President U Thein Sein visits Metropolitan Museum of Art

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept—President U Thein Sein visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York yesterday morning.

The President and party were welcomed there by Executive Director Mr John Guy of the museum at 10.30 am local time.

The President donated cash and gifts to the museum and viewed Great Hall Balcony, booths of ancient artistic works of China, Southeast Asia, Japan, US, Egypt, Britain and Europe, booth of musical instruments of world countries and Velez Blanco. The museum is the largest in US and one of the world largest museums. It was established in 1870 and opened on 20 February, 1872.

The museum displayed ancient artistic works collected around the world. The museum hosted 5.4 million visitors in 2011.

President U Thein Sein at Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.—MNA

President U Thein Sein gives press conference in New York

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept—President U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, gave the press conference at the office of the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations in New York at 9 am local time yesterday.

At the press conference, the President answered questions raised by journalists from BBC, VOA, DVB, RFA and Myanmar National TV over issues on removing of villages in the area of Latpandaung Mountain Mining Project, peace talks with KIA, US-Myanmar relations, obstacles faced in transition to democracy, impacts on Myanmar after the import ban was lifted by the US, his opinion on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, future relations between US and Myanmar armies and the bilateral relations between the two countries.

The President also gave an interview to Mr Bill Keller from the New York Times at the Mark Hotel at 3.30 pm. —MNA

U-25 Men’s Football Tourney commences

PINDAYA, 29 Sept—The Danu Self-Administered Zone Leading Body Chairman’s Cup U-25 Men’s Football Tournament kicked off at the township sports ground in Pindaya on 17 September afternoon.

Chairman of the Leading Body U Htoo Ko Ko made a speech and opened it.

In the debut, Myinkyadoe Village trounced Inlon Village 6-1. Altogether 34 teams are taking part in the tournament.

Myanma Alin

Chelsea win at Arsenal to continue strong start

LONDON, 29 Sept—Premier League leaders Chelsea beat London rivals Arsenal 2-1 with goals from Spaniards Fernando Torres and Juan Mata on Saturday to maintain their unbeaten start to the season while handing Arsenal their first defeat.

Both Chelsea goals came as a result of Mata free kicks with Torres benefiting from some poor defending by Laurent Koscielny to volley the European champions ahead at the Emirates Stadium after 20 minutes. Gervinho equalised for Arsenal three minutes before the break when he turned crisply and fired into the roof of the net for his fourth goal of the season.

Chelsea, who started with John Terry as he mulls an appeal over a four-game ban for racist abuse, regained the lead after 53 minutes when Mata’s free kick eluded everyone before clipping Koscielny and flying in past Arsenal keeper Vito Mannone.

The victory lifted Chelsea four points clear at the top, at least until the rest of the programme later on Saturday.

Reuters
Launching of Sittoung Bridge (Natthankwin) held

YANGON, 29 Sept— An inauguration of Sittoung Bridge (Natthankwin), situated at Milepost (8/2) on Penwegen-Kyaukkyi Road in Kyaukdauga Township in Bago District, Bago Region, took place this morning, with an address by Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Tun.

Residents had many difficulties, especially in rainy season, to cross from Kyaukkyi Township to Kyaukdauga Township via a temporary Bailey bridge before emerging the newly opened bridge. Besides, domestic products from Kayin, Mon States and Bago, Mandalay Regions including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area can be carried to markets through the bridge in a short period, and many sectors such as economy, social, education, health and governance can be kept developing as a result of emerging the facility, the Union minister said.

Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win expressed thanks for building the bridge in Bago Region with an aim at smooth public transportation. A total of 21 RC-type bridges with above 180-foot height including Sittoung Bridge (Natthankwin) whose width is 24 feet and length, 720 feet, and that can withstand about 60 ton per vehicle have been commissioned into service in the time of the present government.

MR presents locomotives to Yunnan as token of goodwill

YANGON, 29 Sept— Myanma Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation presented two steam locomotives, one steam crane and one flat coach to Yunnan Province of China for the second time as a token of goodwill, at border trade camp in Zhenkang of China.

Managing Director U Thein Swe of Myanma Railways hands over documents related to locomotives to officials of the PRC.

YANGON, 29 Sept— A press conference on launching Visa took place at Park Royal Hotel, here, on 21 September. Visa has taken its first steps towards entry into Myanmar with a series of training workshops to prepare selected local banks for the introduction of electronic payments as Myanmar sees its economic and social reforms. Visa is the best way to pay and be paid, for everyone, everywhere.

Visa is a global payment technology company that connects consumers, businesses, financial institutions and governments in more than 200 countries and territories to fast, secure and reliable electronic payments.

Outstanding students honoured in Kawhmu

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Visa sets for Myanmar entry

YANGON, 29 Sept—Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Aye Lwin, on behalf of patrons of Myanmar-Muslim National Affairs Federation (Ma Ah Pha), Chairman of All Religions Friendship Association U Sein Win Aung and Chairman of All Religions Peace Association U Myint Swe delivered addresses and Chairman of the Organizing Committee Haji U Myint Swe spoke words of thanks.

Electronic payments will provide important support for Myanmar’s business and tourism development and enable economic empowerment and inclusion for the millions of unbanked in the country. The news comes at a good time for Myanmar as the country gets set to host the anticipated rush of visitors expecting use their payment cards at next year’s Southeast Asian Games and the regional world economic forum.

Union Minister back from Germany, Switzerland

YANGON, 29 Sept— At the invitation of Giesecke and Devrient (G&D) Company from Germany, a Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun observed printing industry concerning security in Germany and Switzerland from 22 to 28 September. On 24 and 25 September, the Union Minister and party viewed for advanced paper mill, printing industry concerning security and money counting machines of G&D Company in Munich of Germany. The Union Minister and party proceeded to advanced ink factory of SICPA and advanced press machines produced by KBA NotSys in Lawson of Switzerland where they were conducted round by heads of respective factories.

The Union Minister and party on 28 September left Zurich of Switzerland by air and arrived here this morning. Together with Union Minister U Hla Tun, delegation members, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Lin Aung and Director-General U Maung Maung Win of Budget Department arrived back on the same flight.

Myanmar-Japan CCI joint meeting successfully concludes

YANGON, 29 Sept—To mark the successful completion of the 9th joint meeting of Myanmar-Japan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Business Cooperation Committees, a dinner was hosted at the Sedona Hotel, here, yesterday. It was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan, President of UMCCI U Win Aung and executives of Japanese Embassy, President of Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) Mr Tadashi Okamura and JCCI economic delegation members and guests.

At the meeting, the Region Chief Minister made a speech and then President Minister and officials, and JCCI’s President and members exchanged the gifts, and the JCCI’s President spoke words of thanks.

Dinner marked Idd Day

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe speaking at dinner to mark successful completion of 9th joint meeting of Myanmar-Japan Chambers of Commerce and Industry Business Cooperation Committees.

Meeting successfully concludes

YANGON, 29 Sept—A ceremony to honour the outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination for 2011-2012 was held in Kawhmu Township on 23 September.

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Education, Health and Culture Committee Dr Khin Shwe made a speech and presented prizes to the outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination in 2011-2012 academic year with flying colours.

NATIONAL

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Deputy Secretary General of Kawasaki government Mr Cheng Sufa and Director of Kuming Rail Transportation Department Mr Huang Guoguang spoke words of thanks. China also presented 35 diesel locomotives, 150 coaches and 200 wagons to Myanmar between 2006 and 2010. The gifts of Myanmar will be exhibited at Yunnan Province Train Museum and Train Park.

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WORLD

Obama, Netanyahu seek to get past Iran differences

WASHINGTON, 29 Sept—President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu presented a show of unity on Friday before a nuclear-armed Iran, seeking to tone down the acrimony between the two leaders that has become an issue in the final stretch of the US presidential race.

Obama, widely seen as having snubbed Netanyahu by not meeting face to face with him during his US visit, spoke instead by phone to the Israeli prime minister amid signs of movement toward a truce in their war of words over how to confront Teheran.

Netanyahu used his UN speech a day earlier to keep pressure on Washington to set a “red line” for Teheran, something Obama has refused to do. But in a softening of his approach, the hawkish Israeli premier signaled that no attack on Iran was imminent before the elections.

6 November US presidential election.

With an eye to the close presidential contest, Netanyahu also fielded a call from goddess of the apolitical cabinet “Simon,” or Monti-2, a second financial investors fretting 2013 election is in full swing.

fevered atmosphere in Rome, comfortably far from the Wall Street, he was second term if asked may would be willing to serve a

Italy’s Monti pleases investors, but politics to come

ROME, 29 Sept—Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti’s declaration that he would be willing to serve a second term if asked may have reassured international investors, but there is no way around the treacherous waters of Italian politics.

It was no accident that Monti, an economist brought in last year to run an emergency government of technocrats, made his announcement in New York, just a short taxi ride from Wall Street, he was comfortably far from the fevered atmosphere in Rome, where manoeuvring for the 2013 election is in full swing.

Business leaders and financial investors fretting about what may follow have long been keen on what the press has dubbed “Monti bis”, or Monti-2, a second dose of the apolitical cabinet appointed by President

Seven killed in flash floods in Spain southern province

MADEIRA, 29 Sept—Seven people were killed and hundreds evacuated after flash floods caused by torrential rain swept through the southern Spanish regions of Andalucia and Murcia, emergency services said on Friday.

Roads were closed and some public transport was disrupted after heavy rains that started early on Friday, flooding streets and homes after months of drought.

Four of the victims were in the coastal Provinces of Malaga and Almeria, which are both popular tourist destinations. —Reuters

KWARA, 29 Sept—The government of the central north Nigeria’s Kwarra State on Friday said more than 7,000 people have been displaced by flood in Edu and Patigi Local Government Areas of the state.

Special Adviser to the governor on Emergency and Relief Services Musa Abdullahi told reporters in Ilorin, the state capital, that crops estimated at over 100 million naira were also washed away in 70 communities affected by the disaster.

He said the damage caused by the flood was enormous and solicited the assistance of the federal government to resettle the victims.

Xinhua

Tropical storm Norman forms off Mexico’s Pacific coast

MEXICO CITY, 29 Sept—Tropical Storm Norman formed off the west coast of Mexico and was expected to make landfall north of the tourist resort and cruise ship destination of Mazatlan by Friday evening, the US National Hurricane Center said on Friday.

The storm was located about 145 miles west of Mazatlan and had maximum sustained winds of 45 miles per hour, the centre said, adding that “a little strengthening” was possible before landfall.

Mexico issued tropical storm warnings for the area north of Mazatlan and a local official in Sinaloa state said emergency workers were preparing for flash floods in low-lying areas.

Mexico does not have any important oil installations along the Pacific coast.—Reuters

US President Barack Obama addresses the 67th United Nations General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York on 25 Sept, 2012. —Reuters

Venezuela’s President and presidential candidate Hugo Chavez shakes hands with supporters in Caracas on 28 Sept, 2012. —Reuters

Venezuela Satellite launch stirs passions before Venezuela vote

CARACAS, 29 Sept—President Hugo Chavez said the launch on Friday of Venezuela’s second satellite showed the achievements of his self-styled revolution just days before he seeks re-election, but his rival said it symbolized his neglect of problems closer to home.

“We’re seeing history,” Chavez said after standing to applaud during a video link-up between the presidential palace, a launch centre in China’s Gobi Desert and a Caracas street party.

As campaigning in the closing weeks approaches its final week in South America’s biggest oil exporter, both political camps are planning their last huge rallies while making last-minute efforts to win over undecided voters.

Opposition candidate Henrique Capriles has mocked Chavez, who he says is focused on spreading his socialist project around the world but has done little to address the daily problems of voters such as crime, power cuts and inflation.

A dozen Venezuelan officials were at China’s Jiuquan launch centre, near the Mongolian border, to watch the rocket carrying the “Miranda” satellite blast off into a cloud sky.

Venezuelan state TV had broadcast hours of build-up alongside the headline “Space Revolution ... a Sovereign View.”

For Capriles, it was a prime example of what he calls grandiose plans that prove Chavez is out of touch with voters.

“How many Venezuelans sleep in a refuge tonight? How many towns without an ambulance? Another satellite for the candidate of continuity,” he said.

On 7 October this will change,” he said on Twitter.

In 2008 China launched Venezuela’s first satellite — the Venezsat-I, or “Simon Bolivar” — to carry communications gear.

The second spacecraft will take photographs that Chavez’s government says will help it protect the environment, improve urban planning and crack down on illegal mining and drug cultivation.

The new satellite is named after 19th-century South American independence hero.

Reuters
**Apple CEO apologizes for Maps flaws, recommends rivals**

San Francisco, 29 Sept—Apple Inc Chief Executive Tim Cook apologized on Friday to customers frustrated with glaring errors in its new Maps service and, in an unusual move for the consumer giant, directed them to rival services such as Google Inc’s Maps instead. The rare apology follows Apple’s launch of its own mapping service earlier this month, when it began selling the iPhone 5 and rolled out iOS 6, the highly anticipated update to its mobile software platform.

Users complained that the free service, based on Dutch navigation equipment and digital map maker TomTom NV’s data—contained geographical errors and gaps in information, and that it lacked features that made Google Maps popular from public transit directions to traffic data and snowstorms.

“We are extremely sorry for the frustration this has caused our customers and we are doing everything we can to make Maps better,” Cook said in a letter to customers released on its website, adding that the company “fell short” of its commitment to deliver “the best experience possible to our customers.”

Unusually, he suggested that customers download rival mapping services available in Apple’s App Store while the company improves the product. “While we’re improving Maps, you can try alternatives by downloading map apps from the App Store like Bing, MapQuest and Waze, or use Google or Nokia maps by going to their websites and creating an icon on your home screen to their web app,” he said in the letter.

Apple is typically loathe to tout rival services and the contrite apology by Cook is an indication of how Apple is changing under the chief executive who took over last year from co-founder Steve Jobs just before his death. It also took the additional step of prominently displaying the rival services on its App Store. Mapping is a complex process that takes a lot of resources and years to perfect, said Marcus Threlking, co-founder of Skobbler, maker of the popular GPS Navigation 2 app, built using the crowdsourced data from OpenStreetMap platform.

“It helps a lot if you have great data to start with,” he said, adding that it appears that different database were thrown together in building Apple Maps.

“They (Apple) can offer incremental updates and that’s what they will do,” Cook said that more than 100 million iOS devices are using the new Apple Maps and that the more people use Maps, the better it will get. He also offered some hints on why the company decided to remove Google Maps—“It’s a lot of work to start over” he said, according to a letter to its employees.

**Mice shed light on finding human regenerative powers**

Beijing, 29 Sept—African spiny mice can grow back lost skin and flesh without scarring, shedding light on finding pathways of regenerating lost tissues and body parts of humans.

According to a study published in the latest journal Nature, some African spiny mice lost up to 60 percent of the skin from their backs and the skin then rapidly healed and regrew hairs rather than forming a scar. Unlike lizards that can regrow lost tails and salamanders that can replace amputated legs, humans and other mammals generally patch up wounds with scar tissue.

Dr Ashley Seifert from the University of Florida and his colleagues said the cellular process that these mice use to repair wounds is similar in some ways to the process that occurs when salamanders regrow limbs.

Tests showed that the mice produced a “regeneration hub” known as a blastema in order to repair the injury. It is this bundle of stem cells that is also used by the salamander to rebuild missing body parts.

Seifert said that one of the main constraints on regenerating appendages in humans or mammals is thought to be the failure to form a blastema.

Seifert hoped the work could lead to new therapies to allow humans to regenerate tissue in new ways.—Xinhua

**Samsung wins reconsideration of Galaxy Tab sales ban**

San Francisco, 29 Sept—A US appeals court ruled on Friday that a lower court should reconsider a sales ban against Samsung’s Galaxy Tab 10.1, which will let Samsung sell a tablet computer in a patent dispute with the South Korean electronics maker.

The injunction was put in place ahead of a months-long trial that pitted iPhone maker Apple Inc against Samsung Electronics Co Ltd.

An Apple iPhone 4S and Samsung Galaxy S are seen in this illustration photo in Berlin on 27 August, 2012. Reuters

**Nokia cuts smartphone prices before new models arrive**

New York, 29 Sept—Struggling phone maker Nokia has knocked 10-15 percent off the prices of two of its top of the range smartphones, hoping to boost sales before newer models arrive in markets in November.

Nokia has cut the price of the Lumia 800 by around 15 percent and the Lumia 900 by 10 percent in Europe, according to device pricing data compiled by British research firm CCS Insight. Nokia declined to comment.

Earlier this month, Nokia launched Lumia 820 and 920, which many see as a crucial for the Finnish company’s survival. But the newest models will only go on sale in November, leaving the company’s sales team struggling with older smartphone models for over a month. Nokia had already slashed the price of the Lumia 800 by around 15 percent set earlier this month and made smaller cuts for its other Lumia models.

Once the world’s biggest mobile phone maker, Nokia fell behind rivals in smartphones and has racked up more than 3 billion euros ($3.86 billion) in operating losses in the last 18 months. In early 2011, it bet its future on Microsoft’s Windows Phone software. Windows accounts for only 3 percent of global smartphones, while Google’s Android platform controls two-thirds of sales and Apple has around a quarter.

Competitive pricing is considered crucial for Nokia to lure back customers, even though pricing does not seem to be an issue for rival Apple. In Belgium, for example, more than 10,000 people have pre-registered for the latest iPhone even before a local price has been set.—Reuters

**India’s heaviest satellite GSAT-10 successfully launched**

Bangalore, 29 Sept—India’s advanced communication satellite GSAT-10 was successfully launched early today on board Ariane-5 rocket from to the Warring States Period (475 BC-221 BC), she said.

The tomb was discovered during a two-year excavation project conducted by the institute that began in 2009 in the village of Wanjin in the provincial capital of Xian. Hu said the beef did not shrink, proving that it had been dried before being put into the pot.—Xinhua

**NewSpace**

Europe’s spaceport in French Guiana

**GSAT-10**, with a design life of 15 years is expected to be operational by November and will augment telecommunications, Direct-To-Home and radio navigation services.

At 3,400 kg at liftoff, **GSAT-10** is the heaviest built by Bangalore-headquartered Indian Space Research Organisation. It was ISRO’s 101st space mission.
GM, Ford work on 9-speed, 10-speed transmissions: report

WASHINGTON, 29 Sept—General Motors Co (GM.N) and Ford Motor Co (F.N) are jointly developing nine- and 10-speed automatic transmissions to improve the fuel economy of their models, Automotive News reported on Friday. GM, the largest US automaker, will lead the design of a nine-speed gearbox for front-wheel drive vehicles, the publication reported citing people familiar with the matter.

No 2 US automaker Ford will head the effort to develop the 10-speed transmission for rear-wheel drive vehicles such as pick-ups, SUVs and performance cars, Automotive News reported.

GM and Ford could not be immediately reached for comment.

The auto industry is scrambling to find ways to boost fuel economy by 2025, when US government standards mandate that automakers show a corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) of 54.5 miles per gallon.

That translates to about 39 mpg in real world driving, or more than 70 percent higher than the average fuel economy of 22.8 mpg for the 2011 model year vehicles.

Austrian economic institutes lower 2013 GDP growth forecasts

VIENNA, 29 Sept—Two leading Austrian economic research institutes lowered their 2013 Austrian GDP forecasts in their latest quarterly reports released on Friday.

The Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO) lowered its forecast from 1.3 percent to 1.0 percent, while the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) lowered its own expectation from 1.7 percent to 1.3 percent, local media reported.

The year 2011 saw Austria’s GDP growth of 2.7 percent, while the WIFO and the IHS have not changed their 2012 end-year predictions of 0.6 percent and 0.8 percent growth respectively.

Though Austria still one of the “economic motors” of the region, both institutes said there was much uncertainty over the prognosis.

“If the economic situation improves more quickly than expected then the confidence of market participants will strengthen and growth next year will improve,” the Austrian Press Agency quoted the IHS as saying.

The reason for the lowered forecasts from the institutes is a worsening of the international economic situation, with Austria unable to completely decouple itself from outside market forces.

The economic and debt crisis in Europe still present the most imminent risk, though the European Central Bank’s (ECB) plan announced earlier this month to buy bonds from nations that ask for aid relaxed the finance markets somewhat, which the IHS said indicated a slow return of trust in the European area.

Both institutes raised their unemployment forecasts for 2013, with the IHS predicting a rise from 7 percent in 2012 to 7.3 percent while the WIFO expects a rise to 7.4 percent unemployment.

Macy’s to open 450 Finish Line shops-in-shops

NEW YORK, 29 Sept—Macy’s Inc said on Friday that Finish Line Inc would be its exclusive athletic footwear partner, opening shops in more than 450 of the company’s department stores.

The deal comes as department store chains race one another to build out “shops-in-shops,” which offer more elaborate presentations of top brands and turn each store into something of a mall.

Macy’s retail arbiter IC Penney Co Inc is in the middle of turning 700 of its 1,100 department stores into a collection of 100 boutiques by 2015 and is planning to beef up its offering of products by Finish Line competitor Nike Inc.

Longer term, the Macy’s deal should boost Finish Line’s sales by $250 million to $350 million a year, the companies said in a joint statement. Finish Line said it would close about 10 of its 250 stores.

Although Finish Line will operate more than 450 stores in Macy’s department stores, it will not be the only sportswear retailer in Macy’s under the agreement.

Macy’s will continue to carry its own brands, as well as Skechers, Merrell, Callisto, Tretorn and New Balance.

Each franchise will sell an assortment of about 2,000 pairs of shoes, with an emphasis on athletic footwear, and will also carry 100-120 pairs of accessories and apparel.

“With Finish Line, we can offer more choice, more styles, more brands and more of the key spring lines that customers want most, all from one go-to destination,” said Jim Eck, a senior Macy’s executive.

The first stores are expected to open this spring.
Al Qaeda convicts break out of jail in Iraq

TIRKIT, 29 Sept.—Dozens of inmates, including convicted members of al-Qaeda, fought their way out of a prison in Iraq using weapons smuggled in during family visits, the Interior Ministry said on Friday.

The prison, in the city of Tikrit, held just over 300 inmates and was attacked by gunmen dressed in police uniforms late on Thursday after a car bomb exploded outside the gate, security sources told. It was then taken control of the jail.

Fourteen members of the security forces were killed in ensuing clashes, the ministry said.

The Interior Ministry has regained control of the jail early on Friday, but the Interior Ministry said 74 prisoners were still on the run, including leading members of al-Qaeda who had been sentenced to death.

Violence in Iraq has eased since its height in 2006-2007 when sectarian slaughter killed thousands but Sunni Islamists and an al-Qaeda affiliate still launch regular attacks, seeking to destabilize the country and undermine its Shia-led government.

“The Interior Ministry ... confirms that there was clear malpractice in the operation by security elements in Tazfuir jail and that planning and coordination preceded it,” the ministry said in a statement on its website.

Israeli troops wound two Palestinians in northern Gaza

Gaza, 29 Sept.— Israeli troops stationed on the border between the northern Gaza Strip and Israel on Friday opened fire and wounded two Palestinian civilians, medics said.

Adnaf al-Qedra, spokesman of the Hamas-run ministry of health, said that the two Palestinians are aged 22 and 19 years old, respectively, adding that they are brothers and were shot by Israeli soldiers’ gunfire in northern Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army did not comment on the incident, where the two casualties were taken to a nearby hospital in northern Gaza Strip.

Israel has built up into the Gaza Strip a 300-metre security no-go area along the borderline between the Gaza Strip and Israel, where soldiers immediately open fire at anyone that approaches the area.

Israel has imposed a tight blockade on the Gaza Strip in June 2007 after Islamic Hamas movement had taken control of the area.

There was no firing following the blast, which occurred at about 6:20 pm local time (1120 GMT) because the refinery was shut down for a 40-day overhaul, Rhodes said.

“There was no threat to Wynnewood or the surrounding communities,” Rhodes said.

Neither the company nor Rhodes gave details about the injuries employees sustained in the blast.

Boilers are required at a refinery to generate steam for electrical power production, and for use in the crude oil refining process.

“All other employees are accounted for at this time,” said CVR spokeswoman Angie Dasbach. “Company officials are assessing the situation and will provide updates as information becomes available.”

CVR acquired the Wynnewood refinery when it purchased Gary-Williams Energy Corporation for $525 million in December. Wynnewood is located 67 miles south of the state capital of Oklahoma City. — Reuters

Pet Vondrouss (2nd R) is detained by police after shooting at Czech President Vaclav Klaus (not pictured) with plastic pellets from a replica gun in the city of Chrastova on 28 Sept, 2012.— Reuters

Pentagon seeks competition for sustainment of Lockheed F-35

WASHINGTON, 29 Sept.— The Pentagon on Friday moved toward bringing in other companies to operate and maintain its most expensive weapons programme, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, a step that could reduce revenues for the current prime contractor, Lockheed Martin Corp.

The move is the latest action by the Pentagon to drive down the cost of the new single-engine, single-seat warplane, whose operations and maintenance costs are currently projected to reach a staggering $1.1 trillion over the coming decades.

Last week, top Pentagon and Air Force officials publicly slammed Lockheed’s performance on the new radar-evading jet, whose development and production alone are slated to cost $396 billion. The officials said they were looking at ways to introduce more competition to the programme.

Lockheed and the Pentagon remain locked in protracted and tense negotiations about a fifth order of F-35 production jets, with neither government officials nor industry executives expecting an agreement before the end of the third quarter.

On Friday, the Defence Department invited companies to participate in a two-day public forum on 14-15 November on possible opportunities to compete for work managing the supply chain of the new fighter jet and providing support equipment, simulators for training and a computer-based logistics system.

“We want to reduce F-35 life-cycle costs by injecting competition into the programme,” said Joe DellaVedova, spokesman for the Pentagon’s F-35 programme office. “We want to collect information and learn what is out there in the marketplace.”

The Pentagon said its “industry day” would help “identify potential business sources with the resources, capabilities, and experience to successfully deliver a wide range of hardware and infrastructure services in support of F-35 ... sustainment.” — Reuters

US, Gulf countries seek to advance missile defence plan

The United States and its Gulf partners are looking to deepen cooperation on missile defence as tensions rise with Iran, and announcement could come soon on new purchases, US officials said on Friday.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) officials in New York on 28 Sept, 2012.— Reuters

The United States and its Gulf partners are looking to deepen cooperation on missile defence as tensions rise with Iran, and announcement could come soon on new purchases, US officials said on Friday.

“Our aim is to help our Gulf partners with their defence needs ... there is a missile threat that they face, we want to help them face that threat as best they can,” one senior US official said, previewing the meeting for reporters. “We’ve had expressions of interest from our partners in the Gulf in additional missile defence capabilities,” the official said. “We hope that we will be having announcements in the near future regarding those expressions of interest.”

The official declined to provide specifics on the plans with the GCC, a political and economic alliance linking Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

But Lockheed Martin Corp, the Pentagon’s top supplier by sales, received an initial $1.96 billion contract in December for two of its Terminal High-Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) weapon systems for the United Arab Emirates, the first foreign sale of the system.

Lockheed has said other GCC members, including Saudi Arabia, have expressed interest. Other leading missile-defence contractors include Boeing Co, Raytheon and Northrop Grumman Corp.

Friday’s talks reflect the increased tempo of US efforts to put pressure on Tehran, which the United States and its allies say is seeking nuclear weapons capability under the cover of a civil programme.

Iran denies this, but has been under pressure from a range of hardware and infrastructure services in support of F-35 ... sustainment.” — Reuters

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Friday’s talks reflect the increased tempo of US efforts to put pressure on Tehran, which the United States and its allies say is seeking nuclear weapons capability under the cover of a civil programme. Iran denies this, but has been hit with a series of international sanctions over its nuclear work.— Reuters
Greece’s 2013 budget to deepen cuts, sustain recession

ATHENS, 29 Sept—Greece will unveil a draft budget for 2013 on Monday which will cut deeper into public spending to please international lenders but also prolong the economic pain of the Greek people.

Athens is keen to see its bailout funding resume as its next 31.5 billion euro tranche has been pushed back while inspectors from the European Commission, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund visit Athens is keen to see its bailout funding resume as its next 31.5 billion euro tranche has been pushed back while inspectors from the European Commission, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund visit

Los Angeles greenlights $1.2 billion football stadium

LOS ANGELES, 29 Sept—The Los Angeles City Council on Friday approved a $1.2 billion plan to build a downtown football stadium, moving America’s second most populous city closer than ever before to having a professional football team. Council members voted unanimously in favor of the Anschutz Entertainment Group’s proposal to erect the 72,000-seat stadium in the city’s downtown core. It will be named “Farrell’s Field,” AEG, controlled by billionaire Phil Anschutz, says for an agreement with the city will require its new owners to take up the stadium project.

Hikers warned about murder suspect on loose in NY state park

NEW YORK, 29 Sept—Hikers were being urged to steer clear of a popular New York state park for the weekend while police search for a man suspected of shooting his daughter’s in-law and being armed and hiding in the thickly wooded area.

Police have been searching for Eugene Palmer, 73, Monday in connection with the killing of Tammy Palmer, his son’s 39-year-old wife. They believe he is probably roaming the woods of Harriman State Park, some 30 miles north of Manhattan, after finding his deserted pickup truck near a park entrance. New York’s parks department has closed down the campsite at the 47,000-acre park and is urging people to stay away while the manhunt continues.

Andrew Kaczynski, a reporter for Buzzfeed and Politics, tweeted back to Columbia Journalism Review: “I prefer your whiny usually incorrect long form analysis pieces over your instant judgment.”

A vehicle is shown being pursued by police in a high-speed chase in this handout still image from video courtesy of MyFox10 News in Phoenix, Arizona on 28 September, 2012.
Second hand smoke: the most preventable disease

In attempts to deal with the health effects of smoking, Myanmar have banned smoking in public places including hospitals, schools, universities and airports as well as in cinemas and departmental stores.

Smoking on public transport and in other public spaces is also banned.

Fines for breaking the law range from 1,000 kyats to 5,000 kyats (about 0.80 cents to four dollars) depending on the location.

However, smoking, the major cause of preventable death, continues to be a problem in some places.

Most men and women who smoke tobacco are fully aware of the damage they might be doing to their bodies. In addition to increasing their risk for lung cancer, smoking can also increase a person’s risk for heart disease and other potentially deadly ailments.

What those men and women might not know is the extent of the damage their smoking is doing to those around them. According to the American Cancer Society, secondhand smoke is responsible for 3,400 lung cancer deaths among nonsmokers each year. Gaining a better understanding of secondhand smoke might help smokers quit once and for all.

Smoking inside a home, for instance, is putting everyone in the home at heightened risk of a host of ailments. Children are especially sensitive to secondhand smoke.

Clinicians should advise their patients to avoid public places that permit smoking, and families should be counseled not to smoke at home or in a vehicle with patients and children. Meanwhile, teachers should advise their students to be aware of the second hand smoke.

Rakhine State Hluttaw continues for fifth day

Nav Pyi Taw, 29 Sept—The fourth regular session of the first Rakhine State Hluttaw continued for the fifth day at the Hluttaw hall of State Government Office at 10 am yesterday.

It was attended by State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin, Speaker of State Hluttaw U Hein Lin, the State Hluttaw’s Deputy Speaker, the members of State level organizations Tin, Speaker of State Hluttaw U Htein Lin, the State Hluttaw’s Hluttaw hall of State Government Office at 10 am yesterday.

At the session, 12 questions were replied, original short-term and long-term development plans for development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), Small and Medium Industries (SMIs) as they are prime mover for the boosting of the socio-economy of the country, said Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint.

In his key-note address at the workshop on development of textile, foodstuff, medicines, paper, chemical and household goods industries at the City Hall in Mandalay today, the Union minister also stressed the need for adopting the short-term and long-term plans for development of small and medium industries (SMEs) and small and medium enterprises (SMIs) and industrial development plans.

To support the SMEs and SMIs, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Centre has been organized and Myanma Industrial Development Bank has been transformed into the Small and Medium Industries Development Bank, he added.

He also called on businessmen to prepare for producing quality goods that can compete with products ASEAN nations when the Asean Free Trade Area goes into commercial operation in 2015.

The Union minister urged them to give transparent public opinion at the workshop for the development the industrial sector which can produce quality and marketable goods and products.

Workshop on development of SMEs, SMIs held in Mandalay

Nav Pyi Taw, 29 Sept—It is a time to assist in the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and Small and Medium Industries (SMIs) as they are prime mover for the boosting of the socio-economy of the country, said Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint.

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Conductor, watch your tongue! There could be a cartoonist on board.

Cartoon Maung Maung Lay
Establishment of industrial park discussed

Ayeawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung met General Director Mr Ma Byung Gun and party of Viet Han Media Co Ltd of Vietnam at his office on 27 September and discussed establishment of industrial park to be undertaken by Shwe Min Thar Co and Viet Han Media Co Ltd in Ayeawady Region.

Engineering refresher course concludes

Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs U Hla Myint on 28 September delivered an address at concluding of engineers refresher course No 7 at the training school in Mingala Taungnyunt Township. Altogether 99 trainees attended the four-week course.

Opening of joint training courses emphasized

Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe met Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany Ms Cornilia Pieper and party at the Ministry of Education yesterday morning and focused on sending scholarship students to Germany, extended teaching of German language and jointly opening of academic courses.

Outstanding midwives picked out for advanced training

Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe met midwives who will attend the advanced course in Chaing Rai of Thailand, at the region government office on 27 September. The region government and Mephalon Foundation picked out 10 outstanding midwives from the region to attend five-week course.

Myanmar-Japan CCI Business Cooperation Committee releases joint statement

YANGON, 29 Sept—The 9th Joint Meeting of the Myanmar-Japan CCI Business Cooperation Committee was held here yesterday on the occasion of the economic mission of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) to Myanmar headed by Chairman Tadashi Okamura.

The meeting was attended by 202 delegates :109 from Myanmar and 93 from Japan.

The meeting was convened under the auspices of Dr Pwint San, Deputy Minister for Commerce, and Mr Takashi Saito, Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary of Japan to Myanmar.

During the meeting, messages from U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and Mr Yoshihiko Noda, Prime Minister of Japan, were delivered.

In addition, to further strengthen economic relations between Myanmar and Japan, the cooperation agreement between UMFCCI and JCCI, which was signed in April 1997, was revised.

At the meeting, the two sides discussed further economic cooperation between Myanmar and Japan in each sector, including agriculture, food processing industry, manufacturing, and tourism, and on infrastructure, in view of Myanmar-related investment and business development.

They also agreed to cooperate more extensively in various fields by acknowledging that consolidation and improvement not only of hard infrastructure but also of soft infrastructure systems such as the taxation system, intellectual property and remittance and the creation of a master plan for industrial development to foster supporting industry are imperative for Myanmar to be able to attract Japanese investment.

On the basis of the above discussions and to strengthen economic relations between Myanmar and Japan, the two sides request that each government acknowledges the following.

1. Early conclusion of a bilateral investment treaty, for which preliminary discussions between both governments have begun
2. Early setting up of the “Japan-Myanmar Joint Initiative,” a public-private dialogue scheme that has been discussed by both governments in order to improve business environment of both countries
3. Development of a Special Economic Zone in Myanmar by joint efforts of the private sectors with the guidance and support of our two governments
4. Capacity building in human resource development, technical and financial assistance to the SME Sector Development in Myanmar with support and assistance from Japan.

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Opportunities, challenges to Myanmar’s economy discussed

NAV PWT TAW, 29 Sept—Jointly organized by Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), a seminar on capacity building under the theme of “Globalization and Development Strategy in Myanmar toward ASEAN Economic Integration,” was held at Sedona Hotel in Yangon this morning.

Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Daw Khin San Yi and President of Bangkok Economic Development Zone in progress at Amarapura Hall of Sedona Hotel in Mandalay.

Victims in Sittway receives health care services

NAV PWT TAW, 29 Sept—Members of a local medical battalion provided medical care to aged people and children at the Danyawady Relief Camp in Sittway yesterday. They carried out medical check-ups for the victims and local people and gave educational talks on health and distributed pamphlets to them.

They also fumigated the camp and chlorinated wells in attempts to get rid of mosquitoes.
France hits rich and business to slash deficit

PARIS, 29 Sept—Socialist President Francois Hollande unveiled higher levies on business and a 75-percent tax for the super-rich on Friday in a 2013 budget aimed at showing France has the fiscal rigor to remain at the core of the euro zone.

The package aims to recoup 30 billion euros (24 billion pounds) for the public purse with a goal of narrowing the deficit to 3.0 percent of national output next year from 4.5 percent this year France’s toughest belt-tightening in 30 years.

But the budget dismayed business and pro-reform lobbyists by hiking taxes and holding France’s high public spending at the same level rather than cutting it as Spain, Greece and Italy have done to chip away at their debt mountains. With record unemployment and a barrage of data pointing to economic stagnation, there were also fears the deficit target will slip as France falls short of the modest 0.8 percent economic growth rate on which it is banking for next year.

“We do not want France to be delivered shackled to the markets as has happened to other neighbouring countries that have succumbed to the temptation of letting their budgets get out of control,” Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici said of France’s determination to stick to its deficit goal. Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault dismissed fears about possible slippage, insisting the 0.8 percent growth target for next year was “realistic and ambitious.”

Hollande’s aim is to achieve the savings without hitting the purchasing power of low-income families. But France’s main employers’ group said the measures would backfire by weakening the competitiveness of French industry. “Its stated aim is to prepare the future. But the way it is put together holds it to ransom by putting investment and employment at a serious risk,” Medef President Laurence Parisot said in a statement.

With public debt at a post-war record of 91 percent of the economy, the budget is vital to France’s credibility not only among euro zone partners but also in markets which for now are allowing it to borrow at record-low yields around two percent.

Cameron leads British hunt for business in Brazil

India and China—as alternative markets for British exports and investments, with little to show for.

With executives from 45 leading British companies in tow, Cameron met on Friday with Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, who invited British businesses to invest in Brazil’s energy, gas, defence, mining and financial services industries.

“I think we can do a lot better,” Rousseff said of growing but still negligible trade and investment flows between the two countries. Rousseff said British interest in Brazil had come at the right time after her government announced last month a $66 billion investment in road and railway building as part of a massive plan to upgrade her country’s dilapidated infrastructure, which includes modernizing ports and airports.

Following the success of the London Olympics this summer, Rousseff said Brazil was seeking British cooperation to prepare for the 2014 Soccer World Cup and the 2016 Olympics Games. Cameron said British companies had signed more than $161 million in deals during his two-day visit, with another $400 million in potential contracts for companies that can help Brazil get ready for the two global sporting events it will host.

Earlier on Friday in Rio de Janeiro, accompanied by British companies hoping for a slice of Brazil’s enormous energy potential, Cameron met with Maria das Gracas Foster, the president of Brazil’s largest company, the state-led Petrobras.

Foster laid out the oil company’s $236 billion investment plan for the next five years to develop Brazil’s sub-salt-offshore oil reserves and become one of the world’s top producers. —Reuters

Farm law to expire but many programmes funded through March

“Immediate impact will be felt by dairy farmers because the supplemental payment many of them have been receiving, the Milk Income Loss Contract Programme, expires on 30 September,” said John Blanchfield, senior vice president for agricultural and rural banking at the American Bankers Association.

“Since milk check payments ran 30 days behind the delivery of milk, dairy farmers will notice the suspension of these payments with the November milk checks,” he said.

Dairy farmers and livestock producers have been hit hardest this year by drought. Crop losses have been covered to a great extent by insurance, supported by USDA programs. But soaring feed prices have squeezed livestock producers, prompting herd liquidations and financial failures.

“Congress has got to do something in November,” said Jackie Klippenstein, vice president of industry and legislative affairs for Diary Farmers of America. “The farm bill provided a measure of hope. The fact that Congress went home without addressing it has really deflated a lot of folks out there who are struggling.”

“There’s been so much equity lost,” said Ray Souza, a California dairy farmer. “Many dairy farmers have had to borrow against their equity to stay afloat.”

After the 6 November election, Congress will return to work on the farm bill. The House of Representatives was splintered over how deeply to cut food stamps and farm programmes. —Reuters

Arab League hails Sudan-South Sudan agreements

CAIRO, 29 Sept.—The Arab League General Assembly on Friday welcomed in a statement the agreements regarding secession issues in the presence of the members of the AUHIP.

Three deals respectively on cooperation, security, and post-secession issues in the presence of the members of the AUHIP.

The package troubles the two countries, including the border disputes and economic matters (oil- and trade-related), are covered in the deal regarding the post-secession issues. —Xinhua
Singapore’s total population rises to 5.31 million

SINGAPORE, 29 Sept — Singapore’s population stood at 5.31 million at the end of June this year, up 2.5 percent from a year ago, the Department of Statistics said Friday.

The number of citizens rose by 0.9 percent from 3.26 million to 3.29 million, while the number of those with permanent residency rose marginally from 532,000 to 533,100, up 0.2 percent year on year.

The number of non-resident population rose by 7.2 percent, slightly higher than last year’s growth of 6.9 percent. But it was significantly lower than the increases of 14.9 percent in 2007 and 19 percent in 2008, respectively.

An estimated 13.4 million Singapore residents were staying in public housing flats built and sold by the Housing and Development Board, accounting for 82 percent of Singapore residents.

The median age of the resident population went up further to 38.4 years in 2012, compared to 38 in 2011 and 37.4 in 2010. The proportion of Singapore residents aged 65 years and above rose to 9.9 percent from 9.3 percent last year.

Female residents outnumbered males. The sex ratio was 970 males per 1,000 females, down from 972 in 2011.

Three killed in explosion at fireworks factory in southern India

NEW DELHI, 29 Sept — At least three people were killed and a few others sustained burn injuries in an explosion at a fireworks factory in Sivakasi in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, a senior police official said. “The explosion occurred at an unauthorized cracker unit functioning in a house at Puthyarakassakulam village. The three persons working at the unit died at the explosion, caused by friction of chemicals used in fireworks, while those injured have been rushed to a local hospital,” he said, on condition of anonymity.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official said, adding that the police have launched a manhunt to nab the owner of the factory. The latest incident came barely three weeks after the ghostly fire accident at a fireworks manufacturing unit in the area, in which nearly 40 people were killed.

Afghan police kill 22 militants

KABUL, 29 Sept — Afghanistan police in conjunction with the army and NATO-led forces have eliminated 22 anti-government militants during series of operations across the country over the past 24 hours, said a statement of Interior Ministry released here Saturday. According to the statement, 21 more militants have been arrested during the operations.

The statement did not say if there were any casualties on the security forces. Taleban militants who have been fighting the government and NATO-led troops have yet to make comment.

Indonesia to send peacekeeping force to Congo

JAKARTA, 29 Sept — The Indonesian Military (TNI) will be dispatching 175 soldiers in December to join the peacekeeping forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for one-year service period, local media reported on Saturday. The military personnel have completed training as part of their preparations before joining the Garuda Contingent (Konga) XXI-J MONUSCO (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC). The would-be deployed Indonesian force will consist of 150 army personnel, 19 navy officers and six air force officers.

They will replace TN6 troops serving Konga XXI-J MONUSCO peacekeeping mission, who are due to complete their service term in the DRC soon, the Jakarta Post reported. Following the signing of the Lusaka Conference Agreement in July 1999 between the DRC and Angola, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe, the UN Security Council established the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) with its Resolution 1279.

Two pilots killed in failed aerobatic show in Indonesia

Jakarta, 29 Sept — The pilot and co-pilot onboard a small plane were killed on Saturday after the plane plummeted to a building in Indonesia’s Bandung airport following a failed maneuver they conducted in a domestic air show, Air Force spokesman Agung Sanogko said here.

The plane, owned by the Indonesian Aerospa Federation, went down at around 11:30 am Jakarta Time at Husein Sastranegara and exploded, the spokesman said. “The crash took place when the plane is performing a show. All the two people on board were killed,” Agung told Xinhua by phone.

The crash took place as the plane flied too low after completed five loop maneuvers in Bandung Air show, the Metro TV reported. “The plane crashed when the pilots conducted a flypass of aircraft flight from north to south direction of the runway. They lost the height and crashed into an air force building located in the airport premises,” Bambang S Irvan, transportation ministry spokesman said in an interview with metro TV. He said that the crashed plane was from the type of Bravo 2010 registered as LMK003, and belongs to Indonesian air force. The two perished pilots who were named as Norman Lubis and Toni Hartono.

A four-day event of Bandung Air Show began on 27 Sept Bandung is the capital of West Java. In 2010, acrobaticshow in the same event, killed a pilot after the Cessna plane he piloted failed to undertake an aerobatic maneuver

Roadside bomb targets police in western Afghan town, kills two, wounds two

HERAT, 29 Sept — A roadside bomb blast targeted police van in the western Herat Province, 640 km west of capital Kabul, on Saturday killing two people and injuring two others, police said. “The deadly attack happened in Mir Ali area of Adraskan district at around 08:30 am local time. As a result, a police trainer and an interpreter were killed and two others including a police trainer sustained injuries,” police official Fazal Ahmad Khalili told Xinhua.

All of the victims are Afghans, he said. The Afghan security forces was supposed to take over the control of a police training center in Adraskan district in a ceremony within hours when the blast occurred, the official said.

Singapure to develop more nursing homes, health care facilities for aging population

SINGAPORE, 29 Sept — Singapore’s Ministry of Health and Ministry for Community Development, Youth and Sports on Friday announced that they will build 10 new nursing homes, 39 new Senior Care Centres (SCCs) and 56 new Senior Activity Centres (SACs) by 2016, aiming at supporting a growing senior population.

Among the scheduled health care facilities, the site of the 10 nursing homes, 21 SCCs and 45 SACs were revealed in the Press release, covering most of the main communities all around the country.

The 10 nursing homes will add an estimated 3,300 beds to the existing nursing home capacity of 9,000, the ministries announced.

The new homes will include day care, dementia day care, day rehabilitation services and basic nursing services, as well as personal care services at the homes of the seniors, including personal hygiene, laundry and meal services.

The SACs will be used for seniors to make friends and engage in regular social activities. They may also receive social support, especially if they are living alone. According to Friday’s report by the country’s Department of Statistics, the proportion of Singapore residents aged 65 years and above rose to 9.9 percent at the end of this June, rising from 9.3 percent during the same period last year.

Delegates attend a seminar organized by the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs and the China Institute of International Studies to mark the 40th anniversary of the normalization of China-Japan relations in Beijing, capital of China, on 29 Sept. 2012. About 50 diplomats and experts took part in the seminar. — Xinhua

Two attendants aboard GS38 prepares for the high-speed train’s first trip to Guangzhou in Zhengzhou, capital of central China’s Henan Province, on 29 Sept, 2012. Two high-speed train services were put into use Saturday in Zhengzhou, after the Zhengzhou-Wuhan high-speed railway opened on Friday. — Xinhua

Youth and Sports on Friday undertook an aerobatic flight in Bandung Air Show. All the two people on board were killed,” Agung told Xinhua by phone.

In 2010, acrobaticshow in the same event, killed a pilot after the Cessna plane he piloted failed to undertake an aerobatic maneuver

Three killed in explosion at fireworks factory in southern India

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A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official said, adding that the police have launched a manhunt to nab the owner of the factory. The latest incident came barely three weeks after the ghostly fire accident at a fireworks manufacturing unit in the area, in which nearly 40 people were killed.

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Female residents outnumbered males. The sex ratio was 970 males per 1,000 females, down from 972 in 2011.
**BUSINESS & ADVERTISEMENT**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (017)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (017) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.9.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.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 claim against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS MOL (STPE) LTD.**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**US jury convicts Mexico’s Gulf Cartel manager in drug case**

Mr. Allen, (Texas), 29 Sept—A US federal jury on Friday convicted a high-ranking member of Mexico’s Gulf Cartel of conspiring to possess and import marijuana and cocaine to the United States, the latest blow to Mexican drug bosses in recent weeks.

Juan Roberto Rincon-Rincon, a so-called plaza boss for the cartel, was convicted on all counts in the drug trafficking conspiracy case following a week-long trial in Brownsville, Texas, US Attorney Kenneth Magidson said.

Rincon-Rincon, 41, was accused heading the cartel’s operations in Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico, a prime area for drug traffickers that borders the Rio Grande near McAllen, Texas.

Prosecutors said that under Rincon-Rincon’s leadership, the cartel netted more than $20 million from smuggling operations.

Key testimony in the trial came from Rafael “El Junior” Cardenas-Vela, Jr., nephew of former Gulf Cartel leader Osvaldo Cardenas-Guillen, who is serving a 25-year sentence in a US prison.

Cardenas-Vela, a fellow cartel plaza boss, pleaded guilty to a drug conspiracy charge this year and awaits sentencing, Magidson said.

Rincon-Rincon worked closely with Jorge Eduardo “El Coo” Costilla, who since 2003 allegedly headed the Gulf Cartel following Osvaldo Cardenas-Guillen’s arrest.

Rincon-Rincon is accused of operating Costilla 13 September in Tamaulipas, the northeastern Mexican state where the cartel operates.

Arrests and turf battles have weakened the Gulf Cartel since 2010, when it dissolved its alliance with the Zetas, which rose to power from a group of Mexican army deserters in the late 1990s. Reuters

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**Cuba plans to increase biofertilizer production**

HAVANA, 29 Sept—Cuba has approved an investment program to build several plants to produce biofertilizers and biopesticides, as part of its efforts to revitalize the depressed agricultural sector, a senior official said.

Attending an international forum “Labiofam 2012” which closed here on Friday, Minister of Agriculture Gustavo Rodriguez said Labiofam would establish the new plants in a three-year period.

Labiofam is Cuba’s most important group devoted to the production of biotechnological products for agriculture and medicine.

Besides providing farmers with biofertilizers and biopesticides, the project aims to maintain yields, import substitutes and protect the environment.

Rodriguez said scientists were seeking nutritional alternatives for the end users because of the high doses of mineral fertilizers, including nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium.

Cuba has some 350,000 farmers engaged in food production for a population of 11.2 million. Cuba imports each year 80 percent of its food, with a bill fluctuating between 1.5 billion and 2 billion dollars.

The revival of agriculture product lines to the island is an important goal and a matter of “national security,” Rodriguez said.—Xinhua

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**Fed’s Fisher says US “drowning in unemployment”**

WASHINGTON, 29 Sept—The United States is “drowning in unemployment,” its economy is running at stall speed and inflation is “not a problem,” but easier monetary policy is not the answer, one of the Federal Reserve’s most hawkish policymakers said on Friday.

“We’ve had a recovery that is quite disappointing,” Dallas Fed President Richard Fisher told a group at the University of Texas at Dallas.

But without more certainty on tax policy and regulation, he said, “all the monetary accommodation in the world” will not get businesses hiring again.

The Fed this month said it would buy $40 billion in mortgage-backed securities each month to in an effort to boost employment, and pledged not to stop buying until the labour market improves substantially, as long as inflation remains under control.

The idea behind the programme, known as quantitative easing, is to push down borrowing costs for home purchases and other investments, freeing up household cash. With consumers spending more, businesses are expected to boost hiring to meet the demand.

The trouble with that logic, Fisher said on Friday, is that businesses cannot make decisions about hiring as long as the economy is in the air. Of particular concern is a raft of spending cuts and tax increases dubbed the “fiscal cliff” that looms at the end of the year. “A short-term fix to the fiscal cliff will do nothing but push out the envelope of indecision and we will continue to be plagued by unemployment,” Fisher said.

Unemployment has been above 8 percent for more than three years; inflation is still below the Fed’s goal of 2 percent.

Fisher, who opposed the new round of stimulus, said he agrees that the issue of the day is jobs and putting people back to work, but was concerned that the Fed could lose its focus on inflation.

“I do think that it would be a dangerous thing if we were to abandon containing inflation and inflation expectations to achieve employment targets,” Fisher told reporters after the speech. Reuters

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**Postal Service regulator questions cost-saving plan**

WASHINGTON, 29 Sept—The Postal Service’s regulator on Friday questioned the potential savings from a plan to shut mail processing sites and slow-down delivery, saying the mail agency could save about the same amount without making major changes every five years. The Postal Service plans to close nearly half its mail processing sites over the next few years, part of its response to tumbling mail volumes as Americans use email more.

But postal officials’ assumption that the best response to lower volumes was to slow delivery caused it to overlook other cost-cutting schemes, the Postal Regulatory Commission said in a non-binding opinion.

“The commission’s range of potential net savings estimates is lower than that projected by the Postal Service,” according to the advisory opinion. The “vast majority of mail processing savings that the Postal Service expects to attain can be captured without significantly changing service,” the PRC said.

The critique is the latest backlash to the Postal Service’s cost-cutting ideas. Lawmakers from rural communities, as well as big mailers, have pushed back against plans to close facilities. A Postal Service plan to close thousands of post offices was delayed earlier this year.

The Postal Service says it no longer handles enough mail to justify its current number of facilities and workers. In May, the mail agency said it would consolidate 140 of its 461 processing sites by February 2013, with more to follow. The plan involved shrinking the areas where customers can expect mail to be delivered to the next day, with the eventual expectation that delivery would slow further.—Reuters
Bacon Pope painting unseen for decades up for US auction

New York, 29 Sept—A painting from Francis Bacon’s iconic screaming Pope series, which has never been seen in public since 1975, is hitting the auction block where it is expected to sell for as much as $25 million, Sotheby’s said on Thursday. Untitled (Pope), which Bacon painted circa 1954, will be sold at the 13 November New York sale of impressionist and modern art, the auction house said in a statement. “This is a great collecting opportunity,” Oliver Barker, Sotheby’s senior specialist for contemporary art, told Reuters in a telephone interview.

"Paintings of this nature have become tremendously important in terms of asset value," he said, adding that Bacon’s early Pope paintings "are truly unattainable objects" with most gracing museum walls and only a few remaining in private hands.

Sotheby’s said the work was last sold, and seen in public, in 1975, when a collector it declined to identify bought it for $71,500 at its London auction. "The timing is absolutely right to capture the upward momentum of the Bacon market," Barker said, noting that prices in recent years "have been driven by an international reassessment of his works by the market".

Barker said Bacon’s most desirable works were "those that are in museum walls and not with a private collector". Works by the British painter have commanded high prices. A female nude sold for $34 million in London in February, and his “Triptych, 1976” went for $86 million in New York in May 2008. "The timing is in a telephone interview."

Ang Lee’s “Life of Pi” in 3D opens NY film festival

New York, 29 Sept—Once considered impossible to make, the big-screen 3D adaptation of the bestselling novel “Life of Pi” will open the 50th New York Film Festival on Friday, marking another advance in digital filmmaking.

The movie’s director, “Brokeback Mountain” filmmaker Ang Lee, was due to hit the red carpet at the big-budget movie’s world premiere on Friday. Audiences will get their first glimpse of the spiritual story of a boy stranded on a boat with a Bengal tiger, as it kicks off the screenings of more than 160 films over 17 days.

One of the world’s most respected movie showcases, celebrating high-quality films, is typically a launching pad for Oscar contenders. However, “I remember the technical difficulties of filming a story partly set at sea with a host of zoo animals,” added Lee.

But spurred on by its spiritual message, Lee agreed to make the movie four years ago, and saw 3D as the only way to realize it even before “Avatar” was released in 2009. "It improved through as a box office bonanza for 3D movies," Lee said. "I think it’s healthy to have 3D movies co-exist with 2D films. It’s a good thing for cinema."
Ferguson doubts England recall for Ferdinand

**Soccer**

**SPORTS**

**WELLINGTON, 29 Sept.—**
Former first overall draft pick John Wall of the Washington Wizards is expected to miss the first month of the National Basketball Association (NBA) season with a left knee injury, the team said on Friday.

WALL, a 22-year-old point guard that led Washington in scoring last season, was diagnosed with the early stages of a stress injury to his left patella but will not require surgery, the Wizards said in a statement.

“We feel fortunate that we caught the injury early and that he will be able to return with the vast majority of the season still in front of us,” Wizards president Ernie Grunfeld said.

Wall, taken first overall by Washington in the 2010 NBA Draft, had been experiencing discomfort in his left knee and the injury was discovered during an examination on Thursday.

He led Washington in scoring (16.3 points per game) and assists (6 per game) last season while starting all 66 games during the lockout-shortened campaign.

The Wizards begin training camp on October 2 and open the 2012-13 NBA season on 30 October at Cleveland.—**Reuters**

**Ferguson doubts England**

“untenable”.

relation to the incident, ended said the Football Association, charges in court in July but Queens Park Rangers.

he had racially abused Terry despite allegations that Roy Hodgson, who selected Euro 2012 finals by coach left out of the squad for the

Ferdinand is unlikely to champion Agnieszka

winner of the day’s second

Australian Stosur ragged

lower back pain all week, ran

surprisingly one-sided match

Samantha Stosur 6-4, 6-2 in a

overpowered eighth seed

Russia’s Nadia Petrova

That streak was started

green, but McIlroy put pressure on the US by

bunking below the

cup.

McIlroy’s sand shot as

champion, who described

now,” said the 2010 US Open

playing partner.

European column. “It was a

putt good for a point in the

sides to have to hole that putt

the hole, making McDowell’s

putt in Europe’s victory over

putts for the Euros and I can’t see

him changing that.

It would be difficult for

him to go to Rio now and welcome him back. If that

happens, it’s entirely up to Rio in terms of what he wants

to do.

“I don’t know if Rio would do it—I haven’t asked him. It’s just speculation from

the press at the moment after Terry’s decision to retire from international football.”

When announcing his 23-man Euro 2012 squad in June, Hodgson said former

retirement would pave the way for Ferdinand’s recall was

knocked back by Ferguson

his weekly news conference on Friday.

“It’s entirely up to Rio,” Ferguson said. “I wouldn’t think he’ll get called up. I

think Roy made his decision for the Euros and I can’t see him changing that.

McIlroy, McDowell go to 18th to win Europe’s

first point

**Golf**

**Furyk’s right-to-left par

putt broke away just inside

the hole, making McDowell’s

putt good for a point in the

European column. “It was a

great match,” said 23-year-

old McIlroy. “They came

back and ran off a string of

three successive birdies from

the 1-4 to level the alternate-

match shot.

At the 18th, Snedeker

sent his drive way right among

the oak trees and pantomimed

the putt that allowed Europe

to win at the last, it would

be difficult for anyone on either of these two

sides to have to hole that putt

to win at the last, it would have
to have to be G-Mac,” the number

one said about McDowell, who

clinched the winning

putt in Europe’s victory over the

US team two years ago in blasted in at out to five feet.

McIlroy praised his

playing partner.

“My job is easy. I’m playing alongside the greatest

player on the planet right

now,” said the 2010 US Open

champion, who described

McIlroy’s sand shot as

“phenomenal.”

Furyk punched out

through a tight lane to put

the ball on the fairway and

Snedeker stuck his approach

shot about 15 feet from

the cup.

McIlroy’s approach

found a bunker below the

green, but McIlroy put pressure on the US by

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UN criticizes “shrill war talk” in Iranian nuclear dispute

**FIFA President Sepp Blatter**

“I’m not going to say what was the final decision before the World Cup, but if you have the system which has run for the qualification, then you should have the same system in the final.”

“There are not so many associations in top clubs of football that can afford to behave so many referees, even in professional leagues.”

“The referees behind the goals must have the same quality as the referees in the middle, that is the first principle,” he said. However, Blatter did not completely write off the system of referees.

“Let us wait and see how many of the national associations will use this system of additional referees and how it will work in the different leagues,” he added.

**Brazil, Spain sign accords on economy, culture**

Parthenon spokesman Martin Nesirky said, referring to UN criticism of “shrill war talk” in Iran nuclear dispute.

**World Cup unlikely to use extra linesmen, says Blatter**
Office of Myanmar Permanent Myanmar families in US at the President U Thein Sein met training schools. for opening of private pilot will be invited to Myanmar Aviation, foreign investors Directorate of Civil information from According to the youth to become pilots”, said assistance of experts to the and technology with the facilitated with teaching aid systematic trainings will select the reliable business. The directorate abroad are invited to do this large number of youth pilots. The schools are to turn out a in international community. The past, the dreams were dreamt come true. At a time when only, and it was not to be past, the dreams were dreamt life of pilots. In the past two wins there in BBVA, Primera Liga in their entire history, although they also won the 2001 Copa del Rey final there in spectacular fashion. That historic win, which ruined Madrid’s centenary celebrations is ancient history now as Jose Luis Oltra’s side get to grips with their return to the top flight after a season in the second division.—Reuters

**Investments invited to open private pilot training schools**

**Yangon, 29 Sept—** According to the information from Directorate of Civil Aviation, foreign investors will be invited to Myanmar for opening of private pilot training schools.

“The private pilot training schools are opened in international community. The schools are to turn out a large number of youth pilots. So, investors at home and abroad are invited to do this business. The directorate will select the reliable schools for providing systematic trainings facilitated with teaching aid and technology with the assistance of experts to the youth to become pilots”, said an official of the Directorate of Civil Aviation.

A plan is under way to seek approval from the region government for opening the private pilot training schools in Pathein, Monywa and Magway at first. The entrepreneurs may submit their proposals to the directorate.

“Most of the youth dreamed life of pilots. In the past, the dreams were dreamt only, and it was not to be come true. At a time when the private pilot training schools would have emerged, a large number of local youth pilots would come out,” said a Myanmar citizen pilot in his facebook. —Myanmar Alin

**President U Thein Sein meets overseas Myanmar in New York.**—MNA

**Real Madrid under pressure against solid Deportivo side**

**Madrid, 29 Sept—** Real Madrid will be hoping for a comfortable home win when they take on Deportivo la Coruna on Sunday night.

Depending on Barcelona’s result away to Seville on Saturday, Real Madrid could kick off 11 points behind Barcelona and with a visit to the Camp Nou Stadium next weekend.

Deportivo have a poor record in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium with just two wins there in BBVA, Primera Liga in their entire history, although they also won the 2001 Copa del Rey final there in spectacular fashion. That historic win, which ruined Madrid’s centenary celebrations is ancient history now as Jose Luis Oltra’s side get to grips with their return to the top flight after a season in the second division.—Reuters

**Results on 29 Sept, 2012 (Saturday)**

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Sharapova getting to long season in WTA Tour

**Beijing, 29 Sept—** After years of playing in the WTA Tour, Russia’s world number two Maria Sharapova has managed to cope with the long season with her experience.

“It’s a pretty long season of 10 months of playing tournaments, but I have a normal schedule; I don’t try to focus on the ones I feel are important and work my schedule around that,” Sharapova, who is playing the China Open here after missing last year’s edition, said on Saturday.

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