

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Myanmar designates Yatanarpon Cyber City as “A City of Charm”, invites FDI from China to the city to invest in field of science and technology

NAYPYI TAW, 23 Sept—President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and party left Shenzhen by air on 20 September evening and arrived at Nanning at 6 pm local time.

President U Thein Sein and party were welcomed at Nanning Airport by Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Communist Party Standing Committee Member and Head of Information Department Mr Shen Bei Hai and Myanmar Consul-General U Myint Swe from Nanning.

President U Thein Sein made a speech at 9<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Expo held at Nanning International Convention & Exhibition Centre in Nanning on 21 September morning.

Present at the opening ceremony of the expo were Vice-President Mr Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China, Prime Minister Mr Thongsing Thammavong of People's Democratic Republic of Lao Prime Minister Mr Nguyen



Tan Dung of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, deputy prime ministers from Malaysia and Thailand, ministers, deputy ministers and high ranking officers from China and ASEAN, officials from ASEAN Secretariat, entrepreneurs and journalists.

At the opening ceremony, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Country of Honour, announced the opening of the ceremony and acted as MC.

Guangxi Zhuang

Autonomous Region Governor Mr Ma Biao and Chinese Vice Commerce Minister Mr Gao Hu Cheng extended greetings.

At the ceremony, President U Thein Sein said that being the Country of Honour, he was happy to say

that the pavilion of Myanmar is displayed three times larger than those of the previous year. Information on economic development in promising sectors of Myanmar was exhibited in three-part pavilion.

(See page 7)

**President U Thein Sein, Chinese Vice-President Mr Xi Jinping, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Thongsing Thammavong and Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung attend China-ASEAN Expo.—MNA**

## To attract foreign investments, related laws amended, rules and regulations relaxed and incorporation process could be completed in a day

**President U Thein Sein addresses opening of China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit and Seminar on China-ASEAN Free Trade Area.—MNA**



NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept—President U Thein Sein addressed opening session of China-ASEAN Business and Investment

Summit and opening session of Seminar on China-ASEAN Free Trade Area at International Conference Centre of Liyuan Guest House

in Nanning on 21 September.

The ceremony was also attended by Vice-President of China Mr Xi Jinping, Laotian Prime Minister Mr

Thongsing Thammavong, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, deputy prime ministers of Malaysia and Thailand, ministers, deputy ministers and high-level officials of China and ASEAN member countries, officials of ASEAN Secretariat, businessmen from China and ASEAN member countries including Myanmar and international journalists.

Vice-Chairman of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Mr Yu Ping announced the opening of the summit.

Secretary of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Committee of Communist Party Mr Guo Shengkun and Chinese Vice

Commerce Minister Mr Gao Hu Cheng gave accounts on improvement of economic cooperation with ASEAN.

The Chinese Vice-President delivered an address on regional development through mutual cooperation between China and ASEAN.

President U Thein Sein said in his address that the trade between ASEAN and China has improved rapidly since comprehensive economic cooperation deal was signed in Cambodia in November, 2002. The framework is the foundation for China-ASEAN Expo, China-ASEAN Economic and Investment Summit and China-ASEAN Free Trade Area. Development of China-ASEAN Economic and Investment Summit side

by side with China-ASEAN Expo is welcomed. The annually held event bridges public and private visions on economic cooperation between ASEAN and China. Views would be exchanged at the summit under the theme “Strengthening Connectivity for Win-Win Cooperation”.

Connectivity is the thing that ASEAN values. Boosting connectivity through improved communications and development between the peoples in trade, investment and tourism fields would profit all the members. Affirming this faith, the ASEAN leaders adopted ASEAN connectivity strategic plan in Hanoi of Vietnam in October, 2010.

(See page 8)

**NATIONAL**

**Long-term work programme calls for patience, adaptability, flexibility, perseverance and bold decision**



*Workshop on the progress of relief, rehabilitation, the rule of law and sustainable development in the Rakhine State in progress.*

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept—The findings of the workshop cannot be regarded as a complete solution and it is required to continue making efforts for more complete work programmes. The effective implementation of those work programmes calls for cooperation among the government bodies, local organizations, social organizations and international organizations, said Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay at the two-day workshop on the progress of relief, rehabilitation, the rule of law and sustainable development in the Rakhine State held at the International Convention Centre here this morning.

The Union Minister continued to say that being a long-

term work programme, it calls for patience, understanding, realization of prevailing situations and incidents, adaptability, flexibility, perseverance, bold decision; that it is safe to say that the workshop made remarkable progress due to active participation of various organizations and people; and stressed the need for those present to join hands for success of the work.

UN Resident Representative Dr Ashok Nigan made a speech, pledging to cooperate in development work of Rakhine State.

Ambassador U Khin Maung Win (Retd) chaired the morning session at which four resource persons held

discussions on sustainable socio-economic development and replied to queries of those present.

The afternoon session was divided into five topics—security, rule of law and stability, relief, regional temporary camps and rehabilitation, reconciliation and emergence of harmonized society and sustainable socio-economic development. Those present sought the best ways to continue implementing each of the topics. A participant expressed his outlook, saying that work programmes to be carried out need to be in line with national policy, which can lead to a good system for the nation and the people. Only then, will the work make progress based on mutual trust and understanding. The government needs to provide full support while the two communities need to ease tensions. Otherwise, it can be detrimental to the reform process.

This was followed by a general round of discussions.

Buthidaung Township Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Shwe Maung in his participation said that it is the significant milestone of the workshop in which both leaders of the two communities were able to hold discussions in a cordial manner; that reconciliation, social harmonization and rehabilitation are a turning point; that recommendation that could enhance mutual understanding and respects, and without mutual understanding, there can be no peace.

Expressing his view, Director-General U Soe Ko Ko of Rural Development Department said that he hoped for the emergence of a framework capable of bringing about peace and rehabilitation for the two communities. The results came out from the discussions would ensure peace and stability, rule of law, humanitarian aids and financial assistance for the Rakhine State.

Also present on the occasion were Union level persons, those from government bodies, Hluttaw representatives, those from both communities, members of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and Investigation Commission, UN agencies, international organizations, NGOs and experts totaling 374—305 locals and 69 from abroad.—MNA

**Sagaing Region Hluttaw holds second, third meeting of its 4<sup>th</sup> regular session**

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept—The thrid-day meeting of the fourth regular session of the first Sagaing Region Hluttaw was held at the Hluttaw Hall in Sagaing on 20 September.

It was attended by Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye, Speaker of the

Sagaing Region Hluttaw U Thin Hlaing, the vice-speaker, regional ministers and Hluttaw representatives.

During the meeting, nine representatives raised questions and relavant regional ministers replied the questions.

The proposals and bills

were also discussed and approved during the meeting.

The second-day meeting was also held on 20 September. Representatives raised nine questions and relevant ministers of the region answered them.

MNA

*Dr Aung Kyi- Dr Yin May Than and family in Kyimyindine Township donated K 500,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Joint Treasurer U Chit Myaing recently.*

NLM



**Quality paddy seeds provided for flooded farmlands**

KAWHMU, 23 Sept—A ceremony to donate quality paddy strains and other equipment for flooded paddy fields was held at the hall of General Administration Department in Kawhmu Township on 11 September. On the occasion, Township Administrator U Nyi Nyi Win made a speech. Head of Township Agricultural Department U Moe Khaing explained cultivation of paddy in flooded farms in time.

In Kawhmu Township, there are 4998 acres of flooded paddy fields. Of them, 333 acres of land has been put under paddy. A total of 1777 acres of paddy are being cultivated. A total of 902 acres of land are difficult to be regrown. The remaining 1986 acres of land are waiting for cultivation of paddy when floods subside.

Wellwishers donated 1072.5 baskets of paddy seeds for farmlands, 28 boxes of One Tea Cake and 29 packages of Yam Yam instant noodle to the farmers.—Kyemon

**Youth entrepreneur leaves for China**

YANGON, 23 Sept—CEC member Daw Khin Thet Maw of Myanmar Youth Entrepreneurs Association left here by air on 19 September to attend the Chinese and Southeast

Asian NGOs Exchange Program to be held in Beijing of China from 19 to 30 September at the invitation of Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD) of



**District News**

**Two-digit lottery seized in Yuzana Garden City**

YANGON, 23 Sept—A squad comprising members of Dagon Myothis (Seikkan) Township Police Force waiting at back way between

China. She was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Vice-Chairman of the association U Aung Soe Than and Joint Secretary Daw Thin Thin Hset.

Myanma Alin

1<sup>st</sup> street and 2<sup>nd</sup> street in B Block seized eight sheets of paper with two-digit lottery from U Zaw Zaw Aung, 31, son of U Thein Tun of Ward 94 and Maung Tin Htut, 23, son of U Thuang Shwe of Ward 93, two voucher book, two ball-pens, four carbon papers and K 133,800 of proceeds at 3 pm on 21 September in Ward 94 in Yuzana Garden City in Dagon Myothis (Seikkan)

**World School Milk Day in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay**

YANGON, 23 Sept—The World School Milk Day will be observed in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay on 26 September simulta-

neously. Although the global countries observe the commemorative day annually, Myanmar will mark the day this year, said an official of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation.

The primary level essay and poster contests will be held in commemoration of the World School Milk Day. The first prize winner will

Township. The township police station opened a file of lawsuit against the gamblers.—Myanma Alin

secure K 50,000, the second K 40,000 and the third K 30,000. Each consolation winner will bag K 10,000 each.

At present, 11 Basic Education Primary Schools included in the school milk project of Yangon Region are organizing the essay contest. The winners will be awarded in the commemorative ceremony.

“Yangon Region will observe the World School Milk Day at BEHS No. 3 in Ahlon Township in a ceremony,” said an official of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation. The ceremony will be organized by MLBF under Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department with the sponsorship of FAO and CFC.—Kyemon

WORLD

**Top Chinese security official makes surprise visit to Afghanistan**



Zhou Yongkang (2nd L), a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, is welcomed by Afghan Commerce and Industry Minister Anwar Ul-haq upon his arrival in Kabul for an official goodwill visit on 22 Sept, 2012.—XINHUA

KABUL, 23 Sept—Top Chinese security official on Saturday made a surprise visit to Afghanistan, the first one by a Chinese leader in nearly half a century.

Zhou Yongkang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, arrived at Kabul airport late in the afternoon.

The four-hour visit had not been announced by Beijing due to security concerns. It followed a two-day trip of Zhou to Singapore, where he met Singaporean leaders on bilateral ties.

Zhou, who is in charge of security and justice affairs, had planned to go to Turkmenistan.

It marked the first time in

46 years that a Chinese leader set his foot on the soil of Afghanistan, a war-torn country neighbouring China.

The last visit was made by late Chinese leader Liu Shaoqi in 1966 when he was the President of China.

During the past half century, Afghanistan was afflicted with series of military coups and two major wars commenced by the former

**Afghanistan**

Soviet Union and the United States respectively. The country is still the front line in the US-led war against terrorism and undergoing daily bombing and bleeding.

In Kabul, Zhou held a meeting with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

“It is in line with the fundamental interests of the two peoples for China and Afghanistan to strengthen a strategic and cooperative partnership, which is also conducive to regional peace, stability and development,” Zhou was quoted as saying in a written statement released by the Chinese delegation upon his arrival.

Zhou said the Chinese government fully respects the right of the Afghan people to choose their own path of development and will actively participate in Afghanistan’s reconstruction.

China and Afghanistan established diplomatic relations in 1955.

The two countries decided in June to upgrade their ties to the level of a strategic and cooperative partnership at a meeting between Chinese President Hu Jintao and Karzai in Beijing, marking a new step for the development of bilateral relations.—Xinhua

**Seven local Taliban leaders killed in airstrike in S Afghanistan**

LASHKAR GAH, (Afghanistan), 23 Sept—Seven local Taliban leaders were killed and a shadowy district governor detained following an air raid operation in southern Afghan Province of Helmand overnight, a provincial police spokesman said on Sunday.

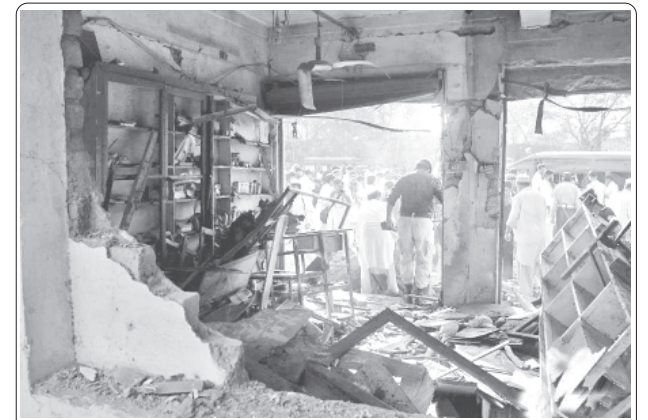
“Based on intelligence, a warplane with the NATO-led coalition forces carried out an airstrike against a Taliban hideout in Trikh Nawar area of Naway-i-Barakzai district in the wee hours on Sunday, killing seven insurgents’ leaders including Mullah Hazrat and Mullah Yasin,” police spokesman Farid Ahmad Farhang told Xinhua.

He said a joint Afghan and coalition forces unit launched a post-strike assessment operation,

detaining the Taliban shadowy governor for the district named Mullah Ahmad Mubarak, who got injured in the attack in the province 555 km south of Afghan capital Kabul. The Taliban insurgents, who have been waging an insurgency of more than one decade, have yet to confirm the death of the insurgent commanders.

Notorious for growing poppy and militancy, the Helmand Province has been branded as Taliban hotbed in the restive southern part of insurgency-hit country.

The last of 33,000 US additional forces, which were deployed to Afghanistan in early 2010 with the aim of pushing back the Taliban-led insurgency, have withdrawn from Afghanistan, the US military announced on Friday.—Xinhua



Rescuers and security officials examine the blast site in northwest Pakistan’s Peshawar, on 19 Sept, 2012. At least ten people were killed and 22 others injured as a bomb hit a passenger van in Pakistan’s northwest city of Peshawar on Wednesday afternoon, said hospital sources.—XINHUA

**Panetta’s Asia visit shows balancing role US hopes to play**

**US**

ABOARD A US MILITARY AIRCRAFT—Defence Secretary Leon Panetta’s week-long visit to the Asia-Pacific region helped deepen the US military’s strategic shift to the area, even as it illustrated the balancing role that Washington may have to play to maintain peace and stability.

The trip, which concluded on Saturday, took Panetta to Japan, China and New Zealand and coincided with a flare-up in tensions between Tokyo and Beijing over a disputed island group in the East China Sea. Anti-Japanese protests took place in dozens of cities across China while Panetta was in the region.

During his visit, Panetta announced a decision to put an additional missile defence radar in Japan to counter the threat from North Korea. He

also said Washington had lifted a 26-year-old ban on visits to US military ports by New Zealand’s navy.

Both steps further the Pentagon’s goal of expanding the military capabilities of partners in the region as part

of a shift in strategic focus to the Asia-Pacific announced earlier this year.

Panetta also helped secure a decision to permit flights of the Marine Corps’ tilt-rotor V-22 Osprey in Japan, a restriction that had been an

irritant to US-Japanese relations and a hindrance to US efforts to restructure its presence in Japan.

But in the days leading up to his visit, the dispute between Beijing and Tokyo over an island grouping in the East China Sea forced its way high onto the agenda.

The dispute worries Washington because Japan is a treaty ally and the United States could be pulled into the conflict should it disintegrate into violence, a point Panetta noted in his meetings with leaders in both countries.

He reaffirmed the US commitment to its treaty obligations, but urged Japan and China to settle their differences diplomatically and peacefully, saying responsible leadership on both sides should avoid further inflaming the issue.

Reuters



US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta and New Zealand’s Prime Minister John Key (C) walk with New Zealand’s Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman (L) at the Villa Maria Estate in Auckland on 22 September, 2012.

REUTERS

**French, Swiss experts to investigate Arafat’s death**

RAMALLAH, 23 Sept—French and Swiss experts will jointly investigate the circumstances behind the death of former Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, an official said on Saturday.

In November, the experts will arrive in the West Bank city of Ramallah, where Arafat’s body has been lying since his death in 2004, said Abdullah Al-Basheer, a doctor in a Palestinian committee that oversees the investigation into Arafat’s death.

Arafat passed away at a French hospital for an undisclosed or unknown reason. In July, a report by Qatar-based Al-Jazeera satellite TV channel said a Swiss lab tested Arafat’s personal belongings and found significant traces of radioactive polonium-210 on his clothes and toothbrush. The report revived debates about the possibility that Arafat was poisoned after two years of Israeli siege on his Ramallah compound.—Xinhua

**Fake Italian pilot travelled in cockpit, police say**

**Italy**

ROME, 23 Sept—A man who posed as an airline pilot and travelled in the cockpit of at least one plane was arrested in Turin Airport using forged identity cards and wearing a pilot’s uniform, Italian police said on Saturday.

The 32-year-old, whose real name was not released, allegedly created a fake identity as a Lufthansa pilot named “Andrea Sirlo,” complete with a Facebook page that included fake flight attendant friends.

Police said they were alerted several months ago after “Sirlo” introduced himself as a captain to a Civil Aviation lieutenant, who became suspicious because he seemed too young for the job. The national military police tracked down the suspect from photos on his Facebook profile, in which he

is shown posing in uniform and sunglasses in front of airplanes. He was arrested in the check-in area of Turin Airport on Friday.

Police said “Sirlo” had traveled for free on at least one flight as a “third pilot” sitting in the cockpit. They were investigating whether he had flown as an imposter at other times.

Lufthansa declined to comment on whether one of their flights had been involved and said it was a matter for the police. At a Press conference, police displayed a white shirt with epaulettes and a black double-breasted jacket with pilot stripes sewn on the cuffs. They said they also seized fake resumes, airline badges and an airport staff parking permit. Turin Airport said in a statement it had not issued any permits in the name of the person involved.—Reuters

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Apple seeks US Samsung sales ban, \$707 mln more in damages

SEOUL, 23 Sept— Apple Inc has asked for a court order for a permanent US sales ban on Samsung Electronics products alleged to have violated its patents along with additional damages of \$707 million on top of the billion-dollar verdict won by the iPhone maker last month.

Samsung has responded by asking for a new trial.

The world's top two smartphone makers are locked in patent battles in 10

a legal victory over Samsung (005930.KS) in late August when a US jury found that the Korean firm had copied critical features of the iPhone and awarded the US firm \$1.05 billion in damages.

In a motion filed late Friday US time, Apple sought a further \$400 million damage award for design infringement by Samsung; \$135 million for willful infringement of its utility patents; \$121 million in

of prejudgment interest on damages through 31 December. The requests together come to \$707 million.

Apple wants the injunction to cover "any of the infringing products or any other product with a feature or features not more than colorably different from any of the infringing feature or features in any of the Infringing Products."

Such a wide-ranging sales ban could result in the extension of the injunction to cover Samsung's brand-new Galaxy S III smartphone.

### 'RECTANGLES WITH ROUNDED CORNERS'

Samsung, in a filing to the US court, asked for a new trial to be held.

"The Court's constraints on trial time, witnesses and exhibits were unprecedented for a patent case of this complexity and magnitude, and prevented Samsung from presenting a full and fair case in response to Apple's many claims," Samsung said.

"Samsung therefore respectfully requests that the Court grant a new trial enabling adequate time and even-handed treatment of the parties."

In a separate statement, Samsung lamented the fact

supplemental damages based on Samsung's product sales not covered in the jury's deliberation; and \$50 million



Apple's iPhone (L) and Samsung Galaxy Note are displayed at a shop in Tokyo on 31 August, 2012.

REUTERS

countries as they vie for top spot in the lucrative, fast-growing market.

Apple (AAPL.O) scored

## Japan government mulls Renesas rescue with Toyota, others

Tech

TOKYO, 23 Sept— A Japanese government fund is considering a bailout of Renesas Electronics as part of a consortium including Toyota Motor Corp, countering a 100 billion yen (\$1.3 billion) bid for the chip maker by private equity firm KKR, two sources said on Saturday.

The taxpayer-funded Innovation Network Corp's plan may include an offer of more than 150 billion yen in return for a controlling stake in Renesas, the two sources familiar with the discussion said on condition they not be identified.

The offer may be delivered to Renesas's shareholders, NEC Corp, Hitachi Ltd and Mitsubishi Electric Corp next month, the *Nikkei* business daily reported earlier. The group wants to acquire a majority stake in Renesas before the end of the year, the *Nikkei* said.

A spokesman for Toyota declined to comment on the report. Renesas in a statement said it had not released the information.

Being customers of

Renesas, Toyota and other Japanese manufacturers might be persuaded to help the chip maker in order to secure their supply chains, an industry source told Reuters on condition he was not identified.

KKR "just wants to break it up and make money. They don't care about the supply chain," he said.

Officials at the three owners, who asked not to be identified, said they were unaware of the bid. One source at a financial firm said the plan that counters KKR could take several months to devise.

Joining Toyota and the government fund will be Panasonic Corp, Nissan

Motor Co Honda Motor Co, Canon Inc, Fanuc Corp and auto parts makers Denso Corp and Keihin Corp, the *Nikkei* reported.

The group may also invite German industrial group Bosch GmbH and other foreign firms to join it, the *Nikkei* added.

KKR is also in talks to buy control of Renesas, which would be its largest investment in Japan, sources told Reuters last month. That deal would give KKR more than 50 percent of cash-strapped Renesas, and could speed the pace of its restructuring in the face of sinking prices and aggressive overseas rivals.

Reuters



A receptionist passes by a logo of Renesas Electronics Corp at the company's headquarters in Tokyo on 3 July, 2012. —REUTERS

Tech

In this photo illustration, a Facebook logo on a computer screen is seen through glasses held by a woman in Bern on 19 May, 2012.

REUTERS



## Facebook tightens privacy to satisfy Irish regulator

DUBLIN, 23 Sept— Facebook Inc has tightened up its privacy controls sufficiently to satisfy a review by the body that regulates the social networking company outside North America, removing the immediate threat of legal challenges.

The world's biggest social network makes most of its money from advertising, but has to walk a fine line to avoid giving its over 950 million users the impression it is invading their privacy to boost revenue.

It was told by Ireland's Data Protection Commissioner last December to overhaul privacy protection for its users outside the United States and Canada after a probe found its privacy policies were too complex and lacked transparency.

The regulator said it was particularly encouraged by the decision to turn off a piece of facial recognition technology, the so-called "tag suggest"

feature, for new users in the European Union and by next month, existing users as well.

The Irish watchdog, which oversees Facebook's activities because the group's non-US business is headquartered in Dublin, said on Friday most of its instructions had been adopted, with progress still to be made on others over the next four weeks.

"We would hope that the progress reported in the review will have dealt with the various complaints we have received in relation to Facebook Ireland," Ireland's Data Protection Commissioner Billy Hawke told a conference call.

Privacy cases can prove costly for social networking sites like Facebook, which was the first American company to debut with a value of more than \$100 billion in its initial public offering in May, before its share price slumped on an uncertain outlook. —Reuters



The Space Shuttle Endeavour mounted atop a 747 lands at Los Angeles International Airport, the United States on 21 Sept, 2012. Endeavour will be moved to its permanent home at the California Science Centre mid-October. XINHUA

## Space shuttle Endeavor makes last landing after aerial tour

Science

LOS ANGELES, 23 Sept— Space shuttle *Endeavor* safely touched down at the Los Angeles International Airport on Friday after a whirlwind aerial hurrah around California landmarks, marking its final landing after a three-decade career in space.

"On top, on top," a two-year-old boy screamed as the shuttle strapped to the back of a modified 747 aircraft passed overhead at LAX.

The pair landed around 12:50 pm local time (1950 GMT) after a nearly five-hour flyover. *Endeavor* will remain at an airport hangar for several weeks and will be towed through the streets to its new home at California

Science Centre near downtown.

"It's a very special moment for *Endeavor* to come back home to California where it was built," Michael Curie, public affairs specialist of NASA Headquarters told *Xinhua*.

NASA's shuttle fleet, which retired last year, was assembled in Palmdale near Edwards Air Force Base where *Endeavor* took off Friday morning and began its California aerial tour.

The flyover took *Endeavor* over Golden Gate Bridge, the Hollywood Sign and other landmarks en route to the Los Angeles airport.

"It's fantastic! We are very excited... I bring my

grandson here and I want him to see it. And he saw it and he waved to the shuttle," LA citizen Jesse Oliver told *Xinhua* at the Los Angeles International Airport.

*Endeavor* replaced Challenger which blew up during liftoff in 1986. *Endeavor* flew its final voyage in May, 2011, having traveled 115 million miles (184 million km) during 25 missions and carried 139 people into orbit.

It flew some of the most iconic payloads in the space shuttle programme history, including "The Camera That Saved Hubble" and "The Mission That Mapped the World."

Xinhua

**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**Merkel, Hollande pledge to consult on EADS**

LUDWIGSBURG,(Germany) 23 Sept—France and Germany pledged on Saturday to consult closely on plans by Airbus parent EADS (EAD PA) an Britain's BAE Systems (BAES L) to forge a new aerospace and defence giant, but announced no joint decisions on the \$45 billion merger plan

The tie-up would create the world's largest integrated defence and aerospace company with annual sales of \$93 billion, but is fraught with national economic and security concerns. "We didn't make

any decisions... it wasn't expected that we would, but Germany and France will stay in close contact on this issue," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said after talks with French President Francois Hollande. "We agreed that we will investigate the necessary issues intensively with the necessary care, and in agreement with the companies involved," she added.

Barring an extension, EADS and BAE have until 10 October under UK takeover rules to set out detailed plans for the merger.

Merkel said the two leaders were aware of the deadlines.

Asked what conditions the two governments had imposed on the deal going ahead, Hollande said: "You can imagine them ... It's about employment, industrial strategy, defence activities, the interests of our respective nations."

A source close to BAE Systems said: "I don't think that (Hollande's comment) is any great surprise to anyone. We are still discussing those sorts of things with the governments concerned."

A spokesman for EADS said, "We will continue our constructive dialogue with the three governments."

Hollande appeared careful to avoid committing to forging a united position with Merkel on the future of EADS, in which the French state owns 15 percent whereas Berlin has no direct stake. However, he pledged that the European partners would remain in "close consultation" on EADS, which is controlled by a core group of French and German public and industrial interests. German carmaker Daimler (DAIGN DE), French media firm Lagardere (LAGA PA) and the French state all hold stakes.—Reuters



France's President Francois Hollande (L) and Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel arrive for the 50th anniversary ceremony of the reconciliation speech of France's President Charles de Gaulle to the Germany youth after World War II, in castle Ludwigsburg on 22 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

**Wall St Week Ahead: US stocks face earnings and data hurdles**

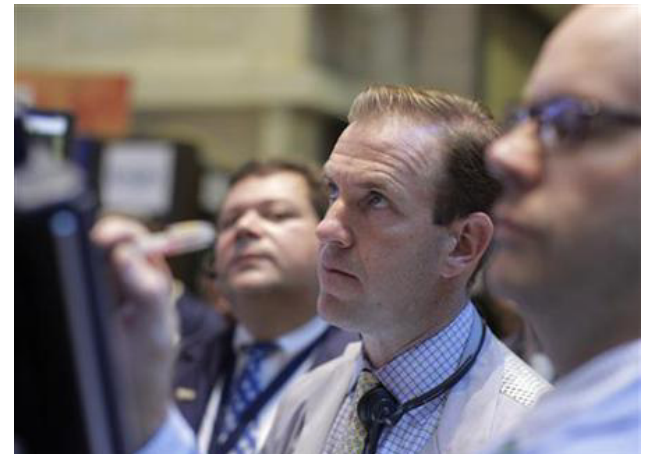
**Business**

NEW YORK, 23 Sept—US stocks could struggle to stay close to nearly five-year highs next week as worries mount about third-quarter earnings and the market appears primed for a pullback from recent stimulus-driven gains.

A bevy of economic reports, including durable goods orders, will grab attention, particularly after the Federal Reserve unveiled its plan on 13 September for a third round of aggressive stimulus to help revive the flagging US economy.

While the action ignited a rally in stocks, analysts have worried that it may suggest the US economy is in worse shape than many had feared.

To be sure, stocks are at lofty levels and are likely to attract investors hoping the market will ride out the year on a positive note. The Dow Jones industrial average and the benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index remain close to highs not seen since December 2007. The S&P 500 is up 16.1 percent since the end of 2011. "I think the market certainly is ripe for a pullback. But whatever the pullback, it's going to be rather shallow," said Peter



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on 20 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

Cardillo, chief market economist at Rockwell Global Capital, in New York.

"Any disappointment in key economic data that would reverse the market's feeling the economy has stabilized, I think could trigger a 2 to 4 percent pullback," he added.

Some of that move was seen this week in stocks, which posted slight losses for the week. The S&P 500

slipped 0.4 percent for the week.

The Dow industrials and the Nasdaq each finished the week down 0.1 percent. Besides August durable goods orders, data on personal income and spending is due next week, as well as new home sales and the final read on US Gross Domestic Product for the second quarter.

Reuters

**Doping is now a public health issue, conference told**

**Health**

STOCKHOLM, 23 Sept—The use of performance-enhancing drugs is now a public health matter rather than simply a sporting problem, delegates said at a top anti-doping conference.

"If we believe that around three percent of high school boys in the US are taking a steroid or growth hormone, then that's a public health issue," said Dr Timothy Armstrong of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

"Substance abuse in any shape or form has a physical and mental health aspect to it. The WHO, being the lead UN (United Nations) agency on health matters, takes this issue quite seriously."

Armstrong was speaking at the conference organized by the Arne Ljungqvist Foundation, named after the Swedish anti-doping official who is also chairman of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) medical commission.

Ljungqvist, who invited the likes of the WHO and World Anti-Doping Agency to the meeting, shared Armstrong's opinion.

"This is a first attempt to highlight this matter as a public

health issue, which in my view it is," he said at a press briefing.

"Elite sport plays an obvious role. They are the role models of youngsters and if they are drug takers, that is not the right role model for the coming society."

"I am so happy today to see these international authorities coming together and sharing these concerns that are being expressed and I hope that we can find common ways to deal with them," he added.

WADA Director General David Howman told the briefing that what happens in elite sport has an effect on wider society and that the sharing of information was crucial to tackling the problem of doping. "What we have learned in the last 10 years is that there is a trickle-down effect into recreational sports and into the high schools," said Howman, adding that health and law enforcement authorities had their part to play. "In Australia now, the customs people share their information with the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Agency (ASADA), and already 40 percent of their



Some doping pills are pictured in the headquarters of Austria's special anti doping police task force in Vienna on 27 March, 2009.—REUTERS

anti-doping rule violations come from that sort of information. "That's a very good example of how it can work when people work together." Howman said a similar effort prior to July and August's London Olympics had led to "several cases" of doping being discovered. "The UK Anti-Doping Agency had a similar arrangement with customs and police and they were able to give information to the IOC. The anti-doping programme that was run during the Games was based on that intelligence. "My understanding is that it led to several cases that were discovered in the out-

of-competition phase."

Dr Armstrong agreed that such co-operation was essential for dealing with doping, adding that more data was needed to assess the scale of the problem. "Each of our organizations has a piece of the pie and can only work in the areas where we have a mandate to work. But we can join with our sister agencies such as UNESCO and other potential partners such as WADA and the IOC. "We all require better data to inform prevalence-how many people are taking what substances and the adverse social and health effects as a consequence of that."—Reuters

**Business**

**GE plans medical technology acquisitions in Germany**

FRANKFURT, 23 Sept—General Electric plans to make acquisitions in Germany to raise its market share in CAT scan and MRI technology, the company's new Germany chief told a magazine.

"Especially in the high-end segment we want to double, in some areas even triple, our market share," Volker Wetekam told *Wirtschafts Woche weekly*, according to an excerpt of an article to be published on Monday.

He said the company plans to spend a "considerable" sum on acquisitions, without elaborating.

"We are looking for companies that move us forward in terms of technology, not just in Germany but globally. We are currently holding talks," he said.

General Electric employs about 1,800 people at its medical technology business in Germany. It plans to hire about 100 more staff to expand its research department in the country and form new partnerships with university clinics, the article said.—Reuters

**Volkswagen drops appeal in "GTi" dispute with Suzuki**

FRANKFURT, 23 Sept—Volkswagen (VOWG\_p DE) has dropped its appeal of a court ruling in a brand infringement case against estranged partner Suzuki (7269.T), a spokesman for the German carmaker said on Saturday, confirming an earlier report.

In 2004, Volkswagen contested an application granted to Suzuki allowing the Japanese company to use the vehicle nameplate "SWIFT GTi" as a trademark for a derivative of its small car.

The General Court of the European Union said in March that the Suzuki version could not be confused with its own high-performance Golf GTi, which it had trademarked in Germany and other international markets.

The ruling came when the two companies were embroiled in a separate arbitration battle over whether Volkswagen may be forced to divest its near-20 percent stake in Suzuki, bought for 1.7 billion euros (\$2.2 billion) as part of a broad alliance agreed more than two years ago.

German daily Die Welt earlier said Volkswagen had dropped its appeal several weeks ago already.—Reuters

## WORLD

## Egypt to remain civil, constitutional, democratic country: President

Egypt

CAIRO, 23 Sept—Egypt will remain a civil, constitutional and democratic country, President Mohamed Morsi said in an interview with state TV aired on Saturday night.

President Morsi said the right of expressing opinions, provided that it does not harm public or private properties, is warranted for all citizens.

He said the government will carry out measures to achieve social justice, raise incomes and alleviate burdens on citizens.

Morsi said that he will implement Renaissance Project to help realize Egyptians' aspirations and improve their living

standards, expressing confidence that "Egypt is capable of achieving progress and become among the industrialized countries."

The president recalled many challenges during the transition period, claiming "the situation is now moving toward political stability after the (presidential) elections."

As regards foreign policies, President Morsi said Egypt is ready to have good relations with all countries of the world, confirming that Egypt does not antagonize anyone and stands at equal distance from all parties.

Referring to the Syrian crisis, Morsi said "we are seeking to stop the

bloodshed in Syria, and the Syrian regime should know that continuing bloodshed violates all laws and norms."

The Egyptian president noted that the next meeting of the quartet committee on Syria, to be held in New York on 25 Sept on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session, is likely to be attended by leaders of the four countries: Egypt, Iran, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. During the interview, Morsi also talked about the outcome of his recent visits abroad, Egypt's relations with the Nile Basin countries, Egyptian-Iranian relations and the Palestinian issue.

Xinhua



Rescuers search for survivors at the accident site in Macao, south China, on 22 Sept, 2012. A fishing boat sunk after colliding with a cargo ship in Macao on Saturday evening. Five persons have been rescued and other three are still missing. XINHUA

## Iran Navy seeks to expand presence to Antarctica

Iran

TEHERAN, 23 Sept—Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said that Iran's Navy plans to extend its presence in the international waters near Antarctica, Press TV reported on Saturday.

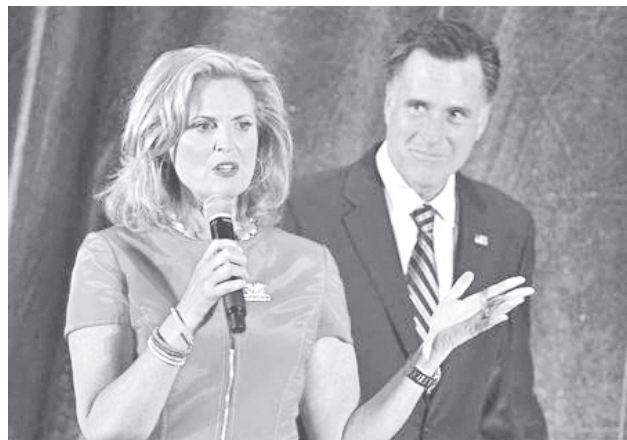
"We have the capability to hoist Iran's flags in different regions from the North Pole to the South Pole and we are

preparing plans for presence near the South Pole," Sayyari was quoted as saying on Friday.

"However, we will never enter the maritime borders of the others," he said.

In September, 2011, Sayyari said that Iranian navy had plans to deploy vessels in the Atlantic Ocean near the US sea borders.

Just like the US and western powers "are present near our marine borders, we also plan to have strong presence near US marine borders," Sayyari was quoted as saying by state TV. Iran has dispatched its fleet of warships to the Gulf of Aden as part of efforts to provide security for Iranian vessels and oil tankers.—Xinhua



US Republican presidential nominee and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney (R) listens to his wife Ann speak at a campaign fundraiser in Dallas, Texas on 18 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

## Ann Romney's plane makes

## US emergency landing, all safe

WASHINGTON, 23 Sept—Ann Romney's airplane made an emergency landing in Colorado on Friday after its cabin filled with smoke, the campaign of her husband, Republican presidential challenger Mitt Romney, said.

Everyone on board the private plane was safe, a campaign spokesman said.

Mrs Romney and her husband spoke shortly after the landing, Rick Gurka, a Romney campaign press aide, told reporters traveling with the candidate in Las Vegas.

The cause was believed to be an electrical fire, Romney campaign press secretary Andrea Saul said in a tweet.

Xinhua

## Turkish soldier killed, four wounded in PKK attack

Turkey

ANKARA, 23 Sept—One soldier of Turkish security forces was killed and four others wounded in an attack staged by the banned Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in eastern Turkey on Saturday, private Dogan news agency reported.

A large group of PKK militants raided Sehith Mehmet Gendarmerie Station in Nazimiye town of Tunceli province from three different points with rocket launchers and long barreled weapons on Saturday evening, leaving

one Turkish soldier dead and four others wounded, according to the report. Many ambulances were dispatched to the region, said the report, adding that a clash between the PKK members and Turkish security forces is continuing.

A total of 330 PKK militants were killed in 974 military operations from February to August this year, according to a statement issued by the General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces.

Xinhua

## "Ghetto Chavez" and the battle for Venezuela's youth vote

CARACAS, 23 Sept—In Venezuela's biggest slum, a graffiti artist stencils a painting of President Hugo Chavez dunking a basketball.

Another has him rapping to hip-hop music, and another doing a wheelie on a motorcycle.

"Chavez el mio" ("My Chavez") reads a slogan on one of the series of striking campaign images ahead of the 7 October election.

It is a new look for the 58-year-old president, who is seeking another six-year term in a tight race despite undergoing cancer surgery three times since June 2011.

Partly, it is an effort to counter the appeal of his much-younger rival, Governor Henrique Capriles of Miranda state, but also something deeper: the marketing of the socialist leader for a new generation after 14 years of his self-styled revolution.

Both sides are trying to attract young voters who, as in many countries, are often bored by politics. In the toughest Caracas "barrios," crime and violence are much bigger daily concerns.

The group that made the pictures, "Chavez es Otro Beta," was formed earlier this year by a loose collection of dance and sports groups, graffiti artists and motorcycle taxi drivers.

At a recent event in Petare, a shantytown to the east of the capital that is home to nearly half a million people, the group organized a girls' soccer tournament, a dance-off, and then a shockingly dangerous "motorcycle pirouette" contest, spectators cheering as riders roared past the life-size murals of "ghetto Chavez."

"It's our way of showing him support and identifying ourselves with him," founder and spokeswoman Daryelis

Gonzalez, a 21-year-old hip-hop dancer better known as Bamby, told Reuters. "It's a way in which, using your own



A boy stands in a corner of a boxing ring during a tournament organized by the group "Chavez es Otro Beta" at a slum in Los Teques in the suburbs of Caracas on 1 Sept, 2012. REUTERS

'code,' you can relate and get involved in politics."

Petare, a sprawl of closely packed homes bisected by winding roads and alleyways plunging down steep ravines, is one of Latin America's biggest slums and a crime hot-spot in one of the most murder-plagued cities in the world.

The event was part of efforts to keep youngsters

away from drugs and guns by getting them involved in sports, music and cultural activities.

But after Otro Beta medals were handed to the winners, while smiling children danced to a performance by a local reggaeton singer, a few blocks away one of the dozen or so teenage motorcyclists was shot dead in the street.

Reuters

## 17 trapped in two coal mine accidents in NE China

China

HARBIN, 23 Sept—Eleven people were left trapped after a fire broke out on Sunday in a coal mine in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. The incident happened after flooding in another mine in the same province on Saturday, which trapped six miners. The latest accident occurred at around 8 a.m. at the Longshan coal mine in Youyi County of Shuangyashan City, the county government said in a statement. An initial investigation showed that a total of 13 people were working underground. Two were lifted out after the accident.

The government said the county's coal management bureau had ordered the mine to suspend production on Sept. 3, after its license expired a day earlier.

Illegal production was being blamed for the accident, the government said. The incident on Saturday, saw flooding at a coal mine in Jidong County, also in Heilongjiang Province, trapping six miners. Rescue efforts of the miners in both mines are under way.—MNA/Xinhua



17 trapped in two coal mine accidents in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.

**NATIONAL**



*President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, Vice-President Mr Xi Jinping of People's Republic of China viewing round Myanmar national pavilion.*

MNA

**Myanmar designates Yatanarpon Cyber City...**

(from page 1)

When ASEAN and China established relations in 1991, it focused mainly on economic cooperation and trade. Throughout the decades the relationship has been strengthened and it has brought mutual benefits.

ASEAN Member States attach great importance to the CAEXPO which encompasses friendly exchanges between ASEAN and China, trade and economic promotion and multi-sectoral cooperation. The CAEXPO has now become one of the main vehicles for the full realization of ASEAN-China Free Trade Area.

It is very timely appropriate that this year's China-ASEAN Expo has selected its theme as "Science and Technology Cooperation". Myanmar has designated Yatanarpon Cyber City as "A City of Charm" and President U Thein Sein invited FDI from China to the city to invest in the field of science and technology.

The high quality agriculture products and technologies at the



*President U Thein Sein addresses opening session of 9th China-ASEAN Expo.—MNA*

CAEXPO will surely benefit to all agro-based countries.

China has become ASEAN's largest trading partner in 2009. The volume of trade between China and ASEAN has an increase of 20.9 per cent in 2011 from 2010.

ASEAN is China's third largest trading partner and balance of trade amounting US\$ 11.0 billion in favour of ASEAN was realized for the first time in 2011.

FDI from China to ASEAN has also increased significantly over 100 per

cent in 2011 compared to 2010. It is a good trend and all should keep that momentum.

He highly appreciates China's support for ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional architecture, and for ASEAN integration process in building the ASEAN Community by 2015.

The market of ASEAN and China is indeed a huge one. All have its own distinguished characteristics and are endowed with natural and human resources. Above all, ASEAN is situated in a rapidly growing Asia-Pacific Region. The present Asia-

Pacific Region has become the centre of gravity in the international relations and trade. Hence, it is important for all to work together to promote peace and development of the region.

President U Thein Sein, Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Thongsing Thammavong, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung and leaders of ASEAN took on the dais and Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping pressed the button to open China-ASEAN Expo and the opening ceremony came to an end.

The launching of

National pavilion of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at the ground floor, attended by President U Thein Sein, Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping, ministers, deputy ministers, high ranking officers, entrepreneurs and guests from Myanmar and China.

The President and Chinese Vice President pressed the button to open the Myanmar national pavilion.

President U Thein Sein, Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping and party looked round the Myanmar national pavilion.—MNA

*President U Thein Sein cordially greets Chinese Vice-President Mr Xi Jinping at opening ceremony of Myanmar national pavilion.*

MNA



**Traffic accident leaves two dead**

LOIKAW, 23 Sept—A car that took over the motorcycle on Kandayawady Road near the clock tower in Loikaw. In the incident on 17 September, the car towed the motorcycle driven by one man and one woman on back seat.

At 7 pm, Mark II Saloon driven U Myint Thein Phyu, 60 of Minsu Ward in Loikaw drove from the south to the north along Kandayawady Road in Loikaw. The Saloon took over the Wambo 125 motorcycle near the clock tower by towed it and then the car stopped on the

pavement in front of the city hall.

Motocyclist Maung Thet Phyo Win, 22 of Dawtama Ward in Loikaw and Ma Kyu Kyu Hlaing Soe, 22 of Minsu Ward in Loikaw on the back seat were seriously injured. While being undergone medical treatment at Loikaw Hospital, the two were dead.—Myanma Alin

**Talks on environmental conservation on 29 Sept**

YANGON, 23 Sept—Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association will give the talks on rights of women, and important role of women in environmental conservation at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, from 1

pm to 3 pm on 29 September (Saturday).

Members of the association, local and international organizations actively taking part in uplifting of Myanmar women's role, intellectuals and intelligentsia and

**District News**

enthusiasts may attend the talks.

For further information, contact No. 401, MWEA Tower, Shwedagon Pagoda Road, here, Tel: 01-389376, 254400 and 389380.

Myanma Alin

# PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 24 September, 2012

## Conserve Environment

It takes only small steps to make a big difference.

Dealing with a climate change is a daunting task. But in reality, small steps by many people will change the world and protect the planet.

The damage to our environment is alarming. Although foresters, government and non-governmental organizations have been harping on the importance of conserving the environment, all the countries in the world including Myanmar are experiencing challenges such as climate change, decrease in bio-diversity, depletion of forests, air, soil and water pollution.

Droughts and floods are recurring, destroying homes, crops and infrastructure. Such destruction has been going on for so long under the noses of authorities responsible for conservation.

According to Myanmar Rice Industry Association, the country's over 13 acres of rain-fed rice field, around 100,000 were wrecked by the floods.

The recent disasters are reminding us that we all need to do more and can do more to protect and conserve our environment.

It is about time we all took environmental conservation more seriously, enhancing the efficiency of the employees of the relevant ministries and the people on the use of natural resources for development and forest conservation.

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw delegation arrives back from Indonesia



Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw ASEAN Political and Security Community Committee U Nyunt Tin, who attended the 33<sup>rd</sup> AIPA, being welcomed back by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa and officials concerned at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

YANGON, 23 Sept— A Pyidaungsu Hluttaw delegation led by, on behalf of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw ASEAN Political and Security Community Committee U

Nyunt Tin, who attended the 33<sup>rd</sup> AIPA held from 16 to 22 September in Lombok, Indonesia, arrived back here this morning by air.

They were welcomed back by Pyithu Hluttaw

Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Yangon Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung and officials concerned from the Hluttaw office at Yangon International Airport.

MNA

## NATIONAL



Chinese Vice-President Mr. Xi Jinping speaking on the occasion.—MNA

## To attract foreign investments, related...

(from page 1)

The strategic plan would connect ASEAN through improved infrastructural connectivity, organizational connectivity with effective organizational management and connectivity among empowered peoples.

ASEAN infrastructural fund had been established to support ASEAN connectivity strategic plan. The ASEAN infrastructural fund which will headquarter

in Labuan of Malaysia will explore and tap available resources.

Outside partners and private sector have been invited to participate in the project. Dialogue partners could be lured to support ASEAN integration strategic project and promises were extracted from them. Workshops, seminars and paper-reading sessions were held to seek valuable suggestions and information to speed up ASEAN integration strategic plan.

ASEAN and China are working in cooperation to translate the project a success. The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary ASEAN-China dialogue partnership was celebrated at 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit held in Bali of

Indonesia in the previous year. ASEAN welcomed the promise to support ASEAN integration strategic project from China. Negotiations for implementation of resolutions of 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit has started.

Favourable conditions for physical, organizational and people-to-people connectivity between ASEAN and China have been created.

As ASEAN and China have pleasant environment, the peoples are exchanging visits. The exchange of visits of the peoples would touch 15 million in 2015. The designation of 2012 as ASEAN+3 tourism year and Siam Reap as the cultural city for 2012 was welcomed. The development of tourism industry would generate more incomes for the peoples of ASEAN and China and facilitate development of other sectors such as trade and investment.

As cooperation between ASEAN and China for implementation of ASEAN integration strategic project, the theme of this year's summit "Strengthening Connectivity for Win-Win Cooperation" would be fully supported. Concerted efforts would earn win-win cooperation.

The trade between Myanmar and China and investment prospects in Myanmar would be informed. The trade volume between ASEAN and China in 2010 reached US\$ 232 billion, of which US\$ 5.3 billion, only two percent,

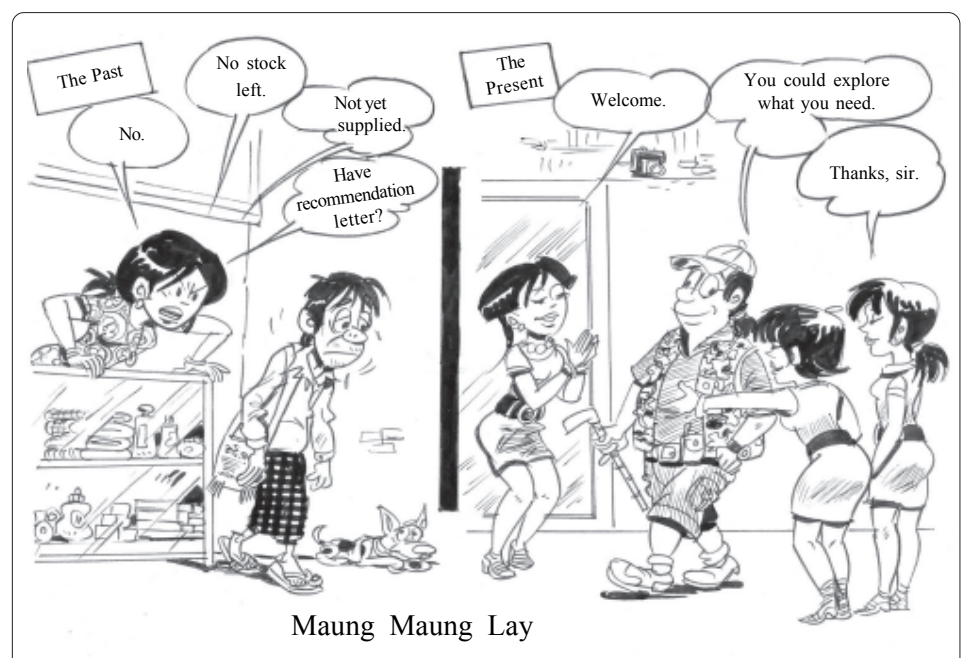
was the trade volume between Myanmar and China. As Myanmar and China are neighbouring countries, there are prospects for promotion of trade. The border trade between Myanmar and China is developing and annual trade fair is held alternatively in Muse of Myanmar and Shweli of China as of 2001. This year's trade fair will be hosted by Myanmar in coming December. Chinese businessmen have been invited to display booths at the exhibition.

Myanmar is opening up to and luring foreign investors. To attract foreign investments, related laws are amended, rules and regulations are relaxed and incorporation process could be completed in a day. The parliament recently passed Foreign Investment Bill, Important Commodity and Service Law, Foreign Currency Management Law.

To facilitate economic development, Dawei Special Economic Zone is being implemented in southern part of the country. There is a mega project to implement Thilawa Special Economic Zone and Kyaukpau Special Economic Zone would be implemented in Rakhine State in the western part of Myanmar.

In conclusion, the pledge to establish closer cooperation between ASEAN and China in peace making, stability and development measures inside and outside the region was reiterated.

The summit then came to an end.—MNA



Maung Maung Lay

**The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.**



**NATIONAL**

**President U Thein Sein and Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping holding discussion at Liyuan Guest House of International Conference Centre (ICC) in Nanning.**  
(News on page 16)  
MNA



**Villagers urged to form cooperative societies**

**News in Brief**

Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun met officials of Ngaputaw Township Cooperative Department and cooperative societies at the township department on 20 September. The deputy minister organized formation of cooperative societies in 234 villages of 50 village-tracts in the township.

**Meeting to mark Kayah State Day**

A coordination meeting on holding 61<sup>st</sup> Kayah State Day was held at the hall of Kayah State Government in Loikaw on 20 September afternoon. The Chief Minister of the state instructed officials to observe the commemorative day on a grander scale.

**Performing Arts Competition kicks off in Sagaing Region**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Myanmar National Races Traditional Performing Arts Competition of Sagaing Region was opened at the city hall in Monywa on 20 September. Region Music Association presented the song entitled traditional heritage and Township Theatrical Drama Association the classic dances at the opening ceremony.

**MCWA officials explains functions of association**

CEC member Daw Thet Thet Swe of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Secretary-1 Daw Tin Tin Win and the Chairperson of Ayeyawady Region MCWSC and party met members of District and Township MCWSCs at Hinthada Township GAD Office on 12 September. They explained tasks of the association and attended to the needs.

**Fingerlings released into Ayeyawady River**

Bhamo District focuses on development of fish resources and poverty alleviation at 8.30 am on 11 September. Head of District Fisheries Department Daw Nyunt May, Township Administrator U Aung Lin and departmental officials, NGOs members and staff released 300,000 fingerlings into Ayeyawady River.

**Stationery distributed to offspring of vendors**

Mawlamyinegyun Township Development Affairs Committee provided stationery and various school equipment to offspring of vendors and slow-moving vehicle drivers on 13 September.

**Slight earthquake hits 45 miles west of Myitkyina**

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.7 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar, about 45 miles west of Myitkyina, about 245 miles north of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 0.3 hrs 14 min 13 sec M.S.T on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2012, Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced.—MNA

**President U Thein Sein receives Communist Party Secretary, Governor of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region**



**President U Thein Sein receives Secretary of the Communist Party of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Mr Guo Shengkun and Governor of the Autonomous Region Mr Ma Biao and party at Liyuan Guest House in Nanning.—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Secretary of the Communist Party of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Mr Guo Shengkun and Governor of the Autonomous Region Mr Ma Biao and party at Liyuan Guest House in Nanning at 2 pm on 21 September.

They discussed investment of entrepreneurs

from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in special economic zones and deep sea ports being built in Myanmar, sharing of experiences of entrepreneurs from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region to Myanmar entrepreneurs in agriculture sector, cooperation in culture, education, health and tourism industries, and cooperation in

beneficial tasks of the two countries.

At 5.30 pm, President U Thein Sein received Reporter Sally Chen (a) Ma Moe Thuzar of China Radio International at Liyuan Guest House, and replied to questions on political, economic and cultural sectors.

Likewise, the President received Chairman of China Non-ferrous Metal Mining

Co Ltd (CNMC) of China Mr Luo Tao and party at Liyuan Guest House yesterday.

The President received Chief Executive Officer Mr Henry H Zhang of AVIC International Holding Corporation at 9.45 am.

Later, President U Thein Sein and party left Nanning in the morning and arrived back here at 11.40 am.

MNA

**Union sports minister meets with athletes undergoing training at sports federations**

YANGON, 23 Sept—Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan presented training suits, athletics shoes, T-shirts and tracksuits to tentatively selected athletes and managers numbering 119 who are undergoing training at Myanmar Rowing Federation on Inya Road here yesterday morning.

Next, the Union minister looked into the training of men and women athletes with the use of argometer and traditional boats.

Afterwards, the Union minister attended the opening of Myanmar National Sports Committee Chairman's Cup (Bando) Martial Arts Competition held at the Aung San Stadium and made a speech on the occasion.

Later, he proceeded to Myanmar Track and Field Federation where he inspected the training of athletes and presented training suits, shoes, T shirts and tracksuits.

Next, the Union minister viewed the training of athletes at Myanmar Karatedo Federation, Snooker and Billiards Federation, Myanmar Taekwondo Federation, Myanmar Volleyball

Federation and Myanmar Weightlifting Federation and presented athletics suits and equipments.

Afterwards, the Union minister attended the conclusion of the International Boxing Referee at the Thuwunna Boxing Training Centre and made a speech, and presented training suits, T shirts, tracksuits and shoes to athletes who are undergoing training there.—MNA

## WORLD

## Congo could allow oil exploitation in parks — minister

Congo

KINSHASA, 23 Sept—The Democratic Republic of Congo will allow exploration work inside Africa's oldest national park if significant oil deposits are found there, the country's hydrocarbons minister said on Saturday.

Congo is keen to expand its underdeveloped oil sector, which currently produces only 26,000 barrels a day despite oil-rich areas in both the east and west of the country.

British oil company Soco International was earlier

this year given permission to carry out aerial surveys on Block 5, a block of land near the border with Uganda, but the move has faced fierce opposition from environmental groups.

Most of the concession lies within Virunga National Park, one of Africa's most biodiverse areas, and a last refuge for the region's famous mountain gorillas.

"The DRC has the right to know what resources it has under the earth, even if it's in the park or the forest,

anywhere," minister Crispin Atama Tabe told *Reuters* in an interview.

It is currently against Congolese law to prospect or exploit minerals inside the country's national parks, but Atama Tabe said the legislation could be reviewed.

"We're going to evaluate the quantity of the deposit. If it's very significant we'll compare the value of the park with the oil... We'll see whether we'll respect the park or not. It's up to us," he

said, adding that exploration could take up to three years.

Block 5 is part of the Albertine Graben, an area which has already attracted oil major Total, which also holds stakes in both DRC and Uganda.

Earlier this month Uganda upped its estimated oil reserves to 3.5 billion barrels, and Atama Tabe said the Graben remains the most attractive area for oil exploration in Congo, despite also lying at the heart of recent instability which has seen government troops clash with rebels, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to flee.—*Reuters*



A man shows a newly-harvested Chinese mitten crab of the Yangcheng Lake in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 22 Sept, 2012. The fishing and sale of Chinese mitten crabs of Yangcheng Lake this autumn was officially started on Saturday. XINHUA

## Gaza worker killed in smuggling tunnel collapse

Gaza

GAZA, 23 Sept—A Palestinian worker was killed and another injured when an underground smuggling tunnel underneath the Gaza Strip's southern borders with Egypt collapsed, medical sources said on Saturday.

The medics said that Ramadan Abu Ermana, 32, died in the accident and another worker was injured after the tunnel collapsed.

The tunnel's cave-in was natural and caused the suffocation of the workers, according to medics at Abu Yousef al-Najjar in the town of Rafah, who added that the injured worker's condition is unstable.

The smuggling business flourished when Israel imposed a closure on Gaza in June 2007, but declined after Israel eased the sanctions in 2010.

Hundreds of Palestinians have been killed while working in the tunnels.

Sobhi Radwan, Rafah mayor, told *Xinhua* that more than 80 percent of the underground tunnels had completely stopped operating following the intensifying of Egyptian security measures after the attack in Sinai on 5 Aug, during which 16 Egyptian soldiers were killed and seven others wounded.—*Xinhua*

## Somali MP shot dead by gunmen

Somali

MOGADISHU, 23 Sept—A member of the new Somali parliament was shot dead by unknown gunmen on Saturday.

According to the state radio in Mogadishu, Mustaf Haji Mohamed, a member of the new legislature of Somalia, was murdered as he left a mosque in Mogadishu's Waberi District.

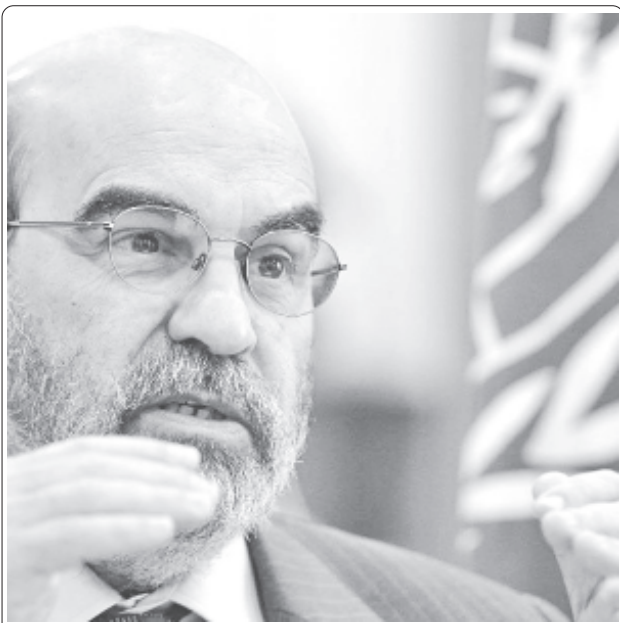
The assassinated MP is in the new 275-members parliament. Police arrived at the scene and started searching for the perpetrators of the killing who escaped after carrying out the attack.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the killing. But the armed group of Al-Shabaab has vowed to target the members of the new legislature when it was formed last month.

The Al-Shabaab movement is under pressure from allied Somali government forces and African Union peacekeeping troops who are poised to capture the Southern port city of Kismayo, the last major city under the al Qaeda-affiliated Al-Shabaab group's control.

The killing of the lawmaker comes only two days after twin suicide attack against a restaurant in Mogadishu frequented by government civil servants and journalists. The attack left nearly 20 people dead and 30 others injured.

*Xinhua*



Jose Graziano da Silva, Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), speaks in an exclusive interview with *Xinhua* from his office at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, on 21 Sept, 2012. Graziano said he is confident that the Millennium Development Goal of halving the number of worldwide suffering from hunger by 2015 can be reached, but he said that volatile food prices remained a major obstacle in that quest.—XINHUA

## US open to having troops in New Zealand

US

WELLINGTON, 23 Sept—The United States said it would be open to having troops based in New Zealand if that was acceptable to the New Zealand Government.

Speaking on TVNZ's Q+A programme broadcast on Sunday, US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta said his country was keen to help New Zealand improve its defence capability.

Panetta said having American troops based in New Zealand could be part of that.

"If New Zealand feels that that's something they would support and want, we certainly are more than ready to engage them in that kind of relationship. I think it would be very helpful; we do exercises together," Panetta said.

"My approach to this as Secretary of Defence is, whatever we can do to try to help New Zealand develop its capabilities and build a stronger friendship, I'm prepared to do," he added.

Panetta said if New Zealand's defence capability is improved, it will be better for security in the Asia-Pacific region.

The US Defence Secretary announced on Friday during his visit to New Zealand that America had lifted a ban on New Zealand Defence Force vessels visiting American ports, further thawing relations after a 26-year stand-off on nuclear issues.

Panetta met Prime Minister John Key and Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman during his brief visit, the first in 30 years by the most senior person in the Pentagon.

*Xinhua*



Actresses perform during the opening ceremony of the 2012 "798 Art Festival" held at the 798 Art Zone in Beijing, capital of China, on 22 Sept, 2012. Nearly one hundred activities, including exhibition, performance and symposium, will be held in the one-month-long festival that kicked off on Saturday. XINHUA

## Seven killed when car strikes crowd at

Russia

Moscow bus stop

MOSCOW, 23 Sept—A car crashed into a crowded bus stop in western Moscow on Saturday, killing seven people at the scene, municipal police said.

The allegedly drunk driver lost control of his car

and knocked down a group of pedestrians at the bus stop, a municipal police spokesman said.

Preliminary information said that several passengers were injured in the bus stop on the Minskaya street,

Interfax news agency quoted the spokesman as saying.

The speeding car reportedly veered off the street and drove into a crowd waiting at the bus stop in western Moscow, local media reported.—*Xinhua*

## Czech Republic to send chemical warfare experts to Jordan

Czech

PRAGUE, 23 Sept—Czech military plans to send chemical warfare experts to Jordan to help setting up their own chemical warfare units, Czech Defence Ministry spokesman Jan Pejsek said Saturday. "Now we are preparing the sending of some experts to Jordan where they will train the local chemical warfare unit," Pejsek said.

He said Jordan had asked the Czech Republic for help after the riots started in Syria, as the Czech chemical warfare units has a good reputation in the world. As requested, the Czech Republic will soon send four experts to Jordan.

*Xinhua*

REGIONAL

**China, Singapore hold inaugural social management forum** **Singapore**

SINGAPORE, 23 Sept—A high-level forum involving some 80 senior officials from China and Singapore concluded here on Saturday, marking a milestone in the bilateral cooperation in social management. Bilateral cooperation have been expanding fast over the past decades, but it was the first social management conference involving many senior officials from China's central government and CPC Central Committee as well as the Singapore government.

Chen Xunqiu, minister at the Office of the Central Committee Office for Comprehensive Social Management of China, and Singapore's Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports Chan Chun Sing exchanged letters on the sharing of knowledge and experiences in social management at the opening ceremony on Friday.

Zhou Yongkang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, and Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean witnessed the ceremony.

The two sides agreed to make social management one of the areas covered by the China-Singapore Joint Steering Council for Bilateral Cooperation and establish regular exchange mechanisms.

Sun Zhigang, vice minister at China's National Development and Reform Commission, said the world's largest developing country will continue to push forward reforms in income distribution in pace with the practical conditions of China, Sun said.

Chan said Singapore and China share some of the challenges. "Over the past few decades, both China and Singapore have achieved strong economic growth and job creation. This has created jobs and raised living standards for our citizens. But it has also brought about social issues that



*Zhou Yongkang (R, front), a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, inspects a populace club in a HDB (Housing Development Board) flat community in Toa Payoh as he visits Singaporean Housing Development Board in Singapore, on 22 Sept, 2012.—XINHUA*

are typically associated with more developed economies," he said at the forum on Saturday.

The senior officials from China and Singapore shared knowledge and experiences and exchanged views on social management under the ever changing social environment.

Some of the officials highlighted the issue of widening income gap amid the trend of globalization. Chinese officials shared how China has effectively lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty in recent years.

A senior official from the Suzhou Industrial Park shared how authorities had gradually come to realize the significance of labour unions in social management over the years.

The Chinese delegation also includes senior officials such as Shen Weichen, vice minister of the Central Publicity Department of the CPC. They had visited Singapore's Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, as well as the National Trades Union Congress and its flagship supermarket chain FairPrice.—Xinhua

**Vietnam becomes China's largest coffee supplier** **China**

NANNING, 23 Sept—Vietnam has become China's largest coffee supplier as China has seen an increase in coffee import in recent years, according to a Chinese official at the ongoing ninth Expo of China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Saturday.

China mainly imports coffee from ASEAN countries, especially from Vietnam and Malaysia, said Wang Lei, deputy secretary-general of the ASEAN Secretariat at the expo which opened on Friday in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Customs data shows that China had imported 137,000 tonnes of coffee from 2007 to 2011, totaling 365 million US dollars. In 2011, China imported a total of 43,000 tonnes of coffee, a year-on-year increase of 41.9 percent.

China imported 103,900 tonnes of coffee from Vietnam from 2007 to 2011, which amounted for 195 million US dollars, accounting for 90 percent of the total coffee imports from ASEAN countries, Wang said.

China imported a total of 15,000 tonnes of coffee from Vietnam, amounting for 31.88 million US dollars in the first half of 2012, which accounted for 96.2 percent of the total coffee imports from ASEAN countries, Wang said.

Moreover, statistics from China Coffee Association shows that there are about 13,600 cafes and 2,200 coffee-related enterprises in China with a total of 500,000 employee involved in the industry.

At present, China's annual coffee consumption stands between 30,000 to 40,000 tonnes with annual growth rate of 10 percent to 15 percent. It is estimated that China's coffee consumption will continue to rise and reach 120,000 tonnes in 2012, Wang said.—Xinhua

**Vietnam to host WHO regional meeting on health issues** **Vietnam**

HANOI, 23 Sept—The World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for the Western Pacific will hold its 63th session in Vietnam's capital Hanoi from 24-28 Sept to review WHO's works of the past year and discuss future directions.

The announcement was made by Vietnamese Minister of Health (MOH) Dr Nguyen Thi Kim Tien at a news conference here on Sunday, which is jointly held by MOH and WHO regional office for the Western Pacific region.

This is the first time Vietnam hosts such kind of

regional meeting on health issues, which will mark a milestone in cooperation between Vietnam and WHO and international health organizations, said the Vietnamese health official.

WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific, Dr Shin Young-soo told media reporters that among the 20 agenda items up for discussions at the Regional Committee meeting will be the high prevalence of non-communicable diseases, violence and injury prevention, the neglected tropical diseases, tobacco

control, malaria and artemisinin resistance, HIV prevention and treatment, the health-related Millennium Development Goals, the International Health Regulations, health financing, measles elimination and health settings approaches.

There will be side events, notably one about universal health coverage held by MOH, which will present Vietnam's experience of national health insurance development, said Dr Shin.

Three hundred and fifty delegates, including 22 ministers of health, from

regional countries will attend the meeting, besides representatives from local and international and nongovernmental health organizations.

The Western Pacific Region comprises 37 countries and areas, and a population of 1.8 billion people. Its regional committee headquartered in Manila, the Philippines, is WHO's governing body in the region.

Xinhua



*A model poses next to the trophy of FIFA World Cup 2014 at Morumbi shopping centre in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 22 Sept, 2012. The trophy was brought first time to Brazil by former Brazilian football player Cafu from FIFA headquarters in Switzerland.*

XINHUA

**Fiji urges for implementing Pacific Islands Country Trade Agreement** **Fiji**

SUVA, 23 Sept—Fiji is calling on the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to step up its efforts in implementing the Pacific Islands Country Trade Agreement (PICTA) to benefit all. The call comes from Permanent Secretary for Trade Shaheen Ali while opening the Fiji Export Seminar in Fiji on Saturday.

Ali says with PICTA, the challenges were almost insurmountable and that the agreement should be implemented or it will be subsumed by other trade agreements such as the Economic Partnership with the EU or PACER Plus with Australia and New Zealand.

The Forum's Island Countries (FICs) agreed to foster and strengthen trade in the Pacific region through

the (PICTA).

They had believed that an expansion of trading links among the FICs will bring economic and social benefits and improve the living standards of all the peoples of the Pacific region and recognising the desirability of a clearly established and secure framework of rules for trade under conditions of fair competition in the Pacific region, the FICs have over the years progressed the implementation of PICTA.

The objectives of the Parties to PICTA are to strengthen, expand and diversify trade between the FICs through the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade between the Parties in a gradual and progressive manner, under an agreed

timetable, and with a minimum of disruption.

The overall objective is to promote and facilitate commercial, industrial, agricultural and technical cooperation between the Parties and further the development and use of the resources of the Pacific region with a view to the eventual creation of a single regional market among the Pacific Island economies in accordance with the respective social and economic objectives of the Parties.

Ali told Fijian media that the country still values PICTA as an essential tool for regional integration and is willing to work with member states and the Forum Secretariat to overcome the challenges.—Xinhua



*People in traditional Bavarian clothes take part in the opening Parade of the 179th Oktoberfest at the Theresienwiese in Munich, Germany, on 22 Sept, 2012. Millions of beer drinkers around the world come to the Bavarian capital for the 179th Oktoberfest which started on Saturday.*

XINHUA

**Five killed in Sri Lankan boat tragedy** **Sri Lanka**

COLOMBO, 23 Sept—Five people were killed when the boat they were travelling in capsized in southern Sri Lanka on Saturday, the police said. The boat was taking a local group to visit a lighthouse in Beruwala under overcast evening conditions

when it was hit by a strong wave.

The police said that the boat capsized at sea and it took time for people in the vicinity to reach the site using other boats. Of the 11 people who onboard when the boat capsized five had drowned,

including four women, the police media unit said. The remaining people were rescued and some were said to be in a state of shock. Local police have launched an investigation into the accident.

Xinhua

**BUSINESS & ADVERTISEMENT**

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs  
Myanma Posts and Telecommunications

**INVITATION TO QUOTATION**

Ref : PAPASA THAYA/TENDER/IGW-SSW/2012(1)  
Date: 20 September, 2012  
Tender Closing Date: 24. October, 2012 (4:30 PM)

Quotations are invited for the supply of "International Gateway IP Softswitch" so as to reach the undermentioned on or before the above cited closing date.

Quotations which do not comply strictly with the following conditions, will not be considered.

1. Quotations are required in Unit Price and in Lot Price Value in US Dollars. The Price (DDU) shall be included the cost of packing, packing materials, documentation, loading and delivery on board the carrying vessels, BoQ, etc.
2. Quotation should specify definite period of shipment.
3. Price offered must be firm and valid for 6 months from the closing date.
4. Detailed schedule of quantities, technical specifications and cost shall have the format here with attached stores ordered which **can buy Oversea Communications Office.**
  - (a) Summary of technical specifications Annex(a)
  - (b) Conditions for supply Annex(b)
  - (c) Tender Document Annex(c)
5. The bidder needs to deposit USD 5,000 or 5,000,000 Kyats in prior. After the completion of tender the deposit will refund to concerned person.
6. Correspondence relating to this quotation shall be addressed to the under-mentioned.
  - **Chief Engineer, Oversea Communications Office,**  
**Kabaraye Pagoda Road, 8<sup>th</sup> Mile Junction, Mayangone, Yangon.**
  - **Contact Person: U Sai Saw Lin Tun,**  
**Deputy Chief Engineer, Tel 0095-1-650118**
7. The bidder needs to mention separately the full feature capacity and the proposed feature of the IP softswitch.

Managing Director  
Myanma Posts and Telecommunications

A floral gun is made to mark the International Peace Day at Trafalgar square in central London, capital of the United Kingdom, on 21 Sept, 2012. XINHUA



**Senate passes funding bill to avoid 1 October government shutdown**

WASHINGTON, 23 Sept—A deeply divided and unproductive Congress wrapped up its final business before November's elections early on Saturday as the US Senate passed a stopgap measure to fund federal programmes and avoid an 1 October government shutdown. The 62-30 vote on the funding bill, which now moves to President Barack Obama's desk to be signed into law, was delayed by days of partisan bickering over votes on unrelated measures aimed at boosting both Democrats' and Republicans' political fortunes.

For the new fiscal year which begins on 1 October, the \$524 billion measure slightly raises discretionary spending, which funds government agencies and everything from defence to national parks, from current levels.

down amid disagreements between Democrat and Republicans over spending levels and funding was due to run out after 30 September.

"It is an inefficient way to fund the federal government but it is better than shutting it down next week," said Democratic Senator Daniel Inouye, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Congress' bitter fights over spending cuts and raising the debt limit last year led to threats of several shutdowns as temporary funding measures expired. The last time government funding actually ran out was late 1995 and early 1996, forcing then-president Bill Clinton to shut down non-essential services and furlough non-essential government workers for 28 days. Saturday's vote allows lawmakers to return to their home states for a final re-election campaign push, but they leave a huge to-do list for their return after the 6 November election.

By keeping the government funded through 27 March, Congress has somewhat lightened its post-election workload, which centers on dealing with expiring tax cuts, automatic spending cuts, a debt limit increase and other fiscal deadlines.

With relative peace over the budget, lawmakers will be able to tackle more difficult questions — how to avoid \$109 billion in automatic budget cuts that start on 2 January, and whether to extend some or all of the tax cuts enacted under former President George W Bush, which expire 31 December.

Moody's Investors Service has threatened to downgrade the US credit rating if Congress' deliberations do not reduce budget deficits in a meaningful way. Economists warn that the United States will slide back into recession if Congress fails to take action to mute the massive impact of tax hikes and spending cuts.—Reuters

**TRADEMARK CAUTION**  
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**GREEN GIANT**

Reg. No. 4/4487/2012  
28.5.2012

In respect of "Canned, frozen, cooked or preserved vegetables and fruits; Frozen prepared ready to eat meals including meat or poultry, vegetables and rice and/or pasta" in Class 29; "Frozen dinner mix consisting primarily of pasta or rice and containing smaller portions of vegetables and/or meat" in Class 30.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use, or actual or colourable imitation of the said mark shall be dealt with according to law.

U Than Maung, Advocate  
For General Mills Marketing, Inc.,  
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd  
Room 1508-1509, Sakura Tower,  
Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
utm@kcyangon.com  
Dated 24 September 2012

**7 mutilated bodies found in Mexico**

MEXICO CITY, 23 Sept—Seven dismembered and burned bodies have been found on a highway in west Mexican state of Michoacan, local media reported on Saturday.

The bodies were discovered in plastic bags in a pickup truck near the border between Michoacan and Jalisco states. The area is contested bloodily by rival drug cartels. The killings had all the hallmarks of a drug gang attack, a local official said.

Seventeen mutilated bodies were found last Sunday along the same highway in Jalisco. Since Mexico's outgoing President Felipe Calderon launched the war on drugs in 2006, more than 50,000 people have been killed in drug-related violence.—Xinhua

**Pakistani President heading to New York to attend UNGA**

ISLAMABAD, 23 Sept—Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari has left for the United States to attend the UN General Assembly session officials said on Saturday. The president is scheduled to arrive in New York on Sunday to lead the Pakistan delegation to the 67th session General Assembly.

The president will address the 193-member Assembly on Tuesday when the high-level debate begins. Some 120 world leaders are expected to participate.

During his four-day stay, President Zardari will hold meetings with world leaders on the sidelines of the session, officials said. He will meet among others, with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, British Prime Minister David Cameron, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and NATO Secretary-General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen. The president will also speak at a high-level event on polio eradication, sponsored by the United Nations and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The topic for the session, which will be presided over by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, is: Our Commitment to the Next Generation.—Xinhua



Dance drama "Mongolian legend" is staged in Ejin Horo Banner of Ordos City, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 22 Sept, 2012. The dance drama tells a love story of a young man and showcases the unique culture of the Mogolian ethnic group.—XINHUA

**Iran's president off to New York for UN General Assembly meeting**

TEHERAN, 23 Sept — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad left Teheran for New York on Saturday to attend the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly in later this month, Press TV reported.

"We will attend the UN (meeting) to be able to convey the message of the Iranian nation for the overhaul of the global management system," Ahmadinejad told reporters at the airport before his departure.

On the sidelines of the session, Ahmadinejad said, he will also hold talks with senior officials from the participating countries, anti-war groups and peace activists, religious leaders, and Iranian nationals in the United States as well as UN

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

He said he will also take part in interviews with different international media.

The Iranian president pointed to Iran's rotational presidency of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for the next three years and noted that as the representative of the movement, he will discuss NAM's proposals with regard to restructuring the United Nations and resolving the regional crises, such as the ongoing violence in Syria, according to Press TV.

It will be Ahmadinejad's eighth trip to New York for a UN General Assembly session since he became the Iranian president in 2005.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 21 Sept, 2012 shows dishes of "food" made of different stones at an exhibition showcasing rare stones in Nanyang, central China's Henan Province.—XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

**Cast:** Poorna, Harshvardhan Rane, Ravibabu, Chalapati Rao, Rajeswari

**Director:** Ravi Babu

Filmmaker Ravi Babu always presents something new in his films and true to his earlier works, the director has tried to adopt a unique storyline for this horror film too.

Avunu revolves around newly-married couple Mohini (played by Poorna) and Harsha (Harshvardhan Rane) who shift to their new home called Classic Homes.

Right from the time they move in, supernatural incidents take place and a spirit stalks Mohini.

Meanwhile their neighbour Vicky, who can interact with spirits, claims that the house is possessed by an evil spirit.



The rest of the story consists of how the couple get rid of the ghost.

*The success of the entire film lies on Poorna's shoulders.*



The success of the entire film lies on Poorna's shoulders. Her expressions and acting are outstanding. Harshvardhan Rane did not have anything new to offer in terms of acting.

Ravi Babu's narrative is smooth and gripping.

His screenplay keeps the audience the edge of their seats. The suspense element is maintained till the climax of the film.

Cinematographer Sameer Reddy's camerawork is also commendable as the entire film is shot with a static camera.

Overall, definitely worth a watch for all horror movie lovers.

PTI

## Kate Winslet is desperate to go into space

LONDON, 23 Sept—The Oscar-winning actress is keen to briefly leave planet Earth to go into another stratosphere, according to Sir Richard Branson.

The entrepreneur—who runs the Virgin Galactic programme, which is planning to launch space tours of Earth in 2014—told *Life & Style* magazine: "She wants to go to space."

"I'm not sure she wants to go on a one-way trip to Mars, but she wants to go to space."



Kate Winslet is dating Sir Richard Branson's nephew Ned Rocknroll, after meeting on the businessman's Necker Island last

August when a fire broke out, and Richard is thrilled things worked out between them.

He said: "Fortunately, the one good thing that came out of the fire was this romance."

"They're both very outward going and seem extremely happy together."

Earlier this week, Sir Richard Branson revealed he wants to start a colony on Mars and thinks it is an achievable dream.

He said: "In my lifetime, I'm determined to being a part of starting a population on Mars. "I think it is absolutely realistic. It will happen. I think it is absolutely realistic. It will happen."—PTI



Gwyneth Paltrow admits that she is an highly emotional person

## Gwyneth Paltrow reveals her emotional side

LONDON, 23 Sept—The actress—who has an eight-year-old daughter, Apple and six-year-old son Moses with her rocker husband Chris Martin—revealed she sees a therapist and is a highly emotional person who cries all the time.

She told America's *InStyle* magazine: "I cry all the time. I cried half an hour ago. I'm a crybaby! [I cry] maybe out of sadness or uncertainty."

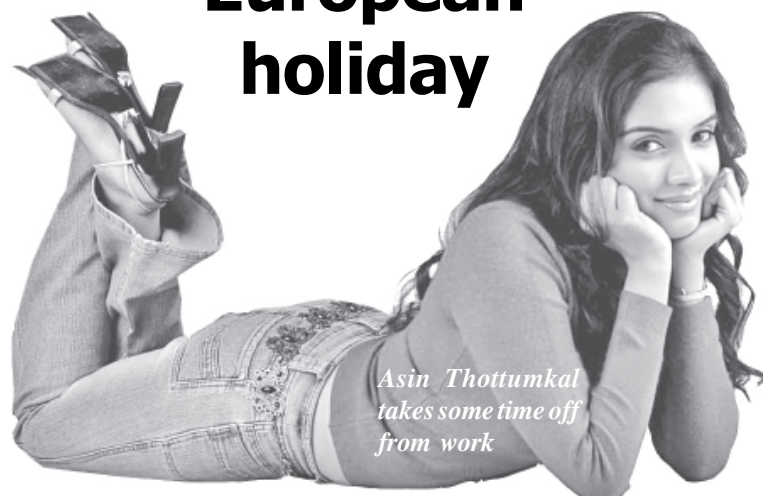
When asked why she works so hard, Gwyneth Paltrow candidly replied: "You can call my shrink on that one. The positive thing that drives me is a curiosity and momentum. The negative is a need to validate myself or feel special. Like a childhood need to differentiate myself or..."

The 39-year-old star also admitted she has extra empathy for Moses because she suffered from postpartum depression when he was born.

She explained: "When Apple was born, she had the hugest blue eyes. I looked into them, and she was looking at me, and I felt like, You are here to teach me everything. After [Moses] was born I had postpartum depression. It was a difficult time, and because of that I believe I have an extra empathy for him, and he for me."

PTI

## Asin Thottumkal on European holiday



Asin Thottumkal takes some time off from work

LOS ANGELES, 23 Sept—Singer Britney Spears is reportedly battling skin condition psoriasis.

The singer's return to the spotlight with *The X Factor* has caused Spears to break out in psoriasis, reports showbizspy.com.

"Britney has had the skin condition for a long time, but it only flares up when she's under extreme pressure," showbizspy.com quoted a source as saying.

"Now she can't seem to stop scratching and picking at the sores. She has a psoriasis skin cream, but she says it burns, so she stopped using it," added the source.

Meanwhile, Spears, 30, is worried people are making fun of her on the sets of *The X Factor*.

The pressure of being a judge

is already getting to the pop diva. "Britney had a chance to watch herself judging *The X Factor* and

she's really self conscious about it. "She's terribly nervous and thinks people are laughing at her and making fun of the way she talks. She's trying her best not to be so nervous, but she can't help it," said the source.

She has got a lot of support. Her fiancé, Jason Trawick, is constantly by her side and

backstage at many of the recordings.—PTI

Singer Britney Spears

backstage at many of the recordings.—PTI

## Justin Bieber went through tough times

LOS ANGELES, 23 Sept—Singer Justin Bieber's mother Pattie Mallette says they weren't financially sound earlier and at one stage of their lives, they couldn't afford eating out luxuriously.

"We'd go out for dinner, but we could only do it if we split something to eat and ordered water," *InTouch weekly* magazine quoted Mallette as saying.

However, now the 18-year-old has become a teen sensation and takes care of the bills when they go out to dine together.

"Now, when we go out to dinner Justin says, 'Don't worry Mom, I've got the cheque,'" she said.

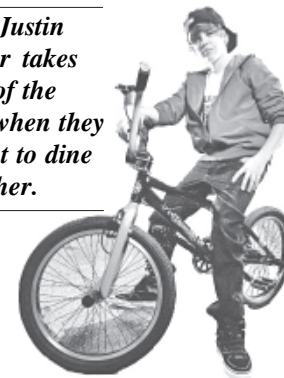
"Watching him every day, I'm

so inspired, I'm in awe," Mallette added.

Bieber was born and brought in London, by his mother single-handedly. His father Jeremy Jack Bieber married another woman.

PTI

*Now Justin Bieber takes care of the bills when they go out to dine together.*



SPORTS

China's Li Na silent over island row

TOKYO, 23 Sept— China's Li Na stuck to the business of tennis before her appearance in this week's Pan Pacific Open in Japan, refusing to comment on a deepening political crisis between the two countries over disputed islands.

Li sat stony-faced at a press gathering on Sunday as an official from the women's WTA tour said repeatedly last year's French Open champion would not answer questions on the row.

"After the US Open I got a little bit sick," said Li, still struggling with a cough, before the questions turned to a more political nature.

"My book was out so I was busy for three days signing autographs."

Any inquiry about the diplomatic flare-up between China and Japan was immediately shot down by WTA officials.

China had withdrawn its badminton players from last week's Japan Open as tempers flared over a group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea.

Japan pulled out of the second leg of the Asian Sevens Series in Shanghai, while a Japanese cycling were booted out of a race in China.

The Japanese government's decision to nationalise some of the islands — known as the Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China — triggered angry protests across China, many turning violent.



The political row escalated on the anniversary of Japan's pre-war invasion of its giant neighbour, with relations between Asia's two biggest economies deteriorating rapidly.

Li, who has had her share of run-ins with Chinese authorities, kept silent when asked if she had come under pressure from Beijing for

taking part in Tokyo.

The 30-year-old insisted she will be fighting fit at the \$2.16 million Tokyo tournament, and credited new coach Carlos Rodriguez for her more positive attitude.

"I want to stand up again," said Li. "My ex-coach (husband Jiang Shan) didn't do a good job."

Reuters

Barca late show puts pressure on Real

MADRID, 23 Sept— Barcelona's Xavi crashed a shot into the top corner three minutes from the end and Lionel Messi forced a stoppage-time own goal as the hosts overcame stubborn Granada 2-0 to maintain their perfect La Liga start on Saturday.

Lowly Granada were organised and dangerous on the break and it was only after Victor Valdes had saved a one-on-one with Fabian Orellana in the 86th minute that Barca finally found a way past inspired visiting goalkeeper Tono.

Xavi cracked a shot in off the underside of the bar in the 87th and Messi's persistence saw him squirm into the area and strike a low cross that was turned into his own net by Borja Gomez in time added on.

Barca moved on to 15 points from five games, opening an 11-point gap over champions Real Madrid who visit city rivals Rayo Vallecano on Sunday looking for their first away win this term.

"Every victory is important. Maybe we struggled more than on other days but we have to know how to get through these games," Barca fullback Dani Alves told Spanish television.

"It wasn't that we didn't play well, a lot of credit must go to our rivals. Their keeper has been superb and I have to congratulate him."

Barca coach Tito Vilanova opted to play midfielders Alex Song and Javier Mascherano at centre-back with Gerard Pique and Carles Puyol injured and the defence looked shaky at times.

With Andres Iniesta also injured and Xavi on the bench, Barca were not as fluid as usual and it was only after Xavi came on in the second half that they really got into their stride.

The pressure grew on the visitors' goal with Messi, Cesc Fabregas and David Villa, on his first start since breaking his leg last December, all going close.—Reuters

FIFA to announce 2018 World Cup host cities next Saturday

MOSCOW, 23 Sept— The International Federation of Football Associations (FIFA) confirmed on Friday it would announce the host cities of the 2018 World Cup in Russia next Saturday.

During a live broadcast on Russia's Channel One TV starting from 9:20 pm Moscow time (1720 GMT) on 29 September, FIFA President Sepp Blatter and Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko will jointly unveil the final 11 host cities among 13 candidates. "I can say with pride that whichever host cities are finally selected, we believe that the entire country will win," Mutko said.

Officials from FIFA and Russia, as well as Russian athletes, football stars and celebrities will also attend the announcement ceremony.

Russia was awarded the right to host the 2018 World Cup in December, 2010. A total of 13 Russian cities, including Kaliningrad, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Yaroslavl, Kazan, Nizhny Novgorod, Saransk, Samara, Yekaterinburg, Rostov-on-Don, Volgograd, Krasnodar and Sochi are vying to host World Cup matches.

Xinhua



Britain's Laura Robson returns a shot to Romania's Sorana Cirstea during the women's semifinal at the Guangzhou Open WTA tournament in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, on 21 Sept, 2012. Laura Robson won the match 2-0.

XINHUA

Mourinho refuses to discuss Ramos at pre-game press conference

MADRID, 23 Sept— Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho defended his decision to leave central defender Sergio Ramos out of the side that defeated Manchester City on Tuesday night and hinted that he was prepared to do the same when his side visit Rayo Vallecano on Sunday.

Ramos was left out on Tuesday and replaced by Rafael Vane after Mourinho had criticized his side for last weekend's defeat to Sevilla and many saw the move as a punishment for the defender, who is one of the strongest voices in the dressing room.

The move has also been seen as defending the Portuguese players in the Madrid squad, such as Cristiano Ronaldo and Pepe against the Spanish block, which also includes Xabi Alonso and Iker Casillas, but when asked about the decision, Mourinho was bullish in his reply.

"Doesn't Vane have the right to play?" he asked when questioned about Ramos. "Pepe and Vane,

who played in the last game, did very well, they played it easy and simple and did well in the air. We conceded two goals, but neither was fault of the central defenders."

"Why did nobody talk about Vane being sad because he had not played and his talent has not been used," he continued, before



Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho

2012 Ladies European Golf Tour to open in November

SANYA, 23 Sept— The 2012 Ladies European Golf Tour will be open in Sanya from 2-4 Nov.

There will be 114 athletes from 27 countries and regions to compete in the tournament for 2.5 million euro awards.

Australian Frances Bondad, the last year Euro Women Golf champion, will play South African Lee-Anne Pace, the 2010 champion this year.—Xinhua

refusing to say whether or not Ramos would play in Vallecas.

The Madrid coach also denied rumors of bad relations between the Spanish and the Portuguese players at the club. "There is no conflict here," he insisted. "Everyone reacts how they react, but there is nothing more to it than that.—Xinhua

Liverpool v Manchester United: Sir Alex Ferguson calls for discipline

LONDON, 23 Sept— Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has warned his players they must keep their cool at Anfield on Sunday when his side take on Liverpool.

Clashes between the two sides are usually heated affairs with six red cards in the last 11 meetings. "We've had a lot of players sent off at Anfield. But I don't think the games have ever got out of hand," he said.

"It's going to be meaty, competitive, and we expect that. But I just hope our disciplinary record is good."

There is also the added spice this time as Luis Suarez and Patrice Evra are likely to go up against each other again following last season's fall-out between the pair.

The Uruguayan failed to shake the French defender's hand before United's 2-1 win



Barcelona's Xavi Hernandez celebrates a goal against Granada during their Spanish First Division soccer league match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 22 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

over their rivals.

The incident came following Suarez's eight-game ban for racially abusing the United player.

Liverpool and United clashes have been famed for their atmospheres, which can

warned his players they must be able to keep their focus on the pitch despite what may be happening in the stands.

"There's a great atmosphere, fantastic, and the kind of atmosphere you want to be involved in.



Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson

lead to players getting carried away on the pitch.

Nemanja Vidic has been United's biggest culprit with three red cards against Liverpool in the last four years —including two at Anfield.

Ferguson praised the atmosphere at Anfield but has

"It does get emotive, but you just have to handle that," he said. The United manager will want his side to keep eleven men on the pitch as they go in search for their first win at Anfield since 2007, when they beat Liverpool 1-0.

Reuters



**GENERAL**

**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

(24-9-12 09:30 am ~ 25-9-12 09:30 am) MST

- \* News
- \* Efforts for New Social Security Law
- \* News
- \* News Step of Jet San Htun
- \* News
- \* INTI Open Day
- \* News
- \* News Tid-Bits
- \* News
- \* Oversea Stores in Yangon
- \* News

- \* Yadana Labha Muni Pagoda Festival
- \* News
- \* Grapes for Health & Income
- \* Music Programme
- \* News
- \* Creative Costume of Kayah Nationals
- \* Road to Success
- \* Myanmar Movie "Kyar Phyu"

**MYANMAR TV**

(24-9-2012) (Monday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:25 am
- 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:50 am
- 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:05 am
- 4. Cute Little Dancers
- 8:20 am
- 5. Songs Of National Races
- 8:30 am
- 6. Selected Songs For 19<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions (2012) (Classical Song) (Basic Education) (Level Men & Women)
- 8:45 am
- 7. Musical Programme
- 12:20 am
- 8. How It's Works

- 4:10 pm
- 9. Dance Variety
- 4:45 pm
- 10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 4:50 pm
- 11. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 5:45 pm
- 12. Sweet Songs For You
- 6:55 pm
- 13. Road to 27<sup>th</sup> SEA GAMES (Sepah Pharaw)
- 7:15 pm
- 14. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 15. News
- 16. Cartoon Series
- 17. TV Drama Series
- 18. India Drama Series

**DISTRICT NEWS**

**Workshop on development of technology held**



PAKOKKU, 23 Sept—With the aim of enhancing industry and technology in Pakokku District and uplifting proficiency of skilled workers, the workshop on regional technology development was held at the hall of District General Administration Department on 22 September, with an address by Deputy Commissioner U Khin Maung Yi. Deans of the departments from Technological University (Pakokku) participated in discussions of the workshop and replied to queries raised by those present.

MYANMA ALIN

**Colourful ceremony of royal wedding in Brunei**



Brunei's newly wed royal couple, Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah and her groom Pengiran Haji Muhammad Ruzaini (L) sit during the sitting-in-state on royal dais ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman in Brunei's capital Bandar Seri Begawan on 23 Sept, 2012. Daughter of Brunei's sultan and her groom were officially presented to the royal court in a colourful ceremony in the tiny oil-rich monarchy.—XINHUA

**Fluminense extends championship lead with 2-1 win over Nautico**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 Sept—Former Lyon striker Fred scored his 12th championship goal of the season on Saturday as Fluminense extended its lead at the top of Brazil's Serie A standings with a 2-1 victory over Nautico.

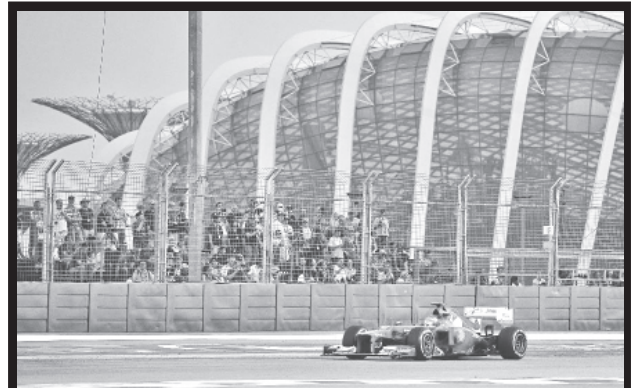
Fred struck just before half-time with a powerful shot after a pinpoint Thiago Neves cross at Rio's Engenhao Stadium.

Leandro Euzebio had earlier handed the home side a 1-0 lead by prodding into an unguarded net after goalkeeper Gideao ventured off his line following a Deco corner-kick.

Striker Kim gave Nautico hope with an 81st-minute strike but Fluminense held on to move five points clear of Atletico Mineiro in the championship standings.

"We predicted it was going to be a tough game and it proved that way," Fluminense coach Abel Braga said after the match.

Xinhua



Ferrari Formula One driver Fernando Alonso of Spain competes during the third practice session of the Singapore F1 Grand Prix in Singapore on 22 Sept, 2012.—XINHUA

**4,000 passengers stranded in C Philippine ports due to typhoon**

MANILA, 23 Sept—Almost 4,000 passengers were stranded in a number of ports in central Philippines due to Typhoon Jelawat, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Sunday.

The stranded passengers came from Matnog in Sorsogon province, Balwarterco and Dapdap in Northern Samar province. At least three flights were also cancelled due to bad weather. Storm Signal No 1 has been hoisted in Samar provinces. The state weather forecast bureau said that Jelawat was at 310 kilometres east of Catarman, Northern Samar by 4 pm on Sunday with maximum sustained winds of 140 kilometre per hour near the centre and gustiness of up to 170 kph. "Southwest monsoon enhanced by the typhoon will continue to bring moderate to heavy rains in Western Visayas and Mindanao," the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.—MNA/Xinhua

**China aims to become world technological power by 2049**

**China**

BEIJING, 23 Sept—China aims to become a world technological power by 2049 and strives to be a leading nation in innovation and scientific development, according to a government document released on Sunday. The document, released by the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State

Council, or the Cabinet, namely opinions on "deepening technological system reform and accelerating national innovation system construction," sets the goal for the country to be "in the ranks of innovative nations" by 2020.

The document urged efforts to deepen the reform of scientific and technological system and step up the building of a national innovative system so to lay a foundation for the country to become a technological power when celebrating the centennial anniversary of New China in 2049.

China's R&D funds nationwide should reach 2.2 percent of GDP during the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015) period, and more than 2.5 percent by 2020, it said.

The average R&D input for large- and medium-sized industrial enterprises should increase to 1.5 percent of their revenues during 2011-2015 period, the document said.

For every 10,000 employees, there should be at least 43 R&D personnel each year, it said.

The development of strategic emerging industries, such as energy preservation and environmental protection, new-generation information technology, biology, advanced equipment manufacturing, new energy and material as well as green vehicles, should be accelerated, it said. The gross value added of the strategic emerging industries should make up about 8 percent of GDP by 2015 and 15 percent of GDP by 2020, the document said.—Xinhua

**Four killed, six injured in bomb attack in Baghdad**

BAGHDAD, 23 Sept—Four people were killed and six others injured on Sunday in bomb and gunfire attacks in the Iraqi capital city of Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

A sticky bomb attached to a minibus went off near al-Mudhafar Square in the Shiite neighborhood of Sadr City in eastern Baghdad, killing two passengers and wounding six aboard, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In a separate incident, a Brigadier General in the Iraqi Interior Ministry was killed with his driver when gunmen using silenced weapons attacked their car in Baghdad's western district of Yarmouk, the source said.

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



President U Thein Sein welcomed by Vice-President Mr. Xi Jinping of the Republic of China.—MNA

# President U Thein Sein meets Chinese Vice-President Mr. Xi Jinping

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept— President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar met Vice-President Mr. Xi Jinping of the Republic of China at International Conference Centre (ICC) of Liyuan Guest House in Nanning on 21 September.

Firstly, the President and party were cordially welcomed by Vice-President of China Mr. Xi Jinping at the meeting hall.

They discussed about promotion of cementing relationships between the two countries, which had been built by China and Myanmar leaders, drawing action plan for ongoing implementing

Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two countries, cooperating in flourishing peace and stability and improving development in the border areas of the two countries, urging big Chinese companies to make investments in various sectors in Myanmar for economic and social development of the country including accepting the help of China in enhancing agricultural development and rural development to alleviate poverty rate, and exchanging views on bilateral cooperation in communicating with local and international community.—MNA

## Myanmar invites foreign direct investment avoiding factors that harm national interests, dignity and sovereignty of country and environment

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept — President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended a ceremony to clarify the economy and investment opportunities in Myanmar and held a meeting with chief executive officers of the Chinese companies at the People's Congress Hall in Nanning City, Guangxi Zhuang Province, on 21 September.

First, Mr Yu Ping, Vice-Chairman of China International Trade Promotion Association, and Mr Shen Beihai, Member of the Communist Party of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, briefed on matters on further economic cooperation between China and Myanmar.

Addressing the ceremony, President U Thein Sein said Myanmar attached great importance to the summit and expo, adding that China is one of the most important economic partner of Myanmar.

The investment and trade volume between the countries have increased and China is the second largest trading partner of Myanmar, he added.

The border trade volume between the two countries has reached US\$ 2.9 billion in 2011-2012, accounting for 89 per cent of Myanmar's total border trade volume.

The export value from Myanmar to China reached US\$ 1.82 billion while the import value from China reached US\$1.16 billion, he said.

China ranked top of investor in Myanmar, reaching its total investment volume of US\$14.14 billion until August 2012, he added.

He continued to say that ASEAN-China Free Trade Area has become one of the major milestone between ASEAN and China and has played an important part in relations between Myanmar and



President U Thein Sein delivers an address at ceremony to clarify Myanmar's economy and investment opportunities and meeting with CEOs of Chinese companies.—MNA

China as well. Six ASEAN countries and China have already reduced the trade tax by 97 per cent and the remaining ASEAN countries including Myanmar were taking steps to reduce the trade tax in accordance with the China-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, he added.

ASEAN countries have become platforms between the main ASEAN and China, he added.

For example, Myanmar have become a bridge between ASEAN and the world's most populated countries China and India, he added.

The government of Myanmar has been embarking on political, economic and social reforms for the improvement of the socio-economy of the people, he said.

The reforms has led to lifting of the sanctions imposed on Myanmar and the cooperation between Myanmar and the World Bank, International Monetary Funds, Asia Development Bank has resumed, he added.

Myanmar is rich in natural resources and it has good potentials for investment opportunities to attract foreign countries, he said.

Myanmar has invited foreign direct investment avoiding factors that harm national interests, dignity and sovereignty of the country and environment, he said. During the meeting, Union Minister U Win Myint replied the questions on investment in Myanmar raised by chief executive officers of the Chinese companies.— MNA

## Chinese players in Japan despite tensions

TOKYO, 23 Sept—China's top three tennis players have arrived for the Pan Pacific Open women's tournament in Japan even as a blazing political row between the two countries continues to rage.

China had withdrawn its badminton players from last week's Japan Open as tempers flared over disputed islands, putting both nations on red alert.

However, former French Open champion Li Na, Zheng Jie and Peng

Shuai were all scheduled to play, Zheng and Peng in first-round matches in Tokyo on Monday.

None of the trio hit a ball in anger on Sunday's opening day, when torrential rain halted play on the outside courts with centre court matches played under a closed roof.

Slovakia's Dominika Cibulkova progressed to the second round, the 12th seed beating Spaniard Anabel Medina-Garrigues 6-3 7-6. Fourteenth seed Roberta Vinci struggled against Czech Barbora Zahlavova Strycova before the Italian came through 6-4 4-6 7-5.

Nine of the world's top 10 are taking part in the \$2.16 million Pan Pacific tournament, with only U.S. Open champion Serena Williams missing the WTA premier five event.—Reuters



## Top Chinese security official makes surprise visit to Afghanistan



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A floral gun is made to mark the International Peace Day at Trafalgar square in central London, capital of the United Kingdom, on 21 Sept, 2012.

XINHUA

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The Space Shuttle Endeavour mounted atop a 747 lands at Los Angeles International Airport, the United States on 21 Sept, 2012. Endeavour will be moved to its permanent home at the California Science Centre mid-October.



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