Myanmar designates Yatanarpon Cyber City as “A City of Charm”, invites FDI from China to the city to invest in field of science and technology

To attract foreign investments, related laws amended, rules and regulations relaxed and incorporation process could be completed in a day
NATIONAL

Long-term work programme calls for patience, adaptability, flexibility, perseverance and bold decision

Workshop on the progress of relief, rehabilitation, the rule of law and sustainable development in the Rakhine State in progress. MNA

Long-term work programme calls for patience, adaptability, flexibility, perseverance and bold decision. It calls for patience, understanding, realization of prevailing situations and incidents, adaptability, flexibility, perseverance, bold decision; that it is safe to say that the workshop made remarkable progress due to active participation of various organizations and people; and stressed the need for those present to join hands for success of the work.

Dr Aung Kyi-Dr Yin May Than and family in Kyimyinda Township donated K 500,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Joint Treasurer U Chit Myaing recently. NLM

World School Milk Day in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay

YANGON, 23 Sept—The World School Milk Day will be observed in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay on 26 September simultaneously. Although the global countries observe the commemorative day annually, Myanmar will mark the day this year, said an official of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation.

The primary level essay and poster contests will be held in and rehabilitation, of the World School Milk Day. The first prize winner will receive K 50,000, the second K 40,000 and the third K 30,000. Each consolation winner will bag K 10,000 each.

At present, 11 Basic Education Primary Schools included in the school milk project of Yangon Region are organizing the essay contest. The winners will be awarded in the commemorative ceremony.

“Yangon Region will observe the World School Milk Day at BEHS No. 3 in Ahlon Township in a ceremony to be held in commemoration of the World School Milk Day. The chief guest will be the Joint Treasurer of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation. The ceremony will be organized by MLBF, regional Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department with the sponsorship of FAO and CPC,”—Kyemon

Quality paddy seeds provided for flooded farmlands

KAYIN, 23 Sept—A ceremony to donate quality paddy seeds and other equipment for flooded paddy fields was held at the hall of General Administration Department in Kayin township on 11 September. The occasion, Township Administrator U Nyi Nyi Win made a speech. Head of Township Agricultural Department U Moe Khaing explained cultivation of paddy in flooded farms in time.

In Kayin township, there are 4996 acres of flooded paddy fields. Of them, 333 acres of land has been put under paddy. A total of 1777 acres of paddy are being cultivated. A total of 902 acres of land are difficult to be regrown. The remaining 1986 acres of land are waiting for cultivation of paddy when floods subside. Wellwishers donated 1072.5 baskets of paddy seeds for farmlands, 28 boxes of One Tea Cake and 29 packages of Yam Yam instant noodle to the farmers.—Kyemon

Two-digit lottery seized in Yuzana Garden City

YANGON, 23 Sept—A squad comprising members of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township Police Force waiting at back way between 1st street and 2nd street in B Block seized eight sheets of paper with two-digit lottery from U Zaw Zaw Aung, 31, son of U Thein Tun of Ward 94 and Maung Tin Htut, 23, son of U Thaung Shwe of Ward 93, two voucher book, two ball-pens, four carbon papers and K 133,800 of proceeds at 3 pm on 21 September in Ward 94 in Yuzana Garden City in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan).—Kyemon

Youth entrepreneur leaves for China

YANGON, 23 Sept—CEC member Daw Khin Thet of Myanmar Youth Entrepreneurs Association left here by air on 19 September to attend the Chinese and Southeast Asian NGOs Exchange Program to be held in Beijing of China from 19 to 30 September at the invitation of Chinese People’s Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPADP) of China. She was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Vice-Chairman of the association U Aung Soe Than and Joint Secretary Daw Thin Thin Htet. Myanmar Alin

District News

YANGON, 23 Sept—A ceremony to donate quality paddy seeds provided for flooded farmlands was held at the hall of General Administration Department in Kawthu Township on 20 September. It was attended by Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye, Speaker of the Sagaing Region Hluttaw U Thin Thin Hset. The third-day meeting of its 4th regular session was held at the International Convention Centre here this morning.

The third-day meeting of the fourth regular session of the first Sagaing Region Hluttaw was held at the Hluttaw Hall in Sagaing on 20 September. The third-day meeting of the fourth regular session of the first Sagaing Region Hluttaw was held at the Hluttaw Hall in Sagaing on 20 September.

Ambassador U Khin Maung Win (Retd) chaired the third meeting of its 4th regular session held in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon on 23 September.

The findings of the workshop cannot be regarded as a complete solution and it is required to continue making efforts for more complete work programmes. The effective implementation of those work programmes calls for cooperation among the government bodies, local organizations, social organizations and international organizations, said Union Minister for Border Affairs Li Gen Thein Htun at the two-day workshop on the progress of relief, rehabilitation, the rule of law and sustainable development in the Rakhine State held at the International Convention Centre here this morning.

The Union Minister continued to say that being a long-term work programme, it calls for patience, understanding, realization of prevailing situations and incidents, adaptability, flexibility, perseverance, bold decision; that it is safe to say that the workshop made remarkable progress due to active participation of various organizations and people; and stressed the need for those present to join hands for success of the work.

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Top Chinese security official makes surprise visit to Afghanistan

The four-hour visit had not been announced by Beijing due to security concerns. It followed a two-day trip of Zhou to Singapore, where he met Singaporean leaders on bilateral ties. Zhou, who is in charge of security and justice affairs, had planned to go to Turkmenistan. It marked the first time in 46 years that a Chinese leader set his foot on the soil of Afghanistan, a war-torn country neighbouring China. The last visit was made by late Chinese leader Liu Shaoqi in 1966 when he was the President of China. During the past half century, Afghanistan was affiliated with series of military coups and two major wars commenced by the former Soviet Union and the United States respectively. The country is still the front line in the US-led war against terrorism and undergoing daily bombing and bleeding. Zhou held a meeting with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. “It is in line with the fundamental interests of the two peoples for China and Afghanistan to strengthen a strategic and cooperative partnership, which is also conducive to regional peace, stability and development,” Zhou was quoted as saying in a written statement released by the Chinese delegation upon his arrival. Zhou said the Chinese government fully respects the right of the Afghan people to choose their own path of development and will actively participate in Afghanistan’s reconstruction. China and Afghanistan established diplomatic relations in 1955. The two countries decided in June to upgrade their ties to the level of a strategic and cooperative partnership at a meeting between Chinese President Hu Jintao and Karzai in Beijing, marking a new step for the development of bilateral relations.
Apple seeks US Samsung sales ban, $707 mln more in damages

Source, 23 Sept—Apple Inc has asked for a court order for a permanent US sales ban on Samsung Electronics products alleged to have violated its patents along with additional damages of $707 million on top of the billion-dollar verdict won by the iPhone maker last month.

Apple has responded by asking for a new trial. The world’s top smartphone makers are locked in patent battles in 10 countries as they vie for top spot in the lucrative, fast-growing market. Apple (AAPL.O) scored a legal victory over Samsung ($1.3 billion) bid for the chip maker by private equity firm KKR, two sources said on Saturday.

Japan government mulls Renesas rescue with supplemental damages based on Samsung’s product sales not covered in the jury’s deliberation; and $50 million in prejudgment interest on damages through 31 December. The requests together come to $707 million.

Apple wants the injunction to cover “any of the infringing features in any other product with a feature or features not more than colorably different from any of the infringing feature or features in any of the Infringing Products.”

Such a wide-ranging sales ban could result in the extension of the injunction to cover Samsung’s brand-new Galaxy S III smartphone.

“Rectangles with rounded corners” were displayed at a shop in Tokyo on 31 August, 2012.

Renesas, Toyota and other Japanese manufacturers might be persuaded to help the chip maker in order to secure their supply chains, an industry source told Reuters on condition he was not identified.

KKR “just wants to step it up and make money. They don’t care about the supply chain,” he said.

Officially at the three owners, who asked not to be identified, said they were unaware of the bid. One source at a financial firm said a plan that counts KKR could take several months to devise.

Joining Toyota and the government fund will be Panasonic Corp, Nissan Motor Co Honda Motor Co, Canon Inc, Faneur Corp and auto parts makers Denso Corp and Kishin Corp, the Nikkei reported.

The group may also invite German industrial group Bosch GmbH and other foreign firms to join it, the source added.

It is also in talks to buy control of Renesas, which would be its largest investment in Japan, sources told Reuters last month. That deal would give KKR more than 50 percent of cash-strapped Renesas, and could speed the pace of its restructurings in the face of sinking prices and aggressive overseas rivals.

Facebook tightens privacy to satisfy Irish regulator

DUBLIN, 23 Sept—Facebook Inc has tightened up its privacy controls sufficiently to satisfy a review by the body that regulates the social networking company outside North America, removing the immediate threat of legal challenges.

The world’s biggest social networking site, which is valued at $100 billion, has been told to improve its privacy to stop users opting out. It was told by Ireland’s Data Protection Commissioner last December to overhaul privacy protection for users outside the United States and Canada after a probe found its privacy policies were too complex and lacked transparency.

The regulator said it was particularly encouraged by the decision to turn off a piece of facial recognition technology, the so-called “tag suggest” feature, for new users in the European Union and by next month, existing users as well.

The Irish watchdog, which oversees Facebook’s activities because the group’s non-US business is headquartered in Dublin, said on Friday most of its instructions had been complied with, and was still to be made on others over the next four weeks.

“We will hope that the progress reported in this review will have dealt with the various complaints it has in relation to Facebook Ireland,” Ireland’s Data Protection Commissioner Bill Hynes told a conference call.

Privacy cases can prove costly for sites such as Facebook, which was the first American company to debut with a value of more than $100 billion in its initial public offering in May, before its share price slumped on an uncertain outlook.

Space shuttle Endeavor makes last landing after aerial tour

Los Angeles, 23 Sept—The Space Shuttle Endeavor made its final landing in California on Wednesday.

It flew some of the most iconic payloads in the space shuttle programme history, including “The Camera That Saved Hubble” and “The Mission That Mapped the World.”

In this photo illustration, a Facebook logo on a computer screen is seen through glasses held by a woman in Born on 19 May, 2012.

The Space Shuttle Endeavor mounted a 477 atands 477 at Los Angeles International Airport, the United States on 21 Sept, 2012. Endeavor will be moved to its permanent home at the California Science Centre mid-October. Xinhua

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**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**New Light of Myanmar** Monday, 24 September, 2012

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**Merkel, Hollande pledge to consult on EADS**

BERLIN (Germany), 23 Sept—France and Germany pledged on Saturday to consult closely on plans by Airbus parent EADS (EAD.PA) an Britain’s BAe Systems (BAES.L) to forge a new aerospace and defence giant, but announced no joint decisions on the $45 billion merger plan.

The tie-up would create the world’s largest integrated defence and aerospace company with annual sales of $93 billion, but is fraught with national economic and security concerns. “We didn’t make any decisions... it wasn’t expected that we would, but Germany and France will stay in close contact on this issue,” German Chancellor Angela Merkel said after talks with French President Francois Hollande. “We agreed that we will investigate the necessary issues intensively with the necessary care, and in agreement with companies involved,” she added.

Barring an extension, EADS and BAe have until 10 October under UK takeover rules to set out detailed plans for the merger. Merkel said the two leaders were aware of the deadlines. Asked what conditions the two governments had imposed on the deal going ahead, Hollande said: “You can imagine them... it’s about employment, industrial strategy, defence activities, the interests of our respective nations.”

A source close to BAe Systems said: “I don’t think that (Hollande’s) comment is any great surprise to anyone. We are still discussing those sorts of things with the governments concerned.”

A spokesman for EADS said, “We will continue our constructive dialogue with the three governments.”

Hollande appeared careful to avoid committing to forming a united position with Merkel on the future of EADS, in which the French state owns 15 percent whereas Berlin has no direct stake. However, he pledged that the European partners would remain in “close consultation” on EADS, which is controlled by a core group of French and German public and industrial interests. German carmaker Daimler (DAI.DE), French media firm Lagardere (LAGA.FR) and the French state all hold stakes.— Reuters

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**Wall St Week Ahead: US stocks face earnings and data hurdles**

NEW YORK, 23 Sept—US stocks could struggle to stay close for nearly five days in a row next week as worries mount about third-quarter earnings and the market appears primed for a pullback from recent stimulus-driven gains.

A bevy of economic reports, including durable goods orders, will grab investors’ attention as well as personal income and spending is due next week, as well as new home sales and the final read on US Goods Domestic Product for the second quarter.— Reuters

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**France’s President Francois Hollande (L.) and Germany’s Chancellor Angela Merkel arrive for the 50th anniversary ceremony of the reconciliation speech of France’s President Charles de Gaulle to the German youth after World War II, in castle Ludwigsburg on 22 Sept, 2012.— Reuters**

Doping is now a public health issue, conference told

STOCKHOLM, 23 Sept—The use of performance-enhancing drugs is now a public health issue rather than simply a sporting problem, delegates said at a top anti-doping conference.

“I fear that around three percent of high school boys in the US are taking a steroid or growth hormone, that’s just a health issue,” said Dr Timothy Armstrong of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

“Substance abuse in any shape or form has a physical and mental health aspect to it. The WHO, being the lead UN (United Nations) agency on health matters, takes this issue quite seriously.”

Armstrong was speaking at the conference organized by the Arne Ljungqvist Foundation, named after the Swedish anti-doping official who also is chairman of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) medical commission.

Ljungqvist, who invited the likes of the WHO and World Anti-Doping Agency to the meeting, shared Armstrong’s opinion. “This is a first attempt to highlight this matter as a public health issue, which in my view it is,” he said at a press briefing.

“Elite sport plays an obvious role. They are the role models of youngsters and if they are drug takers, that is not the right role model for the coming society.”

“I am so happy today to see these international authorities coming together and sharing these concerns that are being expressed and I hope that we can find common ways to deal with them,” he added. WADA Director General David Howman told the briefing that what happens in elite sport has an effect on the public and that the sharing of information was crucial to tackling the problem of doping.

“We have learned in the last 10 years is that there is a trickle-down effect into recreational sports and into the high schools,” said Howman, adding that health and low enforcement authorities had their part to play. “In Australia now, the customs people share their information with the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Agency (ASADA), and already 4 percent of their anti-doping rule violations come from same sort of information.”

“That’s a very good example of how it can work when people work together.”

Hollande’s special anti-doping effort prior to July and August’s London Olympics had led to “several cases” of doping, he said. “The UK Anti-Doping Agency had a similar arrangement with customs and police and they were able to give information to the IOC.”

The anti-doping programme that was running during the Games was based on that intelligence. “My understanding is that it led to several cases that were discovered in the out-of-competition phase.”

Dr Armstrong agreed that such cooperation was essential for dealing with doping, adding that more data was needed to assess the scale of the problem. “Each of our organizations has a piece of the pie and can only work in the areas where we have a mandate to work. But we can join with our sister agencies such as UNESCO and other IODA members such as WADA and the IOC.”

“We all require better data to inform prevalence—how many people are taking what substances and the adverse social and health effects as a consequence of that.”— Reuters

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**German plans medical technology acquisitions in Germany**

FRANKFURT, 23 Sept—General Electric plans to make acquisitions in Germany to raise its market share in CAT scan and MRI technology, the company’s new Germany chief told a magazine.

“ Especially in the high-end segment we want to double, in some areas even triple, our market share,” Volker Wetemam told Wirtschafts Woche weekly, according to an excerpt of an article to be published on Monday. He said the company plans to spend a “considerable” sum on acquisitions, without elaborating.

“Especially in the high-end segment we want to move us forward in terms of technology, not just in Germany but globally. We are currently holding talks,” he said.

GE is looking to buy about 100 people at its medical technology business in Germany. It plans to hire about 100 more staff to expand its research department in the country and form new partnerships with university clinics, the article said.— Reuters

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**Volkswagen drops appeal in “GTI” dispute with Suzuki**

FRANKFURT, 23 Sept—Volkswagen (VOWG_p.DE) has dropped its appeal of a court ruling in a brand infringement case against estranged partner Suzuki (7269.T), a spokesman for the German carmaker said on Saturday, confirming an earlier report.

In 2004, Volkswagen contested an application granted to Suzuki allowing the Japanese company to use the vehicle nameplate “SWIFT GTI” as a trademark for a derivative of its small car. The General Court of the European Union said in March that the Suzuki version could not be confused with the Volkswagen’s “GTI” and it had trademarked in Germany and other international markets.

The ruling came when the two companies were embroiled in a separate arbitration battle over whether Volkswagen may be forced to divest its near 20 percent stake in Suzuki, bought for 1.7 billion euros ($2.2 billion) as part of a broad alliance agreement more than two years ago.

German daily Die Welt earlier said Volkswagen had dropped its appeal several weeks ago already.— Reuters
**Egypt to remain civil, constitutional, democratic country: President**

**CARIO, 23 Sept—** Egypt will remain a civil, constitutional and democratic country, President Mohamed Morsi said in an interview with state TV aired on Saturday night.

President Morsi said the right of expressing opinions, provided that it does not harm public or private properties, is warranted for all citizens. He said the government will carry out measures to achieve social justice, raise incomes and alleviate hardships on citizens.

Morsi said that he will implement Renaissance Project to help realize Egyptians’ aspirations and improve their living standards, expressing confidence that “Egypt is capable of achieving progress and become among the industrialized countries.”

The president recalled many challenges during the transition period, claiming “the situation is now moving toward political stability after the (presidential) elections.” As regards foreign policies, President Morsi said Egypt is ready to have good relations with all countries of the world, confirming that Egypt does not antagonize anyone and stands at equal distance from all parties.

Referring to the Syrian crisis, Morsi said “we are seeking to stop the bloodshed in Syria, and the Syrian regime should know that continuing bloodshed violates all laws and norms.”

The Egyptian president noted that the next meeting of the quartet committee on Syria, to be held in New York in 23 Sept on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session, is likely to be attended by leaders of the four countries: Egypt, Iran, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. During the interview, Morsi also talked about the outcome of his recent visits abroad, Egypt’s relations with the Nile Basin countries, Egyptian-Iranian relations and the Palestinian issue. —Xinhua

**Iran Navy seeks to expand presence to Antarctica**

**TEHRAN, 23 Sept—**

An Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said that Iran’s Navy plans to extend its presence in the international waters near Antarctica, Press TV reported on Saturday.

“We have the capability to be in Iran’s flag in different regions from the North Pole to the South Pole and we are preparing plans for presence near the South Pole,” Sayyari was quoted as saying on Saturday.

“However, we will never enter the maritime borders of the others,” he said.

In September, 2011, Sayyari said that Iranian navy had plans to deploy vessels in the Atlantic Ocean near the US sea borders.

“Iran is a strong country and we will remain a civil, democratic country: President Mohamed Morsi said in an interview with state TV aired on Saturday night.

**17 trapped in two coal mine accidents in NE China**

**HARBIN, 23 Sept—**

Eleven people were left trapped after a fire broke out on Sunday in a coal mine in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province. The incident happened after flooding in another mine in the same province on Saturday, which trapped six miners. The latest accident occurred at around 8 a.m. at the Longshan coal mine in Yong County of Shuangyashan City, the county government said in a statement. An initial investigation showed that a total of 13 people were working underground. Two were lifted out after the accident.

The government said the county’s coal management bureau had ordered the mine to suspend production on Sept. 23 after its license expired a day earlier.

Illegal production was being blamed for the accident, the government said. The incident on Saturday, saw flooding at a coal mine in Jidong County, also in Heilongjiang Province, trapping six miners. Rescue efforts of the miners in both mines are under way. —Xinhua

**“Ghetto Chavez” and the battle for Venezuela’s youth vote**

**CARACAS, 23 Sept—**

In Venezuela’s biggest slum, a graffiti artist stencils a painting of President Hugo Chavez dunking a basketball.

He is a leader for a new generation in many countries, are often bored by politics. In the toughest Caracas “barrios,” crime and violence are much bigger daily concerns. The group that made the pictures, “Chavez es Otro Beta,” was formed earlier this year by a loose collection of dance and sports groups, graffiti artists and motorcycle taxi drivers.

At a recent event in Petare, a shantytown to the east of the capital that is home to nearly half a million people, the group organized a girls’ sports and cultural activities.

Mr. Romney and her husband spoke shortly after the landing, Rick Gurka, a Romney campaign press aide, told reporters traveling with the candidate in Las Vegas. The cause was believed to be an electrical fire, Romney campaign press secretary Andrea Saul said in a tweet.

The event was part of efforts to keep youngsters away from drugs and guns by getting them involved in sports, music and cultural activities. But after Otro Beta medals were handed to the winners, while little children danced to a performance by a local reggaeton singer, a few blocks away one of the dozen or so teenage motorcyclists was shot dead in the street.

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Just like the US and western powers “are present near our marine borders, we also plan to have strong presence near US marine borders,” Sayyari was quoted as saying by state TV. Iran has dispatched its fleet of warships to the Gulf of Aden as part of efforts to provide security for Iranian vessels and oil tankers. —Xinhua

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Traffic accident leaves two dead

LOIKAW, 23 Sept—A car that took over the motorcycle on Kandayawady Road near the clock tower in Loikaw. In the incident on 17 September, the car towed the motorcycle driven by one man and one woman on back seat.

President U Thein Sein addresses opening session of 9th China-ASEAN Expo.—MNA

CAEXPO will surely benefit to all agro-based countries. China has become ASEAN’s largest trading partner in 2009. The volume of trade between China and ASEAN has increased by 20.9 percent in 2011 from 2010. ASEAN is China’s third largest trading partner and balance of trade amounting US$ 11.0 billion in favour of ASEAN was realized for the first time in 2011. FDI from China to ASEAN has also increased significantly over 100 per cent in 2011 compared to 2010. It is a good trend and all should keep that momentum. He highly appreciates China’s support for ASEAN’s centrality in the evolving regional architecture, and for ASEAN integration process in building the ASEAN Community by 2015.

The market of ASEAN and China is indeed a huge one. All have its own distinguished characters and are endowed with natural and human resources. Above all, ASEAN is situated in a rapidly growing Asia-Pacific Region. The present Asia-Pacific Region has become the center of gravity in the international relations and trade. Hence, it is important for all to work together to promote peace and development of the region. President U Thein Sein, Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Thongsing Thammavong, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung and leaders of ASEAN took on the dais and Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping pressed the button to open China-ASEAN Expo and the opening ceremony came to an end.

The launching of National pavilion of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at the ground floor, attended by President U Thein Sein, Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping, ministers, deputy ministers, high ranking officers, entrepreneurs and guests from Myanmar and China.

The President and Chinese Vice President pushed the button to open the Myanmar national pavilion. President U Thein Sein, Chinese Vice President Mr Xi Jinping and party looked round the Myanmar national pavilion.—MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
U Thein Sein, Vice-President Mr Xi Jinping of People’s Republic of China viewing round Myanmar national pavilion.

President U Thein Sein cordially greets Chinese Vice-President Mr Xi Jinping at opening ceremony of Myanmar national pavilion.

 Talks on environmental conservation on 29 Sept

YANGON, 23 Sept—Women Entrepreneurs’ Association will give the talks on rights of women, and important role of women in environmental conservation at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, from 1 pm to 3 pm on 29 September (Saturday). Members of the association, local and international organizations actively taking part in uplifting of Myanmar women’s role, intellectuals and intelligentsia and enthusiasts may attend the talks.
Conserve Environment

It takes only small steps to make a big difference. Dealing with a climate change is a daunting task. But in reality, small steps by many people will change the world and protect the planet. The damage to our environment is alarming. Although foresters, government and non-governmental organizations have been harping on the importance of conserving the environment, all the countries in the world including Myanmar are experiencing challenges such as climate change, decrease in bio-diversity, depletion of forests, air, soil and water pollution.

Droughts and floods are recurring, destroying homes, crops and infrastructure. Such destruction has been going on for so long under the noses of authorities responsible for conservation.

According to Myanmar Rice Industry Association, the country’s over 13 acres of rain-fed rice field, around 100,000 were wrecked by the floods.

The recent disasters are reminding us that we all need to do more and can do more to protect and conserve our environment.

It is about time we all took environmental conservation more seriously, enhancing the efficiency of the employees of the relevant ministries and the people on the use of natural resources for development and forest conservation.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw delegation arrives back from Indonesia

Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw ASEAN Political and Security Community Committee U Nyunt Tin, who attended the 33rd AIPA, being welcomed back by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa and officials concerned at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

YANGON, 23 Sept—A Pyidaungsu Hluttaw delegation led by, on behalf of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw ASEAN Political and Security Community Committee U Nyunt Tin, who attended the 33rd AIPA held from 16 to 22 September in Lombok, Indonesia, arrived back here this morning by air.

They were welcomed back by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Yangon Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung and officials concerned from the Hluttaw office at Yangon International Airport.

Chinese Vice-President Mr. Xi Jinping speaking on the occasion.—MNA

To attract foreign investments, related...

(from page 1)

The strategic plan would connect ASEAN through improved infrastructural connectivity, organizational connectivity with effective organizational management and connectivity among empowered peoples.

ASEAN infrastructural fund had been established to support ASEAN connectivity strategic plan. The ASEAN infrastructural fund which will headquarters in Labuan of Malaysia will explore and tap available resources.

Outside partners and private sector have been invited to participate in the project. Dialogue partners could be lured to support ASEAN integration strategic project and promises were extracted from them. Workshops, seminars and paper-reading sessions were held to seek valuable suggestions and information to speed up ASEAN integration strategic plan.

ASEAN and China are working in cooperation to translate the project a success. The 20th anniversary ASEAN-China dialogue partnership was celebrated at 14th ASEAN-China Summit held in Bali of Indonesia in the previous year. ASEAN welcomed the promise to support ASEAN integration strategic project from China. Negotiations for implementation of resolutions of 14th ASEAN-China Summit has started. Favourable conditions for physical, organizational and people-to-people connectivity between ASEAN and China have been created.

As ASEAN and China have pleasant environment, the peoples are exchanging visits. The exchange of visits of the peoples would touch 15 million in 2015. The designation of 2012 as ASEAN+3 tourism year and Siem Reap as the cultural city for 2012 was welcomed. The development of tourism industry would generate more incomes for the peoples of ASEAN and China and facilitate development of other sectors such as trade and investment.

As cooperation between ASEAN and China for implementation of ASEAN integration strategic project, the theme of this year’s summit “Strengthening Connectivity for Win-Win Cooperation” would be fully supported. Concerted efforts would earn win-win cooperation.

The trade between Myanmar and China and investment prospects in Myanmar would be informed. The trade volume between ASEAN and China in 2010 reached US$ 232 billion, of which US$ 53 billion, only two percent, was the trade volume between Myanmar and China. As Myanmar and China are neighbouring countries, there are prospects for promotion of trade. The border trade between Myanmar and China is developing and annual trade fair is held alternatively in Muse of Myanmar and Shiwel of China as of 2001. This year’s trade fair will be hosted by Myanmar in coming December. Chinese businessmen have been invited to display booths at the exhibition.

Myanmar is opening up to and luring foreign investors. To attract foreign investments, related laws are amended, rules and regulations are relaxed and incorporation process could be completed in a day. The parliament recently passed Foreign Investment Bill, Important Commodity and Service Law, Foreign Currency Management Law.

To facilitate economic development, Dawei Special Economic Zone is being implemented in southern part of the country. There is a mega project to implement Thilawa Special Economic Zone and Kyunkyu Special Economic Zone would be implemented in Rakhine State in the western part of Myanmar.

In conclusion, the pledge to establish closer cooperation between ASEAN and China in peace making, stability and development measures inside and outside the region was reiterated.

The summit then came to an end.—MNA
Villagers urged to form cooperative societies

Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun met officials of Ngapawut Township Cooperative Department and cooperative societies at the township department on 20 September. The deputy minister organized formation of cooperative societies in 234 villages of 50 village-tracts in the township.

Meeting to mark Kayah State Day

A coordination meeting on holding 61st Kayah State Day was held at the hall of Kayah State Government in Loikaw on 20 September afternoon. The Chief Minister of the state instructed officials to observe the commemorative day on a grander scale.

Performing Arts Competition kicks off in Sagaing Region

The 19th Myanmar National Races Traditional Performing Arts Competition of Sagaing Region was opened at the city hall in Monywa on 20 September. Region Music Association presented the song entitled traditional heritage and Township Theatrical Drama Association the classic dances at the opening ceremony.

MCWA officials explains functions of association

CEC member Daw Thet Thet Swe of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Secretary-1 Daw Tin Tin Win and the Chairperson of Ayeyawady Region MCWSC and party met members of District and Township MCWSC’s at Hinthada Township GAD Office on 12 September. They explained tasks of the association and attended to the needs.

Fingerlings released into Ayeyawady River

Bhamo District focuses on development of fish resources and poverty alleviation at 8.30 am on 11 September. Head of District Fisheries Department Daw Nyunt May, Township Administrator U Aung Lin and departmental officials, NGOs members and staff released 300,000 fingerlings into Ayeyawady River.

Stationery distributed to offspring of vendors

Mawlamyinegyun Township Development Affairs Committee provided stationery and various school equipment to offspring of vendors and slow-moving vehicle drivers on 13 September.

Slight earthquake hits 45 miles west of Myitkyina

The President received Chairman of China-Myanmar Cooperation Corporation at 9.45 am.

At 5.30 pm, President U Thein Sein received Reporters Sally Chen (a) Ma Moe Thuzar of China Radio International at Liyuan Guest House, and replied to questions on political, economic and cultural sectors.

Likewise, the President received Chairman of China Non-ferrous Metal Mining Co Ltd (CNMC) of China and party at Liyuan Guest House yesterday.

Later, President U Thein Sein and party left Nanning in the morning and arrived back here at 11.40 am.

Union sports minister meets with athletes undergoing training at sports federations

Next, the Union minister looked into the training of men and women athletes with the use of argometer and traditional boats. Afterwards, the Union minister attended the opening of Myanmar National Sports Committee Chairman’s Cup (Bangko) Martial Arts Competition held at the Aung San Stadium and made a speech on the occasion.

Later, he proceeded to Myanmar Track and Field Federation where he inspected the training of athletes and presented athletics suits and equipment.

Afterwards, the Union minister attended the conclusion of the International Boxing Referee at the Thuwunna Boxing Training Centre and made a speech, and presented training suits, T-shirts, tracksuits and shoes to athletes who are undergoing training there.
**WORLD**

**Congo could allow oil exploitation in parks — minister**

KONSHISH, 23 Sept—The Democratic Republic of Congo will allow exploration work inside Africa’s oldest national park if significant oil deposits are found there, the country’s hydrocarbons minister said on Saturday.

Congo is keen to expand its underdeveloped oil sector, which currently produces only 26,000 barrels a day despite oil-rich areas in both the east and west of the country.

British oil company Soco International was earlier this year given permission to carry out aerial surveys on Block 5, a block of land near the border with Uganda, but the move has faced fierce opposition from environmental groups.

Most of the concession lies within Virunga National Park, one of Africa’s most biodiverse areas, and a last refuge for the region’s famous mountain gorillas.

“The DRC has the right to know what resources it has under the earth, even if it’s in the park or the forest, anywhere,” minister Crispin Atama Tabe told Reuters in an interview.

It is currently against Congolese law to prospect or exploit minerals inside the country’s national parks, but Atama Tabe said the legislation could be reviewed.

“We’re going to evaluate the quantity of the deposit. If it’s very significant we’ll compare the value of the park with the oil. We’ll see whether we’ll respect the park or not. It’s up to us,” he added.

**Gaza worker killed in smuggling tunnel collapse**

Gaza, 23 Sept—A Palestinian worker was killed and another injured when an underground smuggling tunnel underneath the Gaza Strip’s southern borders with Egypt collapsed, medical sources said on Saturday.

The medics said that Ramadan Abu Ermaa, 32, died in the accident and another worker was injured after the tunnel collapsed.

The tunnel’s cave-in was natural and caused the suffocation of the workers, according to medics at Abu Yousef al-Najjar in the town of Rafah, who added that the injured worker’s condition is unstable.

**Somali MP shot dead by gunmen**

MOGADISHU, 23 Sept—A member of the new Somali parliament was shot dead by unknown gunmen on Saturday.

According to the state radio in Mogadishu, Mustaf Haji Mohamed, a member of the new legislature of Somalia, was murdered as he left a mosque in Mogadishu’s Waberi District.

Police arrived at the scene and started searching for the perpetrators of the killing who escaped after carrying out the attack.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the killing. But the armed group of Al-Shabaab has vowed to target the members of the new legislature when it was formed last month.

The Al-Shabaab movement is under pressure from allied Somali government forces and African Union peacekeeping troops who are poised to capture the Southern port city of Kismayo, the last major city under the al-Qaeda-affiliated Al-Shabaab group’s control.

The killing of the lawmaker comes only two days after twin suicide attack against a restaurant in Mogadishu frequented by government civil servants and journalists. The attack left nearly 20 people dead and 30 others injured.

**US open to having troops in New Zealand**

WELLINGTON, 23 Sept—The United States said it would be open to having troops based in New Zealand if that was acceptable to the New Zealand Government.

Speaking on TVNZ’s Q+A programme broadcast on Sunday, US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta said his country was keen to help New Zealand improve its defence capability.

Panetta said having American troops based in New Zealand could be part of that.

“If New Zealand feels that’s something they would support and want, we certainly are more than ready to engage and build a stronger friendship, I’m prepared to do,” he added.

Panetta said if New Zealand’s defence capability is improved, it will be better for security in the Asia-Pacific region.

The US Defence Secretary announced on Friday during his visit to New Zealand that America had lifted a ban on New Zealand Defence Force vessels visiting American ports, further thawing relations after a 26-year stand-off on nuclear issues.

Panetta met Prime Minister John Key and Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman during his brief visit, the first in 30 years by the most senior person in the Pentagon.

**Seven killed when car strikes crowd at Moscow bus stop**

Moscow, 23 Sept—A car crashed into a crowded bus stop in western Moscow on Saturday, killing seven people at the scene, municipal police said.

The allegedly drunk driver lost control of his car and knocked down a group of pedestrians at the bus stop, a municipal police spokesman said.

Preliminary information said that several passengers were injured in the bus stop on the Minskaya street.

**Czech Republic to send chemical warfare experts to Jordan**

PRAGUE, 23 Sept—Czech military plans to send chemical warfare experts to Jordan to help setting up their own chemical warfare units, Czech Defence Ministry spokesman Jan Pejsak said Saturday.

“The armed group of Al-Shabaab has vowed to target the members of the new legislature when it was formed last month.”

The killing of the lawmaker comes only two days after twin suicide attack against a restaurant in Mogadishu frequented by government civil servants and journalists. The attack left nearly 20 people dead and 30 others injured.

Actresses perform during the opening ceremony of the 2012 “798 Art Festival” held at the 798 Art Zone in Beijing, capital of China, on 22 Sept, 2012. Nearly one hundred activities, including exhibition, performance and symposium, will be held in the one-month-long festival that kicked off on Saturday.

**A man shows a newly-harvested Chinese mitten crab of the Yangzhe Lake in Suzhou, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 22 Sept, 2012. The fishing and sale of Chinese mitten crabs of the Yangzhe Lake this autumn was officially started on Saturday.**

Xinhua
China, Singapore hold inaugural social management forum

SINGAPORE, 23 Sept—A high-level forum involving some 80 senior officials from China and Singapore concluded here on Saturday, marking a milestone in the bilateral cooperation in social management. Bilateral cooperation have been expanding fast over the past decades, but it was the first social management conference involving many senior officials from China’s central government and CPC Central Committee as well as the Singapore government.

Chen Xunqiu, minister at the Office of the Central Committee Office for Comprehensive Social Management of China, and Singapore’s Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports Chan Chun Sing exchanged letters on the sharing of knowledge and experiences in social management at the opening ceremony on Friday.

Zhou Yongkang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, and Singapore’s Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean witnessed the ceremony.

The two sides agreed to make social management one of the areas covered by the China-Singapore Joint Steering Council for Bilateral Cooperation and establish regular exchange mechanisms.

Sun Zhigang, vice minister at China’s National Development and Reform Commission, said the two largest developing countries will continue to push forward reforms in income distribution in pace with the practical conditions of China, Sun said.

Chen said Singapore and China share some of the challenges. “Over the past few decades, both China and Singapore have achieved strong economic growth and job creation. This has created jobs and raised living standards for our citizens. But it has also brought about social issues that control, malaria and artemisinin resistance, HIV prevention and treatment, the health-related Millennium Development Goals, the International Health Regulations, health financing, measles elimination and health settings approaches.

There will be side events, notably one about universal health coverage held by MOH, which will present Vietnam’s experience of national health development, said Dr Shin.

Three hundred and fifty delegates, including 22 ministers of health, from regional countries will attend the meeting, besides representatives from local and international mental health organizations.

The Western Pacific Region comprises 37 countries and areas, and a population of 1.8 billion people. Its regional committee headquartered in Manila, the Philippines, is WHO’s governing body in the region.

Vietnam on host meeting on health issues

HANOI, 23 Sept—The World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for the Western Pacific will hold its 63rd session in Vietnam’s capital Hanoi from 24-28 Sept to review WHO’s works of the past year and discuss future directions.

The announcement was made by Vietnamese Minister of Health (MOH) Dr Nguyen Thi Kim Tien at a news conference here on Sunday, which is jointly held by MOH and WHO regional office for the Western Pacific region.

This is the first time Vietnam hosts such kind of regional meeting on health issues, which will mark a milestone in cooperation between Vietnam and WHO and international health organizations, said the Vietnamese health official.

WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific, Dr Shin Young-soo told media reporters that among the 20 agenda items up for discussions at the Regional Committee meeting will be the high prevalence of non-communicable diseases, violence and injury prevention, the neglected tropical diseases, tobacco

People in traditional Bavarian clothes take part in the opening Parade of the 179th Oktoberfest at the Theresienwiese in Munich, Germany, on 22 Sept, 2012. Millions of beer drinkers around the world come to the Bavarian capital for the 179th Oktoberfest which started on Saturday.

Fiji urges for implementing Pacific Islands Country Trade Agreement

SUVA, 23 Sept—Fiji is calling on the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to step up its efforts in implementing the Pacific Islands Country Trade Agreement (PICTA) to benefit all. The call comes from Secretary for Trade Shaheen Ali while opening the Fiji Export Seminar in Fiji on Saturday. All says with PICTA the challenges were almost insurmountable and that the agreement should be implemented or it will be subsumed by other trade agreements such as the Economic Partnership with the EU or PACER Plus with Australia and New Zealand.

The Forum’s Island Countries (FICs) agreed to foster and strengthen trade in the Pacific region through the (PICTA).

The Government officials said that an expansion of trading links among the FICs will bring economic and social benefits and improve the living standards of all peoples of the Pacific region and recognising the desirability of a clearly established and secure framework of rules for trade under conditions of fair competition in the Pacific region, the FICs have over the years progressed the implementation of PICTA.

The objectives of the Parties to PICTA are to strengthen, expand and diversify trade between the FICs through the elimination of trade non-tariff barriers to trade between the Parties in a gradual and progressive manner, under an agreed timetable, and with a minimum of disruption.

The overall objective is to promote and facilitate commercial, industrial, agricultural and technical cooperation between the Parties and further the development and use of the resources of the Pacific region with a view to the eventual creation of a single regional market among the Pacific Island economies in accordance with the respective social and economic objectives of the Parties.

Ali told Fiji media that the country still values PICTA as an essential tool for regional integration and is willing to work with member states and the Forum Secretariat to overcome the challenges.
Senate passes funding bill to avoid October government shutdown

WASHINGTON, 23 Sept — A deeply divided and unpopular Congress wrapped up its final business before November’s elections early Saturday as the US Senate passed a stopgap measure to fund federal programs and avoid an October 1 shutdown. The 62-30 vote on the funding bill, which now moves to President Barack Obama’s desk to be signed into law, was delayed by days of partisan bickering over votes on unrelated measures aimed at boosting both Democrats’ and Republicans’ election workload, which begins on 1 October, and spending cuts. The last time government funding actually ran out was late 1995 and early 1996, forcing then-President Bill Clinton to shut down amid disagreements between Democrats and Republicans over spending levels and funding was due to run out after 30 September.

It is an inefficient way to fund the federal government but it is better than shutting it down next week,” said Senator Daniel Inouye, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Congress’ bitter fight over spending cuts and raising the debt limit last year led to threats of several shutdowns as temporary funding measures expired. The last time government funding actually ran out was late 1995 and early 1996, forcing then-President Bill Clinton to shut down non-essential services and furlough non-essential government workers for 28 days. Saturday’s vote allows lawmakers to return to their home states for a final re-election campaign push, but they leave a huge to-do list for their return after the 6 November election.

By keeping the government funded through 27 March, Congress, somewhat lightening its post-election workload, which centers on dealing with expiring tax cuts, automatic spending cuts, a debt limit increase and other fiscal deadlines.

With relative peace over the budget, lawmakers will be able to tackle more difficult questions — how to avoid $109 billion in automatic budget cuts that start January 2, and whether to extend some or all of the tax cuts enacted under former President George W Bush, which expire 31 December.

Moody’s Investors Service has threatened to downgrade the US credit rating if Congress’ deliberations do not reduce fiscal deficits in a meaningful way. Economists warn that the United States will slide back into recession if Congress fails to take action to mute the massive impact of tax hikes and spending cuts. — Reuters

TRADEMARK CAUTION
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In respect of “Canned, frozen, cooked or preserved vegetables and fruits. Frozen prepared ready to eat meals including meat or poultry, vegetables and rice and/or pasta in Class 26. “Frozen dinner mix consisting primarily of pasta or rice and containing portions of vegetables and/or meat in Class 16. Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or contributory infringement of the said marks shall be dealt with according to law.

U Than Maung, Advocate
For General Mills Marketing, Inc.
C/O Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd
Room 1509-1505, Sakura Tower,
Yangon.
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
dated 24 September 2012

Iran’s president off to New York for UN General Assembly meeting

TEHERAN, 23 Sept — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad left Tehran for New York on Saturday to attend the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly in later this month. Press TV reported.

“We will attend the UN (meeting) to be able to convey the message of the Iranian nation for the overhaul of the global management system,” Ahmadinejad told reporters at the airport before his departure.

On the sidelines of the session, Ahmadinejad said, he will also hold talks with senior officials from the participating countries, anti-war groups and peace activists, religious leaders, and Iranian nationals in the United States as well as UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

He said he will also take part in interviews with different international media.

The Iranian president pointed to Iran’s rotational presidency of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for the next three years and noted that as the representative of the movement, he will discuss NAM’s proposal with regard to restructuring the United Nations and resolving the regional crises, such as the ongoing violence in Syria, according to Press TV.

It will be Ahmadinejad’s eighth trip to New York for a UN General Assembly session since he became the Iranian president in 2005. — Xinhua

Pakistan President heading to New York to attend UNGA

ISLAMABAD, 23 Sept — Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari has left for the United States to attend the UN General Assembly session officials said on Saturday. The president is scheduled to arrive in New York on Sunday to lead the Pakistan delegation to the 67th session General Assembly.

The president will address the 193-member Assembly on Tuesday when the high-level debate begins. Some 120 world leaders are expected to participate.

During his four-day stay, President Zardari will hold meetings with world leaders on the sidelines of the session, officials said. He will meet among others, with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, British Prime Minister David Cameron, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen. The president will also speak at a high-level event on polio eradication, sponsored by the United Nations and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The topic for the session, which will be presided over by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, is: Our Commitment to the Next Generation. — Xinhua
Gwyneth Paltrow admits that she is an highly emotional person

The rest of the story consists of how the couple get rid of the ghost.

Meanwhile their neighbour Vicky, who can interact with spirits, claims that the house is possessed by an evil spirit.

ENTERTAINMENT

Kate Winslet is desperate to go into space

LONDON, 23 Sept — The Oscar-winning actress is keen to briefly leave planet Earth to go into another stratosphere, according to Sir Richard Branson.

The entrepreneur—who runs the Virgin Galactic programme, which is planning to launch space tours of Earth in 2014—told Life & Style magazine: “She wants to go to space.

“I’m not sure she wants to go on a one-way trip to Mars, but she wants to go to space.”

Britney Spears battling skin condition?

Los Angeles, 23 Sept—Singer Britney Spears is reportedly battling a skin condition psoriasis.

The singer’s return to the spotlight with The X Factor has caused Spears to break out in psoriasis, reports showbizspy.com.

“Britney has had the skin condition for a long time, but it only flares up when she’s under extreme pressure,” showbizspy.com quoted a source as saying.

“Now she can’t seem to stop scratching and picking at the sores. She has a psoriasis skin cream, but she says it burns, so she stopped using it,” added the source.

Meanwhile, Spears, 30, is worried people are making fun of her side and making fun of the sores on the sets of The X Factor.

The pressure of being a judge

Mumbai, 23 Sept—After delivering back-to-back hits Housefull 2 and Bol Bachchan this year, actress Asin Thottumkal has decided to take a short break, and decided on Europe as the venue for her sojourn.

“Shes had hardly got any time for herself as she was busy shooting for Bol Bachchan and then got into promotions for Housefull 2, and later with the promotions of Bol Bachchan. She even started work on Khiladi 786 post that. So now that she has got some time off from her packed schedule, she decided to go to Europe for a quick vacation and will resume shooting for Khiladi 786 as soon as she gets back,” said a source close to the actress.

Asin Thottumkal on European holiday

Asin Thottumkal takes some time off from work

Meanwhile their neighbour Vicky, who can interact with spirits, claims that the house is possessed by an evil spirit.

The success of the entire film lies on Poorna’s shoulders. Her expressions and acting are outstanding. Harshvardhan Rane did not have anything new to offer in terms of acting.

Ravi Babu’s narrative is smooth and gripping.

His screenplay keeps the audience the edge of their seats. The suspense element is maintained till the climax of the film.

Cinematographer Sameer Reddy’s camerawork is also commendable as the entire film is shot with a static camera.

Overall, definitely worth a watch for all horror movie lovers.

PTI

Asin Thottumkal on European holiday

Asin Thottumkal takes some time off from work

Kate Winslet is dating Sir Richard Branson’s nephew Ned Rocknroll, after meeting on the businessman’s Necker Island last August when a fire broke out, and Richard was thrilled things worked out between them.

He said: “Fortunately, the one good thing that came out of the fire was this romance.

“They’re both very outward going and seem extremely happy together.”

Earlier this week, Sir Richard Branson revealed he wants to start a colony on Mars and thinks it is an achievable dream.

He said: “In my lifetime, I’m determined being part of starting a population on Mars. I think it is absolutely realistic. It will happen. I think it is absolutely realistic. It will happen.”

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The pressure of being a judge

Mumbai, 23 Sept—After delivering back-to-back hits Housefull 2 and Bol Bachchan this year, actress Asin Thottumkal has decided to take a short break, and decided on Europe as the venue for her sojourn.

“Shes had hardly got any time for herself as she was busy shooting for Bol Bachchan and then got into promotions for Housefull 2, and later with the promotions of Bol Bachchan. She even started work on Khiladi 786 post that. So now that she has got some time off from her packed schedule, she decided to go to Europe for a quick vacation and will resume shooting for Khiladi 786 as soon as she gets back,” said a source close to the actress.

Asin Thottumkal on European holiday

Asin Thottumkal takes some time off from work

Kate Winslet is dating Sir Richard Branson’s nephew Ned Rocknroll, after meeting on the businessman’s Necker Island last August when a fire broke out, and Richard was thrilled things worked out between them.

He said: “Fortunately, the one good thing that came out of the fire was this romance.

“They’re both very outward going and seem extremely happy together.”

Earlier this week, Sir Richard Branson revealed he wants to start a colony on Mars and thinks it is an achievable dream.

He said: “In my lifetime, I’m determined being part of starting a population on Mars. I think it is absolutely realistic. It will happen. I think it is absolutely realistic. It will happen.”

PTI
China’s Li Na silent over island row

Tokyo, 23 September — China’s Li Na stuck to the business of tennis before her appearance at this week’s Pan Pacific Open in Japan, refusing to comment on a deepening political crisis between the two countries over disputed islands.

“After the US Open I got too busy for three days to a more political nature,” she said. “My book was out so I was busy for three days signing autographs.”

The political row escalated on the anniversary of Japan’s pre-war invasion of its giant neighbour, with relations between Asia’s two biggest economies deteriorating rapidly.

Li, who has a share of run-ins with Chinese authorities, kept silent when asked if she had come under pressure from Beijing for taking part in Tokyo.

The 30-year-old insisted she will be fighting fit at the $2.16 million Tokyo tournament, and credited new coach Carlos Rodriguez for her more positive attitude.

“I want to stand up again,” said Li. “My ex-coach (husband Jiang Shan) didn’t do a good job.”

Britain’s Laura Robson returns a shot to Romania’s Sorana Cirstea during the women’s semifinal at the Guangzhou Open WTA tournament in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province, on 21 Sept., 2012. Laura Robson won the match 2-0.

Mourinho refuses to discuss Ramos at pre-game press conference

Mourinho, 23 Sept.—Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho defended his decision to leave central defender Sergio Ramos out of the side that defeated Manchester City on Tuesday night and hinted that he was prepared to do the same when his side visit Rayo Vallecano on Sunday.

Ramos was left out on Tuesday and replaced by Rafael Varane after Mourinho had criticized his side for last weekend’s defeat to Sevilla and many saw the move as a punishment for the defender, who is one of the strongest voices in the dressing room.

The move has also been seen as defending the Portuguese players in the Madrid squad, such as Cristiano Ronaldo and Pepe against the Spanish media which also includes Xabi Alonso and Iker Casillas, but when asked about the decision, Mourinho was blunt in his reply.

“Doesn’t Varene have the right to play?” he asked when questioned about Ramos. “Pepe and Varene, who played in the last game, did very well, they played it easy and simple and did well in the air. We conced ed two goals, but neither was fault of the central defenders.”

“Why did nobody talk about Varene being sad because he had not played and his talent has not been used,” he continued, before refusing to say whether or not Ramos would play in Vallecas.

The Madrid coach also denied rumors of bad relations between the Spanish and the Portuguese players at the club.

“There is no conflict here,” he insisted. “Everyone reacts how they react, but there is nothing more to it than that.”

Barcelona’s Xavi Hernandez celebrates a goal against Granada during their Spanish First Division soccer league match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 22 Sept., 2012.—Reuters

Liverpool v Manchester United: Sir Alex Ferguson calls for discipline

London, 23 Sept.—Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has warned his players they must keep their cool at Anfield on Saturday when his side take on Liverpool.

Clashes between the two sides are usually heated affairs with six red cards in the last 11 meetings. “We’ve had a lot of players sent off at Anfield. But I don’t think the games have ever got out of hand,” he said.

“It’s going to be competitive, and we expect that. But I just hope our disciplinary record is good.”

There is also the added spice this time as Luis Suarez and Patrice Evra are likely to go up against each other again following last season’s fall-out between the pair.

The Uruguayan failed to shake the French defender’s hand before United’s 2-1 win over their rivals. The incident came following Suarez’s eight-game ban for racially abusing the United player.

Liverpool and United clashes have been fumed for their atmospheres, which can warn his players they must be able to keep their focus on the pitch despite what may be happening in the stands.

“There’s a great atmosphere, fantastic, and the kind of atmosphere you want to be involved in.”

It does get emotive, but you just have to handle that,” he said. The United manager will want his side to keep eleven men on the pitch as they go in search for third consecutive first win at Anfield since 2007, when they beat Liverpool 1-0.—Reuters
**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

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**China aims to become world technological power by 2049**

China aims to become a world technological power by 2049 and strives to be a leading nation in innovation and scientific development, according to a government document released on Sunday. The document, released by the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council, or the Cabinet, namely opinions on “deepening technological system reform and accelerating national innovation system con-struction,” sets the goal for the country to be “in the ranks of innovative nations” by 2020.

The document urged efforts to deepen the reform of scientific and technological system and step up the building of a national innovative system so to lay a foundation for the country to become a technological power when celebrating the centennial anniversary of New China in 2049.

China’s R&D funds nationwide should reach 2.2 percent of GDP during the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015) period, and more than 2.5 percent by 2020, it said.

The average R&D input for large- and medium-sized industrial enterprises should increase to 1.5 percent of their revenues during 2011-2015 period, the document said. For every 10,000 employees, there should be at least 43 R&D personnel each year, it said.

The development of strategic emerging industries, such as energy preservation and environmental protection, new-generation information technology, biology, advanced equipment manufacturing, new energy and material as well as green vehicles, should be accelerated, it said. The gross value added of the strategic emerging industries should make up about 8 percent of GDP by 2015 and 15 percent of GDP by 2020, the document said.

China

Ferrari Formula One driver Fernando Alonso of Spain competes during the third practice session of the Singapore F1 Grand Prix in Singapore on 22 Sept, 2012.—Xinhua

4,000 passengers stranded in C Philippine ports due to typhoon

MANILA, 23 Sept.—Almost 4,000 passengers were stranded in a number of ports in central Philippines due to Typhoon Jelawat, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Sunday.

The stranded passengers came from Matnog in Sorsogon province, Balwarterco and Dapdap in Northern Samar province. At least three flights were also cancelled due to bad weather. Storm Signal No 1 has been hoisted in Samar provinces. The state weather forecast bureau said that Jelawat was at 310 kilometres east of Catarman, Northern Samar by 4 pm on Sunday with maximum sustained winds of 140 kilometre per hour near the centre and gustiness of up to 170 kph. “Southwest monsoon enhanced by the typhoon will continue to bring moderate to heavy rains in Western Visayas and Mindanao, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.—MNA/Xinhua

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Fluminense extends championship lead with 2-1 win over Nautico

BEIRUT, 23 Sept—Former Lyon striker Fred scored his 12th championship goal of the season on Saturday. Fluminense extended its lead at the top of Brazil’s Serie A standings with a 2-1 victory over Nautico.

Fred struck just before half-time with a powerful shot after a pinpoint Thiago Neves cross at Rio’s Engenhao Stadium.

Leandro Euzebio had earlier handed the home side a 1-0 lead by prodding into an unguarded net after goalkeeper Gideao ventured off his line following a Deco corner-kick.

Striker Kim gave Nautico hope with an 81st-minute strike but Fluminense held on to move five points clear of Atletico Mineiro in the championship standings.

“We predicted it was going to be a tough game and it proved that way,” Fluminense coach Abel Braga said after the match.

Fluminense’s newly wed royal couple, Princess Hajjah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah and her groom Pengiran Haji Mohammad Ruzaini (L) sit during the sitting-in-state on royal dais ceremony at Istana Nural Iman in Brunei’s capital Bandar Seri Begawan on 23 Sept, 2012. Daughter of Brunei’s sultan and her groom were officially presented to the royal court in a colourful ceremony in the tiny oil-rich monarchy.—Xinhua

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President U Thein Sein meets Chinese Vice-President Mr. Xi Jinping

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept — President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar met Vice-President Mr. Xi Jinping of the Republic of China at International Conference Centre (ICC) of Liyuan Guest House in Nanning on 21 September.

Firstly, the President and party were cordially welcomed by Vice-President of China Mr. Xi Jinping at the meeting hall.

They discussed about promotion of cementing relationships between the two countries, which had been built by China and Myanmar leaders, drawing action plan for ongoing implementing Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two countries, cooperating in flourishing peace and stability and improving development in the border areas of the two countries, urging big Chinese companies to make investments in various sectors in Myanmar for economic and social development of the country including accepting the help of China in enhancing agricultural development and rural development to alleviate poverty rate, and exchanging views on bilateral cooperation in communicating with local and international community.—MNA

Myanmar invites foreign direct investment avoiding factors that harm national interests, dignity and sovereignty of country and environment

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept — President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended a ceremony to clarify the economy and investment opportunities in Myanmar and held a meeting with chief executive officers of the Chinese companies at the People’s Congress Hall in Nanning City, Guangxi Zhuang Province, on 21 September.

First, Mr Yu Ping, Vice-Chairman of China International Trade Promotion Association, and Mr Shen Beihai, Member of the Communist Party of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, briefed on matters on further economic cooperation between China and Myanmar.

Addressing the ceremony, President U Thein Sein said Myanmar attached great importance to the summit and expo, adding that China is one of the most important economic partner of Myanmar.

The investment and trade volume between the countries have increased and China is the second largest trading partner of Myanmar, he added.

The border trade volume between the two countries has reached US$ 2.9 billion in 2011-2012, accounting for 89 per cent of Myanmar’s total border trade volume.

The export value from Myanmar to China reached US$ 1.82 billion while the import value from China reached US$1.16 billion, he said.

China ranked top of investor in Myanmar, reaching its total investment volume of US$14.14 billion until August 2012, he added.

He continued to say that ASEAN-China Free Trade Area has become one of the major milestones between ASEAN and China and has played an important part in relations between Myanmar and China as well. Six ASEAN countries and China have already reduced the trade tax by 97 per cent and the remaining ASEAN countries including Myanmar were taking steps to reduce the trade tax in accordance with the China-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, he added.

ASEAN countries have become platforms between the main ASEAN and China, he added.

For example, Myanmar have become a bridge between ASEAN and the world’s most populated countries China and India, he added.

The government of Myanmar has been embarking on political, economic and social reforms for the improvement of the socio-economy of the people, he said.

The reforms has led to lifting of the sanctions imposed on Myanmar and the cooperation between Myanmar and the World Bank, International Monetary Funds, Asia Development Bank has resumed, he added.

Myanmar is rich in natural resources and it has good potentials for investment opportunities to attract foreign countries, he said.

Myanmar has invited foreign direct investment avoiding factors that harm national interests, dignity and sovereignty of the country and environment, he said. During the meeting, Union Minister U Win Myint replied the questions on investment in Myanmar raised by chief executive officers of the Chinese companies.—MNA