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President U Thein Sein leaves for China to attend 9th ASEAN-China Expo

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Sept—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein left here by air at 7 am today to attend the 9th ASEAN-China Expo to be held in Nanning of the People's Republic of China.

The Myanmar delegation led by President U Thein Sein was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi, Union Ministers at the President Office U Thein Nyunt and U Hla Tun, Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung, Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Zeyar Aung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye, departmental heads and Charge d' Affaires ai of the Chinese Embassy Mr Lu Zhi.

President U Thein Sein was accompanied by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thein, Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, Lt-Gen Aung Than Htut of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaug Lwin, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint and departmental heads.

Member of the delegation Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint left for Nanning in advance.

MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein being seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Charge d' Affaires ai of Chinese Embassy before departure for China to attend 9th ASEAN-China Expo.—MNA

Spirax Sarco establishes Myanmar office

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Sept—Leading British steam engineering services provider Spirax Sarco Engineering (UK) has set its foothold in Myanmar, opening a branch office in the Southeast Asia's emerging economy.

The acclaimed steam services and solutions provider delivers more than 5000 ISO standard high-quality products for boiler control & systems, flow metering, condensate pumps and energy recovery, and steam traps and so on to oil and gas, soft drink, brewery, pharmaceutical, garment and food manufacturing industries worldwide.

It has 1300 engineering services branches providing customer services and 38 world-class engineering schools in each and every corner of the world. The engineering

schools with full teaching aids have equipped about 12 million engineers from various parts of the world with considerable engineering expertise.

Spirax Sarco is a major steam services provider for Nestle, Glaxo Smith Kline's, Johnson & Johnson, Michelin Tyres, Guinness Stout, Daniel Thwaites Brewery, Petrobras, COAGAP Oil & Gas, Samsung Electronics and many other manufacturing. The company's environmental-friendly services are proven to be fit for cost cutting exercises of the factories with steam systems in operation.

Spirax Sarco's Myanmar partner Ray Myanmar Company may be reached for further details at 09 730 49008.—NLM

Seminar on Small & Medium Enterprise Banking held



Vice-Governor of CBM U Maung Maung Win extends greetings at Seminar on Small & Medium Enterprise Banking.

MNA

YANGON, 18 Sept—Central Bank of Myanmar and United Overseas Bank (UOB) branch of Singapore held the Seminar on Small & Medium Enterprise Banking at Park Royal Hotel, here, this morning, with speeches of Vice-Governor of CBM U Maung Maung Win and UOB Managing Director Mr Cheo Chai Hong.

Deputy Director U Win Htein Min of CBM read the paper on the role of SMEs in Myanmar, Executive Director Mr Choo Kee Siong of UOB on Overview of UOB and Commercial Banking for Medium Enterprise, Executive Director Mr Daniel Yeo of UOB on Business Banking for Small Enterprises and Executive Director Mr Frankie Phua of UOB on Credit Risk Assessment for SME Lending.

They then replied to queries raised by those present.

MNA

Environmental Conservation and National Technological Requirement discussed

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NATIONAL

Members of press organizations meet to form Myanmar Press Council (Temporary)

YANGON, 18 Sept—It is a common stance that there requires a strong press council which has credibility in Myanmar, adding although the Myanmar Press Council (Temporary) was formed as a co-regulatory body in line with the international norms, only ten persons who are leaders of organizations of various strata were nominated and equipped with morality, integrity and wisdom, accounting for one third of the council members; the remaining two third are nominees from the respective press organizations; that just viewing the names of 29 members who had been chosen unanimously it is safe to say that they would surely be able to promote the dignity, capacity and harmony of the council, said Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi at the meeting of members of various press organizations to form a temporary press council held at Chatrium Hotel in Tamway Township 10 am yesterday.

The Union Minister continued to say that when asked what should a person value most in life, all would answer unanimously "integrity"; that the importance of every organization is its dignity; that the statement in the book on codes of conduct of SPJ that profession integrity in the cornerstone of a journalist credibility proves to be sound and

rational. He stressed the need to strive for promoting the integrity of each and all press organizations, and expressed his belief that those with a sense of freedom, concern (a) bias, responsibility and accountability would be able to strive for the MPC (Temporary) to become an association of high dignity.

U Khin Maung Aye (Retd Supreme Court Judge) was elected as chairman of the Myanmar Press Council (Temporary) unanimously, and the meeting chairman Union minister handed over his responsibilities to the chairman of MPC.

Also present on the occasion were doyen literati, those from Myanmar Writers Association, Myanmar Journalist Association, Myanmar Printing and Publishing Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Publishers Association, Myanmar Press Union, Myanmar Journalists Network and those media world.

The meeting elected U Soe Thein (Maung Wuntha, Writer/Journalist) as vice-chairman, U Kyaw Min Swe (Chief Editor of The Voice Weekly Journal) as secretary, Daw Nan Kalyar Win (CEO of Asian Fame Media Group) as joint secretary, and those present discussed duties and responsibilities of MPC.—MNA

Fourth regular session of first Kachin State Hluttaw starts

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Sept—The Fourth regular session of first Kachin State Hluttaw started this morning, attended by Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai, State Hluttaw Speaker U Rawam Jone and 50 state Hluttaw representatives.

Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw representative Maj Aung Zin took affirmation. The state chief minister delivered address which was put on record. Six Hluttaw representatives asked 10 questions which were answered by respective state

level organizations. legislation committee's annual report and national races affairs committee's annual report were submitted and put on record.

The Kachin State government submitted budget and bills to the Hluttaw which invited

representatives to discuss the bills. The approval was sought from the state Hluttaw to discuss Kachin State Community Firewood Plantation Bill submitted by U Chan Tin Khin of Nagmon Township Constituency (1). Today's session concluded at 4 pm.—MNA

Manchester United sees revenue growth after barren season

LONDON, 18 Sept—Manchester United are counting on an improved performance on the pitch to boost revenues after the English Premier League club paid the price for a rare barren season in 2011-12.

United, owned by the American Glazer family, floated on the stock market in New York last month at \$14 per share, valuing the 19-times English champions at \$2.3 billion.

The shares have drifted lower since then and were trading at \$12.65 at 1444 (10 a.m EDT), down 2.4 percent on the day.

United failed to win a trophy last season for the first time since 2005 and made an early exit from the lucrative European Champions League, meaning a reduction in income from sales of matchday tickets and lower broadcast revenues. The cost of those failures was apparent as the club made a loss from continuing operations of 14.9 million pounds (\$24.2 million) in the three months to end-June 2012. Underlining its commercial strength, United forecast a brighter 2012-13, based on the club reaching the quarter-finals of the Champions



As commemorative of 67th birthday for Daw Khin Kyi residing in 28 ward, Pyidaungsu street, Dagon Myothit donated K 400,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Joint Treasurer U Chit Myaing recently.—NLM

League and domestic cup competitions.

It said underlying earnings (EBITDA) should rise by 17-20 percent to 107-110 million pounds.

Revenue was likely to be between 350-360 million pounds, up from 320 million last year.

It has just signed a record \$559 million shirt sponsorship deal to have the Chevrolet brand on its red shirts for seven years from 2014. The 20-team Premier League has also agreed a new 1 billion pound annual domestic TV deal from 2013, up 70 percent.

"We also expect a substantial increase in the value of the Premier League's international television contracts scheduled to be announced later this year," Executive Vice Chairman Ed Woodward said in a statement.—Reuters



News in Brief

Staff quarter handed over

Myanmar Maker Home Co handed over 12-apartment staff quarter to Myitkyina University on 14 September. Kachin State Minister for Social Affairs Daw Bauk Ja and Rector-in-charge Dr Aye Ko formally opened the staff quarter.

MRCS central council meeting

Myanmar Red Cross Society will hold the 70th Central Council Meeting at its assembly hall of MRCS Headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 and 21 September. The meeting will be attended by officials of the Ministry of Health, members of Central Council of MRCS and guests.

Hlawga water pipeline supplies water in full swing

The 66-inch water pipeline from Hlawga to Yangon has been repaired with the use of man and machinery power ahead of schedule. At 9 am on 16 September, the water pipeline supplies water in full swing.

Health development of Mon State discussed

A coordination meeting on scheming policy and plan for development of Mon State health sector was held at the hall of Mon State General Hospital in Mawlamyine on 15 September morning. Participants discussed drawing the procedure for the tasks.

Tour guide refresher course conducted

Tour guide refresher course for those whose licences were cancelled by Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in their failure to extend licence period was held at Panda Hotel on Wadan Street on 17 September. Altogether 120 trainees attended the course.

Collective blood donation 22 Sept

Dhamma Yaungchi Dhamma Dhana Service will hold the 13th blood donation ceremony at National Blood Centre of Yangon General Hospital at 9 am on 22 September. Those wishing to donate blood may contact 382935 of the service, 371800 (extension 364) and 0950-79674.

District News

Dyna without break control hits guard rail of bridge

YANGON, 18 Sept—A Dyna carrying broken bricks driven by U Tin Shein hit the rails of opposite way on Maha Bandoola Bridge linking Botahtaung and Dawbon townships at about 3 pm on 15 September due to out of break control.

The rail of the bridge was broken. Fortunately, no one was injured in the accident.—Myanma Alin



Two-digit illegal lottery gambler arrested

YESAGYO, 16 Sept—IP Htay Aung and party of Yesagyo Police Station of Magway Region together with witnesses search the house of Ma Kyu Kyu Soe in Ward 3 on 14 September.

They seized materials used in betting two-digit illegal lottery and K 31650.

The police station concerned opened a file of lawsuit against her.—Myanma Alin

WORLD

US's Panetta to meet Xi Jinping on extended trip to China



US Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta is welcomed by military leaders at Beijing International Airport, on 17 September, 2012. REUTERS

ABOARD A US MILITARY AIRCRAFT, 18 Sept—US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta's trip to China has been extended by a day and will include meetings with Vice President Xi Jinping, US Defence officials said on Monday.

Panetta is making the three-day trip to China at the invitation of Defence Minister Liang Guanglie, who visited the Pentagon earlier this year as well as military installations in other parts of the country.

The visit is part of US and Chinese efforts to promote

closer military relations and greater transparency between the two sides.

As part of that effort, Panetta will become the first US Defence secretary to visit the home of the Chinese navy's North Sea fleet at Qingdao where he will tour warships and meet with cadets and the commander of the fleet, Vice Admiral Tian Zhong.

Xi is due to take over as president in March next year. He has a military role as vice chairman of the Central Military Commission and met

with Panetta at the Pentagon earlier this year. Panetta will meet Xi on Wednesday.

Panetta said in Tokyo on Monday the United States would stand by its security treaty obligations to Japan but not take sides in a protracted row with China over disputed islands and urged calm and restraint on both sides.

"It is in everybody's interest... for Japan and China to maintain good relations and to find a way to avoid further escalation," he told reporters.

Reuters

EU foreign policy chief to meet Iran nuclear negotiator

BRUSSELS/VIENNA, 18 Sept—EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton will meet Iran's chief nuclear negotiator on Tuesday, Ashton's office said on Monday, as German Chancellor Angela Merkel said a political solution was still possible in the stand-off over Teheran's atomic programme.

The head of the UN atomic watchdog, Yukiya Amano, also said on Monday that his agency would hold more talks with the Islamic state aimed at allaying Western concerns that Iran is attempting to develop nuclear weapons, a charge Teheran denies.

Ashton will meet Iran negotiator Saeed Jalili in Istanbul as "part of continuing efforts to engage with Iran," after talks between world powers and Iran in Moscow in June failed to secure a breakthrough in the dispute. "While it is not a formal negotiating round, the meeting will be an opportunity to stress once again to Iran the need for an urgent and meaningful confidence-building step,"

and to show more flexibility with proposals put forward by world powers in earlier talks, Ashton's spokeswoman said. Several weeks after the failed Moscow talks, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said, "The proposals we have seen from Iran thus far within the P5+1 negotiations are 'nonstarters.'"

US State Department spokeswoman Victoria

anything new?" Nuland told reporters in Washington.

She added that the major powers—the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany—were expected to meet in New York later this month on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly to discuss Iran.

As diplomatic efforts to solve the dispute have stalled, Israeli Prime Minister



EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton addresses the European Parliament in Strasbourg during a debate on the situation in Syria and the political use of justice in Russia, on 11 Sept, 2012. —REUTERS

Nuland said the purpose of the Ashton-Jalili meeting was to gauge whether the Iranians were willing to offer any new proposals.

"That's the question that we have. We made clear that what they had put on the table was a nonstarter. Are they prepared to bring

Benjamin Netanyahu has gone public with a demand that the United States set "red lines" that Iran not cross or risk military action. The United States has refused to set such triggers, though both it and Israel have said they reserve the right to take military action if necessary.—Reuters

Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 Sept—At least 12 people, including eight foreigners, were killed on Tuesday morning in a suicide car bombing in Afghan capital Kabul, the police said.

"A suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden vehicle into a minibus carrying foreign staffs of a local company at around 6:45 local time (0215 GMT) on Tuesday, killing eight foreigners and a local driver named Ahmad Zia on the spot," head of criminal investigation department of Kabul police, Gen Mohammad Zahir, told Xinhua. The nationalities of the victims were not clear at the moment. A foreign woman was among the killed as seen by a Xinhua reporter.

Eight foreigners among 12 killed in Kabul car bombing

"The killed foreigners were looking like western people. I saw them when police forces were transporting the dead by vehicles and ambulances," a witness told Xinhua, adding that as the bus arrived in the main road from a lane another vehicle hit it and a big bang was heard.

Meantime, Zhair said that three passers-by were also killed and two security officials were injured by the bombing that took place along the main road, leading to airport in Kabul's sub-district 15. He said more details will be released to the media after the investigation is concluded. The blast caused a plume of grey smoke to rise above the scene. Several buildings and wedding halls near the site



An Afghan security officer investigates at the site of a suicide attack in Kabul on 18 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

were also damaged by the blast. The government troops immediately cordoned off the area shortly after the blast.

Meantime, Hezb-e-Islami of Afghanistan, the second largest insurgent group, in the country claimed the responsibility for the attack. A spokesman with the



ISLAMABAD, 18 Sept—Pakistan Monday conducted a successful test fire of an indigenously developed multi-tube cruise missile, with a range of 700 km, and capable of carrying nuclear warheads, the military said.

Pakistan tests nuclear-capable Cruise missile

Photo released by the Pakistan's Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on 17 Sept, 2012, Hatf-VII Babur nuclear-capable cruise missile launching from an undisclosed location in Pakistan. Pakistan Monday conducted a successful test fire of an indigenously developed multi-tube cruise missile, with a range of 700 km, and capable of carrying nuclear warheads, the military said.—XINHUA

Babur Crusie Missile Hatf-VII is a low flying, terrain hugging missile, which can strike targets both at land and sea with pin-point accuracy, an army statement said.

"It carries stealthy features. Equipped with modern cruise missile technology of Terrain Contour Matching (TERCOM) and Digital

More than 130 escape from Mexican prison on US border

MEXICO CITY, 18 Sept—More than 130 inmates escaped through a tunnel from a Mexican prison on the border with the United States in one of the worst jailbreaks the country's beleaguered penal system has suffered in recent years.

Homero Ramos, attorney general of the northern state of Coahuila, said 132 inmates of the prison in the city of Piedras Negras had got out through the tunnel in an old carpentry workshop, then cut the wire surrounding the complex.

Corrupt prison officials may have helped the inmates escape, said Jorge Luis Moran, chief of public security in Coahuila, adding that US authorities had been alerted to help capture the fugitives if they try to cross the border.

The jailbreak is a reminder of the challenges that await Enrique Pena Nieto, the incoming president, who has pledged to reduce crime in the country after six years of increased gang-related violence under President

Mexico

Benjamin Netanyahu has gone public with a demand that the United States set "red lines" that Iran not cross or risk military action. The United States has refused to set such triggers, though both it and Israel have said they reserve the right to take military action if necessary.—Reuters

Felipe Calderon. Many of Mexico's prisons are overcrowded and struggle to counter the influence of criminal gangs that can use their financial muscle to corrupt those in charge.

Ramos said that the state government of Coahuila was offering a reward of 200,000 pesos (\$15,700) for information leading to the capture of each fugitive.

The Piedras Negras complex housed a total of 734 inmates, and the tunnel through which the prisoners escaped was about 1.2 metres (four feet) wide, 2.9 metres (9-1/2 feet) deep and seven meters (23 feet) long, Ramos said.

There have been numerous mass breakouts in the last few years from Mexico's penal system, and prison officials are frequently accused of complicity with drug cartels.

At the end of 2010, more than 140 inmates escaped a prison in the border city of Nuevo Laredo.—Reuters

Pakistan

Scene Matching and Area Co-relation (DSMAC), it can carry both nuclear and conventional warheads," the statement said.

The missile was launched from a state of art Multi Tube Missile Launch Vehicle (MLV), which significantly enhances the targeting and deployment options of Babur Weapon system.—Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Microsoft warns on Internet Explorer security flaw

BOSTON, 18 Sept—Microsoft Corp warned a newly discovered bug in its Internet Explorer web browser makes PCs vulnerable to attack by hackers and urged customers to download a piece of security software to mitigate the risk of infection.

The security flaw affects hundreds of millions of Internet Explorer browser users. Microsoft said attackers can exploit the bug to infect the PC of somebody who visits a malicious website and then take control of the victim's computer. The software maker advised customers on its website late on Monday to install the security software as an interim measure, buying it time to fix the bug and release a new, more secure version of Internet Explorer. The company did not say how long that will take, but several security researchers said they expect the update within a week.

The free security tool, which is known as the Enhanced Mitigation Experience Toolkit, or EMET, is available through an advisory on Microsoft's website: blogs.technet.com/b/msrc/

The EMET software must be downloaded, installed and then manually configured to protect computers from the newly discovered threat, according to the posting from Microsoft. The company also advised customers to adjust several Windows security



Microsoft Corp Vice President of Internet Explorer Dean Hachamovitch unveils Microsoft Internet Explorer 9 Beta version during a demonstration in San Francisco, California on 15 Sept, 2010.—REUTERS

settings to thwart potential attackers, but cautioned that doing so might impact the PC's usability.

Some security experts said it would be too cumbersome for many PC users to implement the measures suggested by Microsoft. Instead they advised Windows users to temporarily switch from Internet Explorer to rival browsers such as Google Inc's Chrome, Mozilla's Firefox or Opera Software ASA's Opera.

"For consumers it might be easier to simply click on Chrome," said Dave Marcus, director of advanced research and threat intelligence with Intel Corp's McAfee security division.

Marc Maiffret, chief technology officer of the security firm BeyondTrust, said it may not be feasible for some businesses to install

Microsoft's EMET tool on their PCs.

He said the security software has in some cases proven to be incompatible with existing programs already running on networks.

Tod Beardsley, an engineering manager with the security firm Rapid7, said that at first blush it appeared that the EMET may not be particularly effective in thwarting potential attacks.

Microsoft officials declined to comment on the skepticism that those security experts expressed about the effectiveness of the EMET software.

POISON IVY

Eric Romang, a researcher in Luxembourg, discovered the flaw in Internet Explorer on Friday, when his PC was infected by a piece of malicious software known as Poison Ivy that hackers use to steal data or take remote control of PCs.

TECH

When he analyzed the infection, he learned that Poison Ivy had gotten on to his system by exploiting a previously unknown bug, or "zero-day" vulnerability, in Internet Explorer.

"Any time you see a zero-day like this, it is concerning," said Liam O'Murchu, a research manager with anti-virus software maker Symantec Corp. "There are no patches available. It is very difficult for people to protect themselves."

Zero-day vulnerabilities are rare, mostly because they are hard to identify—requiring highly skilled software engineers or hackers with lots of time to scrutinize code for holes that can be exploited to launch attacks. Security experts only disclosed discovery of eight major zero-day vulnerabilities in all of 2011, according to Symantec.

Symantec and other major anti-virus software makers have already updated their products to protect customers against the newly discovered bug in Internet Explorer. Yet, O'Murchu said that may not be sufficient to ward off adversaries.

"The danger with these types of attacks is that they will mutate and the attackers will find a way to evade the defences we have in place," he said. Internet Explorer was the world's second-most widely used browser last month, with about 33 percent market share, according to StatCounter. It was close behind Chrome, which had 34 percent of the market.—Reuters

China's Lenovo to buy Brazilian electronics company CCE

SAOPAULO, 18 Sept—China's Lenovo Group Ltd agreed on Wednesday to buy Brazilian electronics maker CCE, as the world's No 2 PC maker by sales bets that Brazil's promising consumer market can help revive its slowing profit growth.

The deal, announced in a securities filing, is valued at a base price of 300 million reais, subject to adjustments. Payment, in a mix of stock and cash, could include an additional 400 million reais, depending on performance-based indicators over the four years ending in December 2016.

"Brazil has a positive growth rate (for PCs) even in the current relatively volatile environment," Lenovo chief financial officer Waiming Wong told Reuters in an interview. "If we really go for the high growth market, the big market, Brazil is obviously the candidate."

Lenovo's purchase of CCE, Brazil's largest domestic manufacturer of electronics such as PCs, DVD players and stereos, will allow the Chinese company to nearly double its share of the PC market in the world's sixth-largest economy.



A salesperson waits for customers at a Lenovo shop in Shanghai on 17 February, 2011.—REUTERS

The deal will also add mobile phones and televisions to Lenovo's product line in Brazil, where it recently announced plans to build a \$30 million factory, helping it expand beyond its current focus on the corporate sector.

"In order to win in Brazil long term you have to have local manufacturing," Wong said, adding that the acquisition would boost Lenovo into third place in Brazil's PC market from 7th place currently. "When CCE came along, it definitely was a good fit." The deal highlights the growing, yet uneven trade ties between Brazil and China, two large emerging economies.

Reuters

Weather delays last flight of space shuttle Endeavour to museum

MIAMI, 18 Sept—The departure of the space shuttle Endeavour on its final flight to a Los Angeles museum has been delayed until Wednesday by bad weather, NASA said.

Endeavour, which was retired last year, was scheduled to travel piggyback on top of a specially modified 747 jet, but storms along the planned flight path have pushed back

its departure from the Kennedy Space Centre until Wednesday.

It was the second delay caused by weather in transporting the shuttle, which was originally intended

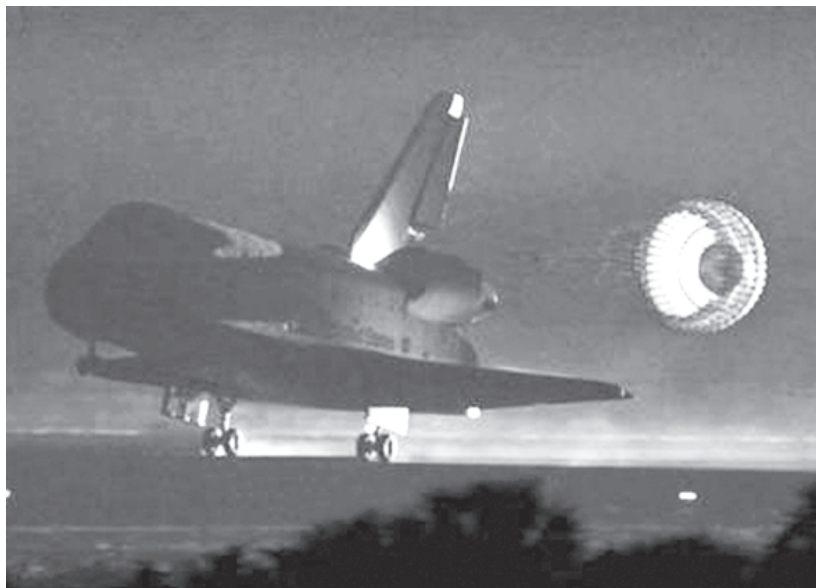
to depart on Monday.

NASA said Endeavour is now expected to arrive on Friday in Los Angeles, where it will go on display at the California Science Center on 30 October.

On its trip, Endeavour is expected to make a low pass over the beachside communities surrounding the Kennedy Space Centre before heading west. It will make additional flyovers near NASA facilities in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

Endeavour was built as a replacement for the shuttle Challenger, which was destroyed in an accident that killed seven astronauts in 1986.

Endeavour's lifespan was relatively short by shuttle standards—25 missions over 20 years, totaling 299 days in space.—Reuters



Space shuttle Endeavour lands at the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 1 June, 2011. REUTERS

TECH



The iPhone 5 on display after its introduction during Apple Inc's iPhone media event in San Francisco, California on 12 Sept, 2012. REUTERS

AT&T says set sales record for iPhone 5

NEW YORK, 18 Sept—US mobile provider AT&T said it set a sales record with Apple's iPhone 5 over the weekend, making it the fastest-selling iPhone the company has ever offered.

Customers ordered more iPhones from AT&T than any previous model both on its

first day of preorders and over the weekend, the company said on Monday.

AT&T did not provide the number of iPhones sold.

The company said iPhone 5 was still available for preorder and would go on sale from 21 September in AT&T retail stores.—Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Business



Jaguar Land Rover Freeland 2 vehicles are displayed on the production line for the media at their newly-inaugurated production plant in Pune, 190km south of Mumbai, on 27 May, 2011.—REUTERS

Tata Motors global sales up 13 pct in August, JLR growth slows

MUMBAI, 18 Sept—Tata Motors Ltd's (TAMO NS) global vehicle sales rose 13 percent in August from a year earlier, the company said, with sales at its key Jaguar Land Rover subsidiary rising 13 percent, less than in recent months. Sales at the luxury British brand, a key driver of the company's recent profit growth, rose 41 percent in July, 39 percent in June and 35 percent in May. Tata Motors, part of the salt-to-steel Tata Group conglomerate, sold a total of 97,225 vehicles in August. Overall passenger cars sales stood at 47,141 vehicles, a rise of 23 percent from a year earlier. Tata sold 24,060 Jaguar Land Rover vehicles in the month. Commercial vehicle sales rose 4 percent to 50,084.—Reuters

Health

Gel balls new threat to toddlers, doctors say

NEW YORK, 18 Sept— After surgically removing a large gel ball blocking the intestines of a baby girl, Texas doctors are warning parents about a new kind of water-absorbing balls often sold as playthings. The coloured balls, marketed under the brand name Water Balz by Ohio-based DuneCraft Inc, are small to begin with, but can grow to the size of a racquetball when placed in water. For orally fixated toddlers, that can be a problem, said Dr Oluyinka Olutoye, a pediatric surgeon at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. "It goes in small and grows on the inside and may not come out," he told Reuters Health. That was the case for an eight-month-old girl, who was brought to Texas Children's with stomach problems. Her parents suspected she had eaten one of her sister's Water Balz, and their concerns grew when they read on the label that the balls expand up to 400 times if placed in water. Olutoye and his colleagues could see on x-rays that part of the child's small intestine was distended, as if something was blocking it, but they couldn't see the culprit. Over the next 48

BERLIN, 18 Sept— German Chancellor Angela Merkel reaffirmed Monday that her position after the European Commission launched an anti-dumping investigation against China solar companies that the issue should be settled through political dialogue. "There are very clear deadlines in the process of such (anti-dumping) cases. The deadline of opening the case has now come," Merkel said when answering a question from Xinhua, adding that the EU investigation is the need of legal procedures. "But whether it will follow with provisional measures, yes or no, will be decided several months later," she said. "That time is available to us for what I discussed with (Chinese) Premier Wen Jiabao, namely, a dialogue."

In July, Germany's SolarWorld and other European solar panel makers filed a complaint seeking import tariffs on Chinese-made solar products, claiming that their Chinese competitors have received low-interest loans from the government. The European commission decided to start a formal investigation on 6 Sept, which activated the largest trade dispute involving China in terms of trade volume. China's solar product exports were valued at 35.8 billion dollars in 2011. The EU receives a share of more than 60 percent, or 20.4 billion US dollars. During her visit to China, Merkel told Premier Wen that she hoped the European Commission and China could solve the issue through communication, rather than by resorting to

Merkel urges dialogue to solve EU-China solar dispute

that their Chinese competitors have received low-interest loans from the government. The European commission decided to start a formal investigation on 6 Sept, which activated the largest trade dispute involving China in terms of trade volume. China's solar product exports were valued at 35.8 billion dollars in 2011. The EU receives a share of more than 60 percent, or 20.4 billion US dollars. During her visit to China, Merkel told Premier Wen that she hoped the European Commission and China could solve the issue through communication, rather than by resorting to

German chancellor Angela Merkel speaks during a press conference in Berlin, Germany, on 17 Sept, 2012. XINHUA



companies are now open to start a negotiation. Merkel believed that no one in the EU nations would want to block such a dialogue, and the two sides should put all facts and questions on the table and discuss them thoroughly and substantially.—Xinhua

anti-dumping proceedings. "We want to solve this dispute politically, through dialogue, and we should use the time when investigating the case. There are many months to go and we should get started soon," the chancellor said. "This is not only the hope of Germany, but also of the European Commission," she said, adding that she heard some German

companies are now open to start a negotiation. Merkel believed that no one in the EU nations would want to block such a dialogue, and the two sides should put all facts and questions on the table and discuss them thoroughly and substantially.—Xinhua

Meridian's diagnostic test gets FDA nod

Health

OHIO, 18 Sept— Meridian Bioscience Inc said its test to detect a common bacterial throat infection received marketing approval in the United States. Meridian said its molecular test can detect Group A Streptococcus, a bacteria found in the throat or on skin. Acute pharyngitis, or strep throat, accounts for an estimated 15 million visits per year to pediatricians and other primary care physicians in the United States, Meridian said. The life sciences company said its test takes less than one hour and requires no expensive capital equipment. Shares of Cincinnati, Ohio-based Meridian closed at \$18.29 on the Nasdaq on Monday. Reuters

OHIO, 18 Sept— Meridian Bioscience Inc said its test to detect a common bacterial throat infection received marketing approval in the United States. Meridian said its molecular test can detect Group A Streptococcus, a bacteria found in the throat or on skin. Acute pharyngitis, or strep throat, accounts for an estimated 15 million visits per year to pediatricians and other primary care physicians in the United States, Meridian said. The life sciences company said its test takes less than one hour and requires no expensive capital equipment. Shares of Cincinnati, Ohio-based Meridian closed at \$18.29 on the Nasdaq on Monday. Reuters



Middle-school girls use mobile phones as they chat in a restaurant in Seoul. One out of every seven Los Angeles high schoolers with a cell phone has sent a sexually-explicit text message or photo, according to results of a 2011 survey that also found "sexters" more likely to engage in risky sex behaviors.—REUTERS

Cancer leading cause of death for US Hispanics, study says

Health

CHICAGO, 18 Sept— Cancer has replaced heart disease as the leading cause of death among US Hispanics, likely reflecting the large number of young, working-age Hispanics in America, according to a report by the American Cancer Society released on Monday. The shift mirrors a larger national trend as death rates from cancer and heart disease start to converge, Becky Siegel, an epidemiologist for the organization, said in a telephone interview. Siegel said death rates for heart disease have been declining more rapidly than for cancer, helped by better treatments for heart problems

such as cholesterol-lowering statin drugs. In the United States, Hispanics tend to be younger, working-age adults, and since heart disease typically afflicts older adults, the study's results are not surprising. "In the US overall, cancer is the leading cause of death among people younger than 85," Siegel said. Hispanics are the fastest-growing demographic group in the United States, accounting for 16.3 percent of the US population, or 50.5 million of the 310 million Americans. Reuters



An employee of LG Electronics Inc poses with LG's new "Optimus G" smartphone in Seoul on 18 Sept, 2012. REUTERS

LG unveils Optimus G phone with voice-activated power camera

SEUL, 18 Sept—LG Electronics Inc unveiled its latest high-end smartphone packed with powerful hardware upgrades on Tuesday, as the struggling South Korean firm tries to win market share from Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd in the crucial holiday quarter. LG's handset business, which was slow to move into smartphones and has largely failed to win consumers from sector leaders Apple and Samsung, hopes the new 'Optimus G' will also help it compete against Google's (GOOG O) Motorola, Taiwan's HTC Corp (2498.TW) and China's ZTE (000063.SZ) and Huawei HWT UL. LG's Optimus G, which uses Google's Android platform, will go on sale next week in South Korea for 1 million won, and later in Japan and the United States. The Optimus G boasts a 13 megapixel camera which a user can instruct to take snaps by talking to it, plus a 4.7-inch screen with a sharper picture quality than both the iPhone and Samsung's Galaxy S III. Powered by Qualcomm's (QCOM O) quad-core Snapdragon processor, the Optimus G will work on superfast mobile networks and be able to carry out several functions at once, such as showing a television broadcast and simultaneously sending text messages or searching the

web. Among its rivals are the Droid Razr models unveiled by Google's Motorola earlier this month, and Lumia 920, a flagship handset made by Nokia (NOK1V HE) and Microsoft Corp (MSFT O) which uses the latest Windows Phone operating software. Apple unveiled its iPhone 5 last week, and said on Monday it had booked orders for over two million iPhone 5 models in the first 24 hours it was on sale, evidence of stronger than expected demand for the new model ahead of the October-December holiday quarter. Reuters

WORLD**144 passengers safe after ship's engine trouble off C Philippines**

MANILA, 18 Sept — About 144 passengers were reportedly safe after the ship carrying them encountered engine trouble off central Philippine province of Southern Leyte on Sunday morning, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said.

Reports reaching the

Coast Guard Action Centre in Manila revealed that the shipping vessel experienced problem on one of its auxiliary engine at around 12:35 pm. The said the vessel came from Cebu City and was supposedly on its way to Bato, Southern Leyte, when the incident happened. The Philippine

ACCIDENT

Coast Guard immediately deployed its vessel and personnel to assist the ship and the passengers. The ship's electrical power was later successfully restored to normal operation, the PCG said, adding that the vessel again sailed to its next port of call at Bato. — *Xinhua*



Dancers of the China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe give performance in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 16 Sept, 2012. — XINHUA

China struggles to cure the violent ills of health system**CHINA**

GUANGZHOU/BEIJING, 18 Sept — Beijing is struggling to deal with an increasingly violent flashpoint of social unrest in its healthcare system, as its latest bid to cut costs is failing to ease tensions among millions of people who cannot afford basic treatment. Violent attacks directed at hospital doctors and other healthcare workers in the form of beatings, threats, kidnappings, verbal abuse and even killings soared in recent years to 17,243 cases in 2010, alarming central policymakers who regard China's overhaul of its lumbering public healthcare system a top national priority.

Critics say China's efforts to cut treatment costs in public hospitals and defuse tensions

do not go far enough and show little sign of reversing the violence of angry sufferers. "The government is very worried about violence against doctors, especially when a few doctors and healthcare workers were attacked earlier this year. Some hospitals now have guards guarding them," said a health official in southern Guangdong Province, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

"It's a top priority to stop these things from happening," said the source, who works in hospital administration. In July, the ruling Communist Party sought to make treatment more affordable by looking to ban an age-old practice among

public hospitals of marking up drugs prices by 15 percent, a practice the government



A nurse (L) adjusts intravenous drips for patients at a hospital in Suining, Sichuan Province, in this on 9 March, 2011 file picture. — Reuters

allowed to flourish after it wound back subsidies for public hospitals from the 1950s. The ban applies to 300 county hospitals under a pilot project. But a patients' group and

senior Chinese health officials say the measure, even if implemented nationwide, does not make medicines substantially more affordable. — *Reuters*

Series of real estate scams speckle Dubai's property market recovery**UAE**

DUBAI, 18 Sept — After a series of "good news" in the Dubai real estate sector this year, a number of multi-million dollars fraud cases rock the Gulf Arab sheikhdom. According to local media reports, a number of brokerage firms disappeared with the money they should have had transferred from tenants to home owners. *Gulf News* reported earlier this month that two broker firms, MFRE and FHS, were owned by a 38-year old Emirati national, although the Real Estate Regulatory Authority or RERA allows one

person to obtain one brokerage license.

Both cases are the latest of a series of property scams

that came to light since the start of September. Media reports suggest that the entire truth of the scam has not



Series of real estate scams speckle Dubai's property market recovery. — XINHUA



The two parts of a road-rail bridge are seen joined together over the Yangtze River in Huanggang, central China's Hubei Province, on 16 Sept, 2012. The joining work of the Huanggang Yangtze River bridge, the 6th road-rail bridge over the river, is finished on Sunday in Huanggang, Hubei Province. — XINHUA

Hong Kong Airport passenger number reaches new high in August**HONG KONG**

HONG KONG, 18 Sept — Boosted by burgeoning demand during the summer holiday period, Hong Kong International Airport sustained the upward

momentum in passenger numbers to reach a new high of 5.2 million in August and reported a year-on-year growth of 3.9 percent, the Airport Authority announced on Sunday.

Flight movements hit a record of 30,470 as well, up 5.2 percent compared to the same period last year, said the authority. Cargo volume also grew by 3 percent to 328,000 tonnes as the airport approaches the busier months before the end of this year.

The authority said the growth in passenger traffic in August was primarily driven by a 7-percent increase in visitors over the year before. Passenger numbers to and from South East Asia and

Japan performed particularly well. Airport Authority Chief Executive Officer Stanley Hui said it is very encouraging to see both passenger traffic and flight movements reach new heights at the airport.

"We anticipate a steady growth trend in coming months as travel usually peaks at the end of the year, and in particular, during major festivals or holidays such as the Mid-Autumn Festival and the National Day Golden Week." For the first eight months of the year, the authority handled 37.9 million passengers and processed 2.6 million tonnes of cargo, representing a growth of 5.6 percent and 0.2 percent from a year earlier. — *Xinhua*

MIDDLE EAST**Hamas to decide on new "politburo chief" next week: sources**

GAZA, 18 Sept — Hamas authority in the Gaza Strip is likely to choose the new head of its politburo during a meeting in Egypt next week, sources said on Sunday. The selection will be based on the results of the secretive elections that the Palestinian movement held among its members in the Palestinian territories, Israeli prisons and Diaspora this year.

The current politburo chief, Khaled Mashaal, and Prime Minister of Hamas authority, Ismail Haneya, are the key candidates for the position, according to the sources, which are close to Hamas.

The new members of the

politburo will meet in Cairo next week to settle the argument over the head of the political bureau, the second highest institution of Hamas after the Shura Council.

On Monday, a Hamas delegation headed by Mashaal will arrive in Cairo to meet Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi, and Haneya left for Cairo from the Gaza Strip on Sunday and will meet Egyptian Prime Minister Hesham Qandil. Hamas is an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, to which Morsi belongs, and was treated with hostility by former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. — *Xinhua*

WORLD

17 mutilated bodies found in Mexico **MEXICO**

MEXICO CITY, 18 Sept— A total of 17 mutilated bodies were found Sunday along the roadside of a highway in Mexico's western state of Jalisco, according to local police.

The dismembered corpses, naked and piled up together with chains around their necks, were found near the highway linking Guadalajara and Morelia at 5:30am local time (1130GMT), said the state's General Attorney Office Prosecutor Tomas Coronado Olmos. Police also found gunshot wounds on the victims, which seemed to have been killed in different places, Coronado said, adding that their identities remained unclear.



Mexican soldiers and members of the Federal Police patrol the area where 17 bodies were found on a road in Tizapan, Jalisco, Mexico, on Sept. 16, 2012. The incident is allegedly linked to revenge killing between powerful drug gangs.—XINHUA

According to Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography, 95,632 homicides occurred in the

country from 2007 to 2011 during the government's campaign against organized crimes.—Xinhua

Berlusconi returns to politics, attacks Monti government

ITALY



Italy's former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi (L) waves as he arrives for a meeting of the European People's Party (EPP), ahead of a two-day European Union leaders summit, in Brussels June 28, 2012.—REUTERS

ROME, 18 Sept—Former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has returned to the political frontline after months in the shadows, vowing to abolish a key tax on homes in remarks likely to stoke investors' jitters about

Italy's future after an election next spring.

But the 75-year-old media magnate is keeping Italy guessing about whether he will stand for prime minister at the head of his centre-right People of Freedom (PDL) party in the election.

Berlusconi, one of the country's richest men, attacked the policies of his successor, unelected technocrat Mario Monti, in his first interview to Italian media since being forced from power last November, when Italy tottered on the edge of a Greek-style debt crisis.

Berlusconi said in the interview with his family's *il Giornale* daily that the PDL would abolish a deeply unpopular tax on homes worth 20 billion euros (16.1 billion pounds) a year, which

is a major plank in Monti's tough austerity programme to cut Italy's huge debt.

The former European Commissioner has restored Italy's credentials since he took over from the scandal-plagued Berlusconi at a time when a loss of confidence had pushed the country's borrowing costs to untenable levels.

Berlusconi, who has remained out of the limelight for months, said the tax on the owner of every house in Italy must be repealed in the same way his government abolished a previous levy in 2008. Avoiding property taxes has been a constant theme for Berlusconi who dominated Italian politics for 17 years until his fall last November.

Reuters

Fire put out in Brussels, no casualties

BELGIUM

BUSSELS, Sept. 17—The fire broke out on Monday night in a building in central Brussels has been put out. Nobody was injured in the incident.

A number of fire engines rushed to the scene shortly after the fire broke out in the three-storey building, about 1 km south of the European Commission building.

A fire fighter on the spot said there was nobody injured in the incident, adding only an old lady said she felt uncomfortable due to the smoke.

Investigation into the cause of the incident is underway.—Xinhua



Firemen extinguish fire in a building in central Brussels, Belgium, on 17 Sept, 2012. The fire broke out on Monday night was put out, and a lady was sent to hospital for medical treatment.—XINHUA

Russia expresses concerns over new US radar deployment in Japan

RUSSIA

MOSCOW, 18 Sept — Russia on Monday expressed its concerns over the development of a new US radar in Japan, calling on the US to balance efforts and avoid damaging other countries' security interests.

Earlier on Monday, US Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta announced the United States and Japan have agreed to locate the second US missile defence radar in Japan to monitor possible threats from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

"The potential deployment of the second

anti-missile radar on the Japanese territory will considerably enhance the capabilities of the American missile defence system in the Asia-Pacific region," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"We are urging our American partners to balance their missile defence efforts against real challenges and threats, so as not to damage the security interests of other members of the international community," the ministry said.

Also on Monday, US Ambassador to Russia

Michael McFaul wrote on his microblog that the new deployment of the US missile defence system in Japan will "pose no threat to Russia's strategic deterrent."

The US deployed its first X-band radar in northern Japan in 2006. Moscow has long opposed the deployment of US-led European missile defence facilities near its borders and called for legally binding guarantees from the US and NATO that the missile shield is not targeting Russia.

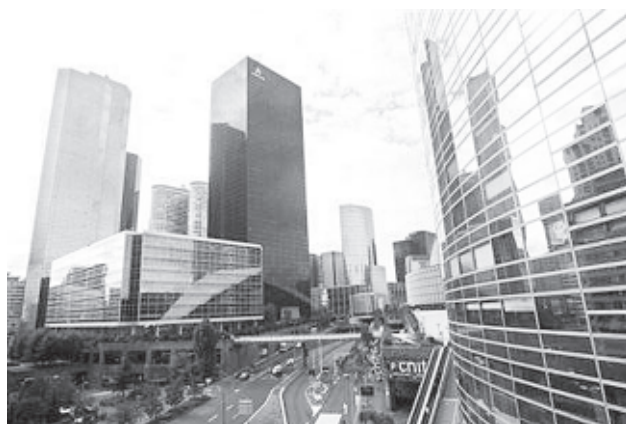
Xinhua

Areva finds UK partner for nuclear decommissioning **US**

LONDON, 18 Sept— French nuclear reactor maker Areva and engineering consultancy Atkins have set up a joint venture to bid for decommissioning contracts

strengthen Areva's footprint in the country," said Dominique Mockly, Areva executive senior vice president.

The companies



General view of the French nuclear reactor maker Areva Tower (C) at the La Defence business district, near Paris, on 7 August, 2012.—REUTERS

in Britain's nuclear sector, the companies said on Tuesday.

AREVA-ATKINS Partnership UK will be based in Warrington, northwest England, and seek to secure subcontractor work with companies appointed to manage sites owned by Britain's Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

"This will enable us to put our proven technology to use in meeting the challenges of UK decommissioning and

declined to comment on how much money they had already invested in the joint venture.

Areva's European Pressurised Water Reactor (EPR) is planned to be built in Britain as part of EDF's Hinkley Point C nuclear station in Somerset, southwest England.

Atkins has previous experience in UK nuclear work, such as the decommissioning of a storage pond at the former Sellafield nuclear plant.

Reuters

Prince Harry unharmed after Taliban attack in Afghanistan — NATO

KABUL, 18 Sept—Prince Harry was on a base in southern Afghanistan that endured a deadly Taliban attack on Friday but he was never in any danger, a NATO spokesman said.

US officials, speaking earlier on condition of anonymity, told *Reuters* that two US Marines were killed in the attack at Camp Bastion.

Reuters



Britain's Prince Harry gestures after passing the Apache helicopter flight line at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan September 7, 2012.

REUTERS

Two arriving flights searched at Kennedy airport after threat

US

NEW YORK, 18 Sept—A telephone threat to two airplanes arriving at John F Kennedy International Airport in New York on Monday prompted authorities to search the aircraft after they landed but nothing was found, officials said.

The planes were taken to an isolated area and searched for explosives and the passengers were interviewed, said Ron Marsico, spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey that oversees operations at area airports. "All is clear here," he said following the search. "Nothing was amiss." He said the "threatening" call indicated there could have been explosives on board. The federal Transportation Security Administration confirmed the all-clear for both planes, American Airlines Flight 24 from San Francisco and Finnair Flight 5 from Helsinki. "Both flights have been cleared ... and are headed to the gate at this time," the TSA said in a statement.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 19 September, 2012

Practise thrift for food security

As the world's food systems are in crisis, seeking a way for ensuring food security is a matter of strong concern. Food waste is now the second largest waste stream which requires thorough thinking and extreme patience.

It is clear that food waste has serious impact on economy and environment. The scandalous reason that food is discarded is because it doesn't meet aesthetic criteria, and even perfectly formed vegetables and other perishables often end up in supermarket dumpsters.

The most noteworthy finding is that people from different regions should take streamlined steps in purchasing, preparation and storage of food. Increasing the perceived value of goods in question is also the best way to reduce food waste.

The right to food is a human right derived from the International Covenant on Economic and Cultural Right (ICESCR), recognizing the "right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food", as well as the "fundamental right to be free from hunger".

Drought and flooding have compromised crop production across the world. But some overstocked supermarket shelves continue to propagate the illusion of plenty and the rate of food waste in some regions has more than doubled.

With the continued explosion of global population plus the decreased capacity to produce food, more and more people will go hungry. Therefore, all consumers are urged to practise thrift and alter their own behaviours that could touch off food waste.



NATIONAL



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visiting University of Computer Studies (Kengtung).
MNA

Participation of the people ...

(from page 16)
Myanmar's education system. A total of 64 universities and colleges around the country are offering education to offspring of 60 million people, nurturing human resources. Education covers training, teaching and learning.

The term of university has been increased from three years to four years to uplift the education standards. Both enthusiasm of students and competency of teachers are needed.

Teachers should learn constantly to catch up the developments of each subject and try to improve their capacity.

Afterwards, wellwisher donated cash to the university through the rector in-charge of the university.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham went to the University of Computer Studies (Kengtung) and inspected the e-library and lecture rooms at the university.

At the meeting with the acting principal and faculty members of the university, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that the universities of computer studies have been established in regions and states with the aim of benefiting the country and people.

He urged the faculty members to do research on the graduates of the university whether they become computer professionals or not.

The principal and faculty members of the university are obliged to teach the students so that they can apply the

computer science and to learn the advancing computer science, he added. He also assured the support of the government for the faculty members to do so.

He also urged the faculty members to be obliged to teach the students to possess quality so that they can overcome challenges in the ASEAN Integration in 2015.

He also stressed the need for improvement of skills of the faculty members.

During the meeting, wellwishers donated cash to the university through the acting principal.

Afterwards, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party visited the Technological University (Kengtung).

After hearing reports at the university, the Vice-President attended to the needs of the university.

Speaking on the occasion, he stressed the importance of technology as development of an economy of a country depends on it.

There are two kinds of

economy: one is based on the technology and the other is based on the natural resources, he added. Myanmar lagged behind the development as it depends on its natural resources while other countries such as Singapore which has built their economy based on the technology has seen rapid development, he said.

Teaching of the faculty members, learning of the students and teaching aids play a key role in bringing the development of technology to the country, he said.

He urged the faculty members to improve their skills and to teach the students so that they can become professionals.

He also assured of the State's support for the faculty members to keep on their learning.

Afterwards, wellwishers donated cash to the university through the acting principal.

During his tour of Kengtung, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham also met with townsenders at the Triangle Region Command.

During the meeting, townselder U Haung Kham reported to the Vice-President on hydropower plant project, relocation of the cemetery away from the town systematically, maintenance of roads, mushrooming check-points along the Tachilek-Taunggyi Road, expansion of garbage system and townselder U Sai Lon Sai Lan on literature of the national races.

The Chief Minister of Shan State also reported to the Vice-President.

Afterwards, the Vice-President assisted in taking the measures related to the reports of the townsenders.

At the meeting, the Vice-President presented cash assistance amounted to K2.5 million to the Triangle Region Command through Commander of the command Maj-Gen Than Tun Oo.

After the meeting, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and his entourage left there for Nay Pyi Taw by the Myanma Airways and arrived back here this evening.—MNA



Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat providing cash assistance for six flood victims.
MNA

NATIONAL

Environmental Conservation and National Technological Requirement discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Sept—The Round Table Discussion on Myanmar Environmental Conservation Policy and National Technological Requirement was held at Myat Taw Win Hotel, here, this morning, with an address by Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said that the discussion is to focus on climate change, bio-diversity, forest degradation and deforestation, reduction of carbon emission and undertakings in line with the environmental conservation law.

He noted that Environmental Conservation Law was promulgated in March 2012. Emphasis is to be placed on setting norms and standards for environmental quality, preserving the natural resources and cultural heritages. Rules and procedures of the law are being drawn.

Like other countries, he said that Myanmar faces climate change, depletion of bio-diversity and deforestation, natural resources degradation and challenges on pollutions.

The Union Minister expressed his believe that the discussion will adopt the future programmes between the ministry of EU.

Ms Veronique Lorenzo, Chief of Operation for European Union, kept a promise to cooperate with the government by sharing technology for environmental conservation.

The discussion lasts till 19 September.—MNA



Union Minister U Win Tun speaking at Round Table Discussion. MNA

Workshop on National Level monetary service development and investment opportunities held

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Sept— The Ministry of Finance and Revenue is implementing monetary reforms for development of monetary sector which plays a pivotal role in economic growth of the State, said Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein at the Workshop on National Level Monetary Service Development and Investment Opportunities held at Thingaha Hotel here this morning.

The Union Minister pointed out that the ministry has permitted to open new private banks and extend banks, has granted issued money changer license and authorize dealer license and has carried out deposit insurance, special drawing rights, managed floating exchange rate regime, foreign exchange auction, two way foreign exchange auction, with private banks which have got license for

foreign currency exchange.

The Microfinance Law was promulgated on 30-11-2011 and the Foreign Exchange Management Law on 10-8-2012. Plans are underway to implement banking network for promotion of payment system and Myanmar payment union card (MPU-Debit Card). Central Bank of Myanmar has signed MoUs with Tokyo Stock Exchange of Daiwa Research Institute and Policy Research Institute (PRI) of Japanese Finance and Revenue Ministry for capital market development.

The purpose of the workshop is to take advices from scholars, institutions and entrepreneurs in implementation monetary sector development for public convenience, he added. Policy and plan will be carried out based on the results from the workshop by seeking successful

implementation tasks and investment opportunities, he explained.

Then resource persons including Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Maung Maung Thein read out their papers and those attendees participated in discussions.

Present at the workshop were Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, Deputy Finance and Revenue Ministers Dr Lin Aung and Dr Maung Maung Thein, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, managing directors and directors-general from Finance and Revenue Ministry, deputy directors-general and directors of Central Bank of Myanmar, scholars, entrepreneurs and media persons totalling 195.—MNA

Thawtapan edible oil, salt, medicine donated in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 18 Sept—A ceremony to donate edible oil, salt and medicines to above 50 members of the Sangha from monasteries in five townships of Mandalay, Amarapura and Patheingyi townships, organized by Thawtapan Association for ninth time, was held at the office of Shine Hope Co on 80th Street between 17th and 18th Streets in Aungmyethazan Township on 15 September.

It was the donations of Dhammaduta Ashin Çhekinda and disciples. They donated 11506 viss of edible oil, 5184 viss of salt and 204 packets of assorted medicines to 204 monasteries where above 50 monks are staying in Aungmyethazan, Chanayethazan, Mahaangmye, Chanmyathazi, Pyigyidagun, Amarapura and Patheingyi townships.

The merits sharing

ceremony was held at 10 am. Next, meals were offered to Ovadaçariya Sayadaws and 204 members of the Sangha.

On 20 and 21 September, they will offer one viss each of edible oil and salt and medicine to 16383 members of the Sangha and nuns from Sagaing at the Dhammaduta Yaunggyi Dhammayon in the precinct of Laygyun Manaung Pagoda in Thawtapan Ward of Sagaing.—Kyemon

Development of fishery industry discussed

TAIKKYI, 18 Sept— Taikkyi Township Fisheries Together with staff, Head of Department U Tint Aung on



District News

13 September morning met village administrators and fisher-men and gave talks on prevention against illegal fishery works and conservation of environment.

Later, the Theyetchaung Village-tract's Environment and Water Resources Conservation Group was organized with 11 fishermen.—Myanma Alin

Women entrepreneurs leave for Bangkok

YANGON, 18 Sept—A four-member delegation led by Secretary Daw Hnin Wai of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association left here by air yesterday

morning to attend the 18th ASEAN Youth Award and 7th Tayo ASEAN Ward to be held in Bangkok of Thailand from 17 to 21 September 2012.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Joint-Secretary Daw Khin Lay, executives and officials of the association.—Myanma Alin



World Breastfeeding Week launched

HTIGYAING, 18 Sept— The World Breastfeeding Week 2012 and the Nourishment Week ceremony was held at the office of Htigyaing Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association

at 10 am on 28 August.

Acting Head of Township Health Department Dr Bo Sein gave talks on systematic breastfeeding to children and good cookery for nourishment foods.

Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Aye Myint and members gave medicines, vitamin and iodized salt to children.

Myanma Alin

WORLD

Male Giant Panda Tian Tian is seen at the panda habitat of the US National Zoo in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 17 Sept, 2012. US National Zoo on Monday announced Giant Panda Mei Xiang has given birth to a cub. The National Zoo now houses Mei Xiang and Tian Tian, a pair of giant pandas on loan from China.—XINHUA



Giant Panda cub born in Washington's National Zoo

WASHINGTON, 18 Sept— US National Zoo on Monday announced Giant Panda Mei Xiang has given birth to a cub.

The zoo's chief veterinarian Suzan Murray said the cub was born at about 10:46 pm on 16 Sept. She said "Mei Xiang is behaving exactly the same way she did when Tai Shan was born. She is cradling her cub closely, and she looks so tired, but every time she tries to lay down, the cub squawks and she sits right up and cradles the cub more closely. She is the poster child for a perfect

panda mom." The zoo said in a statement that experts believe there is only one cub. For now, the only way animal care staff can monitor the cub is using the web cams installed in the panda's habitat, and their intent is for Mei Xiang to raise this cub naturally.

Mei Xiang gave birth to her first cub, Tai Shan, in 2005. Tai Shan now lives in China. The National Zoo now houses Mei Xiang and Tian Tian, a pair of giant pandas on loan from China.

Xinhua

Students return to Louisiana State University after bomb scare

US

NEW ORLEANS, 18 Sept— Students at Louisiana State University were allowed to return to their dorms late on Monday after police swept residential halls on the campus following a bomb threat.

Dining and recreational facilities also were reopened, LSU said in a statement.

"LSU and law enforcement personnel continue to methodically search the campus and have been returning buildings to normal operations throughout the evening," the statement said.

"There are fewer than 20 buildings left to search and

LSU will continue to update the campus community as information becomes available," it said.

The university was evacuated following a telephoned threat to the East Baton Rouge Parish emergency centre at 10:32 am (1532 GMT) and the centre relayed the information to campus police, said university spokesman Ernie Ballard.

University Chancellor William Jenkins made the decision to evacuate the campus, and LSU alerted students, faculty and staff via text message at about 11:30 am (1630 GMT), Ballard said.

Ballard could not say how many of LSU's 29,000 students and 4,700 faculty and staff were on campus at the time of the threat.

As word of the threat spread, public school officials placed three nearby elementary schools and one high school on lockdown, meaning no one was allowed to enter or leave, according to the East Baton Rouge Parish School System. Public schools spokeswoman Sonya Gordon said students would be allowed to leave at their regular times, unless there was confirmation that a threat exists.—Reuters

Cuba says it proposed talks on jailed

Cuba

American, no US response



Judy Gross, wife of US aid contractor Alan Gross who is jailed in Cuba, speaks during an interview for Reuters with Reuters at her apartment in Washington on 23 October, 2010.

REUTERS

HAVANA, 18 Sept—Cuba has proposed talks with the United States about resolving the case of jailed American contractor Alan Gross, but has received no response, indicating a lack of interest by

Washington, a top Cuban diplomat said on Monday.

Foreign Ministry official Josefina Vidal said at a Press conference that Cuba had proposed discussions "as a first step for the development of a process... toward finding a solution to the case of Mr Alan Gross."

Gross, 63, has been jailed since December 2009 and is serving a 15-year sentence for illegally setting up Internet networks in Cuba under a US programme that promotes political change on the communist island.

The Cuban government views the programme as subversive.

Gross' imprisonment put the brakes on efforts by

President Barack Obama to improve long-hostile relations between the two countries just 90 miles apart. Gross' wife said last week she feared for her husband's life because his health is deteriorating. Cuba denied that.

Cuban officials have said before that they would be open to talks about Gross, but this was the first time known that they have said they had proposed them.

"I want to ratify today that up to this moment we have not received a response from the government of the United States," said Vidal, who is the Cuban Foreign Ministry's director of North American relations.

Reuters

Explosives used to slow nuclear programme, Iran says

Iran

VIENNA, 18 Sept — Explosives were used to damage the electricity power lines to Iran's Fordow underground enrichment plant last month to sabotage Teheran's atomic advances, Iran's nuclear chief Fereidoun Abbasi Davani said on Monday.

It was the first time Iran mentioned the incident, which Abbasi-Davani said took place on 17 Aug.

He added "the same act" had been carried out on power lines to Iran's main enrichment plant near the central town of Natanz.

Abbasi-Davani made clear his view that the explosives failed to slow Iran's nuclear programme, which he said has made great progress in uranium enrichment.

The West suspects Iran of attempting to produce a nuclear warhead under cover of its nuclear programme, while Iran says its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes.—Xinhua



A man looks at the derailed train's compartments at the accident site near southern Pakistani port city of Karachi, on 17 Sept, 2012. At least two people were killed and over 100 others injured when two passenger trains collided near Karachi in southern Pakistan early Monday morning, reported local media.—XINHUA

Two-state solution less viable in Israel-Palestine conflict:

UN

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Sept— The UN Special Coordinator for the Peace Process in the Middle East Robert Serry on Monday said a two-state solution to the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict is at risk.

"The lack of progress between Israelis and Palestinians on the political track and the continuing conflict and occupation put at risk the viability of the two-state solution," said Serry in a briefing to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East. According to him, the stakes for a resolution are high with the Palestinian Authority (PA) facing a difficult economic climate, including decreased foreign aid and a slowing economy.

"There is no more sobering a manifestation of such a risk than the financial

and economic crisis currently afflicting the Palestinian Authority," said Serry.

While there has been some "positive quiet dialogue," he said, no effective progress had been made on core issues and recent attacks on Palestinians in the occupied territory are also exacerbating tensions.

Serry expressed his hope that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in cooperation with the Quartet (composed of the UN, Russia, the European Union and the United States), "will chart a credible, political way forward in the coming months."

In a press briefing here, UN Spokesperson Martin Nesirky said, "The Road Map devised by the Quartet is credible" and has "been agreed to by all parties."

Xinhua

Russia

Putin urges Russia to increase defense capability amid "growing use of force"

MOSCOW, 18 Sept— Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday urged Russia to increase its defence capability amid the "growing use of force in international affairs."

The president made the remarks while overseeing the Caucasus-2012 strategic drills at the Rayevsky range, southern Russia. The exercise, which takes place from 17 to 23 September, is the largest war game in Russia this year.

"You can see what is happening in the world, you can see that, unfortunately, there is growing use of force in international affairs. All this means that we must keep our powder dry, and we must increase the defence capability of Russia," Putin said in his address to the drills.

According to the president, the only objective of the drills was to demonstrate that the Russian armed forces were ready to defend the national interests and were able to respond to any security challenges and threats. Led by Russian Chief of General Staff Nikolai Makarov, up to 8,000 servicemen along with over 200 military vehicles, some 100 artillery pieces and about 10 warships are taking part in the drills.—Xinhua

Firefighters put out fire during a fire fighting drill in the Greater Khingan Range, north China's Inner Mongolia Province, on 17 Sept, 2012. A joint large-scale drill was held here on Monday.

XINHUA



REGIONAL

China launches WTO challenge to US

CHINA anti-subsidy tariffs

GENEVA, 18 Sept—China filed a complaint at the World Trade Organization on Monday to challenge a new US law on “countervailing duties”, or tariffs intended to combat export-promoting subsidies.

The complaint, filed hours after the United States said it would launch a wide-ranging trade complaint against China’s support for car exports, potentially affects close to 30 products that have previously been targeted by US duties, a trade official familiar with the case said.

He said the complaint was aimed at a US law passed in March which allowed the United States to apply countervailing measures to Chinese exports

retrospectively.

Commerce Ministry spokesman Shen Danyang said China hoped the United States could “correct its mistaken policy and appropriately resolve China’s concerns”.

“China has, under various circumstances, repeatedly reiterated that it resolutely opposes the abuse of trade remedy regulations, opposes trade protectionism, and will staunchly exercise its WTO-member rights to protect the legal rights of its domestic industry,” Shen said.

In a brief statement on the initial filing by China, the WTO said the products included steel, tyres, magnets, chemicals, kitchen appliances, wood flooring and wind towers.

China will file a full complaint with more details in the next few days.

Under WTO rules, China’s filing of the complaint has set the clock ticking on a 60-day period during which the United States can try to settle the dispute in bilateral talks. After that, China could ask the WTO to adjudicate.

Reuters



Wu Bangguo (L), chairman of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress (NPC), meets with Chamal Rajapaksa, speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 17 Sept, 2012.—XINHUA

Three killed, two missing as monsoon rains continue to hit Pakistan



A Pakistani man carries his child on his shoulders as he crosses flooded water in central Pakistan’s Dera Ghazi Khan, on 15 Sept, 2012.—XINHUA

ISLAMABAD, 18 Sept—At least three people were killed, two went missing and 15 kids got injured as monsoon rains continued to hit Pakistan in its northern, eastern and southern areas on Monday, said officials and local media.

Two children were reportedly washed away on Monday by flood water triggered by heavy rains in Rawalpindi, a sister city of the capital Islamabad in the country’s northern area.

Several houses at the outskirts of Rawalpindi also reportedly collapsed in the rains.

Water level at Nullah Lai, a natural stream flowing through the city, rose sharply to 12 feet, four feet higher than the alarming level. Local government has issued a warning to the residents living along the stream as several low-lying areas have already been inundated.

Officials predicted the rains in Rawalpindi and Islamabad will continue until

DISASTER

Wednesday morning.

Meanwhile, in Faisalabad, a city in Pakistan’s eastern province of Punjab, at least three people including two children were killed and several others injured as a house roof collapsed in the wake of downpours in the city. In the southern province of Sindh, 15 kids were reportedly injured as a primary school classroom collapsed in the heavy rains.—Xinhua

Singapore Airlines’ August passenger traffic up 6.5 pct

SINGAPORE year-on-year

SINGAPORE, 18 Sept—The Singapore Airlines, one of the top carriers in the world, carried 1.5 million passengers in August, up 6.5 percent year-on-year, the company said on Monday.

Its passenger load factor increased by 1.7 percentage points from the same month last year to 78.3 percent in August this year.

Passenger load factors improved across most regions, due to strong summer demand and earlier holiday travel for the Hari Raya holiday, the company said. However, passenger load factors for the East Asia

and South West Pacific route regions declined as growth in demand was outstripped by increases in capacity.

The company said it expected promotional activities to keep placing downward pressure on passenger yields.

The overall cargo traffic slumped by 4.3 percent year-on-year, while cargo capacity declined by 1.6 percent. Cargo traffic in East Asia was flat, and could not keep pace with the increase in capacity arising from cargo capacity on passenger flights.

Xinhua

ASEM expected to solve global problems, bring prosperity: Indonesian minister

YOGYAKARTA, 18 Sept—Indonesia’s Education and Culture Minister Muhammad Noeh said on Tuesday that cultural diplomacy is an effective way to solve global problems.

“By adopting culture diversity approach, not uniformity, it will be easier to solve misunderstanding that may incite conflicts in the world,” the minister told participant countries and delegates attending the fifth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) held here.

The minister said that the meeting is the correct forum to discuss ways to address that aim. “The forum must be able to establish

convergence among civilizations so as to create peace and order in the world,” he added.

Asian and European countries whose population accounts for 60 percent of the whole world and home to the origin of civilization and faiths, has a great chance to promote cultural diplomacy, the minister said.

He also expected that the forum highlighting Asian and European heritage cities cooperation would promote and establish applicable cooperations that would eventually bring prosperity to countries in the regions.

The fifth of biennial ASEM culture ministries meeting entitled “Managing

Heritage Cities for a Sustainable Future” is scheduled to conclude on Wednesday.

Some 120 delegates from 37 Asian and European countries took part in the meeting.

Xinhua

Local farmers pick up cotton in Korla City of Bayingolin Mongolian Autonomous Prefecture, northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 17 Sept, 2012. More than 500,000 immigrant workers swarm into Xinjiang to rake in revenues by picking up cotton during this harvest season.—XINHUA



People gather near the site of a train fire in Bikaner, India, on 17 Sept, 2012. A goods train was set on fire by mob after it rammed into a truck at an unmanned railway crossing on the Jaisalmer-Bikaner line, killing eight and injuring several others.—XINHUA

Four people injured in crashes involving 16 cars in Osaka

ACCIDENT

OSAKA, 18 Sept—At least four people were hurt on Tuesday morning in several traffic accidents involving 16 vehicles in the western Japanese prefecture of Osaka, local press reported. The first

accident happened at around 6:30 am local time when passenger cars, which would avoid another vehicle which was already stopping due to its single-car crash, collided into each other on the southbound side of a regional motorway in Sakai City of the

prefecture according to the country’s public broadcaster Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK).

The report added that the accident further caused a chain reaction of more cars colliding into one another on the same traffic lane.

Xinhua

New Zealand to implement international trademark rules by yearend

NEW ZEALAND

WELLINGTON, 18 Sept—New Zealand is to fully implement the Madrid Protocol on international trademark protection by the

end of the year, the government announced on Tuesday.

Commerce Minister Craig Foss said regulations for the Madrid Protocol would be drafted, making it much easier for New Zealand business owners to register their trade marks in multiple countries.

“It will give New Zealand entrepreneurs the opportunity to protect their brands in nearly all of our major export markets with just one international

trade mark application,” Foss said in a statement.

The Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ) had introduced a world-leading online trade mark system this year, which would simplify the process further, he said.

“As a result, New Zealand will be one of the first OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries in the world not to charge a fee for certifying and transmitting

international trade mark applications.”

The regulations would assist in meeting obligations under two other treaties: the Nice Agreement on classification of goods and services in trademark registration and the Singapore Treaty on the harmonization of trademark registration procedures.

They would also align New Zealand’s trade mark regime with Australia, as part of the government’s Single Economic Market program, mandate the use of online trade mark filings and introduce small fee adjustments.

Xinhua

BUSINESS & ADVERTISEMENT

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Win Mu Tin
 M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
 for ROLLS-ROYCE p.l.c.
 P. O. Box 60, Yangon
 makhinkyi.law@mptmail.net.mm
 Dated: 19 September 2012

Fiji highlights importance of China top legislator's upcoming visit

FIJI

SUVA, 18 Sept — The Fijian government here on Sunday stressed the importance of the upcoming visit by China's top legislator Wu Bangguo, saying Wu's visit symbolizes the growing relations between Fiji and China since diplomatic relations were forged in 1975.

Relations between the two countries have significantly grown specially in the last 10 years, which has seen leaders from both sides expressing optimism towards strengthening relations, Fiji's Ministry of Information said in a media release.

It is expected that this visit by Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), and other high level exchanges will result in closer cooperation in international and regional affairs and provide a platform for more investment and trade, said the release. The Fijian government is making all preparations to host Wu as he visits the country later this month, during which Wu will meet with Fiji's President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau and Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, the release said.—Xinhua

Dubai has world's highest rental, food prices: study

DUBAI, 18 Sept — Dubai is the most expensive city in the Middle East, while in some categories the Gulf Arab metropolis is even the world's costliest place to live, according to a study on the cost of living abroad published on Sunday by Swiss bank UBS.

In relation to rentals, Dubai shares the pole position as a city with the world's highest housing prices like New York and Zurich. Average monthly rental prices in the three cities are up to 100 percent above the global average, UBS said.

The Swiss largest lender added in the study that together with Norway's Oslo and Switzerland's Geneva, Dubai also has the priciest food in the world. A three-course menu in a stylish restaurant in the aforementioned three cities costs around 95 US dollars.

Dubai, officially free of income taxes, became the Middle East's most expensive city also due to its growing bureaucracy and a number of "hidden taxes." In the past two years, thousands of once-for-free parking spaces were transformed into paid parking zones. In addition, bachelors are not allowed to share apartments in order to reduce rental costs. Transport costs and traffic fines were also massively increased by the government.

Regarding the combined costs of living, Dubai ranks globally the 22nd, according to the UBS study, while Oslo is the priciest place to live for foreigners.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 14 Sept, 2012 shows the China-constructed Nadarivatu Hydroelectric Scheme in Nadarivatu, Fiji. The China-constructed Nadarivatu Hydroelectric Scheme was officially commissioned in Fiji on Friday. A ceremony was held at the dam site surrounding by mountains in Nadarivatu, which was attended by Fiji's Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and high-ranking government officials as well as Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Huang Yong, together with hundreds of joyful local people and Chinese workers.

XINHUA

Int'l small business congress kicks off in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 18 Sept — The International Small Business Congress (ISBC) was opened here on Sunday by South African Minister of Trade and Industry Rob Davies who challenged global economies to prioritize the development of small enterprises as part of the solution to the world's economic slowing down.

The four-day congress was attended by government representatives, policy makers, advocates for small businesses, academics and business owners from all over the world. ISBC was formed in 1974 to provide an international forum for discussion of public policy and practices to promote small businesses domestically and in a global context.

"Small enterprises do not

only provide economic opportunities for the runners and operators of those small and medium enterprises, but also many of the new jobs that are created in expanding economies come from small enterprises," Rob Davies said.

He lauded the ISBC for holding the congress in Africa, saying they have made the right choice. "New forces of dynamism have emerged in the world economy and the center of gravity is shifting from the North and the West to the South and the East," he said, adding "the important good news is that the African continent is very much part of the dynamic processes which are emerging in the world economy." The minister said there is a general consensus that Africa is the next growth frontier after Asia.—Xinhua



A citizen poses for a photo next to a sculpture at the 13th China Changchun International Sculpture Exhibition in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province, on 16 Sept, 2012. Some 400 sculptors from 102 countries and regions were involved in the event and 45 pieces of the 1,560 submissions were selected to show off in the exhibition on Sunday. —XINHUA

Singapore decorates streets with record number of lanterns for Mid-Autumn Festival

SINGAPORE, 18 Sept— Singapore residents decorated the streets in its Chinatown and nearby districts with as many as 16,800 lanterns over the weekend to kick off the celebrations for the Mid-Autumn Festival.

In Chinatown, a heritage district, community organizations held the official light-up and opening ceremony on a stage on the main street to kick off the month-long celebrations, with President Tony Tan and the ambassadors from several countries among the guests.

The president lit up all the 16,800 lanterns that were put on threads above the main street and some of the smaller streets. Lawmaker Lily Neo said this is a Singapore record as it is the largest number of lanterns put up at once. The Mid-Autumn Festival, or the

middle of the eighth month of the lunar year, falls on 30 Sept. this year. It is the second most important traditional festival in Chinese culture. During the month of celebrations in Chinatown between 16 September and 14 October, performances will be held on many of the evenings. "During this one-month festival, we have this light-up today ... many many activities to involve the young children and the youths so that they learn about our own cultural heritage," Neo said.

Neo said there will be bazaars with hundreds of stalls as well as lantern displays at the street corners. Some of the lanterns were from South Korea as part of a cultural exchange program. The lanterns will be sent to South Korea later for display, too. The Mid-Autumn Festival in Chinatown, which has been

celebrated over the past years, is now a major celebrations that involves not only the Chinese community, but also the Malays, Indians and others. The opening ceremony performance on Sunday evening gathered dancers and performers from China.

A Malay musician played a traditional Chinese instrument, while an Indian female singer and a white man sang the Chinese pop tune The Moon Stands for My Love for You.

Other celebrations have also started over the weekend. On Saturday evening, the annual Mid-Autumn Festival by the River returned with a larger scale to the downtown segment of the Singapore River and the nearby shopping malls and public places.

Xinhua

Five killed in Missouri crash of private airplane

KANSAS CITY, (Missouri), 18 Sept — The owner of an insulation company, three of his children and the owner of an environmental consulting company were killed early on Saturday when a small airplane crashed in a southwestern Missouri field, authorities said. John Lambert, 44, president and owner of Missouri Insulation & Supply Inc, his children Joshua Lambert, 10, McKinley Lambert, 15, and Grayson Lambert, 16, all died in the crash, the Missouri State Highway Patrol said.

Robin Melton, 46, president and owner of Environmental Works Inc, also was killed in the crash, authorities said. Lambert was piloting the single-engine airplane, which took off from a suburban Kansas City airport on Friday night headed southeast to Springfield, Missouri, the highway patrol said. The airplane crashed just north of Willard, Missouri, in a field surrounded by woods, authorities said. Willard is about a dozen miles northwest of Springfield, but only a few miles from the Springfield-Branson airport.

Light rain was falling at the time of the crash, but it was not known if weather was a factor, said Bob Larimer, a patrol communications officer. Krista Guy said she was awakened by the sound of the airplane, which crashed about a quarter mile from her home.—Reuters

Photo taken on 14 Sept, 2012 shows a scene of sand dunes in Bao Trang, also known as White Lake, in Vietnam's southern Binh Thuan Province. Covering an area of about 70 hectares, Bao Trang is famous for its natural fresh water and sand dunes which attract many tourists. —XINHUA



ENTERTAINMENT

Usher, Shakira shake up judging panel on "The Voice"

LOS ANGELES, 18 Sept—R&B star Usher and Colombian singer Shakira will replace Christina Aguilera and Cee Lo Green for the fourth season next year of NBC's hit singing contest "The Voice," the network said on Monday.

The changes in the celebrity judge line-up will allow Aguilera and Green to work on new projects. Aguilera is releasing a new album in November and going on tour, while Green is developing a scripted comedy series for NBC based on his life, NBC entertainment chairman Robert Greenblatt said in a statement.

Judge-mentors Adam Levine, frontman of pop group Maroon 5, and country singer Blake Shelton will stay in place for season four, which starts in the spring of 2013.

"Doing two back-to-back cycles of this show requires a tremendous amount of time, and we are happy to accommodate the commitments made by Christina and Cee Lo," Greenblatt said.

"The participants on our show benefit from our coaches' expertise and their continued success in the music business allows for significant new contributions to the contestants when they return," he added. The line-up change for "The Voice" follows the announcement on Sunday that rapper Nicki Minaj and country star Keith Urban will join rival Fox TV singing contest "American Idol" when it returns in January 2013. Mariah Carey has also signed up for "Idol."

Usher, best known for his 2004 album "Confessions," is one of the

Colombian singer Shakira speaks at the CEO Summit that is part of the Americas Summit in Cartagena on 13 April, 2012.—REUTERS



world's best-selling artists with global sales of 65 million record and seven Grammy awards.

Shakira burst onto the international pop scene with her 2006 single "Hips Don't Lie."

"The Voice" has been a bright spot in struggling NBC's schedule

since its 2011 debut, and moved to a twice a year cycle this month. Its third season opener last week notably drew more US viewers than the revamped version of Fox's "The X Factor," with Britney Spears making her debut as a judge.

Reuters

"General Hospital" star John Ingle dies at 84

LOS ANGELES, 18 Sept— John Ingle, who played the ruthless patriarch Edward Quartermaine for two decades on daytime soap opera "General Hospital," has died at age 84.

The actor died on Sunday "surrounded by his family in California... after a courageous battle with cancer," according to a statement by television network ABC. He filmed his last episode of "General Hospital" on 24 August.

"With great sadness, I share the news of John Ingle's passing. We love him and will miss him. John will always be a part of the #GH family," the show's executive producer Frank Valentini tweeted



John Ingle

on Monday. Ingle was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1928, and his family moved throughout the Midwest before settling in California when Ingle was a teenager.

He attended Occidental College in Los Angeles and went on to teach drama at Beverly Hills High School and Hollywood High School for a combined 30 years. His students included Richard Dreyfuss, Barbara Hershey, David Schwimmer and Nicolas Cage.

Ingle pursued an acting career after retiring from teaching in 1985. In addition to his longstanding role on "General Hospital", Ingle's television credits include "Cheers," "The Drew Carey Show," "Beverly Hills 90210" and "Dallas."

Ingle married actress and singer Grace-Lynne Martin in 1954, and they were married for 57 years until her death earlier this year from natural causes. Together they had five daughters and nine grandchildren.

Reuters

Rihanna leads MTV Europe Music Award nominations

LONDON, 18 Sept— Barbadian R&B singer Rihanna led the nominations for the MTV Europe Music Awards on Monday with six, ahead of country songstress Taylor Swift on five and pop stars Justin Bieber and Katy Perry on four each.

The music channel said Rihanna had been shortlisted for best song ("We Found Love"), best female, best pop, best video ("We Found Love"), biggest fans and in the new category, best look.

She is up against Swift in the

BEST SONG: Carly Rae Jepsen/Call Me Maybe; Rihanna feat. Calvin Harris/We Found Love; Gotye/Somebody That I Used To Know; Pitbull feat. Chris Brown/International Love; fun. feat. Janelle Monáe/We Are Young

BEST NEW: Rita Ora; fun.; One Direction; Lana Del Rey; Carly Rae Jepsen

BEST FEMALE: Rihanna; Katy Perry; P!nk; Taylor Swift; Nicki Minaj

BEST MALE: Justin Bieber;

Designer Vivienne Westwood recycles ideas for latest collection

LONDON, 18 Sept—British fashion designer Vivienne Westwood claims she hopes no one will buy her latest creations —for the sake of the planet.

"I'm a fashion designer, I have not given up my job or anything, so of course I try not to waste, and my way of not wasting is to try concentrate on quality not quantity. And you know my message, it is buy less, choose well, make it last," Westwood told Reuters.

"I wish they wouldn't buy this new collection," she added. "Don't buy any clothes for ages until you really have to."

Her latest offerings may however prove hard to resist for fashion lovers. She describes them as recyclings of really good ideas her brand has had in the past.

Held in the grand setting of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, her show featured a medley of beautifully tailored dresses, jackets and skirts with graphic floral prints, candy-cane striped shirts and cropped capri pants.

The result was a mixture of ladylike elegance with a quirky twist. Sleeveless silk dresses in mustard yellow, midnight blue and

cherry red were paired with lace and broderie anglaise buckled boots.

"The Red Label collection has always been madam ... it's a bit I'm this woman kind of thing," Westwood told Reuters.

"I think it's influenced a bit by, well, I won't say, you'll have to decide for yourselves."

Models sported bold cartoonish make-up, painted over their red, green and yellow faces, and fifties-inspired hairstyles.

A hot pink one-shouldered floor-length gown drew sighs from the crowd, as did an off-the-shoulder ditsy printed piece.

Printed headscarves and embellished belts tightly cinching in models' waists also featured, along with wallpaper-inspired florals, glossy silk dresses with sequin detailing and ruching.

The designer herself wore a sequinned hat, a white t-shirt emblazoned with her eco-slogan "Climate Revolution" and platform shoes. She painted a moustache and circle around her eye in black during the finale of the show, in which Westwood and two models held up a Climate Revolution banner.

Reuters



Designer Vivienne Westwood delivers a speech during the launch of her "Tree Shirt," a T-shirt to raise money for European forests, an initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme, in Brussels on 11 October, 2011.—REUTERS



Rihanna performs "Cockiness" with A\$AP Rocky (L) during the 2012 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles, on 6 September, 2012. REUTERS

female, pop and look sections, while Swift was also nominated for best live and best world stage act.

Lady Gaga dominated last year's awards held in Belfast, coming away with four prizes and performing "Marry the Night". This year she is nominated for three awards — best live act, video (Marry the Night) and "biggest" fans.

A host of other acts, including Lana Del Rey, Nicki Minaj, Jay-Z and Kanye West also earned three nominations each.

The awards, many of which are voted for by MTV fans online, are one of the biggest pop events outside the United States, and, despite being based in Europe, are generally dominated by American artists.

This year they will be held in Frankfurt's Festhalle on 11 November.

Following are the main nominations:

Kanye West; Flo Rida; Pitbull; Jay-Z

BEST POP: Justin Bieber; No Doubt; Katy Perry; Taylor Swift; Rihanna

BEST LIVE: Taylor Swift; Lady Gaga; Jay-Z & Kanye West; Green Day; Muse

BEST HIPHOP: Jay-Z & Kanye West; Nas; Rick Ross; Drake; Nicki Minaj

BEST ROCK: Linkin Park; Green Day; Muse; The Killers; Coldplay

BEST ELECTRONIC: David Guetta; Swedish House Mafia; Avicii; Skrillex; Calvin Harris

BEST ALTERNATIVE: Jack White; The Black Keys; Arctic Monkeys; Florence + The Machine; Lana Del Rey

BEST VIDEO: M.I.A./Bad Girls; Lady Gaga/Marry The Night; Katy Perry/Wide Awake; Rihanna feat. Calvin Harris/We Found Love; PSY/Gangnam Style.

Reuters

SPORTS

Soccer Ba double earns Newcastle draw at Everton



Newcastle United's Demba Ba celebrates his second goal against Everton during their English Premier League soccer match at Goodison Park in Liverpool, northern England, on 17 Sept, 2012.
REUTERS

LONDON, 18 Sept— Newcastle United striker Demba Ba struck in the last minute to salvage a 2-2 draw with Everton in a pulsating Premier League match at Goodison Park on Monday.

Everton looked to have sealed all three points when Victor Anichebe turned neatly to crack a low shot past Tim Howard with two minutes left but Ba's clever finish earned a point for his team.

Everton dominated the first half and led thanks to a fine goal by England left back Leighton Baines before Newcastle equalised just after the interval through halftime

substitute Ba.

Everton climbed to seventh in the standings on seven points from four games with Newcastle two points back in 11th. "I never set up my team to get a draw and in the second half we showed what we are all about," Newcastle manager Alan Pardew told Sky Sports.

"I was proud of the second half because we were terrific, but the first half we lacked belief and I was shocked at how we played.

"Fortunately we've got good players and not many teams would come back and respond in the way we did so

all credit to the players for that. At halftime I put some belief in the team, sometimes that's all you need."

Everton went ahead in the 15th minute when Baines combined brilliantly with Steven Pienaar before drilling a firm left-foot cross shot past goalkeeper Steve Harper.

Newcastle manager Alan Pardew responded by sending on Ba and the move paid immediate dividends when the striker ran on to a beautifully weighted pass from Yohan Cabaye and struck a firm angled left-shoot shot past Tim Howard.

Pienaar was again the creative spark as Everton almost took the lead again but Marouane Fellaini was adjudged narrowly offside after clipping in the South African midfielder's clever pass. Everton were also denied a goal after 78 minutes when Anichebe's close-range header was tipped on to the underside of the crossbar by Harper and appeared to bounce down over the line before being cleared.

Anichebe then controlled Pienaar's pass and lashed a fierce shot into the corner of the net before Ba prodded Shola Ameobi's chested flick-on past Howard in a dramatic end to the game.

Reuters

Chelsea title thirst remains unquenched:

Di Matteo

Soccer

LONDON, 18 Sept— Chelsea begin their quest to become the first team to win back-to-back Champions League titles on Wednesday when they entertain a Juventus side still getting used to matchdays without their coach.

The Londoners ended a long wait to become kings of Europe for the first time by beating Bayern Munich on penalties on a memorable night in the German club's Allianz Arena in May but manager Roberto Di Matteo said their thirst for trophies remained unquenched.

"The owner (Roman Abramovich) has never lost his ambition," Di Matteo said ahead of the Group E opener at Stamford Bridge. "He always wants to win with this club and continue to drive for excellence. As long as he is at the helm his ambition to win will never diminish."

Chelsea have made a good start to their domestic season and are riding high at the top of the Premier League with three wins and one draw from their opening four games.

However, they have failed to win their last two matches, suffering an embarrassing 4-1 defeat by Atletico Madrid in the

European Super Cup in Monaco and being held to a 0-0 draw at neighbours Queens Park Rangers in a feisty Premier League encounter on Saturday.

'Handshake-gate' took centre stage at Loftus Road, with QPR defender Anton Ferdinand refusing to acknowledge Chelsea pair John Terry and Ashley Cole before kickoff, but it was also apparent that the European

officials over perceived refereeing injustices.

The Spain striker was replaced by Daniel Sturridge with 10 minutes to go and prompted several raised eyebrows when he ran straight down the tunnel.

Di Matteo said he understood why Torres was so disappointed.

"Players are generally not happy to come off," said the Chelsea manager. "He



Chelsea's soccer players Fernando Torres (L), Juan Mata (C) and coach Roberto Di Matteo (R) attend a news conference at Monaco's Grimaldi Forum in Monte-Carlo on 30 August, 2012.—REUTERS

champions were some way short of their best.

The performance of Fernando Torres was also a cause for concern for Chelsea fans as he spent most of the match arguing with the

showed a bit of frustration but it's not a problem for us.

"He had a chance to score in the first half and a half-decent chance in the second half as well. He played his part in the game."—Reuters

Phelps and Felix win top US Olympic athlete awards



London 2012 Olympics gold medallist runner Allyson Felix

NEW YORK, 18 Sept— Michael Phelps and Allyson Felix were named as the United States Olympic Committee's (USOC) best athletes for 2011-12 on Monday for their gold-medal performances at the London Olympics.

Phelps won the male athlete of the year award for the third time after the swimmer captured four gold medals in London to finish his career with an unprecedented tally of 18 golds, twice as many as the next best from any Olympic sport. Felix won the women's award after scooping winning gold in the 200 metres sprint and the 4x100m and 4x400m relays on the running track.

Reuters

Falcons bring Manning back to earth, beat Broncos

NFL

ATLANTA, 18 Sept— After his dream return to the NFL last week, Peyton Manning was given a rude awakening by Atlanta on Monday as the Falcons intercepted the Denver quarterback three times in the first quarter on the way to a 27-21 win over the Broncos.

Manning missed last season due to neck surgery, leading Indianapolis to cut the four-times league MVP, but on his debut with the Broncos last week the 36-year-old showed he still had plenty to offer, leading the team to a 31-19 win over Pittsburgh.

Against Atlanta, however, Manning struggled to find his receivers and watched the home defense pick off his passes and race to a 20-0 lead.

"Anytime you come on the road and throw three interceptions in the first quarter you really put your team in a hole," Manning told reporters after finishing with 241 yards passing and one score to go with the three costly turnovers.

"Three bad decisions.

We'll learn from this and get better."

After the dreadful start, Manning composed himself and threw a touchdown to Demaryius Thomas just before the intermission to cut the deficit to 20-7 at the half.

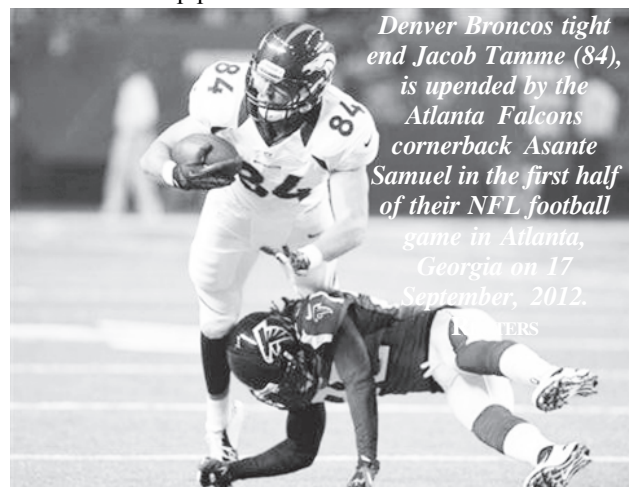
Atlanta quarterback Matt Ryan extended their lead to 27-7 with a scoring pass to Roddy White in the third quarter before Manning led two drives that were both capped by short touchdown runs from Willis McGahee that pulled Denver (1-1) within six. However, the Falcons were able to keep possession

and run out the clock to seal the win.

Ryan threw one touchdown pass in each half and had no interceptions.

"That was a good win for our team," Ryan said. "We're 2-0, it's a good start to our season but that's it. There's a long way to go."

White was Ryan's lead receiver, catching eight passes for 102 yards and a score. The NFL's replacement officials, filling in for the referees during their lockout, had a tough game and seemed to lose control at times.—Reuters



Denver Broncos tight end Jacob Tamme (84), is upended by the Atlanta Falcons cornerback Asante Samuel in the first half of their NFL football game in Atlanta, Georgia on 17 September, 2012.
REUTERS



Barcelona's coach Tito Vilanova speaks to supporters during a presentation ceremony of his team at Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona on 20 August, 2012.
REUTERS

Vilanova striking new beat at Barcelona

Soccer

MADRID, 18 Sept— Tito Vilanova is quietly stamping his authority on the Barcelona team and they head into their Champions League Group G opener at home to Spartak Moscow on Wednesday with La Liga's only perfect record.

It was a daunting task to step up from assistant to replace Pep Guardiola in the Nou Camp hot seat, taking over from a fans' idol who won a record 14 trophies in his four years in charge. Vilanova, who turned 44 on Monday, did not command the instant respect that the former Spain international Guardiola had accrued, but he has quickly shown he is not afraid to plough his own furrow.

At Getafe on Saturday, Vilanova rested World Player of the Year Lionel Messi and Brazil international Dani Alves for a fixture Barca have often struggled with, and at a venue where champions Real Madrid fell 2-1 last month.

The side were also shorn of Andres Iniesta, Jordi Alba and Alexis Sanchez, and during the Guardiola era often struggled with the so called 'FIFA virus' after breaks for internationals. It had been a year since Messi was last rested for a league game and after Barca were held 2-2 at Real Sociedad, Guardiola never left him out again. Vilanova's side, however, came through with 4-1 victory at Getafe, displaying the zip and hunger that had at times been missing towards the end of Guardiola's reign.—Reuters

GENERAL

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(19-9-12 09:30 am ~ 20-9-12 09:30 am) MST

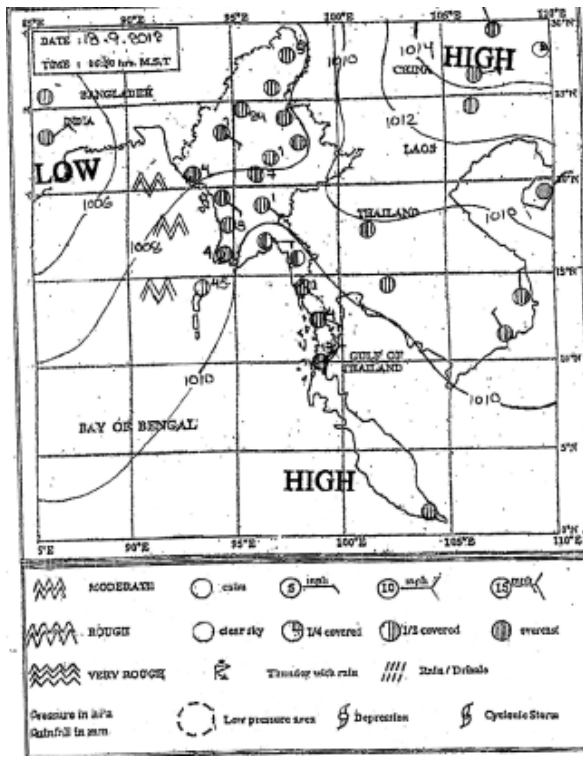
- * News
- * Peace Education Symposium
- * Better Days for Farmers
- * News
- * Taste of Myanmar (Milk Noddle)
- * News
- * Wathan Film Festival (Nargis Special Screening)
- * News
- * The First General Assembly of Myanmar Seamen's Federation
- * News
- * Songs for you
- * Gourmet Experience with Park Royal La Brasserie's Top Chef Gary Lim
- * News
- * Myanmar Handicrafted Instruments made in Leather
- * Completion Ceremony of 1st Intake Ground School of Golden Wings@Jenka Flight
- * News
- * Generous Donation in the Month of Waso
- * Myanmar Movie "Regretful Game"

MYANMAR TV

(19-9-2012) (Wednesday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:40 am
- 2. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:05 am
- 3. Cultural Dances
- 8:30 am
- 4. Selected Songs For 19th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions (2012) (Modern Song) (Amateur (Second) Division Level) (Level Men)
- 4:00 pm
- 5. Martial Song
- 4:05 pm
- 6. Dance Of National Races
- 4:20 pm
- 7. Teleplay (Health)
- 4:30 pm
- 8. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Year (law)
- 5:00 pm
- 9. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:10 pm
- 10. Road to 27th "SEA GAMES" (Pencak silat)
- 5:35 pm
- 11. ASEAN "Programmes"
- 5:45 pm
- 12. Documentary
- 6:35 pm
- 13. Shwe Yin Chone Than
- 6:35 pm
- 14. Programme in honour of the Harpist Inlay U Myint Maung (Prat-3)
- 8:00 pm
- 15. News
- 16. 19th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition (2012) Interview (Marriomentt)
- 17. TV Drama Series
- 18. Dramatic Arts Competition (Narration of Religious Stories)

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 19th September,

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	33/91	24/75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
2	Kayah	28/82	19/66	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)
3	Kayin	35/95	23/73	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
4	Chin	22/72	17/63	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
5	Upper Sagaing	30/86	24/75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
6	Lower Sagaing	36/97	26/79	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
7	Taninthayi	31/88	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
8	Bago	33/91	23/73	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
9	Magway	34/93	26/79	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)
10	Mandalay	32/90	24/75	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
11	Mon	32/91	25/77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
12	Yangon	33/91	22/73	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
13	Rakhine	33/91	22/72	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
14	Southern Shan	28/82	17/63	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
15	Northern Shan	32/90	20/66	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
16	Eastern Shan	33/91	20/68	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
17	Ayeyawady	34/93	25/77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	35/95	24/75	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	35/91	23/73	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	32/90	24/75	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today: During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan and Kayah States, rain of thundershowers have been isolated in Lower Sagaing, Magway and Yangon Regions and Mon State. Scattered in Mandalay Region, Chin and Rakhine and Kayin States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Coco Island (1.90) inches, Ngathachaung (1.57) inches, Hkamti (1.02) inches, Sagaing (0.98) inch and Homalin (0.94) inch.

Bay Inference: Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere in the Sea and Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar water.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of thundery activity in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Elmayan still going strong at age 95

BUENOS AIRES, 18 Sept— Artin Elmayan is hard to keep pace with as he heads for the locker rooms at River Plate. "I've got to get my rackets," he says under the shadow of the Monumental, the giant stadium which is home to one of the world's great soccer clubs where members enjoy a variety of sports.

Armenian-born Elmayan's choice is tennis, a sport he took up at the age of 39. Now, aged 95, he is the world's oldest-ranked player. The International Tennis Federation (ITF) ranks Elmayan 26th among men over 85, a list headed by Italian Angelo Sala who will be 86 in December. There are only 39 men in the ITF's over-85 ranking, three of them Argentines, and Elmayan is the only one born before 1920.

The next oldest are

Eugeniusz Czerepaniak of Poland who is 91 and ranked one place above Elmayan, and 90-year-old Australian Neville Halligan, the number eight. Elmayan does not compete internationally so he is likely to meet only fellow-Argentines Guillermo Garcia or Jose Otero, both in their 80s, in competitions.

"Eighty-five plus, because there isn't anyone who's 90, much less 95. So I have to play against 85-year-olds," Elmayan told Reuters in an interview.

"I do all right, sometimes I take second place. Last year I won second place twice. It depends on the state of my opponent, and my own. There are no enigmas here," he said after a 20-minute knockup with one of the club's coaches. The sprightly Elmayan enjoys a routine that keeps him slim and happy, travelling by train into the capital to



Artin Elmayan practises with a tennis ball in Buenos Aires 13 September, 2012. Elmayan, who emigrated to Argentina from Europe when it was on the verge of war in 1938 at the age of 21, said he took up tennis as a hobby and has never looked back. Now, aged 95, he is the world's oldest-ranked player. Picture taken on 13 September.—REUTERS

River Plate from the suburbs three times a week.

"If my body and feet allow it, I'm not going to sit still. As far as stretching, I take the train and walk from the station to here. When I get here I've already loosened up," he said.

Elmayan said that if he had to play three sets, he was

able to cope and recalled having recently played and lost against Garcia, seven years younger than him, and then suggesting they go for a run.

"Are you crazy, now you want to run?" Elmayan, laughing, recalled Garcia as saying.

Reuters



McLaren Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain reacts as he celebrates on the podium after winning the Italian F1 Grand Prix at the Monza circuit September 9, 2012.—REUTERS

Hamilton holds the key to the F1 carousel

LONDON, 18 Sept— Formula One heads for the bright lights of Singapore this weekend with the rumour mill sparking as it spins but the driver merry-go-round seemingly stalled until Lewis Hamilton makes his mind up about his future.

McLaren's 2008 world champion is not alone in holding a key to the carousel but, out of contract at the end of the season, he stands out as a driver with control over his destiny and a man whose talents are both sought and fought over.

If he decides to leave 'home' and move to Mercedes, the 27-year-old Briton will trigger a chain reaction around the paddock that looks sure to coincide with Michael Schumacher's second retirement.

What happens at Ferrari, the other big Formula One conundrum of the moment, will be a decision taken by the Italian team rather than Brazilian Felipe Massa - who wants to stay alongside championship leader Fernando Alonso but risks being ushered to the door.

Yet Ferrari may also have to wait for Hamilton, with potential alternatives to Massa maybe wondering whether a McLaren drive might be a better option than being Alonso's number two.

Hamilton told reporters at the weekend that he was focusing solely on winning a second title with McLaren and would not be distracted by the contract speculation and 'rubbish' swirling around him.

Reuters

Sydney stick with skipper despite Del Piero arrival



Former Juventus soccer player Alessandro Del Piero (L) of Italy participates in his first training session with new club Sydney FC at Sydney Football Stadium September 18, 2012. REUTERS

SYDNEY, 18 Sept— Italy great Alessandro Del Piero will not captain Sydney FC this season but will be expected to play a leadership role within the A-League club, manager Ian Crook said on Tuesday.

The former Juventus

skipper, welcomed with chants of "c'e solo un capitano" or "there's only one captain" at Sydney airport at the weekend, took to a sun-bathed Sydney Football Stadium on Tuesday for his first training session.

"It was supposed to be a short and sharp one but

everybody is trying to impress, I suppose," Englishman Crook told reporters at pitchside.

"He's obviously got some great touches. He's still struggling a bit with the jet lag but in a week to 10 days, he'll be over that.

"He's a fantastic fellow. Today, he wasn't going to do a lot but, as you saw, he stayed to the end of the session."

The 37-year-old Del Piero has signed a two-year contract worth A\$4 million after being released at the end of his 19th season with Juventus and is expected to transform the fortunes of the sport in

Australia.

Crook said World Cup winner Del Piero would be expected to share the knowledge born of playing at the top level of football for nearly two decades but that midfielder Terry McFlynn would retain the captaincy.

"The captaincy will stay the same, he'll come into our leadership group ... but certainly things won't change with the actual armband," he said.

"We'll sit down with him tomorrow and explain how we can work with him, as one of the squad.—Reuters

Participation of the people needed for flood prevention

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Sept—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, accompanied by the Shan State chief minister, deputy ministers and departmental heads, visited Dhammodaya Monastery in Kengtung yesterday morning.

The Vice-President and wife offered flowers, fruit and lights to ancient Buddha Image at the monastery.

They received the Five Precepts from abbot of the monastery Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Arjeya.

The Vice-President and wife then donated offertories to the abbot.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon donated K 10 million to the monastery and the Shan State chief minister, K 5 million.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party then proceeded to Kyainggphaung monastery in Kyainggphaung village of Kengtung and met flood victims in Kengtung Township.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said in meeting with flood victims that he was there to help flood victims recultivate farmlands inundated by previous month's heavy rains.

He said Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon Regions and Kengtung experienced flood and damages. Unruly disposal of waste blocked creeks and drains.

Although the natural disaster could not be stopped, preventive measures could reduce damages. The people should discard the waste systematically and the respective development affairs committees should organize the people to do so. The participation of the people is needed to prevent floods.

He called for presentation of social needs in education and health sectors. Letters to Nay Pyi Taw will be answered, he said.

Deputy Minister U Phone Swe, on behalf of the Vice-President, presented K 5 million assistance for 125 acres of



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham cordially greets faculty members from Kengtung University.—MNA

farmlands through a farmer.

The Shan State chief minister presented K 970,000 and K 1,570,000 assistances for damaged monsoon paddy plantations and houses.

Deputy Minister U Phone Swe presented K 1,425,200 assistance for destroyed crops and houses.

State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Thu presented K 500,000 assistance for destroyed crops donated by Muse Merchants Association and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, K 5 million assistance for flood victims.

Wellwishers donated K 3,447,000 to flood victims.

Pepsi Distribution Director U Tun Yin of Diamond State Company donated US\$ 2000 to flood victims.

The Vice-President and party cordially greeted flood victims.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party then visited Kengtung University where they met Rector in-charge Dr Mary Thein and faculty members.

The in-charge rector reported the Vice-President on the university.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said in his speech that there are basic education and higher education in (See page 8)

Unprecedented developments of Myanmar now mean the time is right to open new chapter

European Commission proposal would grant Myanmar duty-free access and quota-free access to European market for all products

Myanmar is set to benefit once again from a special, advantageous trade arrangement with the EU following recognition by the international community of the country's recent efforts to improve the political, social and labour environments there. Today the European Commission has adopted a proposal to bring the country back under the so-called 'Everything But Arms' preferential trade regime which would grant duty-free access and quota-free access to the European market for all products except for arms and ammunitions.

According to EU's 'Generalised System of Preferences, Myanmar's products would be provided tariff preference on the EU market.

EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht said: "Since Myanmar started to open up earlier this year I saw the need to underpin such deep and important changes with real economic support once key improvements for the workforce had been met. Trade is fundamental to supporting political stability and the EU's trade preferences mean we will give this reform-minded country priority access to the world's largest market.

The EU believes the unprecedented developments now mean the time is right for Europe to open a new chapter in Myanmar.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) concluded that significant progress had been achieved by Myanmar. On this basis, EU law foresees that preferences should be reinstated.

Hence the proposal will be submitted simultaneously to the Council and the European Parliament (EP) for agreement. The Commission hopes that a positive decision can be taken as quickly as possible.

Myanmar exports to the EU totalled euro 169 million in 2011—this is approximately 3% of the country's total exports to the world, and 0.01% of the EU's total imports. These limited exports to the EU are concentrated on clothing.

The current GSP scheme will expire on 31 December 2013. The new GSP preferences are due to enter into force on 1 January 2014, and provide additional export opportunities to those most in need, amongst which LDCs feature.

Series of real estate scams speckle Dubai's property market recovery



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Phelps and Felix win top US Olympic athlete awards



PAGE 14

Falcons bring Manning back to earth, beat Broncos



PAGE 14