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President U Thein Sein visits Metropolitan Museum of Art

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept— President U Thein Sein visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York yesterday morning.

The President and party were welcomed there by Executive Director Mr John Guy of the museum at 10.30 am local time.

The President donated cash and gifts to the museum and viewed Great Hall Balcony, booths of ancient artistic works of China, Southeast Asia, Japan, US, Egypt, Britain and Europe, booth of musical instruments of world countries and Velez Blanco. The museum is the largest in US and one of the world largest museums. It was established in 1870 and opened on 20 February, 1872.



The museum displayed ancient artistic works collected around the world. The museum hosted 5.4 million visitors in 2011. MNA

President U Thein Sein at Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.—MNA

President U Thein Sein gives press conference in New York



President U Thein Sein replies to queries raised by correspondents of BBC, VOA, DVB, RFA and Myanmar National TV.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept— Republic of the Union of Myanmar, gave the press conference at the office of the Myanmar Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York at 9 am local time yesterday. At the press conference,

the President answered questions raised by journalists from BBC, VOA, DVB, RFA and Myanmar National TV over issues on removing of villages in the area of Latpandaung Mountain Mining Project, peace talks with KIA, US-Myanmar relations, obstacles faced in transition to democracy, impacts on Myanmar after the import ban was lifted by the US, his opinion on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, future relations between US and Myanmar armies and the bilateral relations between the two countries.

The President also gave an interview to Mr Bill Keller from the New York Times at the Mark Hotel at 3.30 pm.—MNA

U-25 Men's Football Tourney commences

PINDAYA, 29 Sept—The Danu Self-Administered Zone Leading Body Chairman's Cup U-25 Men's Football Tournament kicked off at the township sports ground in Pindaya on 17 September afternoon.

Chairman of the Leading Body U Htoo Ko Ko made a speech and opened it.

In the debut, Myinkyadoe Village trounced Inlon Village 6-1.

Altogether 34 teams are taking part in the tournament.

Myanma Alin

Chelsea win at Arsenal to continue strong start



LONDON, 29 Sept—Premier League leaders Chelsea beat London rivals Arsenal 2-1 with goals from Spaniards

Fernando Torres and Juan Mata on Saturday to maintain their unbeaten start to the season while handing Arsenal their first defeat.

Both Chelsea goals came as a result of Mata free kicks with Torres benefiting from some poor defending by Laurent Koscielny to volley the European champions ahead at the Emirates Stadium after 20 minutes. Gervinho equalised for Arsenal three minutes before the break when he turned crisply and fired into the roof of the net for his fourth goal of the season.

Chelsea, who started with John Terry as he mulls an appeal over a four-game ban for racist abuse, regained the lead after 53 minutes when Mata's free kick eluded everyone before clipping Koscielny and flying in past Arsenal keeper Vito Mannone.

The victory lifted Chelsea four points clear at the top, at least until the rest of the programme later on Saturday.

Reuters

Myanmar-Japan CCI joint meeting successfully concludes



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Obama, Netanyahu seek to get past Iran differences



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NATIONAL

Union Minister back from Germany, Switzerland

YANGON, 29 Sept— At the invitation of Giesecke and Devrient (G&D) Company from Germany, a Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun observed printing industry concerning security in Germany and Switzerland from 22 to 28 September.

On 24 and 25 September, the Union Minister and party viewed advanced paper mill, printing industry concerning security and money counting machines of G&D Company in Munich of Germany. The Union Minister and party proceeded to advanced ink factory of SICPA and advanced

press machines produced by KBA NotaSys in Lawson of Switzerland where they were conducted round by heads of respective factories.

The Union Minister and party on 28 September left Zurich of Switzerland by air and arrived here this morning. Together with Union Minister U Hla Tun, delegation members Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Lin Aung and Director-General U Maung Maung Win of Budget Department arrived back on the same flight.

MNA

Launching of Sittoung Bridge (Natthankwin) held

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept— An inauguration of Sittoung Bridge (Natthankwin), situated at Milepost (8/2) on Penwegon-Kyaukkyi Road in Kyaukdaga Township in Bago District, Bago Region, took place this morning, with an address by Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin.

Residents had many difficulties, especially in rainy season, to cross from Kyaukkyi Township to Kyaukdaga Township via a temporary bailey bridge before emerging the newly-opened bridge. Besides, domestic products from Kayin, Mon States and Bago, Mandalay Regions including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area can be carried to markets through the bridge in a short period, and many sectors such as economy, social, education, health and governance can be kept developing as a result of emerging the facility, the Union minister said.

Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win expressed words of thanks for building the bridge in Bago Region with an aim at smooth public transportation.

A total of 21 RC-type bridges with above 180-foot height including Sittoung Bridge (Natthankwin) whose width is 24 feet and length, 720 feet, and that can withstand about 60 ton per vehicle have been commissioned into service in the time of the present government.

MNA

MR presents locomotives to Yunnan as token of goodwill

Managing Director U Thein Swe of Myanma Railways hands over documents related to locomotives to officials of the PRC.

MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept— Myanmar Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation presented two steam locomotives, one steam crane and one flat coach to Yunnan Province of China for the second time as a token of goodwill, at border trade camp in Zhenkang of China.

Managing Director of Myanma Railways U Thein Swe said two steam locomotives and two coaches were presented in 2006 for the

first time. The managing director described the gift as another milestone in history of friendship between the railways service of two countries, which would deepen the amity between the two peoples.

Deputy Secretary General of Kunming government Mr Cheng Sufa and Director of Kunming Rail Transportation Department Mr Huang Guoguang spoke

words of thanks.

China also presented 35 diesel locomotives, 150 coaches and 200 wagons to Myanmar between 2006 and 2010. The gifts of Myanmar will be exhibited at Yunnan Province Train Museum and Train Park.—MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Myanmar-Japan CCI joint meeting successfully concludes

YANGON, 29 Sept—To mark the successful completion of the 9th joint meeting of Myanmar-Japan Chambers of Commerce and Industry Business Cooperation Committees, a dinner was hosted at the Sedona Hotel, here, yesterday.

It was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan, Region Ministers, President of UMFCCI U Win Aung and executives, officials of Japanese Embassy, President of Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JICC) Mr Tadashi Okamura, and JCCI economic delegation members and guests.

At the meeting, the

Region Chief Minister made a speech and then President



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe speaking at dinner to mark successful completion of 9th joint meeting of Myanmar-Japan Chambers of Commerce and Industry Business Cooperation Committees.—MNA

of UMFCCI U Win Aung extended greetings.

Later, the Region Chief

Minister and officials, JCCI's President and members exchanged the

gifts, and the JCCI's President spoke words of thanks.—MNA

Visa sets for Myanmar entry

YANGON, 29 Sept—A press conference on launching Visa took place at Park Royal Hotel, here, on 21 September.

Visa has taken its first steps towards entry into Myanmar with a series of training workshops to prepare selected local banks for the introduction of electronic payments as Myanmar sees its economic

and social reforms. Visa is the best way to pay and be paid, for everyone, everywhere.

Visa is a global payment technology company that connects consumers, businesses, financial institutions and governments in more than 200 countries and territories to fast, secure and reliable electronic payments.

Electronic payments will provide important support for Myanmar's business and tourism development and enable economic empowerment and inclusion for the millions of unbanked in the country. The news comes at a good time for Myanmar as the country gets set to host the anticipated rush of visitors expecting use their payment cards at next year's Southeast Asian Games and the regional world economic forum.—NLM

Outstanding students honoured in Kawhmu

YANGON, 29 Sept—A ceremony to honour the outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination for 2011-2012 was held in Kawhmu Township on 23 September.

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Education, Health and Culture Committee Dr Khin Shwe made a speech and presented prizes to the outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination in 2011-2012 academic year with flying colours.

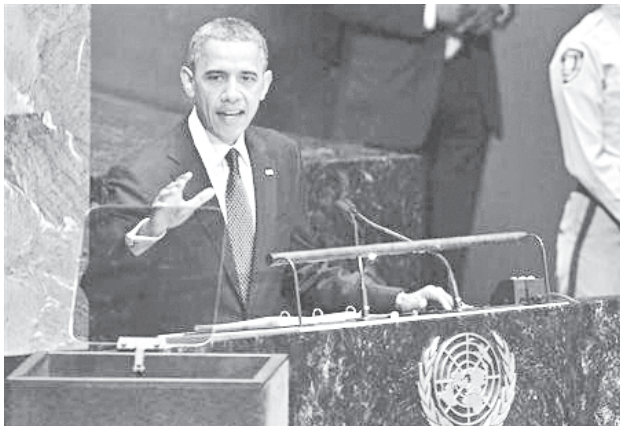
NLM



WORLD

US

Obama, Netanyahu seek to get past Iran differences



US President Barack Obama addresses the 67th United Nations General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York on 25 Sept, 2012. —REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 29 Sept—President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu presented a show of unity on Friday on preventing a nuclear-armed Iran, seeking to tone down the acrimony between the two leaders that has become an issue in the final stretch of the US presidential race.

Obama, widely seen as having snubbed Netanyahu by not meeting face to face with him during his US visit,

spoke instead by phone to the Israeli prime minister amid signs of movement toward a truce in their war of words over how to confront Teheran.

Netanyahu used his UN speech a day earlier to keep pressure on Washington to set a “red line” for Teheran, something Obama has refused to do. But in a softening of his approach, the hawkish Israeli premier signaled that no attack on Iran was imminent before the

6 November US presidential election.

With an eye to the close presidential contest, Netanyahu also fielded a call during his New York visit from Obama’s Republican rival, Mitt Romney, who has accused the president of being too hard on a close ally and not tough enough on Iran.

Romney has sought to use Obama’s differences with Netanyahu to raise doubts with Jewish-American voters about Obama’s commitment to Israel’s security.

Obama’s aides believe, however, that he has played his cards right with Netanyahu, with whom the president has had a notoriously testy relationship.

Netanyahu’s strident complaints about US policy on Iran in mid-September plunged US-Israeli relations into crisis, but also spurred a backlash at home and in the US media for seeming to meddle in American politics.

In recent days, the Israelis have sought to dial

down the rhetoric, culminating in Netanyahu’s speech to the General Assembly, which was seen as sending a message that Israel would not blindside Washington with a unilateral attack on Iran any time soon.

“The two leaders underscored that they are in full agreement on the shared goal of preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon,” the White House said in a summary of their 20-minute phone conversation.

The White House said the two agreed to continue their cooperation, but it stopped short of saying Obama had given any ground on his resistance to issuing an ultimatum to Teheran, as Netanyahu has repeatedly demanded.

“I had a very good conversation with President Obama,” Netanyahu told Israel television. “Our teams are talking.”

An Obama aide went further, saying, “The temperature is lower than it had been.”

Reuters

7,000 people displaced by flood in Nigeria’s Kwara state

KWARA, 29 Sept—The government of the central north Nigeria’s Kwara State on Friday said more than 7,000 people have been displaced by flood in Edu and Patigi Local Government Areas of the state.

Special Adviser to the governor on Emergency and Relief Services Musa Abdullahi told reporters in Ilorin, the state capital, that crops estimated at over 100 million naira were also washed

away in 70 communities affected by the disaster.

The adviser assessed the extent of damage caused by the flood at Shonga and Patigi, adding the state government will provide relief materials to the victims.

He said the damage caused by the flood was enormous and solicited the assistance of the federal government to resettle the victims.

Xinhua

Tropical storm Norman forms off Mexico’s Pacific coast

MEXICO CITY, 29 Sept—Tropical Storm Norman formed off the west coast of Mexico and was expected to make landfall north of the tourist resort and cruise ship destination of Mazatlan by Friday evening, the US National Hurricane Centre said on Friday.

The storm was located about 145 miles west of Mazatlan and had maximum sustained winds of 45 miles per hour, the centre said, adding that “a little strengthening” was possible before landfall.

Mexico issued tropical storm warnings for the area north of Mazatlan and a local official in Sinaloa state said emergency workers were preparing for flash floods in low-lying areas. Mexico does not have any important oil installations along the Pacific coast.—Reuters

Italy’s Monti pleases investors, but politics to come

Italy

ROME, 29 Sept—Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti’s declaration that he would be willing to serve a second term if asked may have reassured international investors, but there is no way around the treacherous waters of Italian politics.

It was no accident that Monti, an economist brought in last year to run an emergency government of technocrats, made his announcement in New York; just a short taxi ride from Wall Street, he was comfortably far from the fevered atmosphere in Rome, where manoeuvring for the 2013 election is in full swing.

Business leaders and financial investors fretting about what may follow have long been keen on what the press has dubbed “Monti bis”, or Monti-2, a second dose of the apolitical cabinet appointed by President

Giorgio Napolitano when Silvio Berlusconi quit at the height of the euro zone debt crisis.



Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti speaks at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York on 27 Sept, 2012. —REUTERS

But the main political parties, preparing for an election due no later than April, made it clear that they would not be excluded from the process of selecting the next leader.

Pier Luigi Bersani, head of the centre-left Democratic Party (PD), said he would not stand for any attempt to “pre-write the election result and

make the vote a waste of time”.

Former prime minister Berlusconi’s first response was more cautious. “There are elections first,” was all the conservative would say on Thursday, immediately after Monti’s declaration.

Bersani’s cool reaction was hardly surprising given that the PD is leading in most opinion polls and he could become prime minister himself. But his words concealed a more complex reality for a political system badly in need of the kind of credibility enjoyed by Professor Monti, a former European Commissioner.

With a vote due no later than April, the main parties are caught in a stalemate of their own making, unclear about who will lead them into the election, what policies they will promote or even what electoral law will apply on polling day.—Reuters

Venezuela’s President and presidential candidate Hugo Chavez shakes hands with supporters in Caracas on 28 Sept, 2012. —REUTERS

Venezuela

Satellite launch stirs passions before Venezuela vote

CARACAS, 29 Sept—President Hugo Chavez said the launch on Friday of Venezuela’s second satellite showed the achievements of his self-styled revolution just days before he seeks re-election, but his rival said it symbolized his neglect of problems closer to home.

“We’re seeing history.... Venezuela has been with China at the forefront of history,” Chavez said after standing to applaud during a video link-up between the presidential palace, a launch



centre in China’s Gobi Desert and a Caracas street party.

As campaigning in the close election race approaches its final week in South America’s biggest oil exporter, both political camps are planning their last huge rallies while making last-minute efforts to win over undecided voters.

Opposition candidate Henrique Capriles has mocked Chavez, who he says is focused on spreading his socialist project around the world but has done little to address the daily problems of voters such as crime, power cuts and inflation.

A dozen Venezuelan officials were at China’s Jiuquan launch centre, near the Mongolian border, to watch the rocket carrying the “Miranda” satellite blast off into a clear blue sky.

Venezuelan state TV had broadcast hours of build-up alongside the headline “Space Revolution ... a

Sovereign View.” For Capriles, it was a prime example of what he calls grandiose plans that prove Chavez is out of touch with voters.

“How many Venezuelans sleep in a refuge tonight? How many towns without an ambulance? Another satellite for the candidate of continuity. On 7 October this will change,” he said on Twitter.

In 2008 China launched Venezuela’s first satellite — the *Venesat-1*, or “*Simon Bolivar*” — to carry communications gear.

The second spacecraft will take photographs that Chavez’s government says will help it protect the environment, improve urban planning and crack down on illegal mining and drug cultivation. Both satellites were named after 19th-century South American independence heroes.

Reuters

Seven killed in flash floods in Spain southern Spain

MADRID, 29 Sept—Seven people were killed and hundreds evacuated after flash floods caused by torrential rain swept through the southern Spanish regions of Andalusia and Murcia, emergency services said on Friday.

Roads were closed and some public transport was disrupted after heavy rains that started early on Friday, flooding streets and homes after months of drought.

Four of the victims were in the coastal Provinces of Malaga and Almeria, which are both popular tourist destinations.—Reuters



Two men speak to each other as they stand in front of a bridge destroyed by floodwaters in Alora, near Malaga southern Spain on 28 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Apple CEO apologizes for Maps flaws, recommends rivals

SAN FRANCISCO, 29 Sept—Apple Inc Chief Executive Tim Cook apologized on Friday to customers frustrated with glaring errors in its new Maps service and, in an unusual move for the consumer giant, directed them to rival services such as Google Inc's Maps instead. The rare apology follows Apple's launch of its own mapping service earlier this month, when it began selling the iPhone 5 and rolled out iOS 6, the highly anticipated update to its mobile software platform.

Users complained that the new Maps service — based on Dutch navigation equipment and digital map maker TomTom NV's data — contained geographical errors and gaps in information, and that it lacked features that made Google Maps so popular from public transit directions to traffic data and street-view pictures.

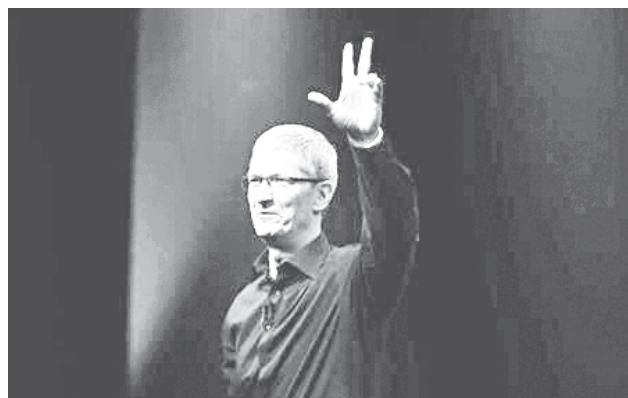
"We are extremely sorry for the frustration this has

caused our customers and we are doing everything we can to make Maps better," Cook said in a letter to customers released on its website, adding that the company "fell short" of its commitment to deliver "the best experience possible to our customers."

Unusually, he suggested that customers download rival mapping services available in Apple's App Store while the company improves the product.

"While we're improving Maps, you can try alternatives by downloading map apps from the App Store like Bing, MapQuest and Waze, or use Google or Nokia maps by going to their websites and creating an icon on your home screen to their web app," he said in the letter.

Apple is typically loathe to tout rival services and the contrite apology by Cook is an indication of how Apple is changing under the chief executive who took over last year from co-founder Steve



Apple CEO Tim Cook waves at the end of Apple Inc iPhone media event in San Francisco California on 12 September, 2012.—REUTERS

Jobs just before his death. It also took the additional step of prominently displaying the rival services on its App Store. Mapping is a complex process that takes a lot of resources and years to perfect, said Marcus Thielking, co-founder of Skobbler, maker of the popular GPS Navigation 2 app, built using the crowdsourced OpenStreetMap platform.

"It helps a lot if you have great data to start with," he

Tech

Nokia cuts smartphone prices before new models arrive

NEW YORK, 29 Sept—Struggling phone maker Nokia has knocked 10-15 percent off the prices of two of its top of the range smartphones, hoping to boost sales before newer models arrive in markets in November.

Nokia has cut the price of the Lumia 800 by around 15 percent and the Lumia 900 by 10 percent in Europe, according to device pricing data compiled by British research firm CCS Insight. Nokia declined to comment.

Earlier this month, Nokia launched Lumia 820 and 920, which many see as crucial for the Finnish company's survival. But the newest models will only go on sale in November, leaving the company's sales team struggling with older smartphone models for over a month. Nokia had already slashed the price of the Lumia 800 by around 15 percent

Tech

earlier this month and made smaller cuts for its other Lumia models.

Once the world's biggest mobile phone maker, Nokia fell behind rivals in smartphones and has racked up more than 3 billion euros (\$3.86 billion) in operating losses in the last 18 months.

In early 2011, it bet its future on Microsoft's Windows Phone software. Windows accounts for only around 3 percent of global smartphones, while Google's Android platform controls two-thirds of sales and Apple has around a quarter.

Competitive pricing is considered crucial for Nokia to lure back customers, even though pricing does not seem to be an issue for rival Apple. In Belgium, for example, more than 10,000 people have pre-registered for the latest iPhone even before a local price has been set.—Reuters



Nokia smart phone

Mice shed light on finding human regenerative powers Science

BEIJING, 29 Sept—African spiny mice can grow back lost skin and flesh without scarring, shedding light on finding pathways of regenerating lost tissues and body parts of humans.

According to a study published in the latest journal *Nature*, some African spiny mice lost up to 60 percent of the skin from their backs and

the skin then rapidly healed and regrew hairs rather than forming a scar.

Unlike lizards that can regrow lost tails and salamanders that can replace amputated legs, humans and other mammals generally patch up wounds with scar tissue.

Dr Ashley Seifert from the University of Florida and

his colleagues said the cellular process that these mice use to repair wounds is similar in some ways to the process that occurs when salamanders regrow limbs.

Tests showed that the mice produced a "regeneration hub" known as a blastema in order to repair the injury. It is this bundle of stem cells that is also used by the

salamander to rebuild missing body parts.

Seifert said that one of the main constraints on regenerating appendages in humans or mammals is thought to be the failure to form a blastema.

Seifert hoped the work could lead to new therapies to allow humans to regenerate tissue in new ways.—Xinhua

Samsung wins reconsideration of Galaxy Tab sales ban Tech



An Apple iPhone 4s and Samsung Galaxy S are seen in this illustration photo in Berlin on 27 August, 2012.

REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 29 Sept—A US appeals court ruled on Friday that a lower court should reconsider a sales ban against Samsung's Galaxy Tab 10.1 won by Apple in a patent dispute with the South Korean electronics maker.

The injunction was put in place ahead of a month-long trial that pitted iPhone maker Apple Inc against Samsung Electronics Co Ltd

in a closely watched legal battle that ended with a resounding victory for Apple last month on many of its patent violation claims.

However, the jury found that Samsung had not violated the patent that was the basis for the tablet injunction and Samsung argued the sales ban should be lifted. US District Judge Lucy Koh said she could not act because Samsung had

already appealed.

In its ruling on Friday, the Federal US Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington said Koh could now consider the issue.

The decision comes just a month before the South Korean corporation is expected to unveil the second generation of one of its most successful devices, the stylus-equipped Note.

The Galaxy 10.1 is an older model, but the ban still hurts Samsung in the run-up to the pivotal holiday shopping season.

The world's top two smartphone makers are locked in patent disputes in 10 countries as they vie to dominate the lucrative market, which is growing rapidly.

A US jury found during the just-concluded trial that Samsung had copied critical features of the iPhone and iPad and awarded Apple \$1.05 billion in damages.

Reuters

2,000-year-old beef found in NW China Science

XI'AN, 29 Sept—Archaeologists have confirmed that a black substance found in an ancient tomb in northwest China's Shaanxi Province is actually a 2,000-year-old portion of beef.

Scientists arrived at the conclusion after months of high-tech analysis confirmed the substance's makeup,

according to Hu Songmei, a paleontologist from the provincial archaeological institute.

The beef, most of which had been carbonized, is the earliest beef product discovered in China, Hu said.

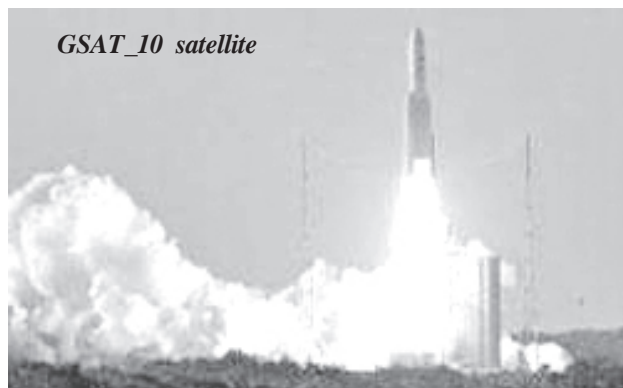
The beef was discovered two years ago in a bronze pot placed in a tomb that is believed to date back

to the Warring States Period (475 BC - 221 BC), she said.

The tomb was discovered during a two-year excavation project conducted by the institute that began in 2009 in the village of Wanli in the provincial capital of Xi'an.

Hu said the beef did not shrink, proving that it had been dried before being put into the pot.—Xinhua

India's heaviest satellite GSAT-10 successfully launched Space



GSAT_10 satellite

BANGALORE, 29 Sept — India's advanced communication satellite

GSAT-10 was successfully launched early today on board Ariane-5 rocket from

Europe's spaceport in French Guiana.

GSAT-10, with a design life of 15 years is expected to be operational by November and will augment telecommunication, Direct-To-Home and radio navigation services.

At 3,400 kg at lift-off, GSAT-10 is the heaviest built by Bangalore-headquartered Indian Space Research Organisation. It was ISRO's 101st space mission.

PTI

BUSINESS & HEALTH

GM, Ford work on 9-speed, 10-speed transmissions: report **Business**

WASHINGTON, 29 Sept—General Motors Co (GM.N) and Ford Motor Co (F.N) are jointly developing nine- and 10-speed automatic transmissions to improve the fuel economy of their models, Automotive News reported on Friday.

GM, the largest US automaker, will lead the design of a nine-speed gearbox for front-wheel drive vehicles, the publication reported citing people familiar with the matter.

No 2 US automaker Ford will head the effort to develop the 10-speed transmission for rear-wheel drive vehicles such as pick-ups, SUVs and performance cars, Automotive News reported.

GM and Ford could not be immediately reached for comment.

The auto industry is scrambling to find ways to boost fuel economy by 2025, when US government standards mandate that automakers show a corporate average fuel



The Entrance of the GM Motor office in Ottawa, Canada.

economy (CAFE) of 54.5 miles per gallon.

That translates to about 39 mpg in real world driving, or more than 70 percent higher than the average fuel economy of 22.8 mpg for the 2011 model year vehicles.

Reuters

Business

Dubai's Emaar sells hotel to Abu Dhabi firm

DUBAI, 29 Sept—Dubai's Emaar Properties EMAR.DU, the builder of the world's tallest tower, has sold one of its hotel assets to an Abu Dhabi-based real estate firm for an undisclosed amount.

Eshraq Properties ESHR.AD said in a statement on Saturday that it has acquired Nuran Marina, a serviced hotel apartment owned by Emaar and located in the up-market Dubai Marina area.

Emaar was not immediately available for comment.

Dubai's largest developer has looked to shift away from its home market where real estate prices have slumped by more than 60 percent in the aftermath of the debt crisis in 2009.

Emaar's chairman, Mohammed Alabbar, had denied reports in October last year that it was looking to offload its Al Manzil and Qamaradeen hotels.

The developer announced plans this month to build a new hotel in the Dubai's high-end Downtown area, its first major hotel project since the property crisis.

Eshraq, which has assets of about 1.5 billion dirhams, listed on the Abu Dhabi Securities Market .ADI in September last year. It raised 825 million dirhams (\$225 million) in an over-subscribed initial public offering (IPO).

Eshraq said it would carry on with its strategy to acquire other real estate projects in the country.

Reuters

Diagnosis of rare brain disorder may take months

Health

NEW YORK, 29 Sept—Doctors often initially misdiagnose people with Jakob-Creutzfeldt disease, a rare brain disorder caused by misfolded, infectious prion proteins, according to new research.

Jakob-Creutzfeldt disease, or CJD, is marked by rapid brain wasting and dementia and typically kills patients within a year after symptoms appear. According to the National Institutes of Health, there are about 200 cases each year in the United States.

In the new study, researchers found 97 people with CJD received an average of almost four different diagnoses each before doctors made the correct call. Those alternate diagnoses included autoimmune disorders, Alzheimer's and depression.

Researchers said the early symptoms of CJD can vary widely, depending on where in the brain infected proteins accumulate.

Dr Michael Geschwind of the University of

California, San Francisco, and colleagues found it took CJD patients almost eight months from the onset of symptoms until they were correctly diagnosed, on average. By then, most only had a few months left to live.

The study included 97 people, age 26 to 83, referred to the UCSF Memory and Aging Center between 2001 and 2007. Seventeen of them had been correctly diagnosed with CJD at their first assessment - but it took much longer for others.

Caselli said that because symptoms of different brain-related disorders often overlap, magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI, is typically the best way to see what's going on in the brain and make a diagnosis. But even so, that doesn't always work.

"The challenge comes when the MRI findings are not as definitive as you'd like them to be," he told Reuters Health.

Reuters

Macy's to open 450 Finish Line shops-in-shops **Business**



Macy's Inc Office

NEW YORK, 29 Sept—Macy's Inc said on Friday that Finish Line Inc would be its exclusive athletic footwear partner, opening shops in more than 450 of the company's department stores.

The deal comes as department store chains race one another to build out "shops-in-shops," which offer more elaborate presentations of top brands and turn each store into something of a mall.

Macy's archrival JC Penney Co Inc is in the middle of turning 700 of its 1,100 department stores into a collection of 100 boutiques by 2015 and is planning to beef up its offering of products by Finish Line competitor Nike Inc.

Longer term, the Macy's deal should boost Finish Line's sales by \$250 million to \$350 million a year, the companies said in a joint statement. Finish Line, which will also have a presence on Macy's website, will keep the sales and corresponding profits, minus a licensing fee for the department store chain.

Finish Line will operate more than 450 locations as leased departments starting in the spring. For about 225 Macy's stores that sell shoes, Finish Line will manage the athletic shoe assortment and inventory, also beginning in the spring.—Reuters



A doctor works in a laboratory on collected samples of the Ebola virus at the Centre for Disease Control in Entebbe, about 37 km (23 miles) southwest of Uganda's capital Kampala, on 2 August, 2012.—REUTERS

Austrian economic institutes lower 2013 GDP growth forecasts **Business**

VIENNA, 29 Sept—Two leading Austrian economic research institutes lowered their 2013 Austrian GDP forecasts in their latest quarterly reports released on Friday.

The Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO) lowered its forecast from 1.3 percent to 1.0 percent, while the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) lowered its own expectation from 1.7 percent to 1.3 percent, local media reported.

The year 2011 saw Austria's GDP growth of 2.7 percent, while the WIFO and the IHS have not changed their 2012 end-year predictions of 0.6 percent and 0.8 percent growth respectively.

Though Austria still one of the "economic motors" of the region, both institutes said there was much uncertainty over the prognosis.

"If the economic situation improves more quickly than expected then the confidence of market participants will strengthen and growth next year will improve," the Austrian Press Agency quoted the IHS as saying.

The reason for the lowered forecasts from the institutes is a worsening of the international economic situation, with Austria unable to completely decouple itself from outside market forces.

The economic and debt crisis in Europe still present the most imminent risk, though the European Central Bank's (ECB) plan announced earlier this month to buy bonds from nations that ask for aid relaxed the finance markets somewhat, which the IHS said indicated a slow return of trust in the European area.

Both institutes raised their unemployment forecasts for 2013, with the IHS predicting a rise from 7 percent in 2012 to 7.3 percent while the WIFO expects a rise to 7.4 percent unemployment.

Xinhua



People work out in an outdoor exercise area at Macombs Dam Park in the Bronx section of New York City, on 13 Sept, 2012. New York City is testing the first of its kind so-called "Adult Playgrounds" that has equipment designed to work out all parts of the body with plans to potentially bring as many as 24 more to neighborhoods throughout New York City according to City officials, which are aimed at combating obesity and promoting a healthy lifestyle.—REUTERS

WORLD

Al Qaeda convicts break out of jail in Iraq

TIKRIT, 29 Sept—Dozens of inmates, including convicted members of al-Qaeda, fought their way out of a prison in Iraq using weapons smuggled in during family visits, the Interior Ministry said on Friday.

The prison, in the City of Tikrit, held just over 300 inmates and was attacked by gunmen dressed in police uniforms late on Thursday after a car bomb exploded outside the gate, security sources said. Inmates then took control of the jail.

Sixteen members of the security forces were killed in ensuing clashes, the ministry said.

Security forces managed to regain control of the jail early on Friday, but the Interior Ministry said 74 prisoners were still on the run, including leading members of al-Qaeda who had been sentenced to death.

Violence in Iraq has eased since its height in 2006-2007 when sectarian slaughter killed thousands but Sunni Islamists and an al-Qaeda affiliate still launch regular attacks, seeking to destabilize the country and undermine its Shi'ite-led government.

"The Interior Ministry ... confirms that there was clear complicity in the operation by security elements in Tasfirat jail and that planning and coordination preceded it," the ministry said in a statement on its website.

Israeli troops wound two Palestinians in northern Gaza

Middle East

GAZA, 29 Sept—Israeli troops stationed on the borderline between northern Gaza Strip and Israel on Friday opened fire and wounded two Palestinian civilians, medics said.

Ashraf al-Qedra, spokesman of the Hamas-run ministry of health, said that the two Palestinians are aged 22 and 19 years old, respectively, adding that they are brothers and were shot by Israeli soldiers' gunfire in northern Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army did not comment on the incident, where the two casualties were taken to a nearby hospital in northern Gaza Strip.

Israel has built up into the Gaza Strip a 300-metre security no-go zone area along the borderline between the Gaza Strip and Israel, where soldiers immediately open fire at anyone that approaches the area.

Israel has imposed a tight blockade on the Gaza Strip in June 2007 right after Islamic Hamas movement had violently seized control of the coastal enclave and kept its control on all the crossing points with the enclave.

Xinhua

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaks during the Friends of Syrian People Ministerial as Arab League chief Nabil Elaraby (L) sits at the Waldorf Astoria in New York on 28 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS



NEW YORK, 29 Sept—The United States and its Gulf partners are looking to deepen cooperation on missile defence as tensions rise with Iran, and announcements could come soon on

officials in New York as Washington seeks to boost regional defences against perceived Iranian threats.

"Our aim is to help our Gulf partners with their defence needs ... there is a



People wait at a security checkpoint as they enter the city of Tikrit, 150 km (93 miles) north of Baghdad, on 28 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

The prison compound had gone uninspected for long periods, allowing inmates to hoard arms, according to the ministry.

A curfew was imposed and helicopters hovered over the city, the home town of executed former President Saddam Hussein. The ministry said four escapees had been killed and 23 recaptured overnight, but a member of parliament's security and defence committee told *Reuters* it would be tough to track down the rest as they had destroyed prison records before fleeing.

Reuters

CVR Wynnewood, Oklahoma refinery boiler blast kills worker

HOUSTON, 29 Sept—One worker was killed in a boiler explosion on Friday at CVR Energy Inc's 70,000 barrel per day (bpd) Wynnewood, Oklahoma, refinery, a company spokeswoman said in a statement.

Another refinery employee was taken to an Oklahoma City hospital, according to Garvin County Sheriff Larry Rhodes.

There was no fire following the blast, which occurred at about 6:20 pm local time (1120 GMT) because the refinery was shut down for a 40-day overhaul, Rhodes said.

"There was no threat to Wynnewood or the surrounding communities," Rhodes said.

Neither the company nor Rhodes gave details about the injuries employees sustained in the blast.

Boilers are required at a refinery to generate steam for electrical power production, and for use in the crude oil refining process.

"All other employees are accounted for at this time," said CVR spokeswoman Angie Dasbach. "Company officials are assessing the situation and will provide updates as information becomes available."

CVR acquired the Wynnewood refinery when it purchased Gary-Williams Energy Corp for \$525 million in December.

Wynnewood is located 67 miles south of the state capital of Oklahoma City.—*Reuters*

US, Gulf countries seek to advance missile defence plan

new purchases, US officials said on Friday.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

missile threat that they face, we want to help them face that threat as best they can," one senior US official said, previewing the meeting for reporters. "We've had expressions of interest from our partners in the Gulf in additional missile defence capabilities," the official said. "We hope that we will be having announcements in the near future regarding those expressions of interest."

The official declined to provide specifics on the plans with the GCC, a political and economic alliance linking Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

But Lockheed Martin Corp, the Pentagon's top supplier by sales, received an initial \$1.96 billion contract

in December for two of its Terminal High-Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) weapon systems for the United Arab Emirates, the first foreign sale of the system.

Lockheed has said other GCC members, including Saudi Arabia, have expressed interest. Other leading missile-defence contractors include Boeing Co, Raytheon and Northrop Grumman Corp.

Friday's talks reflect the increased tempo of US efforts to put pressure on Teheran, which the United States and its allies say is seeking nuclear weapons capability under the cover of a civil programme. Iran denies this, but has been hit with a series of international sanctions over its nuclear work.—*Reuters*

Man fires plastic pellets at Czech president, no injuries

Czech

PRAGUE, 29 Sept—A young man wielding a plastic gun fired pellets at Czech President Vaclav Klaus on Friday, hitting him on the arm but causing no injuries.

The attacker wearing military camouflage approached Klaus during a ceremony to open a bridge in Chrastava, a village 100 km (60 miles) north of Prague, television footage showed. He opened fire with a handgun that fires plastic pellets used in a game called airsoft, similar to paintball, Nova TV said on its website.

The attacker told a Nova reporter the government was "blind and deaf to the laments of the people" before he was arrested. "You really did not manage this well," Nova quoted Klaus as telling his bodyguards. The attacker managed to get within a meter of the leader and walked away after the attack before he was detained by police.

Klaus, 71, whose second and final term ends next March, is a popular figure in the central European EU country.

But his sharp criticism of the euro, EU integration and efforts to halt global warming as well as his friendly stance towards Russia have won him some enemies.—*Reuters*



Petr Vondrouš (2nd R) is detained by police after shooting at Czech President Vaclav Klaus (not pictured) with plastic pellets from a replica gun in the city of Chrastava on 28 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

Pentagon seeks competition for sustainment of Lockheed

F-35

US

WASHINGTON, 29 Sept—The Pentagon on Friday moved toward bringing in other companies to operate and maintain its most expensive weapons programme, the *F-35 Joint Strike Fighter*, a step that could reduce revenues for the current prime contractor, Lockheed Martin Corp.

The move is the latest action by the Pentagon to drive down the cost of the new single-engine, single-seat warplane, whose operations and maintenance costs are currently projected to reach a staggering \$1.11 trillion over the coming decades.

Last week, top Pentagon and Air Force officials publicly slammed Lockheed's performance on the new radar-evading jet, whose development and production alone are slated to cost \$396 billion. The officials said they were looking at ways to introduce more competition to the programme.

Lockheed and the Pentagon remain locked in protracted and tense negotiations about a fifth order of F-35 production jets, with neither government officials nor industry executives expecting an agreement before the end of the third quarter.

On Friday, the Defence Department invited companies to participate in a two-day public forum on 14-15 November on possible opportunities to compete for work managing the supply chain of the new fighter jet and providing support equipment, simulators for training and a computer-based logistics system.

"We want to reduce F-35 life-cycle costs by injecting competition into the programme," said Joe DellaVedova, spokesman for the Pentagon's F-35 programme office. "We want to collect information and learn what is out there in the marketplace."

The Pentagon said its "industry day" would help "identify potential business sources with the resources, capabilities, and experience to successfully deliver a wide range of hardware and infrastructure services in support of F-35 ... sustainment."—*Reuters*

WORLD

Greece's 2013 budget to deepens cuts, sustain recession



Greek Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras leaves after a meeting with Prime Minister Antonis Samaras at the Prime Minister's office in Athens on 20 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

ATHENS, 29 Sept—Greece will unveil a draft budget for 2013 on Monday which will cut deeper into public spending to impress international lenders but also prolong the economic pain of the Greek people. Athens is keen to see its bailout funding resume as its next 31.5 billion euro tranche has been pushed back while inspectors from the European Commission, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund

decide if its current programme of cuts is on track. Greeks are bracing for more pain to bring the country's public finances closer to a primary surplus — where all spending other than debt interest is covered by taxes — a milestone on the road to coming to grips with its debt mountain. Greece becomes the latest euro zone member to tighten their budget further, with Spain and France this week also seeking to prove

they can make the cuts needed to keep lenders and markets onside.

Next year's budget will include more cuts in public sector pay, pensions and welfare benefits as part of an 11.5 billion euro austerity package of savings that will be spread out over the next two years. "It's going to be a tough budget, projecting a sixth year of recession," a senior government official told Reuters. "It will focus on further savings, incorporating measures agreed by the political leaders."

"This budget will be another step to get the country closer to financial independence, reducing the state's operating costs," the official said.

After weeks of haggling over budget cuts, Prime Minister Antonis Samaras's allies in the coalition government have struck a deal on the composition of the package of savings and are ironing out the final details. —Reuters

Los Angeles greenlights \$1.2 billion football stadium

LOS ANGELES, 29 Sept—The Los Angeles City Council on Friday approved a \$1.2 billion plan to build a downtown football stadium, moving America's second most populous city closer than it's been in nearly two decades to having a professional football team. Council members voted unanimously in favour of the Anschutz Entertainment Group's proposal to erect the 72,000-seat stadium in the city's downtown core. It will be named "Farmer's Field." AEG, controlled by billionaire Phil Anschutz, is up for sale but an agreement with the city will require its new owners to take up the stadium project.

Hundreds of football fans in the yellow-and-blue jerseys of the departed Los Angeles



Los Angeles-based architectural firm Gensler's artist rendering shows the proposed Farmers Field stadium and event centre (top) adjacent to the current Staples Center in this undated handout image supplied to Reuters by AEG.—REUTERS

Rams football team, ushers from sports arena Staples Centre sporting "Farmers Field" T-shirts, and even carpenters' union members turned up at Friday's vote, jamming the meeting room and spilling into

the hallways outside. NBA Hall of Fame basketball player and local celebrity Kareem Abdul-Jabbar arrived to raucous applause. AEG executives say they plan to lure a National Football League team to anchor

Arizona man kills himself on live television after pursuit

PHOENIX, 29 Sept—A suspected carjacker shot himself to death after a police chase in Arizona on Friday in a grim spectacle aired on live television - sparking a quick on-air apology and waves of outrage across social media.

The man was seen on the Fox News Channel stumbling from a dark red vehicle into the desert near Phoenix, stopping a short distance away and then apparently pulling the trigger of a gun pointed to the right side of his head. He then crumpled face-forward into the ground. Anchor Shepard Smith shouted, "Get off it!" repeatedly, apparently asking his control room to cut away from the shot. The network quickly cut to a commercial and when Smith returned, he apologized for the incident.

"We really messed up and we're all very sorry," Smith told viewers. "That didn't belong on TV. We took every precaution we knew how to take to keep that from being on TV. And I personally apologize to you

that happened." Social media erupted quickly with reaction to the televised incident, much of it negative.

"Cannot believe FOX let a live suicide air over their network, my heart literally sank watching that.. #appalled," said a Twitter user who identified herself as Kelcey Brand. The Columbia Journalism Review asked in a tweet: "Who's worse? @FoxNews for airing the suicide, or @Buzzfeed for reposting the video just in case you missed it the first time?"

Andrew Kaczynski, a reporter for BuzzFeed Politics, tweeted back to Columbia Journalism Review: "I prefer your whiny usually incorrect long form analysis pieces over your instant judgment." Phoenix police spokesman Sergeant Tommy Thompson said the man, who was not immediately identified, was being pursued by officers after carjacking a 2008 Dodge Caliber, apparently the vehicle seen in the television broadcast.

Reuters



A vehicle is shown being pursued by police in a high-speed chase in this handout still image from video courtesy of MyFox10 News in Phoenix, Arizona on 28 September, 2012.—REUTERS

Death penalty recommended for California man who set deadly wildfire

LOS ANGELES, 29 Sept—A California jury on Friday recommended a death sentence for a man found guilty of starting a 2003 wildfire that burned nearly 100,000 acres, damaged more than 1,000 homes and led to the deaths of five people, prosecutors said. Rickie Lee Fowler, 31, had already been convicted of arson and five counts of first-degree murder for the deaths of people prosecutors said lived in the fire's path and died from heart attacks caused by the stress of evacuation and threats to their homes. "We take capital punishment seriously. We don't seek capital punishment on every murder," San Bernardino District Attorney Michael Ramos said. "It's for those people who are most horrendous murderers, rapists - people like Rickie Fowler."

The death sentence recommendation, on which the judge will make a final ruling at a later hearing, comes just over a month before California voters will decide on a November ballot measure whether to repeal the death penalty in a state that is home to nearly a quarter of the nation's death-row inmates. The October 2003 blaze that Fowler was convicted of starting, called the Old Fire, burned in the San Bernardino Mountains of Southern California, eventually scorching 91,281 acres.—Reuters

Hikers warned about murder suspect on loose in NY state park

NEW YORK, 29 Sept—Hikers were being urged to steer clear of a popular New York state park for the weekend while police search for a man suspected of shooting his daughter-in-law and believed to be armed and hiding in the thickly wooded area.

Police have been searching for Eugene Palmer, 73, since Monday in connection with the killing of Tammy Palmer, his son's 39-year-old wife. They believe he is probably roaming the woods of Harriman State Park, some 30 miles north of Manhattan, after finding his deserted pickup truck near a park entrance. New York's parks department has closed down the campsite at the 47,000-acre park and is urging people to stay away while the manhunt continues.

Palmer, who has a white beard, is known to go hunting in the park's woods, according to Martin Lund, a spokesman for the Haverstraw Police Department. "We are urging (visitors) to use common sense," said Dan Keefe, a parks department spokesman, adding that fliers had been posted at the park's trailheads.

Police in bulletproof vests have been scouring the park this week with the help of search dogs and have flown a helicopter over the park with heat-tracking equipment in attempts to find Palmer. Palmer and his daughter-in-law lived in neighbouring homes in the town of Haverstraw. Palmer has not been seen since his daughter's body was found outside her home some time after her two children went to school on Monday.—Reuters

Los Angeles revives traffic jam warnings for "Carmageddon 2"

LOS ANGELES, 29 Sept—Car-crazed Los Angeles is preparing for a weekend of potential traffic gridlock that has earned the nickname "Carmageddon 2" amid fears drivers might not heed warnings to stay off the roads during a massive 53-hour freeway closure.

Warnings of nightmare jams last year in a phase of the same road-closing construction project kept so many people home that apocalyptic predictions of "Carmageddon" failed to materialize. "Carmageddon, Schmarmageddon," Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky said last year, after the 42-hour 405 Freeway shutdown was over.

But there are worries this year's project could result in more traffic, largely because it went so smoothly last year. "If people don't think it's a problem, it will be one," Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Koretz told Reuters. The shutdown of a 10-mile (16-kilometre) stretch of the 405 Freeway will begin at midnight on Friday, with closures of on-ramps at 7 pm Friday (0200 GMT Saturday), Metropolitan Transportation Authority spokesman Marc Littman said.

Lanes will open again at 5 am on Monday, he said. The shutdown is to allow workers to demolish the north side of a bridge that spans the 405 Freeway in the Sepulveda Pass as part of a \$1 billion freeway widening project, Littman said. The south side of the bridge was demolished last year and has been rebuilt wider, just as the north side will be, he said.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 30 September, 2012

Second hand smoke: the most preventable disease

In attempts to deal with the health effects of smoking, Myanmar have banned smoking in public places including hospitals, schools, universities and airports as well as in cinemas and departmental stores.

Smoking on public transport and in other public spaces is also banned.

Fines for breaking the law range from 1,000 kyats to 5,000 kyats (about 0.80 cents to four dollars) depending on the location.

However, smoking, the major cause of preventable death, continues to be a problem in some places.

Most men and women who smoke tobacco are fully aware of the damage they might be doing to their bodies. In addition to increasing their risk for lung cancer, smoking can also increase a person's risk for heart disease and other potentially deadly ailments.

What those men and women might not know is the extent of the damage their smoking is doing to those around them. According to the American Cancer Society, secondhand smoke is responsible for 3,400 lung cancer deaths among nonsmokers each year. Gaining a better understanding of secondhand smoke might help smokers quit once and for all.

Smoking inside a home, for instance, is putting everyone in the home at heightened risk of a host of ailments. Children are especially sensitive to secondhand smoke.

Clinicians should advise their patients to avoid public places that permit smoking, and families should be counseled not to smoke at home or in a vehicle with patients and children. Meanwhile, teachers should advise their students to be aware of the second hand smoke.

Rakhine State Hluttaw continues for fifth day

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept—The fourth regular session of the first Rakhine State Hluttaw continued for the fifth day at the Hluttaw hall of State Government Office at 10 am yesterday.

It was attended by State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin, Speaker of State Hluttaw U Htein Lin, the State Hluttaw's Deputy Speaker, the members of State level organizations and the State Hluttaw representatives.

At the session, 12 questions were replied, original budget for 2013-2014 fiscal year discussed, the proposals submitted and discussed, and approvals sought. The session ended at 3 pm.—MNA

Conductor, watch your tongue!

There could be a cartoonist on board.



Cartoon Maung Maung Lay

NATIONAL



President U Thein Sein and chairman and executives from Myanmar-US Chamber of Commerce holding discussion. (News on page 16)—MNA

President U Thein Sein ...

(from page 16)

for socio-economic development of the people, he said. The President called for cooperation of Myanmar expats in the efforts as the government alone could not address the

issue.

The President then cordially greeted those present at the meeting.

The Office of the Myanmar Permanent Representative to UN hosted a dinner to the President and those present at the meeting.

MNA



President U Thein Sein cordially greets Myanmar families in US.

MNA

Workshop on development of SMEs, SMIs held in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept—It is a time to assist in the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and Small and Medium Industries (SMIs) as they are prime mover for the boosting of the socio-economy of the country, said Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint.

In his key-note address at the workshop on development of textile, foodstuff, medicines, paper, chemical and household goods industries at the City Hall in Mandalay today, the Union minister also stressed the need for adopting the short-term and long-term plans for development of small and medium industries (SMIs) and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and industrial development plans.

To support the SMEs and SMIs, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Centre has

been organized and Myanmar Industrial Development Bank has been transformed into the Small and Medium Industries Development Bank, he added.

He also called on businessmen to prepare for producing quality goods to be able to compete with products ASEAN nations when the Asean Free Trade Area goes into commercial operation in 2015.

He also urged them to make the best use of the good opportunities as EU has granted the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and the United States has lifted the import ban on Myanmar.

The Union minister urged them to give

Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint makes a speech at the workshop on development of SMEs and SMIs.

MNA



transparent public opinion at the workshop for the development the industrial sector which can produce quality and marketable goods and products.

During the workshop, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint discussed arrangements for sufficient supply of power to the region.—MNA

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

OPINION

News in Brief

Establishment of industrial park discussed

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung met General Director Mr Ma Byung Gun and party of Viet Han Media Co Ltd of Vietnam at his office on 27 September and discussed establishment of industrial park to be undertaken by Shwe Min Thar Co and Viet Han Media Co Ltd in Ayeyawady Region.

Engineering refresher course concludes

Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint on 28 September delivered an address at concluding of engineers refresher course No 7 at the training school in Mingala Taungnyunt Township. Altogether 99 trainees attended the four-week course.

Opening of joint training courses emphasized

Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe met Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany Ms Cornelia Pieper and party at the Ministry of Education yesterday morning and focused on sending scholarship students to Germany, extended teaching of German language and jointly opening of academic courses.

Outstanding midwives picked out for advanced training

Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe met midwives who will attend the advanced course in Chaing Rai of Thailand, at the region government office on 27 September. The region government and Mephalon Foundation picked out 10 outstanding midwives from the region to attend five-week course.



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein presents souvenir to Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

MNA

Opportunities, challenges to Myanmar's economy discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept—Jointly organized by Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), a seminar on capacity building under the theme of “Globalization

and Development Strategy in Myanmar toward ASEAN Economic Integration,” was held at Sedona Hotel in Yangon this morning.

Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Daw Khin San Yi and President of Bangkok-

potential, modern economy of Japan and SMEs development, East Asia supply chain and Myanmar, China and Thailand, broad regional economic integration plan of ASEAN and the view of Japanese companies in ASEAN.

The annual seminar was

economic reforms.

The attendees discussed changes in global economy, and market networks, challenges to SMEs and local businessmen and investors to be presented by AEC and the country's economic reforms, and advantages of

Myanmar-Japan CCI Business Cooperation Committee releases joint statement

YANGON, 29 Sept—The 9th Joint Meeting of the Myanmar-Japan CCI Business Cooperation Committee was held here yesterday on the occasion of the economic mission of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) to Myanmar headed by Chairman Tadashi Okamura.

The meeting was attended by 202 delegates :109 from Myanmar and 93 from Japan.

The meeting was convened under the auspices of Dr Pwint San, Deputy Minister for Commerce, and Mr Takashi Saito, Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary of Japan to Myanmar.

During the meeting, messages from U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and Mr Yoshihiko Noda, Prime Minister of Japan, were delivered.

In addition, to further strengthen economic relations between Myanmar and Japan, the cooperation agreement between UMFCCI and JCCI, which was signed in April 1997, was revised.

At the meeting, the two sides discussed further economic cooperation between Myanmar and Japan in each sector, including agriculture, food processing industry, manufacturing, and tourism, and on infrastructure, in view of Myanmar-related investment and business development.

They also agreed to cooperate more extensively in various fields by acknowledging that consolidation and

improvement not only of hard infrastructure but also of soft infrastructure systems such as the taxation system, intellectual property and remittance and the creation of a master plan for industrial development to foster supporting industry are imperative for Myanmar to be able to attract Japanese investment.

On the basis of the above discussions and to strengthen economic relations between Myanmar and Japan, the two sides request that each government acknowledges the following.

1. Early conclusion of a bilateral investment treaty, for which preliminary discussions between both governments have begun
2. Early setting up of the “Japan-Myanmar Joint Initiative,” a public-private dialogue scheme that has been discussed by both governments in order to improve business environment of both countries
3. Development of a Special Economic Zone in Myanmar by joint efforts of the private sectors with the guidance and support of our two governments
4. Capacity building in human resource development, technical and financial assistance to the SME Sector Development in Myanmar with support and assistance from Japan.

MNA



Seminar on capacity building in progress at Amarapura Hall of Sedona Hotel in Mandalay.—MNA

based JETRO Bangkok Research Centre and JETRO Prof Yasuhiro Yamada spoke on the occasion.

The seminar focused on trading and investment in East Asia, future economy of Myanmar and investment

held by ERIA and NPED Ministry in 2008. This year's seminar aims to help Myanmar in taking over the ASEAN Chair in 2014, building ASEAN Economic Community by 2015 and improving the effects of its ongoing

the State's efforts for socio-economic development and meeting UN MDGs.

The second seminar for 2012 will be held in Nay Pyi Taw International Convention Centre on 1 and 2 October.

MNA

Victims in Sittway receives health care services

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept—Members of a local medical battalion provided medical care to aged people and children at the Danyawady Relief Camp in Sittway yesterday.

They carried out medical check-ups for

the victims and local people and gave educative talks on health and distributed pamphlets to them.

They also fumigated the camp and chlorinated wells in attempts to get rid of mosquitoes.—MNA

WORLD

Republicans dump voter registration firm after fraud reports

MIAMI, 29 Sept—Election officials in Florida were scouring their records for fraudulent voter registration forms on Friday after the Republican Party said it had fired a company hired to gather new voters because of reports its employees may have submitted bogus forms.

The Palm Beach County elections office first reported finding 106 potentially fraudulent registration forms earlier this week that had been submitted by Strategic Allied Consulting (SAC), a Virginia firm hired by Florida's Republican Party.

Since then scores more suspicious forms have been detected in at least five other Florida counties where election officials say SAC worked to register voters.

Federal Election Commission reports from the state Republican Party show it paid SAC more than \$1.3 million this summer for voter registration services.

SAC was also hired to do voter registration work for the Republican Party in four other key swing states—Nevada, Virginia, Colorado, and North Carolina—for a total of \$2.9 million, according to the Republican National Committee (RNC).

Reuters

Arab League hails Sudan-South Sudan agreements

CAIRO, 29 Sept—The Arab League General Assembly on Friday welcomed in a statement the agreements regarding security and cooperation reached between Sudan and South Sudan, Egypt's state news agency MENA reported.

The pan-Arab group said it trusts the good intentions of the two neighbours will settle the pending issues between them, according to MENA.

Also, the Arab League strongly called on the international community to help and support the two countries, particularly South Sudan, which is confronted by a host of economic challenges.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian government also welcomed the progress in negotiations aimed at settling the pending issues between the two countries, MENA reported, quoting Foreign Ministry spokesman Amr Roshdy.

He said the deals are an important step and mark a genuine progress in the two countries' talks addressing the outstanding issues between them.

Presidents of Sudan and South Sudan, Omar al-Bashir and Salva Kiir Mayardit, held talks in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa from Sunday to Thursday in a bid to conclude the prolonged negotiations by their delegations under the mediation of the African Union High Implementation Panel (AUHIP). After five days of talks, the two countries inked three deals respectively on cooperation, security, and post-secession issues in the presence of the members of the AUHIP.

Some persisting issues troubling the two countries, including the border disputes and economic matters (oil- and trade-related), are covered in the deal regarding the post-secession issues.—Xinhua

France hits rich and business to slash deficit

PARIS, 29 Sept—Socialist President Francois Hollande unveiled higher levies on business and a 75-percent tax for the super-rich on Friday in a 2013 budget aimed at showing France has the fiscal rigour to remain at the core of the euro zone.

The package aims to recoup 30 billion euros (24 billion pounds) for the public purse with a goal of narrowing the deficit to 3.0 percent of national output next year from 4.5 percent this year - France's toughest belt-tightening in 30 years.

But the budget dismayed business and pro-reform lobbyists by hiking taxes and holding France's high public spending at the

same level rather than cutting it as Spain, Greece and Italy have done to chip away at their debt mountains. With record unemployment and a barrage of data pointing to economic stagnation, there were also fears the deficit target will slip as France falls short of the modest 0.8 percent economic growth rate on which it is banking for next year.

"We do not want France to be delivered shackled to the markets as has happened to other neighbouring countries that have succumbed to the temptation of letting their budgets get out of control," Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici said of France's determination to

France

stick to its deficit goal. Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault dismissed fears about possible slippage, insisting the 0.8 percent growth target for next year was "realistic and ambitious".

Hollande's aim is to achieve the savings without hitting the purchasing power of low-income families. But France's main employers' group said the measures would backfire by weakening the competitiveness of French industry. "Its stated aim is to prepare the future. But the way it is put together holds it to ransom by putting investment and employment at a serious risk," Medef



France's Junior Budget minister Jerome Cahuzac (L) and Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici present France's 2013 budget during a parliamentary financial commission hearing at the National Assembly in Paris on 28 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

President Laurence Parisot said in a statement.

With public debt at a post-war record of 91 percent of the economy, the budget is vital to France's credibility

not only among euro zone partners but also in markets which for now are allowing it to borrow at record-low yields around two percent.

Reuters



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron (L) talks with Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff during a ceremony at the Planalto Palace in Brasilia on 28 Sept, 2012.

REUTERS

BRASILIA, 29 Sept—British Prime Minister David Cameron had oil and sports on his mind when he visited Brazil this week seeking business opportunities in the South American nation that

overtook Britain last year to become the world's No 6 economy.

With the European Union in a slump, Cameron has turned to emerging BRIC nations—Brazil, Russia,

Cameron leads British hunt for business in

Brazil

India and China—as alternative markets for British exports and investments, with little to show so far.

With executives from 45 leading British companies in tow, Cameron met on Friday with Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, who invited British businesses to invest in Brazil oil and gas, defence, mining and financial services industries.

"I think we can do a lot better," Rousseff said of growing but still negligible trade and investment flows between the two countries.

Rousseff said British interest in Brazil had come at the right time after her

Brazil

government announced last month a \$66 billion investment in road and railway building as part of a massive plan to upgrade her country's dilapidated infrastructure, which includes modernizing ports and airports.

Following the success of the London Olympics this summer, Rousseff said Brazil was seeking British cooperation to prepare for the 2014 Soccer World Cup and the 2016 Olympics Games.

Cameron said British companies had signed more than \$161 million in deals during his two-day visit, with another \$400 million in

potential contracts for companies that can help Brazil get ready for the two global sporting events it will host.

Earlier on Friday in Rio de Janeiro, accompanied by British companies hoping for a slice of Brazil's enormous energy potential, Cameron met with Maria das Gracas Foster, the president of Brazil's largest company, the state-led Petrobras.

Foster laid out the oil company's \$236 billion investment plan for the next five years to develop Brazil's sub-salt off-shore oil reserves and become one of the world's top producers.—Reuters

Farm law to expire but many programmes funded through March

US

CHICAGO, 29 Sept—Expiration of US farm law on 1 October, shutting off dairy supports and putting 2013 crop subsidies in limbo, will cause pain for some farmers and frustration for many but programmes like food stamps and crop insurance will roll on, analysts said.

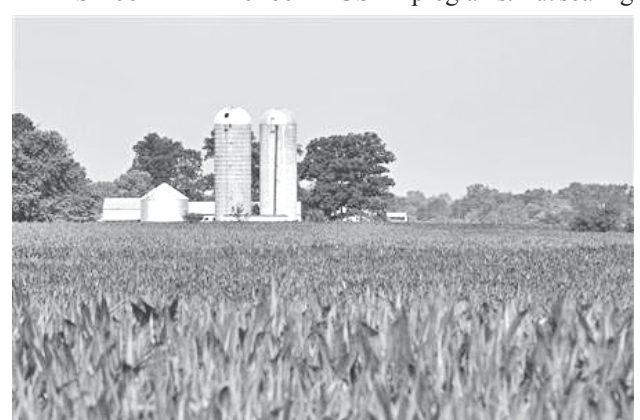
Government funding is assured through March 2013 for many programs based on a July deal to extend budget authority reached by feuding Republicans and Democrats ahead of the November elections.

Analysts said that the expiration will not affect food stamps and nutrition programmes — about 75 percent of the USDA budget — and crop insurance, the biggest "safety net" tapped by farmers in this drought year.

But dairy farmers will be hit financially.

"Immediate impact will be felt by dairy farmers because the supplemental payment many of them have been receiving, the Milk Income Loss Contract Programme, expires on 30 September," said John Blanchfield, senior vice president for agricultural and rural banking at the American Bankers Association.

"Since milk check payments run 30 days behind the delivery of milk, dairy farmers will notice the suspension of these payments with the November milk checks," he said.



A farm is seen in the distance behind corn fields in Redkey, Indiana on 28 June, 2012.—REUTERS

Dairy farmers and livestock producers have been hit hardest this year by drought. Crop losses have been covered to a great extent by insurance, supported by USDA programs. But soaring

feed prices have squeezed livestock producers, prompting herd liquidations and financial failures.

"Congress has to get to do something in November," said Jackie Klippenstein, vice president of industry and legislative affairs for Dairy Farmers of America. "The farm bill provided a measure of hope. The fact that Congress went home without addressing it has really deflated a lot of folks out there who are struggling."

"There's been so much equity lost," said Ray Souza, a California dairy farmer. "Many dairy farmers have had to borrow against their equity to stay afloat."

After the 6 November election, Congress will return to work on the farm bill. The House of Representatives was splintered over how deeply to cut food stamps and farm programmes.

Reuters

REGIONAL



Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz (R) meets with Ismail Tiliwaldi (L), vice chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 28 Sept, 2012. —XINHUA

Singapore's total population rises to 5.31 million

SINGAPORE, 29 Sept — Singapore's population stood at 5.31 million at the end of June this year, up 2.5 percent from a year ago, the Department of Statistics said on Friday.

The number of citizens rose by 0.9 percent from 3.26 million to 3.29 million, while the number of those with permanent residency rose marginally from 532,000 to 533,100, up 0.2 percent year on year.

The number of non-resident population rose by 7.2 percent, slightly higher than last year's growth of 6.9 percent. But it was significantly lower than the increases of 14.9 percent in 2007 and 19 percent in 2008, respectively.

An estimated 3.14 million Singapore residents were staying in public housing flats built and sold by the Housing and Development Board, accounting for 82 percent of Singapore residents.

The median age of the resident population went up further to 38.4 years in 2012, compared to 38 in 2011 and 37.4 in 2010. The proportion of Singapore residents aged 65 years and above rose to 9.9 percent from 9.3 percent last year.

Female residents outnumbered males. The sex ratio was 970 males per 1,000 females, down from 972 in 2011.

Xinhua

Three killed in explosion at fireworks factory in southern India

NEW DELHI, 29 Sept — At least three persons were killed and a few others sustained burn injuries in an explosion at a fireworks factory in Sivakasi in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, a senior police official said. "The explosion occurred at an unauthorized cracker unit functioning in a house at Periyakariskulam village. The three persons working at the unit died at the explosion, caused by friction of chemicals used in fireworks, while those injured have been rushed to a local hospital," he said, on condition of anonymity.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official said, adding that the police have launched a manhunt to nab the owner of the factory. The latest incident came barely three weeks after the ghastly fire accident at a fireworks manufacturing unit in the area, in which nearly 40 people were killed. —Xinhua

Afghan police kill 22 militants

KABUL, 29 Sept — Afghan police in conjunction with the army and NATO-led forces have eliminated 22 anti-government militants during series of operations across the country over the past 24 hours, said a statement of Interior Ministry released here Saturday. According to the statement, 21 more militants have been arrested during the operations.

The statement did not say if there were any casualties on the security forces. Taliban militants who have been fighting the government and NATO-led troops have yet to make comment. —Xinhua



Two attendants aboard G538 prepares for the high-speed train's first trip to Guangzhou in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province, on 29 Sept, 2012. Two high-speed train services were put into use Saturday in Zhengzhou, after the Zhengzhou-Wuhan high-speed railway opened on Friday.

XINHUA

Indonesia to send peacekeeping force to Congo

JAKARTA, 29 Sept — The Indonesian Military (TNI) will be dispatching 175 soldiers in December to join the peacekeeping forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for one-year service period, local media reported on Saturday. The military personnel have completed training as part of their preparations before joining the Garuda Contingent (Konga) XX-J/ MONUSCO (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC). The would-be deployed Indonesian force will consist of 150 army personnel, 19 navy officers and six air force officers.

They will replace TNI troops serving Konga XX-I/ MONUSCO peacekeeping mission, who are due to complete their service term in the DRC soon, the *Jakarta Post* reported. Following the signing of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement in July 1999 between the DRC and Angola, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe, the UN Security Council established the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) with its Resolution 1279. —Xinhua

Two pilots killed in failed aerobatic show in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 29 Sept — The pilot and co-pilot onboard a small plane were killed on Saturday after the plane plummeted to a building in Indonesia's Bandung airport following a failed maneuver they conducted in a domestic air show, Air Force spokesman Agung Sasongko said here.

The plane, owned by the Indonesian Aerosport Federation, went down at about 11:30 am Jakarta Time at Husein Sastranegara and exploded, the spokesman said. "The crash took place when the plane is performing

a show. All the two people on board were killed," Agung told *Xinhua* by phone.

The crash took place as the plane flied too low after conducted five loop maneuvers in Bandung Air show, the Metro TV reported. "The plane crashed when the pilots conducted flypass acrobatic flight from north to south direction of the runway. They lost the height and crashed into an air force's building located in the airport premises," Bambang S Ervan, transportation ministry spokesperson said in an

interview with metro TV. He said that the crashed plane was from the type of Bravo 2010 registered as LM2003, and belongs to Indonesian air force. The two perished plane crews were identified as Norman Lubis and Toni Hartono.

The four-day event of Bandung Air Show began on 27 Sept. Bandung is the capital of West Java.

In 2010, a crash occurred in the same event, killed a pilot after the Cessna plane he piloted at failed to undertake an aerobatic maneuver. —Xinhua



Delegates attend a seminar organized by the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs and the China Institute of International Studies to mark the 40th anniversary of the normalization of China-Japan relations in Beijing, capital of China, on 28 Sept, 2012. About 50 diplomats and experts took part in the seminar. —XINHUA

Roadside bomb targets police in western Afghan town, kills two, wounds two

HERAT, 29 Sept — A Roadside bomb blast targeted police van in the western Herat Province, 640 km west of capital Kabul, on Saturday killing two people and injuring two others, police said. "The deadly attack happened in Mir Ali area of Adraskan district at around 08:30 am local time. As a result, a police trainer and an interpreter were killed and two others including a police trainer sustained injuries," police official Fazal Ahmad Khalili told *Xinhua*.

All of the victims are Afghans, he said.

The Afghan security forces was supposed to take over the control of a police training center in Adraskan district in a ceremony within hours when the blast occurred, the official said. —Xinhua

Singapore to develop more nursing homes, health care facilities for aging population

SINGAPORE, 29 Sept — Singapore's Ministry of Health and Ministry for Community Development, Youth and Sports on Friday jointly announced that they will build 10 new nursing homes, 39 new Senior Care Centres (SCCs) and 56 new Senior Activity Centres (SACs) by 2016, aiming at supporting a growing senior population.

Among the scheduled health care facilities, the site of the 10 nursing homes, 21 SCCs and 45 SACs were

revealed in the Press release, covering most of the main communities all around the country.

The 10 nursing homes will add an estimated 3,300 beds to the existing nursing home capacity of 9,000, the ministries announced.

The SCCs will "provide day care, dementia day care, day rehabilitation services and basic nursing services," as well as personal care services at the homes of the seniors, including personal hygiene, laundry

and meal services.

The SACs will be used for seniors to make friends and engage in regular social activities. They may also receive social support, especially if they are living alone. According to Friday's report by the country's Department of Statistics, the proportion of Singapore residents aged 65 years and above rose to 9.9 percent at the end of this June, rising from 9.3 percent during the same period last year.

Xinhua

BUSINESS & ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (017)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (017) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.9.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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US jury convicts Mexico's Gulf Cartel manager in drug case

MC ALLEN, (Texas), 29 Sept—A US federal jury on Friday convicted a high-ranking member of Mexico's Gulf Cartel of conspiring to possess and import marijuana and cocaine to the United States, the latest blow to Mexican drug bosses in recent weeks.

Juan Roberto Rincon-Rincon, a so-called plaza boss for the cartel, was convicted on all counts in the drug trafficking conspiracy case following a week-long trial in Brownsville, Texas, US Attorney Kenneth Magidson said.

Rincon-Rincon, 41, was accused of heading the cartel's operations in Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico, a prime area for drug traffickers that borders the Rio Grande near McAllen, Texas.

Prosecutors said that under Rincon-Rincon's leadership, the cartel netted more than \$20 million from smuggling operations.

Key testimony in the trial came from Rafael "El Junior"

Cardenas-Vela, Jr., nephew of former Gulf Cartel leader Osiel Cardenas-Guillen, who is serving a 25-year sentence in a US prison.

Cardenas-Vela, a fellow cartel plaza boss, pleaded guilty to a drug conspiracy charge this year and awaits sentencing, Magidson said.

Rincon-Rincon faces between 10 years and life in prison at a sentencing hearing set for January.

Rincon-Rincon worked closely with Jorge Eduardo "El Coss" Costilla, who since 2003 allegedly headed the Gulf Cartel following Osiel Cardenas-Guillen's arrest. Mexican authorities arrested Costilla 13 September in Tamaulipas, the northeastern Mexico state where the cartel operates.

Arrests and turf battles have weakened the Gulf Cartel since 2010, when it dissolved its alliance with the Zetas, which rose to power from a group of Mexican army deserters in the late 1990s.

Reuters

Cuba plans to increase biofertilizer production

Cuba

HAVANA, 29 Sept—Cuba has approved an investment programme to build several plants to produce biofertilizers and biopesticides, as part of its efforts to revitalize the depressed agricultural sector, a senior official said.

Attending an international forum "Labiofam 2012" which closed here on Friday, Minister of Agriculture Gustavo Rodriguez said Labiofam would establish the new plants in a three-year period.

Labiofam is Cuba's most important group devoted to the production of biotechnological products for agriculture and medicine.

Besides providing farmers with biofertilizers and biopesticides, the project

aims to maintain yields, import substitutes and protect the environment.

Rodriguez said scientists were seeking nutritional alternatives for the soil to reduce the use of high doses of mineral fertilizers, including nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

Cuba has some 350,000 farmers engaged in food production for a population of 11.2 million. Cuba imports each year 80 percent of its food, with a bill fluctuating between 1.5 billion and 2 billion dollars.

The revival of agriculture to increase food production on the island is considered an "urgent challenge" and a matter of "national security," Rodriguez said.—Xinhua

Paintings stolen from bond fund manager's California home found

US

LOS ANGELES, 29 Sept—Police recovered a multimillion-dollar collection of paintings stolen from the Southern California home of superstar bond fund manager Jeffrey Gundlach, and two men are in jail on suspicion of possessing the stolen property, authorities said on Thursday.

The 13 paintings, which included works by Jasper Johns and Piet Mondrian, were taken from Gundlach's home in the coastal city of Santa Monica between 12 September and 14 September, officials with the city's police department said.

Gundlach, who was in New York at the time, put forward a \$1.7 million reward earlier this week for the recovery of all his stolen art,

increasing his previous offer of \$200,000.

Officers arrested Jeffrey Nieto, 45, at Al & Ed's Autosound in the Los Angeles suburb of Pasadena on Wednesday in connection with the theft, and recovered most of the paintings at that business, where Nieto is the manager, police said.

They took the second man, Wilmer Cadiz, 40, into custody at his home in nearby San Gabriel and found another four paintings there, police said. The last painting was recovered at a home in the Los Angeles bedroom community of Glendale. The person who had that painting has been interviewed and is cooperating with investigators, police said.—Reuters

Fed's Fisher says US "drowning in unemployment"

RICHARDSON, 29 Sept—The United States is "drowning in unemployment," its economy is running at stall speed and inflation is "not a problem," but easier monetary policy is not the answer, one of the Federal Reserve's most hawkish policymakers said on Friday. "We've had a recovery that is quite disappointing," Dallas Fed President Richard Fisher told a group at the University of Texas at Dallas.

But without more certainty on tax policy and regulation, he said, "all the monetary accommodation in the world" will not get businesses hiring again.

The Fed this month said it would buy \$40 billion in mortgage-backed securities each month to in an effort to boost employment, and pledged not to stop buying until the labour market

improves substantially, as long as inflation remains under control.

The idea behind the programme, known as quantitative easing, is to push down borrowing costs for home purchases and other investments, freeing up household cash. With consumers spending more, businesses are expected to boost hiring to meet the demand.

The trouble with that logic, Fisher said on Friday, is that businesses cannot make decisions about hiring as long as tax policy is in the air. Of particular concern is a raft of spending cuts and tax increases dubbed the "fiscal cliff" that looms at the end of the year. "A short-term fix to the fiscal cliff will do nothing but push out the envelope of indecision and we will continue to be plagued by

high unemployment," Fisher said.

Unemployment has been above 8 percent for more than three years; inflation is currently below the Fed's goal of 2 percent.

Fisher, who opposed the new round of stimulus, said he agrees that the issue of the day



is jobs and putting people back to work, but was concerned that the Fed could lose its focus on inflation.

"I do think that it would be a dangerous thing if we

Richard Fisher, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, answers a question from the audience after delivering the 2009 Albert H. Gordon Lecture about the current financial crisis at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts on 23 February, 2009.

REUTERS



South Korean soldiers of Armed Forces participate in a ceremony to mark the 64th Armed Forces Day which will fall on 1 Oct, at the Gyeryong military headquarters in Gyeryong, South Korea, on 26 Sept, 2012.

XINHUA

Postal Service regulator questions cost-saving plan

WASHINGTON, 29 Sept—The Postal Service's regulator on Friday questioned the potential savings from a plan to shut mail processing sites and slow mail delivery, saying the mail agency could save about the same amount without making major changes to delivery times. The Postal Service plans to close nearly half its mail processing sites over the next few years, part of its response to tumbling mail volumes as Americans use email more.

But postal officials' assumption that the best response to lower volume was to slow delivery caused it to

overlook other cost-cutting options, the Postal Regulatory Commission said in a non-binding opinion.

"The commission's range of potential net savings estimates is lower than that projected by the Postal Service," according to the advisory opinion. "The vast majority of mail processing savings that the Postal Service expects to attain can be captured without significantly changing service," the PRC said.

The critique is the latest backlash to the Postal Service's cost-cutting ideas. Lawmakers from rural communities, as well

as big mailers, have pushed back against plans to close facilities. A Postal Service plan to close thousands of post offices was derailed earlier this year.

The Postal Service says it no longer handles enough mail to justify its current number of facilities and workers. In May, the mail agency said it would consolidate 140 of its 461 processing sites by February 2013, with more to follow. The plan involved shrinking the area where customers can expect mail to be delivered the next day, with the eventual expectation that delivery would slow further.—Reuters

ENTERTAINMENT

Judge dismisses defamation lawsuit against actor John Travolta

LOS ANGELES, 29 Sept—John Travolta has scored another legal victory with the dismissal of a defamation lawsuit filed by a Los Angeles man who wrote a book alleging he had gay encounters with the film star.

A judge in Los Angeles Superior Court on Thursday dismissed the defamation lawsuit against Travolta and his lawyer, Martin Singer, filed by Robert Randolph.

The author of “You’ll Never Spa in This Town Again,” published in February 2012, claimed the

actor and lawyer spread false statements about his mental health in 2010 in an effort to dissuade the public from buying his upcoming book, according to court documents obtained by Reuters.

Judge Malcolm Mackey on Thursday dismissed Randolph’s defamation suit, which centred on a letter Singer wrote to the website Gawker.com in response to a story about the planned book. Court documents available to Reuters did not spell out the reason for the

dismissal, but CNN reported the judge found, in part, that the letter has free speech protection under the law.

The book was published three months before two unidentified male masseurs filed sexual assault lawsuits against Travolta, the star of “Grease” and “Saturday Night Fever.” Both accusers swiftly dropped their lawsuits in May after doubt was cast on the details of their alleged encounters. Travolta, 58, has been married to actress Kelly Preston since 1991.

Reuters



US actor John Travolta poses during a photocall to promote the film *Savages* on the third day of the San Sebastian Film Festival on 23 Sept, 2012.

REUTERS

Reese Witherspoon delivers third child, a boy named Tennessee

LOS ANGELES, 29 Sept—Oscar-winning actress Reese Witherspoon gave birth to a baby boy on Thursday, her first child with husband Jim Toth, and has named him Tennessee James, her representative said.

Witherspoon has two older children - daughter Ava, 12, and son Deacon, 9 — with first husband Ryan Phillippe. The couple divorced in 2007.

“Reese Witherspoon and husband Jim Toth welcomed Tennessee James into their family today. Both mom and baby are healthy and the entire family is thrilled,” Witherspoon’s spokeswoman Meredith O’Sullivan Wasson said in a statement.

The “Legally Blonde” actress married talent agent Toth at her ranch in Ojai, California in March this year.

Witherspoon, 36, who grew up in Nashville, Tennessee, won an Oscar for her work on 2005 country music film, “Walk the Line.”

Reuters

Bacon Pope painting unseen for decades up for US auction

NEW YORK, 29 Sept—A painting from Francis Bacon’s iconic screaming Pope series, which has not been seen in public since 1975, is hitting the auction block where it is expected to sell for as much as \$25 million, Sotheby’s said on Thursday. “Untitled (Pope),” which Bacon painted circa 1954, will be sold at the 13 November New York sale of impressionist and modern art, the auction house said in a statement. “This is a great collecting opportunity,” Oliver Barker, Sotheby’s senior specialist for

contemporary art, told Reuters in a telephone interview.

“Paintings of this nature have become tremendously important in terms of asset value,” he said, adding that Bacon’s early Pope paintings “are truly unattainable objects” with most gracing museum walls and only a few remaining in private hands.

Sotheby’s said the work was last sold, and seen in public, in 1975, when a collector it declined to identify bought it for \$71,500 at its London auction.

“The timing is

absolutely right to capture the upward momentum of the Bacon market,” Barker said, noting that prices in recent years “have been driven by an international reassessment of his works by the market”.

Barker said Bacon’s most desirable works were his Pope series. Works by the British painter have commanded high prices. A female nude sold for \$34 million in London in February, and his “Triptych, 1976” went for \$86 million in New York in May 2008.

Reuters



Artist Francis Bacon’s painting “Untitled (Pope),” which Bacon painted circa 1954, is shown in this publicity image released to Reuters on 27 Sept, 2012.

REUTERS

AK-47s get extreme makeover in new London art show

LONDON, 29 Sept—The AK-47, arguably the world’s deadliest weapon, gets an extreme makeover in a new art project in London where rifles are ground into metal dust, bedecked with dazzling rhinestones or covered in silver-tinted thorns.

“AKA Peace” is the brainchild of former army reservist and *Sunday Times* photographer Bran Symondson, who, when serving in Afghanistan, noticed how policemen would decorate their guns.

He managed to attract some of the cream of British contemporary art, with Damien Hirst, Antony Gormley, Marc Quinn and the Chapman brothers contributing works to an exhibition followed by a charity auction to be held next week.

“We noticed they (Afghan police) would adorn their AK-47s with flowers, stickers, and I realised it was the only possession in their life really so it was a bit like a teenager would pimp up their car in the UK,” Symondson said.

“A lot of people say ‘am I scared of glorifying the AK-47?’ But I think the AK-47 is already glorified. I think the strongest message here is to show it can be used for something else visually and mentally,” he told Reuters at a preview.

More than 20 artists were involved, some more famous than others, and their works are on display until 30 September at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) in central London.



A visitor looks at Nancy Fouts’s “Don’t Touch”, at the AKA Peace exhibition at the Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA) in central London on 26 Sept, 2012.

REUTERS

They then travel to nearby auction house Phillips de Pury & Company where they will be sold on 4 October, and the proceeds will go to the Peace One Day charity which promotes a global day of ceasefire and non-violence every 21 September.

Hirst’s contribution is instantly recognisable — he has “spin painted” his gun in garish colours. Jake and Dinos Chapman have their guns held by two toddlers whose noses have been turned into phalluses.

One of the visitors’ favourites was Nancy Fouts’s “Don’t Touch”, an AK-47 covered in silver-sprayed thorns which, from a distance, look soft and furry.

Palestinian artist Laila Shawa said she was no stranger to the seemingly ubiquitous assault rifle.—Reuters

Ang Lee’s “Life of Pi” in 3D opens NY film festival

NEW YORK, 29 Sept—Once considered impossible to make, the big screen 3D adaptation of the bestselling novel “Life of Pi” will open the 50th New York Film Festival on Friday, marking another advance in digital filmmaking.

The movie’s director, “Brokeback Mountain” filmmaker Ang Lee, was due to hit the red carpet at the big-budget movie’s world premiere on Friday. Audiences will get their first glimpse of the spiritual story of a boy stranded on a boat with a Bengal tiger, as it kicks off the screenings of more than 160 films over 17 days.

One of the world’s most respected movie showcases, the festival typically emphasizes the art of cinema with a selection of the best films from the year’s European festivals over Hollywood style premieres. But the event is still seen as an important step in gathering critical buzz as Hollywood’s awards season gets going.

But more splashy world



Cast member Reese Witherspoon arrives on the red carpet for the screening of the film “Mud”, in competition at the 65th Cannes Film Festival, on 26 May, 2012.—REUTERS

premieres than usual are on this year’s schedule, including “Sopranos” maker David Chase’s film feature debut, “Not Fade Away”; Robert Zemeckis’ first action film “Flight” starring Denzel Washington, which will close the festival; as well as the much-anticipated fantasy adventure “Life of Pi”.

“Life of Pi” uses computer generated imagery to bring a cinematic feel to the tale of a Hindu boy who survives a shipwreck and gets stranded on a lifeboat for 227 days with a spotted hyena, an injured zebra, an orangutan

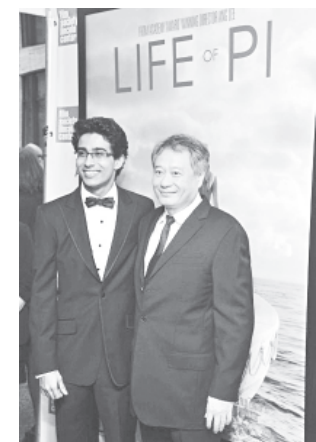
and a Bengal tiger called Richard Parker.

It is director Ang Lee’s riskiest film to date, even after 2005’s “Brokeback Mountain” for which he won the best director Oscar. That film generated some controversy upon its release for breaking barriers about gay portrayals on screen.

Lee told reporters in New York on Friday that he read “Life of Pi” when the novel was released in 2001, and found it “fascinating and mind-boggling.” However, “I remember thinking to myself, nobody in their right mind” would transfer it to film due to the technical difficulties of filming a story partly set at sea with a host of zoo animals, he added.

But spurred on by its spiritual message, Lee agreed to make the movie four years ago, and saw 3D as the only way to realize it even before “Avatar” in 2009 broke through as a box office bonanza for 3D movies.

Reuters



SPORTS

Ferguson doubts England recall for Ferdinand

Soccer

LONDON, 29 Sept— Rio Ferdinand is unlikely to be recalled by England despite defender John Terry's international retirement, Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson said on Friday.

The United defender was left out of the squad for the Euro 2012 finals by coach Roy Hodgson, who selected Terry despite allegations that he had racially abused Ferdinand's brother Anton in a league match against Queens Park Rangers.

Terry was cleared of the charges in court in July but said the Football Association, who banned him for four matches on Thursday in relation to the incident, ended his England career on Sunday, saying his position was "untenable".

Speculation that Terry's

retirement would pave the way for Ferdinand's recall was knocked back by Ferguson at his weekly news conference on Friday.

"It's entirely up to Rio," Ferguson said. "I wouldn't think he'll get called up. I think Roy made his decision for the Euros and I can't see him changing that."

"It would be difficult for him to go to Rio now and welcome him back. If that happens, it's entirely up to Rio in terms of what he wants to do."

"I don't know if Rio would do it—I haven't asked him. It's just speculation from the press at the moment after Terry's decision to retire from international football."

When announcing his 23-man Euro 2012 squad in June, Hodgson said former



Man U manager Alex Ferguson.

England captain Ferdinand's omission had been a "footballing decision".

Ferdinand, capped 81 times by England, expressed his disappointment at the time and suffered a further snub when Gary Cahill suffered a broken jaw in a warm-up game and was replaced by Liverpool's inexperienced right back Martin Kelly.

Reuters

Wizards top scorer Wall to miss first month of season

Basketball

WASHINGTON, 29 Sept— Former first overall draft pick John Wall of the Washington Wizards is expected to miss the first month of the National Basketball Association (NBA) season with a left knee injury, the team said on Friday.

Wall, a 22-year-old point guard that led Washington in scoring last season, was diagnosed with the early stages of a stress injury to his left patella but will not require surgery, the Wizards said in a statement.

"We feel fortunate that we caught the injury early and that he will be able to return with the vast majority of the season still in front of us," Wizards president Ernie Grunfeld said.

Wall, taken first overall by Washington in the 2010

NBA Draft, had been experiencing discomfort in his left knee and the injury was discovered during an examination on Thursday.

He led Washington in scoring (16.3 points per game) and assists (8 per game) last

season while starting all 66 games during the lockout-shortened campaign.

The Wizards begin training camp on October 2 and open the 2012-13 NBA season on 30 October at Cleveland.—Reuters



Washington Wizards' John Wall (R) celebrates with teammate Nick Young (L) during overtime of their NBA basketball game against the Toronto Raptors in Washington on 6 February, 2012.—REUTERS

McIlroy, McDowell go to 18th to win Europe's first point

MEDINAH, (Illinois), 29 Sept— World number one Rory McIlroy and fellow Northern Irishman Graeme McDowell had a three-hole lead disappear before rising at the 18th hole to win the first point for Europe at the Ryder Cup on Friday.

The duo, sent out first by Europe captain Jose Maria

Olazabal, snared a critical point from Americans Jim Furyk and Brandt Snedeker when McIlroy blasted out from a bunker to five feet and McDowell sank the par putt for a 1-up victory.

"It was a great game of golf, it really personified the Ryder Cup this morning," McDowell told reporters on the 18th green after sinking the putt that allowed Europe to finish the opening foursomes session tied 2-2.

"We played some great golf to be 3-up and two very gutsy players come back at us with a few birdies and we're playing these last two holes all square and having to hit some quality shots down the stretch."

A run of six birdies in seven holes from the fourth boosted the Europeans, who led by three holes through the 12th.

That streak was started by a chip-in by McIlroy from behind the green at the fourth

that charged up the Europeans who felt wronged after Furyk had not allowed McDowell to take relief from a ball sitting close by a sprinkler head on the second hole. The Americans, however, fought back and ran off a string of three successive birdies from the 14th to level the alternate-shot match.

At the 18th, Snedeker sent his drive way right among the oak trees and pantomimed snapping his driver in half at the tee. McIlroy's drive was also headed right but clipped a branch and dropped into light rough alongside a fairway bunker.

Furyk punched out through a tight lane to put the ball on the fairway and Snedeker stuck his approach shot about 15 feet from the cup.

McDowell's approach found a bunker below the green, but McIlroy put pressure on the US by blasting out to five feet.

Golf

Furyk's right-to-left par putt broke away just inside the hole, making McDowell's putt good for a point in the European column. "It was a great match," said 23-year-old McIlroy. "They came back at us. Unfortunately, Brandt didn't hit a very good tee shot there at the last and we were able to take advantage."

McDowell praised his playing partner.

"My job is easy. I'm playing alongside the greatest player on the planet right now," said the 2010 US Open champion, who described McIlroy's sand shot as "phenomenal."

McIlroy returned the bouquet. "If I had to choose anyone on either of these two sides to have to hole that putt to win at the last, it would have to be G-Mac," the number one said about McDowell, who clinched the winning putt in Europe's victory over the US team two years ago in Wales.—Reuters

McLaren promise Perez equal status

Mortor Racing

LONDON, 29 Sept—Mexican Sergio Perez will have every chance of winning races and fighting for the Formula One title when he replaces Lewis Hamilton at McLaren next season, the team said on Friday.

Hamilton, the 2008 world champion, is moving to Mercedes on a three-year deal in place of 43-year-old Michael Schumacher.

McLaren team principal Martin Whitmarsh assured reporters, in a conference call after the announcements, that Perez would have equal treatment to his new team mate and 2009 champion Jenson Button. "I believe that Sergio will be



McLaren Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton (L) of Britain sprays champagne on the podium with second-placed Sauber Formula One driver Sergio Perez of Mexico, after the Italian Grand Prix at the Monza circuit in this on 9 September, 2012 file photo.—REUTERS

competing to win in Australia (at the season-opener) next year and I think he is capable of doing that," said Whitmarsh.

"With regards to number one status in the team, it is not how we work in our team and we will be in Australia next year with Sergio and Jenson competing for a win."

Perez, 22, has been one of the revelations of the season with three podium finishes in 14 races for his Swiss-based Sauber team.

He had been mentioned before Sunday's Singapore Grand Prix as a possible replacement for Hamilton but Whitmarsh said the deal was signed only in the last two days, after Hamilton made his decision. "Our view was that Sergio is very intelligent, he is a very humble and pleasant individual. But he has clearly got the hunger," said Whitmarsh.

"There was no fear as he has overtaken people like Fernando Alonso this year. He has got good race craft. When you speak to him you realise he is very young but that is exciting...we undoubtedly believe we can develop him into a world champion in fairly short order."—Reuters



Team Europe golfer Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland (R), Graeme McDowell (L).—REUTERS

Petrova upsets Stosur to reach Tokyo final

TOKYO, 29 Sept— Russia's Nadia Petrova overpowered eighth seed Samantha Stosur 6-4, 6-2 in a surprisingly one-sided match to reach the final of the Pan Pacific Open on Friday.

Petrova, struggling with lower back pain all week, ran Australian Stosur ragged along the baseline to advance to her first final at the WTA premier five event in Tokyo.

The 17th seed faces the winner of the day's second semi-final between defending champion Agnieszka

Radwanska and German Angelique Kerber in Saturday's championship match.

Petrova, chasing her second title of the season, came into the match with a 5-3 record over Stosur, last year's US Open champion.

Stosur committed a string of unforced errors and Petrova closed out the match following another wild forehand from the Australian after one hour, 47 minutes.

Nine of the world's top 10 women made the trip to

Tokyo, although the \$2.16 million hard-court tournament lost its two top



Russia's Nadia Petrova

seeds, Victoria Azarenka and Maria Sharapova, on Thursday.—Reuters

GENERAL

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(30-9-12 09:30 am ~ 1-10-12 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * 5th ASEAN Quiz Regional Competition in Cambodia
- * News
- * Beautiful Kintha
- * News
- * Bonsai Aficionado (Part-II)
- * News
- * Development of Lumbini Nepal 2012 (Tourism Promotion)
- * News
- * The Grade U Po Sein
- * News
- * Certificate Awarding

<p>Ceremony of Cambridge Young Learner's Exams</p> <p>* News</p> <p>* Myanmar Movies Impact "Over Popularity Among Ladies"</p> <p>* News</p> <p>* Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes "Golden Shrimp Box"</p> <p>* Myanmar Movie "One Precept"</p>	<p>Day of Tawthalin" (Gayudhmma Ah Khadaw Nay)</p> <p>8:10 am</p> <p>5. International News</p> <p>8:15 am</p> <p>6. Islands of Dhamma</p> <p>8:20 am</p> <p>7. Nine Precepts Administred</p> <p>11:00 am</p> <p>1. Martial Song</p> <p>11:20 am</p> <p>3. Round Up Of The Week's International News</p> <p>11:30 am</p> <p>4. TV Drama Series</p> <p>12:30 pm</p> <p>5. How It's Works</p> <p>12:50 pm</p> <p>6. Myanmar Video</p> <p>2:15 pm</p> <p>7. Selected Songs For 19th</p>	<p>Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions (2012)(Oldies & Mono Classial)(Higher Division Level) (Women)</p> <p>2:25 pm</p> <p>8. Song Of National Races</p> <p>4:40 pm</p> <p>3. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Myanmar)</p> <p>5:05 pm</p> <p>6. Sing & Enjoy</p> <p>6:40 pm</p> <p>11. Tamyethnar Takwetsar</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>13. News</p> <p>16. Monthly Weather Report</p> <p>18. Cartoon Series</p> <p>19. Teleplay</p> <p>24. New Melody</p>
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MYANMAR TV (30-9-2012, Sunday)

- 7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw -Uppatathandi Paritta
- 7:40 am
3. "Sermon On Fullmoon

World Cup unlikely to use extra linesmen, says Blatter



FIFA President Sepp Blatter

ZURICH, 29 Sept—Extra linesmen behind the goals are unlikely to be used at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil despite the system's apparent success at Euro 2012, FIFA president Sepp Blatter said on Friday.

He added that the system, featuring one additional linesman behind each goal, had not featured in the World Cup qualifiers and it would be inconsistent to employ it at the finals.

Blatter said the use of the extra linesmen, championed by UEFA president Michel Platini who is an opponent of goal-line technology, was too expensive for most domestic leagues.

"All around the world, the qualifying system is done with the conservative system of one referee, two assistant referees and the fourth

official," Blatter told reporters. "I'm not going to say what is the final decision before the World Cup, but if you have the system which has run for the qualification, then you should have the same system in the final."

"There are not so many associations in the world of football that can afford to have so many referees, even in professional leagues."

"The referees (behind the goals) must have the same quality as the referee in the middle, that is the first principle," he said. However, Blatter did not completely write the system off.

"Let us wait and see how many of the national associations will use this system of additional referees and how it will work in the different leagues," he added.

Reuters

UN criticizes "shrill war talk" in Iran nuclear dispute

UNITED NATIONS, 29 Sept—The UN on Friday urged all sides in the dispute over Iran's nuclear programme to tone down "shrill war talk," reacting to this week's clashes at the world body between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

"It's obvious that harsh tones and rhetoric are not going to be helpful, that is quite clear," said UN spokesman Martin Nesirky when asked about Netanyahu's speech on Thursday to the General Assembly.

"What is also clear is that Iran needs to prove to the international community that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes," Nesirky said.

Using a cartoonish diagram of a bomb, Netanyahu suggested in his speech that Israel might take military action to prevent Iran from reaching the point where it has enough enriched uranium for a bomb. He indicated that point could come by the spring or summer of 2013.

"Even without a chart, the secretary-general in his quite forceful remarks to the

General Assembly on Tuesday made very clear that there does indeed need to be a toning down of the rhetoric from all sides," Nesirky said.

"He referred to the shrill war talk of recent weeks," Nesirky said, referring to UN chief Ban Ki-moon.

Ban met with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Sunday and warned him of the dangers of incendiary rhetoric. Ahmadinejad disregarded Ban's caution, predicting on Monday that Israel would be "eliminated."

US President Barack Obama followed on Tuesday

with a warning to Teheran that it would do what it has to do to prevent Iran from getting an atomic weapon.

Iran's UN mission responded to Netanyahu's speech, saying Teheran was strong enough to defend itself and that it reserved the right to retaliate with full force against any attack.

Iran rejects allegations by Western nations and Israel that it is seeking the capability to produce an atomic weapon. Teheran insists its nuclear ambitions are limited to the peaceful production of medical isotopes and electricity.—Reuters

Rapper Lil Wayne breaks Elvis Presley's Billboard record

LOS ANGELES, 29 Sept—Rapper Little Wayne toppled Elvis Presley to become the new King of the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart on Thursday, with a total of 109 songs, Billboard said.

Wayne, who also celebrated his 30th birthday on Thursday, surpassed Presley's count of 108 entries in the Hot 100 singles chart between 1958 and 2003, as an artist on rapper Game's latest track "Celebration."

That track also features Chris Brown, Tyga and Wiz Khalifa, entering the chart at No 82 this week. The rapper, nicknamed Weezy, released his debut studio album "The Black Is Hot" in 1999.

He has steadily grown to become one of the top names in US hip hop, with hit singles including "Right Above It" and "6 Foot 7 Foot." Wayne ranked fifth on Billboard's list of top-earning musicians in 2011, with an estimated \$23.1 million.

Presley, the 'King' of

rock'n'roll, held his title as the artist with the most Hot 100 singles for 45 years, with his single "Rubberneckin'" last appearing on the chart at No 100 in 2003.

His career predated the inception of the Billboard 100 chart, which started in 1958, so some of his most famous hits such as "Heartbreak Hotel" and "Hound Dog" never made it onto the chart.

Both Wayne and Presley were overtaken by the cast of Fox's hit musical television show "Glee," who have had a total of 204 entries in the Hot 100 to date.—Reuters



Diamond studded headphones crown recording artist Lil Wayne as he cheers during the NBA All-Star game in Orlando, Florida, on 26 February, 2012. REUTERS

Brazil, Britain sign accords on economy, culture, education

RIO DE JANEIRO, 29 Sept—Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and British Prime Minister David Cameron signed six bilateral agreements on economic, cultural and educational matters in Brasilia on Friday.

In one agreement, Britain pledges to increase to 10,000 the number of spots available to Brazilian students pursuing study in British universities.

The initiative is part of the Brazilian "Science without Frontiers" programme, which has also secured more spots for Brazilian students studying at universities in Canada, the United States and other countries.

Partnerships between Brazilian universities and British companies and universities have also been established.

In the economic field, the two leaders agreed to exchange information on taxation.

One of the agreements calls for cooperation in the organization of the 2016 Olympic Games, to be hosted by Rio, in order to incorporate British experience in hosting 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The two Olympic hosts will exchange information on the infrastructure of the games, such as urban transport projects and sports venues.—Xinhua

government preparing the way with a further series of spending cuts.

The government highlighted its decision to raise pensions by one percent and the fact that there are no major tax increases on top of recent rises in sales and income tax. This decision not to raise taxes again for the time being, or to begin taxing the church in Spain, limited the possibilities of the government to help deal with the Spanish State deficit and Rajoy and his ministers have opted for a further round of spending cuts with central government spending to be slashed by over seven percent.

This will do little to ease the problem of unemployment in a country where around 25 percent of the workforce is out of a job and with the recession looking certain to continue into 2013 and many experts are disappointed that no measures have been taken to stimulate growth, which would help increase revenue to the Treasury.

Xinhua

President U Thein Sein receives Myanmar-US Chamber of Commerce

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept—President U Thein Sein met the chairman and executives of Myanmar-US Chamber of Commerce at The Mark Hotel in New York at 6 pm LST yesterday.

Chairman of Myanmar-US Chamber of Commerce U Thein Han (a) Mr William H Su, vice-chairmen and executives discussed matters related to hospitality, healthcare, pharmaceutical and chemical industries and legal affairs. The President called for cooperation in sought-after socio-economic development of the country, revealing available assistances to be provided in each sector.—MNA



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with chairman and executives of Myanmar-US Chamber of Commerce.

MNA

President U Thein Sein meets Myanmar families in US



President U Thein Sein meets overseas Myanmar in New York.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept—President U Thein Sein met Myanmar families in US at the Office of Myanmar Permanent Representative to UN at 6.45 p.m LST yesterday.

Also present at the meeting were Union

ministers, the deputy minister, ambassadors and departmental heads, Myanmar staff at UN

Headquarters and agencies in US, Myanmar families from US-Myanmar Buddhist Association, US-Myanmar

Medical Association, Myanmar-US Merchants Association and Myanmar-China Friendship

Association.

The President said he was heartened by the attitude of Myanmar citizens in US looking forward to development of Myanmar. As Myanmar is in democratic transition, the government is trying its utmost for stability and socio-economic development of the people which are public desires, he said. For the government is trying to bring an end to armed conflicts in border areas for ensuring peace and stability of the country agreements have been reached with 10 out of 11 armed groups and engagements have been made with KIA. The government is fulfilling the needs for education, health, transportation and generation of more incomes (See page 8)

Investments invited to open private pilot training schools

YANGON, 29 Sept—According to the information from Directorate of Civil Aviation, foreign investors will be invited to Myanmar for opening of private pilot training schools.

“The private pilot training schools are opened in international community. The schools are to turn out a large number of youth pilots. So, investors at home and abroad are invited to do this business. The directorate will select the reliable schools for providing systematic trainings facilitated with teaching aid and technology with the assistance of experts to the youth to become pilots”, said

an official of the Directorate of Civil Aviation.

A plan is under way to seek approval from the region government for opening the private pilot training schools in Patheingyi, Monywa and Magway at first. The entrepreneurs may submit their proposals to the directorate.

“Most of the youth dreamed life of pilots. In the past, the dreams were dreamt only, and it was not to be come true. At a time when the private pilot training schools would have emerged, a large number of local youth pilots would come out,” said a Myanmar citizen pilot in his facebook.—Myanma Alin

Real Madrid under pressure against solid Deportivo side

MADRID, 29 Sept—Real Madrid will be hoping for a comfortable home win when they take on Deportivo la Coruna on Sunday night.

Depending on Barcelona’s result away to Sevilla on Saturday, Real Madrid could kick off 11 points behind Barcelona and with a visit to the Camp Nou Stadium next weekend.

Deportivo have a poor record in the Santiago

Bernabeu Stadium with just two wins there in BBVA Primera Liga in their entire history, although they also won the 2001 Copa del Rey final there in spectacular fashion. That historic win, which ruined Madrid’s centenary celebrations is ancient history now as Jose Luis Oltra’s side get to grips with their return to the top flight after a season in the second division.—Reuters

Sharapova getting used to long season in WTA Tour

BEIJING, 29 Sept—After years of playing in the WTA tour, Russia’s world number two Maria Sharapova has managed to cope with the long season with her experience.

“It’s a pretty long season of 10 months of playing tournaments, but I have a

normal schedule, I don’t play too many events. I try to focus on the ones I feel are important and work my schedule around that,” Sharapova, who is playing the China Open here after missing last year’s edition, said on Saturday.

Reuters



Results on 29 Sept, 2012 (Saturday)

Arsenal	1 - 2	Chelsea
Everton	3 - 1	Southampton
Fulham	1 - 2	Manchester C
Norwich C	2 - 5	Liverpool
Reading	2 - 2	Newcastle U
Stoke C	2 - 0	Swansea C
Sunderland	1 - 0	Wigan Athletic