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

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

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

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

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

Spirax Sarco establishes Myanmar office

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

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

It has 1300 engineering services branches providing customer services and 38 world-class engineering schools in each and every corner of the world. The engineering schools with full teaching aids have equipped about 12 million engineers from various parts of the world with considerable engineering expertise.

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

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

Environmental Conservation and National Technological Requirement discussed

Microsoft warns on Internet Explorer security flaw

China’s Lenovo to buy Brazilian electronics company CCE
Members of press organizations meet to form
Myanmar Press Council (Temporary)

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

The Union Minister continued to say that when asked what should a person value most in life, all would answer unanimously “integrity”; that the importance of every organization is its dignity; that the statement in the book on codes of conduct of SPJ that profession integrity in the cornerstone of a journalist credibility proves to be sound and rational. He stressed the need to strive for promoting the integrity of each and all press organizations, and expressed his belief that those with a sense of freedom, concern (a) bias, responsibility and accountability would be able to strive for the MPC (Temporary) to become an association of high dignity.

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

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

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

Fourth regular session of first Kachin State Hluttaw starts

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

Defence Services Personnel State General Secretary U Tin Shein and Ministry of Health and Sports retired General Bao Tin Hninzigon have submitted the annual report and national races affairs committee’s annual report were submitted and put on record. The Kachin State government submitted budget and bills to the Hluttaw which invited representatives to discuss the bills. The approval was sought from the state Hluttaw to discuss Kachin State Community Firewood Plantation Bill submitted by U Chan Tin Khin of Nagmon Township Constituency (1). Today’s session concluded at 4 pm.—MNA

Manchester United sees revenue growth after barren season

LONDON, 18 Sept—Manchester United are counting on an improved performance on the pitch to boost revenues after the English Premier League club paid the price for a rare barren season in 2011-12. United, owned by the American Glazer family, floated on the stock market in New York last month at $14 per share, valuing the 19-times English champions at $2.3 billion.

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

United failed to win a trophy last season for the first time since 2005 and made an early exit from the lucrative European Champions League, meaning a reduction in income from sales of matchday tickets and lower broadcast revenues. The cost of those failures was apparent as the club made a loss from continuing operations of 14.9 million pounds ($24.2 million) in the three months ended June 2012. Underlining its commercial strength, United forecast a rise by 17-20 percent to 107-110 million pounds in income from sales of matchday tickets and lower since then and were

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

League and domestic cup competitions. It said earned earnings (EBITDA) should rise by 17-20 percent to 107-110 million pounds.

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

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

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

Dyna without break control hits guard rail of bridge

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

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

Two-digit illegal lottery gambler arrested

YEGAYO, 16 Sept—IPH Huy Aung and party of Yeagyo Police Station of Magway Region together with witnesses search the house of Ma Kyu Kyu Soe in Ward 3 on 14 September.

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

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

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

"A suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden vehicle into a minibus carrying foreign staffs of a local company at around 6:45 local time (0215 GMT) on Tuesday, killing eight foreigners and a local driver named Ahmad Zia on the spot," head of criminal investigation department of Kabul police, Gen Mohammad Zahir, told Xinhua.

The nationalities of the victims were not clear at the moment. A foreign woman was among the killed, as seen by a Xinhua reporter.

**EU foreign policy chief to meet Iran nuclear negotiator**

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

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

Ashton will meet Iran negotiator Saeed Jalili in Istanbul as “part of continuing efforts to engage with Iran,” after talks between world powers and Iran in Moscow in June failed to secure a breakthrough in the dispute.

"While it is not a formal negotiating round, the meeting will be an opportunity to stress once again to Iran the need for an urgent and meaningful confidence-building step," EU foreign policy chief to meet Iran nuclear negotiator

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

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

"The escape of the prisoners was a nonstarter. Are they prepared to bring anything new?" Nuland told reporters in Washington.

She added that theğer nuclear powers—the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany—were expected to meet in New York later this month on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting as diplomatic efforts to dissolve the dispute have stalled, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has gone public with a demand that the United States set “red lines” that Iran not cross or risk military action. The United States has refused to set such triggers, though both it and Israel have said they reserve the right to take military action if necessary.—Reuters

**More than 130 escape from Mexican prison on US border**

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

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

The Piedras Negras complex housed a total of 734 inmates, and the tunnel through which the prisoners escaped was about 1.2 metres (four feet) wide, 2.9 metres (9.1 feet) deep and seven metres (23 feet) long, Ramos said.

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

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

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**Pakistan**

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

Babar Cruse Missile Haif-VIII is a low flying, terminal hugging missile, which can strike targets both at land and sea with pin-point accuracy, an army statement said.

"It carries stealthy features. Equipped with modern cruise missile technology of Terrain Contour matching (TERCOM) and Digital Scene Matching and Area Co-Relation (DSMAC), it can carry both nuclear and conventional warheads," the statement said.

The missile was launched from a state of art Multi Tube Missile Launch Vehicle (MLV), which significantly enhances the targeting and deployment options of Babr weapon system.—Xinhua
Microsoft warns on Internet Explorer security flaw

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

The security flaw affects hundreds of millions of Internet Explorer browser users and attackers can exploit it to infect the PC of somebody who visits a malicious website and then take control of the victim’s computer. The software maker advised customers on its website late on Monday to install the security software as an interim measure, buying time to fix the bug and release a new, more secure version of Internet Explorer.

The company did not say how long that will take, but several security researchers said they expect the update within a week.

The free security tool, which is known as the Enhanced Mitigation Experience Toolkit, or EMET, is available through an Experience Toolkit, or EMET, Enhanced Mitigation Experience Toolkit, or EMET, or to download "Microsoft's EMET tool on their PCs.

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

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

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

POISONIVY

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

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

“Any time you see a zero-day like this, it is concerning,” said Liam O'Murchu, research manager with anti-virus software maker Symantec Corp.

“There are no patches available. It is very difficult to find people to protect themselves.”

Zero-day vulnerabilities are rare, mostly because they are hard to identify—requiring highly skilled software engineers or hackers with lots of time to scrutinize code for holes that can be exploited to launch attacks.

Security experts only disclosed discovery of eight major zero-day vulnerabilities in all of 2011, according to Symantec.

Symantec and other major anti-virus software makers have already updated their products to protect customers against the newly discovered bug in Internet Explorer.

Yet, O'Murchu said that may not be sufficient to ward off adversaries.

“The danger with these types of attacks is that they will mutate and the attackers will find a way to evade the defences we have in place,” he said. Internet Explorer was the world’s second-most widely used browser last month, with about 33 percent market share, according to StatCounter.

It was close behind Chrome, which had 34 percent of the market.

Weather delays last flight of space shuttle Endeavour to museum

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

Endeavour, which was retired last year, was scheduled to travel piggyback on top of a specially modified 747 jet, but storms along the planned flight path have pushed back its departure from the Kennedy Space Centre until Wednesday.

It was the second delay caused by weather in transporting the shuttle, which was originally intended to depart on Monday.

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

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

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

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

China’s Lenovo to buy Brazilian electronics company

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

The deal, announced in a securities filing, is valued at a base price of 500 million reais, subject to adjustments. Payment, in a mix of stock and cash, could include an additional 400 million reais, depending on performance-based indicators over the four years ending in December 2016.

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

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

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

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

“In order to win in Brazil long term you have to have local manufacturing,” Wong said, adding that the acquisition would boost Lenovo into third place in Brazil’s PC market from 7th place currently. “When CCE came along, it definitely was a good fit.”

The deal highlights the growing, yet uneven trade ties between Brazil and China, two large emerging economies.

AT&T says sets sale record for iPhone 5

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

Customers ordered more iPhones from AT&T than any previous model both on its first day of preorders and over the weekend, the company said on Monday.

AT&T did not provide the number of iPhones sold. The company said that iPhone 5 was still available for preorder and would go on sale from 21 September in AT&T retail stores.—Reuters
Tata Motors global sales up 13 pct in August, JLR growth slows

MUMBAI, 18 Sept—Tata Motors Ltd’s (TAMO NS) global vehicle sales rose 13 percent in August from a year earlier, the company said, with sales at its key Jaguar Land Rover subsidiary rising 13 percent, less than in recent months.

Sales at the luxury British brand, a key driver of the company’s recent profit growth, rose 41 percent in July, 39 percent in June and 35 percent in May. Tata Motors, part of the salt-to-steel Tata Group conglomerate, sold a total of 97,225 vehicles in August. Overall passenger cars sales stood at 47,141 units, a rise of 23 percent from a year earlier.

Tata sold 24,069 Jaguar Land Rover vehicles in the month. Commercial vehicle sales rose 4 percent to 50,084.—Reuters

Gel balls new threat to toddlers, doctors say

NEW YORK, 18 Sept—After surgically removing a large gel ball blocking the intestines of a baby girl, Texas doctors are warning parents about a new kind of water-absorbing balls often sold as playthings.

The coloured balls, marketed under the brand name Water Balz by Ohas-based DoneCraft Inc, are small to begin with, but can grow to the size of a racquetball when placed in water.

For orally fixated toddlers, that can be a problem, said Dr Oluityka Oluotyke, a pediatric surgeon at Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston. “It goes in small and grows on the inside and may not come out,” he told Reuters Health.

That was the case for an eight-month-old girl, who was brought to Texas Children’s Hospital in July, after she ate one of the Water Balz, and her concerns grew when they read on the label that the balls expand up to 400 times if placed in water.

Oluotyke and his colleagues could see on x-rays that part of the child’s small intestine was distended, as if something was actually be a perforation… and you can die from it,” said Olutoye. DuneCraft’s CEO Grant Cleveland said he was sorry to learn of the incident. He explained that if the intestine is blocked long enough, the building pressure may cause the intestine to burst and end up in the abdomen.

She recovered and is doing fine, according to Olutoye. The surgeon said that as this type of product becomes more common, parents and doctors need to be aware of the danger it poses if swallowed. He explained that if the intestine is blocked long enough, the building pressure may eventually cause a perforation. “If this is not taken care of really quickly, there can actually be a perforation… and you can die from it,” said Olutoye. DoneCraft’s CEO Grant Cleveland said he was sorry to learn of the incident. He explained that if the Water Balz product already carries warnings on the label and is recommended for kids over 3.—Reuters

LG unveils Optimus G phone with voice-activated power camera

SEOUL, 18 Sept—LG Electronics Inc unveiled its latest high-end smartphone packed with powerful hardware upgrades on Tuesday, as the struggling South Korean firm tries to win market share from Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd in the crucial holiday quarter.

LG’s handset business, which was slow to move into smartphones and has largely failed to win consumers from sector leaders Apple and Samsung, hopes the new ‘Optimus G’ will help it compete against Google’s (GOOG O) Motorola, Taiwan’s HTC Corp (2454TW) and China’s ZTE 000063.SZ and Huawei HWT. U.

LG’s Optimus G, which uses Google’s Android platform, will go on sale next week in South Korea for 1 million won, and later in the US and Japan. The Optimus G boasts a 13 megapixel camera which a user can instruct to take snapshots by talking to it, plus a 4.7-inch screen with a sharper picture quality than both the iPhone and Samsung’s Galaxy S III.

Powered by Qualcomm’s (QCOM O) quad-core Snapdragon processor the Optimus Gwill work on superfast mobile networks and be able to carry out several functions at once, such as showing a television broadcast and simultaneously sending text messages or searching the web. Among its rivals are the Droid Razr models unveiled by Google’s Motorola earlier this month, and Lumia 920, a flagship handset made by Nokia (NOK1V.HE) and Microsoft Corp (MSFT O) which uses the latest Windows Phone operating software.

Apple unveiled its iPhone 5 last week, and said on Monday it had booked orders for over two million iPhone 5 models in the first 24 hours it was on sale, evidence of stronger than expected demand for the new model ahead of the October–December holiday quarter. —Reuters

Merkel urges dialogue to solve EU-China solar dispute

BERLIN, 18 Sept—German Chancellor Angela Merkel reaffirmed Monday that her position after the European Commission launched an anti-dumping investigation against China solar companies that the issue should be settled through political dialogue.

“There are very clear deadlines in the process of such (anti-dumping) cases. The deadline of opening the case has now come,” Merkel said when answering a question from Xinhua, adding that the EU investigation is the need of legal procedures.

“But whether it will follow with provisional measures, yes, or not, that was decided several months later,” she said. “That time is available to us for what I discussed with (Chinese) Premier Wen Jiabao, namely, a dialogue.”

In July, Germany’s SolarWorld and other European solar panel makers filed a complaint seeking import tariffs on Chinese-made solar products, claiming that their Chinese competitors have received low-interest loans from the government.

The European Commission decided to start a formal investigation on 6 Sept, which activated the Chinese trade dispute involving China in terms of trade volume.

China’s solar product exports were valued at 35.8 billion dollars in 2011. The companies are now open to start a negotiation. Merkel believed that no one in the EU nations would want to block such a dialogue, and the two sides should put all facts and questions on the table and discuss them thoroughly and substantially.—Xinhua

Cancer leading cause of death for US Hispanics, study says

CHICAGO, 18 Sept—Cancer has replaced heart disease as the leading cause of death among US Hispanics, likely reflecting the large number of young, working-age Hispanics in America, according to a report by the American Cancer Society released on Monday.

The shift mirrors a larger national trend as death rates from cancer and heart disease start to converge, Becker Siegel, an epidemiologist for the organization, said in a telephone interview. “Death rates for heart disease have been declining more rapidly than for cancer, helped by better treatments for heart problems such as cholesterol-lowering statin drugs. In the United States, Hispanics tend to be younger, working-age adults, and since heart disease typically afflicts older adults, the study’s results are not surprising. “In the US overall, cancer is the leading cause of death among people younger than 85,” Siegel said.

Hispanics are the fastest-growing demographic group in the United States, accounting for 16.3 percent of the US population, or 50.5 million of the 310 million Americans.—Reuters

Meridian's diagnostic test gets FDA nod

OHIO, 18 Sept—Meridian Bioscience Inc said its test to detect a common bacterial throat infection received marketing approval in the United States.

Meridian said its molecular test can detect Group A Streptococcus, a bacteria found in the throat or on skin.

Acute pharyngitis, or strep throat, accounts for an estimated 15 million visits per year to pediatricians and other primary care physicians in the United States, Meridian said.

The life sciences company said its test takes less than one hour and requires no expensive capital equipment.

Shares of Cincinnati, Ohio-based Meridian closed at $18.29 on the Nasdaq on Monday.

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

Health
**WORLD**

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

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

Reports reaching the Coast Guard Action Centre in Manila revealed that the shipping vessel experienced the problem on one of its auxiliary engines at around 12:35 pm. The said vessel came from Cebu City and was supposedly on its way to Bato, Southern Leyte, when the incident happened. The Philippines Coast Guard immediately deployed its vessel and personnel to assist the ship and the passengers. The ship’s electrical power was later successfully restored to normal operation, the PCG said, adding that the vessel again sailed to its next port of call at Bato. — Xinhua

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**CHINA**

China struggles to cure the violent ills of health system

be based on the results of an argument over the head of Hamas after the Shura Council
next week to settle the dispute over the head of the Palestinian movement.

The selection will be based on the results of the election. The political leadership will meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Sunday to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

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

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

DUBAI, 18 Sept — After a series of “good news” in the Dubai real estate sector this year, a number of multi-million dollars fraud cases rock the Gulf Arab sheikdom. According to local media reports, a number of brokerage firms disappeared with the money they should have had transferred from tenants to home owners.

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

**UAE**

**HONGKONG**

Hong Kong Airport passenger number reaches new high in August

HONGKONG, 18 Sept — Boosted by burgeoning demand during the summer holiday period, Hong Kong International Airport sustained the upward momentum in passenger numbers to reach a new high of 5.2 million in August and reported a year-on-year growth of 3.9 percent, the Airport authority announced on Sunday.

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

The authority said the growth in passenger traffic in August was primarily driven by a 7 percent increase in visitors over the year before. Passenger numbers to and from South East Asia and Japan performed particularly well. Airport Authority Chief Executive Officer Stanley Hui said it is very encouraging to see both passenger traffic and cargo movements reach new heights at the airport.

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

**Middle East**

Hamas to decide on new “poliburo chief” next week: sources

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

The current politburo chief, Khaled Mashal, and Prime Minister of Hamas authority, Ismail Haneya, are the key candidates for the position, according to the sources, which are close to Hamas. The new members of the politburo will meet in Cairo next week to settle the argument over the head of the political bureau, the second highest institution of Hamas after the Shura Council.

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

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

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Hamas to decide on new “poliburo chief” next week: sources

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

The current politburo chief, Khaled Mashal, and Prime Minister of Hamas authority, Ismail Haneya, are the key candidates for the position, according to the sources, which are close to Hamas. The new members of the politburo will meet in Cairo next week to settle the argument over the head of the political bureau, the second highest institution of Hamas after the Shura Council.

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

MEXICO CITY, 18 Sept—A total of 17 mutilated bodies were found Sunday along the roadside of a highway in Mexico’s western state of Jalisco, according to local police. The dismembered corpses, naked and piled up together with chains around their necks, were found near the highway linking Guadalajara and Morelia at 5:30am local time (1300GMT), said the state’s General Attorney Office Prosecutor Tomas Coronado. Police also found gunshot wounds on the victims, which seemed to have been killed in different places, Coronado said, adding that their identities remained unclear.

Berlusconi returns to politics, attacks Monti government

ITALY

Italy’s future after an election next spring.

But the 75-year-old media magnate is keeping Italy guessing about whether he will stand for prime minister at the head of his centre-right People of Freedom (PDL) party in the election. Berlusconi, one of the country’s richest men, attacked the policies of his successor, unelected technocrat Mario Monti, in his first interview to Italian media since being forced from power last November, when Italy tottered on the edge of a Greek-style debt crisis.

Berlusconi said in the interview with his family’s daily, GIORNATA, that the PDL would abolish a deeply unpopular tax on homes worth 16.1 billion pounds (€19.8 billion) a year, which is a major plank in Monti’s tough austerity programme to cut Italy’s huge debt. The former European Commissioner has restored Italy’s credentials since he took over from the scandal-plagued Berlusconi at a time when a loss of confidence had pushed the country’s borrowing costs to untenable levels.

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

Fire put out in Brussels, no casualties

BELGIUM

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

A number of fire engines rushed to the scene shortly after the fire broke out in the three-storey building, about 1 km south of the European Commission building. A fire fighter on the spot said there was no one injured in the incident, adding only an old lady said she felt uncomfortable due to the smoke.

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

Russia expresses concerns over new US radar deployment in Japan

Russia on Monday expressed its concerns over the deployment of a new US radar in Japan, calling on the US to balance efforts to avoid damaging other countries’ security interests.

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

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

Also on Monday, US Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul wrote on his microblog that the new deployment of the US missile defence system in Japan will “pose no threat to Russia’s strategic deterrent.”

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

Prince Harry unharmed after Taliban attack in Afghanistan — NATO

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

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

Two arriving flights searched at Kennedy airport after threat

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

The planes were taken to an isolated area and searched for explosives and the passengers were interviewed, said Ron Marsico, spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey that oversees operations at area airports. “All is clear here,” he said following the search.

“Nothing was amiss,” he said. The “threatening” call indicated there could be explosives on board. The federal Transportation Security Administration confirmed the all-clear for both planes, American Airlines Flight 24 from San Francisco and Finnair Flight 5 from Helsinki.” Both flights have been cleared ... and are headed to the gate at this time,” the TSA said in a statement.

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

Russia finds UK firm for nuclear decommissioning

LONDON, 18 Sept—French nuclear reactor maker Areva and engineering consultancy Atkins have set up a joint venture to bid for decommissioning contracts in Britain’s nuclear sector, the companies said on Tuesday.

A R E V A - A T K I N S Partnerships UK will be based in Warrington, northwest England, and seek to secure subcontractor work with companies appointed to manage sites owned by Britain’s Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

“This will enable us to put our proven technology to use in meeting the challenges of UK decommissioning and declined to comment on how much money they had already invested in the joint venture. Areva’s European Pressurised Water Reactor (EPR) is planned to be built in Britain as part of EDF’s Hinkley Point C nuclear station in Somerset, southwest England.

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

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

A general view of the French nuclear reactor maker Areva Tower (C) as the La Defence business district, near Paris, on 7 August, 2012.—Reuters

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Reuters
Practise thrift for food security

As the world’s food systems are in crisis, seeking a way for ensuring food security is a matter of strong concern. Food waste is now the second largest waste stream which requires thorough thinking and extreme patience. It is clear that food waste has serious impact on economy and environment. The scandalous reason that food is discarded is because it doesn’t meet aesthetic criteria, and even perfectly formed vegetables and other perishables often end up in supermarket dumpsters.

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

The right to food is a human right derived from the International Covenant on Economic and Cultural Right (ICESCR), recognizing the “right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food”, as well as the “fundamental right to be free from hunger”. Drought and flooding have compromised crop production across the world. But some overstocked supermarket shelves continue to propagate the illusion of plenty and the rate of food waste in some regions has more than doubled.

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

Participation of the people ...
Environmental Conservation and National Technical Requirement discussed

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

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

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

The discussion lasts till 19 September.—MNA

Thawtapan edible oil, salt, medicine donated in Mandalay

It was the donations of Dhammadata Ashin Chekinda and disciples. They donated 11,506 viss of edible oil, 5,184 viss of salt and 204 packets of assorted medicines to 204 monasteries where above 50 monks are staying in Aungmyethazaan, Chan-ayethazaan, Mahaaungmye, Channyahtzaiz, Pyigyi-dagun, Amarpura and Patheingyi townships.

The merits sharing ceremony was held at 10 am. Next meals were offered to Ova dacarya Sayadaws and 204 members of the Sangha.

On 20 and 21 September, they will offer one viss each of edible oil and salt and medicine to 16,383 members of the Sangha and nuns from Sagaing at the Dhammaduta Yanggyi Dhammayang in the precinct of Laygyun Maung Maung Pagoda in Thawtapan Ward of Sagaing.—Kyemon

Development of fishery industry discussed

Together with staff, Head of Taikkyi Township Fisheries Department U Tin Aung on 20 and 21 September, there were fishery works and prevention against illegal fishing works and conservation of environment.

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

Women entrepreneurs leave for Bangkok

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Joint-Secretary Daw Khin Lay, executives and officials of the association.—Myanma Alin
Students return to Louisiana State University after bomb scare

US

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

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

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

“There are fewer than 20 buildings left to search and LSU will continue to update the campus community as information becomes available,” it said.

The university was evacuated following a telephoned threat to the East Baton Rouge Parish emergency centre at 10:32 am (1630 GMT) and the centre relayed the information to campus police, said university spokesman Ernie Ballad.

University Chancellor William Jenkins made the decision to evacuate the campus, and LSU alerted students, faculty and staff via text message at about 11:30 am (1600 GMT), Ballad said.

“There are fewer than 20 buildings left to search and LSU will continue to update the campus community as information becomes available,” it said.

Cuba says it proposed talks on jailed American, no US response

Cuba

HAVANA, 18 Sept—Cuba has proposed talks with the United States about resolving the case of a jailed American contractor Alan Gross, but has received no response, indicating a lack of interest by Washington, a top Cuban diplomat said on Monday.

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

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

The Cuban government views the programme as subversive.

Gross imprisonment put the brakes on efforts by President Barack Obama to improve long-hostile relations between the two countries just90 miles apart.

Gross’ wife said last week she feared for her husband’s life because his health is deteriorating. Cubans denied that.

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

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

Explosives used to slow nuclear programme, Iran says

Iran

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

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

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

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

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

Giant Panda cub born in Washington’s National Zoo

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“There is no more sobering a manifestation of such a risk than the financial and economic crisis currently afflicting the Palestinian Authority,” said Serry.

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

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

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

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

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

The president made the remarks while overseeing the Causasus-2012 strategic drills at the Rayevsky range, southern Russia.

The exercise, which takes place from 17 to 23 September, is the largest war game in Russia this year.

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

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

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CHINA

China launches WTO challenge to US anti-subsidy tariffs

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

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

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

Singapore Airlines’ August passenger traffic up 6.5 pct year-on-year

SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE, 18 Sept—The Singapore Airlines, one of the top carriers in the world, carried 1.5 million passengers in August, up 5 percent year-on-year, the company said on Monday.

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

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

However, passenger load factors for the East Asia and South West Pacific route regions declined as growth in demand was outstripped by increases in capacity.

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

The overall cargo traffic slumped by 4.3 percent year-on-year, while cargo capacity declined by 6.1 percent. Cargo traffic in East Asia was flat, and could not keep pace with the increase in capacity arising from cargo capacity on passenger flights.

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

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

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

Water level at Nullah Lai, a natural stream flowing through the city, rose sharply to 12 feet, four feet higher than the alarming level.

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

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

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

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

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

The fifth of biennial ASEM culture ministries meeting entitled “Managing Heritage Cities for a Sustainable Future” is scheduled to conclude on Wednesday.

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

New Zealand to implement international trademark rules by yearend

WELLINGTON, 18 Sept—New Zealand is to fully implement the Madrid Protocol on international trademark protection by the end of the year, the government announced on Tuesday.

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

“I will give New Zealand enterprises the opportunity to register their brands in nearly all of our major export markets with just one application,” Foss said in a statement.

The Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ) had introduced a worldwide online trademark system this year, which would simplify the process further, he said.

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

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

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

Regional

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

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

Four people injured in crashes involving 16 cars in Osaka

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

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

People gather near the site of a train fire in Bikancer, India, on 17 Sept, 2012. A goods train was set on fire by mob after it rammed into a truck on an unmanned railway crossing on the Jalalshah-Bikancer line, killing eight and injuring several others.—XINHUA
Dubai has world’s highest rental, food prices: study

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In Chinatown, a heritage district, community organizations held the official light-up and opening ceremony on a stage on the main street to kick off the month-long celebrations, with President Tony Tan and the ambassadors from several countries among the guests. The president lit up all the 16,800 lanterns that were put on threads above the main street and some of the smaller streets. Lawmaker Lily Neo said this is a Singapore record as it is the largest number of lanterns lit up at once. The Mid-Autumn Festival, or the middle of the eighth month of the lunar year, falls on 30 Sept. this year. It is the second most important traditional festival in Chinese culture. During the month of celebrations in Chinatown between 16 September and 14 October, performances will be held on many of the evenings. During this one-month festival, we have this light-up today ... many many activities to involve the young children and the youths so that they learn about our own cultural heritage,” Neo said.

Neo said there will be bazaars with hundreds of stalls as well as lantern displays at the street corners. Some of the lanterns were from South Korea as it is part of a cultural exchange program. The lanterns will be sent to South Korea later for display, too. The Mid-Autumn Festival, which has been celebrated over the past years, is now a major celebrations that involves not only the Chinese community, but also the Malays, Indians and others. The opening ceremony performance on Sunday evening gathered dancers and performers from China.

A Malay musician played a traditional Chinese instrument, while an Indian female singer and a white male sang the Chinese pop tune The Moon Stands for My Love for You. Other celebrations have also started over the weekend. On Saturday evening, the annual Mid-Autumn Festival the River returned with a larger scale to the downtown segment of the Singapore River and the nearby shopping malls and public places. — Xinhua

Five killed in Missouri crash of private airplane

KANSAS CITY, (MISSOURI), 18 Sept — The owner of an insulation company, three of his children and the owner of an environmental consulting company were killed early on Saturday when a small airplane crashed in a southwestern Missouri field, authorities said.

John Lambert, 44, president and owner of Missouri Insulation & Supply Inc, his children Joshua Lambert, 10, McKinley Lambert, 15, and Grayson Lambert, 16, all died in the crash, the Missouri State Highway Patrol said.

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

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

Dubai highlights importance of China top legislator’s upcoming visit

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

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

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

Int’l small business congress kicks off in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 18 Sept — The International Small Business Congress (ISBC) was opened on Sunday by South African Minister of Trade and Industry Rob Davies who challenged global economies to promote small businesses, academics and business owners from all over the world.

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

“Small enterprises do not only provide economic opportunities for the runners and operators of those small and medium enterprises, but also many of the new jobs that are created in expanding economies come from small enterprises,” Rob Davies said.

He lauded the ISBC for holding the congress in Africa, saying they have made the right choice. “New forces of dynamism have emerged in the world economy and the center of gravity is shifting from the North and the West to the South and the East,” he said, adding “the important good news is that the African continent is very much part of the dynamic processes which are emerging in the world economy.”

The minister said there is a general consensus that Africa is the next growth frontier after Asia. — Xinhua

Five killed in Missouri crash of private airplane
Usher, Shakira shake up judging panel on “The Voice”

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

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

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

Rihanna leads MTV Europe Music Award nominations

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

The music channel said Rihanna had been shortlisted for best song (“We Found Love”), best female, best pop, best video (“We Found Love”), best live and best world stage act.

Swift was also nominated for best female, pop and look sections, while Perry has been lined up for best video and new artist.

Bieber and Katy Perry on four each.

Swift on five and pop stars Justin

REUTERS

neglecting the new category, best look.

The new category, best look.

A$AP Rocky (L) and M.I.A. (R) perform at the 6th Annual MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles, 6 September, 2012

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

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

BESTFEMALE: Rihanna; Katy Perry; Pink; Taylor Swift; Nicki Minaj

BESTMALE: Justin Bieber, Usher

Then there’s the
cultural and societal
influences that
shape the
industry,
including the
growth of
digital
platforms,
which have
challenged
traditional
distribution
models.

In the
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are
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the way
music
is
produced,
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As
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Our
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are
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navigate
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capitalize
on
the
opportunities
available.

Together,
we
can
create
a
better
future
for
the
music
industry.

Thank
you.

[End of speech]

*New Light of Manhattan*

Wednesday, 19 September, 2012

ENTERTAINMENT

*General Hospital* star John Ingle dies at 84

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

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

In a statement posted on the show’s Facebook page, the network said on Monday, “We are saddened by the news of John Ingle’s passing. We love him and will miss him. John will always be a part of the #GH family,” the show’s executive producer Frank Valentini tweeted.

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

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

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

Ingle married actress and singer Grace-Lyne Martin in 1954, and they were married for 57 years until her death earlier this year from natural causes. Together they had five daughters and nine grandchildren.
Newcastle United's Demba Ba celebrates his second goal against Everton during their English Premier League soccer match at Goodison Park in Liverpool, northern England, on 17 Sept, 2012.

Reuters

Chelsea title thirst remains unquenched:

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

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

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

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

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Di Matteo concussion

London, 18 Sept— Di Matteo concussion on Wednesday as he spent most of the first half on the ground, while Ryan said: "We're 2-0, it's a good start to the season but that's it. There's a long way to go."
Elmayan still going strong at age 95

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

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Participation of the people needed for flood prevention

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Phelps and Felix win top US Olympic athlete awards

Falcons bring Manning back to earth, beat Broncos