Excursion group visits model paddy and sunflower farms in Wundwin Township

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Sept—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Deputy Minister U Ohn Than, the secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Development Committee and party this morning arrived at the farm of Agricultural Research Department near Sibin Village of Yamein Township.

The director-general of Agricultural Research Department reported on production of hybrid sunflower and F-1 hybrid sunflower that can produce 220 viss of edible oil per acre.

The Union Minister gave instructions on extended cultivation of hybrid sunflower and establishment of F-1 hybrid sunflower model farms by Agricultural Research Department and Myanna Agriculture Service for production of sunflower seeds in attracting the private sector.

At Chaungmagyi 50-acre sunflower farm of MAS in Pyaywhee Township, the Union Minister gave instructions.

After viewing 30-acre hybrid paddy seed production farm and 10-acre hybrid sunflower farm in Shwedaung Farm of Wundwin Township, the Union Minister stressed the need for experts to concentrate the production of F-1 hybrid paddy seeds to exceed the target. He said that F-1 paddy seeds are to be distributed to farmers and it is necessary to establish model paddy farms in coming summer for production of 200 baskets of paddy per acre.—MNA

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing meets local farmers at 50-acre hybrid sunflower farm near Chaungmagyi Farm in Pyaywhee Township.—MNA

Union Construction Minister inspects road repair works on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Sept—Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint inspected maintenance of retaining wall for approach structure of Swa Creek Bridge washed away by recent heavy rain on Yangon-Mandalay-Mawlamyne road implemented by Shwe Than Lwin Company through BOT system and Bago-Sittoung Canal Bridge construction site where he heard reports presented by officials yesterday. The Union minister left necessary instructions.—MNA

Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint gave necessary instructions to officials at Waw Township Engineer’s Office of Public Works in Bago Region. He then visited Main Workshop (South) in Ywama ward of Insein in Yangon and left necessary instructions.—MNA

Flood bulletin

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Sept—According to the 12.30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River in Madauk (1126) cm has exceeded by 56 cm about (1.8 ft) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level (1070) cm during the next 72 hours commencing this noon, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA
Keep in touch with advanced IT

Nowadays, the world is changing with time and so is IT across the globe. As we live in an age of rapid technological advancement, the role of IT and advanced electronic engineering are crucially important for us not to be left behind the rest of the world. Myanmar is accelerating efforts for development of IT, organizing IT exhibitions for youths to be able to learn advanced technologies around the world.

IT exhibitions contribute to development of the nation along with its socio-economy, introducing IT into daily of the people, providing a chance to learn advanced technologies across the globe.

Today’s youths with more and more chances to study advanced technologies as the government is encouraging development of human resources, ICT sector, and research works, will be able to advance towards international level in technical field.

Technological University (Yatanarporn Cyber City) which will work in partnership with international universities in science and technical field, is a research-based university whose curriculum, based on researches on advanced ICT, electronics and communication technologies which are top subjects in international universities for national development, is designed for innovation of new complicated items.

In making use of IT for national economic growth, it is needed to keep in touch with modern technologies so as to keep abreast with global partners in science and technology field and application of IT in social, economic, education and health sectors of the changing lifestyle would contribute to do so.

Winners in 2nd short story contest of Yangon Travel Journal awarded

YANGON, 11 Sept—Winners in second short story contest of Yangon Travel Journal were awarded on third anniversary of the Yangon Region All Bus Lines Supervisory Committee’s journal held in Belay Restaurant at Nanthida jetty here yesterday evening.

Chairman of the Committee U Tin Htut extended greetings. Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit) and Chairman of the Committee U Tin Htut presented prizes to winners.—MNA

Myanmar Wushu athletes to undergo joint training with China

YANGON, 11 Sept—Myanmar Wushu athletes left for the People’s Republic of China to undergo one-month-long joint training with Chinese team from 15 September to 15 October.

US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar visits Specialist Hospital (Mingladon)

YANGON, 11 Sept—US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar Mr Derek Mitchell and party arrived at Specialist Hospital (Mingladon) in Mingladon Township of Yangon Region at 11.30 am today.

At the hall of the hospital, they met Deputy Director-General U Win Naing of Research, Training and Foreign Languages Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Director Dr Khin Ohnma San of AIDS/STD Disease Control Project of the Ministry of Health, Physician Dr Hin Aung Saw, the medical superintendent and specialists, and asked about treatment given to the patients and hospital management.

Mr Derek Mitchell and party visited the Specialist Hospital (Mingladon).—MNA

A total of 81 AIDS patients are being treated with ART medicines at the hospital.—MNA

UCSB Chairman back from Japan

NAV PIN TAW, 11 Sept—After paying a goodwill visit to Training Institutions for Civil Service Officials of Japan at the invitation of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, the Myanmar delegation led by U Kyaw Thu, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board (UCSB), arrived back by air via Bangkok this evening.

In the afternoon of 5 September 2011, Chairman U Kyaw Thu, paid visit on Kanosuke Matsushita Museum and Pacific Exchange Resource Centre—PREX based in Osaka. During the visit, Chairman U Kyaw Thu held cordial and wide range discussions with the Senior Managing Director Mr Kenji Fujita of PREX on matters of civil service training, further enhancing bilateral relations and cooperation between UCSB of Myanmar and PREX.

In the morning of 6 September 2011, Chairman U Kyaw Thu, paid a visit on Kansai Economic Federation and held cordial discussion with Managing Director Mr Kaoru Yamakawa on matters of cooperation in the economic and industrial development. Later on the Chairman and party visited the Japan Intercultural Academy of Municipalities.

In the afternoon of 7 September 2011, Chairman U Kyaw Thu, paid a visit to the Office of Myanmar Consultate-General in Kobe, and held cordial discussion and exchanged views with Honorary Consul General Mr Takashi Nagate with a view to enhance bilateral relations between Myanmar and Japan.

In the afternoon of 8 September 2011, Chairman U Kyaw Thu and delegation, accompanied by Ambassador U Khin Maung Tin also visited the Head Office of Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) in Tokyo. During the visit, Chairman U Kyaw Thu held cordial discussion and exchanged views with Dr Akinori Seki, President of SPF, on matters of renewing a new service agreement and project proposal for the capacity building of the civil service of Myanmar.

On 9 September 2011, Chairman U Kyaw Thu, accompanied by Ambassador U Khin Maung Tin, paid a visit on the ASEA Productivity Organization and National Personal Authority (NPA) in Tokyo. During the visit, Chairman U Kyaw Thu held cordial discussion on matters concerning recruitment and selection process, training programmes for civil service and environmental affairs.

Members of the delegation. Principal Officer U Kyaw Soe of the Union Civil Service Board and Deputy Director U Myo Lwin of Civil Service Selection and Training Department, also arrived back together with the chairman.—MNA

17th Inter-Region/State Sepak Takraw Tournament on 13-19 Sept

YANGON, 11 Sept—The 17th Inter-Region/State Sepak Takraw Tournament will be held at Thawunna Youth Training Camp in Thingangyun Township here from 13 to 19 September. The men’s and women’s Regus and double Regus will be held. The tournament is free of charge. —MNA

Traffic rules held at universities

YANGON, 11 Sept—Vice-Chairman of Yangon Region All Private Line Control Committee U Hla Thaug Myint and officials gave talks on traffic rules at Yangon Institute of Education in Kamayut Township at 10 am on 9 September and Yangon University of Foreign Languages at 1 pm.

The talks were attended by faculty members and students of the universities respectively. —MNA
Tanzania ship sinks, nearly 200 bodies recovered

STONE TOWN, (Tanzania) 11 Sept—Passengers on the aging, crowded boat headed for one of Tanzania’s top tourist destinations said they realized something was wrong when the overnight ferry began to list from side to side.

Then water rushed through and killed the engines, sending the MV Spice Islanders upside down and pitching hundreds of people into the deep sea early Saturday morning. A witness counted nearly 200 bodies, and the president of the nearby island of Zanzibar said more than 570 people were rescued, suggesting the boat was overloaded. Some survivors said the boat’s capacity was about 600.

Those lucky enough to find something to cling to floated in the dark waters for at least three hours until the strong currents began to wash them up on the white sandy shores of Zanzibar. As the sun rose, news of the tragedy had already spread throughout the community and thousands of people were on the beach, desperately hoping their family members would be the next to emerge from the waves. One man — too upset to give his name — screamed over and over again the names of 25 missing family members, including his sisters, wife and grandsons.

An Afghan guard frisks a fellow Afghan man working at FOB Shinwar, a US military camp in Nangarhar, Afghanistan on September 11, 2011.

77 Americans wounded in Afghan truck bombing

KABUL, 11 Sept—Nearly 80 American soldiers were wounded and five Afghans civilians were killed in a Taleban truck bombing targeting an American base in eastern Afghanistan, NATO said Sunday, a stark reminder that the war in Afghanistan still rages 10 years after the 11 Sept terror attacks against the United States.

No US soldiers were killed in Saturday night’s bombing, which took place hours after the Taleban vowed to keep fighting US forces in Afghanistan until all American troops leave the country. The insurgent movement also stressed that it had no role in the 11 Sept attacks.

The blast shaved the facades from shops outside Combat Outpost Sayed Abad in Wardak province and broke windows in government offices nearby, said Roshana Wardak, a former parliamentarian who runs a clinic in the nearby town of the same name. The Taleban claimed responsibility for the attack.

Eight wounded civilians were brought to Wardak’s clinic, two of them with wounds serious enough that they were sent to Kabul. She said one 3-year-old girl died of her wounds on the way to the clinic.

The Wardak governor’s office confirmed the death toll and said a total of 17 Afghans were wounded — 14 civilians and three security officers.

The attack was carried out by a Taleban suicide bomber who detonated a large bomb inside a truck carrying firewood, NATO said. It was unclear how many foreign and Afghan soldiers were serving on the base.

141 killed, 4 M homeless as floods hit S Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 11 Sept—At least 141 people have died and four million people have become homeless in the recent rains and floods that have hit the southern part of Pakistan since August, reported local TV channel Express on Sunday.

The report quoted the Pakistan’s Prime Minister as saying in a late Saturday night televised address that the scale of destruction caused by the rains in the country’s southern Sindh Province was much higher than the initial estimates.

The Prime Minister required international cooperation for actual assessment of the losses and called for the international community’s support for the flood-affected people in the country.

This is the second call made by the Pakistani top leadership for international help for its flood-affected people following a similar call made by the country’s president Asif Ali Zardari a couple of days ago.

Gilani said that the recent rains in Sindh were 142 percent above normal in the area, which first hit its southern part and later expanded to the other parts of the province.

According to the prime minister, a total of 21 districts have been affected by the recent rains and floods, which inundated 4.1 million acres of land and severely damaged standing crops on more than 1.7 million acres of agriculture land.

Two killed, 102 injured in suicide bomb in central Afghanistan

KABUL, 11 Sept—Two Afghan civilians were killed and 102 personnel of NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Afghan civilians injured when a suicide car bomb went off in Afghanistan’s central Wardak province on Saturday, ISAF said in a statement on Sunday.

“Two Afghan civilians were killed and a significant number of ISAF and Afghan civilians were injured as a result of the Vehicle Born Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack at approx 5:30 pm at Combat Outpost Sayed Abad, Wardak province, yesterday,” the statement said.—MNA/Xinhua
Berkshire's Richline to buy Italian jeweler

VICENZA, 11 Sept—Jewelry company Richline International, part of billionaire investor Warren Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway, will buy its fifth small Italian jewelry brand as it plans to expand further in Italy.

Lucio Carniani, who would continue to run his gold and silver jewelry maker, told Reuters his company revenues came in at 4 million euros ($5.63 million) last year.

Richline is looking for other acquisitions on the Italian jewelry market after the Carniani deal, Dennis Ulrich, chief executive officer of Richline Group, told Reuters.

Richline could be interested in small artisanal jewelry makers and in traditional North American markets to boost sales in Italy, France, Germany, Britain, Scandinavia and reach as far as Australia and Hong Kong, he said.

Berkshire’s Richline to buy Italian jeweler

How school athletes can prevent ‘superbug’

DALLAS, 11 Sept—US school athletes can lower their risk of staph infections and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus by using good personal hygiene, a physician says.

Dr Robert Dimoff, director of family sports medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas, says studies by the Texas department of health found the staph infection rate among football players in Texas was 16 times the national average.

Dimoff says football players and wrestlers should be particularly careful to watch out for signs of infections, including reddening of the skin, swelling or pus around sores, abrasions or cuts. The sores may be mistaken for spider or bug bites as well, Dimoff warns.

“Have your athlete check in the mirror for any unusual red spots or lesions, particularly those that don’t seem to be healing, and don’t be afraid to alert the coaches to any issues so it doesn’t spread to others,” Dimoff says in a statement.

If the skin is injured, wash the wound immediately with soap and warm water, then dry off the wound and ensure it is properly bandaged, the doctor says.

To help prevent the potential for infection:

— Keep hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or anti-bacterial hand sanitizer.
— Avoid sharing towels, deodorant, razors or other items that touch bare skin.
— Put a clean towel on the bench when weight training or using other shared equipments.

Mother’s diet may affect baby’s allergies

RENNES (France), 11 Sept—People eating fewer omega-3 fatty acids — found in salmon, tuna, walnuts and pumpkin seeds — may explain food allergy increases, French researchers say.

The researchers say in their study involving pigs, they found if the mother’s diet contains a certain group of polyunsaturated fatty acids, such as those found in fish or walnut oil, the baby’s gut develops differently.

The fatty acids are thought to improve how gut immune cells respond to bacteria and foreign substances, making the baby less likely to suffer from allergies.

Dr Gaelle Boudry of the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, a public research institution in Rennes, France, and colleagues say supplementing a mother’s diet with n-polyunsaturated fatty acids caused the newborn’s gut to become more permeable. A more permeable gut enables bacteria and new substances to pass more easily through its lining into the bloodstream. These substances then trigger the baby’s immune response and the production of antibodies, Boudry says.

Banco Popular tries Anglicized name

LOS ANGELES, 11 Sept—Puerto Rican bank Banco Popular said it is changing the name of its California branches, going with a culturally generic Popular Community Bank.

In California, “We’re also located in high-density urban areas where it’s very expensive to operate. So it didn’t make sense anymore for us to just do Hispanics,” said the bank’s senior vice president of retail operations for North America, Manuel Chinea.

Banco Popular has already made the switch in Illinois, where it has 12 branches, the Los Angeles Times reported Saturday.

With that move, the bank found “no backlash” from the Hispanic community it traditionally serves, Chinea said.

With the Anglicized name, the bank attracted more non-Hispanic customers but did not lose Hispanic accounts, while the average value of the accounts rose 10 percent.

Popular Inc, with total assets of $38 billion, essentially operates four regional banks in the United States with 24 offices in California, 20 in Florida, 12 in Illinois and 40 in the New York-New Jersey area, the Times said.—Internet
Hummingbirds all ‘a-flutter’ in mating

New Haven, 11 Sept—Males of some hummingbird species create loud sounds during mating displays by using their tail feathers as they “dive-bomb” past females, US researchers say. Scientists at Yale University discovered males produce the loud sounds as the air flows past the tail feathers in the dive, causing them to flutter, a National Science Foundation release said Thursday.

When the courting male bird reaches the lowest point of his dive, which can begin anywhere from 5 to 40 yards above a perched female, he rapidly spreads and then closes his tail feathers, causing them to flutter and generate sound.

Yale researcher Christopher Clark says males of different hummingbird species all have their own signature sound. The size, shape, mass and stiffness of the hummingbird’s feathers create the tone of each species’ particular sound, he said.

“The sounds that hummingbird feathers can make are more varied than I expected,” Clark said.—Internet

Nanoscale spin waves can replace microwaves

Stockholm, 11 Sept—A group of scientists from the University of Gothenburg and the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Sweden, have become the first group in the world to demonstrate that theories about nanoscale spin waves agree with observations.

“This opens the way to replacing microwave technology in many applications, such as mobile phones and wireless networks, by components that are much smaller, cheaper, and that require less resources,” says Prof. Johan Åkerberg, head of the Applied Microscopy Laboratory at the Department of Physics, University of Gothenburg, where he is head of the Applied Spintronics group.

“We have been in competition with two other research groups to be the first to confirm experimentally theoretical predictions that were first made nearly 10 years ago. We have been successful due to our method for constructing magnetic nanocomponents and due to the special microscope at our collaborators’ laboratory at the University of Perugia in Italy,” says Prof. Johan Åkerberg, head of the Applied Microscopy Laboratory at the Department of Physics, University of Gothenburg, where he is head of the Applied Spintronics group.

The research group has used one of the three advanced spin wave microscopes in the world, at the university in the Italian town of Perugia, to visualise the motion.

New App lets smartphones use data without data plans

New York, 11 Sept—What’s the worst part of having a smartphone? The data plans. The original iPhone cost something like $69 a month at minimum to pay for the mandatory voice minutes, texting and data plans, and things haven’t improved a whole lot since. Sure, if you’re on prepaid you might be able to just pay for data. AT&T’s GoPhone prepaid service offers a la carte pricing, and that’s how I got my $15 a month Android data plan (which turned out to be more like $33 a month since I ended up needing more data and actual voice minutes).

To use just a data plan, though, I ended up relying on apps like Google Voice to use SMS messaging, and Groovelf to make (staticky) phone calls. I thought that would work for me, since I rarely needed to make phone calls anyway and could live with a bit of static. But what if I needed voice minutes and texting, and only occasionally used data?

Smoozy is an app that lets you browse the Web on your Android phone, using just SMS messaging. Cameron Summerson of the Android Police blog has a write-up on how it works: It’s basically its own Web browser that texts the Smoozy servers with what website you want to go to and gets back texts that it deciphers into a webpage. So it’s sorta like Opera Mini, for those with unlimited texting and no data plan.—Internet

US scientists claim to be capable of predicting climate 16 months forward

Los Angeles, 11 Sept—Scientists at the University of California Los Angeles campus have announced that they have successfully used new prediction algorithms to forecast climate up to 16 months in advance.

Professor Michael Ghil said in a UCLA news release Friday his team used new prediction algorithms based on matching ocean temperature records with new theories on how long-term climate trends are influenced by short-term weather extremes.

Ghil, a distinguished professor of climate dynamics in the UCLA Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences and senior author of the research, said the new prediction formulas will give climate experts and governments clues about long-term swings in the El Nino/La Nina oscillation in the Pacific Ocean, which drastically affects weather in the Americas, Asia and Australia.

The new forecasting tool uses sea temperatures and has been tested on decades of historical data. The forecasts were then cross-checked against actual climate trends.

The UCLA team also said that their 16-month forecasts were more accurate than previous forecasts that went only 8 months forward.

The study is currently available online in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) and will be published in an upcoming print edition of the journal.

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Three hospitalized, one buried after shopping mall collapses in NW China

XI’AN, 11 Sept—The wall of a shopping mall collapsed in Xi’an, capital of northwest China’s Shaanxi Province, Sunday morning, injuring three and burying one. The accident happened at around 10 am, when the exterior wall of the Huqiao Shopping Centre, which is located on Xi’an’s main downtown shopping street, collapsed.

Witnesses said that four people, including a worker and three passers-by, were caught in the rubble. Rescuers have pulled out three people and sent them to the hospital, and one of them is in serious condition.

According to rescuers, a life detector showed that one person is still alive in the rubble. Efforts are being made to retrieve him. The shopping mall is slated for demolition and has been closed to customers.—Xinhua

Fresh crews, light winds help fight Texas wildfires

SAN ANTONIO, 11 Sept—More than a thousand firefighters, aided by lighter winds, on Saturday began to beat back raging wildfires that have scorched Texas for the past six days torching 1,600 homes and killing four people. “We’ve had quite a bit of success today,” Bill Paxton of the Texas Forest Service said of the battle to contain six dozen major blazes that have torched 154,000 acres across Texas since Sunday.

The largest of them, the Bastrop Complex fire, which has burned 1,376 homes and killed two people, was 40 percent contained on Saturday, which has burned 134,000 acres across Texas since Sunday.

Paxton said, as 64 aircraft and nearly 1,100 firefighters began to beat back the flames. Many of the firefighters had been cycled in from other federal agencies to help exhausted firefighters rushed in from across Texas.

President Barack Obama late on Friday approved federal disaster assistance for parts of the state charred by the blazes, acting after criticism from Governor Rick Perry that the federal government was ignoring the drought in his state.—Reuters

Firefighting crew check for dangerous trees and hot spots along Highway 71 after the wildfire in Bastrop, Texas, on 10 September, 2011.—INTERNET

Post-tsunami Japan sticking with nuclear power

MATSUYAMA (Japan), 11 Sept—Takashi Yamada would prefer life without the nearby nuclear power plant. But the 66-year-old retired electronics retailer says, “It is also true we all need it.”

Host communities such as this seaside city on the island of Shikoku need the jobs and financial subsidies the plants provide. And Japan’s $5.5-trillion economy needs the energy. Many Japanese have grown uneasy with nuclear power since the March 11 tsunami, which left more than 20,000 dead or missing and sent a plant in Fukushima into meltdown.

A recent Associated Press poll found that 55 percent of Japanese want to reduce the number of reactors in the country.

Six months later, though, the nation seems to be sticking with nuclear power, at least for now. Unlike Germany, which accelerated plans to phase out atomic energy after Fukushima, Japan shows no signs of doing so. In recent days, utilities began new mandated earthquake and tsunami stress tests, a first step toward restarting reactors slated for maintenance. “What is the alternative?” asks Fumiko Nakamura, a flower arrangement teacher in Tokyo. She worries about nuclear safety in earthquake-prone Japan but says it will take time to develop other types of energy. “Japan is a resource-poor nation, and we need electricity.”—Internet

A policeman stands guard on a street which is cordoned off in central Copenhagen, Denmark, on 10 Sept, 2011. Danish police are investigating a suspicious vehicle parked near a building cited as a target in previous terror cases, local media reported on Sunday.—Xinhua

Police investigate suspicious vehicle in downtown Copenhagen

COPENHAGEN, 11 Sept—Danish police are investigating a suspicious vehicle parked near a building cited as a target in previous terror cases, local media reported Sunday. The car is parked on Studiestraede, a street in central Copenhagen, capital of Denmark, close to a building housing the offices of Danish newspapers Jyllands-Posten and Politiken.

According to Danish broadcaster TV2, the upper part of Studiestraede is cordoned-off and a Danish army munitions unit called in to examine the suspected vehicle, which is believed to be a red, four-wheel drive with foreign number plates, parked in a handicapped parking-place.

It is unclear whether the vehicle actually contains anything dangerous, or whether this just a false alarm, TV2 added.

However, the way in which the vehicle is parked, and its proximity to the Jyllands-Posten/Politiken building, which has previously been named as a terrorist target in various terror cases, has roused the police’s suspicions, TV2 said.

This 23 July, 2011 photo shows the Ikata nuclear power plant and its compound operated by Shikoku Electric Power Co in Ikata, western Japan. The facility is one of the world’s most seismologically risky plants. Many in Japan have grown uneasy with nuclear power since the on 11 March, 2011 tsunami, which sent the Fukushima Dai-Ichi plant into meltdown.—INTERNET

Fighter crashes in Iran’s air drill

TEHERAN, 11 Sept—A Iranian fighter jet crashed in the second stage of a major air drill started on Saturday in the vicinity of northwestern city of Tabriz, the local Fars news agency reported. No casualties was reported.

Takashi Yamada, a 66-year-old retired electronics retailer, said, “It is also true we all need it.”

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A policeman stands guard on a street which is cordoned off in central Copenhagen, Denmark, on 10 Sept, 2011. Danish police are investigating a suspicious vehicle parked near a building cited as a target in previous terror cases, local media reported on Sunday.—Xinhua

Police investigate suspicious vehicle in downtown Copenhagen

COPENHAGEN, 11 Sept—Danish police are investigating a suspicious vehicle parked near a building cited as a target in previous terror cases, local media reported Sunday. The car is parked on Studiestraede, a street in central Copenhagen, capital of Denmark, close to a building housing the offices of Danish newspapers Jyllands-Posten and Politiken.

According to Danish broadcaster TV2, the upper part of Studiestraede is cordoned-off and a Danish army munitions unit called in to examine the suspected vehicle, which is believed to be a red, four-wheel drive with foreign number plates, parked in a handicapped parking-place.

It is unclear whether the vehicle actually contains anything dangerous, or whether this just a false alarm, TV2 added.

However, the way in which the vehicle is parked, and its proximity to the Jyllands-Posten/Politiken building, which has previously been named as a terrorist target in various terror cases, has roused the police’s suspicions, TV2 said.

Post-tsunami Japan sticking with nuclear power

MATSUYAMA (Japan), 11 Sept—Takashi Yama-

da would prefer life without the nearby nuclear power plant. But the 66-year-old retired electronics retailer says, “It is also true we all need it.”

Host communities such as this seaside city on the island of Shikoku need the jobs and financial subsidies the plants provide. And Japan’s $5.5-trillion economy needs the energy. Many Japanese have grown uneasy with nuclear power since the March 11 tsunami, which left more than 20,000 dead or missing and sent a plant in Fukushima into meltdown.

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Top leaders call for enhanced drought-fighting efforts in SW China

GUANGZHOU, 11 Sept—Chinese President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao have called for enhanced efforts to combat severe drought that has persisted in southwest China since June. The two leaders demanded that close attention should be paid to the drought situation as well as its influence on people’s lives and farm production.

Ensuring safe drinking water should be a top priority and efforts should be made to coordinate water demands so as to reduce drought losses, according to instructions of the two leaders. Vice Premier Hui Liangyu, who is also the chief commander of the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters, recently visited southwest China’s severely drought-hit Guizhou Province at the request of President Hu and Premier Wen.

Hui requested increasing water sources by digging wells or transporting water so as to ensure drinking water for urban and rural residents. Agricultural production in the autumn and winter should be properly conducted and farmers’ income channels should be expanded, he said.—Xinhua

Evacuees cleared to return after eastern floods

WASHINGTON, 11 Sept.—Some people evacuated as flood waters rose in Pennsylvania were allowed to return to their mud-caked, water-logged homes on Saturday as the water fueled by rain from deadly Tropical Storm Lee began to recede.

But others of the more than 130,000 evacuees in three states were forced to remain in shelters because their homes were uninhabitable, authorities said.

Homeowners in Pennsylvania braced to clean the toxic mess left in their basements and living rooms by the Susquehanna River, which had washed out 10 sewage treatment plants. The death toll from the storm rose to nine on Saturday, including people killed in Pennsylvania and New York, home to river towns submerged under as much as 8 feet of water.

President Barack Obama declared a federal emergency in both Pennsylvania and New York, home to river towns submerged under as much as 8 feet of water.

The United States is on high alert triggered by a suspicious item that an explosive ordnance disposal team from Virginia was on the scene. Four hours later, the bomb disposal team declared an all-clear, said the spokesman.

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Alert lifted over suspicious item at Washington’s airport

WASHINGTON, 11 Sept.—A security alert was lifted after a suspicious item forced evacuation of an area around a cargo container and several gates in a concourse at Dulles International Airport, local media reported Saturday. Two outbound flights were delayed because the aircraft were within the perimeter. However, the airport was operating normally after some aircraft moved to other gates for arrival and departure, according to the report.

The suspicious item was found at about 4:30 pm local time (2030 GMT), said Rob Yingling, spokesman of Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, adding that an explosive ordnance disposal team from Virginia state was on the scene. Four hours later, the bomb disposal team declared an all-clear, said the spokesman.

The United States is on high alert triggered by a “specific, credible but unconfirmed” terror threat surrounding the 9/11 anniversary. Dulles Airport is only about 35 km from west of Washington.—Xinhua

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Roads, bridges under maintenance in Shan State (South)

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Sept—Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin on 7 September inspected repairing of the bridge between mile posts No. 287 and 290 on Pindaya-Yaksaw Road in Pindaya of Shan State (South), maintenance of Bilu Creek Bridge near mile post 14/7 on Aungpan-Pinlaung Road, and construction of bored pales at Tonhon Bridge on Shwenyaung-Nyaungshwe-Tonhon-Pinlaung Road in Nyaungshwe Township.

Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and wife enjoy performance of Chinese goodwill cultural troupe.—MNA

Chinese good will troupe takes a stage in Yangon

YANGON, 11 Sept—China goodwill cultural troupe, at the invitation of Myanmar-China Friendship Association, took a stage at National Theatre on Myomakyaung Street in Dagon Township here yesterday. Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, and Region ministers and their spouses, Chinese Ambassador to Mr Li Jinhua and embassy staff, the chairman and officials of Chinese Traders Association and invited guests enjoyed the performance.

Chairman U Kyi Sein of Chinese Traders Association and the troupe leader made speeches. After the performers staged traditional songs and dances, Chief Minister U Myint Swe and Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinhua presented bouquet to the performers.—MNA

International standard transformers of Myanmar exported to Vietnam

While Myanmar entrepreneurs are taking preparations for joining the emergence of ASEAN Free Trade Area in 2015 and extending their share in international market, transformers made in Myanmar have been exported for the first time to Vietnam, said Managing Director U Kyaw Min Tun of Soe Electric and Machinery Company located in South Dagon Industrial Zone (1) of Yangon.

At the media meeting held on 7 September, HNK Group of Vietnam engaging in heavy industries and hotel services and Soe Electric and Machinery Company agreed to bilaterally exchange technologies between them. According to the agreement, two engineers of the company will be sent to Vietnam for attending the training courses together with technicians of Vietnam. Soe Electric and Machinery Company will export 160 KVA transformers and two 315 KVAs to Vietnam. An ASEAN country purchases Myanmar local product that proves international standard of Myanmar products.

U Kyaw Min Tun continued to say that more meetings are being held with entrepreneurs from Thailand, China and other countries not to decline local market and seek more international market. In line with the 150 9001: 2008 QMS of International Electric Commission, Soe Electric and Machinery Company has planned to extend more international market for its electronic equipment.

If electronic products of Myanmar are manufactured meeting international standards for seeking the international market, local entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to export their products in competitiveness with products of other nations in 2015.

Translation: TTA

Media persons view transformers for export only.

US man sues ex for failing to return USD 53k engagement ring, gifted car

WASHINGTON, 11 Sept — A California business man is suing his former fiancee, demanding that she return a diamond engagement ring worth 53,000 dollars and a 2006 Hummer he gave her after the two had agreed to marry.

James Mekalian, the owner of a truck and tractor company, has accused his ex Nichole Graziole of deceit and fraud, claiming that she misled him by engaging in “alternate relationships,” among other things. According to court documents, in April 2011, Graziole broke off the couple’s engagement. When Mekalian requested the return of the ring and the 2006 Hummer, Graziole refused. In the court filings, Mekalian alleges “the supression of facts” pertaining to infidelity and the “intent to break off the engagement were likely to mislead” and “did mislead” Mekalian.—Internet
Press conference on overage...
(from page 16)

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Sept—Deputy Minister for Health Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin on 9 September visited Hpa-an Traditional Medicine Hospital in Kayin State where she met officials and inspected wards and departments.

She attended the ceremony to donate emergency traditional medicine packages held in Zweygin Hall of Hpa-an.

She met health staff of State Hospital in Hpa-an. The deputy minister inspected, wards, lab and operation theatre and comforted the patients.

Along the tour, the deputy minister called for covering healthcare to rural regions and providing excellent services to public.

MNA

Meteorites delivered gold to Earth

BRISTOL, 11 Sept—Scientists have shown that the Earth’s surface became enriched with precious metals by impacting meteorites. The Earth’s crust and mantle has considerably more gold than expected from favoured models of planetary formation.

A study from the University of Bristol looked at some of the oldest rocks on Earth, demonstrating that gold was delivered by meteorites long after their formation. Their results are published in Nature.

While the Earth was forming, iron sank to the centre of the planet, forming the core. Any precious metals in the planetary mix would have gone with this iron and concentrated in the core, leaving the mantle devoid of elements such as gold, platinum, and osmium. But this is not what we observe. In fact, the silicate mantle has up to 1,000 times more gold than anticipated.

Several reasons for this enrichment were proposed in the past, including delivery by meteorites, although until now it has not been possible to prove. By measuring isotopes in rocks that are nearly four billion years old from Greenland, the team has managed to date the gold delivery, and to relate it to an event known as the “terminal bombardment”.

Internet

Stake driven for new GSM mobile station

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Sept—Jointly organized by Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and International Group of entrepreneurs IGE company, stake driving ceremony for construction of new GSM mobile station was held near Winkabar ground in Boung-dawtha Ward of Sittway yesterday morning, attended by U Hla Maung Tin, Chief Minister of Rakhine State.

The chief minister, the state minister for transport, the state minister for security and border affairs, the state minister for social affairs and the managing director of IGE Company drove stakes at designated places.

At present, Rakhine State hit 1.09 per cent in telephone density. According to the project, a total of 49 extended stations are under construction in 16 townships of Rakhine State. On completion of 142000 lines, telephone density will be 5.82 per cent. Ratio of telephone and user in the State will be six telephones to 100 persons.

MNA

Refresher Course No. 3 on enhancing capacity of staff officers concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Sept—With the sponsorship of Forest Department, Refresher Course No. 3 on Enhancing Capacity of Staff Officers concluded at the meeting hall of Yezin Forest Research Department with an address by Acting Director-General U Aye Myint Maung of Forest Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry. Next, the acting director-general presented completion certificates to trainees.

30 trainees attended the course from 29 August to 9 September.

MNA

Marine protection bids unveiled

LONDON, 11 Sept—Protection for key nature sites in UK seas has come a step closer with the unveiling of proposals to create over 100 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). The zones range from tiny stretches of coastline to large tracts of sea floor.

The proposals stem from the 2009 UK Marine Bill and cover seas abutting the English coast and waters around Wales more than 12 miles from the coast.

They will be assessed by an expert panel before the government makes its final decision, probably next year.

The panel will also have to finalise levels of protection in each zone, as the Marine Bill allows regulators a lot of flexibility in what to prohibit (such as fishing) for which periods of the year. If all proposals are approved, just over a quarter of English waters would end up under some kind of protection. Currently, the total is way under 1%.

But the zones are also supposed to be designed in such a way as to leave room for other activities such as industries and recreation.

Internet
China ferry accident death toll rises to 11

BEIJING, 11 Sept—A ferry carrying students on a holiday trip capsized in central China, killing 11 people, officials said Saturday.

Nine students and two adults drowned after the ferry carrying at least 43 passengers, mostly students returning home for the Mid-Autumn Festival weekend, capsized on Friday afternoon, said an official with the Shaoyang county safety bureau in Hunan Province on Saturday. He only gave his surname, Liu.

Liu said workers are still searching for at least 11 missing people after 16 were rescued with injuries. Thirteen other passengers managed to swim to safety after the boat capsized.

The two boat owners have been detained by police, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Saturday. It said the ferry capsized after it was blocked by iron cables in the Fuyi River.

All of the students killed were taking the ferry chartered by primary and middle schools in the nearby Tiantianishi town back home, where they planned to spend the holiday weekend with their families, Xinhua reported.

Police are investigating the cause of the accident, but witnesses said overloading could have contributed to the boat sinking, the report said.—Internet

Two killed, 22 injured in shooting at Florida nightclub

ORLANDO, 11 Sept—At least two gunmen armed with possible semi-automatic weapons opened fire outside a Florida nightclub early Saturday morning, killing two people and injuring 22, according to police.

A witness described panic and chaos inside the Club Elite in the town of Palmetto south of Tampa. “I was on the floor trying not to die,” said Chip “Blu Chip” Hunt, a promoter who works with the club management. “I was between one who got shot in the back of the head and one that got killed and one gentleman that got Bayflighted (airlifted) out.”

Killed were Gwenette Matthews, 38, of Bradenton, and Trayon Goff, 25, of Palmetto, according to Palmetto police spokesman Scott Tyler.

Tyler said the shooters were outside the club, but some bullets passed through the nightclub’s open front door. Police believe at least one of the shooters was on foot and disappeared in a getaway car.

Hunt, who promoted the club’s Friday night “Grown & Sexy” event, said Matthew was socializing inside the club with her sister and was killed by a bullet that came through the front door.

Hunt said the torrent of bullets seemed to be aimed at Goff who was outside, sitting up against the front wall of the building.—Reuters

Two soldiers detained over missing Fort Bragg ammunition

WILMINGTON, 11 Sept—Two male soldiers have been taken into custody at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in connection with the disappearance of roughly 14,000 rounds of ammunition reported missing at the Army base on Wednesday morning, officials said on Saturday.

Military police would not release the names or ranks of the soldiers in custody. The missing 5.56 millimeter ammunition is valued at about $3,600 and “can be purchased at any Wal-Mart,” according to an official familiar with the investigation who spoke to Reuters only on condition of anonymity.

Ammunition handlers from the 82nd Airborne Division’s 1st Brigade Combat Team reported the missing rounds, said division spokesman Staff Sergeant Joshua Ford. The combat team uses the ammunition in the M4 carbine and M16 assault rifle, Ford said.

New target to prevent drug-induced liver damage identified

WASHINGTON, 11 Sept—US scientists have identified a key protein that could protect against drug-induced liver disease and acute liver failure.

Acetaminophen, more commonly known as Tylenol, helps relieve pain and reduce fever. The over-the-counter drug is a major ingredient in many cold and flu remedies as well as prescription painkillers like Percocet and Vicodin.

Doctors at the Keck School of Medicine of USC have identified a protein ‘Sab’ on the mitochondria of liver cells in mice that, when silenced, protects against liver toxicity usually associated with excess doses of acetaminophen.

Researchers have long believed that acetaminophen was converted into toxic metabolites that, in excess, overwhelm liver cells, causing them to die. In the current study, the scientists silenced Sab in mice, which did not affect the metabolism of acetaminophen but successfully prevented liver injury. They also tested the effect on liver injury caused by apoptosis — silencing Sab protected the liver in that case, too. The study has been published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry.—Internet
Italy-China student exchanges help enhance cultural links

ROME, 11 Sept—Long-term exchanges between Chinese and Italian students contribute to creating cultural bridges and fostering bilateral ties by spreading mutual awareness, a senior Italian diplomat told Xinhua in a recent interview.

“Hosting Chinese students here represents a winning asset for Italy and China is by far one of our main partners in student exchange programmes,” said ambassador Luca Fratini, who heads the directorate general in charge of promoting Italy abroad.

In 2010-2011 over 5,293 Chinese students were scattered across Italian universities, representing over 8.6 percent of the total foreign study body in Italy and constantly increasing from previous years, said Fratini.

“The presence of Chinese students has nearly doubled in recent years and the trend is set to continue. For this academic year Italy’s Foreign Ministry has already allocated 168,000 euros for scholarship grants to Chinese students,” he said.

Every year the Foreign Ministry allocates a total of 5 million euros for scholarships to 1,000 students coming from 100 countries, according to Fratini. The mixed Italy-China commission has selected for this year 36 Chinese students who will receive an Italian scholarship.

Tropical Storm Maria weakens near Caribbean

SAN JUAN, 11 Sept—Tropical Storm Maria weakened slightly as it neared Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands on Saturday, but no further change in strength is expected, forecasters said.

The storm had winds of 45 mph (75 kph) with higher gusts and was located 245 miles (395 kilometres) east of San Juan, Puerto Rico, late Saturday afternoon, said the US Hurricane Centre in Miami, Florida. All tropical storm warnings have been discontinued.

As the storm approached, tourists lounged on the beach in the popular travel destination of Condado to soak up the sun.

“We just decided, you know what, even if it hits, we don’t care,” said 29-year-old Keri Chitester. “We just wanted to get out of Pittsburgh.”

Puerto Rican officials warned Maria could dump up to 6 inches (15 centimetres) of rain on already saturated soil, leading to numerous landslides in what has been one of the rainiest years on record.

Mexico recovers stolen 18th century painting

MEXICO CITY, 11 Sept—An 18th century oil painting that was stolen in 2009 from Santa Maria Tlalateca church in the Mexican state of Tlaxcala has been recovered, authorities said.

The Mexican Attorney General’s Office, or PGR, said Saturday that its agents discovered the work of art during a search carried out in Guadalajara, Jalisco state, during which one person was arrested.

The oil painting of St Francis of Assisi dates back to the 18th century and was stolen on 21 Jan, 2009.

Found in the dwelling were 100 other works of art that “are being analyzed by experts to determine whether they are related to other crimes”, authorities said. 

Southwest Airlines flight diverted to Nashville

NASHVILLE, 11 Sept—An airline official says a Southwest Airlines flight headed for Baltimore was diverted to Nashville after what he described as “suspicious behavior” by a passenger.

The flight originated in Albuquerque on Saturday morning and landed in Nashville at about 1:10 pm CDT.

Southwest Airlines spokesman Chris Mainz told The Associated Press that the passenger’s behavior on the plane wasn’t disruptive, but he declined to elaborate.

Nashville International Airport spokeswoman Emily Richard told the AP no arrests were made.

Mainz said police ordered all the passengers off the plane, sent them back through security and examined the plane before passengers were allowed back on. It took off again about 3:55 pm CDT.

Mainz could not say whether the passenger in question was allowed back on the flight.


The US space agency NASA launched a new, nearly-half-billion-US-dollar lunar mission on Saturday morning that will enable scientists to better understand the moon’s gravitational field and the lunar interior.

Performers of Laku ethnic group of southwest China’s Yunnan Province participate in a celebration parade marking the opening of Shanghai Tourism Festival 2011, in east China’s Shanghai Municipality, 10 Sept, 2011. A total of 21 floats and 39 performer teams participated in the parade here on Saturday. —Xinhua

An employee works at the lab inside a complex building of the Coca-Cola Global Innovation and Technology Centre & China Headquarters in Shanghai, on 11 July, 2011. —Xinhua

5.9-magnitude quake hits Auckland Islands, New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 11 Sept—An earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale jolted Auckland Islands, New Zealand region at 19:26:00 GMT on Friday, the US Geological Survey said. The epicenter, with a depth of 10.50 km, was initially determined to be at 49.6749 degrees south latitude and 163.9946 degrees east longitude.—Xinhua

Twin's play games at the Happy Valley Park in Shanghai, east China, on 10 Sept, 2011. A hundred pairs of twins gathered here to play games and greet the coming Mid-autumn Festival.—Xinhua

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Internet

Internet

Internet

Internet
Indian sailors dead after ship blast in Nigeria

LAGOS, 11 Sept — The bodies of three Indian crew members who went missing after an explosion on a cargo ship off Lagos in Nigeria have been recovered, Nigerian officials say. The blast on the MT Jacksonville, carrying 15 Indian crew, occurred on Sunday. Ten crew members were rescued immediately. The bodies of the dead were recovered on Thursday, and two others are still missing. The ship’s origin and destination were not immediately clear. Lami Tunmaka, spokeswoman for the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, said that the crew were undertaking repair work on the vessel when “there was a big explosion in the engine room” and a fire broke out. The 10 crew members who were rescued on Sunday were treated for “different levels of burns” and released, she told the AFP news agency. It is not clear what caused the explosion on the ship. — Internet

Singapore reports 221 confirmed HIV cases in first half of 2011

SINGAPORE, 11 Sept— Singapore had 221 confirmed HIV (Human immunodeficiency virus) cases diagnosed in the first half of 2011, a senior official of the Health Ministry said. Minister of State for Health Amy Khor said Saturday evening that the number is comparable to 214 confirmed cases in the first half 2010, local daily Lianhe Zaobao reported on Sunday.

“The possible reasons for this could be lack of knowledge and inaccurate perception of their individual risk. There are also individuals who know they have high risks for HIV but are reluctant to go for HIV testing,” she said. This is because having an HIV test and finding out that one is positive opens the door to many issues — a key challenge of which is coping with the stigma and discrimination which often accompany the disease. Khor called for efforts to reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination. “Society must play a bigger part in breaking down the barriers to HIV testing. People with HIV have lost their jobs and the much-needed social support as a result of their diagnosis. Such occurrences should not happen,” she said. — Xinhua

China launches safety checks on offshore oil exploitation

BEIJING, 11 Sept — China will start “overall and thorough” safety checks on offshore oil exploration and production to eliminate risks in the wake of oil spills in the country’s northern Bohai Bay, the work safety authority said on Saturday.

The checks, which starts from 10 September to 10 December, will be applied to all offshore oil exploration and production, the State Administration of Work Safety, said in a circular addressed to oil companies on its website. The companies include China National Petroleum Corporation, China Petrochemical Corporation, China National Offshore Oil Corporation, ConocoPhillips China, Kerr-McGee China Petroleum Ltd, Roc Oil (Bohai) Company, CACT Operators Group, Husky Oil China Ltd, Shanghai Petroleum Co, Energy Development Company (EDC) China and Tincy Group.

The statement said Xinhua

Volkswagen and Porsche merger delay hits shares

LONDON, 11 Sept — Shares in Porsche fell almost 11% on Friday after Volkswagen said their plans to merge would not be completed this year as planned. Volkswagen announced late on Thursday that the merger would be delayed while they explore other ways to integrate. Porsche and Volkswagen agreed in 2009 to merge by the end of 2011, but have since faced legal obstacles. Porsche has faced lawsuits from investors in Germany and the US, and investigations into former executives. Volkswagen said that following discussions with Porsche, the companies “reached the conclusion that the planned merger with Porsche cannot be implemented within the time frame”. The carmaker added that “other potential courses of action exist for achieving the goal of creating an integrated automotive group with Porsche”. Porsche shares were 10.95% lower at the close of trading on Friday. Volkswagen shares were down just 0.8%, outperforming the broader market. — Internet

Mozilla calls for web wide security check

LONDON, 11 Sept — Web certificate authorities have been told to audit their security or risk being dumped from Firefox by the browser’s developer Mozilla. The demand follows a breach at Dutch certificate issuer DigiNotar which led to scores of bogus authentications being created. Belgian security firm GlobalSign also stopped issuing new certificates amid fears it too may have been compromised. Mozilla wants proof that other companies have protected their systems.

Security certificate issuers have been given until 16 September to demonstrate to Mozilla that their internal networks have not been compromised. It also wants to know what steps the issuers take when certificates are issued to make sure fakes are not being generated. The security certificates issued by DigiNotar and many others act as an identity guarantee so people can be sure that the site or service they are connecting to is what it claims to be.

Typically users will notice that a certificate is being used by the appearance of a padlock icon, or the https prefix. By penetrating DigiNotar’s network and issuing fake certificates, hackers could pose as anyone they want and get at confidential messages or steal saleable data. — Internet

Human DNA trap set for deer poachers

GLASGOW, 11 Sept — Criminals who poach deer and other animals could be tracked through tiny samples of their DNA, researchers say. Scientists in Scotland have shown it is possible to retrieve human DNA from the carcasses of dead animals in quantities that can identify the perpetrator. Official figures suggest hundreds of deer are poached each year in the UK, but some say the number is much higher. Potentially the technique could be used in other countries to identify rascists or elephant poachers. The research is in Press in the journal Science and Justice, but not everyone is convinced that the method is reliable or cheap enough for prime time use. — Internet

Rich Russians’ love affair with Britain

MOSCOW, 11 Sept — In the countryside outside Moscow, an army of cement mixers is dashing, churning and, quite bizarrely, helping to turn Russian fields into a British town. They’re building 200 “British-style” houses here and they’ve called the compound Hyde Park. It’s one of several UK-themed residential areas popping up around Russia, for rich Russians with a soft spot for Britain. On a tour of the village, I’m shown rows of big brick buildings with tall chimneys and English names. Each house has its own stylish title, like Dorchester, Park Lane and Windsor.

I’m invited into Oxford, where new resident Yuri Dranga shows me round. Yuri is particularly proud of his British kitchen, where the wallpaper is tartan and the tiles have pictures of Beehives, red telephones boxes and people queuing at a bus stop. Very tasteful. Yuri admits to being a fan of the UK. “Britain is a very stable and a very conservative country,” he tells me. “Just the kind of place Russia should be.” — Internet

China launches safety checks on offshore oil exploitation


Energy, the statement said. Xinhua
Military shell found under Toronto porch

A Toronto neighbourhood was evacuated while police responded to a report of an old, unexploded military shell discovered under the porch of a home.

Police said about 15 homes on Borden Street were evacuated Thursday night and the road was shut down while the bomb squad investigated the device, The Toronto Star reported Friday.

Oscar winner Cliff Robertson dies in NY at 88

NEW YORK, 11 Sept—Cliff Robertson, the handsome movie actor who played John F Kennedy in “PT-109,” won an Oscar for “Charly” and was famously victimized in a 1977 Hollywood forgery scandal, died Saturday. He was 88.

Robertson never elevated into the top ranks of leading men, but he remained a popular actor from the id-1950s into the following century. His later roles in cluded kindly Uncle Ben in the “Spider-Man” movies. He also gained attention for his second marriage to actress and heiress Dina Merrill, daughter of financier EF Hutton and Marjorie Merriweather Post, heiress to the Post cereal fortune and one of the world’s richest women. His triumph came in 1968 with his Academy Award performance in “Charly,” as a mentally disabled man who undergoes medical treatment that makes him a genius — until a poignant regression to his former state. —Internet

Russian film “Faust” takes top prize in Venice

VENICE, 11 Sept—Russian film “Faust,” loosely based on Goethe’s classic German text, won the Golden Lion for best picture at the Venice film festival on Saturday. The movie, directed by the revered Alexander Sokurov, divided critics at the annual cinema showcase, but had been among the favourites to scoop the coveted top prize.

“The emotion is huge,” 60-year-old Sokurov told the prize ceremony on the Lido waterfront, where stars have walked the red carpet, promoted their movies andpartied into the early hours for the last 11 days.


Mounties look to seize racing sports cars

Canadian police say they may hit some upscale street racers where it hurts by seizing their high-end sports cars. The vehicles and their drivers were rounded up last week in British Columbia by the Royal Canadian Mount-ed Police, who said they may have other ways to get their message about street racing across beyond a modest fine.

“We have criminal avenue closed to us, we decided to see if there was enough evidence to proceed civilly,” RCMP Superintendent Norm Gaumont said in a written statement. The civil avenue could lead to 13 drivers losing their various sports cars, which CNN said carried a total value of about $2 million.

Tiger in “love triangle” kills mate at Texas zoo

A female tiger has killed her mate at a West Texas zoo, authorities said on Friday, in a rare attack that came after months of simmering jealousy in a feline love triangle.

Three-year-old Malaysian tiger Sen killed 6-year-old Wzui at about 4 pm on Thursday in an enclosure at El Paso Zoo, zoo spokeswoman Karla Martinez said on Friday. As soon as the incident was reported, zookeepers closed the tiger exhibit and veterinary staff were called. They examined Wzui, and found he was dead.

“Tragic incidents such as this are not unheard of but we don’t consider this common. In this July 28, 2011 photo provided by the El Paso Zoo, Wzui, a male Malaysian Tiger, reclines at the El Paso Zoo in El Paso, Texas. Wzui was killed by his mate at the zoo on Thursday. —Reuters

Brad Pitt aims for run with “Moneyball”

TORONTO, 11 Sept—Brad Pitt has turned to the insular world of baseball economics for his latest movie and yet the Hollywood heavyweight is a relative rookie in terms of obsessing over one of America’s great pastimes.

The A-list actor is one of the top draws this week at the Toronto International Film Festival for the launch of his new drama, “Moneyball.” He plays Billy Beane, the real-life general manager of Major League Baseball’s Oakland A’s, who is famed for reinventing the game by running a competitive team in a cost-effective way.

Pitt told Reuters that he learned to appreciate the nuances and complexities of the game while making the movie, helped by several meetings with 49-year-old Beane, but he is not your typical baseball fan.

“It’s shameful how little I know about baseball, but what I know about it, I got — it was a pop fly in the fourth grade — 18 stiches,” he told Reuters, referring to getting hit by ball when he was just a kid.

“I find it interesting because it is on (TV) now. There is a reason why it has become our national pastime. It’s a team sport yet at the same time it is a battle.” —Reuters

Actor Brad Pitt smiles during the news conference for the film “Moneyball” at the 36th Toronto International Film Festival on September 9, 2011. —INTERNET

Visitors pose for photos on the 3D (3-dimension) stereograph at Raffles City in Shanghai, east China, on 9 Sept, 2011. The stereograph, named “Balcony of the Queen’s Room”, is painted by two British artists.
Dalglish in ref rage after defeat at Stoke

LONDON, 11 Sept — Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish admitted he is considering an official complaint after the standard of refereeing after his side crashed to a controversial 1-0 defeat at Stoke.

Dalglish was left nursing a burning sense of injustice over the performance of referee Mark Clattenburg and will speak to owner John W Henry before taking his complaints to the Professional Game Match Officials Limited, who represent top-flight officials, over the standard of decision-making so far this season. Stoke took the points on Saturday when Clattenburg ruled that Jamie Carragher’s challenge on Jon Walters was worthy of a penalty and the striker picked himself up to score from the spot.

Clattenburg left Liverpool frustrated again when he waved away a late penalty claim, even though Matthew Upson appeared to handle Luis Suarez’s cross.

Wenger relieved to bounce back after United rout

LONDON, 11 Sept — Arsene Wenger admits it was vital Arsenal returned to winning ways as the Gunners recovered from their humiliation at the hands of Manchester United by beating Swansea 1-0 at the Emirates Stadium.

Wenger’s side were unconvincing in their victory over newly-promoted Swansea on Saturday, secured thanks to a 41st minute goal from Andrey Arshavin after an error by visiting keeper Michael Vorm.

But the result brought the Gunners their first win of the Premier League season and helped recover a little of the confidence lost in the demoralising 8-2 mauling they received at Old Trafford.

Wenger admitted his side still has a lot to prove, telling the media: “We have put the disappointing start to the season behind us and faced Swansea, Bolton, Tottenham and Wigan so far.

United deserve to be top, says happy Ferguson

LONDON, 11 Sept — Sir Alex Ferguson believes Manchester United have earned the right to lead the Premier League table because they have had a tougher start to the season.

The champions already beaten Tottenham and Arsenal before the 5-0 win at Bolton kept them ahead of rivals Manchester City, who have faced Swansea, Bolton, Tottenham and Wigan so far.

But the 70-year-old hinted that Fernando Torres was dropped to the substitutes’ bench as Chelsea maintained their unbeaten start to the Premier League season with a comfortable 2-1 win at Sunderland on Saturday.

The Spain international was forced to watch his replacement, Daniel Sturridge, score an impudent back-heeled goal on Wearside before making an ineffective 14-minute cameo as a substitute. However, Villas-Boas insists Torres remains an integral part of his plans with Chelsea about to embark on their latest European adventure.

Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates after winning the semifinal of men’s singles against Roger Federer of Switzerland at the US Open tennis championship in New York.—Xinhua.

Villas-Boas offers Torres hope of recall

LONDON, 11 Sept — Andre Villas-Boas has hinted that Fernando Torres could make a rapid return to Chelsea’s starting line-up when they begin their Champions League campaign with a home tie against Bayer Leverkusen on Tuesday.

Torres was dropped to the substitutes’ bench as Chelsea maintained their unbeaten start to the Premier League season with a comfortable 2-1 win at Sunderland on Saturday.

The Spain international was forced to watch his replacement, Daniel Sturridge, score an impudent back-heeled goal on Wearside before making an ineffective 14-minute cameo as a substitute.

However, Villas-Boas insists Torres remains an integral part of his plans with Chelsea about to embark on their latest European adventure.

Mancini demands City improvement despite rout

MANCHESTER, 11 Sept — Roberto Mancini has warned his Manchester City players that they want to see an improvement - despite the club’s flying start to the campaign. City make their Champions League debut at home to Napoli on Wednesday on the back of four wins out of four in the Premier League.

Their latest success, an easy 3-0 win over Wigan at Eastlands on Saturday was inspired by a hat-trick from Sergio Aguero. But Mancini believes there is much more to come from his expensive-assembled side, and insists there is room for improvement.

Wimbledon wallops Wozniacki, to play Stosur in final

New York, 11 Sept—Serena Williams demolished world number one Caroline Wozniacki 6-2, 6-4 in Saturday’s semi-finals to move within a victory of a storybook US Open title.

Williams, who played only five games and 41 minutes, was not bothered by the cold or a threatening blood clot on her lungs, with the balance of the game.

The 29-year-old Williams wallops Wozniacki, to play Stosur in final.

Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark returns a shot to Serena Williams of the United States during their women’s final match at the US Open tennis tournament in New York.

INTERNET

Nadal tops Murray to set up Djokovic at US Open final

NEW YORK, 11 Sept — Defending champion Rafael Nadal denied Andy Murray’s search for a first Grand Slam with a tough four-set victory over the British top player, setting up a US Open final clash against world No 1 Novak Djokovic.

Djokovic on Saturday for the second consecutive year, Second seed Nadal beat fourth seed Murray 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 in a semi-final lasting three hours, 24 minutes.

In the other semi-final, Roger Federer couldn’t convert on two match points while serving in the fifth set and, for the second year in a row, the five-time US Open champion was beaten by Djokovic in the last four. The 24-year-old Djokovic, who is 63-2 on the year, won the epic clash with Federer 6-7 (7), 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 in three hours, 51 minutes.

Playing his third match in three days at the rain-drenched Open, Nadal lost his first set of the tournament, but broke Murray twice in the fourth set to reach his 14th Grand Slam final.
Swedish police arrest 4 terror suspects

STOCKHOLM, 11 Sept—Swedish police arrested four people on suspicion of preparing a terror attack and evacuated an arts center in the country’s second largest city, security officials said Sunday.

The four were arrested in the west coast city of Goteborg and were suspected of plotting terrorism, security service spokesman Sara Kvarnstrom said. She declined to give details on the arrests and wouldn’t say whether they were linked to the 10th anniversary of the 11 Sept attacks.

Kvarnstrom said Swedish security service SAPO saw no reason to raise its terror alert level, which has been at "elevated" since October.

“Our assessment is that there is no reason for public concern at the moment," she told The Associated Press. Swedish tabloid Expressen, citing an unnamed police source, said investigators suspect the men belong to a terror network with links to al-Qaeda, and that they had acquired, or were trying to acquire, firearms, explosives and hand grenades. Security police declined to comment on the newspaper’s information.

Police in Goteborg said in a statement they had evacuated the Roda Sten arts center, located beneath the city’s landmark half-mile (930-meter) Alvsborg bridge, because of a threat deemed to pose "serious danger to life, health or substantial damage of property." Kvarnstrom declined to say if the arts center or the bridge were considered potential targets for a terror attack.—Internet

Weather forecast for 12th September, 2011

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Bay Inference

Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak to moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Meditative sounds, Chaungzone (3.98) inches, Kyeikmaraw (2.59) inches, Bago (2.57) inches, Mudon (2.36) inches, Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myeik (4.09) inches, Kawthong (4.01) inches, Ayeyawady (3.15) inches, Kayah State, isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady Regions, widespread rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and isolated heavy falls in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and isolated heavy falls in Kayah State.

During the past (24) hours, weather have been partly cloudy in Kachin State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady Regions, widespread rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and isolated heavy falls in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and isolated heavy falls in Kayah State.

A police car passes the ‘Roda Sten’ art exhibition centre with the ‘Alvsborgsbron’ bridge in the background in Goteborg, Sweden, Sunday on 11 Sept, 2011.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 12 September, 2011
Union Education Minister calls on teachers for making efforts for higher education policy

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Sept — Union Minister for Education Dr. Mya Aye called on teachers for making strenuous efforts for achieving success in implementing policies on higher education while preserving teacher’s dignity.

During the meeting with the township education officer and heads of basic education high, middle and primary schools in Yamethin Township at the Basic Education High School in Yamethin, Mandalay Region today, the Union Minister stressed the need for nurturing students to be disciplined, making efforts for effective management and teaching and for observing ethics for teachers.

Afterwards, the Union Minister presented a 21-inch TV, 100 dozens of note books, 25 bags and 25 dozens of pencils to the basic education high school through the township education officer and officials concerned.

The Union Minister also met with the township education officer and heads of basic education high, middle and basic schools in Nay Pyi Taw-Tatkon at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Nay Pyi Taw-Tatkon today.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Mya Aye presented a 21-inch TV, 100 dozens of note books, 25 bags and 25 dozens of pencils for the school through the township education officer, the school head and officials concerned.

Press conference on overage vehicles to be written off, new cars to be imported

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Sept.—A press conference on overage vehicles to be written off and to import new cars was held at the hall of the Ministry of Rail Transportation, here, this afternoon.

It was attended by Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Development Committee Union Minister for Industry—1 and for Industry—2 U Soe Thein, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Union Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung and Union Minister for Energy U Than Hay, deputy ministers, departmental heads, officials, and media persons.

First, Union Ministers U Soe Thein and U Aung Min explained arrangements for overage vehicles to be written off and to import new cars in the interest of the people under the guidance of the President, plans to open showrooms by automakers from Japan, People’s Republic of China, India, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand, plan to sell Myanmar Mini-saloon at the showroom, plans for manufacturing of vehicles at home in line with the rules and regulations, arrangements for substitution of old buses with city buses in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay, measures for passengers to be able to use (See page 9)

Norwich City 0-1 West Brom

Peter Odemwingie scores & misses penalty as Baggies claim first Premier League win of the season

LONDON, 11 Sept—West Brom secured their first three points in the Premier League this season with a 1-0 away win over Norwich City.

Peter Odemwingie scored the only goal of the game after a defensive mix-up, while he also had a second-half penalty saved.

The Baggies got off to the perfect start when just three minutes in a hopeful ball into the Norwich area caused problems for the hosts’ defence. Ritchie de Laet’s headed backpass to debutant goalkeeper Declan Rudd was too short, allowing Odemwingie to steal in to put his side ahead with his first goal of the season.

Norwich almost hit back immediately when Andre-s W Surman found Chris Martin in space in the West Brom area. Martin drilled the ball across the box and his delivery was met by Ben Foster, but with almost an empty goal facing Grant Holt, the striker failed to find the target from just a few yards out.

Both sides were playing with the kind of confidence that suggested their current league positions were false. West Brom were looking dangerous on the break whilst Norwich passed the ball around with real purpose.

Norwich were taking more control of the game and tested Foster for the first time in the 33rd minute through Elliot Bennett. The winger, who joined from Brighton in the summer, cut inside from the left before firing goalwards from 20 yards, only to see his effort palmed away by Foster. —Internet