President U Thein Sein attends opening of 9th China-ASEAN Expo

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—A ceremony to open the 9th China-ASEAN Expo was held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People’s Republic of China this morning and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the PRC and the ASEAN nations, participated as a “Country of Honour”. Also present on the occasion together with President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar were Vice-President of the PRC Mr Xi Jinping, Prime Minister of Lao People’s Democratic Republic Mr Thongsing Thammavong, Prime Minister of Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, representatives from the ASEAN nations, Governor of Guanxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Mr Ma Biao and officials.

At the ceremony, Governor of Guanxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Mr Ma Biao, Representative of Chinese International Trade Sector Mr Guo Hucheng and officials from the ASEAN nations delivered inaugural speeches on the occasion. Present on the occasion were Lao PDR and representatives of ASEAN nations, Governor of Guanxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Mr Ma Biao and officials.

The President reaffirmed closer cooperation between ASEAN and China for the sake of peace, stability and development in the region and outside of the region. The theme of this year’s summit is “Improving Connectivity and Joining Hands for Win-Win Cooperation.”

The bilateral trade revenues between ASEAN and China reached 232 billion USD in 2010. In addition, with annual increase in number of visitors among regional countries, it is projected 15 million regional visitors in 2015.

During his visit, President U Thein Sein was awarded Honorary Doctorate by Northwest University for his poverty alleviation efforts in Myanmar through rural development scheme. The President, in his acceptance speech, said it would be more meaningful for him if he could share the honour and achievement with Myanmar people.

Aguero ready to return for Man City against Arsenal

LONDON, 21 Sept – 2012

Sergio Agüero is set to return up front for Manchester City against Arsenal on Sunday as Roberto Mancini’s side aim to shrug off the midweek Champions League defeat by Real Madrid. Midfielder Samir Nasri will miss the trip to his former club, however, after suffering a hamstring injury against Real.

Argentine Agüero has not played since injuring his knee on the opening weekend of the Premier League season against Southampton but was an unused substitute in the Bernabéu on Tuesday when City conceded twice late on to lose 3-2.

“Sergio is fit,” Mancini told a news conference on Friday. “I wanted to put him on in the Bernabeu but we had a couple of injuries.”

The visit of in-form Aguero to Man United will be a stern test for City who have started the season against Southampton but

Space shuttle Endeavour lands piggyback in California

European shares, euro claw back up after sell-off

Opening ceremony of 9th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in progress. — MNA

CDMA, GSM towers erected in Natogyi

NATOGYI, 21 Sept—The 52 feet high CDMA towers have been erected in Pyinsi Village and Ward 4 in Natogyi for ensuring smooth communication of CDMA mobile phones.

Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications also erected GSM towers in Ward 5, Ywagyi Village and Pyinsi on Highway Road for GSM mobile phones.

Thanks to efforts of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, CDMA and GSM mobile phone users in Natogyi Township enjoy better communication service.

In his speech, President U Thein Sein said all ASEAN countries wish to see promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation between them and China, adding that the partners would fully cooperate with each other for emergence of ASEAN-China FTA and its sustainability. ASEAN countries and China are committed to preserve and promote historic relations among neighbours, cherishing the traditional amicable relationship.

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Union Sports Minister encourages athletes

YANGON, 21 Sept — Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan encouraged selected athletes undergoing training to achieve success in the XXVII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar, at Nay Pyi Taw (Gold) Sports Camp today.

He urged the athletes to do training keeping their spirit up and observing high standards of disciplines to be able to bring the pride to the nation.

During his tour of inspection of Myanmar Shooting Federation today, the Union minister presented training suits, shoes and warm clothes to the athletes receiving training for shootings. He also visited Myanmar Archery Federation and presented training suits, shoes, T-shirts and warm clothes to the athletes there.

He also visited Myanmar Physical Training Federation, Myanmar Judo Federation, Myanmar Table Tennis Federation and Myanmar Swimming Federation gave training suits, shoes, clothes and cash to trainees. — MNA

Money looter stabs cyclist

BAGO, 21 Sept — While Daw Aye Myint of 8th Shantan Street in Myothit (D) Ward in Bago rode along Bago-Toungoo Road to buy flowers at 4.30 pm on 17 September, an unknown person wearing raincoat stabbed her and snatched K 100,000 from the basket of bicycle.

Daw Aye Myint was injured at her left waist.

Bago Police Station No. 1 took action against the money looter.

Two-digit illegal lottery sellers arrested

WUNDWIN, 21 Sept — Members of Wundwin Police Station of Mandalay Region together with responsible persons searched the house of Dpo Htay in Kanswe Village in Wundwin Township on 13 September.

As house owner Daw Hay went shopping, the authorities seized documents related to using two-digit illegal lottery and K 13,000 from her daughter Ma Shin Thant Oo, 20 and clerk Hay Oo, 20. Wundwin Police Station took action against the gamblers.

Union Minister meets members of Danu Self-Administered Zone Leading Body

NAVPYI TAW, 21 Sept — Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun attended the coordination meeting on regional development held at the conference hall of Danu Self-Administered Zone Leading Body in Pyinday yesterday morning.

At the meeting, Union Minister U Hla Tun said that the government is making not only eternal peace for stability of the State but is implementing projects for regional development.

Region/state governments and self-administered division/zone leading bodies also need to actively participate in the tasks. Only then, will the develop gap between rural area and urban area narrow, he said. The Union Minister stressed the need for local governments, leading bodies and people to double their efforts in the process.

Union Attorney-General receives guests from World Bank

NAVPYI TAW, 21 Sept — Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin received Mr. Anthony G Toft, Legal Vice-President of World Bank and party at the Credentials Hall in Union Attorney-General Office here at 11 am yesterday.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to be contracted for providing Grant Aid to Myanmar and to give legal suggestion for that contract, legal personnel of UNESCAP recounted the findings of the study.

Money looter stabs cyclist

YANGON, 21 Sept — A seminar was focused on development of industries in Myanmar, progress of SME industries, participation of Myanmar in ASEAN economic community, prospects for boosting logistic economy in Yangon and other major cities, facts about Myanmar with the title of Doing Business in Myanmar and economic opportunities at the hall of Mandalay-PyinOoLwin-Lashio transport service launched

YANGON, 21 Sept — Mann Shwepyi Express Bus line was launched on 5 September.

The bus line has been running along Yangon-Mandalay-Lashio route since 1998. Now, the bus line extended its transport service along Yangon-Mandalay-PyinOoLwin-Lashio Route. The bus line is given services of first-aid training completed female bus conductors. They can give health care services, catering service for coffee and tea and sending tickets to the home.

“We are convenience on the trip by Mann Shwepyi Express. Seats are comfortable. Those who completed first-aid training can give health care services to the passengers. So we are not worried about vomiting,” said a passenger who made a trip from Lashio to Yangon.

At present, passengers conveniently make journey from Yangon to Lashio.

Money looter stabs cyclist

YANGON, 21 Sept — Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan clarified the activities for rural development and poverty alleviation task, education, health, agriculture and road transportation and sector-wise needs and Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Aung Thein from Wyangon Township reported measures for ensuring sufficient potable water, smooth transportation, education and power supply to the Union Minister.

On behalf of Shan State Government, State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat donated K 10 million, Chairman of Zone Leading Body U Htoo Ko K 200,000, Townselder U Toe K 150,000 and U B Shwe K 100,000 to Danu Education Foundation through Chairman U San Maung.

Feasibility study conducted for dry port construction

YANGON, 21 Sept — A workshop on feasibility study on construction of dry port in Myanmar was held at Tonegupuri Hotel here this morning, with an address by Managing Director U Thein Swe of Myanmar Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transport.

UNESCAP has taken steps to build dry ports in ASEAN region, hoping to give legal suggestion for that contract, legal personnel of UNESCAP recounted the findings of the study.

Money looter stabs cyclist

Myanmar, Japanese entrepreneurs exchange views on development of industries

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, here, on 12 September.

Itwas attended by Vice-President of UMCCI U Zaw Min Win, General Secretary Dr Myo Thet, Joint General Secretaries U Moe Kyaw and Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe.

They replied to queries raised by Japanese entrepreneurs.

Money looter stabs cyclist

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Japan to seek debt relief for Myanmar at IMF meeting

Tokyo, 21 Sept.—Japan will try to broker a deal on debt relief for fast-reforming Myanmar on the sidelines of the upcoming International Monetary Fund meeting in Tokyo, Japanese Finance Minister Jun Azumi said on Friday.

Japan waived $3.7 billion in Myanmar’s unpaid debt in April, sending a clear signal to Tokyo’s intention to capitalize on its improving investment climate and urgent infrastructure needs. Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi’s election to parliament in April helped to transform the pariah image of Myanmar and persuade the West to begin rolling back sanctions after a year of dramatic reforms.

Analysts and experts have said there will be opportunities for foreign companies across the industrial landscape — from energy, mining and construction to agriculture, finance and tourism.

Japan is the country’s biggest creditor. “We want to put the Myanmar arrears problem under debate during the IMF meeting and discuss it with other countries involved, explaining Japan’s positive position on the issue,” Azumi told reporters in Tokyo.

“We’ve managed to forge a common view on the matter, Myanmar will be freed from economic constraints, and thanks to that, companies, including Japanese ones, will be able to move into Myanmar smoothly.”

Japan’s Finance Ministry will host an international conference on Myanmar in Tokyo on 11 October on the sidelines of IMF/World Bank annual meeting.

US lifts ban on NZ warships, NZ keeps nuclear-free stance

AUCKLAND, 21 Sept.—The United States has lifted a ban on visits by New Zealand warships to US defence and coast guard bases around the world, further thawing relations after a 26-year standoff on nuclear issues.

US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta made the announcement during a visit to New Zealand on Friday. He said Washington would lift restrictions on military exercises and facilitate more talks with New Zealand and NZ Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman said New Zealand had an independent foreign policy and that it was anti-nuclear and anti-genetically modified.

“I don’t think that we should get too hung up about trying to turn the clock back to pre-1986 because the reality is that this is a very complex relationship,” Coleman said at a news conference following their meeting.

New Zealand has a small contingent of troops fighting with US and NATO troops in Afghanistan. During his visit to New Zealand, Panetta is also meeting with other senior leaders to explore deeper US military engagement with New Zealand as the United States re-balances its forces to the Asia-Pacific as part of a new military strategy.

In July, the United States and New Zealand agreed to hold regular high-level talks and to cooperate on maritime security, counter-terrorism, and peacekeeping operations. US Marines trained in New Zealand earlier this year, and New Zealand’s navy has participated in the multi-nation RimPaite maritime exercise ships in July.

US Republican presidential nominee and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney arrives at a campaign rally in Sarasota, Florida, on 20 September, 2012. REUTERS

Newly aggressive Romney tries another campaign reset

Washington from the inside, you can only change Washington from the outside.” An animated Romney quickly pounced on the remark as evidence that Obama cannot break the political gridlock that has saddled Washington and lawmakers grapple with massive debt and annual $1 trillion deficits.

“The president today threw in the white flag of surrender again. He said he can’t change Washington from the inside, he can only change it from outside. Well, we’re going to give him that chance in November. He’s going outside,” he said at a rally in Sarasota, Florida.

Romney is struggling to right the ship after damage from the release of a secret video from a private fundraiser in May in which he disparaged Obama supporters as dependent on government.

In a potential headache for the former business executive, a “Super PAC” group which backs him by funding negative advertising against Obama won’t be able to funnel $21.2 million in August while its fundraising dried up for the second month. That raised questions about its ability to be an ad-buying force in the final weeks before the 6 November election.

Romney’s campaign has also been subjected to infighting and some Republicans have complained that he needs to campaign more.

The latest Reuters/Ipsos poll showed the challenge that Romney faces after one of the most difficult stretches of his campaign.

Reuters

Chavez plays populist card for Venezuela election

SABANETA, 21 Sept.—To understand why President Hugo Chavez may win yet another election in Venezuela next month, go and sit under the mango trees of Los Ranitos or Sabaneta. There, in the rural villages of his childhood at the heart of Venezuela’s great villages of his childhood at the heart of Venezuela’s great

Venezuela next month, go and sit under the mango trees of Los Ranitos or Sabaneta. There, in the rural villages of his childhood at the heart of Venezuela’s great

love of kites and drawing, and shows where the idealistic young adult used to lay in a hammock during earnest conversations.

In one place, sun-baked plains where Chavez the man, and Chavez the myth, both began - and went on to polarize Venezuela like never before.

It is that image, the country boy who became president and then spent years trying to help the underprivileged, which Chavez wants uppermost in the minds of voters on 7 October. His foes’ ability to report on the popular disappointment with Chavez among the poor, and present their own leader for the second month. That raised questions about its ability to be an ad-buying force in the final weeks before the 6 November election.

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Science & Technology

Google shuts once-feted China music download service

Shanghai, 21 Sept—Google said on Friday it will shut its once-popular China music download service next month, in a sign of how far the fortunes of the world’s biggest search engine have fallen in China. The move, as part of its global music strategy, is expected to dent its reputation in China with users and the local music industry.

"We have decided to shut down our Google Music search service in China. This is part of an ongoing effort across Google to bring greater focus to our portfolio of products," said a Google spokesman in an emailed statement.

Google Music Search users will be able to use and download their stored playlists until the service closes on 19 October, Google said.

"The impact of this product was not as high as we expected, so we decided to divert our resources to other products," Yang Weihuo, Google China’s engineering director general, wrote on Google China's blog. (here).

"Google’s products, such as Maps, search and Gmail, sometimes face accessibility issues in China. In June this year, Google launched a feature that would alert Chinese users searching on its Hong Kong site of words that were blocked.

Google has over half a billion Internet users but operates in a closed ecosystem where Chinese Internet companies have to comply with local laws and censor topics deemed sensitive by the government. Facebook Inc, Twitter and YouTube are blocked in China.

Reuters

Space shuttle Endeavour lands piggyback in California

Edward's Air Force Base, 21 Sept—The space shuttle Endeavour, carried piggyback atop a jumbo jet, landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California on Thursday at the tail end of a cross-country trip to Los Angeles to begin its final mission as a museum exhibit.

The specially modified Boeing 747 with the newly retired spaceship perched on its back touched down safely at 12:50 pm (EDT) at Edwards, about 100 miles north of Los Angeles in the Mojave Desert.

Endeavour retired its shuttle fleet last year after completing the US portion of the $100 billion International Space Station, a permanently staffed research complex that is owned by 15 nations and orbits about 250 miles above Earth.

Endeavour embarked on its last cross-country "ferry" journey on Wednesday from Cape Canaveral, Florida, and made several low-altitude passes over NASA centres in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas before stopping for the night at Ellington Field near the Johnson Space Centre in Houston.

The trip resumed early on Thursday, with Endeavour and its carrier jet making additional flyovers - one over Tucson, Arizona, in a salute to former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and her husband, Mark Kelly, the retired astronaut who commanded Endeavour’s final flight on his last mission in late May 2011. Giffords, still recovering from a gunshot wound to the head suffered in an attempt on her life last year, watched the flyover from the roof of a Tucson parking garage with her husband and mother, according to former aide CJ Karamargin, who joined them.

"When it came into view, Mark said, ‘There’s my spaceship!’" Karamargin recounted. “Gabby was just elated, hugging and bellowing like the rest of us were.”

From Arizona, Endeavour and its carrier jet flew on to California, where its spacecraft was built two decades ago, for the landing at Edwards Air Force Base.

The sprawling installation used to serve as the primary landing site for NASA’s shuttle programme before the space agency built a landing facility for the orbiters at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. Edwards then became the principal post-landing site for shuttles in case of bad weather at Cape Canaveral.

Reuters

Apple still draws crowds in Asia with new iPhone 5

Sydney, 21 Sept—Apple Inc’s iPhone 5 hit sale around the globe on Friday, giving the consumer giant a boost ahead of the crucial end-of-year holiday season as rival Samsung Thailand launched in 2009 with a local partner, the Google Music Search was meant to be a legal music search competitor to Baidu Inc’s popular music service, which at the time was providing users with links to copyright-infringing music.

But nearly 100, Google announced it would no longer be willing to comply with Chinese laws and censor searches in the world’s largest Internet market.

As a result, the firm moved its Chinese site to Hong Kong and saw its overall search-market share dwindle. Since then, Baidu’s overall share continued to grow and last year, Baidu launched a legal music search service and landmark deal with record labels.

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#Science

Softbank and Singtel, Singapore’s biggest mobile phone operator, said demand for the iPhone 5 had exceeded previous offerings from Apple, partly because the new phones could work on 4G networks that offered much faster data speeds.

KDDI Corp, the other Japanese carrier offering the iPhone, said that it had already reported online pre-orders for a limited run of the iPhone 5 and said it was discussing bi-weekly restocking with Apple. Apple’s rival and component supplier, Samsung, moved to crush the party on the eve of the phone’s debut, saying it planned to add the new device ahead of the holiday sales quarter.

South Korea’s Samsung and Apple have locked in a patent battle in 10 countries and the stakes are high as the two vie for top spot in the booming smartphone market.

Both companies are also raising marketing spending to promote their latest products ahead of the holiday sales quarter.

Reuters

Study on Monsanto GM corn concerns draws skepticism

London, 21 Sept—In a study that prompted sharp criticism from other experts, French scientists said on Wednesday that rats fed on Monsanto’s genetically modified corn or exposed to its top-selling weedkiller suffered tumors and multiple organ damage.

The French government asked the country’s health watchdog to investigate the findings further, although a number of scientists questioned the study’s basic methods and Monsanto said a felt confident its products had been proven safe.

Researchers compared male and female rats to diets containing NK603 — a seed variety made tolerant to Roundup weedkiller — or given water with Roundup at levels permitted in the United States, died earlier than those on a standard diet.

Experts not involved in the study were skeptical, with one accusing the French scientists of going on a “statistical fishing trip” and others describing its methods as well below standard.

The animals on the published in the journal Food and Chemical Toxicology and presented at a news conference in London.

The researchers said 50 percent of male and 70 percent of female rats died prematurely, compared with 30 and 20 percent in the control group.

Monsanto spokesman Thomas Helscher said the company would review the study thoroughly. However, he added: “Numerous peer-reviewed scientific studies performed on biotech crops to date, including more than 1,000 feeding studies, have continuously confirmed their safety, as reflected in the respective safety assessments by regulatory authorities around the world.” –Reuters
European shares, euro claw back up after sell-off

LONDON, 21 Sept—European shares and the euro clawed themselves back up on Friday and oil also rebounded from a 1-1/2 month low, as investors moved back into markets still feeling the benefits of support measures from central banks.

Having ended three of the last four sessions in the red, the FTSEurofirst 300 .FTEU3 rose 0.4 percent when equities trading resumed in Europe.

Helped on by the expiry of options contracts, London’s FTSE 100 FTSE, Paris’s CAC-40 .FCI and Frankfurt’s DAX .GDAXI opened between 0.3 and 0.6 percent higher against Australian, Japanese and Hong Kong markets all rose.

“Volatility has been crushed recently and optimism increased dramatically, as has the market,” said Lex van Dan, hedge fund manager at Hampstead Capital, which manages around $500 million of assets.

“The main thing to look at today is if the market can actually sustain these levels after expiry of (options) as well. That will tell us a lot.”

Helping the mood was a report in the Financial Times that Spain was working behind the scenes on a rescue program which in turn will allow the ECB to begin potentially unlimited purchases of Madrid’s bonds.

The euro, which has lost around 1.5 percent since hitting a 4-1/2 month high a week ago, was up 0.2 percent at $1.2987 when European trading got under way at 0700 GMT.

Safe-haven currencies such as the dollar and the yen were slightly pressured, with the yen broadly flat against the dollar at 78.14 ycn. The Australian dollar, which is often used to gauge risk sentiment, gained 0.4 percent to $1.0478.

In bond markets, the appetite for risk continued its cautious recovery despite Italy’s government saying the country’s recession would be far worse than feared.

December Bund futures were 45 basis points lower at 139.76 while Spain and Italy’s 10-year bond yields dropped slightly.

The Range Rover is seen at the Jaguar- Land Rover exhibition booth during the International Motor Show (IAA) in Frankfurt, on 14 September, 2011. —REUTERS

West Nile virus kills five in Balkans, dozens in hospital

PRISTINA, 21 Sept—At least five people in the Balkans have died from the West Nile virus and several dozen others have been hospitalized in the past four weeks, according to health authorities in Serbia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Croatia.

West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne disease usually found in temperate and tropical regions. While many cases are mild and have no symptoms, severe disease symptoms can include headaches, high fever, neck stiffness, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness and paralysis. Kosovo officials have “little to no impact” on overall national gasoline consumption over the next several years, the Congressional Budget Office said in a report issued on Thursday. Consumer tax credits for buying electric vehicles, which can run as high as $7,500 per vehicle, will account for about 25 percent of the $7.5 billion cost, the CBO said.

The rest of the cost comprises $2.4 billion in grants to battery makers and projects to promote electric vehicles, as well as $3.1 billion in loans to auto companies designed to spur production of fuel-efficient vehicles. Many of these initiatives were initiated in 2009 under President Barack Obama, but the loan programme was authorized in 2007 under the Bush administration.

Producng all-electric cars and plug-in hybrids is part of the auto industry’s solution to reach increasingly stringent fuel economy standards designed to cut emissions and lessen the United States’ dependence on oil. US government standards mandate that by 2025, automakers to show corporate average fuel economy (CAFÉ) of 54.5 miles per gallon or about 39 miles per gallon in real-world driving.

The tax credits will increase as the overall car market cools. When asked to confirm a local media report that the project had won approval from the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), a Chery spokesman said: “We heard the project has approved, but we have yet to receive the official notice from NDRC.”

The Chery-JLR venture will be based in Changshu city near Shanghai with an annual capacity of 130,000 cars. The partners will make Land Rover SUVs initially, followed by Jaguars in the second phase.

Earlier in the year, JLR and Chery received the green light for the venture from China’s environment ministry.

JLR, controlled by Tata Motors Ltd (TAMO.NS), had previously explored joint venture deals with other Chinese partners, including Great Wall Motor Co Ltd (600155.SS) (2333.HK), but made little headway.

The tie will give JLR a local production base in China, where global luxury makers including BMW BMW.DE, Mercedes-Benz and Audi are tapping into the growing ranks of wealthy Chinese.—Reuters

US electric car policy to cost $7.5 billion by 2019:

CBO

DETROIT, 21 Sept—US federal policies to promote electric vehicles will cost $7.5 billion through 2019 and have “little to no impact” on overall national gasoline consumption over the next several years, the Congressional Budget Office said.

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Nissan Leaf electric cars are being charged before the start of an electric car rally from Tallinn to Monte-Carlo in Tallinn on 1 June, 2012. —REUTERS

A Culex quinquefasciatus mosquito is shown on a human finger in this undated handout photograph from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).—REUTERS

Business & Health

West Nile virus kills five in Balkans, dozens in hospital

A Culex quinquefasciatus mosquito is shown on a human finger in this undated handout photograph from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).—REUTERS

Nissan Leaf electric cars are being charged before the start of an electric car rally from Tallinn to Monte-Carlo in Tallinn on 1 June, 2012. —REUTERS
Russia sees lack of progress in missile talks with NATO

MOSCOW, 21 Sept—Moscow and NATO have made little progress in missile defence talks, Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko said on Thursday. "Implementing the new round..." he announced. Despite the lack of progress, Grushko said, Moscow has not closed the window for talks with NATO about its European missile shield.

During the 2010 NATO summit in Lisbon, Portugal, the talks opened up new opportunities for cooperation. "NATO and Russia have made progress in talks on missile defence," Grushko said. "The talks are continuing, and we are hopeful for a positive outcome."
Ryanair planes had enough fuel—Irish watchdog

DUCK, 21 Sept—Three Ryanair aircraft that made emergency landings in Spain in July were carrying more than the required level of fuel, but the company should still review its policy, the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) said on Thursday.

The recommendation came after Irish and Spanish aviation officials met in Dublin this week as a precautionary meeting following Saturday’s violent protests in the city. The new South Wales Assistant Police Commissioner Alan Clarke said on Friday.

Clarke told the radio networks of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC Radio) that police so far have not received any indications that the violent protests will be repeated.

“Operation Waterman has been put together this weekend — basically Saturday and Sunday — to put a heightened police presence into the CBD of Sydney,” he said.

“It will involve up to 300 extra police with a broad range of capability — mainly public order, but I must really stress that at this point in time we are not anticipating trouble and we just encourage people to get on with their very enjoyable weekend.”

US citizens have been warned by their consulate to be alert to possible anti-American protests in Sydney and Melbourne this weekend, according to ABC reports.

Clarke said police were prepared for any potential riots.

Xinhua

Extra police to patrol Sydney streets this weekend

SYDNEY, 21 Sept—Extra police will be on patrol in Sydney central business district (CBD) this weekend as a precaution following Saturday’s violent protests in the city, New South Wales Assistant Police Commissioner Alan Clarke said on Friday.

Clarke told the radio networks of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC Radio) that police so far have not received any indications that the violent protests will be repeated.

“Operation Waterman has been put together this weekend — basically Saturday and Sunday — to put a heightened police presence into the CBD of Sydney,” he said.

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Xinhua
Dove for earth

Things get dirt when used long, otherwise there would not be such products like soap or washing powder. There have emerged many a brand of cosmetics nowadays to cleanse and repair our body. But, what about the dirt on our mind which piles up more and more as the time passes by? Is there any detergent to wipe it out from our mind?

Neither optimistic nor pessimistic humans are by nature with some exception. Generally, guilt and a sense of common humanity make people less cruel and kindness and sympathy have not yet run out of our heart. Otherwise, the world would now be covered in ashes.

Millions of people were killed in the previous two world wars, but still millions of dollars are spent on production of weapons of mass destruction. Isn’t it ridiculous to mix the humanity with lethality? The better the weapon system the global nations develop, the less they feel secure.

On the International Day of Peace, the United Nations called for a complete cessation of hostilities around the world. But, what about the hostility in our mind which never seems to satisfy whatever it is fed? Isn’t it the root cause of hostilities around the world? Without a peace of mind, man-induced hostilities would never be ceased.

Many different things we encounter in our everyday life, some leave us with a smile, some leave us with a cry. Many different people we encounter throughout our life, sometimes we

President U Thein Sein…

(from page 1)

President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, "the Country of Honour".

President U Thein Sein in his opening address said that much progress has been made in the relations between the ASEAN nations and China in a period of over 30 years since 1991, adding the 9th China-ASEAN Expo plays a crucial role in the implementing of ASEAN-China Free Trade Area.

Moreover, the President expressed his kind request for the host to invest in the science and technology sector in Yatarmarpon being regarded as a pleasant town of Myanmar. The China-ASEAN Expo has been held in Nanning since 2004 with the aim of enabling peoples of China and the ASEAN to enjoy the fruits of trade.

At the 9th China-ASEAN Expo, the booth of Myanmar has been extended three times and a variety of Myanmar products are put on display there.

Chairman of UCSB visits Institutional and Human Resources Development of Public Sector

Navy Pyi Taaw, 22 Sept—After paying a good will and study visit on Institutional and Human Resource Development of the Public Sector of Thailand from 16 to 20 September 2012, at the invitation of H.E Pitsanu Suvanajata, the Ambassador of Royal Thai Embassy of Myanmar, the Myanmar delegation led by U Kyaw Thu, Chairman of the Union Civil Services Board (UCSB), arrived back here by air this evening.

On the morning of 17 September 2012, Chairman U Kyaw Thu and Myanmar delegation paid a visit and call on Secretary-General of Public Sector Development Commission. During the visit, the Chairman held cordial and wide ranging discussions on Reconstructing and Development of the Public Sector in Thailand. In the afternoon, the Chairman and party visited the Devawongse Varapakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs where the Chairman met with authorities of Devawongse Varapakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs and discussed matters on Human Resources Development in Thailand.

On the morning of 18 September 2012, the Myanmar delegation paid a visit and call on Secretary-General of Civil Service Commission. During the meeting, Chairman U Kyaw Thu held cordial and wide ranging discussions on Management and Development of the Thai Civil Service.

On the morning of 19 September 2012, the Chairman and Myanmar delegation visited the Thailand Development Research Institute and held discussions with authorities on matters concerning the Role and Concept of Development-Oriented Researches in Thailand. In the afternoon, the Chairman and party visited the Department of Provincial Administration of Ministry of Interior. During the visit, the Chairman discussed with the authorities of Ministry of Interior on matters related to Human Resources Development in Thailand.
Myanmar Armed Forces, Chinese PLA to cooperate in military technology

NATIONAL

Myanmar Armed Forces, Chinese PLA to cooperate in military technology

Development of cooperative discussed

Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun instructed heads of township Cooperative Departments, staff, and members of Township Cooperative Syndicates and officials from Pantanaw, Kyunyangon and Kangyidaut townships to come out cooperative societies in all villages and alleviate poverty on 19 September.

Outreach Prosthetic Programme commences

The Outreach Prosthetic Programme (OPP) course was opened at the city hall in Monywa on 18 September. Mr Takaroni Hosoja of ICDC explained the purpose of the physical rehabilitation plans, local projects and purpose of the training.

Home & Living Products Expo kicks off

Sweety Home & Living Products Expo 2012 kicked off at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township on 20 September. The expo comprises 145 booths of 10 companies up to 23 September.

Land survey course conducted

The Advanced Land Survey and Modern Land Survey Course No. 17/2012 was conducted at Central Land Survey Training School in Taikkyi Township on 3 September. Altogether 90 trainees are attending the course that lasts from 3 September to 31 March.

Vocation training course provided to trainees

The basic domestic science course 21/2012 and advanced tailoring course 17/2012 were opened at Women’s Vocational Training School in Pauk on 27 August. Altogether 25 trainees are attending the basic domestic science course and 10 at advanced tailoring course.

Paddy seeds provided for flooded farmlands

The donation for 2337.5 baskets of paddy seeds donated by wellwishers for flooded farmlands was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 11 September. The local authorities presented paddy seeds to farmers from 38 wards and villages in Hlegu Township.

Illegally sawn timber seized in Hsihseng

Deputy Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win received a delegation led by Deputy Head of State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry of National Defence (SASTIND) Mr Wang Yiren of People’s Republic of China at Zeyarthiri Beikman here this noon. Present on the occasion were Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, Air) General Hla Htay Win, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and Li-Gen Thein Htet from the Commander-in-Chief’s Office, Chief of Staff (Air) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and Chinese Military Attaché to Myanmar Sr Col Xiong Shaowei. They had a frank discussion on military technological cooperation between the two armed forces. They exchanged gifts after the meeting.—MNA

Myanmar Accountancy Council’s meeting 2/2012 held

The meeting (2/2012) of Myanmar Accountancy Council was launched at its office in Yangon this morning, in the presence of Chairman of Myanmar Accountancy Council Auditor-General of the Union U Thein Htink, Vice-Chairman of MAC Deputy Auditor-General U Myo Myint and the council members.

On the occasion, the Union Auditor-General made a speech citing that statisticians need to involve doing reforms in economy, financial and monetary sectors in accord with reforming process of governance of the State. He assured that any licensed statisticians will run their business in their respective country of ASEAN member States in the year 2015 when accountancy service of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) will be favoured. All statisticians in the country should be the perfect ones who have abilities to overcome that challenge. In the other hand, Myanmar Accountancy Council continues doing its reform process. Besides, all the council members are duty bound to advance the council’s reform process as much as they can, he added.

Afterwards, the vice-chairman of MAC, chairman of MCPA and members participated in the discussion.—MNA

Hotel services courses in Bagan concluded

A concluding ceremony of four courses on hotel services was held at Ayyar Hotel in Bagan-NyaungU region this morning, with an address by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung. His speech cited that hotels and tourism industry has increased with 44 per cent that year than the previous year. Among scenic spots in Myanmar, Bagan-NyaungU region is the heart of tourists. As the tourism industry increases, hotels’ services need to be kept efficient. That is why the hotel services courses are being launched. Such courses had been launched in Bagan two times, three times in Nay Pyi Taw and one time in Taunggyi and Dawei each. To open such courses in Mandalay and PyinUlwint on schedule, The Union Minister then presented prizes to outstanding trainees of the courses. Managing Director of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services presented gifts to the course instructors and completion certificates through a trainee.

The four five-week courses were taken by a total of 227 trainees.

The Union Minister met Bagan Hotel Zone Entrepreneurs and staff pointing out necessary tasks for development of Bagan region.

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The Union Minister met Bagan Hotel Zone Entrepreneurs and staff pointing out necessary tasks for development of Bagan region.

Car driven by bus conductor hits 12-wheeled vehicle

Unintentionally."
Russia cuts Kyrgyz debt for military, power deals

BISHKEK, 21 Sept.—Russia agreed on Thursday to write off nearly $500 million in debt owed to Kyrgyzstan in exchange for a package of deals that will extend Moscow’s military facilities and energy footprints on the volatile fringes of the former Soviet Union.

As Kyrgyzstan confirmed plans to close a US base used to fly troops in and out of Afghanistan after Washington’s lease expires in 2014, President Vladimir Putin secured a 15-year extension to Russia’s lease on its own base in the country.

The deal, which will see Russian companies build hydro power plants allowing them to mediate between conflicting interests over water use, reinforce the Kremlin’s influence in Central Asia as the region guards against the possible spillover of Islamism from Afghanistan.

"A Russian military presence both in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan is a significant factor in stability," Putin said, invoking old Soviet ties in a joint news conference with Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev.

Thursday’s agreement also offered further evidence of what appears to be a campaign by Russia to use financial muscle to extend its influence more widely through Asia.

On Tuesday, Moscow agreed to write off $190 million of North Korea’s $1 billion debt and reinvest the balance in the reclusive Asian state, in a sign of close engagement with Pyongyang under new leader Kim Jong-un.

Kyrgyzstan has suffered periodic bouts of violence and deposed presidents since 2005. Its economy, which has contracted this year, relies on output from a single gold mine and money sent home by migrant workers in Russia.

Trade between the two countries rose 5 percent last year to $1.45 billion, official Russian data show, with Russian goods accounting for about a third of Kyrgyzstan’s imports.

Around 600 Russian servicemen are deployed at the base in Kyrgyzstan in an effort to keep the show on the road, trying to keep all the countries in the euro area from defaulting, trying a new formula for a fiscal union. The IMF projected the country’s exports to grow 5.6 percent this year, sharply lower than the 19.3 percent expansion tallied in the previous year. Exports, which account for around half the South Korean economy, dropped 6.2 percent on-year in August after tumbling 8.8 percent in July.

South Korea was forecast to post a current account surplus of $22.5 billion US dollars in 2012 before logging a surplus of $21 billion dollars in 2013.

King says euro zone threatens slow UK recovery

LONDON, 21 Sept.—Bank of England Governor Mervyn King gave his trademark doomsday assessment of the British and world economy on Thursday in his first live television interview after nearly 10 years in office, and warned the euro zone could yet fall apart.

Four years after the start of the financial crisis, King said it would be a long while before the economy returned to normal — and the most important task for Britain was now to reform bank regulation to reduce the chances of a future crisis. “We’re beginning to see a few signs now of a slow recovery, but it will be a slow recovery. After a banking crisis one can’t expect to get back to normal,” he told Channel 4 News. Given this situation, it might now be “acceptable” for the government to miss its key debt-cutting goal, he added.

The economy entered its second recession since the crisis late last year, and although King and most private sector economists expect it to grow during the current quarter, King said prospects beyond that hinged on overseas factors. “What it will depend on critically, I think, is what happens in the euro area and also the rest of the world,” he said.

According to the reports, at least 50 percent of the people over 55 are the most active ones looking for a job, as 67 percent of them are unemployed more than one year ago. The economic crisis in Spain caused a significant number of unemployed people whose figure reaches almost five million people. Spain is the country with the highest unemployment rate in Europe, followed by Greece.

The Middle Class

People view building models during a real estate trade fair in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 26 Sept, 2012. The 2012 Nanjing Autumn Real Estate Trade Fair kicked off on Thursday, displaying nearly 30,000 apartments of 28 projects.

Long-term unemployed reaches almost three million in Spain

MADRID, 21 Sept.—The long-term unemployed people reached almost three million in Spain reported on Thursday AGETT, an association of temporary employment.

According to the report released on Thursday, the long-term unemployed represent a half of the total people who do not have a job, 52.2 percent. This means that a total of 2,974,400 people have been looking for a job for more than one year.

In addition, the report says that the number of unemployed who are over 55 years old increased and quadrupled since the start of the economic crisis. Nowadays there are 495,700 people unemployed with this age. The report says that people who are over 55 are the most active ones looking for a job, as 67 percent of them are unemployed more than one year ago.

The economic crisis in Spain caused a significant number of unemployed people whose figure reaches almost five million people. Spain is the country with the highest unemployment rate in Europe, followed by Greece.

Apple fans camp outside the Apple retail store on the Fifth Ave in New York, the United States, on 20 Sept, 2012. Apple fans queued overnight outside the store for the first day of sales of Apple’s iPhone 5 in the US.

IMFFlowers 2012 growth outlook for S Korea to 3 pct

SEOUL, 21 Sept.—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) lowered on Friday its 2012 economic growth outlook for South Korea to 3 percent from 3.5 percent estimated in April, citing the eurozone fiscal crisis as a major risk factor.

According to the Ministry of Strategy and Finance, the downgraded outlook came after the IMF had an annual consultative meeting with the country’s major ministries and agencies during the period of between 30 May and 12 June.

The growth outlook for 2013 was also cut to 3.9 percent from an earlier estimate of 4 percent, the ministry said.

The revised outlook was relatively optimistic compared with other local think tanks. The country’s state-run Korea Development Institute (KDI) cut its 2012 growth outlook from 3.6 percent to 2.5 percent on Monday.

The Bank of Korea (BOK) has kept its 2012 growth outlook at 3 percent, but the central bank was widely expected to lower the outlook to the 2 percent range in October when it announces its revised outlook.

The IMF projected the country’s exports to grow 5.6 percent this year, sharply lower than the 19.3 percent expansion tallied in the previous year. Exports, which account for around half the South Korean economy, dropped 6.2 percent on-year in August after tumbling 8.8 percent in July.

South Korea was forecast to post a current account surplus of $22.5 billion US dollars in 2012 before logging a surplus of $21 billion dollars in 2013.
China donates 100 ambulances to Afghanistan

KABUL, 21 Sept—The government of China donated 100 ambulances to Afghanistan’s Public Health Ministry on Thursday, Public Health Ministry said in a statement released here.

“The People Republic of China donated 100 new ambulances worth 4 million US dollars to the Ministry for Public Health and a technical team of China would also train Afghans on how to maintain and repair the ambulances,” the statement added.

Three killed, six wounded in S Philippine ambush

ZAMBOANGA CITY, 21 Sept—Three people were killed and six others were wounded after suspected members of the rogue group Abu Sayyaf staged an ambush in the southern Philippines province of Basilan, the military confirmed on Friday.

Capt Alberto Caber, spokesman of the Philippine army’s 1st Division, said the Abu Sayyaf attack, which injured 10 people with plastic pipe bombs, came as an “ambush.”

The attack, however, came as a blow to the peace process between the government and the MILF, the main rebel group in Mindanao.

The Philippines government is trying to negotiate a peace accord with the MILF to end a 40-year conflict that has killed thousands.

Thailand flood still worrisome

BANGKOK, 21 Sept—The flood situation in many provinces is still worrisome, particularly in the eastern provinces. In the northeastern province of Sa Kao, large amount of flood water was drained into the Prachin Buri River, relieving the situation in Sa Kao. Unfortunately, the water overflowed to flood a nearby province Prachin Buri and submerge its Kanin Buri district, affecting the agricultural areas and homes.

Residents in flooded area in Prachin Buri were forced to move their vehicles, as well as pets, to higher ground.

People gather around the fire accident site in slums at the Begunbari area in Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh, on 20 Sept. 2012. About 400 shanties were destroyed and 15 people were injured in the accident, fire brigade said.—Xinhua

Thailand has repeatedly accused Pakistan of giving safe haven to militants on the Afghan side of the border, particularly in Kunar province, leaving Pakistan vulnerable to counter-attack when it chases them out of its own ethnic Pashtun tribal area.

Pakistan’s UN Ambassador Abdullah Hussain Haq said his country had a robust security force along its border with Afghanistan and had recently enhanced its presence with checkpoints and regular patrolling.—Reuters

Afghanistan says Pakistani shelling risks “negative consequences”

UNIVERSAL, 21 Sept—Afghanistan’s foreign minister warned the UN Security Council on Thursday that its ties with Pakistan were being threatened by Pakistan shelling across the two countries’ mountainous border that has killed dozens of Afghan civilians.

Afghanistan has for months accused Pakistan’s army of firing hundreds of rockets into the two eastern provinces of Kunar and Nuristan, targeting insurgent havens but also forcing Afghan villagers to flee their homes.

“Failure to end such attacks risks jeopardizing Afghanistan-Pakistan bilateral relations, with potential negative consequences for necessary bilateral cooperation for peace, security and economic development in our two countries and the wider region,” Afghan Foreign Minister Zalmai Rassoul said.

Afghanistan has sent additional troops and long-range artillery to the border with Pakistan as tensions rose over the shelling.

“We reiterate our call for an immediate and complete end to these acts, which have taken the lives of dozens of Afghans, mainly civilians, while leaving many more wounded,” Rassoul said.

Pakistan has repeatedly accused Afghanistan of giving safe haven to militants on the Afghan side of the border, particularly in Kunar province, leaving Pakistan vulnerable to counter-attack when it chases them out of its own ethnic Pashtun tribal area.

Pakistan’s UN Ambassador Abdullah Hussain Haq said his country had a robust security force along its border with Afghanistan and had recently enhanced its presence with checkpoints and regular patrolling.—Reuters

Record number of New Zealanders leave to seek better life in Australia

WELLINGTON, 21 Sept—A record number of New Zealanders left to seek a better life in Australia in the year to the end of August, the government statistics agency announced on Friday.

The 15 provinces, which are part of Western Australia, are likely to be affected from the flood.

New Zealanders were leaving because the country had too few jobs and the jobs that did exist paid too poorly, Green Party co-leader Dr Russel Norman said in a statement. “In manufacturing alone, 40,000 jobs have been lost under this government,” he said. “The rest of the world is using modern policy tools to protect jobs for their workers while our government refuses to do anything.”

The country was facing the tragedy of its smartest young people “leaving in droves.” “Mr Key campaigned on stopping this exodus. He promised to shrink the wage gap. And he promised a brighter future. None of that is happening,” Shearer said in a statement.

The Council of Trade Unions (CTU) said 271,000 New Zealanders were now jobless and another 110,000 were looking for extra hours of work in a situation that “would be even worse if it was not for the outflow to Australia.”

Xinhua

“Mr Key campaigned on stopping this exodus. He promised to shrink the wage gap. And he promised a brighter future. None of that is happening,” Shearer said in a statement.

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Xinhua

Wen says both China and EU against trade protectionism

BRUSSELS, 21 Sept—Both China and the European Union reject trade protectionism, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said on Thursday after a summit meeting with EU leaders.

“We both (China and the European Union) follow free and open economic and trade policies, reject trade protectionism and work to advance economic globalisation,” Wen told a business conference on the sidelines of the summit.

He also said he believed Europe was able to overcome its debt crisis, and that China continued to invest in European government debt. “Europe is on the right track in tackling its debt issue, and what is crucial now is to fully implement all the policy measures,” Wen said.

Earlier in the day, Wen met European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and Herman Van Rompuy, president of the European Council, which represents national governments. The leaders were meeting against a background of growing trade disputes between China and the European Union.—Reuters
**BUSINESS & ADVERTISEMENT**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV MOROTAI VOY NO (188)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (188) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.9.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MLP where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM**

**Phone No:** 256908/373616/376797

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV ASIAN LEADER VOY NO (22)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIAN LEADER VOY NO (22) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.9.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: NYK LINE**

**Phone No:** 256924/256914

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV FORESIGHTER VOY NO (5)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FORESIGHTER VOY NO (5) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.9.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: EASTERN-CAR LINER S’PORE PTE LTD**

**Phone No:** 256924/256914

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**Russia expects visit of Japanese PM this year**

**MOSCOW, 21 Sept—** Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda may visit Russia by the end of this year, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

“We are going to work closely with the Japanese side to fill that visit with substance, so it would bring additional fruits to our cooperation,” said Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich.

Lukashevich added that both Moscow and Tokyo would work on making Noda’s visit filled with a “particular content.”

“As far as I know, the (Russian) foreign minister plans to contact with Japanese FM Koshiba) Gombo during the UN General Assembly. Perhaps, there we could understand more precisely the order of our joint actions and further political contacts,” Lukashevich said.—Itar-Tass

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**Italy’s growth outlook still dismal after Monti reforms**

**ROME, 21 Sept—** Prime Minister Mario Monti may have saved Italy from imminent default but the growth potential of Europe’s most sluggish economy is as weak as ever, and that means prospects for lasting debt reduction remain fragile.

Thanks to his decisive austerity measures and personal credibility, the economist and former European commissioner has put Italy back at the centre of European decision making and helped to lower its borrowing costs.

Yet only by boosting its growth potential — the ability to grow consistently without generating inflation — will Italy hope to lower a debt pile of more than 120 percent of output, second only to Greece’s in the euro zone.

With the end of Monti’s term just six months away, and no clarity about what sort of government will follow him let alone how committed it will be to austerity and deregulation, most economists say progress on this front has been disappointing.

“I think that Italy’s growth potential is exactly what it was when Monti arrived,” said Daniel Gros, head of the Brussels based Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS).

Italy grew at an average rate of 0.25 percent per year in the decade to 2011, the worst performance not only in the EU but also among the G20 and the 34 states that make up the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The economy is once again in steep recession, forecast by economists to contract by around 2.5 percent this year. The OECD says its growth potential is now a paltry 0.3 percent.

The government aims to cut the debt from 123.4 percent of GDP this year to 114.4 percent in 2015. It says it could fall to 100 percent of output in 2019 and 60 percent in 2025.

However, this depends on borrowing costs stabilising at pre-crisis levels, tough austerity at least until 2015 and, at the same time, return to stable and steady growth.

The combination of all three looks like wishful thinking.

**Noda retains leadership in DPJ election**

**LOS ANGELES, 21 Sept—** Assets worth more than $10 million, including famous works of art, a Porsche and luxury watches, have been stolen from the California home of one of the world’s leading bond fund managers, a source familiar with the situation said on Thursday.

The burglary at Jeffrey Gundlach’s home in the coastal town of Santa Monica occurred between the afternoon of 12 September and the night of September 14, according to police.

The massive heist included paintings by Jasper Johns and Piet Mondrian, a red 2010 Porsche Carrera 4S taken from the garage, expensive watches made by the likes of Glashutte and Breitling, some wine and a small amount of cash, police said in a statement.

Police did not identify the burglary victim, but the source familiar with the situation said he planned to speak to the bond manager’s California home.

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** Assets worth $10 million stolen from bond fund manager’s California home **

**US**

**REUTERS**

People examine the wreckage of a damaged bus at the blast site in northwest Pakistan’s Peshawar on 20 Sept, 2012. At least ten people were killed and 22 others injured as a bomb hit a passenger van in Pakistan’s northwest city of Peshawar on Wednesday afternoon, said hospital sources.

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**Italy’s Prime Minister Mario Monti gestures during an interview at the Ambrosetti workshop, an economic conference, in Cernobbio, next to Como, on 8 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS**

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**Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda addresses the leadership election of the ruling Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) in Tokyo, Japan, on 21 Sept, 2012. Yoshihiko Noda won the leadership election of DPJ by a big margin here on Friday, initial results showed.—Xinhua**

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**Russia expects visit of Japanese PM this year**

**MOSCOW, 21 Sept—** Japan’s Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda may visit Russia by the end of this year, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

“We are going to work closely with the Japanese side to fill that visit with substance, so it would bring additional fruits to our cooperation,” said Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich.

Lukashevich added that both Moscow and Tokyo would work on making Noda’s visit filled with a “particular content.”

“As far as I know, the (Russian) foreign minister plans to contact with Japanese FM Koshiba) Gombo during the UN General Assembly. Perhaps, there we could understand more precisely the order of our joint actions and further political contacts,” Lukashevich said.—Itar-Tass

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Singer Fiona Apple arrested on drug charge in Texas

The singer-songwriter was nabbed in a small west Texas town where authorities previously arrested social networking actor Armie Hammer on drug charges.

She was released after posting bail on Thursday, and her jail stay passed “without incident,” Fleming said. Asked why so many celebrities have been arrested in the town on Interstate 10, County Judge Becky Dean-Walker said, “because they come through here with stuff they shouldn’t have.”

The International 10 highway runs coast-to-coast across the United States between California and Florida, Apple, who won a Grammy for the single “Criminal” off her 1996 debut album “Tidal,” was due to perform in Austin on Thursday night but the venue’s website said the show was postponed.

A spokeswoman for Apple declined to comment.—Reuters

Casino mogul Adelson opens new resort in Macau

April.

The new casino can only add new gambling tables starting in 2013 due to government regulations, so Adelson compensated by moving close to 200 tables from his existing Venetian and Sands Macau casinos.

The impact of Sands’ fifth casino in Macau, the only place where Chinese nationals can legally casino gamble, will be relatively muted due to the lack of new tables, analysts said. While Macau’s gambling revenue growth slowed significantly in the second quarter from a year earlier, overall revenues have risen and casino companies are still pledging billions to expand.

Macau’s gambling revenue growth for the year is expected to reach between 10-15 percent, say analysts, most of whom have downgraded their estimates from around 20 percent, due to slower-than-expected growth in the lucrative VIP sector made up of wealthy Chinese.

The latest opening comes as Adelson is the focus of a series of lawsuits and investigations in the United States and Macau.

Sands Cotai Central is adding another Sheraton hotel tower early next year and also plans a St Regis hotel tower.

When completed, Sands will have more than 9,000 hotel rooms, which it says will help drive business.—Reuters

US President Barack Obama celebrates with first lady Michelle Obama and his daughter Malia (L) after accepting the 2012 US Democratic presidential nomination during the final session of Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, on 6 Sept, 2012.—Reuters

Golconda diamond expected to sell for over $15 million

New York, 21 Sept.—A 76-carat diamond billed as one of the finest of the famous in the world is expected to fetch well over $15 million when it hits the auction block in November, Christie’s said on Friday. The colossal gem, which Christie’s said was the finest and largest perfect Golconda diamond ever to appear at auction, is perfect in color and internally flawless.

“The legendary Golconda minerals in India produced some of the world’s most famous diamonds, including the Dresden green, the blue Hope, and the Koh-i-Noor (the Royal Collection at the Tower of London), Rahul Kadakia, head of jewelry for Christie’s Americas and Switzerland, told Reuters.

The diamond, named the Archduke Joseph Diamond for one of its former owners, is the highlight of Christie’s sale of precious gems in Geneva in November, the auction house said in a statement.

A Christie’s spokeswoman said the owner of the diamond wanted to remain anonymous. Prices for rare, top quality diamonds have soared in recent years, although the expected price would not make the record books.

Higher prices attained in recent years include the Wittelsbach-Diamond—a 17th century cushion-shaped deep grayish-blue diamond, which sold for $24.3 million in 2008 at Christie’s in London. Two years ago a 25-carat pink diamond soared to more than $46 million at Sotheby’s in Geneva, while last December Hollywood star Elizabeth Taylor’s 33-carat diamond ring, given to her by husband Richard Burton, fetched $8.8 million, briefly setting a new per carat record for a colorless diamond of $240,000/ct that had already been eclipsed. “The Archduke Joseph Diamond created a sensation when Christie’s Geneva offered it for sale the first time in November 1993, where it realized 9.7 million Swiss francs—equivalent of $10.5 million today,” noted François Caruial, chief head of Christie’s jewelry department.—Reuters

Singer Fiona Apple is seen in this police booking photo from the Hudspeth County Sheriff Department received by Reuters on 20 Sept., 2012.—Reuters

Obamas head for “The View”, Ann Romney bound for Jay Leno

New York, 21 Sept.—President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama will make their first joint appearance on the US daytime talk show “The View” next week, while Ann Romney will chat with comedian Jay Leno in her first late-night interview, networks ABC and NBC said on Thursday.

The 25 September “The View” broadcast will mark the first time the Obamas have appeared together on the one-hour show featuring a team of dynamic women, led by Barbara Walters, discussing the hot topics of the day.

ABC said in a statement that the Obamas would talk about their relationship, family life inside the White House and the 6 November presidential elections on the Emmy Award winning show.

On NBC, the wife of Republican presidential challenger Mitt Romney will be a guest on Leno’s “The Tonight Show,” also on 25 September, and give her thoughts on family life and coming election, the network said in a statement.

TV chat shows have become a popular tool for politicians to show their human side. Obama became the first sitting US President to appear on a late-night talk show when he was a guest on “The Tonight Show” in March 2009.

Since that time, Obama, Romney and their wives have made multiple appearances on the daytime and evening talk show circuits.—Reuters

Rare Cartier-Bresson photos of Sri Aurobindo on display

New Delhi, 21 Sept.—Artist Henri Cartier-Bresson’s photographs of Sri Aurobindo, the guru nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, and his French-born spiritual companion are on exhibit in New Delhi, giving a rare glimpse of life at the Aurobindo ashram in Pondicherry.

More than 100 prints from a photo album purchased at a London auction by an Indian art collector are on display. The photos were taken just months before Sri Aurobindo, founder of the commune in the former French colonial town of Pondicherry, died in 1950.

A woman looks at the unbound and unpublished photographs of French photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson, curated by the Aurobindo Foundation “Mastering the Lens: Before and After Cartier-Bresson in Pondicherry”, at Alliance Francaise in New Delhi, on 19 Sept, 2012.—Reuters
Liverpool win eight-goal match, Vargas hat-trick for Napoli

**SPOTS**

Liverpool's Sebastian Coates and Fabio Borini (L) celebrate after scoring their third goal against RSD Young Boys (YB) during their Europa League Group A soccer match in Bern on 20 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

BEZERT, 21 Sept.—Liverpool twice squandered the lead, trailed 3-2 and then scored three times in the last 25 minutes to win 5-3 at Young Boys in an enthralling but blunder-prone Europa League tie on Thursday.

Chile forward Eduardo Vargas scored a hat-trick to propell Napoli to a 4-0 win over AIK Stockholm and propel Napoli to a 4-0 win over Atletico Madrid titleholders Atletico Madrid over AIK Stockholm and propel Napoli to a 4-0 win over Atletico Madrid titleholders Atletico Madrid.

Heskey agrees deal to join Australia's Newcastle Jets

SYDNEY, 21 Sept.—Former Liverpool and Southampton forward Emile Heskey has signed a one-year deal with Australian club the Newcastle Jets and could face Alessandro Del Piero in the Italian’s first home match for Sydney FC in A-League next month. The 34-year-old former Leicister, Liverpool, Birmingham and Wigan player won 62 caps for his country, scoring seven goals and playing at two World Cups, but was without a club after being released by Villa at the end of last season.

Heskey will join former Sunderland and Leeds United forward Michael Bridges at the Jets and follows fellow former Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler, who played in the A-League for two years, moving in to Australia.

“Although this is an exciting new period in my life and I am looking forward to making a special contribution to the A-League and most importantly, to the Jets,” Heskey said in a statement released by the club on Friday. “I hope I can help grow football at the grassroots level and also provide advice to young players at the Jets.

“The season isn’t far away, so I will be in Newcastle soon, training with my new team mates and be ready for kick Illumbuj on 7 October.”

The club is owned by mining magnate Nathan Tinkler’s Hunter Sports Group.

Former England striker Emile Heskey (L).—REUTERS

Mexico set to bid for third World Cup finals in 2026

MEXICO CITY, 21 Sept.—Mexico will bid to host the 2026 World Cup, the country’s soccer chief Justino Compean said on Thursday.

Mexico hosted the 1970 and 1986 World Cups and a successful bid for the 2026 finals would make the country the first to host the global piece of event three times.

“Mexico was a great host in ’70 and ’86, so we are indeed going to fight for the right,” he said. “We want to have a World Cup (again), there will be a strong competition with the United States,” Mexican Football Federation president Compean told reporters.

“Mexico’s football infrastructure keeps growing and that World Cup can be feasible for Mexico.” The 1950 World Cup hosts Brazil stage their second finals in 2014. Russia won the 2018 bid, while Qatar will stage the 2022 finals. —REUTERS

President of the Football Federation of Russia Vitaly Mutko (L) is joined by National football team players and coaches during their meeting at the former Olympic Village on 20 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

Tiger lands first blow in East Lake ‘duel’ with Rory

ATLANTA, 21 Sept.—Tiger Woods delivered the best possible response to suggestions earlier this week that he is intimidated by Rory McIlroy as he outscored the world number one by three shots in the Tour Championship first round on Thursday.

Wearing with the mop-haired Northern Irishman in the final pairing in front of galleries at East Lake Golf Club, Woods birdied two of the last four holes for a four-under par 66 to burst into a share of the lead.

McIlroy, who led the FedExCup points standings going into the PGA Tour’s fourth and final playoff event, carded a 69 in his first competitive round on the challenging East Lake layout.

“I enjoy playing with Rory,” Woods, 36, told reporters after also joining Britain’s Justin Rose atop the leaderboard in the 2012 FedExCup finals. “It’s a great kid. Over the years there are certain pairings for me that I’ve enjoyed, and Rory is one of them.”

Woods, a three-times winner on the PGA Tour this season, was paired with McIlroy for a fifth time in this year’s FedExCup playoffs, a perfect scenario for television ratings as well as for the East Lake fans.

“I think that is the whole idea of the playoffs, trying to get the players all playing more often but also in the same group,” said world number two this year. Woods, a three-times winner on the PGA Tour this season, was paired with McIlroy for a fifth time in this year’s FedExCup playoffs, a perfect scenario for television ratings as well as for the East Lake fans.

“His confidence is at an all-time high,” said Woods. “He’s got a lot of different things going on. He’s got a lot of sponsors and a lot of things going on in his life. That’s going to bring him a lot more confidence and it’s going to help him control his game and play his best.”

McIlroy, who has overshadowed Woods this season by winning four times, including his second major title at last month’s PGA Championship, relished playing again with the American former world number one.

“I really enjoyed that,” the 23-year-old Northern Irishman said. “I always say with great pressure, whenever you get a couple of shots better. "I’m just going out there and try to play the same way, maybe hole a few more putts and turn what I shot today into something in the mid-60s.”

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Caterham appoint new CEO

SINGAPORE, 21 Sept.—Caterham have appointed Cyril Abiteboul, currently deputy managing director of Renault Sport Formula One, as their new CEO, the Malaysian-owned outfit said on Friday.

Abiteboul will juggle both roles until January after which he will join the English-based team where he will report to Caterham Group CEO Riad Asmat and chairman Tony Fernandes.

“I am obviously really happy to join this team that is still only in its third year and I would like to thank Tony, Kamaruddin and Riad for this fantastic opportunity,” Abiteboul said in a statement.

“Caterham has announced Cyril Abiteboul will join the Formula 1 team as its CEO,—REUTERS

The vision, enthusiasm and appetite of the shareholders and the whole team will be very precious strengths to help us tackle the many challenges we have ahead as we continue to develop the F1 platform and hopefully make our way up through the grid.”

Caterham, who failed to score a point in their previous life as Team Lotus in 2010 and 2011, are one of three teams who have yet to open their account ahead of this season’s 14th race in Singapore on Sunday.

“Tiger Woods delivered the best possible response to suggestions earlier this week that he is intimidated by Rory McIlroy as he outscored the world number one by three shots in the Tour Championship first round on Thursday.”—Reuters

Abiteboul, who has spent 11 years with Renault, has some experience of working with Caterham as Renault provide engines for the fledging outfit.—REUTERS

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Alex Ferguson relief as Manchester United scrape winning start

Paris Hilton is “sorry from the bottom” of her heart for anti-gay rant

Israeli soldier, three gunmen killed on Egypt border
**Myanmar, British**

**Armed Forces keen on closer cooperation**

NAV Pyi Taw, 21 Sept—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win met the staff from departments/enterprises under the Mines Ministry in Mandalay Region this morning.

The Union Minister met with Vice-Chairman and executives from Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs’ Association (Mandalay Branch).

The Union Minister also met officials from the Ministry of Mines.

**Union Mines Minister meets staff from the Ministry in Mandalay Region**

NAV Pyi Taw, 21 Sept—Union Mines Minister Dr Myint Aung met the staff from departments/enterprises under the Mines Ministry at Myanma Gems Enterprise (Mandalay Branch) yesterday noon in Mandalay and called for observance of the code of conduct of civil servants and carrying out the tasks in accord with the law.

**Suarez and Eva should lay wreaths at Anfield - Fowler**

London, 21 Sept—Former Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler has suggested Patrice Evra and Luis Suarez lay floral tributes to mark the tragedies both clubs have suffered before Sunday’s game between his old club and Manchester United at Anfield.

The Premier League match is the first between the two fierce rivals since the publication last week of an independent report into the Hillsborough disaster which exonerated Liverpool fans from any blame in the 1989 tragedy that claimed 96 lives.

Evra and Suarez were involved in a major controversy last season which resulted in Suarez being banned for eight matches for racially abusing Evra at Anfield last October.

Sunday’s occasion is likely to be highly emotional with both Manchester United and Liverpool players and managers urging fans throughout the week to show respect to each other.

Fowler told BBC Radio 5 Live it would be appropriate for Suarez and Evra to help defuse the tension by showing unity before kickoff.

"It would be nice for Luis Suarez to put some flowers at the United end regarding Munich, and for Patrice Evra to do so at the Kop," Fowler said.

"The two clubs do have a rivalry, but some things are far more important than football and this is one of them."

Fowler suggested Suarez should commemorate the Munich air disaster of 1958, in which eight Manchester United players and three club staff were among 23 people killed, while Evra should pay tribute to the Hillsborough victims.

Suarez refused to shake Evra’s hand before the start of the last game between the companies and workers.

They frankly discussed promotion of ties between two armed forces.—MNA

**US lifts ban on NZ warships, NZ keeps nuclear-free stance**

Obamas head for “The View”, Ann Romney bound for Jay Leno

Liverpool win eight-goal match, Vargas hat-trick for Napoli

Traditional medicine kits distributed in Labutta