President receives hero’s welcome on his return home

President U Thein Sein being warmly and wholeheartedly welcomed back by crowds of people from all walks of life at Yangon International Airport.

 Expectations game in full swing for US presidential debate

BERLIN, 1 Oct—Winger Arjen Robben is recovering from a minor muscle problem and will miss Tuesday’s Champions League match in Belarus against BATE Borisov, the Bundesliga club said.

Dutch international Robben did not play in Bayern’s 2-0 league win over Werder Bremen on Saturday but his absence was not felt as the Bavarians cruised to their sixth win in six league games.

Bayern, who opened their Group F campaign with a 2-1 victory over Valencia, have won nine straight games in all competitions this season.

“We want to have a perfect start in the Champions League as well,” captain Philipp Lahm told reporters at Munich airport as the team departed on Monday.

ERIA capacity workshop starts with focus on MCDV

President U Thein Sein being warmly and wholeheartedly welcomed back by crowds of people from all walks of life at Yangon International Airport.

Power-tillers donated to locals of Rakhine State

Sitway, 1 Oct—A ceremony to donate 12 power-tillers to local national races of Laywady Peace Youth Team from Maungtaw and Yethedaung townships of Rakhine State through crew of up-to-date channel of the Sky Net Channel of Shwe Than Lwin Co was held at Alodawpyae Monastery in Sitway on 20 September.

Abbot of the monastery Bhaddanta Paññajota gave advice. Manager in-charge U Nay Win Naing of the Sky Net handed over documents related to the power-tillers to Rakhine State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Kyaw Thein and Laywady Peace Youth Team.

Kyemon

BAYERN’S ROBBEN TO MISS BATE BORISOV MATCH

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Korean-designed new model villages under implementation

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Oct—Union Minister for Labour U Maung Myint, with an observed rural development and poverty alleviation tasks being implemented by the Ministry of Cooperatives through styling a new Korea village with the help of KOICA, in the east village of Phaunggyi, Hlegu Township, here, on 28 September.

There, he was conducted by Korean Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Kim Hae-Yong, expert Mr. Song, Jung Geun, Deputy Principal of the Cooperatives Training School U Thaung Naing and U Kyi Win Naing, who recently paid a visit to ROK as an observer, and heard the reports on implementation of the rural development and more generating income programme. The Union Minister inspected progress of repairing streets of the village and the construction site chosen for an assembly hall thereafter.

On 29 September, the Union Minister cordially greeted rural people and asked them socio-economic status, expressing that the Government was following the best ways how other countries were then practicing in implementing rural development and poverty alleviation programmes.

It was reported that before starting a new Korea village, a total of six villagers from each village were sent to ROK to study how to implement a new village, choosing those whose ability is potential for building model ones with unity. When selecting a village’s head who can influence his authority on the village is under decision of the villagers.

In the evening, the Union Minister held a meeting with Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs’ Association Dr Aung Win and members including factory owners, urging them to make more investments in garments business that can create job opportunities at some time when the economic sanctions had been lifted.

International Day of Older Persons –2012 celebrated

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Oct—"Longevity: Shaping the Future" is the theme for International Day of Older Persons. It was celebrated at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement this morning.

In Myanmar, Homes for the Aged had been established since 1915 in order to look after the older persons. Although building Homes for the Aged are not Tonyed care system for older persons had started since 2004 in cooperation of NGOs and local social organizations in 154 townships of the regions and states.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Oo Khin pointed out that the right thoughts are necessary to take care for those older persons among human beings.

The bill of national level was plan for older persons has drawn to fullfill
Venezuela’s presidential candidates to conclude campaigns

CARACAS, 1 Oct—Venezuelan presidential candidates Hugo Chavez and his rival Henrique Capriles on Sunday entered the last stage of their campaigns with rallies held in two of the largest cities, gathering thousands.

On his second visit since last July, Chavez, the incumbent president, led a large caravan in Cabimas, a key oil producer in the northeastern Zulia state, which is governed by the opposition with over 2.3 million eligible voters in the state, accounting for 12 percent of the total 18.9 million. Capriles on Sunday closed his campaign in northwestern Zulia state, accounting for 12 percent of the total voters. The Venezuelan presidential campaigns will end on 4 Oct with national vote held three days after.

Both candidates scheduled on Thursday to officially conclude their campaigns. Chavez said he would close in Caracas while Capriles in the north Miranda state, where he once served as the governor, and northwest Lara state. As rallies went on, authorities from Venezuela’s National Electoral Council (CNE) verified 200 voting machines with the collaboration of 600 volunteers.

Japanese PM Noda revamps Cabinet, eight new faces in

TOKYO, 1 Oct—Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda unveiled the new Cabinet lineup here on Monday after accepting the ministers’ resignation on mass earlier in the day.

Noda announced at a press conference the appointments of ex-Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara as national security committee chairman, another former foreign minister who used to enjoy huge public popularity for her sharp tongue, inedication minister.

Hirohiko Kajiyama, former deputy cabinet chief, is the new Cabinet chief and foreign minister, and Shinji Koroki Jojima who was chief of Diet affairs in ruling Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) as finance minister, among others, in a bid to bolster the waning public support for his year-old government.

The premier also tapped Makiko Tanaka, another former foreign minister who appointed as the national security committee chairman, and justice minister.

Among the ten Cabinet appointees, eight are first-timers, except Tanaka and Mitsuji. The revamped lineup will strengthen the government amid a pile of problems home and abroad, Noda said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura, Deputy Prime Minister Katsuya Okada, Foreign Minister Koichiro Gendha, Defence Minister Satoshi Morimoto, Industry Minister Yukio Edano and Reconstruction Minister Tatsuo Hirano will stay in their current posts.

Transport Minister Yuichi Hata and Farm Minister Akira Gunji who were appointed in the new Cabinet, revamp in June, will also retain their positions.

Three killed in US drone strike in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 1 Oct—At least three people were killed and two others injured in a US drone strike launched on Monday in Pakistan’s northwest tribal area of North Waziristan, reported local media.

Local TV channel Dunya quoted unidentified government sources as saying that US drones fired four missiles at a vehicle suspected of carrying militants in the Mir Ali area of North Waziristan early on Monday morning.

Identities of the killed suspected militants are not known at the time.

Monday’s US drone strike is the 31st of its kind (counted on daily) in Pakistan since 2012. So far this year, at least 222 people have reportedly been killed in such strikes.

Residents inspect the site of a bomb attack in the town of Taji, about 20 km (12 miles) north of Baghdad, on 30 Sept. 2012. A string of car bomb blasts targeting mainly police checkpoints killed at least 17 people across Iraq on Sunday, police and hospital sources said.

Three killed in US drone strike in NW Pakistan

Iraq

BAGHDAD, 1 Oct—A wave of gunfire and bomb attacks, including 12 car bombs, struck the Iraqi cities and towns on Sunday, killing 34 people and wounding some 85 others.

In and near the Iraqi capital, eight car bomb explosions and gunfire attacks killed up to 25 people and wounded 59 others, according to the police reports.

One of the deadliest attacks occurred in Taji area, some 20 km north of Baghdad, when insurgents successively blew up four car bombs in separate locations in the area, killing a total of eight people and wounding 25 others.

Another deadly attack in Baghdad took place in Karrada District, central Baghdad when a car bomb went off near a police patrol, killing a police officer and a policeman, and wounding five people, including two policemen.

Three more car bombs, roadside bombs and gunfire attacks in the capital killed at least 15 people and wounded 29 others. In eastern Iraq, a suicide car bomber struck a police checkpoint in southern of the city of Kut, some 160 km southeast of Baghdad, killing five policemen, including two officers, and wounding six policemen.

In Iraq’s eastern Province of Diyala, a car bomb detonated at a marketplace in the town of Khan Bani Saad, some 30 km east of Baghdad, killing a civilian and wounding five others.

Separately, a roadside bomb went off near an army patrol in the city of Altheim, some 120 km north of Baghdad, killing one soldier and wounding four others.

Also in the Province, a car bomb explosion narrowly missed the convoy of Mohammed Jawad al-Tamimi, chief of the Kiyalya’s traffic police directorate, who escaped the blast unharmed, but four passers-by were wounded instead.

In Iraq’s northern Province of Nineveh, a civilian was killed and six were injured when a car bomb exploded near an army checkpoint in eastern the provincial capital city of Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad.

In a separate incident, gunmenn wounded Hamid Khalaf, a member of the town council in the town of al-Shora, some 50 south of Mosul, while driving his car in the town.

Meanwhile, a police explosives expert was killed in the morning, while he was trying to defuse a booby-trapped car at the city of Sulainm Pek, some 160 km north of Baghdad.
Nokia, Oracle to announce mapping deal

SAN FRANCISCO, 1 Oct—Phone maker Nokia Oyj will announce on Monday a deal that will give Oracle Corp’s customers access to its mapping services, Nokia said on Monday.

Finland’s Nokia, which bought the world’s largest digital mapping firm Navteq in 2008, has been looking for ways to boost the business and recently signed mapping deals with Groupon Inc and Amazon.com Inc.

Oracle is the world’s third-biggest software firm but also sells hardware to corporate clients and in 2009 bought Sun Microsystems, the manufacturer of server computers and developer of Java and Solaris software.

“Nokia has been on a mission for the last 18 months to sign mapping and location deals with large internet players. That deal with Oracle extends this and broadens the large enterprise market for Nokia’s location services,” said analyst Martin Garner from British consultancy CCS Insight.

In stark contrast with Nokia’s troubled phone business, sales at Nokia’s location business grew last quarter, although it still generates only 4 percent of group revenue.

Details of the deal may be unveiled later on Monday in San Francisco at the Oracle World conference, the Wall Street Journal said.

Last week Apple publicly apologized after customer complaints about errors in its maps which have been put on its latest phone system instead of Google Inc’s mapping service.—Reuters

Mt Qomolangma’s biodiversity better than expected

LEISHAN, 1 Oct—Research has found that biodiversity in Mt Qomolangma, the world’s highest peak, is being better preserved than expected. The research on wildlife resources in a national nature reserve in Mt Qomolangma, which began in 2009, is the most comprehensive programme in the region in two decades.

“It was aimed at finding out more about its wildlife resources, a major step toward better preservation,” said Cao Tiangang, chief of Mt Qomolangma nature reserve’s ecology research and protection center. Two previous biodiversity research programmes were carried out in Mt Qomolangma in 1975 and the other from 1991 to 1993.

“Their findings were limited,” said Li Xia, a researcher at the nature reserve. “We have carried out this programme and broadens the large enterprise market for Nokia’s location services,” said analyst Martin Garner from British consultancy CCS Insight.

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US high-tech companies ramping up exports: survey

SAN FRANCISCO, 1 Oct—Most US high-tech companies expect to export more cell phones, tablets and other electronics over the next two years to growing middle-class populations in developing nations, citing free trade pacts and rising living standards abroad, a survey found.

The survey of 125 high-tech manufacturers included senior supply chain and marketing, Billy Lagor, told Reuters at the Time to Play 2012 Holiday Showcase in New York.

Updated Furby dolls, for example, can now interact with one another.
Novartis’s smokers’ cough treatment gets European nod

Novartis’s smokers’ cough treatment gets European nod

New York, 3 Oct—More kids were hospitalized for serious injuries resulting from abuse in 2009 than in 1997, according to a new study, despite previous research suggesting fewer kids are maltreated now than in the past. Researchers found the increase in serious injuries was due to more babies under a year old being hospitalized. The number of abused, injured kids and teenagers held relatively steady. The findings are based on a survey of records from 2,500 or more US hospitals conducted every three years. “We’re looking at the most seriously injured kids,” said lead author Dr John Lerner, a pediatrician from the Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut. “The kids who get hospitalized for physical abuse represent a very small proportion of all the children in the country who are physically abused,” he told Reuters Health.—about two to four percent. They found the number of children hospitalized for those reasons increased slightly between 1997 and 2009, from 6.1 to 6.4 out of every 100,000. Those children were kept in the hospital for a week, on average. Their most common injuries were fractures, open wounds and traumatic brain injuries.

Babies are known to be at the highest risk of physical abuse. Based on this sample, the number of infants under one year old with a serious abuse-related injury increased from 56.2 to 62.3 per 100,000 each year. “Infants tend to be hospitalized at a much higher rate than older children, and I think it’s because the injuries they sustain are much more serious,” Lerven said.

ZURICH, 1 Oct—Swiss drugmaker Novartis said on Monday the European Union had approved its Serebri Breezhaler as a once-daily treatment for adult patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, more commonly known as smoker’s cough, in the European Union.

Trials showed that the treatment significantly improved lung function over the first four hours after morning dosing when compared to placebo, and that the benefit was sustained for 24 hours over a 52-week period, Novartis said.

The group said the treatment will be available to physicians and patients in some European Union markets by year end.

Deutsche Bank has estimated peak sales for Serebri Breezhaler at some $500 million.—Reuters

Switzerlandtourism

The Power of Kawaii

The Power of Kawaii was showed. The experiment called “The Power of Kawaii” was released Thursday at the University of Tokyo.

Novartis’s smokers’ cough treatment gets European nod

A Penn State helmet sits on the turf before their NCAA football game against Ohio University in State College, Pennsylvania on 1 Sept, 2012.

TOKYO, 1 Oct—Looking at pictures of cute animals enhances performance in work requiring concentration, the finding of an experiment released Thursday showed. The experiment called “The Power of Kawaii” was conducted by a team led by a Hiroshima University professor, with the participation of about 130 college students. The word “kawaii” means cute in Japanese.

In the experiment, participants were asked to perform two sets of tasks — picking up small parts with tweezers to retrieve them from a hole without touching its perimeter and choosing designated numbers from a line of numbers. They were divided into three groups and each was shown either seven photos of kittens and puppies, or of adult cats and dogs, or of sushi and other food.

The group seeing photos of kittens and puppies had their accuracy and speed improve 44 percent in the task for picking up small parts and 16 percent in the number finding assignment, according to the results. In contrast, there was no before-and-after change in performance in the other groups, the team said.

“The feeling that something adorable has a function to prompt a person to want to be closer to and know more about the object,” said Nitta, a professor of psychophysiology and engineering psychology. “That perhaps creates the effect of concentrating one’s attention.”—Reuters

Switzerlandtourism

Chinese children eating too much aluminum

Beijing, 1 Oct—More than 40 percent of 4-to-6-year-old Chinese children are exposed to excess aluminum from food additives, new research has indicated. About 43 percent of this age group eat 1.6 times the maximum daily consumption of aluminum suggested by the World Health Organization, according to a survey conducted by the China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment under the Ministry of Health.

Children absorbed the hazardous substance mainly by eating puffed-grain foods, according to the study results, released on Thursday. Exposure to high levels of aluminum may result in respiratory and neurological problems.

Additives containing aluminum are widely used in China’s food industry. Flour and flour products including steamed bread, fried dough sticks, and noodles are major sources of the element, said Chen Junchi, a senior expert with the centre.

Such additives are allowed in food processing, but producers tend to use more than the required amount to boost taste, Chen added.

The survey also showed that people living in northern China consume 4.6 times the amount of aluminum taken in by people in southern China, due to the former’s dietary preference for flour products.

The country’s health authorities are considering stricter regulations on the use of 13 kinds of food additives containing aluminum, according to Chen.

Switzerlandtourism

Euro, oil fall on Spain, growth worries

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Switzerlandtourism
Kenya navy shells Somali town after rebels retreat

MOGADISHU, 1 Oct—Kenyan warships shelled the southern Somali port of Kismayu overnight after a Qaeda-linked rebel said they had abandoned the city, residents said on Sunday.

Stunned by an assault by sea, air and ground forces late on Friday night, al Shabaab rebels fled the city that had been their key source of revenue, retreating to surrounding forests and towns.

However, there were conflicting reports on Sunday evening about how much of Kismayu African Union forces (AMISOM) now controlled.

The Kenya Defence Force (KDF), part of AMISOM, said it had seize the sea port, the police headquarters and the radio station, but a source in the Somalia National Army told Reuters AMISOM was close to taking control of those installations but had not yet done so. The shells being fired by Kenyan warships may have been targeting remaining pockets of resistance or military installations in the city that was the rebels' last stronghold.

"The ships were firing deafening shells at the outskirts last night but several shells landed on houses," said Samira Ismail, a local mother of four. Al Shabaab said Wednesday children had been killed and other people wounded in the shelling, a statement rejected as propaganda by Col Cyrus Oguna, a Kenyan military spokesman.

Kenyan and Somali troops sent to retake Kismayu from the rebels were on the town's outskirts, Oguna said earlier on Sunday, and were proceeding carefully in case al Shabaab's claim to have abandoned the city was a ploy to lure them into a trap.

Soldiers of the Kenyan contingent serving with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) are pictured at their sector headquarters in Djibouti, southern Somalia, in this 30 Sep, 2012 handout photo released by the African Union-United Nations Information Support.—Reuters

Kenya

World War Two veteran Wilbert Gauding, 92, of Ravenna, Ohio, stands on the USS Yorktown after touring the USS Laffey with his family at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina on 11 Sept, 2012.—Reuters

Preserving old ships is dear to US veterans, costly for museums

MANN PEASEAN, 1 Oct—The Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum, a popular tourist spot in South Carolina’s Charleston Harbor, is facing the same challenge as other US Navy ship museums: keeping retired, once-storied warships afloat.

During World War Two, destroyers of the USS Laffey, just had nearly $13 million restoration. The almost 70-year-old World War Two aircraft carrier, the USS Yorktown, will need eventual repairs at a cost of tens of millions of dollars. The USS Clamagore, a 1945 submarine at a dock nearby, could roll over in the next hurricane without extensive work to shore up its hull. While a veterans’ group tries to raise enough money to save the sub, museum officials are making plans to have it towed to sea and turned into an artificial reef.

"Every ship cannot be kept as a floating museum," said Robert "Mac" Burdette, executive director at Patriots Point. "We were working with the country’s oldest aircraft carrier museum draws $230,000 visitors a year. "I wish they could. The money’s not there in the world anymore." The nation’s 48 Navy ship museums try to balance preserving history and sentiment with the expense of maintaining huge, aging warships, a delicate act complicated by the fact that most do not get funding from the US Navy or other government entities.

"They tell us that maintenance was once done daily by hundreds of sailors, and many need significant restoration to stay afloat. With the country strapped by budget woes, those ships may have to sink if money cannot be found.—Reuters

Somalia

Kenya navy shells Somali town after rebels retreat

BURITITA, 1 Oct—A large earthquake shook Colombia on Sunday, rattling residents in the southwest of the Andean nation, but there were no reports of deaths or major damage, authorities said.

The 7.1-magnitude quake hit its epicentre in the southwestern province of Cauca with a depth of about 103 miles, Colombians officials said.

"So far there are no reports that there has been damage to any part of the country, only reports that it was felt," Jaime Raigosa, coordinator of the National Seismological Network, said. "Fortunately, the quake was deep."

The US Geological Survey had reported a 7.4-magnitude earthquake but then downgraded it to 7.1. The quake was felt in neighbouring Ecuador but authorities reported no damage there. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said that no tsunami was expected.—Reuters

Disaster

Turkish democracy is example for Muslim world: Erdogan

ANKARA, 1 Oct—Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan trumpeted Turkey’s status as a rising democratic power on Sunday, saying his Islamist-rooted ruling party had become an example to the Muslim world after a decade in charge.

Addressing thousands of party members and regional leaders at a congress of his Justice and Development (AK) Party, Erdogan said the era of military coups in the nation of 75 million people was over. He vowed to forge a more diverse constitution and turn a new page in relations with Turkey’s 15 million Kurds, in a speech lasting almost two and half hours and meant to be the AK Party’s agenda for the next decade. "We called ourselves conservative democrats. We focused our change on basic rights and freedom," Erdogan told thousands of cheering party members at the congress in Ankara.

"Turkey’s Prime Minister and leader of ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) Tayyip Erdogan (R) and his guest, Egypt’s President Mohamed Mursi greet the audience during the AKP congress in Ankara on 30 Sept, 2012.—Reuters

Turkey

Turkey’s Prime Minister and leader of ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) Tayyip Erdogan (R) and his guest, Egypt’s President Mohamed Mursi greet the audience during the AKP congress in Ankara on 30 Sept, 2012.—Reuters

Under Erdogan’s autocratic grip, the AK Party has won three consecutive landslide election victories since 2002, ending a history of fragile coalition governments punctuated by military coups and marking Turkey’s longest period of single-party government for more than half a century.

Per capita income has nearly tripled in that time and Turkey has established itself as a regional power, with its allies seeing its mix of democratic stability and Islamic culture as a potential role model in a volatile region.—Reuters

South-South cooperation

LIMA, 1 Oct—Heads of state and government from Latin America and the Arab world will meet in the Peruvian capital of Lima for the third Summit of South American and Arab Countries (ASPA) scheduled for Monday and Tuesday.

The two-day event mainly focuses on promoting business between the two regions, with a parallel CEO Summit attended by both government and business leaders.

Erdogan and his entourage left Ankara's Esenboga airport for Lima aboard a Boeing 747. The Turkish Prime Minister is expected to be en route to Lima by 7:42 am local time (0450 GMT) and was en route to Valencia in Spain when radio and radar contact with the plane was abruptly lost shortly after take-off.

The plane had not made a distress call, though at 7:12 am the Innsbruck Airport reported to authorities that the plane had lost contact. Shortly thereafter a recreational hunter near the scene of the accident heard engine noise followed by a crash and went to investigate. The plane burst into flames upon crashing, but one survivor managed to escape from the wreckage where he was met by the hunter, while the other survivor found with severe burns in a forested area. Emergency services crew arrived at the scene at 7:42 am when they discovered the six dead passengers in the wreckage. Despite poor visibility which forced helicopter aid to be cancelled, a 100-metre long search that the aircraft had made through the forest was visible. The bodies of the deceased were transported to Innsbruck for an autopsy, while an aircraft accident board investigation planned to determine the cause of the accident. —Xinhua

Six killed in plane crash in western Austria

VIENNA, 1 Oct—A twin-engine Cessna aircraft crashed in Tirol in western Austria on Sunday, killing six of eight passengers on board, the Austrian Press Agency reported.

The plane departed from Innsbruck Airport at 6:50 am local time (0450 GMT) and was en route to Valencia in Spain when the plane was lost shortly after take-off. The plane had not made a distress call, though at 7:12 am the Innsbruck Airport reported to authorities that the plane had lost contact. Shortly thereafter a recreational hunter near the scene of the accident heard engine noise followed by a crash and went to investigate. The plane burst into flames upon crashing, but one survivor managed to escape from the wreckage where he was met by the hunter, while the other survivor found with severe burns in a forested area. Emergency services crew arrived at the scene at 7:42 am when they discovered the six dead passengers in the wreckage. Despite poor visibility which forced helicopter aid to be cancelled, a 100-metre long search that the aircraft had made through the forest was visible. The bodies of the deceased were transported to Innsbruck for an autopsy, while an aircraft accident board investigation planned to determine the cause of the accident. —Xinhua

Austrian Press Agency

Reuters
Somalia

"I told it to the ministry primary, only to the banks, not the public and not to overseas public," he told reporters.

"This will be only the primary market, only to the banks, not to the public and not to overseas public," he told reporters.

The Palestinian Monetary Authority (PMA), which oversees operations in both the West Bank—where the Palestinian Authority is based—and the Gaza Strip controlled by the Islamist group Hamas, will manage the securitization on behalf of the Finance Ministry.

"What is important about this is that it will transfer some of the existing debt that is direct borrowing from the government into securities which are tradable between the banks," Wazzir said.

"It will add to stability, it will generate an interbank market and additionally as an incentive it will be used as daily collateral in our system," the official said.

The securitization would likely see the PMA convert a chunk of outstanding Palestinian debt into bonds or other tradable securities that would then be sold to local banks, in order to cut its direct borrowing requirements.

The Palestinians, a stateless people, do not have their own currency and the Israeli shekel is used for most day-to-day cash transactions.

The PMA, which has reserves of $1 billion, regulates banks operating in the Palestinian territories, occupied by Israel in a 1967 war.

The government budget deficit was likely to be around $1.3 billion this year, up from a $950 million gap projected in the budget, Wazzir also said, adding it $3.36 billion was a red line for state borrowing from banks.—Reuters

Guantanamo’s last Western detainee returned to Canada

Winnipeg, 1 Oct—The youngest prisoner and last Westerner held in the Guantanamo Bay military base, Omar Khadr, was sent to finish his sentence in his native Canada on Saturday, the Canadian government said.

Canadian Public Safety Minister Vic Toews said that Khadr, who was a 15-year-old fighting in Afghanistan when captured in 2002, had been flown from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to a military base in Trenton, Ontario and transferred to the province’s Millhaven maximum-security prison.

Khadr’s case has been controversial both in Canada and abroad given his age when he was captured, the nature of his detention and hearing, and the reluctance of Canadian officials to accept his return.

"I am satisfied the Correctional Service of Canada can administer Omar Khadr’s sentence in a manner which recognizes the serious nature of the crimes that he has committed and ensure the safety of Canadians is protected during incarceration," Toews said in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

A US war crimes tribunal in 2010 sentenced Khadr, now 26, to 40 years in prison, although he was expected to serve just a few more years under a deal that included his admission he was an Al Qaeda conspirator who murdered a US soldier.

Khadr pleaded guilty in 2010 to charges that included murdering American Army medic Christopher Speer with a grenade in a 2002 firefight, conspiring with al Qaeda to commit terrorist acts, making roadside bombs to target US troops in Afghanistan, slying on American military convoys and providing material support for terrorism.

Khadr was the first person since World War Two to be prosecuted in a war crimes tribunal for acts committed as a juvenile. He was the youngest prisoner still at Guantanamo, but younger boys were previously held there.—Reuters

7.1-magnitude quake hits Colombia

BOGOTA, 1 Oct—An earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale jolted Colombia at 11:31:31 local time (16:31 GMT) on Sunday, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said.

The epicentre, at a depth of 162 km, was determined to be at 1,972 degrees west longitude and 37.6 degrees north latitude in a rural region of La Vega city, Colombian Southwest Province of Cauca. It was 9 km west-northwest of Ibagué town.

Carlos Ivan Marquez, an expert from Colombia’s National Risk System, said there were no reports of victims or material damage, but that emergency units began inspection operations in the zones where the earthquake hit the hardest.

Marquez said the earthquake was felt in 12 provinces in central, south and southeast Colombia, where it caused panic among inhabitants of high buildings. Also, the earthquake was felt in towns of northern Colombia. "I inform that authorities are on alert before any situation. So far, no serious event has been reported," said Marquez. The USGS had reported the earthquake at a magnitude of 7.4, but revised it to 7.1 later.—Xinhua

Al-Qaeda suicide bombing injures 13 in Yemen’s south

ANNIN, 1 Oct—At least 13 pro-government tribesmen were injured when suspected Al-Qaeda suicide bomber blew himself up nearby a hospital in the troubled southern Province of Abyan on Saturday, a Yemeni security official told Xinhua.

The suicide bomber targeted a group of pro-government militia at the entrance to a public hospital in the town of Lawder in Abyan, killing himself and injuring at least 13 people at the scene, the local security official said, requesting anonymity.

The leader of the pro-government militia, Mohmad Aidarous, who backed an all-out army offensive in Abyan province against al Qaeda in mid-June, was likely the targeted person in the bombing, but he survived the attack safely and unharmed, the security official said.

A witness near the scene told Xinhua anonymously saying that "a man wearing an explosives-packed vest blew himself up among a gathering of pro-government tribal fighters leaving scores of people injured."

Although the al-Qaeda militants are usually held responsible for such armed attacks and bombings, no group has yet claimed responsibility for the bomb blast.

The Yemen-based al-Qaeda offshoot had exploited Yemen’s yearlong security vacuum during protests against the long-time ruler Saleh and controlled several southern cities for more than a year before they were driven out by US-backed offensive.

On 20 June, Yemen’s military officials announced seizing al-Qaeda’s last bastion in the country’s troubled south following the army offensive.

However, local military and anti-terrorism experts said that Yemen’s al-Qaeda branch is still a major threat to the impoverished Arab country. —Reuters

EGYPT

Egypt’s Copts to return to Sinai homes, says government

CAIRO, 1 Oct—Egypt’s presidency and prime minister said on Saturday security forces in North Sinai were working to return Coptic Christians living near Egypt’s border with Israel to their homes after they fled in fear of attack from Islamists and militants.

Many Christian families living in Rafah near Egypt’s border with their homes on Friday after militants made death threats and gunmen attacked a Coptic-owned shop.

Analysts say Islamists with possible al-Qaeda links have gained a foothold in Sinai and the departure of the families could fuel concerns about religious tolerance and the rise of militancy after the overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak.

"The Coptic families will return to their homes pre-emptively and this government has given orders to return them to their homes and this is being carried out now," said Yasser Ali, presidential spokesman.

Two armed men riding a motorcycle opened fire on a Coptic-owned shop in Rafah on Wednesday but no one was injured.

Prime Minister Hisham Qandil said militants had not tried to force the Coptic families from the border town and they had left of their own accord. However, death threats against the Copts had been printed on flyers circulating in the desert area.

"We must uphold fear and provide all security measures to every citizen," Qandil said.

Israel has voiced concern about security in Sinai, where at least four cross-border attacks have taken place since Mubarak was toppled in February 2011.

Egypt’s new president, Mohamed Mursi, has vowed to restore order. But efforts to impose central authority are complicated by the indigenous Bedouin population’s ingrained hostility to the government in Cairo. —Reuters

Technicians work on Thai Airways International’s (THAI)'s first Airbus A380 at Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok, Thailand on 29 Sept, 2012. THAI will inaugurate commercial service with the A380 in early October on the Bangkok-Hong Kong and Bangkok-Singapore routes.—Xinhua

World Route Development Forum in Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The three-day World Route Development Forum, which brings together 350 air transport leaders and 3,000 delegates from 80 countries, focuses on sustainability and consolidation in the industry.—Xinhua

Photo taken on 30 Sept, 2012 shows stewards of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) carrier Etihad Airways during the opening ceremony of World Route Development Forum in Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The three-day World Route Development Forum, which brings together 350 air transport leaders and 3,000 delegates from 80 countries, focuses on sustainability and consolidation in the industry.—Xinhua

United Arab Emirates (UAE) carrier Etihad Airways during the opening ceremony of World Route Development Forum in Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The three-day World Route Development Forum, which brings together 350 air transport leaders and 3,000 delegates from 80 countries, focuses on sustainability and consolidation in the industry.—Xinhua

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Egypt

Egypt
“From war to peace”

It was in the early period of post-World War II that Myanmar regained independence and was on a mission to rise back from the ravages of war. The parliamentary period of Myanmar during the time saw the adoption and implementation of the two-year Sorrento Villa plan from 1948 to 1950, and the eight-year Pyidawtha Plan from 1952 and 1960. Both plans were for national rehabilitation and nation-building as WWII destroyed many lives and a large volume of property when it spilled into the country between 1942 and 1945. But the newly independent nation was not fortunate enough to fully recover from the ravages of WWII. Both plans could not fully realize their goals, mainly because of the instability caused by ideological or racial differences.

Unfortunately, these differences were not solved through talks and compromises, instead with guns. So, there broke out the armed civil strife that was burning in the country for over 60 years till now. The main outcome of civil war is that it drained away much of the country’s resources. Myanmar got bogged down in a quagmire of multi-colour insurgency, while many other newly independent countries had well started their development drive.

The governments all along the post-independence history of Myanmar were busy trying to end the internal armed conflict through their own means. The government in office focuses on lasting peace, and in accordance with its adopted motto “From War to Peace”, it is addressing the longstanding hardships of the ethnic nationalities. Up to now, it has signed ceasefire agreements with 10 armed groups. At the initial stage, both the Government Peace Work Committee and Kachin armed group (KIA) are on their trust building mission through informal talks.

The government fully believes that genuine democracy cannot flourish without the cessation of all armed conflicts. In fact, any loss of life and property from either side is a loss of the country. So, let’s all realize the motto “From War to Peace”.

President receives hero’s...

(from page 1)

Airport by Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hsan Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, Dean of Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua and military attaché. The delegation members—Union Ministers Lt-Gen Thein Htay and U Khin Yi, Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint and departmental heads—also arrived back on the same flight.

Magway Region Hluttaw continues its third day special session

NAV PYI TAW, 1 Oct—The special session 2/2012 of the First Magway Region Hluttaw continued for the third day at the Region Hluttaw Hall at 10 am today, attended by Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Ye Myint, the Deputy Speaker, Region Ministers and Hluttaw representatives.

At the session, they decided to send Magway Region Hluttaw’s suggestion on draft constitution of Myanmar Hluttaw Affairs Organization.

MNA

Myanmar Tatmadaw shooting team leaves for Brunei

NAV PYI TAW, 1 Oct—A Myanmar Tatmadaw shooting team led by Maj-Gen Ngwe Thein of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief left here by air on 27 September morning to take part in the 22nd ASEAN Armies Shooting Championship to be held in Brunei. They were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Lt-Gen Myint Soe of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, senior military officers of the office of Commander-in-Chief, and Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye. —MNA

I don’t remember the story, but girls with short pants from beginning to the end.

President U Thein Sein being welcomed back by national races girls at Yangon International Airport. —MNA

President U Thein Sein being welcomed back by people from airport lounge to airport road.

MNA

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The State and Region Sanghanayaka Committees in the Union of the Republic of Myanmar

According to the resolution of the First Successful Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders of 1980, the different levels of the Sangha Organizations throughout the country could be formed and the very first unity of the Sangha of All Orders could be reconstructed within one-hundred years in the history of Buddhism of Myanmar. The different levels of the Sangha Organizations are as follows:

1. State Ovadaçariya (Patron) Committees of Sangha
2. State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders
3. State Sanghamahanayaka Committee
4. State/Region Sanghanayaka Committees
5. Township Sanghanayaka Committees
6. Ward/Village-tract Sanghanayaka Committees

These different levels of the Sangha organization represent over five-hundred thousand members of the Sangha in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar who are striving to carry out the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana. Out of the six different levels of the Sangha Organizations, the State and Regional Sanghanayaka Committees have been formed throughout the seven States and the seven Regions of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar since 1980. Each committee consists of six members of the Sangha including Chairman and Secretary elected by the majority of the members of the Sangha who are residing in limited place of respective States or Regions. The general election of the State/Regional Sanghanayaka Committees shall be held in accordance with principles of the Sangha Organizations after five year’s term.

There are altogether 49 State/Regional Sanghanayaka Committees which have been formed throughout the country since 1980. They are carrying out the noble tasks of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana. They are as follows:

1. They have to carry out their functions in accordance with the principles of different levels of Sangha Organizations and the procedures of different levels of Sangha Organizations, the procedures of the settlement of Vinayadharmamakkamadha Disputes and Orders and decisions and Instructions which were approved and adopted by the plenary meeting of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders.
2. They shall have to carry out their functions mainly leading to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana and the unity of the members of the Sangha.
3. They shall have to make monks and novices (Samaneras) in respective States and Regions to obey and follow the instructions of the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee.
4. They shall have to prepare the name-list of annual records and data of members of the Sangha residing in respective States and Regions and said it to the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee.
5. They shall have to submit their work-done reports to the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee from time to time.
6. They shall have to supervise the election of the township Ovadaçariya (patron) Committees of Sangha, the formation/limitation of the township Sanghanayaka Committees and the election of the State and Regional Working Committees of the Sangha.
7. They shall have to be in consultation with the respective state and regional authorities concerned.
8. They shall have to be in consultation with the respective state and regional authorities concerned.
9. They shall have to be in consultation with the respective state and regional authorities concerned.
10. They shall have to be in consultation with the respective state and regional authorities concerned.

We all Buddhists throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are ready to support and provide the four kinds of requisites to the members of the Sangha of the State and Regional Sanghanayaka Committees who are carrying out the noble tasks of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana and always pay respect to them. We wish that may all the members of the Sanghas of the State and Regional Sanghanayaka Committees be healthy and wealthy to carry out the noble tasks of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana more than ever before.
**Qatar**

Qatar\'s modern future rubs up against conservative traditions

Doha, 1 Oct — Qatar is spending massively to modernize its capital ahead of hosting the 2022 World Cup, leading conservative Qataris to worry about how their Islamic state will affect the Islamic nature of the Gulf state. Tracks can be seen speeding around Doha\'s business district, carrying building materials for the $150 billion makeover that will give the city a new metro, airport, seaport and roads.

In the busy years leading up to the soccer tournament, Doha will see an influx of foreign companies, professionals and workers. With them will come a fresh flood of foreign cultures and lifestyles, and that is causing concern. \"This is the real challenge for us: to maintain our culture while building the country we\'ll become,\" said 33-year-old Abrahamian, who like other Qatari citizens preferred to be identified only by his first name.

Exploiting its immense natural gas resources has in just over 15 years transformed Qatar into one of the world\'s wealthiest nations, with a per capita annual income of over $100,000. Though led by a ruling family viewed as highly progressive by Gulf standards, the fact remains that most Qataris are very conservative. Most practice Wahhabism, the austere form of Islam also practiced in Saudi Arabia. For them, concern that Western norms will start to infiltrate society is a continuous and pressing reality, especially given the fact that they are an extreme minority in their own country, which is home to some 1.7 million people, many of them workers from south Asia. \"We welcome the expats, and we want them here. But we will not permit any disrespect to our religion or culture,\" said Salma, a 25-year-old Qatari. \"This is your home, for now. But it is our home forever, and we will not bow to your ways.\"

Qatar\’s Emir, Sheikha Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, 60, seized power from his father in a bloodless coup in 1995. He and his second wife Sheikha Mozah have gained a reputation as modernizers in recent years and raised their country\’s profile significantly with the launch of the Al Jazeera television network and successful hosting the 2006 Asian Games, as well as their role in initiating the country\’s World Cup bid.

The street protests which swept four Arab heads of state from office since early last year and strengthened Islamists throughout the Middle East have not been seen in Qatar, partly due to its staggering wealth but also to its foreign policy: because Qatar aggressively aided the Libyan rebels, its government is seen as on the \"right side\" of the Arab Spring.

But the government cannot ignore the fact that much of the Qatari population is resistant to the changes brought by rapid expansion.

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**Nuclear weapons are no \"guarantee of security\"**

UNITED NATIONS, 1 Oct — Kazakhstan said here on Saturday that nuclear weapons are unable to guarantee a country\’s security or independence, the world must unite in tackling the threat of proliferation of nuclear weapons and technology. The Kazakh foreign minister, Kairat Umarov, made the statement as he was taking the floor at the General Debate of the 67th session of the UN General Assembly, which opened here on Tuesday.

\"The threat of proliferation of nuclear weapons and technology, along with the terrorist use of such weapons and use by terrorist entities, has been one of the most daunting challenges to our humanity,\" he said. \"Kazakhstan\’s own record goes to show that countries reap huge benefits from the renunciation of nuclear weapons.\"

The Central Asian nation closed down its nuclear weapons site in Semipalatinsk, one of the largest test sites in the world and located in the country\’s northeast, in 1991. As a result of this, the acting foreign minister, said Kazakhstan has \"won more friends and (has) become a more permanent and stable international power.\" This year, we will complete the project to enhance physical security of the former Semipalatinsk test site,\" he said. \"We view this project, which is being implemented jointly with the United States and Russia, as our significant contribution to the global non-proliferation regime.\" Umarov said that Kazakhstan fully supports a proposal by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to adopt a nuclear weapons convention, noting the suggestion of some non-permanent president that, as an important step in that direction, the United Nations should adopt a Universal Declaration of a Nuclear Weapon-Free World. —Xinhua

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**Four Turks killed in clashes with Syrian troops near Idlib, battles drag on elsewhere**

DAAMASCUS, 1 Oct — Four Turks were among other gunmen, who were killed on Saturday by the Syrian troops near Syria\’s northwestern Province of Idlib, the state-TV said, as clashes and violence continued elsewhere.

The confrontation took place at the town of Taftanaz in the countryside of Idlib, the state-TV said. The Syrian government has repeatedly accused Turkey of facilitating the inroads of armed groups into Syria.

Meanwhile, the raging clashes between the government troops and the armed rebels in the northern Province of Aleppo have taken the lion\’s share of the headlines on Saturday. The state-run SANA news agency said the Syrian troops have carried out qualitative operations at Sheikh Lutfi district in Aleppo, killing and injuring scores of \"terrorists,\" a term used by the Syrian government to brand the rebels.

The troops also killed scores of armed men at the Districts of al-Sakhour, Khan al-Aar and near al-Hamza mosque in Aleppo. In Tal al-Zarzari area, 22 armed men were killed by the Syrian troops, according to SANA.

Meanwhile, a Syrian military source stressed on Saturday that the Syrian troops have wrested back control over two rebel-held areas in the fighting-stricken Aleppo Province. The unnamed source, who was quoted by SANA, said the Syrian troops have fully controlled the village of Amirash and Tal al-Zarzari districts in Aleppo. \"Our forces will proceed in eliminating the terrorist mercenaries in all areas of Aleppo,\" the source said.

The battles in Aleppo, Syria\’s largest city and commercial hub, have been raging since Thursday when the armed rebels announced the commencement of the \"decisive battle\" in a bid to bring down Aleppo. —Xinhua

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**African leaders will fight United Nations security for a permanent seat**

UNITED NATIONS, 1 Oct — The reform of the United Nations and its Security Council is one of the topics widely discussed during the week-long General Debate of the UN General Assembly, which entered its fifth day here on Saturday, and Algerian and Mauritanian foreign ministers have brought the topic to their specific goal — Africa should get a permanent seat on an expanded Security Council.

African ministers, who taking the floor at the United Nations General Assembly on Saturday, called for expanding the Security Council to include permanent representation for their continent and stressed the vital role of socio-economic in ensuring peace. \"The working methods of the Security Council must be revised to ensure democratization, and its membership must be expanded to include new permanent and non-permanent members of the developing world, particularly Africa,\" said Algeria\’s Foreign Minister Mourad Medelci. \"This is your home, for now. But it is our home forever, and we will not bow to your ways.\"

Africa cannot have its African leaders will fight United Nations security for a permanent seat

The street protests which swept four Arab heads of state from office since early last year and strengthened Islamists throughout the Middle East have not been seen in Qatar, partly due to its staggering wealth but also to its foreign policy: because Qatar aggressively aided the Libyan rebels, its government is seen as on the \"right side\" of the Arab Spring.

But the government cannot ignore the fact that much of the Qatari population is resistant to the changes brought by rapid expansion.

-The pace of economic expansion in Qatar over the last decade is almost without precedent. It is remarkable that the traditionally conservative society has handled these changes as well as it has,\" said one Doha-based economist. —Reuters

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**Africa must have due representation in Security Council: ministers**

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Africa cannot have its...
Two killed, dozens missing in Nepal landslip

KATMANDU, 1 Oct—At least two people were killed and dozens have gone missing when five moving vehicles were hit by a landslip along the Pekin-Maoji Highway on Sunday night, local media reported on Monday.

Two bodies have been found and search for the rest is on the way. According to the police, five among the missing are Indian nationals. However, their identities are yet to be ascertained.—Xinhua

Six dead, 14 injured in bus fire near Beijing

POLICE said the tour group was organized by the Beijing-based China Youth Travel Service. The bus driver died at the scene. The identities of the other victims are still unknown. It is also unclear how many people were traveling in the bus. Witnesses said they saw a few people escape from the flames.

Photographs posted by witnesses on the web showed the whole vehicle was engulfed in flames and dark smoke. The injured passengers are being treated at the People’s Hospital in Tianjin’s Wangdu District. The German Embassy in Beijing has sent personnel to Tianjin. The wreackage of the bus has been removed from the road after the flames were extinguished. Police were cleaning up the luggage. The cause of the accident is under investigation.—Xinhua

Afghan police kill 38 Taleban militants in 24 hours

KABUL, 1 Oct—Afghan police backed the army and the NATO-led forces have killed 38 Taleban fighters and injured nearly two dozen others over the past 24 hours, the Interior Ministry said in a statement released here on Monday. “During the past 24 hours, Afghan National Police backed by the army and the NATO-led Coalition Forces launched nine joint cleanup operations in Farah, Sar-e-Pul, Kunduz, Uruzgan, Wardak, Logar, Paktika and Paktiya provinces during which 38 armed Taleban rebels have been killed, 23 wounded and 10 others arrested,” the statement contended. However, it did not say if there were any casualties on the security forces. Taleban militants have yet to make comment.—Xinhua

China

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US Ospreys deployed to Japan Okinawa amid local dissent

TOKYO, 1 Oct—US MV-22 Osprey aircraft were deployed Monday to an air base in Okinawa amid strong local opposition, on local media said. Despite lingering safety concerns, the first tilt-rotor transport aircraft arrived at the US Marine Corps’ Futenma Air Station, located in a densely populated area in Ginowan, Okinawa Prefecture, from a base in southwestern Japan, the country’s leading news agency Kyodo News reported.

Six Ospreys departed from the Marines’ Iwakuni air base in Yamaguchi Prefecture on Monday morning, a day after police forcibly removed local residents and activists who staged a sit-in in front of the Futenma base gates.

“Going ahead with the move while the anxieties of the people of the prefecture remain unaddressed is beyond my comprehension,” Okinawa Governor Hirokazu Nakaima said. “It is disappointing and extremely regrettable.” The Marines plan to begin operating Ospreys on full scale at the Futenma base this month. The military aircraft which can take off and land like a helicopter and cruise like an airplane had its test flight for the first time in the nation at the Iwakuni base on 21 Sept after the central government confirmed its safety.—Xinhua

Asian factory sector struggles to shake off euro malaise

BEIJING, 1 Oct—Asia’s manufacturers are continuing to struggle in the face of tepid demand from the United States and Europe, according to business surveys and data releases on Monday that underlined the fragility of the global economy.

More data later is expected to confirm that the euro zone is mired in recession while the prospects of a firmer US recovery remain delicately balanced.

Equity and commodity markets slipped in Asia, where China’s official manufacturing purchasing managers index (PMI) showed factory activity contracted for a second straight month in September and a survey of Japan’s big manufacturers showed sentiment worsening over the past three months.

Adding to signs that the region’s vast factory sector is flagging in the face of strong global headwinds, Taipei’s PMI fell to its lowest in 10 months and South Korea reported a small year-on-year decline in exports. “I don’t see troubles stabilizing as yet. It will take a while longer until global demand shows signs of stabilization,” said Sakitandi Supaat, foreign exchange research head at Maybank in Singapore.

The China survey, the most closely watched by investors, underscored expectations that the motor of the global economy in recent years almost certainly endured a seventh straight quarter of slowdown growth.

Overall, September’s manufacturing PMI rose to 49.8 in September from 49.2 in August, which had been the lowest reading since November 2011. A PMI reading above 50 indicates expansion and below 50 contraction.

“The data continues to reinforce the hard landing that we have predicted for China, because this is the second consecutive month of a sub-50 reading,” said Prakash Sakpal of ING in Singapore, which forecasts China’s economic growth will be close to 7 percent in both the third and fourth quarters of this year. The official data followed a private-sector PMI survey on Saturday by HSBC that showed overall factory activity shrank for an 11th consecutive month in September.

Two cuts to interest rates, an easing of compulsory bank reserve requirements that freed about 1.2 trillion yuen ($190 billion) for lending and approval of more than $150 billion worth of infrastructure projects have so far failed to arrest the decline in China’s overall growth.

China’s annual economic growth could ease to 7.4 percent in the third quarter, according to the latest Reuters poll. That would leave 2012 growth below 8 percent, a level not seen since 1999.—Reuters

Cambodia, United Arab Emirates seek possibilities to expand trade, investment ties

PASAY, 1 Oct—Cambodia’s Minister of Commerce Cham Prasidh on Monday met with visiting Minister of Foreign Trade of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Lubna Bint Khalid Al Qasimi to discuss ways to strengthen the bilateral trade and investment ties.

The meeting would pave the way for cooperation between the two countries in halal food and rice deals in the future, Cham Prasidh said in the meeting. He said that for halal food, Cambodia planned to negotiate with Malaysia for cooperation to produce halal food products to export to Dubai.

On the rice side, Cambodia wanted Dubai investors to broker Cambodian milled rice for countries surrounding the Persian Gulf, he said.

Sheikh Lubna said her visit to Cambodia was to widen trade and investment opportunities between the two countries, adding that the bilateral trade volume was 89 million US dollars last year, up 121 percent year-on-year.

“The trade volume is still small, there are more opportunities to strengthen and expand our bilateral trade ties,” she said.—Xinhua

Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Leung Chun-ying (C) and other guests propose a toast during a reception to mark the 63rd anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Hong Kong, south China, on 1 Oct, 2012.—Xinhua

An aerialk display is staged to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival, in Luzhou, south China’s Guanxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 30 Sept, 2012. Mid-Autumn Festival, which falls on 30 Sept this year, is a traditional Chinese festival, with the convention of family reunion and eating mooncakes.—Xinhua

REGIONAL

An aerialk display is staged to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival, in Luzhou, south China’s Guanxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 30 Sept, 2012. Mid-Autumn Festival, which falls on 30 Sept this year, is a traditional Chinese festival, with the convention of family reunion and eating mooncakes.—Xinhua
Argentina president’s image slides further as CPI, crime weigh

in September, sinking to 24.3 percent from 24.7 percent in August, according to a poll published on Sunday, as high inflation and worries over Argentina’s President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner delivers a public address at the John F Kennedy Jr Forum at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts on 27 Sept, 2012. REUTERS

A Buenos Aires, 1 Oct—Argentina President Cristina Fernandez’s popularity continued its downward slide in September, sinking to 24.3 percent from 24.7 percent in August, according to a poll published on Sunday, as high inflation and worries over the economy weighed.

As recently as September 2011, a month before winning her second term, Fernandez had a 64.1 percent popularity rating while campaigning on promises of deepening the interventionist policy model of her late husband and predecessor as president, Nestor Kirchner.

The 24.3 percent popularity rate for September is the lowest of Fernandez’s second term. It had been at 38.1 percent in July.

But the economy has been seen as slowing sharply due to high inflation, a sluggish world economy, waning demand from top oil producers like Exxon and Chevron, contracts the central government and Kurdistan over oil rights, straining Iraq’s uneasy federal union.

Iraq

Baghdad to make payments to ease Kurd oil conflict

Iraq

Baghdad, 1 Oct—Oil payments from Baghdad to Iraq’s Kurdish region will be transferred today, Kurdish Energy Minister Ashti Hawrami said on Sunday, offering hope that a long-running conflict between the central government and autonomous region is easing.

Baghdad and Kurdistan agreed earlier this month to draw a line under a dispute over oil payments after the latter pledged to continue exports and Baghdad said it would pay foreign companies working there.

Tuesday to discuss software glitches and how to tame rapid-fire trading, the eighth public forum it has had in two years on market structure issues, regulators in Canada, Australia and Germany are moving ahead with plans to introduce speed limits to safeguard markets from the machines.

One item up for discussion is whether regulators should require trading firms and exchanges to deploy a “kill switch” so that they can quickly shut down a runaway high-speed computer program. That’s one of the seven recommendations the Chicago Fed made to the SEC in its 25 March, 2010, letter.

The Chicago Fed said exchanges and other trading platforms should install more risk controls, even if it slowed down trading, including a “kill switch” at the trader workstation level.

“This is great news. Payments are crucial for us to keep oil flowing” said an official with a company operating in Kurdistan.

Kurdistan has riled Baghdad by signing away from US markets.

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Monsters party top box office with “Hotel Transylvania”

Auditioned 400 girls before signing Alia Bhatt: Karan Johar

Anne Hathaway marries in Big Sur

Christie’s offers Bond items on 50th anniversary

Lindsay Lohan assaulted in a New York hotel, man arrested

Actor Adam Sandler poses with mascots of characters to organize film festival on Gandhi

Los Angeles, 1 Oct— Family film “Hotel Transylvania” brought new life to movie box offices with a chart-topping $43 million in US and Canadian ticket sales during the weekend, a record for a September opening.

The animated 3-D movie featuring the voices of Adam Sandler and Selena Gomez finished ahead of new science fiction film “Looper,” which took in $21.2 million from Friday through Sunday.

The police drama “End of Watch,” which tied with has struggled through several weeks of sluggish attendance.

“In Hotel Transylvania,” the Invisible Man and other monsters gather for a party at a high-end resort operated by Dracula. Their celebration is disrupted when a boy discovers the hotel and falls in love with Dracula’s daughter but must deal her overprotective father.

The film’s domestic sales far exceeded distributor Sony Corp’s prediction for $25 million-plus from the North American (US and Canadian) market. The movie added $8.1 million from international markets, for a global debut of $53.1 million.

“It’s absolutely an incredible result,” said Rory Bruer, president of worldwide distribution for Sony Corp’s Sony Pictures studio, adding that the studio had hoped for something in the $30 million range, which he noted “in this market would have been extraordinary.”

The hefty take easily beat the September opening record of $35.65 million for “Sweet Home Alabama,” which had stood for 10 years.

“Hotel Transylvania” cost $85 million to produce.

Los Angeles, 1 Oct— Actress Anne Hathaway married fiance Adam Shulman at a wedding on the scenic coast of Big Sur, California, celebrity media reports said on Sunday.

Anne Hathaway, 29, known for roles in “The Devil Wears Prada,” “The Princess Diaries” and “The Dark Knight Rises,” married jewelry designer Shulman at a private estate on the rugged Pacific Ocean coastline south of San Francisco, according to reports in People and Us magazines which included pictures of Hathaway in a white gown with veil and train.

The couple became engaged last November and married on Saturday night before more than 100 invited guests, with Hathaway wearing a custom Valentino gown, People said. It was the first marriage for each.

“They were posing for pictures after the wedding and seemed giddy and on an adrenaline high,” Us quoted a witness to the wedding as saying.

Hathaway was nominated for an Academy Award for her role in “Rachel Getting Married” and will next be seen in the upcoming film adaptation of “Les Miserables.”

Los Angeles, 1 Oct— Christie’s will offer 50 items of James Bond memorabilia over the coming week in a charity sale that culminates in a live auction next Friday, the 50th anniversary release of the first 007 movie “Dr No.”

The auction, which will raise funds for a range of charities including UNICEF, is one of a series of events being held around the world to mark the anniversary of one of the world’s longest-running and most successful film franchises.

Fifty lots will be up for sale, many of them coming from EON Productions, the company behind the movie series.

Of the total, 40 will be sold online between 28 September and 8 October and 10 of the star items have been reserved for the live auction on 5 October, “Golden James Bond Day,” at Christie’s offices in South Kensington in London.

All lots will go on public display there from Saturday until 4 October. Admittance is free.

“In what we wanted to do was to celebrate the 50th anniversary in a meaningful way and let people have the opportunity to buy some of the things in our archives that we could raise money for charity from,” said Michael G. Wilson, who along with Barbara Broccoli is guardian of the Bond films.

“There’s a lot of things...from 1,000 pounds ($1,600) on up, really,” he told Reuters.

Lindsay Lohan assaulted in a New York hotel, man arrested

New Delhi, 1 Oct— Indian director-producer Karan Johar, who is launching Mahesh Bhatt’s daughter Alia in his upcoming film “Student Of The Year,” says the newcomer wasn’t the first choice for the movie.

The 19-year-old debutante plays the role of a rich brat named Shanaya Singhania in the film, which also stars newcomers Varun Dhawan and Siddharth Malhotra.

“We screen tested over 400 girls from across Mumbai and other cities—PTI

Los Angeles, 1 Oct— Actress Lindsay Lohan was attacked by a man in a New York hotel on Sunday, her spokesman said, in what media reports described as a scuffle over her demands that photographs be deleted from his cellphone.

Lohan suffered minor injuries following the Sunday morning attack, spokesman Steve Honig said in a statement.

Her assailant was arrested, Honig said. A spokeswoman for the New York City Police Department did not immediately comment.

Celebrity website TMZ.com, citing sources close to the actress, identified the attacker as a man Lohan met at a New York nightclub.

The two began arguing in Lohan’s hotel room after she noticed he was taking pictures of her with his cellphone, TMZ and E! News reported.

Lohan told police the man threw her to the ground, climbed on top of her and tried to choke her before someone else pulled him off, TMZ said.

Honig declined comment on the media reports.

The 26-year-old actress, who has been in and out of court, rehab and prison in recent years, was arrested in New York last week after a pedestrian told police that her car struck him in an alley. She was charged with leaving the scene of an accident, a misdemeanor.

Lindsay Lohan attended the White House Correspondents’ Association annual dinner in Washington on 28 April, 2012.

Reuters

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**SPORTS**

**Real president tightens defences against non-members**

**Madrid, 1 Oct—** Real Madrid president Florentino Perez has won the backing of the club's assembly in Madrid on Sunday, which will mean presidential candidates will have to have been club members for at least 20 years, up from 10 years.

They must also personally provide a guarantee worth 15 percent of the club’s budget — around 75 million euros (59.6 million pounds) — rather than relying on any third party as has sometimes happened in the past.

A construction magnate and one of Spain’s richest men, Perez told members he had nothing against “sheikhs or Russians” and was attempting to protect the club and its 70,000 members, who legally own the Spanish champions and elect the president.

“Sincerely, not just anyone can come here and take over the club, however much gift of the gab he has, and run it into the ground,” Perez said.

“This is not a petanque club, it’s the most important sporting institution in the world,” he added.

“If a sheikh, a club member, wants to provide the guarantee let him come and do it, but it must be in his name.

“A third party cannot guarantee a candidacy because it is against the spirit of sport and against us.

“I don’t want to think badly of anyone but this is a barrier for our members and not outsiders.” — Reuters

**Gasquet wins all-French final in Bangkok to end drought**

**Bangkok, 1 Oct—** Richard Gasquet won his first ATP title in more than two years when he continued his domination of Gilles Simon by swatting aside his French compatriot 6-2, 6-1 to claim the Thailand Open on Sunday.

The indoor hardcourt title was the seventh of Gasquet’s career and the easy victory improved his record over Simon to 6-0.

The 250 rankings points will also help improve the world number 14’s chances of reaching the season ending World Tour finals in London in November for the top eight men.

Fourth-seed Simon started brightly by breaking Gasquet in the opening game before unravelling in the topside contest in the Thailand capital with his failure to win points on his serve letting him down.

“I played against a French player who is also my friend so of course it a little bit strange but for me it's a title and I’ve had some tough matches this week so I’m very happy to win,” Gasquet told reporters. — Reuters

**Tottenham’s Bale eyes foreign move “in the future”**

**London, 1 Oct—** Tottenham Hotspur’s flying winger Gareth Bale finds the idea of one day playing abroad appealing despite signing a new four-year deal with the Premier League side in June. The 23-year-old Welshman has long been coveted by top European names such as Inter Milan.

“I’d never be scared of it,” he told Sunday’s Guardian newspaper while admitting he did have a fear of spiders.

“It’s something I’d like to experience. It’s in the future but something did come up and I would obviously look at it with interest.”

Spurs visit Manchester United later and are still getting used to life under new coach Andre Villas-Boas, who ruffled too many feathers at Chelsea last season and was given the sack.

Reports have also said his training methods have not won universal approval at their London rivals but Bale said the Portuguese was a good listener.

“For example, if we feel we are working too hard in training, if we say that to him, then he’ll ease off. He’s still learning as well as a manager,” Bale said.

“Sometimes it just takes a bit of time.”

The left winger also sought to clear up confusion over why he pulled out of Britain’s Olympic squad in July only to appear for Tottenham in pre-season friendlies at the same time as the Games football tournament.

“I had a problem with my back. I just wasn’t expecting to recover that quickly,” said Bale, who added that British Olympic defender Micah Richards is the toughest right back he has faced during his time with the Manchester City man’s continental England snub.

Richards, who has won 13 caps, last played for the national team in February and was not selected for Euro 2012 under coach Roy Hodgson who was appointed in May.

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Match 8 Sergio Garcia (Europe) beat Jim Furyk (United States) 1up

Match 9 Jason Dufner (United States) beat Peter Hanson (Europe) 2up

Match 10 Lee Westwood (Europe) beat Matt Kuchar (United States) 1up

Match 11 Martin Kaymer (Europe) beat Steve Stricker (United States) 1up

**Golf**

Europe win Ryder Cup with stunning comeback

**Medinah, 1 Oct—** Inspired by the spirit of Seve Ballesteros, Europe’s big guns all delivered as Jose Maria Olazabal’s players produced an astonishing comeback to win the Ryder Cup by 14-1/2 points to 13-1/2 at Medinah Country Club on Sunday.

Needing to claim eight points in the concluding singles to retain the trophy, Europe won six of the first eight encounters before Germany’s Martin Kaymer secured the vital point to retain the Cup by beating Steve Stricker one up.

After Stricker had coolly holed his par putt from eight feet at the last, Kaymer buried his five-foot for a matching par before thrusting his arms skywards in delight.

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**US 13-1/2 Europe 14-1/2 - Ryder Cup result**

**Medinah, (Illinois), 1 Oct—** Completed scores after Sunday’s concluding singles matches between hosts the United States and holders Europe in the 39th Ryder Cup at Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Illinois:

Europe beat the US by 14-1/2 to 13-1/2

Match 1 Luke Donald (Europe) beat Bubba Watson (United States) 2&1

Match 2 Ian Poulter (Europe) beat Webb Simpson (United States) 2up

Match 3 Rory McIlroy (Europe) beat Keegan Bradley (United States) 2&1

Match 4 Justin Rose (Europe) beat Phil Mickelson (United States) 1up

Match 5 Paul Lawrie (Europe) beat Brandt Snedeker (United States) 5&4

Match 6 Dustin Johnson (United States) beat Nicolas Colaerts (Europe) 3&2

Match 7 Zach Johnson (United States) beat Graeme McDowell (Europe) 2&1

Match 8 Sergio Garcia (Europe) beat Jim Furyk (United States) 1up

Match 9 Jason Dufner (United States) beat Peter Hanson (Europe) 2up

Match 10 Lee Westwood (Europe) beat Matt Kuchar (United States) 1up

Match 11 Martin Kaymer (Europe) beat Steve Stricker (United States) 1up

Match 12 Tiger Woods (United States) halved with Francesco Molinari (Europe)
Israel frees two Hamas lawmakers in West Bank

RAMALLAH, 1 Oct — Israel has released two Hamas lawmakers in the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) in the West Bank.

After spending 16 months in an Israeli jail under the administrative detention, al-Qadi and Zeidan were released at an Israeli checkpoint near Ramallah.

Hamas members in the PLC said in a press statement that Israel’s actions were a poor attempt to deprive the Palestinians of their rights.

Two Kenyan police shot dead border

GARISSE, 1 Oct — Two police officers were shot dead in Garissa on Sunday in the northeastern town of Garissa.

The killing of the police officers and the attack on the church came days after Kenyan troops launched a surprise offensive on the southern Somali port of Kismayu, al-Shabaab’s last stronghold, forcing the rebels to flee.

Monaco wins in Malaysia for year’s fourth title

KUALA LUMPUR, 1 Oct — Frenchman Julien Benneteau battled for more than three hours to defeat German Philipp Petzschner in the Malaysian Open final on Sunday for his fourth ATP title of the year.

Benneteau, ranked 11th in the world, kept alive his hopes of qualifying for November’s season-ending World Tour finals in London as one of the top eight ranked players.

“I was very focused on this game because I wanted to win this final,” Benneteau said.

Two Kenyan police shot dead border

GARISSE, 1 Oct — Two police officers were shot dead in Kenya on Sunday in the northern town of Garissa close to the border with Somalia.

The killing of the police officers and the attack on the church came days after Kenyan troops launched a surprise offensive on the southern Somali port of Kismayu, al-Shabaab’s last stronghold, forcing the rebels to flee.

Most of the inhabitants of Garissa, where the police officers were shot, are ethnic Somalis and the town is located only 180km (111 miles) from Kenya’s border with Somalia.

Benneteau, 30, ranked 34th in the world, lost his seventh career final and will continue his quest for his first ATP title.

“I was very focused on this game because I wanted to win this final,” Benneteau said.

“The fans were great, there were a lot of French in the crowd. It was a nice atmosphere and the game was a good level,” — Reuters

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“The fans were great, there were a lot of French in the crowd. It was a nice atmosphere and the game was a good level,” — Reuters

Death toll of minibus crash in Zimbabwe rises to 15

HARARE, 1 Oct — The death toll of a commuter minibus crash in the eastern Zimbabwean province of Manicaland has risen to 15 as two more passengers died in hospital, police said on Sunday.

Nine died on the spot when a minibus carrying 29 passengers crashed into a lorry on Harare-Mutare highway, while four others were pronounced dead on admission at Rusape General Hospital.

Two others died late on Saturday.

National traffic police spokesperson Assistant Inspector Tigere Chigome confirmed the accident, saying that the minibus hit a cow and encroached on the opposite lane, resulting in the accident.

The accident comes barely four days after another fatal accident took place where six people were killed while 12 others were injured on September 24.

The accident occurred in the morning when a Mbare-bound commuter omnibus overturned along Chitungwiza Road.

Four people died on the spot while six others were pronounced dead on admission to Chitungwiza Central Hospital.

The sixth person died on his way to Parirenyana Hospital from Chitungwiza Central Hospital.

Passengers queue at a waiting room of the railway station in Changchun, capital of northeastern China’s Jilin Province, on 1 Oct, 2012.

The railway transportation in China is expected to send nine million passengers on Monday, the second day of the eight-day “Golden Week” holiday.

Xinhua

16 killed in traffic accident in northern Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 1 Oct — At least 16 people were killed when a truck and a van had a head-on collision in northern Mexico’s Coahuila state, local media reported Sunday.

Witness said the truck invaded the opposite lane of the highway Viesca-Matamoros and directly hit the van shortly before 22.00 hours on Saturday (0300 GMT Sunday), as reported by the local newspaper “El Universal” quoting the Coahuila state police.

The driver of the truck fled the scene after the accident. At least 16 people were killed in the traffic accident, among the dead were two girls just a few months old and another of 3 years who were traveling with the family to the nearby town of Hidalgo Congregation.

The Red Cross ambulances immediately arrived at the scene and firefighters were given the task of rescuing the victims who were among the twisted iron bars. The bodies of the victims were taken by forensic services for further examination.

Spokesmen for the State Police reported that the truck involved was a tractor-trailer closed box owned by Mexico freight, and a Ford Ranger pick-up.
YANGON, 1 Oct—Myanmar delegation led by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint left here by air this afternoon to attend the 7th Asian-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP-7) to be held from 3 to 5 October in Lao People’s Democratic Republic and to pay a goodwill visit to Australia from 7 to 12 October.

The Myanmar delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw ASEAN Political and Security Committee U Nyunt Tin, Secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Finance and Legal Affairs Commission U Myint Thein, Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Aung, Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Nilakath Sayarakh, Charge d’Affaires ai of Australian Embassy to Myanmar Ms. Ruth Stewart and officials.

Members of Myanmar delegation were Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee U Thein Win, Secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Local and Foreign Workers’ Affairs Committee U Saw MaW Tun, member of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee U Soe Myint, Secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Htay Maung, member of Amyotha Hluttaw Economic and Commerce Committee Dr Soe Win and Director-General of Hluttaw Office U Kyaw Soe.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and party to attend ASEP-7 meeting

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Repubic of the Union of Myanmar

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Announcement No. (4/2012)

1st Waning of Tawthalin, 1374 ME

(14 October, 2012)

Fifth regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw summoned

Under the Section 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Article 13 of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law, it is hereby announced that the fifth regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be convened at 10.00 am on 7th waning of Thadingyut, 1374 ME (22 October, 2012).

Sd/Khin Aung Myint

Speaker

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Wrestlers under training for XXVII SEA Games

YANGON, 1 Oct—Myanmar Wrestling Federation is training its athletes as part of efforts to achieve victories in the XXVII SEA Games 2013.

Myanma Alin news crew held an interview with in-charge of wrestling event U Thurein Tun (Assistant Director) of the federation at National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna recently. The in-charge said, “Our federation took part in the wrestling event of the XXVI SEA Games with five men athletes. They secured five bronze medals. The federation opened wrestling sports to 50 trainees from 5 to 14 September. The Turkish coach picked out outstanding athletes among the trainees and then managed training for 30 men and women athletes as of 20 September.”

He continued, “The athletes are under two training sessions from 7.30 am to 9.30 am and from 3.30 pm to 5 pm daily. The federation hired Turkish coach Mr Nureddin Kurt for training. Best 10 players among those who are taking part in the training session will be sent to Turkey in December and January and to take joint exercise with world class Turkish athletes. Our athletes will take part in the men freestyle, men Greco Roman and women freestyle in the wrestling event of the SEA Games.”

In the XXVII SEA Games, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines may be main rivals for Myanmar in the wrestling event.—Myanma Alin