March in 2015.—MNA

President U Thein Sein attends 6th Mekong-Japan Summit



President U Thein Sein gives a speech at 6th Mekong-Japan Summit.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov—President U Thein Sein and leaders of Mekong regions, heads of State/Government, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, ministers and the secretary-general of the ASEAN attended the 6th Mekong-Japan Summit at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday evening.

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Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe addresses 6th Mekong-Japan Summit.—MNA

President attends Plenary Meeting of 25th ASEAN Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov — President U Thein Sein attended the Plenary Meeting of 25th ASEAN Summit held at Myanmar International Convention Centre Wednesday. The participants at the meeting were heads of State/Government from the member countries, government officials, ministers and secretary of ASEAN.

The leaders also joined the ceremony to mark the Myanmar's establishment of the ASEAN Institute for Green Economy.

The ceremony was opened by Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu, chairman of ASEAN Social and Culture Community Council, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun and the secretary-general of ASEAN.

The institute will be set up in Yangon to carry out researches for climate-resistant and environmental conservation by cooperating with ASEAN countries and other countries.

At the meeting the heads of State/Government discussed about the establishment of ASEAN Economic Community, formulation of plans for ASEAN community beyond 2015, and then exchanged views on strengthening the organizations under the ASEAN.

The heads of State/Government agreed on Nay Pyi Taw Declaration to establish ASEAN Community beyond 2015, and on supporting the ASEAN Secretariat. The participants also discussed about global climatic changes,

disaster management, extremists, infectious diseases and humanitarian assistance in cooperation with international community, exchanging the view on south China sea disputes, the threats of ISIS in Iraq and Syria, as well as the spread of Ebola virus.

MNA

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends 11th ASEAN Business and Investment Summit



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers speech at ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2014 at MICC-2 in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov —Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivered a speech at the 11th ASEAN Business and Investment Summit held at Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw on

Wednesday.

Discussions at the summit focused on inclusive engagement, manageable SMEs, potentials of consumers in the ASEAN region, measures for bridging development gaps, the role

of women in the ASEAN region in socioeconomic changes, ASEAN digital area, development review through financial involvement opportunities and policy challenges for Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.—MNA

RELATED SUMMITS

November 2014



Heads of State/Government of Russia, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, ROK, China and US arrive in Nay Pyi Taw



U.S. President Barack Obama being welcomed by Union Minister U Aye Myint at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov — Dmitry Medvedev, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation and party, Tony Abbott MP, Australian Prime Minister and party, New Zealand Prime Minister John Key, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and

party and President of the Republic of Korea Park Geun-hye, State Premier of the People's Republic of China Mr Li Keqiang and party and U.S. President Barack Obama and party arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport on Wednesday to attend

the 9th East Asia Summit and related meetings in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

They were welcomed at the airport by union ministers and officials together with the Guard of Honour at the airport.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves motion to raise salaries of government employees in 2015-16 fiscal year

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session on Wednesday approved the motion calling for the Union Government and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to raise the salaries and benefits of government employees including the police and defence services, to adopt bylaws and rules

and regulations for the appropriate minimum wage of workers and for the protection of rights and interests of peasant farmers as soon as possible and to fix appropriate rewards and expenditures for union, region/state, self-administered division and zones level officials and Hluttaw representatives at

the beginning of 2015-16 fiscal year.

The representative who put forward the motion said that the government employees are human resources that are essential for good governance and clean government but they are struggling to meet both ends although the government raised their

salaries occasionally.

The representative also said that the matter should be considered from political, financial and administrative points of view and the salaries of government employees should be raised effectively.

Similarly, bylaws and rules and regulations to pro-

tect the interests of workers and peasant farmers should be adopted as soon as possible, the representative added. Concerning the motion, the speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw said that it is the responsibility of the union government and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to enable government employees

and retirees to lead a life of dignity and to adopt bylaws and rules and regulations to enforce the laws that protect the interests of workers and farmers already enacted.

Afterwards, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the additional budgets for ministries and government organizations.—MNA

President U Thein Sein hosts a state dinner for visiting leaders

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov — President U Thein Sein and his wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted a state dinner for the leaders from

ASEAN and East Asia, who are attending the 9th East Asia Summit.

President and his wife welcomed the visiting lead-

ers at the Myanmar International Convention Centre.

U Thein Sein, as a 2014 chairman of ASEAN, greeted the state leaders with welcoming speech.

At the event, artistes of Ministry of Culture entertained with traditional performances and cultural dances of ASEAN countries.—MNA

President U Thein Sein and his wife Daw Khin

Khin Win warmly welcome U.S. President

Barack Obama at the

dinner.—MNA

Wives of ASEAN leaders visit Bagan ancient cultural region

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov — Mdm Naraporn Chano-cha, wife of the Thai Prime Minister, Mdm Ban Soon-taek, wife of the UN Secretary-General, Mdm Nguyen Thanh Huong, wife of the ASEAN Secretary-General, and party accompanied by Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin and Daw Lin Lin Tin,

wife of Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin visited Bagan ancient cultural region on Wednesday morning.

They viewed round Buddhist arts in Bagan era at 10 booths of Bagan Archaeological Museum.

They paid homage to Ananda Pagoda built by King Kyansit in 1091 AD.

Deputy Minister Daw Sanda Khin hosted a luncheon to them at the Shwenandaw Nanmyint Tower.

The guests viewed mural paintings displayed at the tower, ancient pagodas and stupas and scenic beauty in Bagan. They also paid homage to Gubyaukgyi Pagoda in Myingapa Village.—MNA



Wives of leaders of ASEAN countries view round Bagan Archaeological

Museum in Bagan.—MNA

China, US announce ambitious climate change goals

BEIJING, 12 Nov — The world's two biggest economies on Wednesday announced ambitious goals and pledged joint efforts to tackle climate change in the next 15 years.

China and the United States announced their respective post-2020 goals of coping with climate change in a joint announcement issued after the two countries' presidents held talks on Wednesday in Beijing.

The United States intends to achieve "an economy-wide target of reducing its emissions by 26 to 28 percent below its 2005 level in 2025" and to make best efforts to reduce its emissions by 28 percent, according to the announcement. China intends to achieve the peaking of carbon dioxide emissions around 2030 and increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 20 percent by 2030.

"China and the United States hope that by announcing these targets



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) holds a welcoming ceremony for US President Barack Obama (R) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China on 12 Nov, 2014.—XINHUA

now, they can inject momentum into the global climate negotiations and inspire other countries to join in coming forward with ambitious actions as soon as possible, preferably by the first quarter of 2015," the announcement said.

The two countries will jointly push international climate change negotiations for the adoption of a protocol at the United Nations Climate Conference in Paris next year, according to the announcement.

China and the U.S. will

step up cooperation in the fields of clean energy and environmental protection, the announcement said.

To achieve their climate goals, China and the US will establish a major new carbon storage project based in China through an

international public-private consortium led by the two countries to study and monitor carbon storage using industrial CO₂, it said.

The two countries will also work together on a new Enhanced Water Recovery project to produce fresh water from CO₂ injection into deep saline aquifers.

In addition, China and the US will convene a Climate-Smart/Low-Carbon Cities Summit where leading cities from both countries will share best practices, set new goals and celebrate city-level leadership in reducing carbon emissions and building resilience.

Bilateral trade in sustainable environmental goods and clean energy technologies will be encouraged, according to the announcement.

It said a US trade mission led by US Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz and Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker will visit China in April 2015, with a

focus on smart low-carbon cities and smart low-carbon growth technologies.

China was the first among developing countries to formulate and implement a national climate change program and adopted a national plan to make sure that it will meet the target of cutting carbon intensity by 40 percent to 45 percent by 2020 from the 2005 level.

In 2013, carbon intensity in China was down by 28.5 percent from the 2005 level, which was equivalent to a reduction of 2.5 billion tons of CO₂ emissions.

President Xi Jinping on Wednesday held talks with his US counterpart Barack Obama, underscoring commitment to building a new type of major-country relations between the world's two largest economies.

Obama arrived in Beijing Monday to attend the 22nd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders' Meeting and pay a state visit to China at Xi's invitation.—Xinhua

Indonesia shakes up corruption-tainted energy ministry

JAKARTA, 12 Nov — Indonesia's new energy minister on Tuesday launched a major shakeup of the graft-tainted ministry, requiring all top directors to re-apply for their jobs.

Oil Minister Sudirman Said took office last month and pledged to repair the image of his ministry, which has been rocked by a series of high-profile corruption scandals that implicated several top oil officials. Said dismissed his director general of oil and gas last week after presidential advisers gave the unit a poor review.

"Building a reputa-

tion and public trust is our homework," Said told reporters. "We want to refresh our organization...we want to put in place better people."

The minister said all oil, gas and mining director positions would be open to internal applicants and those currently in those jobs would need to re-apply. The overhaul would be imposed in stages over the next few months. Indonesia was once self-sufficient in oil and gas but has been struggling for years to attract investment to halt declining output from a peak of around 1.6 million barrels

per day in 1995. The former OPEC member, which currently produces around 800,000 bpd, is now a major fuel importer.

Said's predecessor, Jero Wacik, stepped down in September after being named a suspect in a case involving extortion and kickbacks worth about \$841,000. A few months before that, the former head of Indonesia's energy regulator, SKKMigas, was jailed for seven years for taking over \$1 million in bribes from the owner of a Singapore-based oil company.

Reuters

Cuba, Vietnam exchange experience in political organization

HAVANA, 12 Nov — Top Communist Party officials from Cuba and Vietnam met here on Monday and Tuesday to exchange experience in political organization, local media said on Tuesday.

Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, second secretary of the Cuban Communist Party (PCC) Central Committee and vice president of the Council of State, met with Tran Quoc Vuong,

member of the Secretariat of Vietnam's Communist Party and head of the Central Committee's General Office.

The two sides "exchanged experience in political and ideological work and organization, and discussed the fraternal ties between the two political organizations, and international affairs," state daily Granma said.

Vuong and his dele-

gation participated in the second theoretical seminar held by the two parties in Havana.

The first such seminar was held in Hanoi in 2012 to address the economic and social reforms promoted by Cuba and Vietnam in recent years. Vietnam is Cuba's second-largest Asian economic partner, with annual trade of more than 500 million US dollars a year.—Xinhua

Indian PM pushes for investment from Malaysia

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday called for an increase in his country's trade with Malaysia by inviting Malaysian companies to invest significantly in India.

Modi's call, which came after talks with his Malaysian counterpart Najib Razak in the Myanmar capital on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India summit, showed strong inclination from the growth-savvy prime minister to expand away from the traditional

markets such as the United States and Europe.

"I am giving lot of emphasis to 'make in India' & want to invite Malaysian companies to come to India. There are lot of opportunities," Modi tweeted shortly after the meeting.

The overtures were also emphasized on his official website, where he called on Malaysian companies to join in the government's plan to provide a house for every Indian by 2022.

"Malaysia worked a lot on affordable housing,

We want every Indian to have a home by 2022. We have seen your companies can work in this area," Modi told the Malaysian prime minister.

Trade between India and Malaysia was around 12.3 billion US dollars in 2013.

Modi is also expected to meet with Indonesian President Joko Widodo. After the ASEAN summit, he will leave for Australia to attend G20 summit before ending his ten-day overseas tour in Fiji.

Xinhua



Indian Human Resource Minister Smriti Irani (L) lights a traditional lamp as Indian President Pranab Mukherjee looks on during an event to mark the National Education Day in New Delhi, India, on 11 Nov, 2014. XINHUA

WORLD

BEIRUT / MURSIPTINAR, (Turkey), 12 Nov — Syrian Kurds backed by fighters from northern Iraq have gained ground towards breaking the siege of the Syrian border town of Kobani but are drawing heavy fire from Islamic State insurgents and have yet to win back control.

Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga, or “those who face death”, arrived with armoured vehicles and artillery more than a week ago to try to repulse a more than month-old siege that has tested a US-led coalition’s ability to halt the Islamist insurgents.

Known in Arabic as Ayn al-Arab, the town is among a few areas in civil war-ridden Syria where the coalition can coordinate air strikes against Islamic State with operations by an effective ground force.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said fierce overnight clashes between Kurdish and Islamic State forces along Kobani’s southern front, combined with heavy artillery fire by peshmerga, yield new gains for the Kurds.

The Observatory quoted sources around Kobani as saying the radical Sunni Muslim insurgents had

Kurds gain ground but not control in struggle for Syrian border town



Smoke rises during fighting between the Islamic State and Kurdish forces in an eastern Kobani neighbourhood on 11 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

been surprised by the resilience of the Kurdish forces and that the battle for the town had killed hundreds

of Islamic State combatants.

Kurdish forces have retaken some villages

around Kobani but a *Reuters* correspondent on the Turkish side of the border said the front lines in the

town itself appeared little changed, with the insurgents still controlling its eastern part.

Mortar bombs launched from Islamic State positions hit the centre of town on Tuesday and there were exchanges of machinegun fire as jets flew overhead. The Observatory said coalition planes launched three air strikes south of Kobani overnight.

Idris Nassan, a local official in Kobani, estimated that Islamic State now controlled less than 20 per cent of the town and that heavy artillery salvos by peshmerga had helped the Kurds to advance to the south and east.

Peshmerga fighters, positioned on a hill on the western side of the town, launched rockets at a building where Islamic State had raised its black flag, according to a *Reuters* witness.

A video on YouTube distributed by Islamic State supporters showed fighters purportedly in Syria’s northern province of Raqqa promising to reinforce Kobani.

“God’s servants have prepared the explosives and bombs ... We are coming with the sword and the Koran ... We tell our brothers in (Kobani) that we’re coming to support you,” one of the insurgents said in the video.—*Reuters*

Blast in Egypt’s Sinai wounds 10 civilians

CAIRO, 12 Nov — A car bomb outside a fast-food restaurant in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula wounded 10 people late on Tuesday when it exploded as security forces were evacuating a heavily populated area, security and medical sources said.

They said the explosion shook the town of Arish in northern Sinai, a volatile area where security forces have launched a crackdown on militant Islamists they believe were behind attacks that killed 33 of their number last month.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

The blast came days after Sinai-based Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, Egypt’s most active militant group, pledged allegiance to al-Qaeda offshoot Islamic State, which is now facing US-led air strikes in Iraq and Syria.

Security sources said police had begun to evacuate the area after a stolen car parked in the vicinity aroused suspicion.

Parts of northern Sinai have been under emergency rule since two attacks on soldiers and police on 12 October.

Egyptian security forces have also begun

to clear border residents from their homes as they establish a 500-metre-deep buffer with the Gaza Strip, provoking anger in an area whose people say has long been neglected by Cairo.

The remote but strategic Sinai Peninsula borders Israel, Gaza and the Suez Canal.

Security forces have been squaring off against militants who have killed hundreds of soldiers and police, mostly in Sinai, since the army toppled President Mohamed Mursi in July 2013 after mass protests against his rule. Attacks on civilian areas are more unusual.—*Reuters*

Drone kills seven suspected al-Qaeda militants in Yemen

DUBAI, 12 Nov — At least seven suspected al-Qaeda militants were killed on Wednesday in a US drone strike on a vehicle they were driving in southern Yemen, military sources said.

They said the attack targeted a Hilux pickup vehicle in the city of Azzan in Shabwa province of southern Yemen, killing all of its occupants.

Reuters

Suicide bomber kills eight in northern Iraqi city Baiji

BAGHDAD, 12 Nov — A suicide bomber killed eight people including six soldiers on Tuesday in the northern Iraqi city of Baiji where government forces are trying to reassert control to break an Islamic State siege of the country’s largest refinery nearby.

The bomber targeted a crowd gathering around soldiers who had retaken parts of the city centre, Baiji Mayor Mohammed Mahmoud told *Reuters*. Security officials said two civilians and six soldiers were killed.

Islamic State insurgents seized much of northern Iraq five months ago in an offensive in which they took Baiji and surrounded the oil refinery, halting production and besieging a detachment of government troops there.

US air strikes have slowed down the radical Sunni Muslim insurgents and enabled Iraqi security forces to make some gains. Iraqi security forces have used helicopters to attack Islamic State fighters ringing the refinery.

Months of operations have failed to rescue comrades trapped inside and ensure the strategic site will not fall into the hands of Islamic State, who have used oil and fuel to fund their self-proclaimed religious caliphate.

Iraqi oil industry officials estimate Islamic State is making multimillion-dollar profits from the illegal trade.

Islamic State’s presence in Iraq has fueled sectarian violence which recalls the height of a civil war in 2006-2007. It also controls parts of neighbouring Syria.

Earlier on Tuesday, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said he intends to remove concrete barriers from Baghdad despite little sign of a respite from car bombs they were designed to thwart. He also said he would accord a greater role to the Interior Ministry in securing the capital of 7 million people, suggesting he aimed to reduce the army’s presence.—*Reuters*

Syrian troops kill 40 al-Qaeda fighters in central region

DAMASCUS, 12 Nov — The Syrian troops killed 40 fighters of the al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front in the countryside of the central province of Hama, the pan-Arab al-Mayadeen TV reported on Wednesday.

The troops ambushed the Nusra fighters near the city of Salamiyeh in Hama countryside a day earlier, the report said, spelling no

further details. The Syrian government troops have recently dislodged Nusra fighters from key areas in the northern countryside of Hama, as part of the Syrian forces’ bid to secure the central region from extremist groups.

Separately, several fighters of the al-Farouq and al-Qussair Battalion have pledged alliance to

the Islamic State militants, the report said, adding that those fighters were dislodged from central Syria and stationed in the rugged al-Qalamoun region in the northern countryside of Damascus.

Meanwhile, the pro-government *al-Watan* daily said on Wednesday that 14 rebel factions in the northern Aleppo Province

had formed the “Aleppo’s Revolutionists Council” in an apparent bid to discuss the proposal of the UN envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, who put forth a plan for “freezing” the battles in Aleppo, as a prelude for further pacification in Syria. The Syrian government said Mistura’s plan was “worth studying.”

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 13 November, 2014

Abundant resources of Myanmar

By Aung Khin

Myanmar has abundant resources from its northern plateaus to southern coastal areas. While natural resources are attracting foreign firms, manufacturing sector of the country is relatively lagging behind most of the ASEAN countries. The six largest economies of ASEAN—Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam—have become increasingly attractive to international investors.

ASEAN countries in which foreign investors

focus on can tackle corruption and inflation, take steps to invest in infrastructure, and liberalized their economies to attract more foreign capital.

According to the recent report of the 'FDI Development and Regional ASEAN Investment Report' shows that the bloc attracted FDI inflows exceeding US\$122 billion in 2013 which is about on par with those to China—up from \$114 billion in 2012. The member countries could attract \$122 billion, accounting for 8 percent of the global FDI.

Among the member economies, Myanmar is mainly exporting natural gas, minerals, garment, beans and rice, while its major import items are oil products, iron and steel construction materials, automobile and their spare parts, foodstuff and household item.

These figures show that Myanmar still need more efforts to be able to produce and manufacture industrial and finished products, attracting more manufacturing companies which expect a good taxation system and investment policies.

While wages and salaries in neighbouring powers are getting high, investors from major industrial countries are choosing the countries with sound business policies, rather than political situations.

It is not too late for Myanmar to amend and upgrade the mainstream investment conditions. Myanmar has abundant natural resources, manpower, adaptable and quick learners, and brilliant young generation. All of these could lead Myanmar to a key driver of ASEAN in near future.

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

UNSG satisfied with reform process of Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov — UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, attending the 6th ASEAN-UN Summit held a press conference at the Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday evening.

At the press conference, the secretary general said that he was proud of Myanmar for successfully holding the 6th ASEAN-UN Summit and 9th East Asia Summit and commitments were made for cooperation with ASEAN leaders amid challenges around the world.

He added that regional issues including those of Myanmar were discussed and he expressed his wish for free and fair elections

in 2015 in Myanmar, saying that settlement of conflicts through dialogues is a better option.

Then, he said that he was satisfied with the reform process of Myanmar and there are further steps to be taken in the process.

He also urged Myanmar to accelerate humanitarian tasks in Rakhine State, placing emphasis on protection of minority rights there and the international community to participate more actively in the fight against terrorism and the epidemic disease in West Africa.

The ASEAN and East Asia countries, where about a half of the world's population reside, should take advantage of that to promote



regional stability and democracy and human rights, the secretary general said.

In conclusion, he advised Myanmar to continue cooperation with interna-

tional organizations in humanitarian tasks in Rakhine State.—MNA

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon meets media.—MNA



SCHOOL BEGINS SOON: Three schoolgirls are seen on their way to school in Ngwetaung village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State. The ethnic Rakhine village is the one that could manage to escape from an arson attack during communal strife between the two communities in the township two years ago.—GNLM/PHOTO: YE MYINT



WE LEARN TOGETHER IN THE SAME ROOM, AT THE SAME SCHOOL: Schoolchildren from two communities are pursuing their education in a classroom in Basic Education High School of Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State on Tuesday. The township where more than 90 percent is the Muslim population, has a low population of ethnic people, numbering about 40,000.—GNLM/PHOTO: YE MYINT

NATIONAL

Bilateral talks held at ASEAN Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov —Heads of state attending the ASEAN Summit and Related Summits held bilateral talks at Myanmar International Convention Centre on Wednesday.

Bilateral talks were held between Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha of Thailand and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan and Prime Minister

Tony Abbott MP of Australia, between Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, between Prime Minister

Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore, between Prime Minister Tony Abbott of Australia and Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung of Vietnam, between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

of Japan and Benigno Aquino of Philippines, between President Park Geun-hye of South Korea and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, between Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha of Thai-

land and Secretary General Ban Ki-moon of the United Nations and between Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev of the Russia Federation and Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen of Cambodia.—MNA



Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott MP cordially greets Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung.—MNA



Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha greets UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.—MNA



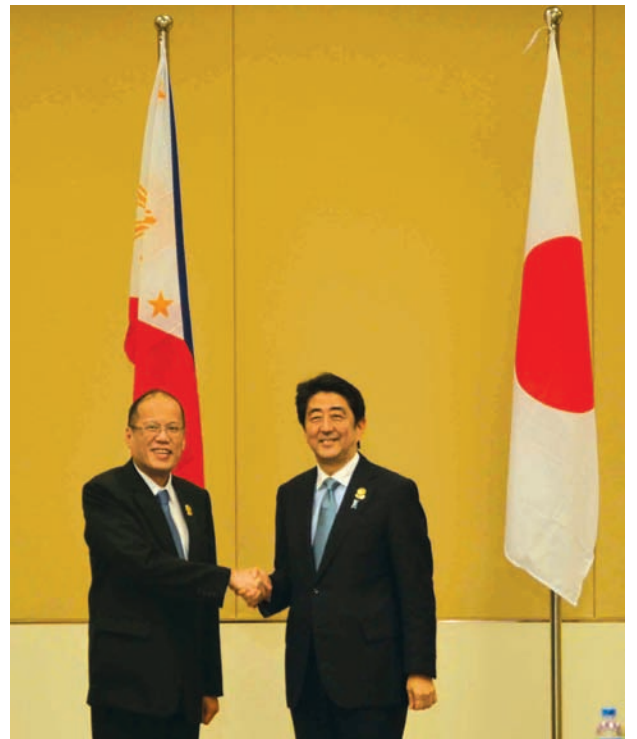
Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah shakes hands with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.—MNA



Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev shakes hands with Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen.—MNA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India meets Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore.—MNA



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan greets President Benigno Aquino of the Philippines.—MNA



Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha of Thailand shakes hands with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India.—MNA



President Park Geun-hye of South Korea seen with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India.—MNA



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe meets Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott MP.—MNA

Kerry to visit Jordan for talks on Jerusalem tensions: State Department



US Secretary of State John Kerry visits the Matrah Souq in Muscat on 10 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

DUBAI, 12 Nov — US Secretary of State John Kerry will travel to Jordan on Wednesday for discussions with King Abdullah about tensions in Jerusalem and the fight against the Islamic State militant group in the region, the State Department said.

Kerry will go on to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Friday to participate in the Sir Bani Yas Forum, an annual private gathering of world leaders focused on international security, a department statement said.

Kerry returns to the Middle East after he attended an Asia-Pacific summit in Beijing on Tuesday. He was in Oman earlier this week for two days of talks

on the Iranian nuclear dispute with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and European Union envoy Catherine Ashton.

Jordan recalled its ambassador from Israel on 5 November, the first time it has taken such action since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1994, denouncing what Amman called “violations” at the al-Aqsa mosque.

Tensions over the compound, the third holiest site in Islam and the holiest place in Judaism, have fueled repeated clashes between Israeli police and Palestinians in recent weeks, culminating in a one-day closure of the mosque last month.

Reuters

UN says 13.6 million displaced by wars in Iraq and Syria

GENEVA, 12 Nov — About 13.6 million people, equivalent to the population of London, have been displaced by conflicts in Syria and Iraq, and many are without food or shelter as winter starts, the UN refugee agency UNHCR said on Tuesday.

Amin Awad, UNHCR’s director for the Middle East and North Africa, said the world was becoming numb to the refugees’ needs.

“Now when we talk about a million people displaced over two months, or 500,000 overnight, the world is just not responding,” he told reporters in Geneva.

The 13.6 million include 7.2 million displaced within Syria — an increase from a long-held UN estimate of 6.5 million — as well as 3.3 million Syrian refugees abroad.

In Iraq, 1.9 million have been displaced this year by tribal fighting and the advance of Islamic State, adding to 1 million previously displaced, and 190,000 have left the country to seek safety.

The vast majority of Syrian refugees have gone to Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq or Turkey, which Awad said “are putting us all to shame” with their support for homeless Syrian families. “Other countries in the world, especially the Europeans and beyond, should open their borders and share the burden.”

The UN World Food Programme has cut rations for 4.25 million people and lack of funds could force a break in its supplies next month for refugees, spokeswoman Elisabeth Byrs told Reuters.

WFP recently received new pledges that may have



A Kurdish refugee boy from the Syrian town of Kobani holds onto a fence that surrounds a refugee camp in the border town of Suruc, Sanliurfa Province on 3 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

averted immediate cuts, Byrs said, although it still needs \$325 million to cover its operations for Syria and the region for the rest of 2014.

“Until these pledges are confirmed, WFP’s actual funding situation remains dire, with cuts in assistance anticipated dur-

ing the upcoming winter,” she said.

UNHCR says it is short of \$58.5 million in donations to prepare 990,000 people for winter, forcing it to prioritise help for people at higher, colder altitudes and for more vulnerable cases, such as newborn babies.—Reuters

Russia sees chance of deal at nuclear talks with Iran

MOSCOW, 12 Nov — A deal is vital at talks between world powers and Teheran on Iran’s nuclear programme and Russia is not considering the possibility of the negotiations failing, a senior Russian envoy said on Wednesday.

A 24 November deadline has been set for Iran and the six powers to clinch a deal that would provide assurances to the West

that Teheran’s nuclear programme will not be used to build nuclear weapons, in exchange for an easing of sanctions on Iran.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov, who took part in the latest talks in Muscat on Sunday and Monday, said Moscow was doing all it could to help the sides reach a deal.

“We aren’t looking at

the possibility of not reaching a deal by 24 November. We are focused completely on the task before us in so far as we have a chance and it’s not small. We can’t miss (the opportunity),” he was quoted as saying by *Interfax* news agency.

Russia has warmer relations with Iran than other powers involved in the talks which also involve the United States, Germany,

China, France and Britain. Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization (AEIO), was in Moscow on Tuesday for talks on nuclear power co-operation.

“Before 24 November, it’s not just possible to make the deadline, it’s necessary. I would like to underscore that we’re doing very much for that,” Ryabkov said.—Reuters

US urges IMF to cancel debt of Ebola-stricken countries

WASHINGTON, 12 Nov —The United States on Tuesday proposed that the International Monetary Fund write off some \$100 million (63 million pounds) in debt it is owed by Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to free up more resources for those countries, the hardest hit by the Ebola outbreak.

The debt relief should enable the three impoverished West African countries to spend more on government services and to support their economies as they cope with the devastating epidemic, US Treasury officials told Reuters.

The countries now owe the IMF a combined \$372 million, of which \$55 million comes due

over the next two years, officials said on condition of anonymity.

“The International Monetary Fund has already played a critical role as a first responder, providing economic support to countries hardest hit by Ebola,” US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said in a statement issued to Reuters. “Today we are asking the IMF to expand that support by providing debt relief for Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea.”

The US proposal must still be approved by the IMF’s other 187 member countries. Lew will recommend the move to the Group of 20 leading economies at their meeting in Brisbane, Australia this week.

The United States proposed that the money for the \$100 million in IMF debt relief should come from a special trust fund set up for poor countries coping with catastrophic natural disasters, which now contains about \$150 million of the IMF’s own resources.

The so-called Post-Catastrophe Debt Relief Trust was first used for Haiti in the aftermath of its 2010 earthquake.

In September, the IMF approved \$130 million in aid to the three countries to help them deal with the economic impact from the Ebola virus, which has sapped their growth, cut into tax revenues and affected exports and other industries.



An aerial view shows a 100-bed Ebola treatment centre opened in Liberia’s capital Monrovia, on 31 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

The IMF estimated last month that the three countries faced financing gaps of about \$300 million this year and could also face large financing needs in 2015 as their economic

situation deteriorates.

Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea are among West Africa’s poorest countries and the hardest hit by the worst Ebola epidemic since the disease

was identified in 1976. The virus has killed at least 4,950 people out of about 13,240 cases this year, according to the World Health Organization.

Reuters

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1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of Jet A1 (94,000 Bbl \pm 10 %).
2. Tender Closing Date : 9-12-2014 at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date : 9-12-2014 at (13:00) hrs.
4. Delivery Time : end of January 2015.
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 18-11-2014 on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Contact Phone no. 067-411108/411193

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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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Russia developing next-generation strategic bomber

ZHUHAI, (China), 12 Nov — Russia is developing a prospective aviation complex for long-range aviation (PAK DA) — the country's next-generation strategic bomber that is to make the first flight in 2019, President of the United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) Mikhail Pogosyan said at the Airshow China 2014 International Aviation & Aerospace Exhibition on Tuesday.

The strategic bomber's state tests are planned for 2021, he said. The next-generation bomber is developed by the Tupolev design bureau. The PAK DA delivery to the troops is expected to begin in 2023.

The Radio-Electronic Technology Concern (KRET) is already developing avionics for the future bomber, and the Tactical Missiles Corporation is developing weapons for it. In addition, the first stand tests of the engine prototype for the PAK DA bomber were held in Samara last week.—*Itar-Tass*



The Sukhoi Su-34 is a twin-seat fighter-bomber intended for high-precision strikes, including strikes with nuclear weapons, on land and sea targets.

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WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 13th November, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Soprano Renee Fleming at 55 — 'I may leave well enough alone'

LONDON, 12 Nov — Super Bowl fans heard her hit a creamy "high A" note when she sang "The Star Spangled Banner" in February, and she has a jazzy new Christmas album. But people who want to see Renee Fleming in the operas that made her "America's sweetheart" better hurry.

At 55, Fleming can see about three more years down the road singing the roles in Strauss and Mozart operas, or as the water nymph Rusalka in Dvorak's opera of the same name, that made her famous, and then?

Well, as she put it in a recent phone interview to launch her album "Christmas in New York", where she sings along with the likes of trumpeter Wynton Marsalis and pop crooner Rufus Wainwright, she can continue her work as a creative consultant for the Lyric Opera of Chicago and sing recitals.

But in opera? "If I were a mezzo or I were a dramatic soprano then there are those parts, those character parts, but for the soprano voice there's almost nothing" after a certain age, Fleming said.

"I'm really happy with my opera life - 54 roles was a lot to learn and perform and so I think I may leave well enough alone. I have another three years of various new productions and so I'm not stopping yet —

let's not put the cart before the horse, but I'm thinking down the road."

She's also in a happy spot with her career that is taking off in new and sometimes surprising ways, including appearing as the first opera singer to sing the national anthem before 80,000 fans for the Super Bowl — and some 170 million watching on TV.

"The Super Bowl effect sort of changed my life a little bit this year, because of just the size of the audience," said Fleming, who already has one of the best known faces in the opera world from hosting the Met Live broadcasts seen globally.

"I mean, the Smithsonian museum has taken the gown — I mean it's incred-

ible," she said, referring to the Vera Wang black silk gown she's donated to the Smithsonian Institution.

"The audience is incomprehensible, even the stadium audience of 80,000 is a little bit terrifying because there's so much sound, the delay, the Black Hawk helicopters, the roar of the crowd which comes at unexpected times. So it took a lot of mental preparation for me to go in there and focus."

But was there ever a second when Fleming thought she might not hit that "high A" (the second A above middle C on a piano)?

"No, no, that's what we do. If you want a high note, get an opera singer, a tenor or a soprano. That's what we do." —Reuters



Soprano Renee Fleming sings the US National Anthem prior to the NFL Super Bowl XLVIII football game between the Denver Broncos and the Seattle Seahawks in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on 2 Feb, 2014. —REUTERS

Randy Jackson exits 'American Idol' after 13 seasons



Musician Randy Jackson arrives at the American Idol XIII 2014 Finale in Los Angeles, California on 21 May, 2014. —REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 12 Nov — "American Idol" judge and mentor Randy Jackson is leaving the Fox TV singing competition after 13 seasons, the network said on Tuesday, after the show suffered a decline in ratings in recent years.

Music producer Jackson, 58, was one of the show's original three judges along with Paula Abdul, who departed the show in 2009, and Simon Cowell, who left in 2010. Jackson left the judges' panel after

12 seasons, but continued as a mentor in the 13th season this year.

"He's provided great advice and support, shaping the success of so many Idols we have discovered over the years," the network and show's production companies FremantleMedia North America and 19 Entertainment said in a statement.

"We hope he'll visit from time to time," the statement added.

"Idol," once one of the

top ratings hits on Twenty-First Century Fox Inc's Fox Broadcasting with more than 30 million viewers at its peak, has seen a drop in viewership despite its high-profile judges.

The show hit a series low of 10.6 million viewers tuning into the season finale earlier this year.

Current judges Jennifer Lopez, Keith Urban and Harry Connick Jr will all return for the show's 14th season next year, as well as host Ryan Seacrest, who has been with the show since its premiere in 2002 and has become one of the highest-profile US television hosts.

Fox recently slumped to last place in ratings among the major US broadcasters, and the network's top entertainment executive Kevin Reilly stepped down from his role. Fox said "Idol" will be scaled back next season from about 50 hours to 37 hours.

Reuters

Christoph Waltz wants to star in a musical

LOS ANGELES, 12 Nov — Oscar-winner Christoph Waltz, best known for his powerful roles in 'Inglourious Basterds' and 'Django Unchained', is keen to do a musical. The actor joked on Ellen DeGeneres show that all the roles that he wants to bag go to Johnny Depp.

"I'd love to do a musical and I've done it in the past... I am an uncondition-

al admirer of Stephen Sondheim's and Sweeney Todd is one of my all time aspirations — and then Johnny Depp did it. He was good."

Talking about Depp's upcoming role in the movie adaptation of stage musical 'Into The Woods', Waltz said, "I'm sure he'll (Depp) be great in that one too."

PTI

Miss International Beauty Pageant 2014 kicks off in Tokyo



Miss Puerto Rico Valerie Hernandez (C), Miss Colombia Zuleika Suarez (2nd L), Miss Thailand Punika Kulsoontornrut (2nd R), Miss United Kingdom Victoria Tooby (L) and Miss Finland Milla Romppanen (R) react after being awarded respective titles during the Miss International Beauty Pageant 2014 in Tokyo, Japan on 11 Nov, 2014. 74 contestants took part in the annual beauty contest. —XINHUA

Liam Hemsworth, Josh Hutcherson are my angels: Jennifer Lawrence



Liam Hemsworth, Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson

LOS ANGELES, 12 Nov — Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence is all praise for her 'Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part One' co-stars Liam Hemsworth and Josh Hutcherson. The actress, 24, who attended the premiere of the film, said they are her angels, reported *Us* magazine.

"Oh my God. They are my angels. They are my kittens. We can't even watch the movie together. "It's really really hard acting with your best friend, because you have to pretend to be somebody else, and they are pretending to be somebody else."

"And you have to keep eye contact with them and be serious. It's really hard," she said.

PTI

Scott has 'score to settle' with McIlroy at Australian Open

SHANGHAI, 12 Nov — Adam Scott says he has a "score to settle" with Rory McIlroy when they clash at the Australian Open in Sydney in two weeks.

Scott missed a chance for a perfect ending to 2013 when he bogeyed the final hole of last year's Open at Royal Sydney to allow McIlroy to capture the historic Stonehaven Cup when the Northern Irishman holed a 16-foot birdie putt at the same hole.

They will return for a rematch from 27-30 November most likely as the two top-ranked players in the world, though the venue will change to another course in Sydney's eastern suburbs, The Australian Golf Club where Jack Nicklaus won the 1978 Open. After making history in 2013 when he became the first Australian to win the Masters at Augusta National, Scott almost claimed Australia's "triple

crown" that year when he won the country's other two big tournaments prior to the Open.

"It's great for me that Rory's going back," he told reporters at the WGC-HS-BC Champions tournament in Shanghai last weekend.

"I was really gutted to lose last year leading on the last. I'd done everything I needed to do to take the lot down there and I messed up on the last, which was very frustrating. I don't need too much motivation to want to go back and win."

The victory paved the way for McIlroy's brilliant 2014 season, in which he stormed to two major titles and reclaimed the world number one ranking.

"He didn't look like a guy who was low on confidence," Scott recalled of McIlroy, who had struggled at times during 2013 by his own high standards and had not won a tournament. "He played flaw-



Australia's Adam Scott (L) shakes hands with Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy after they finished on the eighteenth and final hole during the fourth round of the Australian Open golf tournament at Royal Sydney Golf Club on 1 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

less that Sunday. He was looking ominous. He did everything you'd expect from a top player."

While McIlroy has enjoyed a spectacular 2014 campaign, Scott has been steady rather than spectacular, with his lone win coming at the Crowne Plaza Invitational in Texas.

McIlroy and Scott have not played in the same

event since the Tour Championship in Atlanta in September.

McIlroy will resume after a break at next week's DP World Tour Championship in Dubai, the final event on the European Tour schedule, while the 34-year-old Scott will defend his crown at the Australian Masters in Melbourne.—Reuters

German police arrest suspected IS supporters, raid properties

BERLIN, 12 Nov — German police arrested several men suspected of supporting militant groups, including Islamic State, and raided numerous properties in a large operation against alleged radicals, federal prosecutors said on Wednesday.

Some 240 police officers took part in the sweep, which targeted a network believed to support Islamists in Syria.

A 58-year-old Pakistani man, Mirza Tamoor B., was arrested on suspicion that he smuggled two fighters from Germany to Syria, while a 31-year-old German, Kais B O, was detained on suspicion of recruiting three other potential jihadists and helping them to travel to Syria, prosecutors said.

The two are also believed to have sent more than 3,000 euros (\$3,700) to support IS and other radical groups.

Local media reported that several other men were arrested on more minor charges, including robbing churches and schools to provide money for Islamists.

As with other western European countries, Germany is struggling to stop the radicalization of young Muslims, some of whom want to become jihadists in Syria or Iraq. Officials also worry that they might return to plot attacks on home soil.

German intelligence authorities estimate at least 450 people have left Germany for Syria and around 150 have returned. Many are being criminally investigated.—Reuters

Fabregas out of Spain's Euro qualifier against Belarus

MADRID, 12 Nov — Spain midfielder Cesc Fabregas is out of the holders' Euro 2016 qualifier at home to Belarus on Saturday after being diagnosed with a hamstring problem.

Fabregas, who played the whole of Chelsea's 2-1 Premier League win at Liverpool on Saturday, had tests in Madrid on Tuesday and medical staff ruled him out of the Group C clash in Huelva, the Spanish soccer federation (RFEF) said on its website (www.sefutbol.com).

Fabregas has been in fine form for his new club this season, with two goals and 11 assists in 15 appearances, and his injury is a blow to Spain as they



Chelsea's Cesc Fabregas celebrates after scoring against Crystal Palace during their English Premier League soccer match at Selhurst Park in London on 18 Oct, 2014. REUTERS

seek to bounce back from last month's 2-1 defeat in Slovakia. Villarreal midfielder Bruno Soriano was called up to replace him in the squad.

Slovakia top the pool on nine points from three matches, with Spain and Ukraine on six, Macedonia on three and Belarus and Luxembourg on one point each.

Fabregas will also miss the friendly against world champions Germany in Vigo on 18 November, the first meeting between the European heavyweights since a 1-0 win for Spain in the 2010 World Cup semi-finals.

With Andres Iniesta also injured, coach Vicente

del Bosque is likely to deploy a midfield of Sergio Busquets, Santi Cazorla and Koke, with Isco, Raul Garcia, Soriano and Ignacio Camacho also in the frame.

Camacho has been included in the squad for the first time along with forwards Jose Callejon, Alvaro Morata and Nolito as Del Bosque looks to revitalise a team still recovering from their woeful World Cup performance and rocked by the surprise loss in Slovakia.

Nolito, a product of Barcelona's youth academy who has impressed at Celta Vigo, said he was hopeful of making his senior debut.—Reuters

Boy returns to Germany from Japan, 1st departure under Hague pact

TOKYO, 12 Nov — A boy taken to Japan by his Japanese mother has returned to Germany, becoming the first child to leave Japan under a treaty on settling cross-border child disputes that the country joined in April, Foreign Ministry officials said on Wednesday.

The 5-year-old boy, whose father is German and who holds dual citizenship, returned to Germany last

month along with his mother after his father sought assistance from the ministry under the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, the officials said.

The boy was living in Germany but his mother took him to Japan in June this year, prompting his father to seek the ministry's help in August. The parents have since reached an agreement on the return of the boy

to Germany, they said.

The pact sets out rules and procedures for the prompt return to the country of habitual residence of children under 16 taken or retained by one parent as a result of failed marriages, if requested by the other parent.

In Japan, the Foreign Ministry is in charge of locating children who have been taken away and encouraging parents to settle

custody dispute through consultations under the Hague pact. If they fail, family courts in Tokyo and Osaka will try to make decisions on whether to return the children.

Since Japan joined the Hague treaty, children taken to Britain, the United States and Switzerland by one of their parents from Japan have returned home as a result of consultations or a court order.—Kyodo News

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(12-11-14 07:00 am~13-11-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Five Treasures in the Ancient City of MraukU
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Cubism
- * Local News
- * Lisu: Their Life and Customs (Part- I)
- * World News
- * Art Students: Sculpture
- * Local News
- * Pride of Myanmar — Bagan arts and handicrafts
- * World News
- * Kid's Home
- * Local News
- * A Person with Faith
- * World News
- * In the Studio "Na Di Htike"
- * Local News
- * Marvelous Solo Cane Ball Playing
- * World News
- * The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
- * Local News
- * Unique Pattern of Myanma...A Trend of Chin Traditional Dress
- * World News
- * The Photographer: Kyaw Kyaw Winn
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Chef (Kyi Soe)
- * World News
- * Inspiration
- * Local News
- *Changes
- * World News
- * In the Studio: Nyi Voyo

Kyoto train running through 'fall foliage tunnel'



A train on Eizan Electric Railway Co's Kurama Line in northern Kyoto, western Japan, is running through the lit up fall foliage on 8 Nov, 2014. —KYODO NEWS

Nishikori humbled by Federer



Kei Nishikori of Japan returns a shot against Roger Federer of Switzerland in a Group B match at the ATP World Tour Finals in London on 11 Nov, 2014. World No 2 Federer beat fifth-ranked Nishikori 6-3, 6-2.

KYODO NEWS

LONDON, 12 Nov — Kei Nishikori was outclassed by Roger Federer in his second match at the ATP World Tour Finals, losing in straight sets to the 17-time Grand Slam champion on Tuesday.

Nishikori went down 6-3, 6-2 to Federer, who needed less than 70 minutes to dismiss the Japanese ranked fifth in the world. Federer has two wins in as many Group B match-

es while Nishikori, who next faces Milos Raonic on Thursday, has a win and a loss each. Federer, a six-time winner of the Finals, plays Andy Murray next. The top two from the two groups advance to the semifinals. "The match went by quickly," Nishikori said. "The plan was to get him to play from the baseline, but his serve was really good and he never let me into the match. He didn't give me a

chance to compete."

"He's tough, just as I expected him to be. I always find him to be strong no matter how old he is."

With his trademark returns absent on this day, Nishikori couldn't get going against the 33-year-old Federer, who landed seven aces and held serve throughout. Nishikori didn't help himself with five double faults, and also needed treatment on his right wrist in the second set. Nishikori has a good track record against Raonic — 4-1 for his career — recently beating him in the Japan Open final. But Nishikori admits he will have to return a lot better than he did on Tuesday against the big-serving Canadian, who, with two defeats, must win to have any chance of qualifying for the semis.

"The pain in the right wrist did affect me a little bit," Nishikori said. "I have no choice but to win the next one. I don't have time to wallow in this defeat. I have to make sure to return well."—Kyodo News

Tottenham, Villa fined for indiscipline



Aston Villa's Christian Benteke (L) scuffles with Tottenham Hotspur's Roberto Soldado (C) during their English Premier League soccer match at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England on 2 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 12 Nov — Aston Villa and Tottenham Hotspur have both been fined 20,000 pounds for failing to control their players during their recent Premier League game, the Football Association said on Tuesday.

The clubs had admitted breaching FA rules by "failing to ensure their players conducted themselves in an orderly fashion", an FA statement said.

A scuffle involving numerous players broke out at the Villa Park game on 2 November after the home team's Belgian striker Christian Benteke received a red card.

Villa were leading 1-0 at the time, with 24 minutes left, but Spurs hit back against their 10 men to win 2-1.

Reuters

Moyes can restore tarnished reputation at Real Sociedad

MADRID, 12 Nov — New Real Sociedad coach David Moyes faces a tough challenge to get the Basque club back on La Liga track but it is also a chance for the Scot to restore his reputation after a failed stint at Manchester United.

Sociedad announced late on Monday Moyes, who has been without a club since he left United in April after less than a season in charge, had agreed to take over from the sacked Jagoba Arrasate on a contract until June 2016.

He inherits a Socie-

dad side languishing in 15th place in La Liga after 11 matches and Sunday's 2-1 win at home to champions Atletico Madrid, their first outing since Arrasate's exit, was only their second victory of the campaign.

Based in the seaside city of San Sebastian, Sociedad finished fourth in 2012-13 and qualified for the Champions League group stage, where they finished bottom of their pool.

Last term they were seventh and secured a place in Europa League qualify-

ing but were eliminated by Russian side FK Krasnodar.

Sociedad, whose glory period came in the early 1980s, are typical of the group of second-rank Spanish top-flight sides attempting to compete with wealthy Real Madrid and Barcelona.

Like many of their peers, they struggle to prevent their top players being lured away and the latest to depart were France forward Antoine Griezmann to Atletico Madrid and Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo to Barca.

However, Sociedad retain a squad that is a mixture of experience and youthful promise and it would be little surprise if they secure a European berth again this term.

Forward Carlos Vela is their standout performer and the Mexico international netted the equaliser in Sunday's game against Atletico.

Reuters



David Moyes

BWF suspends Chong Wei Lee over doping violation

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 Nov — Malaysia's world number one Lee Chong Wei has been provisionally suspended for an "apparent" anti-doping violation, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) said on Tuesday. "The world-governing body has imposed this suspension due to an Adverse Analytical Finding of a sample taken at the BWF World Championships in August," the BWF said in a statement.

"The BWF has referred the matter to the BWF Dop-

ing Hearing Panel and, in due course, the Chair of the Panel will set the time, date and location of a hearing.

"The Panel will determine whether or not the athlete has committed an anti-doping regulation violation," it added.

On Saturday, the Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM) confirmed that one of their players had tested positive for the banned anti-inflammatory agent dexamethasone but withheld the individual's



Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei

identity pending an appeal.

The 32-year-old Lee, however, posted messages on his official Twitter and Facebook accounts thanking fans for their support and denying using drugs to gain an advantage.—Reuters

Messi wide right, Tevez could be number nine — Martino

LONDON, 12 Nov — Argentina coach Gerardo Martino kept his cards close to his chest on Tuesday over his lineup for Wednesday's friendly against Croatia and whether Lionel Messi and the recalled Carlos Tevez would start together.

Martino, who took charge when Alejandro Sabella stepped down after leading Argentina to the World Cup final in Brazil in July, said he was still at the stage of viewing players and introducing them to his tactics rather than settling on a fixed 11.

Argentina meet Croatia at West Ham United's Upton Park stadium in east London (1945 GMT) before heading to Manchester for a second friendly against Portugal at Old Trafford next Tuesday.

"I see Messi as a wide player on the right, otherwise he would be a fourth number nine," Martino said, pointing out that Argentina are well stocked for central strikers.

"(Gonzalo) Higuain doesn't play the same way as (Sergio) Aguero or Tevez, but in a system like ours one of them has to

play as a nine," he told a news conference at Rush Green, site of West Ham's academy, before taking charge of training.

"It's going to be difficult to see all of them together, at least at the beginning of a match."

Tevez, overlooked during Sabella's three years in charge, is hoping to make his first Argentina appearance since July 2011, when he was part of the team that lost to Uruguay on penalties in the Copa America quarter-finals on home soil.

Reuters



Argentina's Lionel Messi kicks the ball during a training session at the Rush Green Stadium in Romford near London, on 11 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS