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President U Thein Sein meets UNSG's Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by UNSG's Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min, Union Minister for Population and Immigration U Khin Yi and departmental heads and the visiting delegation was accompanied by UNDP Resident Representative Mr Ashok Nigam.

They held talks on further cooperation between Myanmar and the UN in the time of the new



President U Thein Sein receives a delegation led by UNSG's Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.

MNA

government, the government's emphasis on stability of the State and increased socio-economic development for flourishing of democracy in the country, efforts to meet the

MDGs of the UN, the government's assistance to Rakhine State in cooperation with UN agencies, arrangements for international observation groups from Turkey,

Indonesia, US and OIC advance team to make observation trip of Rakhine State, the government's efforts for security and the rule of law for prevention against reoccurrence of such

incidents in Rakhine State, measures for livelihood, health and sheltering of the victims, progress in field investigation into the incident by forming an independent body, UN's

further plans for development of Myanmar, and the Myanmar President's planned attendance at 67th UN General Assembly.

MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw receives Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept— Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Mr Wu Bangguo at the meeting hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw of Hluttaw Complex here at 9.30 today.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, chairmen of the Hluttaw affairs committees and commissions and officials of the Hluttaw Office. The visiting PRC guests were accompanied by Ambassador of the PRC to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Li Junhua.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on further cementing bilateral ties, enhancing cooperation between parliaments of the two countries and development of bilateral economy and trade.

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Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint cordially greets Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Mr Wu Bangguo.

MNA



Dutch PM Rutte wins election as pro-euro parties sweep

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Owen begins Stoke career against champions City

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Pressure mounts on Big Phil after Palmeiras lose again

RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 Sept— Pressure mounted on Palmeiras coach Luiz Felipe Scolari after his team lost 3-1 at Vasco da Gama on Wednesday, leaving them seven points adrift of safety in the Brazilian championship relegation zone.

The club's football director Cesar Sampaio said a meeting would take place on Thursday to discuss the future of former Brazil, Portugal and Chelsea coach Scolari, who won the 2002 World Cup with his country.

"We're all very sad and worried about the situation," Sampaio told reporters after the game.

Scolari, usually known as Felipao (Big Phil) said he had not contemplated losing his job.

"The idea of quitting has not crossed my mind," he said. "We have to sit down, chew it over and see what we can do differently."

Luan headed in Tiago's cross to give Palmeiras the lead in 23rd minute, only for Carlos Tenorio to pull Vasco level with a close-range effort six minutes later.

The first-half ended with jeers from a sparse Vasco crowd who also protested against club president Roberto Dinamite. Vasco, under interim coach Gauchinho after Cristovao Borges was sacked earlier this week, went ahead six minutes after the break with a Nilson header.—Reuters



MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept— The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of U Kyaw Oo, Rector of the National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon) of the Ministry of Culture, on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) Col Win Hlaing Ministry of Defence	Director-General Planning and Administrative Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(2) U Tha Aung Nyun Deputy Director-General Consular and Legal Affairs Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Director-General Consular and Legal Affairs Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(3) Col Thurein Thant Zin Ministry of Defence	Director-General Protocol Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(4) Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw Deputy Director-General Forest Department Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry	Director-General Forest Department Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry

Union Minister at President Office receives President CEO of Standard Chartered Bank

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun received President CEO Mr Lyn Kok of Standard Chartered Bank of Thailand and party at the Credentials Hall of the President Office here this afternoon. They held discussions on rules and regulations of financial matters and promotion of bilateral cooperation for development of financial policy.—MNA

MEB manager robbed on urban street

MOHNYIN, 13 Sept— Three men robbed the assistant manager of Myanma Economic Bank (branch) in Mohnyin of a necklace weighing three tipples along with a pendant weighing 0.5 tuckle on 6 September evening. her forties was on the way back home by motorbike around 7 pm when she was intercepted by three men on two motorcycles on the street in Namisu Ward who snatched the necklace off her neck, pushing her down on the ground. Two of the robbers, Saw Naing Oo, 19, from Thazi Ward and Ke Ke, 21, of the same ward, were arrested on 8 September, two days later with the necklace but halved. Mohnyin Police Station is in pursuit of remaining accomplice, Noman (a) Sanmin Thein Win, from Yelegyun Ward, who is on the run.

NLM-001

NATIONAL SPORTS

Wards, villages compete in Township Administrator's Cup



MEIKTILA, 13 Sept—The Meiktila Township Administrator's Cup Inter-Ward/Village Men's Football Tournament was held at the Township Sports Ground in Meiktila on 10 September afternoon.

A total of 19 football teams namely Pyitha, East Market Wing, Thirimingala, Yanmyoang, Chiset, Aung San, Nandawgon, Wunzin, Yandana Manaung, Myoma, Aungzeya, Kyidawgon wards, Yaycho, Htamongan, Wayon, Yaywai, Tawma, Theegon and Zaungchangan villages are taking part in the tournament.

In the debut, Yaywai Village won over Tawma Village 1-0. The tournament will last up to 30 September.—Kyemon

Relief aids donated to flood victims in Kyaunggon

KYAUNGON, 13 Sept— Despite subsiding the water, flood victims of Kyaunggon Township in Patheingyi District still need the aids. A ceremony to donate relief aids such as bags of rice, instant noodle and cash to renovate the schools damaged in the flood was held at Daw Than Tin Hall in the township on 4 September morning.

Redlink Co and Wimax customers donated 113 bags

MFF U-12 Digicel Cup 2012 kicks off in Upper Myanmar

MANDALAY, 13 Sept— The MFF U-12 Digicel Cup 2012 (Upper Myanmar) of all basic education schools was launched at Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay at 3 pm on 12 September. Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint and President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw spoke on the occasion. President U

Zaw Zaw presented K 18,517,000 for the cost of tournament, K 10000 each for players and K 240,000 for 24 man of the match wards and 100 No 3 footballs. In the debut, Shan State (South) beat Kachin State 1-0 whereas Nay Pyi Taw Council Area routed Kayah State 2-0. The group matches will be held morning and evening sessions from 11 to

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International Day of Democracy 2012**



15-9-2012

Naypyitaw

Union Border Affairs Minister receives Special Adviser to UNSG for Myanmar and party



Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay receives Mr Vijay Nambiar, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay received a delegation led by Mr Vijay Nambiar, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar at the Ministry, here, this evening. Both sides had a cordial discussion on measures being taken after forming investigation commission concerning with Rakhine affairs, relief and rehabilitation works, plans for sustainable development and holding national level workshops.—MNA



of rice, 54 boxes of Mama instant noodle packets, and K 240,000 for repairing of damaged schools. Townselders U Tin Maung and U Than Nyunt and Deputy Head of Township General Administration Department U Pyay Thein.

Pension paid in advance

MYITKYINA, 13 Sept— Myitkyina Township War Veterans Organization of Kachin State paid pension to its members and families from 1 to 15th day in advance monthly for the convenience of pensioners. The war veterans of the township organization may take out the pension in the office hours.—Kyemon

WORLD

Obama vows justice after US envoy killed in Libya

US

WASHINGTON, 13 Sept— President Barack Obama vowed on Wednesday to bring to justice the killers of the US ambassador and three other diplomats in Libya as he sought to avoid election-year fallout from an attack that cast a spotlight on his administration's handling of "Arab Spring" unrest.

Standing in the White House Rose Garden, Obama condemned the attack in Benghazi as "outrageous and shocking" but insisted it would not harm relations with Libya's new elected government, which took power in July after rebel forces backed by NATO air power overthrew Muammar Gaddafi last year. The targeting of American diplomats — in militant violence sparked by a US-made anti-Islamic film — quickly reverberated in the US presidential campaign and could have implications for public attitudes toward revolutions across the Arab world.

In an unusually harsh exchange so soon after a national tragedy, Republican candidate Mitt Romney slammed the White House's response to violent attacks in Libya and Egypt, and the president retorted that his campaign rival had a



US President Barack Obama is pictured alongside Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, as he delivers a statement following the death of the US Ambassador to Libya, Chris Stevens and others, from the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, on 12 Sept, 2012.
REUTERS

tendency to "shoot first and aim later." Obama, apparently seeking to seize the initiative in the midst of a close-fought race for re-election in November, pledged in his Rose Garden appearance to work with the Libyan government to "see that justice is done for this terrible act."

"And make no mistake: justice will be done," Obama said, with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at his side. He ordered increased security at US embassies around the world, and a Marine anti-terrorist team was dispatched to boost security for US personnel in Libya. Also, during a regularly scheduled

call with Hamid Karzai, president of Afghanistan, Obama discussed ensuring "that the circumstances that led to the violence in Libya and Egypt do not pose a threat to US forces or Afghans," according to the White House.

Ambassador Chris Stevens and three embassy staff were killed late on Tuesday in an attack on the US consulate and a safe house refuge in the eastern city of Benghazi, stormed by gunmen blaming America for a film they said insulted the Prophet Mohammad. Another assault was mounted on the US embassy in Cairo.— Reuters

Libya attack may have been planned and organized, US officials say

WASHINGTON, 13 Sept— The attack that killed the US ambassador and three other American diplomats in Benghazi, Libya, may have been planned and organized in advance, US government officials said on Wednesday. The officials said there were indications that members of a militant faction calling itself Ansar al Sharia — which translates as Supporters of Islamic Law — may have been involved in organizing the attack on the US Consulate in Libya's second-largest city.

They also said some reporting from the region suggested that members of al-Qaeda's north Africa-based affiliate, known as al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, may have been involved. "It bears the hallmarks of an organized attack" and appeared to be preplanned, one US official said. The officials asked for anonymity when discussing sensitive information. More specific details about the possible role of militant groups or cells in the attack were not immediately

available. Later Wednesday, a US official told Reuters that the US military is moving two destroyers toward the Libyan coast, giving the Obama administration flexibility for any future action against Libyan targets.

The *USS Laboon*, which had been making a port call in Crete, could be in position within hours. The other destroyer, the *USS McFaul*, was a couple of days away, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. Both ships were armed with Tomahawk missiles, which were used extensively by NATO against fallen Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's air defences last year. On the attack in Benghazi, one US official noted that in the wake of the collapse of the government of the late Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi last year, Libyan government arsenals were looted, making small arms and more sophisticated weapons available both to potential militants and black marketeers.

Some US officials

cautioned against assuming that the Benghazi attack, or a similarly timed violent protest at the US Embassy in Cairo, were deliberately organized to coincide with the anniversary of the 11 Sept, 2001, attacks carried out by al-Qaeda in Washington and New York. US and European officials said that in contrast to the Benghazi attack, which some investigators say may have been calculated and organized, the attack on the US Embassy in Cairo appeared more likely to have been a spontaneous eruption by a mob.



An exterior view of the US consulate, which was attacked and set on fire by gunmen yesterday, in Benghazi on 12 Sept, 2012.— REUTERS

China condemns US diplomatic compound attack

BEIJING, 13 Sept — Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei on Wednesday evening expressed the country's shock at attacks on a US consulate in Libya and voiced strong condemnation of the violent deeds.

"We are shocked at attacks on the US consulate in Benghazi that caused the

death and injury of a number of people, including the US ambassador. And we strongly condemn the violent deeds," a Press release quoted Hong as saying.

China believes the reigning regime of Lybia bears the responsibility and obligation to adopt all necessary measures to protect the life and property integrity

of foreign institutions and their staff stationed in the country according to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Attacks on the US consulate in Benghazi on Tuesday evening killed the the US ambassador to Lybia and several others and wounded more.

Xinhua

LatAm countries condemn attack against US consulate in Libya

MEXICO CITY, 13 Sept— Countries across Latin America on Wednesday condemned the fatal attack on the US consulate in Benghazi, Libya, which killed US Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans.

Hundreds of protesters, angered by an alleged US-made movie that insults Prophet Mohammed, stormed and set ablaze the US consulate building in Benghazi on Tuesday night.

Libyan authorities confirmed on Wednesday

that Stevens, 52, was killed along with three other US embassy staff when they tried to evacuate staff in the building, which came under attack by a mob armed with guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

Xinhua

Dutch PM Rutte wins election as pro-euro parties sweep

DUTCH

AMSTERDAM, 13 Sept — Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte won a closely contested election as voters handed pro-European parties a sweeping victory, shunning the radical fringes and dispelling concerns that eurosceptics could gain sway in a core euro zone country. With 96 percent



Dutch Prime Minister and Liberal Party leader Mark Rutte (C) hands out flyers in The Hague on 11 Sept, 2012. Voting begins for the Dutch general election on Wednesday.— REUTERS

of votes counted, Rutte's centre-right Liberals won 41 seats in the 150-member lower house, a slender two-seat lead over the centre-left Labour Party on 39 seats, based on results early on Thursday morning.

"We won our greatest victory in history and for the second time became the largest party in the Netherlands," Rutte told supporters after Labour leader Diederik Samsom telephoned him to concede defeat. "We fought this election house by house, street by street, city by city, and I'm proud. Tomorrow I will take the first steps leading to the formation of a cabinet." Rutte declined to say which parties he would approach as coalition partners. The Liberals and Labour have played down talk of forming a coalition together. But parliamentary arithmetic suggests that is the most probable outcome given the highly fragmented political landscape.

"They are condemned to

work with each other. It shows the Dutch people want a stable government," said Andre Krouwel, a political scientist at Amsterdam's VU University. The hard-left Socialists, who oppose austerity and euro zone bailouts, finished a distant third and gained no ground, while the far-right anti-immigration Freedom Party (PVV) of Geert Wilders, who campaigned to leave the euro and the European Union, slumped and was set to lose nearly its seats. The two radical parties dominated early stages of the campaign, raising the prospect of a massive protest vote that might paralyze government and make Dutch support for further euro zone bailouts impossible.

The unexpectedly clear result removed a potential obstacle to efforts to stabilize Europe's single currency after Germany's constitutional court gave the green light for the euro zone's permanent bailout fund to go ahead.

Reuters

Nintendo to announce Wii U console price

TOKYO, 13 Sept — Nintendo Co said it will announce the price and other details of its new game console the Wii U at 3.00 am EDT.

The creator of Super Mario is fielding the successor to the hit Wii console in the run up to the busy year-end shopping season and is battling Microsoft Corp, Sony Corp and more recently tablet and smartphone makers including Apple Inc to woo gamers.

Supporting two “GamePad” controllers designed to look and function like tablets, the first console from Nintendo in six years will come with a social-gaming network dubbed “Miiverse” and will be its first machine in 16 years to launch with a dedicated “Super Mario” game title.— Reuters



Nintendo Co's Wii game consoles are displayed at a Yamada Denki electronics retail store in Tokyo on 4 June, 2012.— Reuters

Technology



Apple Inc CEO Tim Cook takes the stage after the introduction of the iPhone 5 during Apple Inc's iPhone media event in San Francisco, California on 12 Sept, 2012.— Reuters

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 Sept — Apple Inc's new iPhone goes on sale on Friday with a bigger screen and 4G wireless technology, as the company seeks to safeguard its edge over rivals like Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and Google Inc. The iPhone 5 fulfilled many of the expectations laid out by gadget geeks and technology analysts ahead of its Wednesday unveiling but offered few surprises to give Apple shares — already near record highs — another major kick.

“There is not a wow factor because everything you saw today is evolutionary. I do think they did enough to satisfy,” said

Apple's iPhone 5 bigger, faster but lacks “wow”

important holiday quarter. They still have time,” said Channing Smith, co-manager of the Capital Advisors Growth Fund. “As soon as we see that, we will have more conviction about the stock heading into the final quarter.”

Apple shares ended the day up 1.4 percent at \$669.79. The latest iPhone comes as Apple faces competition beyond current key competitors Samsung and Google. Late entrant Microsoft Corp is now trying to push its Windows Phone 8 operating system as an alternative to Apple and Android, the most-used smartphone operating system in the world.

Analysts have forecast sales of 10 million to 12 million of the new iPhones in this month alone. Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook kicked off the event in San Francisco's Yerba Buena Center but it was marketing chief Phil Schiller who introduced the iPhone 5 and took the audience through the new phone's features. The iPhone 5 sports a 4-inch “retina” display, can surf a high-speed 4G LTE wireless network, and is 20 percent lighter than the previous iPhone 4S.

Reuters

Michael Yoshikami, chief executive of wealth management company Destination Wealth Management. Other industry analysts speculated about what else was in Apple's product pipeline ahead of the crucial year-end holiday season, especially since the company stayed mum about an oft-rumoured TV device or a smaller iPad.

The consumer electronics giant that in 2010 popularized tablet computing with the iPad has given no hints on whether it plans a smaller version to match cheaper tablets from the likes of Google or Amazon.com Inc. “We would really like to see the iPad Mini in the product offering for the all-

Russian mammoth remains give glimmer of hope for cloning

Science

Moscow, 13 Sept — Scientists who found well preserved woolly mammoth remains in a remote part of Russia hope they might contain the necessary material to clone the long extinct beast. The Russian-led international team found the remains, including fur and bone marrow, with some cell nuclei intact, in the Ust-Yansk area of the Yakutia region on Russia's Arctic coast. The next step will be to search for living cells among the material which was preserved in the Siberian permafrost, said the Russian scientist who led the expedition with members from the United States, Canada, South Korea, Sweden and Great Britain.

“All we need for cloning is one living cell, which means it can reproduce autonomously. Then it will be no problem for us to multiply them to tens of thousands cells,” said Semyon Grigoryev, a professor at North-East Federal University (NEFU). However, media reports that the scientists were close to making a “Jurassic Park”-style breakthrough by bringing the giant mammal back to life after thousands of years of extinction, were

exaggerated.” We are counting on our region's permafrost to have kept some cells alive. But it is unlikely,” said Grigoryev, pointing out that the remains would need to have been at a stable temperature between -4 and -20 Celsius (between 28 and -4 Fahrenheit) for any cells to remain alive.

Some media had reported that living cells had been discovered, but Grigoryev said that had been due to a translation error as the word “intact” had been translated from English into Russian as “living”. “What we have found are intact cells, with a whole nucleus,” he said, adding that living cells, if found, would provide the necessary samples to make a living clone. The Yana 2012 expedition found the remains last week at the depth of 5-6 metres (16-20 feet) in a tunnel dug by locals searching for rare and valuable mammoth bone.

A previous find, discovered in the same region two years ago, yielded the remains of a 40,000-year-old female baby woolly mammoth, named Yuka by scientists, as well as those of an ancient bison and horse. Those finds lacked living cells.— Reuters

Environment

Environmental group sues for federal protection of ice seals

ANCHORAGE, 13 Sept — Environmentalists sued the Obama administration on Wednesday seeking federal safeguards for seals that rely on vanishing Arctic sea ice and accusing the government of dragging its feet in listing the marine mammals under the Endangered Species Act. The Centre for Biological Diversity filed the lawsuit in US District Court in Anchorage, saying the National Marine Fisheries Service has illegally delayed listings for the ringed seal and the bearded seal. Both dwell in coastal waters off northern Alaska.

In December 2010, the agency proposed listing both seal species as threatened, a move that would make them the first creatures besides polar bears granted Endangered Species Act protections due to climate change in the Arctic. But the National Marine Fisheries Service, which oversees marine mammals, missed the statutory deadline to formally list the seals, so the court should compel the agency to grant the seals threatened status, the lawsuit argues. Scientists have attributed the shrinking Arctic ice shelf to a warming trend brought on by elevated levels of heat-trapping “greenhouse” gases such as carbon dioxide emitted into Earth's atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels and other human activities.

The bearded and ringed seal, like the polar bear, listed as threatened in 2008, depend on Arctic ice floes to hunt for prey, as well as to rest, give birth and nurse their young. Summer sea-ice coverage in the Arctic Ocean is at the lowest recorded levels.” Global warming will impact ringed and bearded seals directly by degrading and eliminating critical sea-ice habitat, which will have devastating consequences by reducing adult reproductive success and the survival of pups and impairing their ability to molt,” the lawsuit says. Ringed seals also use snow caves to protect their young, so the thinning Arctic snow pack puts “seal pups at higher risk of death from freezing and predation,” the lawsuit says.— Reuters

Deaf gerbils hear again with human stem cells

LONDON, 13 Sept — Scientists have restored hearing to deaf gerbils using human embryonic stem cells in an advance that could eventually help people with an intractable form of deafness caused by nerve damage. The procedure needs further animal research to assess safety and long-term effectiveness but researchers said on Wednesday the experiment was an important proof of concept, marking a further advance in the growing field of regenerative medicine. Marcelo Rivolta from Britain's University of Sheffield, who led the research, said the first patients could receive cell therapy for hearing loss in clinical trials in “a few years”.

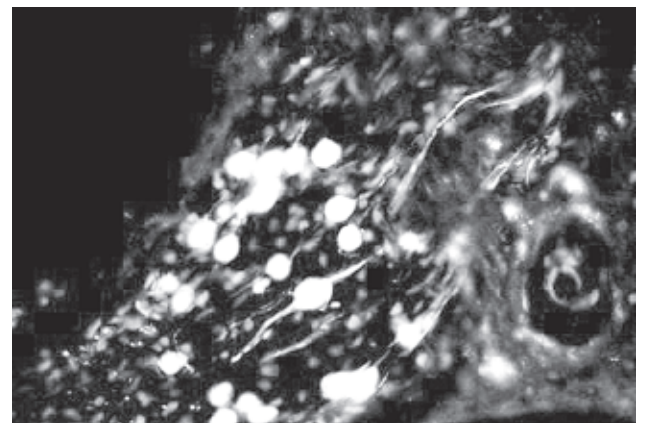
After treating 18 gerbils with complete deafness in one ear, his team reported in the journal *Nature* that stem cells produced an average 46 percent recovery in hearing function, as measured by electrical signals in the animals' brains. “If this was a human patient, it would mean going from being so deaf as to be unable to hear a lorry or truck on the street to being able to maintain a conversation,” Rivolta told reporters. “What we have shown here is functional

recovery using human stem cells, which is unique.” Gerbils were selected for the test because their hearing range is similar to that of humans, while mice — the usual choice for laboratory tests — hear at higher frequencies.

The animals were deafened using a drug to destroy their auditory nerves before receiving an injection of around 50,000 human embryonic stem cells, which had previously been treated with growth factors to coax them into becoming ear cells. The response among the gerbils varied, depending on how well the new cells were integrated into the cochlea, the spiral-shaped cavity in the inner ear. Deafness is caused primarily by loss of sensory hair cells in the ear and auditory nerves. Since these cells are created only in the womb, there is no way to repair them once they have been damaged, resulting in permanent hearing loss.

Cochlear implants offer a partial solution to loss of hair cells but there is no treatment for nerve loss, or auditory neuropathy, which accounts for 10-15 percent of cases of profound deafness.

Rivolta said stem-cell



Human stem cell-derived otic neurons repopulating the cochlea of deaf gerbils are seen in this undated handout photo courtesy of the University of Sheffield.— Reuters

treatment would initially address nerve damage, although it could also be used in a wider range of patients if it was used in combination with implants. Significant uncertainties remain. In particular, the ability of embryonic stem cells to morph into any of the other cell types in the body means they can cause tumors — something that was not seen in the 10-week gerbil study but which Rivolta said needed longer study. Another danger is that transplanted cells may be rejected by the recipient's immune system.

The research on deafness parallels more

advanced work on the eye, where stem cells have already been shown to improve vision in small-scale human tests. Doctors hope one day to use stem cells to treat a wide range of diseases such as Parkinson's, diabetes and cancer. But localized approaches in the eye or ear may be a promising first step, since fewer cells are involved. Ralph Holme of the charity Action on Hearing Loss, which helped fund the Sheffield research, said the work was “tremendously encouraging” and gave hope of a fix to some types of hearing loss in the future.”

Reuters

US McDonald's to put calorie counts in lights

NEW YORK, 13 Sept—A Big Mac and large fries? They'll cost you 1,050 calories, and beginning next week, McDonald's will tell its customers that in bright lights on its fast-food menus. The world's No 1 hamburger chain said on Wednesday it is going to start listing calorie information on menus in some 14,000 US restaurants and drive-throughs — ahead of a national rule that will require larger restaurant chains to make such disclosures.

McDonald's Corp is a trend setter for restaurants and its move in this arena — while prompted by

regulations and pressure from public health activists — is likely to force other restaurant operators to follow quickly. The state of California and cities like New York already require that calories be clearly listed on menus. Under the new US healthcare law, restaurants across the country must soon put calorie counts and other nutrition details on menus.

The national rules target restaurants with 20 or more locations, as well as other retail food outlets. Most major chains have resisted posting such information, without legislation and the threat of

fines. The date for national compliance has been delayed and is not expected to be set until after the US presidential election. McDonald's was slow to warm to calorie labeling. When labelling proposals were gaining steam several years ago, McDonald's representatives publicly opposed them.

A common complaint was that rules from one jurisdiction to another were inconsistent. Some officials also said calorie disclosures would violate customer privacy. Cindy Goody, senior director of nutrition for McDonald's USA, described



A US flag flutters in the wind in front of a sign for a McDonald's restaurant in Los Angeles on 4 April, 2011. —REUTERS

the company's latest move as a way to help its customers understand their food choices. The company, which is in nearly every US

community and serves 25 million US customers daily, is casting the nutrition disclosures as a business opportunity. — Reuters

Apple redesigns iPod touch, updates iPod nano Business

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 Sept — Apple on Wednesday gave an overhaul to its iPod portable music players. At a media event in San Francisco, Apple debuted the new iPod touch featuring a larger 4-inch Retina display with a 16:9 aspect ratio, the same display used in the latest iPhone 5 smartphone. The new iPod touch is 6.1 mm thick and weighs 88 grams. With Apple's dual-core A5 chip, the device can deliver up to twice the processing power and up to seven times faster graphics than the previous generation of iPod touch.



Apple unveils iPhone 5. XINHUA

Apple's intelligent assistant Siri also comes to the new music player.

Like the new iPhone 5, the camera of the new iPod touch also supports panorama feature that enables users to capture panoramic images by simply moving the camera across a scene. Its battery is up to 40 hours of music playback and up to eight hours of video playback. Unlike the previous generation, the new iPod touch comes with five

colours and a color-matched wrist strap that make it more convenient for users to take photos and play games.

Meanwhile, Apple introduced a new earphone called "EarPods" for its mobile products, which the company said it spent three years to design. The new earphone features sound ports built into the stem and the sides. According to the company, users can hear deep and richer bass tones through EarPods and they rival high-end headphones that cost hundreds of dollars. EarPods will ship with iPod touch and iPhone 5, and is 29 US dollars for retail price.

The iPod nano, Apple's cheaper line of portable music players, also got a hardware update. It features a 2.5 inch multi-touch display, the largest display ever built into an iPod nano, and is the thinnest iPod ever at 5mm thick. Bluetooth for wireless listening is also brought to the new iPod nano. Both iPod touch and iPod nano come with the new Lightning connector like iPhone 5.

Pre-orders for the new iPod touch starts on Friday with the price starting at 299 dollars for the 32GB model. It will be shipped in October.

Xinhua

Peanut allergies seen on the rise

NEW YORK, 13 Sept—The number of children with peanut allergies in one Midwestern county has tripled in the past decade, according to a new study that adds to evidence nut allergies are getting more common in the developed world.

Researchers reviewed the medical records of several hundred children in Olmsted County, in southeastern Minnesota, and found that new diagnoses of peanut allergy rose from two out of every 10,000 kids in 1999 to nearly seven out of every

10,000 in 2007.

Overall, 65 of every 10,000 children in the county — home to a sophisticated countywide electronic health records system that provided data for the study — had a verified peanut allergy in 2007.

Though exact percentages of kids with peanut allergies may vary from place to place and study to study, Dr Ruchi Gupta, an associate professor of pediatrics at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, who was not involved in the

research, said, "What's consistent with this article is it does look like peanut allergies, especially among the younger children, are increasing over time."

Most, though not all, studies trying to gauge how widespread food allergies are among kids have tracked an increase in recent decades.

Food allergies are thought to affect eight percent of US kids, with the most common culprits being cow's milk, wheat, egg, soy, peanuts, tree nuts and some seafood.

Peanut allergies typically

China sees 900,000 newborns with birth defects annually Health

BEIJING, 13 Sept — About 5.6 percent of newborns in China have birth defects, with about 900,000 affected infants born each year, according to a Ministry of Health report. Birth defects have become the second-greatest cause of infant deaths in China, accounting for 19.1 percent of infant deaths, says the report on the prevention and treatment of newborn defects for 2012, issued by the ministry on Wednesday.

Of the babies born with defects, about 30 percent die within 5 years after birth, while another 40 percent suffer lifelong deformities, the report says. About 250,000 newborns have visible defects, it says. Experts believe the increase in birth

defects may be linked to the withdrawal of compulsory premarital health checks in 2003, as well as an increase in the number of women who have their first child at an older age.

The intake of prohibited medicine, increased exposure to radioactivity and drinking have also contributed to the increase, experts say. Although the percentage of couples who went in for premarital health checks was at a mere 2.67 percent in 2004, it shot up to 41 percent in 2011 after several provinces began providing the service for free or requiring it in order to obtain a marriage license, the report says. Birth defects are a serious problem in China, particularly in rural areas.

Asian shares inch down amid caution before Fed decision Market

TOKYO, 13 Sept—Asian shares slipped slightly in choppy trade on Thursday ahead of the US Federal Reserve's decision later in the day, but investors remained cautiously optimistic for further stimulus action to bolster the world's largest economy. Commodities from oil to gold were also held in tight ranges ahead of the Fed decision expected to be released at 1630 GMT, followed by Chairman Ben

Bernanke's news conference about two hours later.

A Reuters poll showed economists raised their bets of a third round of Fed bond buying known as quantitative easing (QE) to 65 percent from 60 percent in August. As the dollar suffered from expectations for QE, which would be equal to printing money and diluting the value of the greenback, the euro stayed near four-month highs against the US currency on

signs Europe was taking steps to manage its debt crisis.

European equities were seen pausing, while a 0.1 percent drop in US stock futures suggested a weak Wall Street start. Financial spread betters called London's FTSE 100, FTSE, Paris's CAC-40, FCHI and Frankfurt's DAX, GDAXI to open little changed. .L .EU .N "Any goodwill towards risk assets, probably more so in FX land, could be undone pretty quickly if Ben Bernanke fails to live up to what is expected of him and the Fed board today," said Chris Weston, trader at IG Markets. "Given the good run

of equities and the fall in the USD since June, there is a real possibility (even if we get what we want) that a classic buy-the-rumor, sell-the-fact type event plays out," he said.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS was down 0.1 percent after swinging in a plus and minus 0.2 percent range. Australian .AXJO and Shanghai shares .SSEC were the worst performers, both dropping 0.4 percent while South Korean shares .KS11 recouped earlier losses to be nearly flat. —Reuters

Health

appear early in life, when toddlers are first encountering solid foods, and about 20 percent of cases go away on their own as a child gets older.

Maria Rinaldi, lead author of the new report and an epidemiologist at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, said estimates of peanut allergy vary because of the way peanut allergy is defined for the purposes of research studies.

Some rely on parents' reports of allergy, which may or may not be validated by a doctor. —Reuters



A vendor sells peanuts at the Voi market, 20 km (12.5 miles) south of Hanoi on 17 April, 2008. —REUTERS

Health

Texas woman approved for first double arm transplants in US

HOUSTON, 13 Sept—A woman in the US state of Texas has been officially added to a hospital list in Boston to become the first in the country to receive double arm transplants above the elbow, media reports said on Wednesday.

Katy Hayes, 43, completed a pre-operative evaluation and has been approved by the review board at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) for the bilateral arm transplant, *The Houston Chronicle* reported, citing hospital officials.

Hayes, a mother with three children from Kingwood, Texas, became a quadruple amputee in 2010 after a life-threatening Group A Streptococcal (GAS) infection invaded her following the birth of her daughter.

BWH is working in collaboration with the New England Organ Bank (NEOB), which will actively search for an appropriate donor for Hayes, the hospital officials said. —Xinhua

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



German Chancellor Angela Merkel (3rd L) and Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Economy Minister Waldemar Pawlak (4th L) cut the ribbon during the opening of the Berlin Air Show in Berlin, Germany, on 11 Sept, 2012. The Berlin Air Show kicked off here on Tuesday with the participation of 1243 exhibitors from 46 countries and regions while some 270 aircrafts will be on display during the six-day show.

XINHUA

Algeria, Kuwait sign agreements on trade, tourism

ALGIERS, 13 Sept—Algeria signed here on Tuesday with Kuwait two agreements on trade and tourism on the second day of the 7th session of Algeria-Kuwait Joint Committee, the official APS news agency reported. APS quoted a source close to the committee as saying that “two agreements on trade and tourism have been signed” by the two parties during the session, co-chaired by Algerian Finance Minister Karim Djoudi and Kuwaiti Minister of Education and Higher Education Nayef Falah Al Hajraf, who is also acting minister of Finance.

Algeria and Kuwait have also decided to set up an investment monitoring committee, in charge of removing obstacles to bilateral investments.

“We will set up a committee in charge of monitoring investments and informing the Algerian and Kuwaiti administrations of all potential problems that could arise,” Djoudi told the APS on the sidelines of the opening session on Monday.

The creation of the committee is part of the main recommendations of the 6th session of the joint committee held in Kuwait in 2010.—Xinhua



People gather at the attack scene in Sanaa, Yemen, on 11 Sept, 2012. Yemen's Defence Minister Mohammed Nasser Ahmed was severely injured in a car bomb attack earlier Tuesday targeting his motorcade, killing 12 people, seven of whom were bodyguards of the minister, said Yemen's interior ministry.—XINHUA

About 500 Boeing workers evacuated from plant outside Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, 13 Sept—Some 500 employees of a sprawling Boeing Co facility in a southern suburb of Philadelphia were evacuated on Tuesday morning after a threat was telephoned to the plant, authorities said.

Damien Mills, a company spokesman, declined to reveal the nature of the threat but said the company immediately notified local police and evacuated the workers — part of the 6,200 employees who make CH-47 Chinook helicopters and the V-22 Osprey aircraft at the facility.

“Regular operations continue at most of the plant,”

he told Reuters. Police were investigating the threat.

He said the evacuated employees are standing in a safe zone in the area of the plant, which is located in Ridley Township, south of Philadelphia in Delaware County. The evacuation comes amid tensions surrounding the anniversary of the 11 September, 2001, attacks, when nearly 3,000 people were killed by airliners hijacked by Islamist militants.

It also coincides with heightened concerns about workplace violence, including an episode in New York last month when a man shot and killed a former co-

worker near the Empire State Building and an incident in suburban New Jersey when an employee shot two co-workers before taking his own life.—Reuters

US city of Houston issues air quality alert for ozone pollution

HOUSTON, 13 Sept—Officials in the US metropolis of Houston on Tuesday issued a pollution warning for some local areas due to dangerous ozone levels. The warning was in place for the areas of Houston, Galveston and Brazoria, according to an online report by *The Houston Chronicle*. The warning was issued because atmospheric conditions are favourable for increased ozone pollution in the region, the newspaper said. Ozone is an extremely reactive gas molecule that is the primary ingredient of smog air pollution and is very harmful to breathe. Ozone attacks lung tissue by reacting chemically with it. Elevated levels of ozone can act as a lung irritant. Young people and the elderly, as well as those with chronic respiratory conditions such as asthma and emphysema, should avoid exposure. The American Lung Association ranks Houston No 8 among the most ozone-polluted US cities. A new local website was launched in August this year for people to track ozone pollution down to the neighbourhood level in this city of over 2.1 million.—Xinhua

Smoke from Idaho wildfire poses health risk-officials

SALMON, 13 Sept—Smoke from a massive Idaho wildfire posed a health risk to a small mountain town that was the staging area for firefighters battling the blaze, health officials said on Tuesday.

Government air monitors showed pollution levels peaked in the hazardous zone on Monday night as the Mustang Complex fire, north of Salmon in east-central Idaho, poured thick smoke into a community that has coped with poor air for nearly seven weeks. “I think we all have to consider it a crisis at this point,” said Jim Vannoy,

programme manager for environmental health education and assessment with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

The lightning-sparked blaze that has raged since late July is one of several large fires in the West.

Idaho's Mustang Complex in the Salmon-Challis National Forest grew to nearly 300,000 acres on Tuesday as firefighters braced to defend homes in two small communities. About 400 residences were ordered evacuated on Sunday.

In neighbouring Washington state, 100 smaller

wildfires from the Washington-Oregon line to just west of Spokane and north to the Canadian border charred 80,000 acres, threatening scores of homes, officials said.

In Idaho, relief from the smoke was not expected any time soon. The smoke contains noxious gases like carbon monoxide and fine particles that can drive deep into the lungs and aggravate or cause respiratory or heart ailments.

Public health experts said research is limited on the long-term effects of wildfire smoke because the exposure usually

is concentrated in remote, sparsely populated areas.

“In general, the thoughts are that the health effects will be resolved because the events are, at most, weeks in duration,” said Joel Kaufman, professor of environmental and occupational health at the University of Washington. Janet Nelson, local emergency services coordinator, said she was fielding reports of children coughing to the point of vomiting, health workers complaining of fatigue and scores of people with persistent headaches.

Reuters

Wildfire

The 68 people drifting in a small boat are rescued by crew members of Spanish Armada Vessel “Relampago”, at the Gulf of Aden, the Indian Ocean, on 10 Sept, 2012. The Relampago participates in the “Atalanta” operation of the European Union against piracy in nearby waters of Somalia since 17 Aug, 2012.—XINHUA



West Nile virus toll grows to eight in US state of Oklahoma

HOUSTON, 13 Sept—Eight people have died from West Nile virus in the US state of Oklahoma so far this year, the state health department said on Tuesday.

The latest fatality was a man older than 65 who lived in Tulsa County, according to a release from the department.

Of the confirmed deaths so far, two were in Oklahoma County, three in Tulsa

County, one in Seminole County, and the remaining two in Carter County.

This year Oklahoma has broken its record for the most confirmed cases of West Nile virus. A total of 127 West Nile cases have so far been confirmed by the state health department.

Oklahoma previously reported a record 107 West Nile infections in 2007. Nine people in the state died from

the virus that year.

This year has also witnessed the worst outbreak of West Nile nationally since the virus was discovered in the United States in 1999, according to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. So far there have been 1,993 cases reported nationwide.

Texas, the worst-hit state in the current outbreak, has about half of the nation's

deaths from the illness. The state has confirmed 48 deaths related to West Nile virus so far this year.

First identified in Uganda in 1937, West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne illness that leads to serious neurological disease in some cases. Its symptoms include sudden onset of fever, headache, nausea, dizziness and muscle weakness.

Xinhua

US

Death in Vegas sends shockwaves Down Under

LAS VEGAS, 13 Sept—The mysterious death of a young footballer outside a Las Vegas casino has cast a shadow over the Australian Football League finals series and prompted soul-searching among clubs about their

responsibilities for players.

The body of John McCarthy, a 22-year-old midfielder for Port Adelaide Power, was found on the driveway of the Flamingo hotel early on Sunday morning.

McCarthy had become separated from a group of team mates partying in the Nevada gambling mecca, a popular holiday destination for Australian Rules players keen to let their hair down after a bruising season of the indigenous football code.

The player called his girlfriend and sounded distressed and disoriented after losing his companions, and spoke of heading to the airport to get a flight home, a Port club spokesman confirmed in Adelaide on Tuesday. Hours after the call, he was pronounced dead in a medical trauma unit, having fallen nine meters from a roof of the Flamingo casino.

Reuters

Air Pollution

Cuba willing to discuss case of jailed US citizen

HAVANA, 13 Sept — The Cuban government said on Wednesday it was open to discuss with US officials the case of jailed American contractor Alan Gross, who is serving a 15-year sentence in Cuba for allegedly aiding anti-government forces.

Cuban officials said they were expecting a response from Washington regarding Gross, who was imprisoned in Havana after being found with satellite communications equipment purportedly destined for anti-Castro groups on the island. "Cuba

reiterates its willingness to have dialog with the government of the United States to find a solution to Mr Gross' case," Josefin Vidal, the Cuban foreign ministry's director of US affairs, said on Wednesday, adding "we are still waiting for an answer." Cuba's announcement came in the wake of statements made by Gross's wife, Judy, after visiting her husband last weekend and finding him in frail health.

"He has lost 47.7 kilos and developed degenerative arthritis and a mass behind

his right shoulder blade," she said in a statement issued by the defence counsel representing her husband. Havana confirmed Mrs Gross had visited her husband on three occasions, but the Foreign Ministry insisted that he is in a "normal" condition. "Mr Gross' state of health remains normal and he regularly exercises vigorously," the statement said. Gross was arrested in December 2009 at Havana's international airport, while trying to bring in telecommunications equipment banned

in Cuba.

The Cuban Supreme Court sentenced him 15 years in prison in 2011, on charges of violating "the independence and security of the Cuban State." The US government said that Gross was hired to deliver communications equipment to the Jewish community on the island to provide them with Internet access. But according to Cuban officials, the community already had official Internet access long before Gross began making trips to the island. — *Xinhua*

CUBA



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (L) talks with soldiers during visiting an Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) Golani Brigade exercise in the Golan Heights on 11 Sept, 2012.

XINHUA

Afghans seek shelter in Dubai ahead of

AFGHANISTAN

pullout

DUBAI/KABUL, 13 Sept — Not long ago, Mohammed Daoud was making good money hiring out halls for wedding parties thrown by a new class of Afghan war entrepreneurs. Today, he is using some of the profits to buy a \$160,000 apartment nestled amid the skyscrapers and shopping malls of Dubai. Daoud sees his 27th-floor bolt-hole as both a canny investment and the ultimate insurance policy against the darkest scenarios he can envisage for his homeland when the bulk of foreign forces leave.

"Nobody knows what's going to happen after 2014," he told *Reuters* in Kabul. "If something happens with the security situation here, I can take my family. We feel safe in Dubai." Wealthy Afghans have sharply increased the pace of investment in property in the Gulf Emirate, motivated by a mix of hard-headed commercial calculations and more nebulous security fears sparked by the drawdown. Afghan buyers spent 220 million dirhams (\$60.7 million) on property in Dubai in the first six months of this year, a

27 percent increase compared with the same period in 2011, according to Dubai government data obtained by *Reuters*. Some are spending up to 20 million dirhams on shopping sprees for multiple villas, while many buy million-dollar homes in cash, dealers say.

The growth outpaced a 21 percent rise in total property transactions in Dubai by both local and foreign investors in the same period. The interest was driven in part by a steep decline in prices in the Emirate's once white-hot property market. The figures will make troubling reading for Western allies struggling to convince an uneasy Afghan population the transition will not be a prelude to international abandonment or an escalation in fighting with the Taliban.

Haji Obaidullah Sader Khail, chairman of the Afghan-Dubai Business Council, said the true scale of Afghan investment could be four times higher than the data suggests because many transactions may not have been registered. "I know people who have bought 15 to 20 villas," he said. According to the official figures, the number of properties Afghans bought in Dubai jumped to 114 in the first half compared to 76 in the same period in 2011.

Reuters



An aerial view of The Palm Jumeirah is seen in Dubai, on 31 Aug, 2012. — *REUTERS*

AFGHANISTAN

15 Taliban militants killed in Afghanistan within 24 hours

KABUL, 13 Sept — Military operations carried out by the Afghan police, army and the NATO-led coalition forces have claimed the lives of 15 Taliban militants in different Afghan provinces within the past 24 hours, authorities said on Thursday.

"Afghan National Police (ANP), Afghan army and intelligence agency in collaboration with the coalition forces launched 13 joint cleanup operations in Kapisa, Baghlan, Jowzjan, Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan, Wardak, Ghazni, Khost, Paktika and Helmand provinces over the past 24 hours," the Afghan Interior Ministry said in a statement issued here. "As a result of these operations, 15 armed Taliban were killed, four

wounded and 10 others were arrested by the ANP," the statement said, adding that the joint forces also found and seized weapons and explosive during the above raids.

The statement did not say whether there were any casualties on the side of security forces. However, the Taliban insurgent group, which announced the launching of an annual spring offensive from 3 May against Afghan and NATO forces, has not made comments yet. Afghan forces and some 130,000 NATO-led coalition troops have recently intensified cleanup operations against Taliban and other militants throughout the country.

Xinhua

Israel 2nd-most educated of OECD member states

ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, 13 Sept — Israel has the second-highest percentage of 25 to 64-year-old people attending higher education among Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) member states, according to a just-released report. The report, "Education at a Glance 2012" released at the start of the school year, revealed that Canada led the list with 51 percent of the same demographic graduating from an institution of higher education.

Japan trailed Israel at 45 percent, and the United States at 42 percent, according to the report, quoted by the *Ma'ariv* daily. 50 percent of Israeli women have academic

degrees, trailing Canada's 56 percent; both are far above average, vis a vis the OECD country average of 32 percent. Israel joined Finland, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Portugal, Slovenia and the United Kingdom with an over 90 percent secondary education graduation rate, according to *Israel National News*.

However, on the negative side of the equation, Israel was noted as having the fourth highest number of pupils per classroom, 28 in grade school and 30 in high school. While Israel falls below the member state average in investment in education, per student — the United States, for example,

spends more than 2.5 times as much per student — Israeli investment came out above average, when viewed from the standpoint of overall government budgeting.

Meanwhile, numbers from the Central Bureau of Statistics say that the Education Ministry provides support for just a third of school dropouts — some eight percent of students in each grade, according to the *Haaretz* daily. The Ministry's Youth Advancement Units, which aid students who have left school, reported 10,232 dropouts in the 2011-2012 school year, down from 28,176 in the previous year, according to internal figures. — *Xinhua*

Five killed as blast hits vehicle in NW

PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD, 13 Sept — At least five people were killed as a blast hit a vehicle in Pakistan's northwest Landi Kotal area close to the Afghan border on Thursday morning, reported local media *Express*.

The blast took place at about 8:30 am local time when a roadside planted remote-controlled bomb hit a vehicle in the Zalkha Khel area of Landi Kotal, a main town in the country's northwest area of Khyber Agency, said the

report. Details about the bombing attack are not immediately available as it occurred in the remote areas close to the Afghan border. In another development, a

mortar fired from unknown location hit a house in the Akka Khel area of Khyber Agency earlier this morning, killing four people and injuring two others.

Xinhua

Dubai has world's tallest residential tower completed

UAE

DUBAI, 13 Sept — The 414-meter high Princess Tower in the Dubai Marina district is from now on ready to accommodate the first tenants, real estate developer Tameer said on Wednesday. "With the flourishing sophistication of the United Arab Emirates' real estate market and immense demand for more unique and exclusive developments, Tameer ventured into building state-of-the-art projects such as Princess Tower," said Tameer's President Federico Tauber on the occasion of the delivery of the tower.

Earlier this year, the tower was officially recognized as the World's Tallest Residential Building by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat and the Guinness World Records. Dubai also harbours the world's largest office and residential mixed-used building, the 828-meter high Burj Khalifa, developed by state-owned Emaar Properties and named after the UAE president.

Tameer's Princess Tower consists of 763 individual units, including 1, 2, 3 bedrooms and penthouses, and is supported by 957 parking bays, while 8 retail shops located on ground level offer shopping convenience. The 97th multifunction floor features a recreational area where residents can enjoy a 360 degree panorama of the Marina, the man-made Palm Jumeira and Dubai's main artery Sheikh Zayed Road. — *Xinhua*



Afghan soldiers stand guard at the site of a suicide bombing in Kunduz Province, north of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 10 Sept, 2012. A suicide bombing rocked Kunduz city in northern Kunduz Province on Monday, leaving a dozen people killed and injured, a local official said. — *XINHUA*

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 14 September, 2012

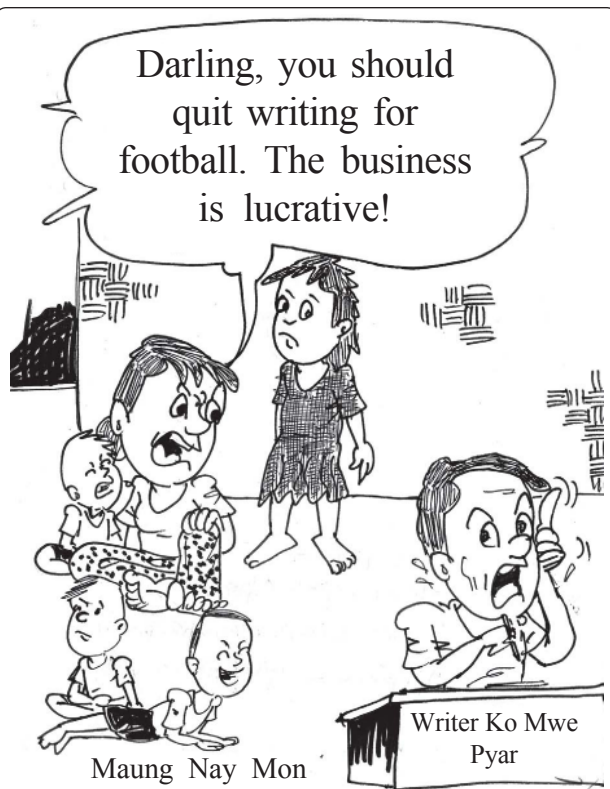
Towards a green city

The concept of Green City had a gradual start in the late 1800s. 'The Green Paper on the Urban Development' published in 1990 has been considered as a 'milestone' document in promoting sustainable city projects as a solution to global environmental role. After the earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 2 to 14 June 1992, different terms, including sustaining cities, sustainable cities, sustainable urbanism, green city, eco-towns, eco districts and eco-cities, have tried to reduce environmental impacts on the cities and to achieve sustainable development.

With the rapid development of science and technology, the world is now facing the challenges such as environmental degradation and pollution. Environmental degradation has the great impacts not only on people but also on our future generation. It is assumed that urbanization mostly causes environmental degradation. Excessive tapping of natural resources, use of energy, excessive use of water, disposal of sewage and drainages and carbon emission can cause severe damages to the environment.

So, we need to set up Green Urbanism that can equalize human beings and environment. Sustainable development of urban areas is of great importance. As a vast majority of world population is living in urban areas, urban development programme has become a first priority for every government. With the increasing number of world population, urbanization of developed and developing countries had rapidly developed.

To establish Green cities, basic infrastructures such as public transportation, energy-saving buildings, water consumption and litters disposal system are to be built. Establishment of green cities also includes the construction of new cities and upgrading of current cities into the environmental-friendly ones. In addition, the governments need to persuade their citizens to take energy-saving practices.



Chief Justice of Union receives Japanese Minister of Justice

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept— Japanese Minister of Justice Mr Makoto Taki and party met with local people there. Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo received Mr Makoto Taki and party at the hall of the Supreme Court of the Union, here, at 9 am today. Also present at the call

were Supreme Court Judges of the Union U Tha Htay, U Soe Nyunt, U Mya Thein and Director-General of the Supreme Court of the Union U Sein Than.

MNA

Investigation Commission probes into incident in Rakhine State

YANGON, 13 Sept— Members of Investigation Commission visited relief camps in wards and villages from the conflict-affected townships in Rakhine State.

On 8 September, Chairman of Investigation Commission Dr Myo Myint, secretary Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing and members toured the houses incinerated in Ywanyar Village and Apaukwa model Village in Kyauktaw Township and reconstruction of houses in Ale ward in MraukU Township, and met with townselders.

The following day, they met with officials and local people in Yathedaung, Kutaung model Village and Anaukpyin Village and enquired about the availability of sound facts and evidences regarding the real cause of the incident.

At the meetings, Commission Chairman Dr Myo Myint said that local people were urged to uncover the truth. The commission has already guaranteed that they would be out of danger for that. The commission will do the best in all aspects for the State's interest. To accomplish the commission's objectives, all are urged to lend a hand.

Secretary Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing said that the purpose of their visit aimed at finding a solution in cooperation with local people. It is no doubt that the commission would carry out for State's interest and national interest. All are urged to give sound evidence to the commission. Only when the commission gets those evidence, could the real cause of incident in Rakhine State be exposed. And then, the commission could give suggestions on Rakhine State's economic and social development.

On 10 September, Commission members proceeded to Mawrawady model Village in Maungtaw Township. They paid homage to Sayadaw Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vijaya of Mawrawady Monastery and

opened at Basic Education High School in Maungtaw and at Aungmyay Bawdi Sasana Yeiktha Alotawpyae Monastery. At Myoma Kanyintan Thottan Mosque, they greeted Islam religious members.

They held meetings with townselders at Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner's office, the members raised

office. On 12 September morning, the commission members reached in Sintatmaw Village in Pauktaw Township, where they greeted Islam religious members who replied their questions.

At the meeting with officials from Pauktaw

office. On 12 September morning, the commission members reached in Sintatmaw Village in Pauktaw Township, where they greeted Islam religious members who replied their questions.

At the meeting with officials from Pauktaw



Members of Investigation Commission raising queries to rural people in Ywanyar Village in Kyauktaw Township.—MNA

queries on current conditions of the region, reported by Head of the border region immigration inspection control headquarters U Aung Naing Oo.

On their arrival of Shweyinaye model Village, they looked into progress of reconstructions at the places that houses were incinerated and then greeted the rural people after viewing the relief camps. And they also greeted Islam religious members in Nyaungchaung Village.

On 11 September morning, the members arrived to meet rural people at the relief camp temporarily

Commissioner's Office, with Islam religious group leaders at Maungtaw Township Administrator's Office, with officials concerned from NGO and INGOs at Aungyeiktha Hall of the fourth-mile.

After that, the commission members proceeded to their inspection tour of Bawdi Linkaya Dhamma Beikman Monastery where they paid homage to Dhamma Beikman Sayadaw and met with rural people.

They inspected Buthidaung in a car after meeting with Islam religious group leaders at the township administrator's

Township and townselders at the meeting hall of the township administrator's office, Commission Chairman Dr Myo Myint and Commission Secretary Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing extended greetings and raised queries.

They looked into progress of temporal relocations and the places where houses were incinerated in Baone Chaungwasu Ward in Pauktaw.

For companion of the commission, State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Htein Linn and officials concerned accompanied the commission members.

MNA

Uncensored DVDs, VCDs seized in Latha Township

YANGON, 13 Sept— Acting on tip-off, a squad led by SIP Zaw Min Kyu of Latha Township Police Station searched Maung Maung Oo, 25, son of U Hla Aye on Maha Bandoola Street in Ward 4 of Latha

Township at 8.20 pm on 9 September.

The squad seized 182 DVDs of uncensored foreign dramas and K 3000 of proceeds from Maung Maung Oo.

Likewise, a team

searched Ma Moe Moe Khaing, 26, daughter of U Tin Aye in Latha Township and seized 290 VCDs and K 7000 of proceeds.

Action was taken against them under law.

Myanma Alin

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and wife host dinner to delegation led by Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of PRC and wife



Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Mr Wu Bangguo speaks words of thanks at the dinner.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and wife hosted a dinner to a delegation led by Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People Republic of China Mr Wu Bangguo and wife, who are in Myanmar on a goodwill visit, at the Thabin Hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw of Hluttaw Complex here at 7.15 am today.

First, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann extended greetings, and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of PRC Mr Wu Bangguo spoke words of thanks.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Hluttaw representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw and officials from the Hluttaw Office. The visiting PRC guests were accompanied by Ambassador of the PRC to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Li Junhua and officials from the Chinese embassy.

After the dinner, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and wife and Mr Wu Bangguo and wife exchanged gifts and presented gifts to the artistes who presented entertainment.

Next, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and wife, Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa and party had a documentary photo taken together with Mr Wu Bangguo and wife and party.

MNA

News in Brief

Ngamoyeik Bridge (Parami) ready to be used

Motor cars are allowed to pass through new Ngamoyeik Bridge (Parami) as of 12 noon on 12 September. The bridge is linking South Okkalapa Township and Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

Development of Kyaikkhami inspected

Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint inspected completion of passage way to Kyaikkhami Yayle Pagoda in Thanbyuzayat Township on 9 September. He also viewed construction of retaining walls near the view points of the pagoda. The State Chief Minister looked to learning of students at computer pool of Kyonkadat BEHS.

Development, job opportunity discussed

Chief Minister of Kachin State U La John Nyan Hsai explained development of Kachin State, job opportunity for local people and economic development at the city hall in Myitkyina on 11 September. He heard reports on plans for industrial and trade zones in Waingmaw and Bhamo townships, and power and water supply plans presented by officials.

Performing Arts Competitions commences in Bago

Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win addressed opening of Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions of Bago Region at the city hall in Bago on 12 September. Altogether 293 contestants from four districts are taking part in the competitions.

Management Course of FSD opens

Township Level Management Course 2/2012 of Fire Services Department was opened at its head office in Mayangon Township on 10 September. Altogether 28 officer trainees are attending four week course from 10 September to 5 October.

Relief aids donated to monks, flood victims

Presiding Nayaka Bhaddanta Nimala of Nanda Aungmyay Monastery of Leikpyagan Taik in Bahan Township together with disciples donated Waso robes and other offertories to members of the Sangha from 15 monasteries and clothes, medicines and stationery to over 100 older persons and 810 students in Dedaye Township on recently.

Workshop on finance, monetary assistance

UMFCCI and Daiwa PI Partners jointly organized workshop on monetary assistance for businesses at UMFCCI in Yangon on 11 September. Resource persons submitted papers and replied to queries raised by attendees.

Religious for Peace (Myanmar) introduced

YANGON, 13 Sept—"All the religious leaders proclaim that Mettā – "Loving-Kindness" plays the vital role for World Peace and therefore they all encourage their followers to generate and nourish it among the humanity. All the religious followers who pay deep regard to their respective religious teachings are trying to create Peaceful World by the power of loving-kindness," said Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung at the Introduction to Religious for Peace (Myanmar) held at Chatrium Hotel this morning.



Introduction to Religious for Peace (Myanmar) in progress.

MNA

He is saying that loving-kindness really produces mutual



CASH DONATED: In memory of late father U Lein, Ko Soe Moe Naing-Ma Sandi Lay Lwin and family of Nweni Road in Ahlon Township of Yangon Region donated K 300,000 to medical fund of Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently. Executive of the Home U Kyaing Myint accepts the donation.—NLM

understanding and sympathetic feeling. Therefore, it is obvious that there may arise peace and happiness in the corners of globe where Mettā prevails. He firmly believes that those who believe loving-kindness may create peaceful world.

General-Secretary of International Multi-religious Peaceful Association Dr William F. Vendley explained the matters of holding the conference.

Permanent Observer Ambassador Ufuk Gokeen of UN Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has already visited to Rakhine State. The issues arisen from the State is not totally based on religion but racism and therefore all religious leaders need to join hands to solve

the problem. The OIC would give necessary assistance and believes that cooperation among villagers and people do work well such kind of issues.

The religious leaders from International Multi-religious Peaceful Association and Religious for Peace (Myanmar) held discussion on peace.

There are 90 member countries in International Multi-religious Peaceful Association. The Religious for Peace (Myanmar) was organized in June, 2012 including four religious leaders namely Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism and it is also the 91st country of International Multi-religious Peaceful Association.

MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Singapore's Permanent Secretary of Defence Chiang Chie Foo (3rd R, rear) and Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) General Ma Xiaotian (4th L, rear) attend a signing ceremony of the fourth China-Singapore defence policy dialogue in Singapore, on 11 Sept, 2012. XINHUA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Three dead in Polish bus crash in eastern France

PARIS, 13 Sept—Three were killed and many others were critically injured on Tuesday as a Polish bus crashes at A36 highway in the eastern French city of Mulhouse, local media reported.

The bus was carrying 68 people, including 65 passengers and three staff when it crashed on the motoway which links France to Germany, French radio RFI said on its website.

The AFP quoted French officials as saying that no children were on board. A passenger said the bus driver suddenly swerved while emerging from the exit lane and the bus was found lying on its side in a ditch. Two emergency rescue services helicopters were deployed at the scene.

The driver was then taken custody by French police and his first tests for alcohol were negative.

No other vehicles were involved. The owner of the bus, Polish travel agency Sindbad which has a fleet of coaches, had chartered it to another company Albatros that ran buses to the French cities of Mulhouse, Cannes, Toulon, Lyon, Marseille and Nice.—Xinhua

Big fire destroys forest, villages in western Turkey

ISTANBUL, 13 Sept—Nearly 500 hectares of forest have been burned down and a number of villages have been evacuated in the Kaz Mountains in the Havran district of Turkey's western province of Balikes on Tuesday.

The semi-official Anatolia news agency reported that the big forest fire is continuing to spread in the mountains and that Olive groves and farm lands have also been affected by the fire.

Governor Ahmet Turhan said they were struggling to bring the fire under control because of the strong winds.

However, the regional director of forestry Recep Ates said "firefighters have begun to respond to the fire effectively" as the wind's speed has started to decrease. "There have been some critical points which were dangerous for us, but for now the situation does not look too bad," he said. The cause of the fire is still unknown, but according to official estimates, a farmland blaze could be the source.—Xinhua

Forest fires hit vast area in Portugal

LISBON, 13 Sept—Over 73,000 hectares of forest, an area nine times the size of Portuguese capital Lisbon, have been destroyed during the first eight months of this year, said an official report released on Tuesday.

The report, conducted by the country's Institute for Conservation of Nature and Forests, showed that between 1 Jan and 31 Aug this year 73,055 hectares of forest burned, up by 81 percent from the 40,146 hectares that were destroyed in the same period of last year.

Meanwhile, a total of 16,168 forest fires were recorded in the first eight months this year, 1,218 more than in the same period last year. In August alone, there were 2,764 forest fires, in which 5,215 hectares burned. One giant blaze at Tavira, Algarve, a southern region of Portugal, which broke out on 18 July, ravaged 21,437 hectares of forest—some 29 percent of the total area destroyed. The report noted that drought in spring contributed to the increase in the number of forest fires.—Xinhua



Suspect Jesus "El Mamito" Rejon (C) is presented by the police to the media in Mexico City on 4 July, 2011. REUTERS

Small plane crashes in Russia killing 10

MOSCOW, 13 Sept—A small propeller plane crashed in Russia's far east on Wednesday killing 10 of the 14 people on board, Russia's local emergency services said.

The Russian-design Antonov An-28 plane flown by two pilots was taking 12 passengers from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, the provincial capital of Kamchatka, to the northern village of Palana when it crashed.

Heavy storm clouds and bad weather may have brought down the plane, a local air traffic control source told Interfax. The agency said one child was among the dead. "Ten bodies were found at the scene of the crash and four injured passengers were being readied to be airlifted to the hospital," a spokeswoman for the local emergency services said.

Reuters

Alaska fisherman survives 26 hours floating in fish crate

ANCHORAGE, 13 Sept—An Alaska fisherman survived for a day floating on frigid ocean waters in a plastic fish crate after his boat sank and said he kept up his spirits by singing.

Ryan Harris, 19, told the local newspaper in Sitka, Alaska, that he sang songs like "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" to keep himself awake through the night as the fishing crate bobbed on the waves.

Harris told the Sitka Sentinel that he gave himself a "pep talk," saying for hours on end: "I'm Ryan Hunter Harris and I'm not going to die here." Harris and his fishing partner, boat skipper Stonie Huffman, went into the water late on Friday when their 28-foot vessel sank off Sitka, according to the US Coast Guard.

Huffman found a

Five killed, five injured in attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 Sept—Five people were killed and five security members wounded on Tuesday in separate gunfire and bomb attacks in central and northern Iraq, the police said.

In Baghdad, Brigadier General, Raad Nu'man, a police chief was killed when gunmen using silenced weapons broke into his house in Um al-Maalif district in southwestern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of

anonymity.

In the west of the Iraqi capital, gunmen raided the house of Lieutenant Colonel, Mejbil Meshaal al-Jumaili, the chief of the anti-terror unit in the town of Garma near the city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, killing his son, his brother and one of his relatives, a local police source anonymously told Xinhua.

Al-Jumaili himself escaped the attack unharmed, as he was not at home at the



A rescuer prepares to carry out rescue operation at the Guba Coal Mine in Longchang Township of Fuquan City, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 12 Sept, 2012.—XINHUA

time of the attack, the source said, adding that one of al-Jumaili's bodyguards was also injured.

In a separate incident, two roadside bombs went off in a quick succession near a joint army and police patrol in the town of Saqlawiyah, some 20 km northeast of Fallujah, wounding three soldiers and a policeman, the source said.

In Iraq's northern province of Nineveh, gunmen using pistols fitted with silencers attacked a police checkpoint in the central part of the provincial capital of Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad, killing one policeman, a provincial police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Violence in Iraq has ebbed from its climax in 2006 and 2007, when sectarian conflicts pushed the country to the brink of a civil war, but tensions and attacks are still common across the country. Xinhua

Mexico extradites senior Zetas drug cartel member to US

MEXICO CITY, 13 Sept—Mexico extradited to the United States on Tuesday one of the founders of the brutal Zetas drug cartel who had been linked to the killing of a US customs agent last year. The Mexican attorney general's office said that former soldier Jesus Rejon, known as Z-7, was handed over to face trial at a federal court in Washington on drug-trafficking charges.

Rejon was captured in July 2011 after being sought in connection with the roadside shooting of two US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, one of whom died.

The attorney general's office did not mention the February 2011 killing in its statement on the extradition.

The shooting of the ICE agents sparked anger in the United States and prompted a round of finger-pointing

between Mexican and US politicians over the failure to curb drug-related violence that has plagued Mexico in recent years.

The Zetas have been blamed for some of the worst atrocities to hit Mexico during this period. Turf wars between drug gangs and their clashes with security forces have claimed more than 55,000 lives over the past six years.

Rejon was a founding member of the Zetas, a gang made up originally of army deserters at the end of the 1990s and initially worked as enforcers for the Gulf Cartel, before splitting from their employers in 2010.

President Felipe Calderon's government has tried to turn up the heat on the Zetas and recent in-fighting among gang members suggests it may be rupturing, threatening a new wave of bloodletting.—Reuters

REGIONAL

PHILIPPINES

Philippine soldiers capture two militants involved in Dos Palmas kidnapping

ZAMBOANGA CITY, 13 Sept — Philippine soldiers captured two Abu Sayyaf militants allegedly involved in the 2001 Dos Palmas kidnapping, a military official said on Thursday.

According to Lt Col Randolph Cabangbang, spokesman of the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), the suspects were arrested in a raid on Wednesday night in a Bukana village at the southern Philippine province of Zamboanga del Norte. The suspects were identified as Jojo Imam Pai and a certain Aling.

He said the two suspects were involved in the abduction of 20 tourists at the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan province.

The captured suspects were immediately brought to the militant camp for tactical interrogation before they were subsequently turned over to the custody of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Xinhua



ASEAN Energy Ministers and their dialogue countries' counterparts pose for group photos at the 30th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting and related meetings at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 12 Sept, 2012. The 30th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting was held here on Wednesday, aiming at discussing and seeking further cooperation in energy sector.— XINHUA

East Asian librarians call for cooperation in digital era

CULTURE

NANNING, 13 Sept — Library curators from China and other East Asian countries have agreed to strengthen cooperation and promote the sharing of resources amid the boom in electronic media that has posed challenges to traditional libraries.

Chief librarians and representatives from the national libraries of China, the Republic of Korea and 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries signed a proposal at the ongoing China-ASEAN Cultural Forum that kicked off Tuesday in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The curators proposed establishing a long-term cooperative relationship among libraries in these countries so as to share resources, enhance personnel exchanges and boost the quality of library services. With the dawning of the digital era, cooperation and exchanges are more necessary for confronting new challenges, said Zhou Heping, director of the National Library of China, in a keynote speech. "The development of libraries has entered a digital era of information sharing," said Zhao Shaohua, China's vice minister of culture, while addressing the opening ceremony. "China and ASEAN countries should

China says tensions with Japan likely to hurt trade

CHINA

BEIJING, 13 Sept — Rising tension between China and Japan over disputed islands is likely to harm their trade ties, a senior Chinese commerce official said on Thursday. Asia's two largest economies both claim islands in the East China Sea and tensions have flared since Tuesday when Tokyo announced it would purchase disputed islands from a private Japanese owner, an act that Beijing has called a violation of its sovereignty.

Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Jiang Zengwei added to the volley of warnings from Beijing. "With Japan's so-called purchase of the islands, it will be hard to avoid negative consequences for Sino-Japanese economic and trade ties," Jiang told a news briefing. China is Japan's largest trading partner. Jiang hinted that the government saw nothing wrong with peaceful boycotts of Japanese goods. China is a big market for Japanese cars and electronics.

"I still haven't seen any actions by Chinese consumers in response to the Japanese violation of Chinese territorial sovereignty, but if we do see them expressing their stance and views in a reasonable way, I think that would be their right." A Nissan Motor Co Ltd executive said last week that the tensions are affecting business with China. The row is the latest episode in troubled relations between the two neighbours. Their long-running territorial dispute erupted again last month when Japan detained a group of Chinese activists who had landed on the disputed islands, known as Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese. On Thursday, at least 100 protesters gathered at the Japanese embassy in Beijing, watched by police.

Reuters



A sculptor works on a semi-finished creation of Jia Baoyu and his cousin Lin Daiyu, tragedy figures in Chinese literature, at a sand sculpture exhibition in Putuo District, Zhoushan, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 12 Sept, 2012. The 15-day exhibition kicked off on 10 Sept, 2012, involving some 35 sculptors from home and abroad.— XINHUA

strengthen substantial cooperation on library development as part of regional cultural cooperation."

Ngian Lek Choh, director of the National Library of Singapore, said the library alliance will also help bring vitality to cultural heritage. "It's like when family members get together, they exchange information, opinions and experience. Meanwhile, they learn from each other and grow together," she said.

Xinhua

Australian man detained in counter-terror raids

Australia

CANBERRA, 13 Sept — Australian police have detained a 23-year-old man, who they said on Thursday they expect to charge under counter-terrorism laws, after raids on about a dozen homes during which an unspecified number of weapons were seized. The raids were conducted by state and national police on 11 homes in Melbourne, Australia's second-largest city and the capital of southern Victoria state, on Wednesday.

Computer equipment, including a memory stick containing violent material, was seized along with a

number of registered firearms and fake weapons, police said. Police said the man was expected to be charged with "collecting or making documents likely to facilitate terrorist acts", an offence under Australia's criminal code. The maximum sentence for the charge is 15 years in jail. "I would like to reassure people that we have not identified any immediate threats that pose immediate concerns to the safety of the community," Victoria Police Assistant Commissioner Steve Fontana said in a statement.

Australia, a staunch US ally, has gradually tightened

its national security laws since the 11 Sept, 2001, airliner attacks on the United States. Under those security laws, police can detain a person for up to seven days for questioning. The Australian Federal Police declined to comment on the man's ethnic or religious background. The Islamic Council of Victoria said the police had briefed members of the Muslim community about the raids. "The last thing we want is any kind of terrorist attack anywhere in the world, let alone in Australia, and it's very reassuring that the authorities are being very vigilant in keeping our community safe," Sherene Hassan of the Islamic Council of Victoria told Australian Broadcasting Corp radio.

Australia has never suffered a major peacetime attack on home soil, although 88 Australians were killed in the 2002 nightclub bombings on the Indonesian resort island of Bali and Australia's embassy in Jakarta was bombed in 2004. Australian authorities have disrupted four major plots since 2000, with 23 people convicted of terrorism offences.

Reuters



Chinese Naval Training Vessel "Zheng He" is pictured after its arrival at the Muara Port of Brunei on 11 Sept, 2012. Chinese Naval Training Vessel "Zheng He" arrived at Muara Port of Brunei Tuesday morning, commencing its friendly visit to the country for the next four days.— XINHUA

Indonesia among world's top rank with 60 mln smokers

JAKARTA, 13 Sept — A recent survey reveals that Indonesians are some of the top smokers in the world with about 60 million people or 34.8 percent of total adults being active smokers, local media reported on Wednesday. The "Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS): Indonesia Report 2011" shows that 67.4 percent of male Indonesians aged 15 and over years are smokers, confirming that the tobacco epidemic is still rife in the country.

Health Minister Nafsiah Mboi said on Tuesday she was anxious about the fact that over

67 percent of adult males are smokers. That's an increase from 53.9 percent in the 1995 National Social Economic Survey. "This figure shows that we have failed to protect our own people," she told a discussion as part of the survey release. The number of female smokers also increased to 2.7 percent in 2011 from 1.7 percent in 1995. Nafsiah told participants that the Indonesian government was embarrassed to hear the findings.

"It means we have been defeated by the tobacco industry. This is

unacceptable," she said as quoted by the Jakarta Post. Apart from the increase in the number of smokers, GATS also emphasized the high number of passive smokers, nonsmokers exposed to secondhand smoke. 133.3 million or almost 80 percent of adults are exposed to smoke at home. Each adult smoker consumes an average of almost 13 cigarettes each day, 31.5 percent of which are kretek (clove cigarettes). Meanwhile, 2.9 million people use smokeless tobacco products.

Xinhua



Moon cakes are sold in a shop of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 12 Sept, 2012, for the upcoming traditional Mid-Autumn Festival, which will fall on 30 Sept this year.— XINHUA

A d v e r t i s e m e n t

**Centre for Human Resource Development
(Yangon University of Foreign Languages)
Invitation for Application to
Foreign Language Courses**

The Centre for Human Resource Development (Yangon University of Foreign Languages) will open evening courses on Chinese, English, French, French (Translation and Interpretation), German, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Thai.
Commencement date of course : 1-10-2012
Commencement date for : 26-9-2012
submission of applications
Closing date for applications : 28-9-2012
(For English language the day on which the targeted number of applicants is reached)
Application to be submitted to : Yangon University of Foreign Languages
Days on which classes held : Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
Time : 5:20 - 7:00 p.m.
Documents required : Certificate of Matriculation (or) Marks Certificate (or) Degree Certificate (Both Original and copy are required)
Enquiry : Student's Affairs Section, YUFL
Phone : 514372 (Ext-*809)
Application must be submitted in person.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV JASA AMAN VOY NO (1)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JASA AMAN VOY NO (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.9.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: SEALS CO LTD.**
Phone No: 256924/256914

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV TURTLE BAY VOY NO (106)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TURTLE BAY VOY NO (106) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.9.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Croatian photographer Marjan Radovic has a photo taken with his photographs during an underwater exhibition in a swimming pool at the central square in Zagreb, capital of Croatia, on 10 Sept, 2012. Croatian photographer Marjan Radovic, author of the exhibited photographs, organized the underwater exhibition to raise money for orphan kids. With only 20 euro donation, citizens and tourists can dive in and see his works.
XINHUA

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (056)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (056) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.9.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (509)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (509) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.9.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV AN HUA JIANG VOY NO (165)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN HUA JIANG VOY NO (165) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.9.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.**
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

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P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 14 September 2012

Half a billion Android devices activated

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 Sept—
Google on Wednesday
announced that 500 million
devices running on its
Android operating system
have been activated so far.
"Today is a big day for
Android... 500 million devices
activated globally, over 1.3

WILDFIRE

**Washington
state wildfires
prompt
evacuations,
destroy three
homes**

SEATTLE, 13 Sept—Fast-growing wildfires destroyed three homes in Washington state on Wednesday and threatened 350 more buildings as firefighters worked to keep the flames at bay and hundreds of residents prepared to evacuate.
The fires raging in Washington have charred 130,000 acres and the weather could make things worse, officials said. The fires were among a cluster of blazes raging in the US West. "Conditions look horrible," said Paul Perz, the state's assistant fire marshal. "We're anticipating that unstable conditions and winds in eastern Washington will fuel the fires."
The wildfires were sparked by thousands of weekend lightning strikes that ignited more than 150 fires on Monday. Six new fires started on Wednesday. The most menacing of the blazes, located about 140 miles east of Seattle, has spread to 9,500 acres and is threatening about 125 homes. More than 700 residents have been urged to evacuate.
Although 620 firefighters were on the scene, little of the fire was contained, Perz said. "Portions of the town are threatened," said John Kruse, Wenatchee police sergeant. "Right now, we're taking it 12 hours at a time."
Reuters



million added every single day," Hugo Barra, Google Android's director of product management, said in a Google+ post.
In June, Google said 400 million Android devices had been activated and the rate was 1 million per day. Google announced the milestone just before Apple unveiled iPhone 5. The latest smartphone from Apple features a bigger screen and support for LTE network, both of which have been available on smartphones using Android system for more than a year.
According to latest data from research firm IDC, there were four Android phones for every iPhone shipped during the second quarter of this year. It is up from a ratio of 2.5 to 1 during the same period last year.
Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT



A sign is seen outside the entrance of the Jackson family compound in the Encino area of Los Angeles on 22 July, 2012. REUTERS

AEG dropping insurance claim over Michael Jackson death

LOS ANGELES, 13 Sept—Michael Jackson's former concert promoter AEG Live is withdrawing a \$17.5 million insurance claim in the 2009 death of the pop star amid revelations in leaked emails that show company executives were concerned about his stability ahead of his planned London comeback tour.

Attorneys involved in the case denied on Tuesday that AEG Live's move was related to the publication of the leaked emails by the *Los Angeles Times* on 2 September.

Jackson died in June 2009 at age 50 from an overdose of the powerful anesthetic propofol and sedatives. Last year, a Los Angeles jury convicted the "Thriller" singer's

physician, Conrad Murray, of involuntary manslaughter, but heard that Jackson was taking a cocktail of sleep aids and prescription medications.

AEG Live, the concert division of privately-held Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG), had filed a claim seeking a \$17.5 million insurance payment from Lloyd's of London for losses they incurred in up-front costs for Jackson's "This Is It" sell-out shows that were to start in London in July 2009.

Lloyd's later filed a lawsuit against AEG Live in Los Angeles Superior Court, seeking a declaration that the insurance company did not owe the money. Reuters

Patricia Riggen to direct Chilean miner drama

LOS ANGELES, 13 Sept—Patricia Riggen, director of "Under the Same Moon (La Misma Luna)," will slide behind the camera again to tell the incredible true story of the 33 Chilean miners who were rescued after being trapped half a mile below ground for 69 days, *TheWrap* has learned.

The project, currently titled "The 33," will be produced by film veteran Mike Medavoy ("Black Swan," "Shutter Island").

Released in 2007, "Under the Same Moon" told the star of a Mexican boy who struggles to be reunited with his mother in the United States. In addition to "Under the Same Moon," the Mexican-born Riggen has directed the 2011 Disney Channel film "Lemonade Mouth" and "Girl in Progress," a 2012 coming-of-age drama starring Eva Mendes.

Medavoy said Riggen's work on "Under the Same Moon" convinced him she was the right fit for the story of the real-life heroes of the San Jose mine.

"I saw in her film not only her talent but the real humanity and humor that this film needs," Medavoy said in a statement. "Patricia has the heart and sensibility to bring this story to life

in a way that accurately reflects what the miners and their families endured." Riggen and the producers are currently in Chile meeting with the miners.

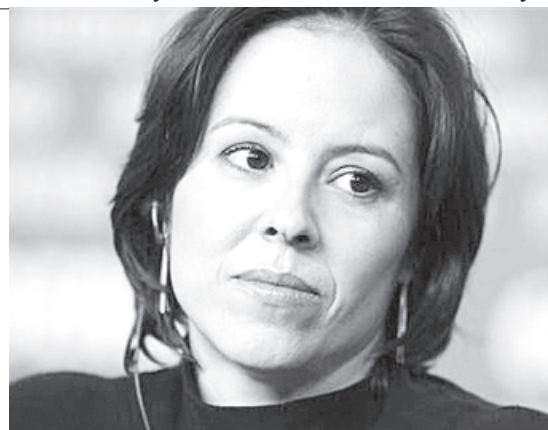
The film will depict the mine's collapse and ongoing rescue efforts, alternating between the miners who are trapped underground and their families and rescuers above. The script was written in collaboration with the miners themselves, and the producers promise the film will include details that have never been made public.

"It's been an extraordinary

statement. "Since their rescue a little less than two years ago, the real story of their incredible survival has gone untold. In their darkest hour, they struggled to maintain their unity. The collapse brought out the best and the worst in them. Ultimately, the human spirit triumphed and all of them came out alive." Medavoy, who lived in Chile for 10 years, secured all 33 of the miners' rights to the story last year along with executive producers Carlos E Lavin and Leopoldo Enriquez.

"The 33" will be shot entirely in

Patricia Riggen, one of the directors of the Mexican movie "Revolucion", listens during a news conference at the Berlinale International Film Festival on 15 February, 2010. REUTERS



experience to meet the miners in person and hear from them the detailed account of their time underground," Riggen said in a

Chile, but will be produced in English. Filming is scheduled to start in January 2013, with the producers eyeing a release that fall.—Reuters

Tom Wilkinson cast in Joel Edgerton thriller "Felony"

LOS ANGELES, 13 Sept—Two-time Oscar nominee Tom Wilkinson has joined the thriller "Felony," starring opposite the previously cast male lead Joel Edgerton, it was announced in Toronto on Saturday by The Solution Entertainment Group.

Wilkinson will play Detective Carl Summer, the lead police investigator in this story about a police officer who runs down a cyclist on the road one night.

Driving home after a celebration drink with his team after the long-awaited bust of a major gang, a decorated police officer (Edgerton) runs a young cyclist off the road. As he gives CPR to the child, fellow officers arrive to take his statement. In a split second decision he tells them a lie about



the accident, which changes all their lives.

The feature film, set to start shooting in late October, will be directed by Matthew Saville from a script by Edgerton.

The Solution Entertainment Group arranged the financing for the film. The company is representing the international rights to the film and is selling the title at the ongoing Toronto International Film Festival. The film will be distributed in Australia and New Zealand by Roadshow Films. CAA is handling US rights.

Reuters

Tom Wilkinson attends the UK premiere of "The Debt" in London, on 21 Sept, 2011. REUTERS

Katie Couric crushes rivals in talk show debut

LOS ANGELES, 13 Sept—Katie Couric won the battle of the new daytime TV talk shows, scoring the highest ratings for any such debut in 10 years. "Katie," the nationally syndicated lifestyle venture from the former CBS news anchor and "Today" show host, crushed the

premieres on Monday of Ricki Lake and "Survivor" host Jeff Probst, as well as the one by comedian Steve Harvey last week, according to early Nielsen ratings.

Featuring interviews with singer Sheryl Crow and Jessica Simpson, "Katie" was first in its

time period in the top TV markets of New York and Los Angeles, and first or second in the 13 other biggest US cities.

Couric's 2.8 household rating was 250 percent higher than that of Lake, and 150 percent higher than Probst's. A single ratings point represents 1 percent of the estimated 115.9 million television households in the United States.

Numbers showing how many millions of viewers tuned in will not be available until next week.

"Katie," distributed by Disney-ABC Television, equaled the daytime talk show debut 10 years earlier of TV therapist Dr Phil McGraw. He launched his "Dr Phil" show in September 2002.—Reuters



Host Katie Couric attends a panel for "Katie" during the Disney/ABC Television Group portion of the Television Critics Association Summer press tour in Beverly Hills, California on 26 July, 2012. REUTERS

Gwyneth Paltrow named best dressed woman by People magazine

LOS ANGELES, 13 Sept—Actress Gwyneth Paltrow was named the "World's Best Dressed Woman" of 2012 by *People* magazine on Wednesday, wowing the celebrity magazine with a simple elegant style that avoids some of fashion's quirkier trends.

The Oscar-winning actress, 39, and wife of Coldplay frontman Chris Martin, headed a list of the year's style mavens that included Prince William's wife Kate, R&B star Rihanna, and the Kardashian family of TV reality show fame.

People said the list was compiled after soliciting input from the celebrity magazine's 42 million readers, its editors and fashion bloggers.

While Oscar-winner Paltrow won the best dressed title, fashion icon Kate Middleton—formally known as the Duchess of Cambridge—was named the woman with the best classic style.

Paltrow's stylist, Elizabeth Saltzman, told *People* that the actress was not a slave to trends. "She doesn't do fringe. She has a uniform. It's simple, not overdone,"

Saltzman said.

Emma Stone, the 23-year-old star of "The Amazing Spider-Man" and "The Help," was chosen as having the best red carpet style, while singer Rihanna was praised for taking the most risks in her fashion choices.

Actresses Jessica Alba (best jeans), Jennifer Lawrence (best under 25s), and Reese Witherspoon (best pregnancy) also made the top 10, along with Australian model Miranda Kerr.

Among men, honors went to actors Andrew Garfield, Brad Pitt, Colin Firth, Robert Pattinson, Chris and Liam Hemsworth and singer Jay-Z.

People also looked back at some of the fashion faux pas of 2012. The magazine recalled an orange lace dress worn with prominent black underwear by pop singer Fergie, and a floral floor-length dress worn by Sarah Jessica Parker that fashion blogger Heather Cocks said made the "Sex and the City" actress look like a cast member of polygamy TV reality show "Sister Wives."—Reuters



Actress Gwyneth Paltrow poses at the gala presentation for the film "Thanks For Sharing" at the 37th Toronto International Film Festival on 8 September, 2012. REUTERS

International Sports

Man United's Kagawa says back injury is not serious

TOKYO, 13 Sept—Japan playmaker Shinji Kagawa has tried to play down a back injury which ruled the Manchester United midfielder out of Tuesday's 1-0 win over Iraq in a World Cup qualifier.

The 23-year-old pulled out of the game in Saitama an hour before kick-off having felt a twinge in his lower back during training the previous day. "I underwent treatment for as long as possible before the match and (Japan coach Alberto Zaccheroni) waited for me," said Kagawa, who joined United for \$21 million in the pre-season.

"I felt a twinge and didn't want to take the risk," added the former Borussia Dortmund midfielder, who watched the Group B game from the stands.

"It's not a serious injury and I don't think it will keep

me out for long. I can walk without any problem but if I put strain on it it still hurts."

Kagawa is set to undergo tests on his return to Old Trafford, where he has made an impressive start to his United career, although he is likely to be a doubt for Saturday's home game against Wigan Athletic in the Premier League.

"I waited until the afternoon to see how his condition was but there's no way I can put a player on the pitch who is not at 100 per cent," said Italian Zaccheroni.

After the weekend encounter United kick off their Champions League campaign at home to Turkey's Galatasaray on 19 September before a trip to fierce rivals Liverpool in the league on 23 September.

Reuters



Japan's Shinji Kagawa (R) watches his teammates from the stand during their 2014 World Cup qualification soccer match against Iraq in Saitama, north of Tokyo, on 11 September, 2012.—REUTERS

I'm focused on winning, not contracts, says Ronaldo

Soccer

MADRID, 13 Sept—Cristiano Ronaldo is concentrating on playing well for Real Madrid and is not agitating to improve the terms of his contract with the Spanish champions, the Portugal forward said on Wednesday.

Arriving back in Madrid after helping his country to World Cup qualifying wins against Luxembourg and Azerbaijan, Ronaldo wrote on his Facebook page it is "now time to return to the club and think only about my club".

He added: "I would like to reaffirm, without being concerned about contracts, that my focus is solely on winning every game and every available trophy with the essential company of my teammates and all madridistas."

Ronaldo dropped a bombshell after Real's match at home to Granada this month when he told reporters he was "sad" for professional reasons, prompting speculation he might be seeking an exit.

The world's most

expensive player, who reportedly earns around 11 million euros a season, had earlier refused to celebrate his two goals in the 3-0 La Liga victory and would not elaborate on the reasons for his sadness. He said only that "those who worked in the club" knew why. Local media have reported he doesn't feel appreciated and wants more cash and fiercely pro-Real sports daily *Marca* said on Tuesday he had asked the club to bump his salary up to a post-tax 15 million euros and extend his contract.—Reuters



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo reacts during their Spanish first division soccer match against Getafe at Coliseum Alfonso Perez stadium in Getafe on 26 August, 2012.—REUTERS

Soccer



Former England striker Michael Owen poses with the Olympic Torch at Battersea dogs home in London, on 23 July, 2012.—REUTERS

LONDON, 13 Sept—Michael Owen used to terrify international defenders and made scoring look easy but the extent to which his career has gone off the boil will be brought into focus on Saturday when he lines up for modest Stoke City.

Just days after his former England colleagues

struggled in a 1-1 draw against Ukraine, Owen, who scored 40 international goals while representing some of Europe's most illustrious clubs, could make his Stoke debut against Manchester City. In his pomp, Owen would have been just the man to find a breakthrough at Wembley, but injuries and a

Serena, Sharapova to join Murray in Brisbane

SYDNEY, 13 Sept—French Open winner Maria Sharapova will join US Open champions Serena Williams and Andy Murray in warming up for next year's Australian Open at the Brisbane International, organizers said on Thursday.

Williams and Murray started their seasons at the tournament this year but Russian Sharapova will be making her first appearance at the event, which takes place at the Queensland Tennis Centre from 31 December to 6 January. "Going into Australia after a long off season you always want to have the best possible matches," the 25-year-old, losing finalist at Melbourne Park this season, said in a news release.

"I tried to put Brisbane



Maria Sharapova

on the map last year but unfortunately couldn't make it out of injury... I have heard so many great things about it."

Williams beat Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka at Flushing Meadows last week to win her 15th grand slam title and was looking forward

Tennis

Scherzer shines as Tigers claw back White Sox

Baseball



Detroit Tigers starting pitcher Max Scherzer

DETROIT, 13 Sept—Starter Max Scherzer was dominant early and the Detroit batters backed him up in the latter stages as the Tigers ate into Chicago's American League Central lead with an 8-6 victory over the White Sox on Wednesday.

Scherzer (16-6) struck out seven, to increase his Major League-leading total to 220, and allowed just one run in six innings to set the tone for Detroit as they pulled within one game of Chicago at the top of the division. "I knew this was the biggest start for me this

season," Scherzer told reporters. "It's September baseball. I wanted the ball in this situation for that very reason." The Tigers have won two-of-three in the series heading into Thursday's finale.

Detroit (75-67) took

Owen begins Stoke career against champions City

waning of his powers have kept him out of England consideration, and he has not represented his country since 2008.

City are aiming to extend their unbeaten start to their Premier League title defence, though next Tuesday's Champions League match against Real Madrid at the Bernabeu could prove a distraction. Owen will hope to forge a traditional little-and-large partnership with Peter Crouch, who scored a wonder goal against City in the corresponding fixture last season and linked up with Owen to good effect when they represented England.

Crouch this week backed Owen, who counts Liverpool, Real Madrid and Manchester United among his former clubs, to force his way back into the international reckoning.

"If he's playing regularly for Stoke and scoring in the Premier League, I don't see why he can't force his way into the England set-up," Crouch said.

City's Manchester neighbours United face Wigan Athletic (1400), but summer signing Robin van Persie, whose hat-trick rescued his team against Southampton in their previous outing, is an injury doubt.

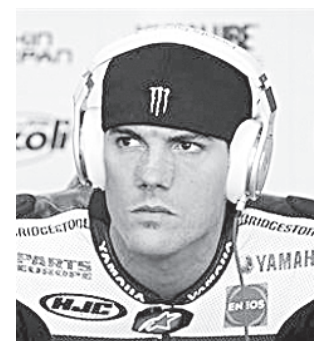
With Wayne Rooney already ruled out, United might turn to Danny Welbeck to lead the line after Van Persie suffered a thigh injury and was substituted at halftime in the Netherlands' 4-1 win over Hungary on Tuesday.

United could also be without playmaker Shinji Kagawa, who was forced out of Japan's 1-0 win over Iraq on Tuesday with a back problem.—Reuters

Spies to race for Pramac Ducati MotoGP team in 2013

WASHINGTON, 13 Sept—American rider Ben Spies will race for the non-works Pramac Ducati MotoGP team next season, the Italian manufacturer said in a statement on Wednesday.

Spies, whose place at Yamaha will be taken by Italian great Valentino Rossi, will partner Italian



Yamaha MotoGP rider Ben Spies of the US concentrates before a free practice session at the Czech Grand Prix in Brno on 25 August, 2012. REUTERS

Andrea Iannone in the 2013 championship.

American Nicky Hayden and Italian Andrea Dovizioso have already been announced as the works Ducati team riders.

Reuters

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

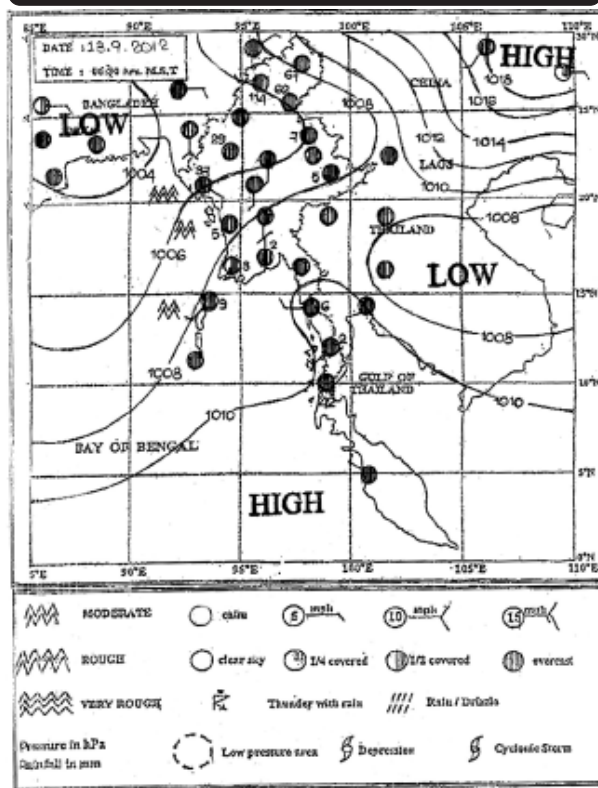
MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

- (14-9-12 09:30 am ~ 15-9-12 09:30 am) MST
- * News
 - * Three Sacred Pagodas each enshrined with Relics of Buddha's Hair, Rib Tooth
 - * Chiz Co Co's Leftovers from Century
 - * News
 - * Music Programme
 - * The Century's Famous Herbal Crop
 - * News
 - * Kid's Talent
 - * Meeting with UNFPA's Executive Director
 - * News
 - * 12 Sign Ascendants in September
 - * News
 - * Mobile Living Style and Car Expo
 - * News
 - * Yadana Labha Muni Pagoda Festival
 - * News
 - * Useful Variety of Bamboo
 - * Myanmar Movie "Touching Bonds"

MYANMAR TV

- (14-9-2012) (Friday)
- 7:00 am**
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:25 am**
2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:50 am**
3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:05 am**
4. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies
- 8:15 am**
5. Road to 27th SEA GAMES (Shooting)
- 8:25 am**
6. Selected Songs for 19th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition (2012) (Oldies & Mono Clasi) (Basic Education Level) (Women)
- 4:00 pm**
7. Martial Song
- 4:05 pm**
8. Song of National Races
- 4:30 pm**
9. Songs Of Yester Years
- 4:40 pm**
10. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (English)
- 4:55 pm**
11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:00 pm**
12. Sports Highlight
- 5:25 pm**
13. India Drama Series
- 6:20 pm**
14. Documentary
- 6:30 pm**
15. Internet Garden
- 8:00 pm**
16. News
- 8:00 pm**
17. Just For Laughs
- 8:00 pm**
18. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm**
19. Song Lover

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 14th September, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	30/86	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
2	Kayah	28/82	21/70	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
3	Kayin	34/93	22/72	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
4	Chin	23/73	14/57	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
5	Upper Sagaing	30/86	24/75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
6	Lower Sagaing	36/97	26/79	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)
7	Taninthayi	30/86	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
8	Bago	33/91	25/77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
9	Magway	33/91	25/77	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
10	Mandalay	35/95	26/79	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)
11	Mon	32/90	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
12	Yangon	34/93	22/72	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
13	Rakhine	31/88	22/72	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
14	Southern Shan	26/79	17/63	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
15	Northern Shan	32/90	20/68	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
16	Eastern Shan	29/84	22/72	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
17	Ayeyawady	31/88	24/75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	34/93	24/75	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	34/93	22/72	One to two rain or thundershowers	(100%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	35/95	26/79	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today
During the past (24) hours, weather have been partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing Region and Kayah State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Mandalay and Magway Regions, scattered in Bago Region and Shan State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Chin, Rakhine and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Hkamti (4.65) inches, Putao (2.63) inches, Myitkyna (2.60) inches, Namsam (2.32) inches, Machanbaw (2.01) inches and Kawkaireik (1.97) inches.

Bay Inference
Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea
Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days
Likelihood of increase of rain in the Southern Myanmar Areas.

District News

Traffic jams on circular road of Meiktila Market

MEIKTILA, 13 Sept—Vehicles of customers and buyers and trucks with commodities often cause traffic jams along the circular road at southern wing of Meiktila Market.

Local people expressed their wishes that authorities concerned should supervise driving of vehicles through the one-way system and systematic loading and unloading of commodities and systematic stopover of vehicles along the narrow road of the market wing.—Kyemon



UK's Cameron apologizes for 1989 soccer stadium disaster



A man looks at flowers laid at a memorial to 96 fans killed at the Hillsborough disaster in 1989, at the Anfield soccer stadium in Liverpool, northern England on 12 September, 2012. —REUTERS

LIVERPOOL, 13 Sept—British Prime Minister David Cameron said on Wednesday he was "profoundly sorry" for failures and cover-ups in the wake of the 1989 Hillsborough soccer disaster in which 96 spectators died after a crowd crush in the stadium. Attempts by the police to deflect the blame for Britain's worst sporting disaster onto Liverpool fans to cover up their own flawed response and the dangers of

pitch and spectators using wooden advertising hoardings as makeshift stretchers on a warm spring afternoon. The Conservative Party leader spoke after the release of an independent panel's investigation into the deaths that said police had sought to blame the Liverpool fans, portraying them as aggressive, drunk and ticketless and bent on packing into the already crowded stadium.

Speaking in parliament, Cameron called the disaster "one of the greatest peacetime tragedies of the last century" and acknowledged that the report would be harrowing for relatives of the deceased. "It was wrong that the families have had to wait for so long - and fight so hard - just to get to the truth," he said. "And it was wrong that the police changed the records of what happened and tried to blame the fans."

"On behalf of the government, and indeed our country, I am profoundly sorry for this double injustice that has been left uncorrected for so long."—Reuters

League and union exchange proposals as lockout looms

TORONTO, 13 Sept—The National Hockey League (NHL) and union representing its players exchanged proposals on Wednesday as negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement resumed with the threat of a lockout just days away. The meeting was the first in almost a week and with the current deal set to expire at midnight on Saturday and owners prepared to impose a lockout, the next few days are crucial if the 2012-13 NHL season is to open as scheduled on 11 October.

NHL Players' Association (NHLPA) head Donald Fehr arrived at the league's Manhattan headquarters with a proposal and the NHL ready with a counter offer it said would be off the table if players do not accept it before the current agreement expires. "With every day we are experiencing, and will continue to experience, damage to the game and to the business of the game," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman told reporters.

"What we would be prepared to do now to make a

deal before there is extensive damage is not the same that we will be prepared to do in the event we get to the point where we have suffered the damage." The NHL's board of governors is set to hold meetings in New York on Thursday while the NHLPA will stage executive board and negotiating committee meetings, which are expected to be attended by close to 300 players.

No further formal negotiations are scheduled but Bettman said he was prepared to sit down and negotiate further with players at anytime. "If there is a real intent on the other side to make a deal then we will get into a room make a deal and address the issues in a meaningful way," said Bettman. "We looked at their proposal and it was clear there wasn't very much movement at all."

The main sticking point in the dispute, which threatens a fourth work stoppage in 20 years, lies with the two sides at odds over how to divide \$3.3 billion in revenue.—Reuters



NHL hockey coaches and administration personnel gather at Consol Energy Center for the first round of the NHL draft in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on 22 June, 2012. —REUTERS

Sino-Myanmar friendship would contribute to national unity

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received the visiting delegation led by Chairman Mr Wu Bangguo of the Standing Committee of 11th National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China at Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this evening.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Pyithu Hluttaw Committee chairpersons, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives from ethnic parties and members of Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Committee and the visiting delegation was led by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann extended greetings to the delegation expressing his belief that the visit would further strengthen the bond and cooperation between the two neighbours. He said that the Sino-Myanmar friendship would contribute to national unity as the two countries have maintained the traditional cordial relations for a long time based on five principles of peaceful co-existence.

Mr Wu Bangguo revealed his pleasure to meet the Speaker again, thanking for hospitality of Myanmar. There has long been Pauk-Phaw relationship between peoples of Myanmar and China. The speakers of the two countries could exchange visit within a year, facilitating to promotion of ties between the two parliaments. The visit is aimed to foster the relationship between the two countries. The Chinese goodwill



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Chairman Mr Wu Bangguo of the Standing Committee of 11th National People's Congress of PRC.
MNA

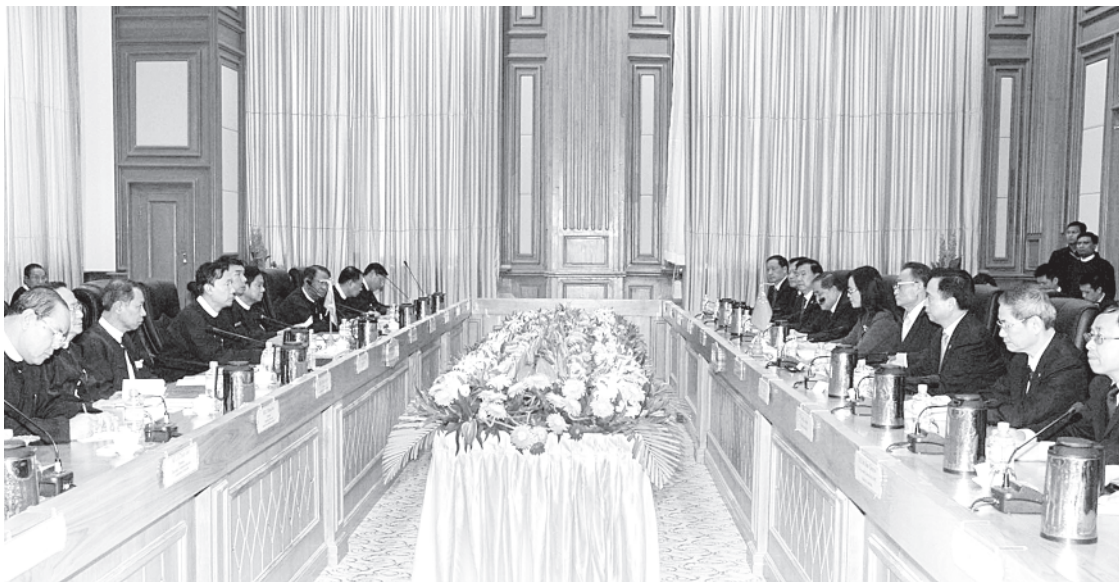
delegation comprises high-ranking officials. Beijing attaches importance to relationship with Myanmar as the two countries share a long border. Friends can be chosen but neighbours cannot be. Therefore, Myanmar and China are friends for ever. He thanked again for warm hospitality of the host.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said that he was glad to

hear the chairman's attitude towards Myanmar, reiterating the Nay Pyi Taw's commitment to promote relationship and cooperation between the two countries.

After the meeting, Mr Wu Bangguo presented televisions, computers and accessories to the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker who returned commemorative gift.—MNA

Hluttaw representatives led by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann hold discussions with Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of PRC Mr Wu Bangguo and party



NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—A meeting between Hluttaw representatives led by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and the delegation members led by Chairman of

the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Mr Wu Bangguo took place at the Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex here at

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and Chinese delegation led by Mr Wu Bangguo hold discussion.
MNA

5.30 pm today.

In his discussion, the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress said that cooperation will be made between the two parliaments and committees of the two countries, PRC will take a right stand for peace and stability of border areas and cooperate in promotion of economy, trade and other sectors between the two countries.

The Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw for his part said that will cooperate with the PRC in strengthening the Myanmar-China strategic friendly ties and in ensuring peace and stability in border areas; that Myanmar will mainly focus on friendly co-existence of peoples of the two countries through further cooperation between Myanmar Hluttaw and PRC Congress; and that the country will continue to cooperate with the PRC in energy and gas sectors of the two countries and mainly focus on development of Mekong Region and prevalence of law and order in the region. The Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw also requested loans with low interest from the PRC for development of the nations' agricultural sector and expressed Myanmar's full support of one China policy.—MNA

MPU comes into use

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—MPU (Myanmar Payment Union) cards are to be launched in branches of Myanmar Cityzen Bank, Myawady Bank, Myanmar Oriental Bank, Kanbawza Bank, Cooperatives Bank, Asia Green Development Bank, Ayeyawady Bank and Myanmar Apex Bank in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw beginning tomorrow while plans are under way to offer the service in other branches of those banks. The opening of MPU and Data Centre will be held at the Central Bank of Myanmar (Yangon Branch) tomorrow.

According to an official from the Central Bank of Myanmar there are 17 members in MPU, three State-run banks and 14 private banks. MPU is a debit ATM card. The minimum cash amount is set at K 1,000 and the maximum up to K 5 million. A MPU card made at a member bank is valid for fellow member banks. Shopping can be done at points of sale (POS) linked with the member banks with MPU card. It is a safe and secure and swift and effective paying system. POS and ATM will be extended right and left.—MNA

Viaduct, wonderful for world, still safe and sound

Gokhteik Viaduct, one of the famous structures across the world, is located between Nawngkhio and Kyaukme townships of Shan State (North) in Myanmar.

It is a railroad built of steel trusses linking two hills. The viaduct is significant on Mandalay-Lashio railroad.

The viaduct was built in 1897. The facility is 690 meters long and 335 meters high. Most of the people feel heart beats while the train is passing the viaduct.

The over 100 years old viaduct is still in good condition. It was learnt that experienced engineers of Myanma

Railways and foreign engineers jointly inspected and maintained the bridge.

According to the firm information, the world famous viaduct can be used for many years safely.—Kyemon

