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Myanmar would like to prove as gem of rising Southeast Asia

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, while he was in New York, the United States, met with officials of United Nations and national and regional organizations and Myanmar families.

After addressing the 67th United Nations General Assembly on 27 September morning, the President met President of the 67th session of United Nations General Assembly Mr. Vuk Jelic at the latter's office at 10:45 am on that day.

The meeting focused on Myanmar's cooperation with the United Nations in the priority areas and resumption of granting regular aids to Myanmar and constructive responses for her positive reforms by the United Nations.

In meeting with President Mr. Herman Van Rompuy of European Council and Ms. Catharine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, at the meeting hall of the UN Headquarters at 11 am, they held friendly discussions on the EU's pledge to grant financial assistance to Myanmar, decision made by all 27 EU member countries for the grant of Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) on Myanmar's exports, full recognition for reform process in Myanmar by EU, aids for implementation of infrastructure-building and rural development tasks in Myanmar, holding political dialogues, facilitating in trade and economic matters and easing national races conflicts, assistances necessary for Myanmar's ASEAN alternate chairmanship in 2014 and cooperation with EU in long-term projects in Myanmar.

The President received Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in New York. At the call, they cordially exchanged views on strengthening amity, mutual respects and cooperation between the two countries, seeking ways to boost trade and economic cooperation, establishment of BIMSTEC Free Trade Area and Myanmar government's fair handling of Rakhine incidents in line with its sovereignty.

Also present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Thein Htay, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thein, U Khin Yi and Myanmar permanent representative to UN Ambassador U Kyaw Tin.

On that evening, the President met with US-ASEAN Business Council President Mr Alexander Feldman and executives, Vice-President of US Chamber of Commerce Mr Myron Brilliant and members, at the office of Myanmar Permanent Representative to UN.

At the meeting, the President said that it is expected that there will be investments in oil and gas enterprise and in the sectors of communication and information technology, aviation market and hotels and tourism. A new Foreign Investment Law will be passed soon so as to attract foreign direct investments, which gives advantages to the investors.

He continued to say that the government would create favourable environment for foreign investors, promote the copy rights and environmental conservation tasks.

The government has enacted Special Economic Zone Law. Kyaukpadaung region in Rakhine State, Dawei region in Tanintharyi Region and Thilawa region near

Yangon have been designated as special economic zones. It is expected that these zones would become export manufacturing zones for foreign investors.

Myanmar's youths work force who can speak English would become cheap labour for US industries and businesses.

Myanmar would like to prove as the gem of rising Southeast Asia. Myanmar would go forward without backsliding. Reforms that could facilitate economic development and promote the interests of the people would be continued. The aim of attracting foreign investments was to create mutually beneficial condition.

He addressed Asia Society in New York at 5.20 pm

President U Thein Sein to pay a State visit to Republic of Korea

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Oct—At the invitation of His Excellency Mr LEE Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay a State visit to the Republic of Korea in the near future.—MNA

and answered queries raised by its members.

The President on 28 September met reporters of BBC, VOA, DVB, RFA and Myanmar National TV and New York Times columnist Mr Bill Keller and answered queries. He also visited Metropolitan Museum of Art, the largest museum in US.

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President U Thein Sein meets President of the 67th session of United Nations General Assembly Mr. Vuk Jelic.—MNA

“Reforms that could facilitate economic development and promote the interests of the people would be continued. The aim of attracting foreign investments is to create mutually beneficial condition.”

“Leadership depends on the desire of the people. If the people accept Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as the leader, I would accept it as well. There is no problem between Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and I. We are now working together as well.”

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay and wife being welcomed at the reception to mark Day of German Unity of FRG by German Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Christian-Ludwig Weber-Lortsch and wife at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on 3 October.



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Tycoon's alliance wins election in Georgia



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Two-goal Mata is the Special Juan as Chelsea win 4-0



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Barcelona sink Benfica but worry over Puyol



PAGE 14

NATIONAL**Records taken for poverty alleviation, rural progress**

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct—While meeting with taking-field-trip records and implementation work groups, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council urged them to help create job opportunities, help locals build model villages and provide necessary assistance to villagers, especially, health and livestock and agriculture in order to reduce poverty rate as well as to carry out development tasks in rural areas at GAD Office here this evening and left the necessary instructions.

Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Thein Nyunt said that Immigration and National Registration Department would issue CSC in conjunction with taking field trip

records and implementation work groups in this fourth week. Moreover, Nay Pyi Taw Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association would make cooperation in implementing of socio-economic progress and health care system. They then would give educative talks on hypertension among people.

The field-trip leaders of eight townships of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area reported on conditions of the villages and preparedness works.

From 4 to 11 October, they are going to make field trips to 32 villages of eight townships simultaneously.—MNA

Myanmar establishes diplomatic relations with Latvia

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct—The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Latvia, desirous of establishing friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of International Law in accordance with the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations and on Consular Relations, established diplomatic relations at Ambassadorial level with effect from 26 September 2012.

The Joint Communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Latvia was signed by U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Mr Edgars Rinkevics, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia in New York on 26 September 2012.

Myanmar has been making efforts to expand the diplomatic relations with countries all over the world and the Republic of Latvia has become the 108th country with which Myanmar has established diplomatic relations.—MNA

Diplomatic relations established between Myanmar and Estonia

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Transportation attracts German investment

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct—A 22-member economic delegation led by Deputy Minister of International Investment and Trade of Germany Dr Karl Brauner paid a call on Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung at the ministry this morning to discuss investment in businesses under the management of the Transport Ministry.

German businessmen showed their interest to make investment in construction of Hanthawady International Airport, extension of airports, supply of Germany-made small aircraft to Myanmar Airways, renovation of ports, construction of deep sea ports in special economic zones,



shipbuilding, supply of Germany-made small watercrafts for inland water transport, technical and

financial cooperation with Transport Ministry in its ongoing projects. The Union Minister and personnel discussed ongoing plans, future projects and investment potential in detail.—MNA

Fourth regular session of first Rakhine State Hluttaw concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct—The fourth regular session of the first Rakhine State Hluttaw continued for the seventh day at the State Hluttaw yesterday.

It was attended by Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Hla Maung Tin, Speaker of the State Hluttaw U Htein Lin and members of the state-level organizations and

representatives of the Hluttaw.

During the meeting, 12 questions were raised and answered and the Hluttaw was informed that the Rakhine State Hluttaw Legislation Committee and Rakhine State Hluttaw National Races Affairs Assessment Committee were assigned more duties, proposals were discussed, advises were sought from the Rakhine State Government and resolutions were passed by the Hluttaw.

MNA

District News**Illegal sawn timber seized in Toungoo**

TOUNGOO, 3 Oct—Assistant Director U Myint Thein Tun of Toungoo District Forest Department and Township Staff Officer U Win Naing and party seized illegal storage of timber, amounting to 340 pieces of ironwood sawn timber weighing 3.7736 tons and 11456 ironwood groove plank weighing 19.3412 tons at the house of U Tin Myint, son of U Maung Sein at No 63 on Pagoda Road in Ward 5 of Toungoo at 10.15 pm on 26 September.

The department concerned opened a file of lawsuit against U Tin Myint for illegal storage of timber.

Myanma Alin

Two men stricken by lightning

NYAUNGU, 3 Oct—While two sweater machines were being covered, two persons were stricken by lightning at 2.30 pm on 24 September.

As rainwater dropped on the sweater machines from the roof of the house in Ward 7 of Aung San Street in Pyin Oo Lwin Township, Maung Min Sein, 27 and Maung Ye Tun, 16 covered the machines.

Meanwhile, they were stricken by lightning. In the incident, Maung Min Sein died on the spot and Maung Ye Tun suffered from hit of lightning at his hands.

Kyemon

Meiktila Township Administrator's Cup Football Tournery wraps up

MEIKTILA, 3 Oct—The Meiktila Township Administrator's Cup Inter-Village/Ward Men's Football Tournament reached the final match on 30 September.

At the township sports ground, Thiri Mingala team and Yan Myo Aung team met in the final match. At the final whistle, the both teams played a 1-1 draw. In the

penalty decision, Thiri Mingala won over Yan Myo Aung with a 3-2 result.

Officials presented cash award and trophy to first prize winning Thiri Mingala team.

The football tournament lasted from 10 to 30 September, with participation of 19 football teams.

Kyemon

World Rabies Day observed in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 3 Oct—To mark World Rabies Day, an educative talks on rabies took place at Mohnyin Township General Administration Department on 28 September. Head of Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Win Oo and staff shot rabies vaccine to dogs and cats free of charge.

At the ceremony, head of District LBVD assistant director Dr Khin Maung Myint, District medical superintendent Dr Thin Thin Hlaing, the LBVD staff officer and executive officer U Aye Naing of Township Development Affairs Committee gave talks.

NLM-001



WORLD

Iran Iran to enrich uranium to 60 percent if nuclear talks fail



A security official stands in front of the Bushehr nuclear reactor, 1,200 km (746 miles) south of Teheran, on 21 Aug, 2010. —REUTERS

DUBAI, 3 Oct — Iran would enrich uranium up to 60 percent purity if negotiations with major powers over its nuclear programme fail, an Iranian lawmaker said on Tuesday, in comments that may add to Western alarm about Iranian intentions.

Mansour Haqiqatpour, deputy head of parliament's Foreign Policy and National Security Committee, said 60 percent enrichment would be to yield fuel for nuclear submarines, which often

require uranium refined to high levels.

But it would also take Iran another significant step closer to the 90 percent enrichment level needed to make atomic bombs, which the West suspects is the Islamic state's ultimate aim. Iran says its nuclear programme is for peaceful energy only.

Even though it is Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei — and not the parliament — who decides foreign policy

issues, Haqiqatpour's remarks were a sign of Iranian defiance in the face of Western demands to curb sensitive nuclear activity.

Iran now enriches uranium to a 3.5 percent concentration of the fissile isotope U-235—suitable for nuclear power plants—as well as 20 percent, which it says it needs for a medical research reactor.

Israel, Iran's arch foe, says Teheran is seeking a nuclear weapons capability and last week warned the Islamic state will be on the brink of developing a nuclear weapon by mid-2013, referring to its growing stock of 20 percent material.

But Western experts believe Iran is still a few years away from being able to assemble a nuclear-armed missile.

Haqiqatpour's comments, carried by Iran's English-language Press TV, appeared to be an attempt to show the six world powers involved in diplomacy with Teheran that it has no intention of backing down

in the long-running nuclear dispute.

The powers—including the United States, Russia, China and six European heavyweights—want Iran to halt 20 percent enrichment, shut down the underground facility where this is done and ship out the stockpile.

Iran wants the powers to recognize its "right" to refine uranium and also ease sanctions on it. Three rounds of talks since April have failed to make any breakthrough.

"In case our talks with the (six powers) fail to pay off, Iranian youth will master (the technology for) enrichment up to 60 percent to fuel submarines and ocean-going ships," Haqiqatpour said.

The powers should know that "if these talks continue into next year, Iran cannot guarantee it would keep its enrichment limited to 20 percent. This enrichment is likely to increase to 40 or 50 percent," he said.—Reuters

Jordan's King calls for more South America-Arab cooperation

LIMA, 3 Oct — Jordan's King Abdullah II on Tuesday called for South American and Arab nations to strengthen cooperation and make use of their advantages in the face of the global economic crisis. The King, attending the Third Summit of South American and Arabic Nations (ASPA) here in Lima, explained that with those advantages, both regions will boost their economies.

King Abdullah II said both regions have the challenge of making good use of their resources by boosting bilateral cooperation in areas like energy, agriculture, hydraulic resources, transportation and tourism.

"We need more cooperation, this is fundamental in both regions as well as for the rest of the world," noted the King, adding that partnerships established between the South American and Arab nations under the framework of the ASPA are forging firmly toward global markets. According to Lebanese President Michel Sleiman, business exchange between the Arab League nations and the Union of the South American Nations (Unasur) amounted to over 30 billion dollars last year.—Xinhua

Bus accident kills 22 in Peru Peru

LIMA, 3 Oct — A bus has plunged into a ravine in northern Peru, killing 22 people and injuring 19 more.

Information from the country's police department said the bus lost control "all of a sudden" when travelling in the northern province of Piura early Monday. It skid off the road and ended up at the bottom of a 200-metre deep ravine.

Police said the rescue operation was still going on, but work had been made very difficult by the remote location and the fact the bus frame had been twisted from the impact of the fall.

Since the bus driver died on the spot, the police said further investigation was needed to determine the cause of the accident.

Xinhua

US aircraft carrier battle groups operate in West Pacific

BEIJING, 3 Oct— According to US media, two US Navy aircraft carrier battle groups and a Marine Corps air-ground task force have begun operating in the Western Pacific.

The groups have just completed a US—Japan island defence exercise near Guam. *TIME* magazine says US navy officials have confirmed the *USS George Washington* carrier strike group has begun operating in the East China Sea. And the *USS John C Stennis* group is only slightly further away in the South China Sea. Each aircraft carrier is armed with more than 80 warplanes, and strike groups typically include guided-missile cruisers and destroyers, submarines and supply ships.

In the nearby Philippine Sea, some 2,200 Marines are embarked aboard the *USS Bonhomme Richard* amphibious assault ship and two frigates. The Marines are equipped with amphibious assault vehicles, light armored vehicles, artillery, helicopters and Harrier fighter jets.—Xinhua

Colombian government, FARC to begin talks in Oslo

Colombia

HAVANA, 3 Oct — The Colombian government and the country's largest rebel group have agreed to begin peace talks on 15 Oct, Cuban press reported on Tuesday. The government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla group agreed to begin the peace talks on 15 Oct in Norwegian capital Oslo, Cuban official news agency Prensa Latina quoted a joint statement as saying.

They also agreed to issue a public announcement on 17 Oct, the statement said. The talks were originally scheduled to start next on Monday, but were postponed for a week, the statement said, adding the talks would then move to Cuban capital Havana.

On 27 August, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos confirmed the beginning of peace talks between his government and the FARC guerrilla group to end internal armed conflicts that have lasted for some 50 years.

Norway and Cuba would participate as hosts of the talks, while Venezuela and Chile would be "attendants," Santos said.

Venezuela's Ambassador to the Organization of American States Roy Chaderton would represent President Hugo Chavez in the peace talks, he added.

Xinhua



A villager dries hot pepper in Longji Village, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 2 Oct, 2012. As a local agricultural specialty, hot pepper has received a bumper harvest recently, expecting to sell well among tourists. XINHUA

Chinese firm sues Obama for blocking wind farm near drone site

WASHINGTON, 3 Oct— A small Chinese firm has sued President Barack Obama for squashing its bid to build wind farms close to a naval training site, but experts say the suit is long shot for a firm that greatly underestimated US suspicions about Chinese intentions.

Ralls Corp, which is owned by two Chinese nationals, was installing wind turbines close to the training site in Oregon, which, according to the facility's web site, is used to test unmanned drones—a highly sensitive and prized US technology.

The US Navy says the training site's airspace is also the only restricted area in western United States where fighter jets conduct training maneuvers at high speed and very low altitudes.

Obama put the brakes on the project last week and ordered Ralls to sell off the four planned wind farms due to national security risks, the first time since 1990 that a US president has formally blocked a business transaction or required a sale on such grounds. Ralls Corp has until on 27 December to comply.

In its suit, made public on Tuesday, Ralls Corp



US President Barack Obama walks with Jeff and Richard Heil (R) on the Heil Family Wind Farm while in Haverhill, Iowa, in this on 14 Aug, 2012, file photo. —REUTERS

alleges Obama exceeded his power by dictating the terms of the sale, by allowing the government to inspect all aspects of its operations, and by not treating the firm equally as required by law.

The lawsuit comes in the final weeks of the US presidential campaign, during which Obama's Republican rival, Mitt Romney, has accused the president of not pushing back against China's trade and investment practices.

Obama's order followed a recommendation from the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), an inter-

agency group headed up by the Treasury secretary that evaluates the national security risks of foreign investments in US companies or operations.

Ralls Corp initially sued CFIUS in September for ordering the company to halt operations temporarily while the committee completed its probe and made its recommendation to Obama.

Its chances of winning the suit are slim given the president's broad authority on national security matters and the fact that courts do not often second guess the executive branch on security issues, experts say.—Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**Lenovo to open first US PC plant, operation to start in 2013****Tech**

Lenovo's laptop PCs are displayed at an electronic shop in Tokyo on 5 Sept, 2012.

REUTERS

HONG KONG, 3 Oct—Lenovo Group Ltd, the world's No 2 PC maker, will open its first PC production plant in the United States with operations expected to begin in 2013.

The Whitsett, North Carolina, facility will manufacture Think-branded laptop and desktop PCs, tablets and servers aimed at the US market, Lenovo said in a statement late on Tuesday.

Lenovo did not provide any investment figures but said it would create 115 jobs.

Over the past two

years, Lenovo has invested in new plants and manufacturing joint ventures in China, Brazil and now the United States to produce PCs and mobile Internet devices such as smartphones, it said.

Shares of Lenovo, which analysts said is set to overtake Hewlett Packard Co later this year as the world's largest PC maker, rose more than 2 percent in early trade in Hong Kong on Wednesday to their highest in nearly a month, outperforming the main Hang Seng Index's 0.7 percent gain.—Reuters



Renesas Electronics Corp's chip is pictured during a photo opportunity at the company's headquarters in Tokyo on 3 July, 2012.

REUTERS

US bank website hackers used advanced botnets, diverse tool**Tech**

NEW YORK, 3 Oct—The hackers behind the cyber attacks on major US banks have repeatedly disrupted online banking by using sophisticated and diverse tools that point to a carefully coordinated campaign, according to security researchers.

In the past two weeks, customers of top US banks including Bank of America Corp, JPMorgan Chase & Co, Wells Fargo & Co, USBancorp and PNC Financial Services have reported having trouble accessing their websites, as unusually high traffic volumes appeared to crash or slow down the systems.

Researchers said the hackers used groups of compromised computers, known as botnets, which are inexpensive to rent for short periods. What made these botnets much more powerful was that they were made up of web servers that had been taken over, instead of mere personal computers.

"Tens of thousands" of servers are involved, said Tom Kellermann, vice president of major security vendor Trend Micro.

The latest attacks against the banks have thrown as many as 30 million electronic packets per second at the websites, at times overwhelming both the banks and the additional technical resources being moved into place to counter the attacks.

Experts said that high-volume denial-of-service attacks were becoming more common even before the latest bank assaults and would continue to increase in sophistication as well.

"This entire episode speaks to the need for banks, or any business operating online, to be prepared for this type of availability attack," said Dan Holden, director of research at security firm Arbor Networks.—Reuters

China has most microbloggers in the world

BEIJING, 3 Oct—China has the world's largest number of microbloggers, said a latest report on the country's new media development.

The report, published by the *Social Sciences Academic Press* annually, quoted the China Internet Network Information Centre (CINIC), which said that about 274 million Chinese people had microblog accounts as of June this year.

The number of microbloggers increased sharply from about 63 million in 2010, said the report issued by a team of social sciences experts headed by Yin Yungong, director of the Institute of Journalism and Communication of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Microblogging has become an important channel for Chinese people to express themselves, particularly about public issues, it said. It has also become an easy and low-cost communication channel between the government and citizens, the report said. At Sina Weibo, a leading microblogging service, 18,132 accounts have been registered by the Party and government departments and officials as of last October.

Social networks like microblogging have begun to set the agenda of public opinions and affected public emotions in some incidents, like the high-speed train crash near Wenzhou, in east China's Zhejiang Province, in July last year,

the report said. Governments have realized the influence of social networks and put more effort in working with them, it said.

Research by the report's authors from July to December last year showed that the authorities responded to about 71.9 percent of issues that were widely discussed by microbloggers and 50.4 percent were within 24 hours.

Besides microblogging, instant message is also popular with Chinese people and has overtaken search engine, music and news to be the most popular online application, the report said. It added that about 415 million Chinese use instant message applications.

The report warned that legislation relating to new

media has lagged behind their development. There is still no law specializing on the Internet and many related articles in existing laws need revision, it added.

The report also suggested that China work out a national strategy on the development of new media and find a way of managing it. The number of Internet users in China rose 10.9 percent year on year to 538 million by the end of June, meaning that four out of ten Chinese access the Internet, according to figures from the CINIC.

It is estimated that by 2015 China will have more than 800 million Internet users, one quarter of which will come from the countryside, the report said.—Xinhua

Nokia mulls selling its**Tech** **headquarters**

ESPOO, 3 Oct—Struggling cellphone maker Nokia is seeking to sell its headquarters in Espoo, Finland as part of a drive to dispose of non-core assets. "We are evaluating different options for non-core parts, such as real estate holdings, and that includes the headquarters," spokeswoman Maija Taimi told Reuters.

The glass and steel building by the Baltic Sea is valued at 200-300 million euros (\$259-388 million), according to a report by Finnish newspaper *Iltasanomat*. Nokia, which has been trying to improve its finances through large job cuts and other measures, told investors in July it was also looking to sell properties.—Reuters



An aerial view of mobile phone maker Nokia's headquarters in Espoo on 14 June, 2012.—REUTERS

Russia says first year-long ISS mission planned for 2015**Science**

NAPLES, 3 Oct—The first year-long mission to the *International Space Station* may begin in March 2015, following an agreement between ISS partners who have previously sent crews for six months, the Russian space agency director said on Tuesday.

Alexei Krasnov, in charge of manned flights at Roscosmos, said the decision was made by participants at the International Astronautical Congress in Naples, Italy, this week.

The two-person expedition—with crew members from Roscosmos and

NASA—will be a first test, the result of which will determine whether all flights are extended to a year, he said. "The fundamental decision has been made, only the formalities remain to be negotiated. So far, we are talking about a single mission," Krasnov told RIA news agency.

"If it proves effective, we will be able to discuss with partner countries a permanent transition from half-year flights to year-long flights." Veteran Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko, NASA astronaut Sunita Williams and

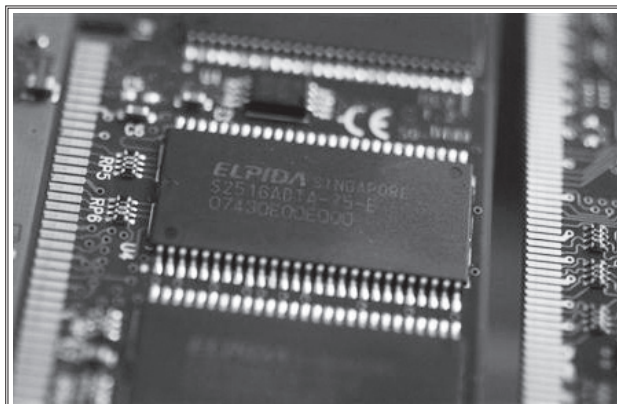
Japanese astronaut Akihiko Hoshide are currently in orbit aboard the *International Space Station*. They are to be joined by another trio - Kevin Ford, Oleg Novitsky and Yevgeny Tarelkin—due to blast off from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at the end of the month, their flight delayed by a week due to a technical equipment glitch.

Russia's space programme has suffered a series of humiliating setbacks in recent months that industry veterans blame on a decade of crimped budgets and a brain drain.

While none of the mishaps have threatened crews, they have raised questions over Russia's reliability, cost billions in losses and dashed Moscow's dreams of ending a more than two-decade absence from deep space exploration.

Since the retirement of the US space shuttles last year, the United States is dependent on Russia to fly astronauts at a cost of \$60 million per person.

Reuters



Elpida chips are seen at an electronic store in Tokyo's Akihabara District on 24 April, 2012.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Exclusive: Best Buy founder presses forward on possible \$11 billion buyout plan

Business

NEW YORK, 3 Oct—Best Buy Co Inc founder Richard Schulze and at least four private equity firms have started examining the books of the world's largest consumer electronics chain, early steps toward what could become a potential \$11 billion buyout, according to people familiar with the matter.

Apollo Global Management LLC, Cerberus Capital Management LP, TPG Capital LP and Leonard Green & Partners LP are among firms that are conducting due diligence on Best Buy, as are Schulze and his financial advisers at Credit Suisse Group AG, several sources told *Reuters*.

The idea is for Schulze then to bring the private equity firms together to form a consortium and submit a buyout proposal to Best

Buy, according to the sources who declined to be identified because of the confidential nature of the discussions.

The process is still in the early stages and no decisions have been made yet, the sources said. One of the sources said the group is not likely to come together with any potential buyout

proposal before mid-November. Schulze has said he could buy Best Buy for \$24 to \$26 a share, valuing it between \$8.16 billion to \$8.84 billion, or up to \$10.9 billion including debt, which would make it the year's biggest leveraged buyout so far.

Best Buy shares closed at just under \$17 on

Tuesday, near four-year lows.

Sales at Best Buy stores open at least 14 months fell 3.2 percent in the company's fiscal second quarter ended on 4 August, the eighth decline in the last nine quarters.

Same-store sales were down 1.6 percent in the United States and 8.2 percent internationally. Best Buy owns Five Star, which has 204 stores in China.

Another factor that could help Schulze form a consortium is the familiarity of private equity firms with one another. Leonard Green and TPG have teamed up before on private equity investments, most recently buying Savers Inc, the largest privately held thrift store chain in North America.

Reuters



People walk past a Best Buy store in New York on 21 August 2012.—REUTERS

Novel gene associated with Usher syndrome identified

Health

WASHINGTON, 3 Oct—A team of researchers from multiple US institutions have identified a new genetic mutation responsible for deafness and hearing loss associated with Usher syndrome type 1, according to a study to be published in November issue of *Nature Genetics*.

The gene, a calcium and integrin binding protein 2 (CIB2), is on chromosome 15. The researchers determined that CIB2 is a common protein influencing intracellular calcium responses during conversion of light and sound into electrical signals.

The findings could help

researchers develop new therapeutic targets for those at risk for this syndrome. Usher syndrome is a hereditary disease in which affected individuals lose both hearing and vision.

The impact of Usher syndrome can be devastating. In the United States, approximately six in every

100,000 babies born have Usher syndrome.

Several genes associated with different types of Usher syndrome have been identified.

Most of these genes encode common structural and motor proteins that build sensory cells in the eye and inner ear.—*Xinhua*



Ed Damiano (R) shows the insulin infusion set which delivers insulin to his son David, at the family's home in Acton, Massachusetts on 23 July, 2011. Damiano, whose 12-year-old son David was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when he was 11 months-old, is working on a bionic pancreas that will automatically control blood glucose in people with type 1 diabetes.

REUTERS

Health New antibiotic cures disease by disarming bacteria

WASHINGTON, 3 Oct—A new type of antibiotic can effectively treat an antibiotic-resistant infection by disarming instead of killing the bacteria that cause it, according to a study published on Tuesday in *mBio*, the online open-access journal of the American Society for Microbiology.

"Traditionally, people have tried to find antibiotics that rapidly kill bacteria. But we found a new class of antibiotics which has no ability to kill *Acinetobacter* that can still protect, not by killing the bug, but by completely preventing it from turning on host inflammation," says Brad Spellberg of the University of California, Los Angeles, a researcher on the study.

New drugs are badly needed for treating infections with the bacterium *Acinetobacter baumannii*, a pathogen that most often strikes hospital patients and immune-compromised individuals through open wounds, breathing tubes, or catheters. The bacterium can cause

potentially lethal bloodstream infections. Strains of *A. baumannii* have acquired resistance to a wide range of antibiotics, and some are resistant to every FDA-approved antibiotic, making them untreatable.

Spelling and his colleagues found that in laboratory mice it was possible to mitigate the potentially lethal effects of the bacterium by blocking one of its toxic products rather than killing it.

They found that strains that caused the rapidly lethal infections shed endotoxin while growing. The more endotoxin shed, the more virulent the strain was. Blocking the synthesis of the endotoxin with a small molecule called LpxC-1 prevented infected mice from getting sick. Unlike traditional antibiotics, Spellberg says, LpxC-1 doesn't kill the bacteria, it just shuts down the manufacture of the endotoxin and stops the body from mounting the inflammatory immune response to it that is the actual cause of death in seriously ill patients.—*Xinhua*



Fiat 500's are shown at the Criswell Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-Fiat-Ram truck dealership in Gaithersburg, Maryland on 2 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

US auto sales post best month in 4-1/2 year

Business

WASHINGTON, 3 Oct—US auto sales last month posted their best showing in 4-1/2 years, helped by cheap financing, rising consumer confidence and a major rebound by Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T).

The September sales pace was 14.94 million vehicles as calculated on an annualized basis, exceeding analyst estimates of 14.5 million, according to Autodata Corp. This was the highest rate since March 2008, about four months after the start of the 2007-2009 US recession.

US auto sales last month rose 13 percent to 1,188,865 new vehicles. Analysts, on average, had expected an increase of less than 9 percent.

General Motors Co (GM N) and Ford Motor Co (F.N) said rising home prices and a drop in jobless claims encouraged American car shoppers to buy new vehicles. The interest rate on a 48-month new car loan was about 3.19 percent last month, down from 4.39 percent in September 2011, according to Bankrate.com.

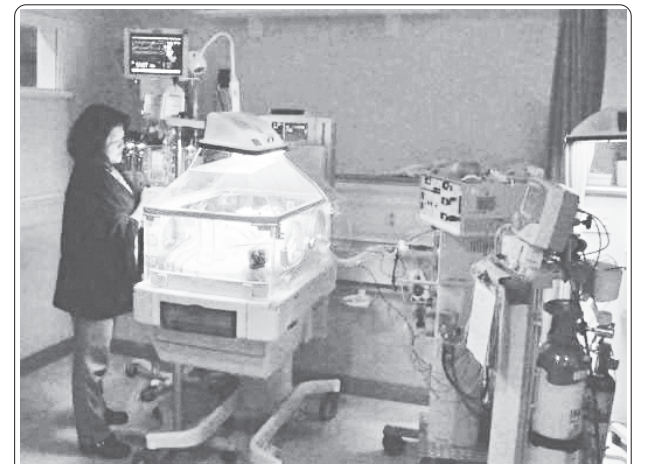
That rate was about 7.45 percent in May 2009, during the depths of the downturn that pushed GM and Chrysler Group LLC to file for government-funded bankruptcies three years ago.

During the recent recession, which officially lasted until June 2009, US consumers delayed big-ticket purchases, pushing the average age of vehicles on the road to a record high. GM, the largest US automaker, said sales of its mini, small and compact cars nearly doubled last month. Ford's small car sales rose about 73 percent, while fuel prices rose.

GM sold 210,245 cars and trucks last month, up 1.5 percent from a year earlier. Ford sold 174,976 cars and trucks last month, on par with its results from a year ago.

Chrysler, the US automaker majority-owned by Italy's Fiat SpA (FIA MI), showed a 12 percent jump in sales to 142,041.

Toyota said vehicle sales rose 41.5 percent to 171,190 last month, while Honda Motor Co (7267.T) sales rose about 31 percent to 117,211.—*Reuters*



Nurse Marichu Smith cares for one of the many prematurely born infants in the state-of-the-art neonatal intensive care unit of the Westchester Medical Centre in Valhalla, New York on 27 Oct, 2009. Nowhere in the United States has more doctors at its beck and call than White Plains, one of the wealthiest cities in the nation.—REUTERS

WORLD

Tycoon's alliance wins election in Georgia

Georgia

TBILISI, 3 Oct—Georgia's President Mikheil Saakashvili on Tuesday conceded defeat in parliamentary elections to a coalition led by a tycoon promising to ease tensions with Moscow, four years after the staunch US ally lost a war with Russia.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, who has long been openly hostile to Saakashvili, welcomed the opposition victory as opening the way for "more constructive and responsible forces" to enter the Georgian parliament.

Saakashvili's acceptance that his ruling party will go into opposition to Bidzina Ivanishvili's Georgian Dream increased the chances of the country's first peaceful transfer of power between rival parties since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

Although it strengthens Georgia's democratic credentials, it could lead to an uneasy cohabitation between Ivanishvili, who is likely to become prime minister, and Saakashvili, who does not step down as president until next year.

Instability in the country would worry the West because it is a conduit for



Georgian Dream coalition leader Bidzina Ivanishvili speaks during a news conference at his office in Tbilisi, on 2 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

Caspian Sea energy supplies to Europe and has a strategic location on the Black Sea between former Soviet master Russia and Iran, Turkey and central Asia.

Tonino Picula, who led a team of international observers monitoring the vote, endorsed the conduct of the elections.

"Despite a very polarizing campaign that included harsh rhetoric and shortcomings, the Georgian people have freely expressed their will at the ballot box," he said in a statement.

Medvedev, who was president and commander-in-chief when Georgia fought its disastrous war with Russia in

2008, expressed hopes that the result would improve the relationship between the countries.

"We can only welcome this as it probably means that more constructive and responsible forces will appear in parliament," Russian news agencies quoted him as saying.

Russia has had no Georgia since the five-day war, and both Medvedev and President Vladimir Putin have refused to have any personal contacts with Saakashvili, whom they depict as a dangerously aggressive hothead.—Reuters

Strike vote due at American Airlines, but result may be

US secret

WASHINGTON, 3 Oct—American Airlines pilots this week are expected to authorize their union to call a strike, but the union says it may decide to keep the vote secret for now. The airline's 8,000 pilots have been casting votes on authorization for a month, escalating a long-running labour dispute that has already created serious flight delays at the nation's No. 3 carrier and a public relations nightmare for its bankrupt parent AMR Corp.

In a letter to American Airlines employees, Chief Executive Thomas Horton said the Allied Pilots Association has agreed to immediately resume negotiations and the negotiating teams are

scheduled to meet beginning this week.

"I remain optimistic that we can work collaboratively toward reaching our goal of a consensual and constructive agreement," Horton said.

After the voting deadline passes at noon central time on Wednesday (1 pm EDT), the union might not immediately release the results, and instead use them as a negotiating card in talks with the airline, Tom Hoban, a spokesman for the Allied Pilots Association, said on Tuesday.

Holding the strike vote results secret is especially likely if the National Mediation Board declares an impasse in the negotiations and imposes a 30-day cooling-off period on the parties.

Flood claims 148 lives in Nigeria

Nigeria

ABUJA, 3 Oct—At least 148 people died as a result of flooding in 21 states in Nigeria, a top official with the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) said on Tuesday. Head of disaster management for the organization Umar Mairiga made this known in Abuja, adding that 64,000 others had been rendered homeless by the floods.

About 10,000 victims had been targeted for assistance, he told reporters, noting that heavy rains in recent weeks had caused widespread destruction and forced many families into makeshift camps. According to him, an estimated 134,000 people had now been affected by the floods and that concern

was growing about the spread of waterborne diseases such as cholera.

The Red Cross official told reporters that in response to the worsening crisis, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) had launched an emergency appeal for funds. The decision, he said, was to aid the Nigerian Red Cross Society to assist 10,000 victims. Mairiga said the funds raised through the appeal would support ongoing efforts by the society to provide victims with emergency shelter and other essential relief items.—Xinhua

Mysterious fire guts down police station

in N Kenya

Sierra Leone

GARISSA, Kenya, 3 Oct.—Fire whose cause has not yet been established gutted down the Garissa police station near the border with Somalia on Tuesday evening.

The mysterious fire that started at around 19:45 local time razed six offices at the Northeastern provincial police headquarters in Garissa town, Xinhua reporter at the scene said. The regional police commander, his deputy in charge of anti-terrorism

police and Amoury were all gutted down. Firefighters were still making frantic efforts to put off the fire. Senior police officers watched helplessly as the fire razed down the offices.

The cause of the fire has not yet been established. A visibly shocked regional police commander Phillip Tuimur said that thorough investigation would be done to establish the cause of the fire. "It is sad that this fire had

to raze down the police station, we have lost important information. We will surely get to the bottom of it," Tuimur told Xinhua at the scene.

Tuimur said they have launched investigation to the cause of the fire and the motive behind it as it comes amid increased grenade attacks in the restive region by suspected Al-Shabaab militia and their sympathizers residing in Kenya.—Xinhua

Over 300,000 Sierra Leone children

malnourished

Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, 3 Oct—More than 300,000 Sierra Leone children are critically malnourished, the country's Chief Medical Officer Dr Sidiki Dao said here on Tuesday.

Dr Dao, who was speaking at the launch of the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Initiative, a multi-stakeholder programme aimed at reducing hunger and under-nutrition, described the situation as the worst in the south and eastern regions of the country. "Malnutrition still remains an important concern and contributor to infant sickness

and death in the country and poses a serious challenge to the nation's manpower and development," he stated.

Sierra Leone's Vice President Alhaji Sam Sumana, who officially launched the program, said accessibility "to food for our people is of vital concern to our Government."

He noted that food shortages occur during the planting season and the government has introduced the "smallholder commercialization programme aimed at reducing rural poverty and household food insufficiency

on a sustainable basis". Sumana said the government's challenge to fully implement the smallholder commercialization scheme rested with funds to support scale-up nutrition interventions in most needy areas.

"It is against this background that Sierra Leone applied to become a member of the SUN movement and approval was given within two months," he said. "The SUN Initiative must be seen as a new institution of financial mechanism," Sumana stressed.—Xinhua



A US Airways plane passes American Airlines planes at Ronald Reagan National Airport in Washington on 23 April, 2012.—REUTERS

"Historically, we've held on to the vote and used it during the 30-day cooling off period," Hoban said. "Our board of directors will make the decision on that." Even if the pilots vote to walk out, a work stoppage would be weeks off and far from certain. Federal law makes it difficult for airline unions to strike, and the White House can intervene to stop a strike in the interests of US commerce.

"Whether they would actually go out on strike is a different question," said Scott Hamilton, an aerospace analyst at Leeham Co in Seattle. The airline says a walkout would be illegal. The union disputes that. "We believe we've got a right to strike," Hoban said. Still, the threat of a walkout would likely be the final straw for many of the airline's long-suffering passengers.—Reuters

News Analysis: Tension mounts between Turkey, Iraq over flurry of disagreements

Middle East

ANKARA, 3 Oct—In a latest blow to the already strained ties between Turkey and Iraq, the Iraqi government called for the cancelation of treaties allowing the deployment of foreign troops on Iraqi soil, a move seen as another attempt by Nouri al-Maliki's government, which is at odds with Turkey on a number of issues, to challenge Ankara openly.

The decision by the Iraqi cabinet came on the heels of the Turkish government's referral on Tuesday of a resolution to the parliament, asking for an extension of the mandate for the deployment of Turkish troops to conduct military operations against the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq.

The PKK, listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union, has been operating out of northern Iraq for almost three decades. Turkey claims that it exercises the right to self-defence under international treaties and has a right to go after the PKK in a hot pursuit

with cross-border airstrikes and operations of land forces in areas where there is no authority of the Iraqi central government or regional Kurdish administration.

Iran, another neighbour of Iraq, also regularly conducts cross-border operations in the Qandil region of northern Iraq, where it fights with the Party of Free Life of Kurdistan (PJAK), an Iranian wing of the PKK.

The current mandate expires on 17 Oct. The Turkish government is not expected to face any hurdle from the parliament, in which an overwhelming majority of deputies have approved similar resolutions since 2007.

The only party that opposes to the resolution is the Peace and Democracy Party, seen by many as a political wing of the PKK.

"Turkey has every right to defend itself from terrorism," Mehmet Seyfettin Erol, head of Ankara's International Strategic and Security Research Centre (USGAM), told Xinhua in an interview on the phone.

Xinhua

WORLD

Putin against dividing Russian gas giant

Russia

Moscow, 3 Oct— It would be wrong to divide Russian gas giant Gazprom into different sections, President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday.

To separate gas extraction, transportation and distribution under the European Union's Third Energy Package demand would be "economically useless," Putin told participants of an annual international investment forum here.

Gazprom is a vertically integrated joint stock corporation dealing with production, transportation and selling of natural and

Gazprom

liquidized gas as well as electricity and heat power distribution.

The transportation part would die if detached from Gazprom as proposed by some experts, since it could only survive for the expenses of gas extraction and sales within the group, Putin said.

"It is necessary to change the company's economy and provide its access to the pipelines," Putin insisted.

Meanwhile, Putin vowed to punish any corrupt officials found within Gazprom.

"We often hear complaints about how Gazprom does its business, that

there are some manifestations of corruption. Perhaps, there are, but it's up to police to catch and jail. I think that will be correct," Putin said.

On Tuesday, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) submitted a resolution which calls Moscow to stop political and economical pressure on European countries by using Gazprom as a tool in the "gas price war". As the fifth largest energy firm in Russia, Gazprom sells productions to some 30 countries and controls 18 percent of global and 70 percent of Russian gas resources.—Xinhua



The salvage work is underway at the boats collision site off the Lamma Island on the southwest of the Hong Kong Island, Hong Kong, south China, on 2 Oct, 2012. Thirty-eight people including at least five children were killed after two vessels collided on Monday evening off the Lamma Island, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government said on Tuesday evening.—XINHUA

German second largest news agency DAPD

Germany

files for bankruptcy

BERLIN, 3 Oct—German second largest news agency DAPD said in a statement on Tuesday that it had filed for bankruptcy.

Insolvency proceeding request of the Berlin-based news agency had been agreed by District Court of Berlin-Charlottenburg. The bankruptcy will affect 299 employees. The news agency's holding company DAPD Media and its another 18 companies will not be affected.

Dr Wolf von der Fecht, a partner of Dusseldorf law firm Metzeler had been appointed as the insolvency

administrator to assess DAPD news agency's prospect until end of November.

During its insolvency proceeding, the news agency will "continue its news production as usual, customers will receive service with the same quantity and quality", said the statement.

DAPD Media's CEO Dr Martin Vorderwulbecke said in the statement that the insolvency law "will provide opportunities for us to find sustainable solutions for the company and its employees."

DAPD news agency was founded in September 2010 after a merge of former West

Germany news agency DDP and the German branch of American news agency Associated Press. In Germany, it is the second largest news agency after the national Deutsche Presse Agentur (DPA).

DAPD news agency's bankruptcy came as a surprise as it declared an expansion last year, bought French photo agency Sipa Press in July 2011 and started a sports service a month later. In January 2012, DAPD announced to open a news service in France, with a purchase of AP's French service.

Xinhua

Farmer killed in hang glider crash in Ukraine Ukraine

KIEV, 3 Oct—A 31-year-old farmer dusting crops on a hang glider was killed on Monday when his craft crashed in central Ukraine, authorities said on Tuesday.

The hand-made glider crashed near Ivangorod Village in Kirovograd region at 6:10 pm local time (1610 GMT), the Ukrainian Emergency Situations Ministry said on its website.

The ministry said it was working with police to find out what caused the accident.

In the past week, two people have been killed and one injured in hang glider crashes in Ukraine. On 24 September, a 72-year-old pilot was hurt when his glider plunged in southern Crimea region. On 30 September, a motorized hang glider went down, killing one person in Chernigov region in Ukraine's north.—Xinhua

Spain revises deficit targets for state, regions next year Spain

MADRID, 3 Oct—The distribution of the deficit targets among the central government and the Autonomous Communities in Spain will be revised in 2013, said Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy on Tuesday.

He made the announcement

after the meeting of the Fiscal and Financial Policy Council, which brings together the presidents of the Spanish regions and the central government.

Several communities had shown their discontent with this distribution, before reaching a deal to meet the deficit targets required by Brussels.

In 2012, the regions have been required to reach a deficit of 1.5 percent while the state 4.5 percent.

The figure for 2013 will

be 0.7 percent for the regions and 3.8 percent for the state, which means a deficit of 4.5 percent for the whole country.

Rajoy, in the meanwhile, declined that a bailout for Spain is imminent. He made the comment in response to reports by Reuters on Monday.

Reuters stated that European sources had said that Spain was now ready to request the bailout, but Germany had advised more waiting.

Xinhua

US Border Patrol agent shot dead in Arizona, another wounded

US



A US Border vehicle drives along the US and Mexico border fence in Naco, Arizona, in this 7 Sept, 2011 file photo.—REUTERS

NACO, 3 Oct—A US Border Patrol agent was shot dead and another wounded when they came under fire on Tuesday while responding to a tripped ground sensor in a drug smuggling corridor in Arizona near the border with Mexico, authorities said.

Authorities said three agents were on foot about 5 miles north of the border in rocky terrain when gunfire erupted well

before daybreak, but provided few additional details on the circumstances of the violence.

"As they were walking up the trail, they reported taking gunfire," Cochise County Sheriff's spokeswoman Carol Capas said. "We have unknown suspect or suspects at this point."

The shooting marked the fourth conflict-related death of a Border Patrol agent in Arizona in less than two years and reignited concerns about border security in a state that is already at the forefront of the national immigration debate.

"Flags will be lowered in honour of the slain agent. Elected officials will vow to find those responsible. Arizonans and Americans will grieve, and they should. But this ought not only be a day of tears," Republican Governor Jan Brewer said in a statement.

"There should be anger, too. Righteous anger — at the kind of evil that causes sorrow this deep, and at the federal failure and political stalemate that has left our border unsecured and our Border Patrol in harm's way," added Brewer, a vocal foe of President Barack Obama's administration on immigration.

Brewer, citing what she described as a federal failure to secure Arizona's southern border, signed a broad immigration crackdown into law in 2010 to try to crack down on the flow of illegal immigrants into the state where an estimated 360,000 undocumented people live.

Critics of the law, which includes a requirement that police check the immigration status of anyone they stop and suspect of being in the country illegally, have said it could lead to racial profiling.

Reuters

Six killed in attacks in Iraq Iraq

BAGHDAD, 3 Oct—Six people were killed and five wounded in separate bomb and gunfire attacks in northern and central Iraq on Tuesday, the police said.

In Iraq's northern Province of Kirkuk, gunmen shot dead the district administrator and a passer-by in the town of Daqoq, just south of the provincial capital City of Kirkuk, some 250 km north of Baghdad, a provincial police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In a separate incident, a farmer was killed when a magnetic bomb detonated in his car in a rural area north of Kirkuk, the source added.

Also in the province, a street cleaner was killed and two seriously wounded in the morning, when a bomb detonated while they were trying to empty a garbage bin in al-Abbasi area, some 65 km southwest of Kirkuk, the source said.

Elsewhere, a soldier was killed by sniper shot at an army checkpoint in the industrial district in central the City of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, a local police source anonymously told Xinhua.

In the early hours of the day, a gunman was killed and three soldiers wounded during a raid by an Iraqi army force on a suspected insurgents' hideout in the same industrial district of Fallujah, the source said. Violence and sporadic high profile attacks are still common in the Iraqi cities despite the dramatic decrease of violence over the past few years.—Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 4 October, 2012

Social networking: A horn of dilemma?

As the world is connected by WWW as one united planet, global netizens have found themselves inseparable from social media. While Myanmar has also enjoyed a boost in internet freedom among others, more and more people are joining such social networks as Facebook and Google+ each day.

Social networking has long been a part of our daily life. It is where our joys and despairs are shared, where our voices are spoken out and even where our dining table is brought to.

But when it comes to differences and hatred, these platforms have become anti-social networking. Arguments, of course, show ways to the truth, but insults are not.

Social network is where the seed for friendship is sown. It is not where you have to throw down your bracelets. If you enjoy freedom of yours, you need to respect that of others.

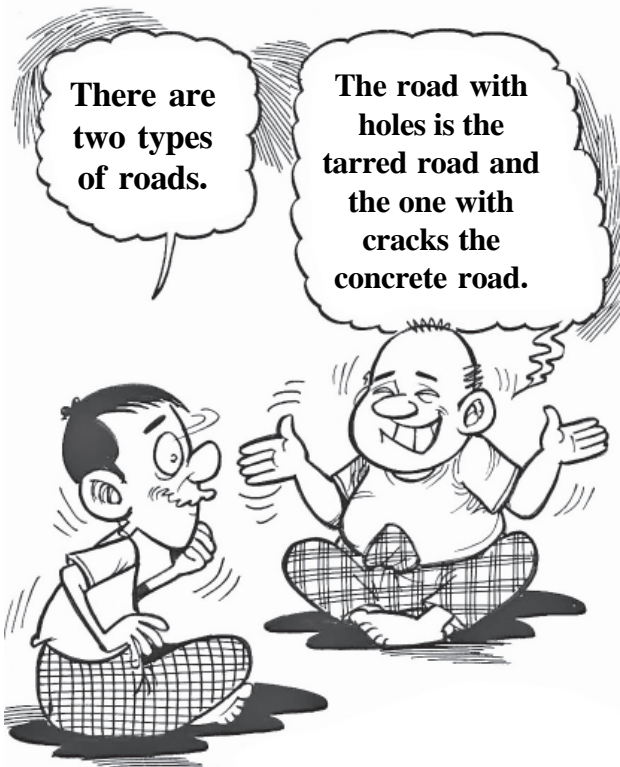
Be careful! Just a "Like" or a "Share" could even ruin life of one human being.

Han Golf Masters Junior Golf Series 2012-13 on 11 October

YANGON, 3 Oct — Organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, Han Golf Master Junior Golf Series 2012-13 will be held on Myanmar Golf Club (9th Mile), here, on 11 October. The competition will be mainly sponsored by Han Golf Master Pte., Ltd and co-sponsored by Aung Kanbo Trading Co., Ltd. The competition aimed at producing new generation golfers for international events is categorized into four levels according to age of players.

The competition will be conducted under R&A Rules Limited (St. Andrew) and regional rules. Those who are willing to take part in the competition may enroll not later than 9 October at Myanmar Golf Training Course in Mayangon Township (Ph: 092037671 and 0973130474), bringing Citizenship Scrutiny Card or copy of household registration with them.

MNA



Paw Lwin Kyaw

OPINION

Myanmar would like...

(from page 1)
In the evening, the President met the chairman and executives of Myanmar-US Chamber of Commerce and Myanmar families in US separately.

the amendment of the constitution could not be done by him alone. The procedures for amendment of the constitution are prescribed in the constitution itself. Only with the majority

“Myanmar would like to prove as the gem of rising Southeast Asia. Myanmar would go forward without backsliding.”



President U Thein Sein meets President and executives of Myanmar-US Chamber of Commerce. MNA

On 29 September morning, the President paid a call on UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon at the latter's residence and had breakfast together.

They frankly exchanged views on resumption of country-wise schemes for Myanmar by UNDP and other UN agencies, conducting trainings and granting technical and financial aids for compiling population and urbanization surveys in 2014, attempts for opium-free country by 2014, survivability and improvement of living standard with incomes from poppy-substitute crops, making Myanmar National Human Rights Commission meet international norms, financial and other assistances by UN Peacebuilding Fund for establishing long-lasting peace with all ethnic groups including Kachin and handling of Rakhine State incident.

The President gave an interview to Mr Stephen Sackur of BBC at the hotel.

In response to the question of Mr Stephen Sackur whether the constitution would be amended to make Daw Aung San Suu Kyi acceptable as the President if she was elected by the people, he said



President U Thein Sein signs the visitors' book at the residence of US Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon. MNA

support of both Hluttaws and the people, could it be amended. The amendment depends on the desire of the majority of the Hluttaw representatives and the people.

Regarding the question whether the President would join hands with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi if she is elected to lead the country, the President answered that the leadership depends on the desire of the people. If the people accept her as the leader, he would accept it as

well. There is no problem working together as well, between Daw Aung San Suu answered the President. Kyi and him. They are now

MNA

Mineral exploration sector discussed in Haka

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Oct— U Nay Win Tun, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Mineral and Resources Affairs Committee, urged members of state-level organizations in Chin State to provide necessary assistance and to give advices to the committee to explore minerals and natural resources for the development of Chin State.

The committee also gave talk on mineral sector at the Town Hall in Haka on 27 September and Chief Minister of Chin State U Hong Ngai delivered an address at the ceremony.

MNA

OPINION

World Teachers' Day, 2012

Daw Nyunt Nyunt
Education Research

World Teachers' Day is celebrated annually across the globe on 5 October. The day came to be celebrated for the first time in the year 1994 and since then, it has been observed by more than 100 countries in the world. It is celebrated to appreciate the efforts of teachers and express gratitude towards them. On this day teachers are honoured for their immense contribution towards the education and the development of children.

This Day aims to mobilize support for the teachers across the world and ensure that the needs of future generations are efficiently met by them. The day seeks to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the teachers of the world towards their profession. Its origin is associated with the adoption of "Recommendation concerning the status of teachers". The day came into existence due to the concerted efforts of Education International, a global union federation of teachers' trade unions.

The 5 October was officially declared by the United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1994 as the World Teachers' Day during its 44th International Conference on Education. The 5 October has been chosen because it was on this day in 1996 that the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Educational, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) made joint signing of recommendation on the status of teachers and was adopted by the international community. On that day of 1996, the teachers of the world took a giant leap forward. This recommendation, for the first time ever,

gave teachers, throughout the world, an instrument that defined their responsibilities and asserted their rights. In adopting this recommendation, governments unanimously recognized the importance of competent, qualified and motivated teachers in society.

World Teachers' Day is a special day to tell the teachers that we are thankful to them for their hard work and dedication and most importantly the responsibilities they bear in educating the young and adult learners all over the world. This enables children and adults of all ages to learn to take part in and contribute to their local community and global society. It is also a time to express our friendship and solidarity to enhance the status of the teaching profession and re-affirm our commitment to the profession. As we celebrate the World Teachers' Day, it is also important to think and reflect on the difficulties and challenges facing teachers in the different situations in our country and the world around us.

According to UNESCO, World Teachers' Day represents a significant token of the awareness, understanding and appreciation displayed for the vital contribution that teachers make to education and development. And the principles of 1966 and 1997 Recommendations (concerning the status of teachers and higher education teaching personnel) should be considered for implementation in all nations.

UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova said, "Teachers...ultimately determine our collective ability to innovate, to invent, to find solutions for tomorrow. Nothing will ever replace a good teacher. Nothing is more

important than supporting them."

The World Teachers' Day is observed every year with a different international theme—the theme for this year 2012 is "Take a Stand for Teachers!" This is a clear call to all educational stakeholders and community members to support teachers in their crucial role in creating a brighter future for every learners at all levels of education. Moreover, the day should be a time to reflect on the difficult economic and social context in which teachers work and find ways of improving their professional status and working conditions and those of all educational personnel.

Teaching is regarded as the mother of all professions and it is for this reason that over the years, themes have been carefully chosen. Themes over the years have always stressed quality improvement of education, and the importance of educating our learners towards becoming better independent citizens—academically, socially and emotionally. However, without appropriately qualified and ethically competent teaching force, our learners' dream of a better world will not be realized. It is therefore that we should continue striving for the enhancement of the teaching profession.

On this World Teachers' Day, let me take this opportunity to urge all of us to join hands to take a stand for teachers (past and present) and pay tribute to them for their immense contributions to the development of our society and break the vicious circle of declining professional contributions for teachers in order to improve the quality of learning for all.

News in Brief

Instructions given to Township Police Force Commander

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko met with 96 police officers to be assigned as Police Major, Commanders of Township Police Force at the ministry on 2 October and urged them to emphasize security, rule of law and regional development.

Auditors' proficiency refreshed

The Auditor proficiency course No 36 concluded at the hall of the office of the Auditor-General of the Union on 2 October morning. Altogether 99 trainees attended the course.

Staff proficiency course opened

Directorate of Trade launched the staff proficiency course No 3/2012 at the Ministry of Commerce on 1 October. A total of 50 trainees are attending the four-week course.

48th MPF Day observed

The 48th Anniversary Myanmar Police Force Day was observed at the Drug Elimination Museum in Kamayut Township on 1 October. The Yangon Region Chief Minister presented prizes awarded by the Chief of Myanmar Police Force to outstanding members.

Vacation for Chaungtha Beach

Myanma Tourism Service (Yangon Branch) arranges three days-two nights package tour to Chaungtha Beach every Friday as of 26 October. Charge for visitors is fixed at K 130,000 per head. For further information, may dial 01-252859, 01-371286 and 01-374281.

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay and wife being welcomed at the reception to mark Day of German Unity of FRG by German Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Christian-Ludwig Weber-Lortsch and wife at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on 3 October.

MNA



Hygienic cooking oil introduced

YANGON, 3 Oct—A ceremony to introduce Saji brand cooking oil was held at Yadanar Ballroom of Parkroyal Hotel, here, on 30 September afternoon. Responsible persons

of Grand Wynn Group of Companies explained matters related to Saji cooking oil and replied to queries raised by Malaysian Ambassador Dr Ahmad Faizal and attendees.

The cooking oil containing plenty of vitamin E and A helps raise immune system for liver, combat cancer cells, reduce cataract of eyes, prevent heart attack and congealing of blood without content of cholesterol and trans-fatty acid.

NLM

Thailand Trade Fair kicks off

YANGON, 3 Oct — Jointly-organized by World Trade Products Co., Ltd (Thailand) and Tun Myanmar International Co., Ltd, the opening of Thailand Trade Fair 2012 was held at MCC on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township, here, this morning, with an address by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.

Thailand-made personal goods, foodstuff and farm equipment are available at 97 booths of 94 companies at the five-day fair. — MNA

Train knocked down, killed one man

MOHNYIN, 3 Oct—When the 42 down train left Myitkyina for Mandalay carrying passengers at Thazi Ward and Yankin Ward of Mohnyin, it collided a passerby who was crossing the railways negligently on 27 September evening. The passerby passed away as soon as he arrived at hospital.

The victim who died in the hospital is U Thein Tan, 82, with bruises in his head and forehead lived in Thazi Ward, said alternative police in charge of Mohnyin Police Station.—NLM-001

Introduction to hygienic cooking oil Saji in progress.



WORLD

Chavez calls for pre-dawn turnout at Venezuela vote

Venezuela

YARITAGUA/CARACAS, 3 Oct—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez urged his supporters to vote early at Sunday's election, saying the key to him winning another six-year term as leader of South America's biggest oil exporter was organization and logistics.

Chavez, 58, is in a close race with 40-year-old state governor Henrique Capriles, and both camps are now focused on their final rallies and getting their supporters to the polls.

The socialist president, a former army officer, called on his followers to rouse their neighbours with trumpets and bugles in a military-style, pre-dawn wake-up call that has been used in previous elections.

"It should be at 3 am Get some nice coffee, some good chocolate, an early breakfast. We have to work very hard in the logistics, the deployment. Water, food for the troops, transport to the polls, to the voting centers," Chavez told thousands of red-shirted "Chavistas" in the central city of Yaritagua.

"We have to take good care of all these aspects, the strategy the tactics ... What's at stake is too important: the next 100 years of the fatherland."

Among the half dozen or so major local pollsters, most put Chavez ahead, but Capriles has been creeping up thanks to an



Venezuela's President and presidential candidate Hugo Chavez speaks to supporters during a campaign rally in Yaritagua, in the state of Yaracuy on 2 October, 2012.

REUTERS

energetic campaign. Two surveys gave him a slight edge.

Chavez has stepped up his campaign in recent days, although he is still recovering from three cancer operations and various treatments since June 2011.

If he wins, questions will remain about his health, and the lack of a clear successor from his ruling Socialist Party.

Capriles, who would be Venezuela's youngest leader if he wins, is expected to end heavy intervention by the president in the economy.—Reuters

Obama expected to do better in first US presidential debate

US

WASHINGTON, 3 Oct—A majority of US voters expect President Barack Obama to do a better job than his Republican challenger Mitt Romney in the first presidential debate, to be held on Wednesday in Denver, Colorado almost a month ahead of the November showdown, according to a poll by the Pew Research Centre released on Tuesday.

The latest Pew poll, conducted from 27 to 30 Sept, found that more voters, by a margin of 51 percent to 29 percent, said Obama would do better than Romney in the upcoming debate.

Among them, 89 percent of Democrats expect Obama to outperform Romney, and 64 percent of Republicans feel

confident in their candidate. Forty-four percent of independent voters believe Obama could do a better job, while another 28 percent favour Romney.

The poll also showed that 62 percent of the voters are "very likely" to watch the first debate, comparable to the levels in the 2008 and 2004 presidential debates. Another Pew survey released last week found that only 54 percent of Americans say they are either very or fairly satisfied with the candidates on this year's campaign trail. The percentage of public satisfaction with the candidates is lower than it has been in any elections since 1992.—Xinhua

Los Angeles repeals ban on medical marijuana shops

LOS ANGELES, 3 Oct—The Los Angeles City Council voted to rescind a newly enacted ban on storefront medical marijuana shops on Tuesday, allowing the city to avoid a referendum next year that some officials said would likely succeed in reversing the prohibition.

The council, in a blow to an industry that operates in violation of federal law, voted in July to ban pot dispensaries and replace them with a system that would allow up to three patients to collectively grow marijuana.

But medical marijuana advocates collected in August the necessary 27,425 valid signatures to put the decision to a March 2013 referendum. Under city rules, that number of signatures—10 percent of the total number of votes cast in the city's last mayoral election—put the ban on hold until the vote.

The backtracking comes a week after federal authorities moved to close about 70 such dispensaries in the city in a renewed effort to crack down on the operations through the use of asset-forfeiture lawsuits and warning letters.

"Legally it appears that almost nothing we do is a surefire approach," City Councilman Paul Koretz said during the meeting on Tuesday.

Reuters

US teens drinking and driving cut by half in 20 years

US

WASHINGTON, 3 Oct—The percentage of US teens in high school (aged 16 and older) who drove when they had been drinking alcohol decreased by 54 percent between 1991 and 2011, according to a Vital Signs study released on Tuesday by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Nine out of 10 high school teens (aged 16 and older) did not drink and drive during 2011, the report shows.

For the study, CDC

analyzed data from the 1991-2011 national Youth Risk Behaviour Surveys. These national surveys asked high school students if they had driven a vehicle when they had been drinking alcohol one or more times during the 30 days before the survey; CDC researchers focused their analysis on students aged 16 and older.

The study also found that: Teens were responsible for approximately 2.4 million episodes of drinking and

driving a month in 2011; some engaged in the dangerous behaviour more than once a month.

High school boys ages 18 and older were most likely to drink and drive (18 percent), while 16-year-old high school girls were least likely (6 percent). Eighty-five percent of teens in high school who reported drinking and driving in the past month also reported binge drinking, which means five or more drinks during a short period of time.—Xinhua

Snowy winter ahead for Rockies and Northeastern US, Accuweather says

WASHINGTON, 3 Oct—Snow lovers living in the US Northeast and Rocky Mountains are going to love this coming winter, according to AccuWeather.com.

The private weather forecasting firm released its long-range winter forecast on Wednesday, highlighting its predictions for temperature and precipitation trends.

While much of the northern part of the country, stretching from Wisconsin to eastern Washington, will see below-normal snowfall, Accuweather.com said the coming winter will be marked

by plenty of big storms in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic.

The firm's meteorologists are also predicting an early start to the winter season, with above-normal snowfall and below-normal temperatures, in the central and southern Rockies.

Temperatures in the Northeast may start out slightly warmer than normal, the forecasting firm said, but would drop as the season progresses and snow accumulates.

In the Midwest, where the worst drought in 50 years hurt crops this year,

Accuweather.com said snowfall levels would fall short of normal levels again this winter.

Temperatures may start out slightly above to near normal in the region, but as the season progresses and some snow accumulates, it will turn colder than normal by February.

The Gulf Coast and Southeast meanwhile are expected to have a wet winter, with above-normal precipitation, Accuweather.com said, bringing some relief to the parched Southern Plains and Texas.—Reuters



French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius (R) meets with Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu in Paris, on 2 Oct, 2012.

XINHUA



Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy (R) meets with visiting Italian President Giorgio Napolitano in Madrid, on 2 Oct, 2012.—XINHUA

Afghan police kill 18 militants in one-day operations

Afghanistan

KABUL, 3 Oct—Afghan police, backed by the army and the NATO-led coalition forces, have eliminated 18 Taliban militants in different provinces within the past 24 hours, the country's Interior Ministry said on Wednesday.

"Afghan National Police (ANP) in collaboration with the Afghan army and the coalition forces launched eight clearance operations in Kabul, Laghman, Kunduz, Kandahar, Wardak, Logar, Ghor and Helmand Provinces, killing 18 armed Taliban insurgents," the ministry said in a statement.

The ANP also arrested 17 other militants, the statement said, adding it also found and seized weapons and ammunition during the raids.

"Afghan and coalition forces confirmed one of the insurgents captured during a security operation in Pul-e-Alam District in eastern Logar Province on Tuesday is a Haqqani leader and weapons financier," the NATO-led coalition or International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said in a separate statement on Wednesday.

A Taliban-linked group of militants, the Haqqani network mostly operates in eastern Afghan provinces and capital Kabul, has been responsible for many high-profile attacks including suicide bombings and Improvised Explosive Device (IED) against security forces.

The detained Haqqani leader is believed to have overseen the acquisition and distribution of rockets, heavy weapons, assault rifles, explosives and body armor to support insurgent operations throughout Logar Province, 60 km south of Kabul, the coalition said.

The Taliban insurgents, who have been waging an insurgency of more than one decade, have yet to make comments.

Xinhua

REGIONAL

Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting kicks off in Laos

Laos

VIENTIANE, 3 Oct— The Seventh Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP-7) kicked off in Lao capital Vientiane on Wednesday.

The meeting, themed “Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership for Sustainable Development”, is to last for two days till Thursday.

ASEP-7 is to admit new membership, possibly, of Australia, Myanmar, New Zealand and Russia on Wednesday, and to hold two panel discussions on Thursday.

For the economic matters panel, lead speakers from China, Finland, South Korea and IMF are to present reports

on ensuring food security in the current situation of global climate change and on strengthening the Asia-Europe cooperation in the field of public debts for sustainable development.

For the social and environmental matters panel, lead speakers from Belgium, Indonesia and UNISDR (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) are to present reports on Asia-Europe partnership in increasing social participation for disaster management.

“Since its inception in 1996, the ASEP process has contributed parliamentary dimension to the streng-

thening of friendly relations and intensive cooperation between Parliaments of Asia and Europe in political, social and economic fields in a view to taping up mutual understanding and common interest,” said Mrs Pany Yathotou, President of the National Assembly of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic in a welcome message delivered ahead the inauguration of ASEP-7.

“The seventh ASEP meeting will coincide with intensive preparations toward the ninth Asia-Europe Summit Meeting (ASEM) to be held on 5-6 November, 2012 in Vientiane. I strongly believe that the outcome of

the ASEP meeting will duly enrich the deliberation of ASEM with representative view of peoples of our two continents,” said Pany Yathotou.

“The Laos PDR highly values the achievement gained by ASEP during the past 16 years.

The achievements reflect the determination and commitment of peoples of Asia and Europe to enhance their cooperation and to explore ways and means to alleviate the impact of current challenges faced by the two regions as well as future challenges that may occur,” she said.

Xinhua



Tourists, who spend their National Day holiday, visit a miniscape exhibition held in the Xihu Park, Fuzhou, southeast China’s Fujian Province, on 1 Oct 2012.—XINHUA

Cambodia reports 34,483 dengue fever cases, 146 children killed in 9 months

Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 3 Oct— At least 34,483 dengue fever cases were reported in Cambodia in the first nine months of this year, a 166 percent increase compared with 12,972 cases in the same period last year, a report of the National Centre for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control showed on Wednesday.

From January to September this year, the disease had killed 146 Cambodian children, up 147 percent compared with 59 deaths during the same period last year. “The disease continues to kill between 3 and 5 children a week,” said Dr Char Meng Chuor, director of the centre.

He explained that there were more deaths this year because parents had sent their ill children to private clinics first, and when the treatment was ineffective and the disease became more severe, they would send them to public hospitals, but it was too late for them to be cured.

Dengue fever is a viral disease transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes. The disease causes an acute illness of sudden onset that usually follows symptoms such as headache, fever, exhaustion, severe muscle and joint pain, swollen glands, vomiting and rash.

In Cambodia, the outbreak of dengue fever usually begins at the onset of the rainy season in May and lasts until October.—Xinhua



Tourists visit the Palace Museum in Beijing, capital of China, 2 Oct, 2012. According to the statistics, the Palace Museum has attracted 186,000 tourists to visit by 4 pm on Tuesday, surpassing the ever-recorded statistics in a day.—XINHUA

Honda to set up diesel engine plant in north

India

KOLKATA, 3 Oct— Honda will build a new diesel engine plant in India’s northern state of Rajasthan, a top company executive said on Wednesday.

The plant will be located at Tapukara in the state this fiscal year and a new Brio-based entry sedan, due for launch early next financial year, will be the first model to take advantage of it, sources said.

The new sedan will compete with market leader Maruti Swift Dzire and others such as Toyota Etios and Mahindra Verito. The Japanese carmaker will also launch a utility vehicle, most likely a compact SUV, also

based on the Brio compact car platform.

The new diesel engine is likely to be of 1.5-litre capacity and will subsequently be introduced in the Brio hatchback, Jazz and City models. It will also be used in the compact utility vehicle that will come in later.

The move will help revive flagging sales in the 2 million unit- plus Indian car market. Honda will join Hyundai, Volkswagen and Toyota Kirloskar, all of whom are planning local diesel engine plants.

Honda Motor Global CEO Takano Ito recently confirmed the developments in a speech in Tokyo. “In order

to compete and win in highly-competitive low-price markets and fulfill the diverse needs of customers, Honda will add sedan-type and utility-type models utilizing the platform of the Brio,” he said. Non-availability of both a diesel engine and models for the mass car segment have led to a 4 percent (58,951 units) and 8.5 percent (54,427 units) drop in sales for Honda in 2010-11 and 2011- 12 respectively.

However, sales went up 54 percent to 29,932 units between April and August this year with the launch of the Brio compact and a price drop for the Jazz and City models.

Xinhua

Four killed in traffic accident in Indonesia

Indonesia

JAKARTA, 3 Oct— Four people including three Chinese tourists were killed in an accident in Indonesia’s West Java Province, the Chinese Embassy in Jakarta confirmed on Wednesday.

The accident took place at around 11 o’clock on Monday when a tourist bus lost control and fell down at Emen Slope in Subang, West Java, police officer in charge of traffic management center in West Java, told Xinhua by phone

on Tuesday.

The bus was heading from Bandung, capital of West Java Province, to a hot spring resort named Sari Ater, he added.

The police officer said that three Chinese tourists and one Indonesian were killed in the accident, and all victims had been sent to Hasan Sadikin Hospital in Bandung.

The bus was carrying 19 passengers from both China’s Taipei, the Jakarta



Photo taken on 1 Oct, 2012 shows an accident site of a tourist bus in Subang, Indonesia. Four people including three Chinese tourists were killed in the accident in Subang, West Java, the Chinese Embassy in Jakarta confirmed on Wednesday.—XINHUA

Post reported on Tuesday. A malfunction of the brake

system might be the cause, according to the report Xinhua

New Zealand defence minister discusses military withdrawal with Afghanistan authorities

New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 3 Oct— New Zealand Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman revealed on Wednesday that he had been in Afghanistan in recent days to discuss the withdrawal of New Zealand troops from the country by April next year.

Coleman visited the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Bamyán Province and held talks with officials in Bamyán and Kabul. “The visit was an opportunity to offer support to the PRT for the important work it has been performing in providing security to the province,” Coleman said in a statement.

“I was also able to discuss New Zealand’s departure from Bamyán with the provincial governor and local security chiefs and to assess the work that needs to be done between now and April to ensure that the gains of the past decade are sustained in the long term,” he said. “New Zealand’s decade in Bamyán will have made a massive difference in quality

of life to the people there.” Coleman visited New Zealand development projects in Bamyán, including those in solar energy, agriculture, education and health.

He also spent a day in Kabul where he met with Afghanistan’s newly appointed Defence Minister, Bismillah Khan Mohammadi, and held talks with senior International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) commanders. Last month, the New Zealand government confirmed it would withdraw the bulk of its armed forces from Afghanistan after 10 years by the end of April next year.

The withdrawal, which would follow the expected completion of transition of security responsibility to local Bamyán forces at the beginning of October, had been endorsed by ISAF and been signaled well in advance to partners, said the government.—Xinhua

Hong Kong HK Customs seizes 6.3-kg cocaine at airport

HONG KONG, 3 Oct— Hong Kong Customs announced on Wednesday that 6.3 kilograms of cocaine worth an estimated 6.45 million HK dollars (about 832,000 US dollars) were seized and a 25-year-old man was arrested at the Hong Kong International Airport on Tuesday. The man, who arrived from Brazil, was stopped for luggage examination while in transit to Zhuhai by ferry. Officers found the drug in a false compartment of his suitcase. He will be charged with trafficking in a dangerous drug and will appear at Tsuen Wan Magistrates’ Courts this morning. Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, drug trafficking is a serious offense. The maximum penalty is up to life imprisonment and a fine of 5 million HK dollars.—Xinhua

BUSINESS & ADVERTISEMENT

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MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (467)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (467) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.10.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MOROTAI VOY NO (189)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (189) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.10.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Australia new home sales hit 15-year low in Aug

SYDNEY, 3 Oct—Australia's new home sales fell to a 15-year low in August, indicating Tuesday's rate cut by the Reserve Bank of Australia came at the right time, the Housing Industry Association (HIA) said on Wednesday. The HIA New Home Sales report, a survey of Australia's largest volume builders, showed a decline of 5.3 percent in new home sales in August, reflecting a fall of 5.8 percent in the detached housing sales and a 2.5 percent drop in the multi-unit market.

"New home sales for August are the latest in a string of soft new housing updates for this financial year, and that follows a very weak year for new home building in 2011/12," he said in a statement. "A fresh round of interest rate cuts will help rebalance this situation, although financial institutions obviously need to play their role in cementing this outcome." However, Dale said that rate cuts were not the only action needed to generate the new home building recovery in Australia. "Governments have an important role to play in driving reform measures to lower the excessive tax base faced by the sector," he said.—Xinhua

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Ph: 09 73 150 632
(For: Ella Cheong Spruson & Ferguson(Singapore)Pte Ltd, Singapore)
Dated 4 October,2012.

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Thein Aung B.Sc,RL,DBL Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM

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Tel:376318 G.P.O Box:666
Yangon. 4th October 2012



An investor looks at an electronic board showing stock price index at a stock brokerage firm in Seoul on 1 July, 2009.—REUTERS

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Tin Ohnmar Tun & The Law Chambers

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(For Ella Cheong Spruson & Ferguson

(Singapore)Pte Ltd, Singapore)

Dated 4 October,2012.

“Critical but stable” world nods at more risk

LONDON, 3 Oct— Like a patient in a critical but stable condition, the world economy may be in for years of low, spluttering growth and yet a lack of volatility may be acting as a green light for investors. The paralyzing effect of economic uncertainty on investment, business and household planning has been stark over the past five years of credit crisis and the deep and synchronized global recession of 2008/2009 is seared into many minds. Extraordinary monetary and fiscal policy stimuli around the globe look set to continue for the foreseeable future. Yet investors' fear of "tail risks" — or low probability but outside shocks — still abounds.

Almost three quarters of the 300 US and European pension funds, asset managers, insurance funds and private banks surveyed by the Economist Intelligence Unit for State Street Global Advisors this summer said a significant tail risk event was either likely or highly likely in the next 12 months. Euro zone break up and global recession topped the list of potential triggers, unsurprisingly. But does this innate fear match up to reality? Does uncertainty always lead to higher volatility. JPMorgan's global strategist Jan Loeys pointed out this week that after spiking higher in 2008/2009, global economic volatility has actually collapsed again to its lowest levels since the 1970s — and this is significant for investors' willingness to take on risk. Global growth over the past three years is the weakest of any post-war recovery, he said, but 42 years of data shows rolling 8-quarter volatility in world gross domestic product (GDP) is back down at record lows and matches the trough of the "Great Moderation" of 2004-2005.—Reuters

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Win Mu Tin

M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L

for Merck KGaA

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Dated: 4 October 2012

LatAm economy to grow 3.2 pct in 2012: UN agency

SANTIAGO, 2 Oct—Latin America and the Caribbean will experience a 3.2-percent economic growth in 2012, affected by the world's economic weakness mainly caused by the difficulties in Europe and United States, a UN agency said on Tuesday.

The report from the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC) said as the economic growth deceleration during 2011 extended to 2012's first half in this region, the projected growth of 3.2 percent is 0.5 percent lower than the commission's estimate in June.

The report said the Caribbean sub-region will grow 1.6 percent this year, Central America will grow 4.4 percent, and South America will grow 2.8 percent.

According to the report, external trade in the region was affected by the international crisis due to the cooling of external demand and a decreasing trend in the prices of the majority of the basic export goods.

Nevertheless, private consumption had been the main booster of regional growth, thanks to the favorable conditions of the labour markets, credit increase, and in some cases, remittances.—Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Country star Jason Aldean apologizes for "Idol" flirt

LOS ANGELES, 3 Oct—Married country singer Jason Aldean has apologized to fans after photos on a celebrity website showed him getting up close and personal with a former "American Idol" hopeful in a bar in Los Angeles.

Photos posted to TMZ.com showed Aldean, 35, hugging and putting his hands on Brittany Kerr, who was seen on television earlier this year trying out for the 2012 season of "American Idol."

"The truth is that I screwed up," Aldean said in a statement on his Facebook

page on Sunday. "I had too much to drink, let the party get out of hand and acted inappropriately at a bar."

Parties appear to be a recurring theme for Aldean. Last year, he won the Country Music Association award for best album for his release "My Kinda Party."

Aldean married his high school sweetheart, Jessica Ussery, in 2001. They have two children.

Aldean and Kerr, a cheerleader for the Charlotte Bobcats basketball team, were shown together at a bar on the Sunset Strip in the photos posted at TMZ.

He noted on his Facebook page that he left the bar "alone," made his way to his tour bus and his next show, and "that's the end of the story." Photos posted to TMZ showed Aldean, a native of Georgia, leaving the bar in the back of a cab, without Kerr.

"I ultimately ended up embarrassing my family and myself," Aldean wrote on Facebook. "I'm not perfect, and I'm sorry for disappointing you guys."

Aldean's statement on his Facebook page attracted nearly 30,000 comments, with many people expressing



Country music star Jason Aldean performs during the 2012 iHeart Radio Music Festival at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada on 21 Sept, 2012.

REUTERS

support for him. The 35-year-old singer's hit songs include "Fly Over States," "Tattoos On This Town" and "Why."

Reuters

Robert Pattinson may play lead singer of The Monkees

LOS ANGELES, 3 Oct—Robert Pattinson will now be seen in the final movie of Twilight franchise Breaking Dawn 2.

Actor Robert Pattinson has been reportedly approached to play the role of singer Mike Nesmith in a film based on the latter's band The Monkees.

The 26-year-old, who claimed fame with the role of Edward Cullen in the vampire movie franchise Twilight has shown interest in the proposal. "He is interested in the role," dailystar.co.uk quoted a source as saying.

The actor was last seen in director David Cronenberg's Cosmopolis. He will now be seen in the final movie of Twilight franchise Breaking Dawn 2.

PTI



Robert Pattinson will now be seen in the final movie of Twilight franchise Breaking Dawn 2.



The 46-year-old fighter has already tried his hand at acting in Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles, The Hangover and its sequel The Hangover II, reported Daily Star.

REUTERS

Mike Tyson to guest star in Scary Movie 5

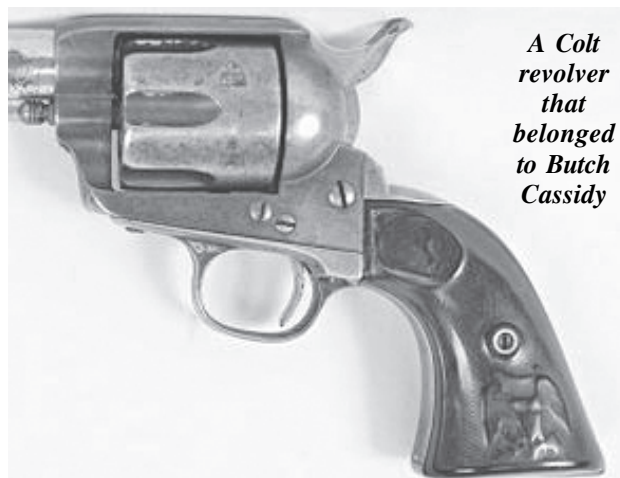
LONDON, 3 Oct—The 46-year-old fighter has already tried his hand at acting in Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles, The Hangover and its sequel The Hangover II, reported Daily Star.

Boxing legend Mike Tyson has landed another big screen cameo after signing up to appear in Scary Movie 5.

He was spotted on set of the horror parody franchise in Georgia on 27 September with co-star Heather Locklear.

Actors Charlie Sheen and Lindsay Lohan play lovers in the film, while Ashley Tisdale and Molly Shannon also star in it.—PTI

Butch Cassidy's gun draws \$175,000 in California auction



A Colt revolver that belonged to Butch Cassidy

Cassidy had long been thought to have been killed in a shootout in Bolivia, but his fate remains mysterious as members of his family and former associates have said he returned to the United States and lived under a false identity, according to a web page about the outlaw on a Utah government website.

The sale of Cassidy's gun was part of an auction of Wild West items that California Auctioneers held on Saturday and Sunday in Casitas Springs, 65 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

A beaded jacket that belonged to the American Indian leader Crazy Horse sold for \$10,000 in the auction, to a couple from upstate New York, Eubanks said.

Other pieces of memorabilia from the Wild West have fetched even higher prices. Last year, the only authenticated photograph of gunslinger Billy the Kid was auctioned off to the billionaire William Koch for \$2.3 million.

Reuters

LOS ANGELES, 3 Oct—A gun the Wild West outlaw Butch Cassidy wielded in the late 19th century and later tried to exchange for amnesty has drawn a \$175,000 bid at a California auction house, the owner of the company said on Monday.

The Colt revolver was turned over to a sheriff in Utah in 1899 as part of Cassidy's failed attempt to obtain amnesty from the state's governor, said John Eubanks of California Auctioneers & Appraisers.

"He tried to become a

regular citizen by turning over his guns," Eubanks said.

The \$175,000 bid for the Colt came over the weekend from a buyer who wants to remain anonymous, Eubanks said.

Cassidy and his partner Harry Longbaugh, who went by the nickname "Sundance Kid," robbed banks and had an outlaw gang called the Wild Bunch.

Their exploits were featured in the 1969 film "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford.

Fresh air at Chanel's Paris fashion show and Queen Bee at McQueen

PARIS, 3 Oct—Fashion changes as quickly as the wind, and maybe that's what Karl Lagerfeld had in mind on Tuesday at Chanel, where enormous wind turbines greeted guests at his spring/summer 2013 show in Paris.

But with the floors of the expansive Grand Palais made to resemble solar panels, one might have thought the prolific German designer was instead making a statement on going green.

"I started to sketch in St Tropez over the summer and it was so hot I wanted some fresh air," Lagerfeld explained after the show.

Whatever the reasoning, Lagerfeld presented a wide-

ranging readywear collection that occasionally incorporated synthetic fabric, but one in which classic Chanel looks using nubby wool, tweed and pearls were reworked for warm weather—all without one camellia in sight.

Jennifer Lopez, wearing a cream lace thigh-baring dress, was surrounded by a phalanx of cameras in the front row, where rapper Kanye West and model-come-actress Laeticia Casta also held court. "It's so chic, it's so French, it's like a monument today," Casta said of Chanel, which has managed to keep its fashion clout and mighty branding power under the

watchful eye of Lagerfeld more than 40 years after the death of founder Coco Chanel. The first look down the runway was, unsurprisingly, a little black suit, but its kinky leather skirt imparted an edgy flair and Chanel's beloved pearls, surrounded by rhinestones, dotted the boxy jacket in a whimsical polka dot pattern.

A semi-sheer synthetic ribbed fabric was worked into slim black trousers paired with short-sleeved bolero jackets with pearl buttons, or used for body-hugging minidresses worn with cropped knit jackets. Lagerfeld worked the solar panel pattern into various tweeds and into a bold graphic in red and blue that popped on sweaters and jackets. Stunning in its simplicity was a column dress cut mid-thigh with a severe straight neckline that shimmered from tiny beads in twilight blue, silver and black. But, always curious, the designer played with the concept of air and wind, presenting floaty black dresses in sheer silk chiffon structured by a quilted panel bodice and adorned with tufts of multi-colored fabric that fluttered like feathers.

Reuters



A model presents a creation by German designer Karl Lagerfeld for French fashion house Chanel as part of his Spring/Summer 2013 women's ready-to-wear fashion show during Paris fashion week on 2 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

Taylor Swift says she falls in love too easily

LOS ANGELES, 3 Oct—Singer Taylor Swift says she falls in love too easily.

The 22-year-old is currently dating Conor Kennedy. "I still believe in love, even after love explodes into a million pieces and burns down and you're standing in a pile of the ash of what it once was thinking, 'Why did I have to meet this person, why did this have to happen?'" showbizspy.com quoted her as saying.

"But then, when you make eye contact with



Taylor Swift says she believes in love even after it "explodes into a million pieces"

someone across the room and it clicks and, bam, you're there. In love again," she added. Asked if she falls for people she likes easily, Swift said: "Not if it's the wrong person, yes if it's the right person."

"Well, it's not like it's in fine print. But music is absolutely everything that I am and everything that I stand for. It's not my fault if someone gets into a relationship with me and then cheats and I write a song about it," she said.

PTI

SPORTS

Van Persie double gives Manchester United victory

CLUJ, (Romania), 3 Oct— Manchester United striker Robin van Persie continued his hot scoring streak as his double secured a 2-1 victory over CFR Cluj in Champions League Group H on Tuesday.



Manchester United's Robin van Persie (R) challenges CFR Cluj's Aguirregaray (L) during their Champions League Group H soccer match in Cluj-Napoca, 426 km (265 miles) northwest of Bucharest, on 2 October, 2012.—REUTERS

United had to come from behind after Pantelis Kapetanios fired the Romanian champions into a 14th minute lead.

Van Persie equalised 15 minutes later when he met Wayne Rooney's freekick and the ball looped off his shoulder and over keeper Mario Felgueiras.

There was nothing fortunate about his second goal four minutes after the break, the Dutch international showing a deft touch to flick another Rooney cross past Felgueiras.



Manchester United's Robin van Persie (R) challenges CFR Cluj's Aguirregaray (L) during their Champions League Group H soccer match in Cluj-Napoca, 426 km (265 miles) northwest of Bucharest, on 2 October, 2012.—REUTERS

United, who failed to get out of their group last season, are well-placed to advance this time with two wins from two.

The Premier League side had kept clean sheets in seven of their last nine away games in the competition but manager Alex Ferguson voiced defensive concerns after his side conceded three in losing

to Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford on Saturday.

His worries appeared valid when Cluj, who beat Braga in their opening game, took the lead. A crossfield pass found Modou Sougou on the right and he easily brushed aside Patrice Evra and crossed for Greek international Kapetanios to net.

The lively Sougou went off injured midway through the first half and United, without experienced midfielders Ryan Giggs, Michael Carrick and Paul Scholes but fielding the attacking trio of Rooney, Van Persie and Javier Hernandez, gained momentum.

Van Persie levelled and then saw Felgueiras block another shot before Rooney glanced a header wide.

United's second goal appeared to knock the stuffing out of Cluj but Spanish keeper David de Gea came to his side's rescue at the end when he beat away Rafael Bastos's header.

Van Persie has scored seven times for United since joining from Arsenal just before the start of the season. *Reuters*

Soccer

Chelsea's Juan Mata (L) scores past FC Nordsjaelland goalkeeper Jesper Hansen during their Champions League Group E soccer match in Copenhagen on 2 October, 2012. *REUTERS*



Two-goal Mata is the Special Juan as Chelsea win 4-0

COPENHAGEN, 3 Oct— Two goals from Spain midfielder Juan Mata inspired holders Chelsea to a 4-0 victory over little-known Danish side Nordsjaelland in Champions League Group E on Tuesday.

The Londoners went ahead in the 33rd minute when Fernando Torres robbed midfielder Enoch Adu and passed to Frank Lampard who deftly set up Mata to fire home with his left foot.

Joshua John twice went close for the home team, hitting the post on one occasion, but David Luiz made it 2-0 with a curling free kick in the 79th minute.

Mata sidefooted the third goal in the 82nd minute before Ramires completed the scoring from close range.

Nordsjaelland, beaten 2-0 at Shakhtar Donetsk in their opening match last month, made a jittery start but gradually their confidence grew and they gave the champions several worrying moments.

Centre back Jores Okore was their best player and he almost set up a goal when his lofted ball found Mikkel Beckmann unmarked 10

metres out and his looping header sailed just over the bar.

Chelsea's anxieties were eased when Torres had his shirt pulled just outside the box and Brazil defender David Luiz shot in off the woodwork.

Mata grabbed his second goal after nimbly picking his way through the defence before Brazil midfielder Ramires latched on to a pass from countryman Oscar to convert the simplest of tap-ins. *Reuters*

Barcelona sink Benfica but worry over Puyol

LISBON, 3 Oct— Lionel Messi set up goals for Alexis Sanchez and Cesc Fabregas in Barcelona's 2-0 Champions League Group G victory over Benfica on Tuesday but their victory was overshadowed by a serious-looking arm injury sustained by Carles Puyol.

Sanchez fired Barca ahead on six minutes and Fabregas added a second 10 minutes into the second half.

The Catalans had Sergio Busquets dismissed two minutes from time but will be more concerned about captain Puyol, who landed awkwardly after leaping for a ball and was carried off on a stretcher in obvious pain on 78 minutes.

Barca have six points from two matches and head into Sunday's La Liga 'Classico' against Real Madrid with confidence high.—*Reuters*



Barcelona's Cesc Fabregas (C) celebrates his goal with teammate Lionel Messi (10) and other teammates during their Champions League Group G soccer match at the Luz stadium in Lisbon, on 2 Oct. 2012. *REUTERS*

Nadal to play in Abu Dhabi Tennis

MADRID, 3 Oct—Rafa Nadal is scheduled to play in an exhibition tournament in Abu Dhabi in December, organisers said in a statement on Tuesday. The world number four has not played since losing to Czech Lukas Rosol in the second round at

Wimbledon in June and has been suffering from a partial tear of the patella tendon and inflammation of the left knee.

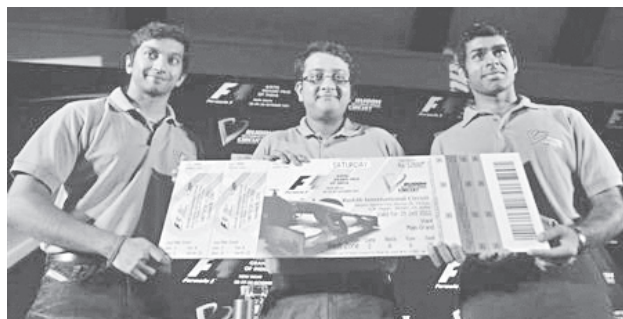
The 11-times grand slam winner was unable to defend his Olympic title in London and had to withdraw from the US Open.

The Spaniard is set to join a high-profile field including Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray for the three-day Mubadala World Tennis Championship in Abu Dhabi which gets underway on 27 Dec.—*Reuters*



Rafa Nadal

India GP targets long-term success



Formula One drivers Narain Karthikeyan (L) and Karun Chandhok (R) pose with Sameer Gaur, managing director and chief executive of race promoters JPSI, as they display a ticket of the first Indian Grand Prix before a news conference on the outskirts of Delhi on 20 Aug. 2011.—*REUTERS*

Championship from next year, which the organizers hope will boost the facility's financial viability.

"The commercial proposition is such that you can't hope to recover it in a couple of years," JPSI managing

director and chief executive Sameer Gaur told *Reuters* in an interview.

"You have to look at it from a long-term view. Maybe five to seven years, that's the time when one should be looking at breaking even," he

said. Now that the foundations had been laid, the immediate job at hand, Gaur said, was to develop the circuit into a Formula One village.

"It's time to create some entertainment zones. Fans want a race which would be a three-day picnic. We have to create that facility and we are doing it," Gaur added.

"The proposed underground metro service (scheduled for completion in 2015) would improve transport and there would be more restaurants and hotels too.

"In the next couple of years, we have to create an F1 village there, so that a fan can enjoy the race and the entertainment surrounding it."—*Reuters*

Former world number one Ochoa makes comeback in France Golf

MEXICO CITY, 3 Oct— Former world number one Lorena Ochoa is coming out of retirement to play in this week's Ladies French Open as a favour to her sponsors. The Mexican won two major championships and claimed 27 tour victories before retiring from golf in April 2010 to focus on her family and charity work.

The French Open is sponsored by Lacoste who also provide financial backing to the 30-year-old Ochoa. "They asked me to come and play the tournament," she said in a news release on Tuesday. "They actually asked me last year and I couldn't because I was pregnant.

"I said... 'I prefer to wait until next year' and here I am and I'm very happy to support the tournament." The Mexican is also scheduled to play in her own Lorena Ochoa Invitational event in Guadalajara in November but has no plans to make a full-time return to professional golf.

"I'm not going to put pressure on myself this week because I don't practice anymore," she said.—*Reuters*



Lorena Ochoa of Mexico analyzes her shot at the third green during the third round of the LPGA Tres Marias Championship golf tournament at Tres Marias Club in Morelia on 1 May, 2010.—*REUTERS*

GENERAL

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(4-10-12 09:30 am ~ 5-10-12 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * The Romantic Wedding Fair 2012
- * News
- * The Century's Famous Herbal Crop
- * Thailand Mini Exhibition
- * News
- * World Maritime Day 2012 (100 Yrs after th titanic)
- * News
- * Come along with me
- * News
- * Press Conference of Nostalgic University Life Fund-raising Concert
- * Road to Buddhism in Russia
- * News

- * Travelling to Shan plateau (Pindaya Myoe Ma Market)
 - * Wild Eye X Contemporary Art Exhibition
 - * News
 - * Training Seminar of action plan for presentation of Underage Recruitment
 - * News
 - * A Memorable Visit to Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park
 - * Myanmar Movie "Why you hate me, Ko Ko?"
- MYANMAR TV**
(4-10-2012, Thursday)
- 7:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw - Uppatahandi Paritta
 2. Dhamma Puja Song
 3. Nice & Sweet Song
 4. Health Programme
 5. Song of National Races
 6. Dance Variety
 7. Selected Songs For 19th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions (2012) (Modern Song) (Amateur (Second) Division) (Level Men)
 8. Martial Song
 9. Cute Little Dancers
 10. Teleplay

11. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Fourth Year (Law)
12. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
13. Science and Environment
14. India Drama Series
15. Myanmar Series
16. Approaching Science Discovery World
17. TV Drama Series
18. News
19. Documentary
20. TV Drama Series

“Fiscal cliff” fears may impede faster job growth



A man holds his briefcase while waiting in line during a job fair in Melville, New York on 19 July, 2012. REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 3 Oct—US job growth likely improved only slightly in September as businesses remained cautious out of fear a sharp tightening of the government's budget could deliver a big blow to the economic recovery early next year. Employers are expected to have added 113,000 jobs to their payrolls, an increase from 96,000 in August, with the unemployment rate edging up by a tenth of a

percentage point to 8.2 percent, according to a Reuters survey of economists.

The data, to be released by the Labour Department at 8:30 a.m. (12.30 pm GMT) on Friday, would be troubling news for President Barack Obama with little more than a month to go before voters go to the polls, even though he has an edge over Republican challenger Mitt Romney.

“Businesses are starting

to focus more on the fiscal cliff,” said Ryan Sweet, a senior economist at Moody's Analytics in West Chester Pennsylvania. “It's really hard to identify the spark that's going to get us much stronger job growth until we get more clarity on the US fiscal situation.”

According to economists, hiring likely fell short of the pace needed to absorb both new and returning jobseekers, who are expected to swell the labor force and push the jobless rate higher. The workforce had shrank in the prior two months. The labor force participation rate, or the proportion of working-age Americans who have a job or are looking for one, is expected to rise off the 31-year low of 63.5 percent hit in August.

The sluggish hiring would add to signs that

companies are keeping expansion plans on a tight leash out of concern the US Congress might fail to avoid the automatic tax hikes and government spending cuts that will suck about \$600 billion out of the economy next year.

“If employers are so uncertain about the future direction of their business that they are unwilling to commit to capital projects, it's unlikely they will be eager to add permanent employees,” said Julia Coronado, chief North America economist at BNP Paribas in New York.

Persistently poor labor market conditions prompted the Federal Reserve last month to announce a plan to buy \$40 billion worth of mortgage-backed securities each month until it sees a sustained turnaround in employment. It hopes the purchases will drive down long-term borrowing costs and spur the recovery.

Reuters

NY MTA may need \$20 billion just to keep system in good repair

3 Oct—New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority will need at least \$20 billion from 2015 to 2019 to keep its system in good repair, but the mass transit operator has yet to figure out how to pay for these upgrades, a report said on Tuesday.

The MTA, the largest US mass transit system, runs the city's buses, subways, commuter railroads and some major bridges and tunnels. Its capital needs are hitting customers in the wallet. Between 2007 and 2015 fares and tolls are set to have risen 35 percent, according to the report, issued by State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

The estimate for the MTA's future maintenance does not include the cost of expansions, such as the second phase of the Second Avenue subway on Manhattan's East Side, which would extend the line from 63rd St to 125th St, the report said.

The MTA's current capital plan, which runs from 2010 to 2014, totals \$22 billion, an MTA spokesman said. This plan was cut from a proposed \$28 billion due to a lack of funding, the report said.

In a statement, MTA

Chairman Joseph Lhota said the comptroller's report recognized the MTA's significant financial hurdles, cost-cutting measures and “our ongoing efforts to address longer-term challenges, including identifying funding sources for our 2015-2019 Capital Programme.” The authority is a major issuer in the \$3.7 trillion municipal bond market. Its debt outstanding is expected to rise to \$40 billion in 2016 from \$31.8 billion at the end of 2012, the report said.

About 60 percent of the MTA's current capital plan is paid for with debt. If the authority relies on the same share of borrowing for its next capital plan, debt service could hit \$4.4 billion by 2024, the report estimated. In 2012, debt service is expected to cost the MTA more than \$2 billion.

Even with the biennial fare and toll increases that are planned, debt service as a percent of total revenue could rise to 19.8 percent by 2018 from 15.9 percent in 2011. Those are fairly high percentages. New York City, for example, has an informal policy of cutting its capital programme when this ratio hits 15 percent, credit analysts say.—Reuters



A bus sits stuck on a side street in Manhattan after a snow storm in New York on 27 December, 2010. —REUTERS

ADB lowers Vietnam's growth forecast to 5.1 pct in 2012

HANOI, 3 Oct—The Asian Development Outlook (ADO) Update 2012, launched in Vietnam's capital Hanoi on Wednesday, lowered Vietnam's growth forecast to 5.1 percent for 2012 from the previous 5.7 percent, in light of the weakness in external markets and domestic credit. ADO and its updates are Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s flagship publication, which provides assessment of recent economic developments in Asia and the Pacific and medium-term macroeconomic

projections for the region.

According to the report, Vietnam's inflation is projected at about 7 percent by the end of 2012 and is forecast to quicken to 9.4 percent by the end of 2013 because of increases in global food prices and pickup in domestic demand, while fiscal policy is likely to be relaxed.

The pace of economic growth will likely be influenced by progress in addressing financial sector vulnerabilities. ADB supports the Vietnamese government approved reform plans for the

finance and state-owned enterprise sectors and acknowledges important steps taken to date such as the merger of several weak banks, Tomoyuki Kimura, ADB country director for Vietnam said. It is however not clear how and when further proposed actions under these two plans will be implemented. A government commitment to a credible reform roadmap with time-bound actions should revive lending and improve market confidence, Kimura added.

Xinhua

ADB upgrades Philippine 2012 growth forecast to 5.5 pct

MANILA, 3 Oct—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) upgraded this year's growth forecast for the Philippines from the previous 4.8 percent to 5.5 percent on back of its robust first half growth. In its latest Asian Development Outlook released Tuesday, the Manila-based lender said the stronger than expected 6.1 percent growth in the first half showed the Philippines economy remains resilient amid a global slowdown.

The ADB attributed this to increased consumer and

public spending, growing capital investments and net exports. Inflation also remains under control at 3.5 percent for 2012.

Increased business confidence bodes well for investment and future jobs. But the Philippines must guard against weaknesses outside its own economy that could have a knock-on effect,” ADB Chief Economist Changyong Rhee said in a statement. The ADB sees Philippine GDP expanding at five percent in 2013, unchanged from early

projections. The bank also forecasts inflation at 4.1 percent owing to higher global food prices, as well as pressures from sustained strength in domestic demand.

But the ADB said the government needs to provide more job opportunities to promote inclusive growth.

Despite solid economic growth, job generation remains inadequate, reflected in rates of unemployment and underemployment, “Neeraj Jain, ADB's Country Director for the Philippines, said in a statement.—Xinhua

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin speaking at Technical Consultation Meeting on Myanmar Health Systems in Transition Series.

MNA



Technical Consultation Meeting on Myanmar Health Systems in Transition Series

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct—Jointly conducted by Ministry of Health and World Health Organization (WHO), Technical Consultation Meeting on Myanmar Health Systems in Transition Series Myanmar. HITs was held at the Myat Taw Win Hotel here today.

In his key-note address at the meeting, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin stressed the need for adopting policies which can provide equitable health care services for every citizen as the good health of every citizen plays an important role in sustainable development of the economy of the country and elimination of poverty in the country.

In Asian Pacific region, Fiji, the Philippines and Malaysia have already drawn the Health Systems in Transition Series, Hong Kong, Laos, Mongolia, Singapore and Solomon Island will complete drawing for the series in 2012. Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka will launch implementing the plan in 2012 and Myanmar will launch the HITs 2012.—MNA

Murray mint in Tokyo demolition job

TOKYO, 3 Oct—Defending champion Andy Murray overpowered Slovakia's Lukas Lacko 6-1 6-2 to reach the quarter-finals of the *Japan* Open on Wednesday with all the panache of a grand slam winner.

The Olympic gold medalist, playing his first tournament since capturing his first grand slam title at last month's U.S. Open, completed the rout in just 56 minutes.

"I started the match almost perfect," Murray told reporters after stretching his winning streak to nine matches and setting up a quarter-final with Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka. "I only lost a couple of points in the first four or five games," added the Scot. "Once I got the break in the second set I started to play better."

Murray mixed up his game to good effect against Lacko with the centre court roof closed as rain from an approaching typhoon lashed Tokyo Bay.

An array of drop shots and sliced passing shots from mid-court left Lacko shaking his head in disbelief, Murray putting him out of his misery with a sweet drop volley.

Murray, who reached the final of this year's Wimbledon before exacting revenge on Wawrinka's buddy Roger Federer in the Olympic final in London, is not counting his chickens yet. "He is playing very well just now," Murray said of the seventh-seeded Wawrinka. "I think hard courts are a good surface for him. I expect another tough match."

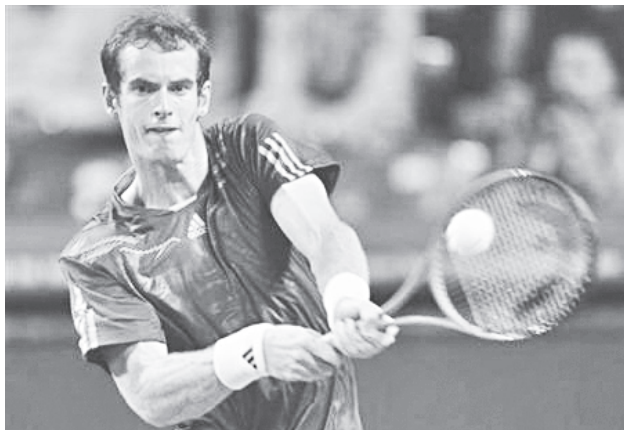
Wawrinka blew three match points in the second set tiebreaker but came through to beat Frenchman Jeremy Chardy 7-6 6-7 7-5 in two hours, 37 minutes. "It wasn't easy having (wasted) three match points in the tiebreak," said the 2008 Olympic doubles gold medalist, who served 19 aces.

"You need to be ready to still play the third set and to fight," Wawrinka praised Murray for breaking his grand slam duck after losing his first four major finals.

"He is playing great," said the Swiss. "He won the *Olympics* he won the U.S. Open and he always plays great here. It's going to be tough for sure."

Late starters Serbia's Janko Tipsarevic and Argentine Juan Monaco won their first round matches on Wednesday.

Reuters



Paukkan 2012 cruiseliner bound for Bagan-Mandalay-Bagan route



Visitor arrivals in Myanmar during open season is increasing year after year. This open season, under the arrangement of Orchestra Travel Ltd, Ayavata Cruise line will run the Paukkan 2012 cruiseliner along Bagan-Mandalay-Bagan route as of 14 October with the aim of enabling the foreign tourists to enjoy the scenic beauties of the Ayeyawady and the Chindwin rivers.

The whole structure of vessel is made of teak. The cruiseliner is 138 feet long and 34 feet wide double Dekker. The keel is constructed with two rooms, first dekker with eight rooms and second dekker with eight rooms, totaling

18. As it is built with the purpose for foreign tourists, the vessel is facilitated with bedrooms, toilets and dining rooms meeting set standards.

Passengers are provided with catering services of breakfast, lunch and dinner. While onboard the cruiseliner, the visitors can enjoy panoramic views of the River Ayeyawady, sunrise and sunset beauties and wonderful scenes of Bagan along Bagan-Mandalay-Bagan route.

Paukkan 2012 is the third cruiseliner of Ayavata Cruise line. The company plans to run the fourth and the fifth liners for their runs.—Kyemon

Five human trafficking victim girls handed over

TACHILEK, 3 Oct—Five human trafficking victim Myanmar girls being accommodated at the care house were handed over to Myanmar at Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge No 1 in Tachilek on 28 September morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Thaug Tin Htwe of Tachilek District General Administration Department made a speech, and Leader of Tachilek District Anti-Human Trafficking Squad Police Captain Yin Yin Aye explained the tasks of combating human trafficking. Inspector of Chaing Rai Immigration Police Lt-Col Mukda Tanasombat of Thailand handed over five Myanmar girls to Staff Officer U R Dellel of Social Welfare Department Additional Office of Shan State and Principal of Kengtung Women's Vocational Training School Daw Khin Myint.

Chairperson of Tachilek District Women's Affairs Organization Daw Nway Nway Lin and Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Shwe Moe Thuza presented cash assistance to the girls. Those five girls are from Kengtung region of Shan State (East). They fell into victims of human trafficking in Thailand. Before handing them over to their parents, the training school will provide vocational training to them.—Kyemon

Sacred Buddha tooth relic conveyed round Paungde

PAUNGDE, 3 Oct—Sacred Buddha tooth relic paying ceremony is the most significant festival in Paungde of Pyay District in Bago Region.

The sacred tooth relic was conveyed round the town from 27 to 30 September.

On 27 September, the diamond casket of the tooth relic was conveyed onto golden monastery at 5 pm for the public obeisance.

At 1 pm on 28 September, the sacred tooth relic was conveyed by elephant to go round Paungde Township. Meanwhile, the crowded local people paid homage to the sacred tooth relic. On 29 September, the diamond casket was opened to enable the local people to look and pay homage to the tooth relic.

The sacred tooth relic accepted the obeisance of the pilgrims and local people the whole day of 30 September. At 10 pm, the tooth relic was closed in the casket and conveyed to Gandakuti Chamber. Along the mall of the Buddha Pujaniya, the local people from Pyay, Paungde, Zigon, Thegon, Thayawady, Gyobingauk and Nattalin townships paid homage to the sacred tooth relic.

Myanma Alin