**Qatar Airways launches Doha-Yangon flight**

YeMyoN, 4 Oct—Qatar Airways, the national flag carrier of Qatar, launched Doha-Yangon flight this morning as the latest flight after expanding its wings to Baku (Azerbaijan), Thilisi (Georgia), Zagreb (Croatia), Parth (Australia), Kigali (Rwanda), Kilimanjaro (Tanzania), Baghdad (Iraq), Erbil (Iraq), Maputo (Mozambique), Belgrade (Serbia) and Warsaw (Poland) in 2012.

Qatar Airways was established in 1994 as a domestic air transportation service provider and reorganized in 1997 to build as an international airline. The number of planes has increased from four in 1997 to 23 in 2003 and 50 in 2006. Now, it operates 120 inbound and outbound flights with over 100 planes. It has planned to extend the number of flights to 170 with over 170 planes.

The ceremony to launch Doha-Yangon flight was held at Yangon International Airport this morning with flight No QR 618 being greeted by splashed water on its arrival at the airport.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and CEO of Qatar Airways Mr Akar Al Baker exchanged gifts.

Beginning 3rd October, Qatar Airways flies from Doha to Yangon thrice a week and will fly daily beginning 28 October.—MNA

**Free eye care services provided to patients**

MahaLing, 4 OcT—Under the leadership of Shin of Mahlaing, the Eye Care Service Group provided eye care treatment to the eye patients in the precinct of the monastery.

As of 17 September, eye care services are being given to 50 eye patients every Monday, Wednesday and Friday free of charge.

Eye specialist Dr May Shin of Mahlaing treated ordinary eye complaints and minor eye cases free of charge to the patients. Eye specialist Dr Khin Zaw Tun gave treatment to major eye surgical cases at HtilaU Clinic in Meiktila free of charge.

The cost for medicines and hospital equipment were spent from the fund of the service group, said Chairman of the service group U Maung Maung Tin. Due to hot and dry season, dust and shortage of water in the township, the service group is giving free eye care to a large number of patients. So, the group may face difficulty to overcome. Now, the group needs donations from wellwishers.

Those wishing to make donations to the fund of the group may dial 064-60091 and 064-60191 of the Eye Care Service Group.

**YCDC to spend over K 12 billion on water supply task**

YeMyoN, 4 OcT—According to the statistics of Yangon City Development Committee, Yangon City needs 180 million gallons of water daily, but the Yangon City Development Committee supplies 160 million gallons of water only to the dwellers daily. Thus, efforts will be made for seeking new water sources, said the Yangon Mayor at the fourth regular session of the Yangon Region Hluttaw.

It was reported that Yangon City Development Committee will spend K 12.459 billions on supply of potable water to the city dwellers; Ngamoeyeik water supply project-2 is under implementation for ensuring water sufficiency in the city in early 2013; and on completion, the project will provide 45 million gallons of water to Yangonites daily.

Projects are being implemented to supply 33 million gallons of water to Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) and Dagon Myothit (East) townships and Kokko-myiwa project to 90 million gallons of water.

“This year, we faced shortage of water for many times. The committee needs to systematically repair water pipelines. I had to use purified drinking water as general purpose due to shortage of water. In the couple of days, the water supplied by Yangon City Development Committee was not clean and contains sediments. Sometimes, water colour was dirty. In my childhood, the water supplied by Gobbyu could be drunk because it was very clean. Now, we have to rely on purified drinking water for cooking and drinking purposes. Whatever it may be, it should repair water supply system,” said a woman of Pazundaung Township.

**Southwest monsoon withdraws**

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 OcT—During the past 24 hours, the Southwest monsoon had withdrawn from the Central Bay of Bengal and Deltaic areas, announced by Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

**Obama, Romney cross fires on economy in 1st presidential debate**

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**Colombia’s Santos recovering from successful cancer surgery**

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**The Greatness of the Teachers’ Duties**

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**Balotelli earns Man City lucky draw with Dortmund**

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**Diploma in International Law Course conducted at Mandalay University**

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 OcT—Human Resource Development Department of Mandalay University opened the Diploma in International Law Course No 1/2012 at the four-storey building of Mandalay University in Mandalay at 7.30 am today.

Pro-Rector Dr Saw Pyone Naing made a speech on the occasion. Dean of Law Department Professor Dr Nu Nu Yi explained matters related to the diploma course. Altogether 250 students are attending the nine-month course.—MNA
Farmers from Hsihseng Tsp observe paddy plantations in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Oct—The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint explained efforts for increasing income and improving socioeconomic life of farmers and economic viability of quality strains and modern rice mills to observer farmers from Hsihseng and presented one kilo of hybrid maize to each farmer.

The observer farmers and Union Ministers looked round thriving paddy plantations in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Appointment of Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Oct—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of H.E. Mr. Vasily B. Pospelov as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Yangon.

H.E. Mr. Vasily B. Pospelov was born in 1957. He obtained Master’s Degree in International Relations from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) in 1980. Since then, Mr. Vasily B. Pospelov joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has served in various capacities in the Soviet/Russian Embassies in Thailand (1980-1985) and the USA (1988-1994), as well as in the Russian Permanent Mission to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg (2002-2007). From 2007 to date he is Deputy Director-General, Foreign Policy Planning Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Vasily B. Pospelov has a diplomatic rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary 2 grade. He is married and has three grown-up children.

Union Hotels and Tourism Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Oct—For the convenience of distinguished guests in hotel accommodation, new hotels are being constructed and upgrading works are in progress for upcoming events like festivals and meetings in Nay Pyi Taw. Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung inspected construction works at Mann Myan Hotel, Toungpuri Hotel, Kyaukmyat Nandaw Hotel, Hayman Win Hotel, Shwe Pyidaw Hotel and Thangaza Hotel this morning. The Union Minister called for greening of environs and ensuring quality service in parallel with construction works.

Some wards in Chanmyathazi Township flooded

MANDALAY, 4 Oct—Payantaw Creek in Chanmyathazi Township overflowed Aungginle, Hlondon and Kanthayaw wards. Due to yesterday’s heavy rains, overflow of the creek put the residences under two feet deep floodwater. Seven relief camps were opened to accommodate flood victims families. Members of Myanmar Police Force and fire brigade and personnel of Health Department are giving food, security and health care services to the victims. It was reported that the creek water still flows into the wards on 2 October.

According to the local people, the floods of previous year were worse than that of this year. A total of 1597 people from 341 households are being accommodated at the relief camps. Likewise, local people in some wetland wards of Mandalay and Pathinpyi Township are facing difficulties in transport due to floods.

Car accident on Yangon-Mandalay Highway leaves five dead, 24 injured

YANGON, 4 Oct—A Canter truck driven by U Hla Myint (a) U San Hlaing, 32 of Yuzana Co residing in Pyawbo Township of Yamein District returned from Meiktila after transporting workers to Phangdaw U Pagoda Pujaniya in Meiktila on 30 September.

On its return, the car stopped but it turned over due to out of control in dodging the overtake of a motorcycle near mile post 3327 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway near Kanhaase Village.

In the incident, workers Ma Myat Thuza Lin, 17 and Ma Cho Thin, 30 from Yengang Village of Pyawbo Township died on the spot. Under the supervision of the Meiktila District Deputy Commissioner and the Commander of District Police Force, a total of 24 injured men and women were rushed to Meiktila General Hospital for in-patient treatment.

At the hospital, Mahuya, 18 of Kyauk太高 Village in Pyawbo Township, Ko Maung San, 39 of Nyaungwwe Village and Zaw Naing Tun, 19 of Kyaukthae Village were announced dead. Meiktila General Hospital referred two serious injured Ma Thuza Hlaing, 17 and Maung Yazar, 17 of Yengang Village of Pyawbo Township to Mandalay General Hospital.

The police station concerned opened a file of lawsuit against the accident.

Some wetland wards of Mandalay and Pathinpyi Township are facing difficulties in transport due to floods. —Kyemon

Volunteers with construction works.

U Maung Maung, Daw Khin Win Swe and family from Aung Zeya Ward, Ahlon Township, Yangon donate K 880,000 to the funds of Hninsoin Home for the Aged through Vice-Chairman of the Home Col Kyaw Shein. —NLM
UN Secretary-General’s Message on World Teachers’ Day 5 October 2012

No education system is better than its teachers. Teachers are the custodians of learning; they impart knowledge, values and skills; at their best, they tap into the hopes and talents of young people and help them to grow into productive citizens.

Yet too often, teachers are not given the recognition and support they deserve. World Teachers Day reminds us of their heavy responsibilities as well as the challenges they face, particularly at a time of economic difficulty. We should not let teachers and their students pay the cost of the crisis; we must protect our education systems from current financial pressures and budgetary constraints.

As the priorities of my new global initiative, Education First, is to recruit and train more teachers. The world needs about 2 million more teachers to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education by 2015. The lack of teachers undermines not only the progress made in enrolling children in primary education, but also our efforts to improve school and learning environments.

We must also ensure that teachers are well prepared and well supported. Without qualified teachers, there is no quality education. Pre-service and in-service training are crucial, as are good working conditions, commensurate remuneration and adequate career development opportunities.

An estimated 1.7 million more teacher positions are required to reach the goals of Universal Primary Education by 2015. As we recruit new teachers, we must continue to improve the quality of teaching and learning. Governments are urged to provide teachers with access to training opportunities and continued professional development, based on appropriate qualifications. Attracting committed and diverse teachers requires environments that value professional autonomy and equality.

Teachers need to be supported in fulfilling their responsibilities to students, and their voices must be listened to by school leaders, education systems and public authorities. Teachers salaries must be set objectively and fairly, such that remuneration is commensurate with the importance of the profession and the qualifications and responsibilities of individual teachers.

Teachers, in turn, must be accountable to their students and communities. The teaching profession is designed to design and implement teacher codes of conduct, based on the highest ethical and professional standards, and to be oriented around the goal of teaching all students effectively and equally.

This World Teachers’ Day is an opportunity to honor the women and men who inspire, challenge and nurture us. On this day, we call for the creation of supportive teaching environments, and the reinforcement of the rights of teachers. We must break the vicious cycle of declining professional conditions for teachers in order to improve the quality of learning for all. The world expects a lot from teacher—they, in turn, are right to expect as much from us. This World Teachers Day is an opportunity to take a stand for all teachers.

Fred van Leeuwen, General Secretary, Education International

Russia’s Lavrov skipped big powers’ Iran meeting at UN

UNITED NATIONS, 4 Oct—Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov stayed away from a meeting of six world power chief diplomats on Wednesday because he had to attend another “urgent matter,” Russia’s UN mission said on Wednesday.

Last week, a foreign ministerial-level meeting was convened in New York with the participation of the governments of the six UN Security Council members; The United States, France, Britain, Russia and China and Germany. The meeting was inconclusive, diplomats said. European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton also attended the meeting. She said afterward participants had “disassed at length the need for Iran to take action unerly as we considered the Iranian nuclear issue.

But in what UN diplomats said could be a sign of the growing political distance between Russia and Western powers on Iran and Syria, Lavrov was not at the meeting.

Russian UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin attended instead. A spokesman for Russia’s UN mission confirmed Lavrov’s absence, saying: “The Minister had to attend to some other urgent matter, as far as I know.”

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi attended, envoy said.

The meeting of the so-called “P5-plus-one” group raised concern on the day that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu drew his “red line” for Iran’s nuclear programme, on a Monday in separate meetings with US Vice-President Joe Biden, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, British Foreign Secretary William Hague, and French President Francois Hollande.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also met with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the General Assembly. Putin told Ban that he had decided not to attend the summit.

NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 5 October, 2012

Obama, Romney cross fires on economy in 1st presidential debate

DENVER, 4 Oct—US President Barack Obama and Republican nominee Mitt Romney faced Wednesday’s first presidential debate side-by-side at Denver University in Denver, Colorado.

The 90-minute debate, hosted by veteran PBS journalist Jim Lehrer, started off with a question to Obama on how he would create jobs, and went on concentrating on the importance of job creation for the American economy for half of the time.

Obama opened his statement on economy by stressing the debate was not about “where we have been,” but rather where the nation was headed.

Romney aggressively questioned Obama’s economic policies and accused him of “trickle-down government” burdening the US economy.

The debate is about the path that’s just been unsuccessful. There was a chance for a view very similar to the one he had when he ran for office four years ago, that spending more, taxing more, regulating more — if you will, trickle-down government — would work.

That’s not the right answer for America,” said Romney.

Obama rebutted by saying Romney’s economic policies would mean the American people have to ask themselves, is the reason that Governor Romney is keeping all these plans to replace secret because they are too good?” said Obama.

The two candidates also tried to sharpen their contrast with each other over domestic issues including healthcare, government regulation and the role of government.

On health care, Obama related the Affordable Care Act, his signature domestic achievement, to the similar idea of what Romney had institutionalized in Massachusetts as the state government and not as a presidential candidate.

Romney defended himself from having to explain the federal government take over health care across America. He said the president’s plan differed from his own plan.

Obama also attacked Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act that was signed into law by Obama in 2010, saying it had helped create too-big-to-fail Wall Street banks, while crushing small community banks.

Obama, on the other hand, defended his record, questioning Romney’s “repeal and replace” approach. He stressed Wall would need form and supervision, while families needs protection in the healthcare insurance market.

As they moved on to the topic of the role of government, Obama stressed the federal government role in opening up opportunity and create ladders of opportunity.

“There is also something we do better together,” said Obama.

Romney said the role of the government is to protect the principles of the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, but not to substitute government to people’s initiatives.

Obama was heading into the debate with a clear advantage in polls. The latest poll by Pew Research Center found that more voters, by a margin of 51 percent to 49 percent, said Obama would do better than Romney in the first presidential debate.

But the debate had higher stakes for Romney, as he was trailing the president in polls.

Prior to the debate, both campaigns had said it would be a chance for them to connect with voters in an opportunity to speak directly to voters without the filter of the media. The two camps clearly had different evaluation of the candidates’ performance during the first debate.

Seven people killed in Iraq’s violence

BAGHDAD, 4 Oct—At least seven people were killed in separate bomb and gunfire attacks in central and northern Iraq on Wednesday, the police said. In the Iraq capital, a joint police and army forces shot dead three gunmen carrying silenced weapons on a high-way near Baghdad’s western district of Ghaizaliyah, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Security forces spotted the gunmen and chased them on the highway after they attacked a civilian car of a government employee but failed to shoot him, the source said.

Near Baghdad, a police patrol found the bodies of three men kidnapped earlier in an orchard in Abu Ghirab area, some 20 km west of Baghdad, a local police source anonymously told Xinhua. The three victims are two policemen and a brother of one of them. They were kidnapped late Tuesday night by gunmen who dragged them outside a house in Abu Ghirab area, the source said, adding that the bodies were carrying signs of torture and were shot in their heads and chests.

Xinhua
**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

**Tiny, new African dinosaur species unveiled**

**New York, 3 Oct.—** A new dinosaur the size of a house cat and described as a “bird, a vampire and a porcupine” has been identified in a piece of rock from South Africa.

University of Chicago paleontologist Paul Sereno, who published the findings on Wednesday in the online scientific journal *ZooKeys*, said in an interview with *Reuters* he actually made the discovery of the small-bodied herbivore in 1983.

Sereno, whose research involves mapping the dinosaur family tree, said he came upon the specimen as a graduate student while doing research in a Harvard University laboratory and intended to write about it immediately.

“I said, ‘Whoa! I realized it was a new species from looking at the visibility of their eyes on it.’” Sereno said. But he says he grew distracted by other things, and had in mind a more ambitious research project.

“There was always a danger that someone would discover it and write about it, and I would read about it,” he said, but added it was all for the best: “Hey, I’m smarter than I was then.”

The strange-looking species, which Sereno has named *Pegomastax aferi* or “thick jaw from Africa,” lived between 100 million and 200 million years ago.

“I described it as a bird, a vampire and a porcupine,” Sereno said. It had the weight of a small house cat and stood less than a foot off the ground. It had a thick jaw and a blunt beak with a “heightened tooth that sticks down, dagger-like,” Sereno said. He said it would have been part of one of those groups that form the base of the dinosaur tree. 

**Facebook lets US users pay to boost visibility of postings**

The sun sets on the entrance sign at Facebook's headquarters in Menlo Park, California, the night before the company's IPO launch, on 17 May, 2012.—*Reuters*

San Francisco, 4 Oct.—Facebook Inc is letting users in the United States pay a fee to boost the visibility of their postings on the social network, the company's latest effort to look beyond advertisers for revenue.

The promoted-posts-for-users feature, which Facebook began offering as a test to look beyond advertisers for revenue, are more likely to notice it,” Facebook said in an announcement on its official blog on Wednesday.

Facebook is considering a variety of prices. The current test price in the United States is $7, according to a Facebook spokesman.

The move marks Facebook’s latest effort to experiment with new ways to make money beyond advertising, which accounted for roughly 84 percent of the company’s revenue in the second quarter.

Facebook also takes a 30 percent cut of purchases of virtual goods by users playing Zynga’s Farmville and other social games on its website.

With Facebook’s revenue growth rate showing a sharp slowdown in recent quarters, many analysts and investors believe the company needs to find new ways to make money.—*Reuters*

**Cyber attackers disrupt Internet in Iran: official**

Dubai, 4 Oct.—Cyber attackers have targeted Iranian infrastructure and communications companies, disrupting the Internet across the country, a state official was quoted as saying on Wednesday.

Iran, the world’s No 5 oil exporter, has tightened cyber security since uranium enrichment centrifuges were hit in 2010 by the Stuxnet computer worm, which Teheran believes was planted by arch-enemies Israel and the United States.

“Yesterday we had a heavy attack against the country’s infrastructure and communications companies which has forced us to limit the Internet,” Mehdi Akhavan Behabadi, secretary of the High Council of Cyberpace, told the Iranian Labour News Agency.

“Presently we have constant cyber attacks in the country. Yesterday an attack with a traffic of several gigabytes hit the Internet infrastructure, which caused an unwanted slowness in the country’s Internet,” he said.

“All of these attacks have been organized. And they have in mind the country’s nuclear, oil, and information networks,” Israeli officials have threatened military action against the Islamic Republic’s nuclear energy sites if Western sanctions on Teheran’s banking and oil sectors do not persuade it to shed its disputed atomic programme. Western powers suspect Iran is trying to develop the means to produce nuclear weapons. Teheran says it is enriching uranium only for civilian energy.

Last month commander in Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guards said it was prepared to defend itself in case of a “cyber war” and deemed it more dangerous than a physical confrontation.

**Boost for land speed record bid after successful rocket test**

London, 4 Oct.—The British team behind a project to build a 1,000 mph car have cleared a key hurdle with a successful test of the rocket they hope will push the vehicle well beyond the sound barrier.

The rocket will be twinned with a fighter jet engine from a Eurofighter Typhoon on the Bloodhound supersonic car in a bid to smash the existing world land speed record of 763 mph set 15 years ago by the same team in Thrust SSC.

The test-firing, which produced a jet of flame from the rocket fixed to a test rig in a bomb-proof military hangar at an airport in the southwest English town of Newquay, lasted a matter of seconds.

“That’s exactly what I was hoping to see,” said Andy Green, the Royal Air Force fighter pilot who will pilot the record bid. “That was a hugely successful, very, very important experiment for us.” The test brought together three components; the rocket itself, a tank containing the peroxide-based rocket fuel and a Cosworth Formula One engine used purely to pump the fuel into the combustion chamber.

Test data showed the rocket produced 14,200 pounds of thrust with the Cosworth engine running at over 16,000 revolutions per minute. Intensive tests through the end of this year and into 2013 will ramp up the power.

For the record bid, the rocket is designed to generate 27,500 pounds of thrust, equivalent to 80,000 horsepower or the engine used in Formula One cars.

The team say they have enough funding from sponsors to complete the car, which so far only exists on paper.

Bloodhound will attack 1,000 mph on a dry lake bed called Hakskeen Pan in South Africa’s Northern Cape region in 2014.

**Lost in migration: Earth’s magnetic field overdue a flip**

London, 4 Oct.—The discovery by NASA rover Curiosity of evidence that water once flowed on Mars—the most Earth-like planet in the solar system—should intensify interest in what the future could hold for humans.

It has happened before - the geological record suggests the magnetic field has reversed every 250,000 years, meaning that, with the last event 800,000 years ago, another would seem to be overdue.

“Magnetic north has migrated more than 1,500 kilometres over the past century,” said Conall Mac Niocaill, an earth scientist at Oxford University. “In the past 130 years, the strength of the magnetic field has lessened by 10 percent, which could indicate a reversal is on the cards.”

While heelectrodes are hard to predict, the consequences may be enormous. The loss of the magnetic field on Mars billion years ago put paid to life on the planet if there ever was any, scientists say.

Mac Niocaill said Mars had shut down之前 its magnetic field 3.5-4.0 billion years ago, based on observations that rocks in the planet’s southern hemisphere have magnetisation.

The northern half of Mars looks younger because it has fewer impact craters, and has no magnetic structure to speak of, so the field must have shut down before the rocks there were formed, which would have been about 3.8 billion years ago.

**Nicknamed after its location**

Newquay, last month a commander in Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guards said it was prepared to defend itself in case of a “cyber war” and deemed it more dangerous than a physical confrontation.

“With the field dying away, the solar wind was then able to strip the atmosphere away, and you would also have an increase in the cosmic radiation making it to the surface,” he said.

“Both of these things would be bad news for any life that might have formed on the surface—either wiping it out, or forcing it to migrate into the interior of the planet.”

In nature, animals which use the field could be mightily confused - birds, bees, and some fish all use the field for navigation. Sodo sea turtles whose long lives, which can easily exceed a hundred years, means a single generation could feel the effects.

Scientists, who have known for some time the magnetic field has a tendency to flip, have made advances in recent years in understanding why and how it happens.—*Reuters*
Health

**Health**

**Enrichment of flour with folic acid reduces birth defects: health forums**

The FFI said Oman was the first country to adopt the measure in 1996, and the practice had since become compulsory in 57 other countries and was optional in others. “Through this at least 22,000 birth defects a year can be prevented, which also saves many countries a lot of consequential costs,” Montgomery said, according to an APA report.

Some experts caution against the practice however, citing that excessive consumption of folic acid can potentially lead to cancer, and the fact that in some countries the consumer no longer has a choice of whether they want it in their bread or not.

However former Director of the Division of Nutrition at the American Centre for Disease Control William Dietz said at the conference that the practice had little risk and substantial benefits for health, adding that iron and iodine should also be promoted for their health benefits.

**Australian building approvals rise 6.4 pct in Aug**

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**Drop in hospital visits seen with lower drug copays**

**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**New York, 4 Oct—** After Pitney Bowes Inc cut copayments for two essential heart drugs, employees at the Stamford, Connecticut-based company began filling their prescriptions more regularly, according to a new reports

They also were less likely to visit the doctor, end up in the ER or be admitted to a hospital, slashing their out-of-pocket expenses beyond the copay reductions found.

He and his colleagues studied the healthcare use of more than 2,800 Pitney Bowes employees who qualified for reduced copays on statins, a class of cholesterol-lowering medications, or the clot-buster drug clopidogrel.

Several insurers now offer similar plans, known as value-based insurance designs, lowering the amount patients have to pay for certain evidence-based health services.

**Infant fussiness not tied to later mental health**

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**Enrichment of flour with folic acid reduces birth defects: health forums**

The FFI said Oman was the first country to adopt the measure in 1996, and the practice had since become compulsory in 57 other countries and was optional in others. “Through this at least 22,000 birth defects a year can be prevented, which also saves many countries a lot of consequential costs,” Montgomery said, according to an APA report.

Some experts caution against the practice however, citing that excessive consumption of folic acid can potentially lead to cancer, and the fact that in some countries the consumer no longer has a choice of whether they want it in their bread or not.

However former Director of the Division of Nutrition at the American Centre for Disease Control William Dietz said at the conference that the practice had little risk and substantial benefits for health, adding that iron and iodine should also be promoted for their health benefits.
Mexican troops arrest two in killing of US border agent

MEXICO CITY, 4 Oct—Mexican troops arrested two men on Wednesday suspected of involvement in the killing of a US Border Patrol agent shot dead in Arizona while responding to a tripped ground sensor, Mexican security officials said.

The agent who died was among three who were patrolling on foot about 5 miles north of the international border when gunfire erupted well before the early hours of Wednesday. The killing marked the fourth death of a Border Patrol agent in a violent confrontation in Arizona in less than two years and reignited concerns about border security in a state that is a major entry point for illegal migrants from Mexico.

The violence drew sharp criticism from the Obama administration on Wednesday. "For reasons yet to be determined, one of the helicopters has crashed and the preliminary report is that the pilot of this aircraft may have died as a result," Police Inspector Neil Blair said on Thursday.

"The United States commends the secretary-general for his strong leadership of America’s most important security alliance, and we look forward to continuing to work with him and with our NATO allies and partners as we strengthen and revitalise NATO for the 21st century," he said.—Reuters

NATO chief Rasmussen given another year in office

Brussels, 4 Oct—NATO allies agreed on Wednesday to extend Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen’s term by a year to the end of July 2014, keeping him in charge as NATO-led forces wind down their combat role in Afghanistan.

Rasmussen, a 59-year-old former Danish prime minister, will stay in the job until a few months before the end-2014 deadline for NATO to hand over full responsibility for the war in Afghanistan.

"I think the first eight months of 2014 is an appropriate time to change leadership, so that a new secretary-general can oversee the implementation of the new mission we will establish in Afghanistan from 2015," Rasmussen told reporters.

The NATO-led force in Afghanistan faces a huge logistical task over the next few years to withdraw foreign soldiers and their equipment. From 2015, NATO will scale back its role to leading a mission to train and advise the Afghan security forces. That mission will be discussed by alliance defence ministers at a meeting in Brussels next week.

US President Barack Obama welcomed the decision to extend Rasmussen’s tenure, White House spokesman Tommy Vietor said.

"The United States welcomes the commitment of the United States to the Alliance. We look forward to working closely with NATO’s new secretary-general on the mission we are undertaking together.

Nato Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen holds a news conference at the Alliance headquarters in Brussels on 3 Oct, 2012. Reuters

Mexico

Three Hezbollah members killed by blast in Lebanon’s eastern Bekaa region

BRUJN, 4 Oct—Three members of the Hezbollah armed group were killed and several others wounded on Wednesday when a munition depot was exploded in Lebanon’s eastern Bekaa region, Lebanese National News Agency reported.

The news agency reported earlier Wednesday that three blasts were heard in a mountainous area between Nabat and al-Khaira in the Bekaa region.

According to eyewitnesses, the blasts occurred in a arms depot in the pro-Hezbollah area.

Hezbollah’s media office issued a statement after the blasts, saying that “an explosion occurred in a depot where old ammunition and remainders of unexploded devices pertaining to the Israeli shelling of the region are collected.”

"The result of the explosion was the martyrdom of three militiants and the injury of several others, and the party is working with the relevant authorities to address the results of the unfortunate incident,” the statement said.

Meanwhile, the MTV television reported that Hezbollah members have cordoned off the area and prevented security forces from approaching the location.—Xinhua

Mexican troops arrest two in killing of US border agent

BOGOTA, 4 Oct—Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos’ surgery for non-aggressive prostate cancer was successful and the 61-year-old is recovering well, his medical team said on Wednesday.

"Midway through his four-year term, Santos surprised Andean nation on Monday by announcing that doctors had discovered a cancerous growth on his prostate.

He said the disease had been caught in time and there was minimal risk.

"Thank God, everything went well. I’m recuperating well. My family and I are very grateful for all your support," Santos said in a message on Twitter after the surgery.

His medical team said earlier on Wednesday the operation to remove the prostate had been successful and there had not been any complications.

"He has started drinking fluids, has asked for something to eat, has been able to sit in bed, therefore I think he has evolved very, very well," Santos’ urologist, Dr. Felip Gomez, told reporters outside the hospital’s medical director.

Colombia’s Santos recovering from successful cancer surgery

"His vital signs have remained stable. ... The president will continue being monitored by doctors as planned," said Adolfo Linna, the hospital’s medical director.

The company’s emergency teams were working to put out the fire at its Baytown complex, which includes one of the largest refineries in the world, according to newspaper The Houston Chronicle.

Police at the Texas city of Baytown said what caused fire appears to be a diesel product that does not pose any environmental risk.

Officials with Exxon Mobil said no one was injured in the fire.

"As a precaution, our industrial hygiene staff is doing air quality monitoring around the complex and in the community," said Exxon Mobil spokesman Rachael Moore.

"We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause to the community and will update you when we have additional information," she said.

Exxon Mobil is the largest energy company in the United States.

The company’s Baytown complex houses both refining and chemical plants. It is capable of refining 573,000 barrels of crude oil per day, making it one of the largest refineries in the world, according to reports.—Xinhua

Pilot believed dead in W Australia helicopter crash

SYDNEY, 4 Oct—A pilot is believed to be dead in a helicopter crash on a remote pastoral land in Western Australia’s Kimberley region, local media reported on Thursday.

The crash occurred on the Louisa Downs Station, midway between Fitzroy Crossing and Halls Creek in the Kimberley region, at around 5 pm (local time) on Wednesday, according to Australian Associated Press reports.

The cause of the crash is unknown.

"For reasons yet to be determined, one of the helicopters has crashed and the preliminary report is that the pilot of this aircraft may have died as a result," Police Inspector Neil Blair said on Thursday.

"The police in the crash site is investigating."
Iraqi atom cooperation could spur fast sanctions
relief: Clinton

WASHINGTON, 4 Oct — Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has seized the possibility on Wednesday that sanctions on Iraq could be eased quickly if Tehran worked with major powers to address questions about its nuclear programme.

Speaking to reporters about protests in Iraq triggered by the collapse of the Iraqi currency, which has lost 40 percent of its value against the dollar in a week, Clinton blamed the Iranian government — rather than Western sanctions — for the financial troubles.

The United States and its allies accuse Iran of using its atomic programme as a cover for developing nuclear weapons and have imposed increasingly stringent economic sanctions to try to force Iran to negotiate about the programme. Iran has said its programme is for solely peaceful purposes, not for weapons. Panicking Iraqis have scrambled to buy hard currency, pushing down the rial, whose increasing weakness is hurting living standards and threatening jobs.

“They have made their own government decisions — having nothing to do with the sanctions — that have had an impact on the economic conditions inside the country,” Clinton told reporters when asked about the protests. “Of course the sanctions have had an impact as well, but those could be remedied in short order if the Iranian government were willing to work with us and with the rest of the international community in a sincere manner,” she added, referring to a group that includes the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — as well as Germany.

While the rial’s slide suggested the Western sanctions were having a practical impact, the government launched an “exchange centre” to supply dollars to importers of basic goods. But some say the centre failed to meet demand for dollars.– Reuters

US submarine to arrive in Subic for routine port call

MANILA, 4 Oct — A fast-attack nuclear-powered US submarine will arrive in the former American naval base in Subic Bay for a routine port call on Thursday, the US Embassy in the Philippines said on Wednesday.

The US Oscar (SSN-717)’s visit at Subic Bay — once one of the largest US military installations in the world outside of the American mainland — highlights “the strong historic, community and military connections between the Philippines and the US,” the embassy said in a statement. Recently, the US military has intensified the deployment of its modern fleets of aircraft, ships and submarines to Australia, Japan, Singapore, the Philippines and other Asian countries.

A US diplomat said it was a “test of ongoing efforts to reassert its presence and clout as an Asia Pacific power after years of preoccupation in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, and USS Olympia will be the fourth US submarine to dock in Subic this year.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Wednesday the US military was responsible for a US attack submarine’s visit to Subic. The US Navy has launched an “exchange centre” to supply dollars to importers of basic goods. However, some say the centre fails to meet demand for dollars. — Reuters

Turkey strikes back at Syria after mortar kills five

Turkey and Syria’s neighbours on Wednesday warned against signs of ethnic cleansing in the embattled country. Turkey hit back at what it called “the last straw” when a mortar bomb fired from Syria killed five Turkish civilians and prompted NATO to call for an immediate end to Syria’s “aggressive acts.”

In the most serious cross-border escalation of the 18-month uprising in Syria, Turkey hit back at what it called “the last straw” when a mortar hit a residential neighbourhood of the southern border town of Akcakale. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said several Syrian soldiers were killed in the Turkish bombardment of a military post near the Syrian town of Tel Abyad, a few miles across the frontier from Akcakale. It did not say how many soldiers died. NATO said it stood by member-nation Turkey and urged Syria to put an end to “flagrant violations of international law.”

The US — led Western military alliance held an urgent late night meeting in Brussels to discuss the matter and later on Wednesday in New York, Turkey asked the UN Security Council to take the “necessary action” to stop Syrian aggression.

In a letter to the president of the 15-nation Security Council, Turkish UN Ambassador Ertugral Apakan called the firing of the mortar bomb “a flagrant violation of international law as well as a breach of international peace and security. UN diplomats said Security Council members hoped it would issue a non-binding statement on Thursday that would condemn the mortar attack “in the strongest terms” and demand an end to violations of Turkey’s territorial sovereignty. — Reuters

Turkey police officers try to help a wounded comrade after a mortar bomb landed from Syria in the border town of Akcakale, southeastern Sanliurfa Province, on 3 Oct, 2012. The mortar bomb fired from Syria landed in a residential district of the southeastern Turkish town of Akcakale on Wednesday, killing a woman and four children from the same family and wounding at least eight other people. — Reuters

Guarantors ask London court to halt
Assange bail payout

LONDON, 4 Oct — Nine people who put up bail guarantees for Julian Assange argued in court on Wednesday they should not be forced to pay after the WikiLeaks founder sought refuge in the Ecuadorian embassy in London. Vaughan Smith — one of the nine, who between them put up 140,000 pounds ($225,000) — told Westminster Magistrates Court in London they were not to blame for Assange violating the terms of his bail.

Assange was arrested on an extradition warrant and is wanted for questioning in Sweden over allegations of rape and sexual assault made by two former volunteers at WikiLeaks, the whistleblowing website which angered the United States by releasing thousands of US diplomatic cables in 2010.

The court heard Smith and says he had consensual sex with the women. He said he fears that if extradited to Sweden, he could then be transferred to the United States where he could face criminal charges punishable by death. Assange broke bail conditions when he entered the Ecuadorian embassy in June shortly after running out of legal options to avoid being sent to Sweden.

A judge will deliver a ruling in the coming days on whether the bail sureties, pledged when Assange was released from detention in December 2010, must be collected. The case was “wholly exceptional.”

S America-Arab summit focuses on peace,
cooperaion

LIMA, 4 Oct — The Third Summit of South American and Arab Countries (ASPA) concluded here on Tuesday, with a call for peaceful resolution of conflicts and more inter-sessional political and trade co-operation between the regions.

The summit’s final document, the Lima Declaration, expressed the meeting’s wish to highlight areas where participating nations could cooperate or complement each other in the realm of politics and trade. The summit’s final document, the Lima Declaration, primarily condemns the use of force to resolve conflicts, an issue that both regions have struggles with, and calls for greater region-to-region cooperation. Peruvian President Ollanta Humala, the summit’s host, presented the key points of the joint declaration, which also supported an Arab initiative to establish a nuke-free zone in the Middle East.

Participants also expressed their support for Palestine’s right to statehood, and condemned all forms of terrorism. Humala said the summit served to “feature the economic, political and cultural factors that unite” countries in both regions, adding their common interests and values indicated a promising future lay ahead for bi-regional cooperation. — Xinhua

One NATO soldier dies in Afghanistan

KABUL, 4 Oct — A NATO soldier died in southern Afghanistan on Thursday, the coalition forces confirmed in Press release issued here.

An International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service member died as a result of a non-battle related injury in southern Afghanistan today,” the coalition or ISAF said in the release.

The brief statement disclosed neither the nationality of the victim nor the details about the incident under the ISAF policy.

A total of 50 countries are contributing 100,000-strong forces in Afghanistan with over 68,000 of them American mainly stationed in the east and south, followed by 9,500 from UK mainly based in southern Afghanistan. — Xinhua
Paid news

Myanmar’s reform processes draw the attention of the world countries including US and EU. With the rapid changes, the new government eases media censorship. We see a lot of media freedom soon. Media, fourth pillar, has duty to reflect the current conditions of the country and serve the interest of the people and the State.

Media have to rely on advertisements. More than 60 percent of their incomes come from advertisements. Sometime, advertisers might influence the news coverage and articles. Some countries might face paid news problems. Paid news syndrome is a menace capable of eating into the vitals of a free and fair media. Poll candidates might try to get image boosting write-ups by bribing journalists or publishing houses. If this trend is not nipped in the bud, it will seriously harm democracy and society as a whole.

Like other countries, a Press Council and an Ethics commission would be brought into action to tackle this problem. The Ethics committee would draft a code of conduct. Many top level editors should be a part of this committee. The code of conduct would contain all DO’s and DON’TS on the issue. We should create an environment that puts moral pressure on editors and news organizations to come clean on paid deals from the advertisers or political entities.

Rakhine State opens multiplier course on farmland law, bylaws

NAVPITIWA, 4 Oct — A state-level multiplier course on farmland law, vacant, fellow and virgin land management law and bylaws was organized at Rakhine State government office yesterday morning, with an address by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin.

Speaking on the occasion, the Rakhine State Chief Minister revealed the purpose of the course as making the farmers understand that farmers have rights to farming land, vacant, fellow and virgin land management, and procedures.

There is common belief on the universality of love (metta), compassion, tolerance, equanimity and charity (dana), shared by all faiths and religions. Acts of charity manifest itself in a diversity of ways: by foundations, hospitals, humanitarian organisations, and individuals, in celebrity and in anonymity. You may focus on ancient Bagan, heritage site of thousands of pagodas and temples built a thousand years ago during the golden age of the first Bagan Empire, now an enduring marvel of architecture and artistry dedicated to the Omniscient Lord Buddha. It was reputed that even a widow could build and donate a pagoda during those days of prosperity and affluence. And there are much more, far too many to count. Thus we can see our people devoting themselves to charity as the highest merit of mankind all along the passage of centuries. For a Myanmar Buddhist no donation accrues the highest form of merit than building and donating pagodas for propagation and perpetuation of the Buddha Sasana, most deservingly earning the name of the Land of a million pagodas.

Charity is not confined to one religion only. All faiths propagate charity to help ease want and suffering of the poor and the needy, young and old alike. Many charity organizations founded on philanthropy by generous donors are indeed laudable examples of the finest traits of human character and humanity. They are humanitarians who dare to face grave risks at great sacrifice to save the distressed. Most admirable indeed are the good Samaritans who tend to the diseased, like leprosy, AIDS and the castaways. The reason for my preamble was to recount my unforgettable personal encounter with a very noble personality, the Matagyi of India. In my own measure I was blessed with a rare opportunity to mobilize an act of charity in a unique environment transcending borders, away from home. I was then attending a high level workshop on Education and Training in Public Administration and Management held at Hyderabad, India where the famed Indian Administrative Service CollegIAs), training elite Indian administrators was located. The senior participants: scholars and practitioners hailed from countries within the south-east Asian region. My country was represented by two senior delegates from the PSSTB. The country paper presentations, discussions and syndicate work touched on the conceptual field of study and practical applications on public administration and human resources development. It also provided a forum of communality of faiths: Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, Moslems and Christians. The venue was Hotel Banjara, a cosy resort with a backdrop of Hindu and Moslem culture and architecture such as Charmina Arch and Golconda fort. I was able to name a few. It was also the seat of Nizam of Hyderabad.

This memorable event, not scheduled in the agenda was a surprise visit by Mother Teresa of the Missionaries of Charity of Calcutta. It was a stroke of luck for us that she was around the vicinity of Hyderabad at this opportune moment. In response to the invitation by the alert local organizers of the Workshop Mother Teresa willingly consented to grace the forum, meet the participants, and offer her blessings. The message was conveyed to the forum at very short notice. It was the morning of 4th March 1980. We all stood up in respect as Matagyi was escorted into the seminar Hall. Then we all sat expectantly for her speech and blessings. I was Chair of the Session for that morning. This was the first time for me and my colleague U Maung Maung to see her in person. She was so small, so frail and humble. But her eyes shone with compassion, high devotion to her noble cause, boundless metta and superhuman sacrifice for the poor and the needy of Calcutta. As introduction I welcomed her to our multi-national, multi-faith gathering. She delivered a short but touching speech, blessed us all for peace on earth and goodwill towards the earthlings.

Inspired by her benevolence and compassion I made an appeal to my colleagues to donate used for the humanitarian works she represented. Then I came forward and made my first donation. Naturally one by one stepped forward to the table where she was seated, heads bowed, hands clasped in respect, and contributed cash to her noble cause. The amount was immaterial and modest, but what mattered was the spirit of charity. Her blessings for that charity touched the hearts of all present in the unique gathering. I glanced at her face. Peace and compassion pervaded and vibrated the hearts far beyond the limits of the universe.

Mindful of the rare opportunity I opened my Diary which was on the table and requested Matagyi to autograph a few lines. Incidentally I was the only one to have done so. This entry was what she wrote in her own beautiful handwriting:

“ Love others as God loves you. God bless you”

Mother Teresa, M.C./4:3/80

This was the most thrilling and memorable moment of my life where I had fulfilled a sublime act of charity to the most admirable Mother Teresa, in the auspicious environment away from home, verily Charity sans frontiers. The author later learnt that Matagyi was nominated a Nobel Laureate in 1979, a year before this meet.

There also lived a saintly humanitarian in my country Myanmar who had selflessly donated all her savings and devoted her entire life for the care of the poor, homeless, helpless, abandoned aged. She came from a well respected family of silk merchants of Mandalay during the reign of King Mindon the benevolent. She was deeply religious since young, and donated a monastery to the Venerable Dalayaw sayadaw at the young age of 10. She renounced her life of celibacy and became a Nun of the Buddhist Order at 62. In the space of 22 years from 1915 to 1937 she singlehandedly established 5 charity Homes for the Aged: Mingun, Thaxon, Paungde, Hinlighting (Yangon) and Pakokku. Her name was Daw Oo Zun. She was also honoured with TPS (the noble one who served the nation and its people) in 1926.

Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science to hold 12th paper-reading session 24-26 Oct

YANGON, 4 Oct — The Twelfth Paper Reading Session of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science will be held from 24 to 26 October 2012 at the University of Yangon and the Yangon Institute of Economics.

A total of 218 research papers, covering a range of 24 different academic subjects from the arts and science disciplines, will be presented. The best paper award and the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science Award for the best doctoral research will be conferred to deserving scholars and researchers on 27 October 2012. The said papers reading session is open to all scholars, researchers and anyone interested in academic paper presentations.
The Greatness of the Teachers’ Duties

The Myanmar work for teacher, “saya”, has both semantically and as part of the social reality the significance of a judicious, prudent and dedicated learned person. In the Myanmar Dictionary, the term “saya” is defined as one who imparts knowledge or skill, or a preceptor or, protector, role which is more concerned with the behaviour, ways of thinking and mindset in general and with manners, social norms of courtesy and etiquette in particular.

Today, teachers in Myanmar, yours truly included, need to serve in both roles—as acaruy sayas and as upajhayya sayas—with commitment and dedication. In Myanmar society, teaching as a profession and its practitioners are accorded a very high status with correspondingly heavy duties and responsibilities. Traditionally, in Myanmar culture, it is customary to have full confidence in the teacher and give the teacher a completely free hand in shaping the pupils’ lives.

Teachers who live up to the Myanmar sense of the word “saya” are considered truly noble persons in Myanmar society, and are justifiably so. A well-known verse by Thingaza Sayadaw puts the five duties of teachers as: “Teaching the craft, giving guidance and admonition, leaving no skills untaught, giving protection from dangers, sending to other appropriate persons for further learning and development.”

The Greatness of the Teacher’s Duties

Thousands of boys and girls in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are receiving an education in our schools today to endow them with their duties as members of the society, as they will soon be expected to. These children will be the men and women of our Union, tasked with the safeguarding of our independence and cultural heritage for perpetuity at the risk of their life and property if need be. And the transformation of those children in safety and security into the good sons and daughters of the nation is the daily task of the teachers (saya teachers included).

Children spontaneously possess intellectual keenness and physical energy. Their eyes never tire of observing and taking note, nor do their ears of listening and paying attention. Their desire to learn seems infinite and everything under the sun is subject to it. They all have the intellectual motivation to learn the ways of the world. And given the natural talent and capacities they are endowed with, they will learn them too.

It is then the teacher’s task to cultivate, foster and infuse in them a largeness of heart; physical, verbal and mental purity in terms of freedom from everything harmful or hurtful; a sense of responsibility; loyalty; mutual help, and cooperation and collaboration skills, that are the essential attributes of good sons and daughters of the nation.

Being tasked with this tremendously important service to the nation, we teachers have a crucial national duty to do our job well.

Our Duty

Give the greatness of the duties, a teacher naturally has a lot of work to do, much of it challenging. We should take to heart with genuine appreciation the infinite human potential and value of each child whose development has been entrusted to our care with full confidence in our abilities, and carry out our daily task of bringing about democratic socialization and instilling the qualities of a good citizen so important not only to the local communities but to humankind as a whole.

Five Duties of the Teacher

1. Teaching the art and craft, imparting know-how: communication and interpersonal skills, industrial and mechanical skills
2. Giving guidance and admonition: politeness, etiquette, civil code of conduct
3. Leaving no skills untutored: imparting all knowledge and expertise they have
4. Giving protection from dangers that might befall the pupils
5. Sending to other appropriate persons for further learning and development and entrusting the pupil to their care.

The “World Teachers’ Day” that falls on 5 October 2012 is an occasion for the expression of my most profound and sincere respect to all the teaching exerting their utmost efforts in discharging the five noble duties of the teachers making them deserving of infinite gratitude.

Workshop on Technological Opportunities in Pathein

Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung said the aim of conducting the workshop was to transfer cutting-edge technology from the developed nations. Educational competence of the youth is of vital importance to regional development and state-building tasks and shaping their future.

The Chief Minister called on the youths to place emphasis on this technology which is now on the curriculums in universities of Japan and ASEAN countries with the aim of serving not only for their own interest but also for their own region and country.

Chairman of Ayeyawady Region Computer Industrialist Association U Maung Maung Oo gave an account of purposes and benefits of holding the workshop. Principal of Pathein University of Technology Dr. Tun Min Naing and Principal of Pathein University of Technology Dr Kyaw Thaung spoke on the occasion. Maung Chan Htaiik who passed ITPEC Exam spoke word of thanks.—MNA

Fire of mosquito coil burns one house

Mawlamyine, 4 Oct—A fire that started from mosquito coil broke out at the house of Ma Ni Ni Cho (a)Ma Zar, 35, daughter of U Khin Maung at No 328 on 3rd extended street in Mupun Ward in Mawlamyine at 11 am on 2 October.

Members of Fire Services Department led by Head of Township FSD U Zaw Win, members of Myanmar Police Force, and local people put out the fire with the use of seven fire engines and one management vehicle. The fire could be put out at 11:10 am.

In the fire, one house was damaged. Mupun Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against the house owner.

Myawma Alin

International Day of Older Persons observed

The ceremonies to mark the International Day of Older Persons 2012 was observed in Mawlamyine of Mon State, Taunggyi of Shan State and Pathein of Ayeyawady Region on 1 October. Local authorities donated cash assistance and gifts to the aged.

Basic spoken English course opened

The basic spoken English course for liaison officers, organized by Mandalay Region IPRD, was opened at the hall of Mandalay Region Information and Public Relations Department on 10 October. The liaison officers will discharge duties at XXVII SEA Games.

MPF Day observed

The 48th Anniversary Myanmar Police Force Day was observed in Magway and Ayeyawady regions and Shan State on 1 October. The region and state Chief Ministers spoke on the occasion.

Mercantile Marine Knowledge course starts

Awareness on Mercantile Marine Knowledge & Practical Aspect commenced at Logistics Training Centre in Yangon on 1 October. Altogether 86 trainees are attending the training course.

Performing Art Competition launched in Myitkyina

The 19th Myanmar National Races’ Traditional Performing Arts Competition of Kachin State was opened at the city hall in Myitkyina on 1 October morning. Chief Minister of the state U La John Ngan Hsai, Speaker of State Hlutaw U Rawma Jone and State Minister for Social Affairs Daw Bao In opened it.

Stake driven for three university buildings

Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe and officials drove stakes for construction of three three-storey buildings at Magway University on 2 October morning.
Palestinian UN status likely to be debated in November

The United Nations is likely to hold a debate on whether to upgrade the Palestinians’ UN status to a sovereign country in mid-November — after the US election, the president of the 193-member UN General Assembly said on Wednesday.

“Pending having failed last year to win recognition of full statehood at the United Nations, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said last week he would seek a less-ambitious status upgrade at the world body to make it a ‘non-member state’ like the Vatican. The Palestinians’ current UN status is an ‘observer entity.’ If Abbas wins, that would change to an ‘observer state.’ “Come the middle of November, there’s going to be an international debate on the Palestine status upgrade,” UN General Assembly President Vuk Jeremic told a news conference. “There are arguments that if a Palestinian state can only be created through direct negotiations. There have been no direct Palestinian talks with Israel on peace since 2010, when the Palestinians refused to resume negotiations unless the Israeli government suspended settlement building in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.”

Upgrade status for a Palestinian state could be uncomfortable for Israel. Being registered as a state rather than an entity would mean the Palestinians could join bodies such as the International Criminal Court and file a raft of complaints against Israel for its occupation administration.

An upgraded status would also anger Israel’s close ally, the United States, which argues that a Palestinian state can only be created through direct negotiations.

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Cambodia’s flood death toll reaches 14

PHNOM PENH, 4 Oct.—At least 14 Cambodian people were killed by flash floods that have been hitting some provinces in the country since last month, according to the report of Cambodian Red Cross on Wednesday.

Among the dead, 9 were in Banteay Meanchey Province bordering Thailand, 4 in central Kampong Thom and 1 in northwestern Siem Reap, said the report.

Keo Vy, chief of the Cabinet of National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), said that flash floods have hit about 8 provinces including Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Preah Vihear, Kampong Thom, Takeo, Palin, Kampong Chhnang and Preah Sihanouk.

“Banteay Meanchey Province is suffering the worst from the floods,” he told Xinhua over telephone.

Some 14,100 families have been affected including 4,900 families were evacuated to higher grounds, he said.

Meanwhile, Sam Ser-einoth, secretary-general of the education secretariat at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, said on Wednesday that some 140 schools in these affected provinces have been submerged, affecting some 49,000 students.

“These schools will be closed until the floodwaters recede,” he told Xinhua over telephone. Cambodia will be suffering from the impact of a tropical storm Gaemi from 4-8 and 13 Oct provinces out of the country’s 24 cities and provinces will suffer strong winds and flooding, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology on Tuesday.

The storm will be brewing from the South China Sea and it will hit the coast of Vietnam this weekend. “The Ministry would like to appeal to local authorities and people living in the areas along rivers to be on high alert to avoid dangers and property damage due to the storm,” said the statement signed by the minister, Lim Keun Hor.

“Regional authorities also wishes to appeal to maritime fishermen to suspend their fishing during the warning period.”

Xinhua

Indonesian Air force soldiers line up front in the country’s symbol of Garuda Pancasila during a rehearsal for the 67th anniversary of Indonesia’s National Army at Halim Perdana Kusuma airport in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 3 Oct, 2012. Indonesia’s National Army anniversary falls on 5 Oct every year.—Xinhua

25 injured in wasp sting in western Japan

OSAKA, 4 Oct.—At least 25 people, many of them high school students, were treated for wasp stings in the western Japanese Prefecture of Yamaguchi on Thursday, local media reported.

The incident happened at around 8:30 am local time when students were walking to school near the embankment of a local river in Ikawa City.

After receiving an emergency call, teams of local fire stations carried 24 students and a passer-by to hospitals in the city. The conditions of the injured became stable by noon after treatment. Details of the incident are under investigation by local authorities and the school.—Xinhua

Indonesia

Regional delegation highlights environmental disaster vulnerability at ASEP-7

VIENTIANE, 4 Oct.—The Regional delegation to the 7th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP-7) on Thursday called on countries in Asia and Europe to improve their capacity and awareness to reduce their vulnerability to environmental disasters.

“...communities are mostly at risk because of the lack of awareness and capacity to cope with the disasters. On the other hand, government capacity to protect the population from natural disasters is limited,” said Hayono Isman, head of the Indonesian Delegation held here.

Isman noted the increasing frequency and intensity of disasters, especially those in densely populated regions, was an area of concern for Asia and Europe.

However, he expressed confidence that through forums such as ASEP, Asia and Europe will be able to develop schemes that enhance cooperation, strengthen, expand and improve global disaster resilient communities.—Xinhua

Philippine economic growth fails to cut poverty

MANILA, 4 Oct.—The Philippines economy remains resilient amid a global downturn but such growth failed to reduce the high poverty incidence in this developing country.

“GDP growth has accelerated to average 4.7 percent since 2000, but job generation remains inadequate, reflected in fairly rigid rates of unemployment, growing underemployment, and the continuous deployment of workers overseas,” the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in its latest Development Outlook issued on Wednesday.

The Manila-based lender has significantly reduced its 2012-2013 growth forecast for most of developing Asia, saying that after years of rapid growth led by China and India, the region is facing a prolonged period of moderate expansion on back of sluggish global demand. The ADB has a more sanguine outlook for the Philippines. It upgraded this year’s growth forecast for the Philippines from the previous 4.8 percent to 5.5 percent.

The ADB took into account the higher-than-expected 6.1 percent GDP growth in the first half and an expected moderate growth in the second half.

The ADB maintained its 2013 growth forecast for the Philippines at five percent.

But the ADB noted that poverty reduction and job creation are issues of paramount interest to the Philippines.

“Despite solid economic growth, job generation remains inadequate, reflected in rates of unemployment and underemployment,” Neeraj Jain, ADB’s Country Director for the Philippines, said in a statement.—Xinhua

Indonesia

Five killed, 18 injured in Indonesia oil pipeline blast

JAKARTA, 4 Oct.—Five people were killed and 18 others injured in an explosion and fire in the oil pipeline operated by Indonesia’s state-run oil and gas firm Pertamina in South Sumatra Province on Wednesday.

“The death toll from the explosion were 5 and 18 others were injured,” Rudi Aritanto, a Pertamina spokesperson, told Xinhua by phone.

He said that the explosion was allegedly caused by illegal tapping in the crude oil pipeline in Musi Banyuasin regency, South Sumatra. The fire ignited by explosion at around 6:10 am was extinguished at noon, he said. The cleanup process was underway and production at Pertamina’s oil refinery in Paju was not affected, he added.

He said the illegal oil tapping activities have been rampant lately, while Pertamina has some 39,000 barrels of crude oil in May and 59,000 barrels in June this year.—Xinhua

Flags to fly at half-mast in HK to mourn victims of ferry crash

HONG KONG, 4 Oct.—National and regional flags at all government buildings in Hong Kong will be flown at half-mast for three days starting on Thursday to pay last respects to the victims of a fatal ferry crash, the city government said in a statement on Wednesday.

At midday on Thursday, a ceremony led by Hong Kong Chief Executive CY Leung and other principal officials will be held in front of the city government’s headquarters to observe three minutes of silence in mourning.

Except for emergency and immigration services, other government services will be suspended during the period. All staff on duty will observe the three-minute silence at their work places. Thirty-eight people including at least five children were killed after two ferries collided on Monday evening off Hong Kong’s Lamma Island. As at 4:00 pm local time on Wednesday, 22 injured people remained in hospital, two of them were in critical or serious conditions.—Xinhua
Spanish economy minister says new adjustments not required

MAHON, 4 Oct—Spanish Minister of Economy and Competitiveness Luis de Guindos said on Wednesday that regarding a possible “bailout or no bailout, the conditions are more or less what we already have,” pointing out that Spain is already fulfilling its commitments to achieve the deficit target.

Regarding to a possible bailout, he said that “the government will take the best possible solution for Spain and for the European partners,” adding that “a possible bailout will not involve additional conditions.”

De Guindos even said that new adjustments will not be required apart from those that are already on the agenda, insisting that the government has not taken a decision regarding the bailout because they do not have all the necessary information. At the same time, De Guindos spoke this Wednesday about the statements made by Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Christine Lagarde. Lagarde appreciated the Spanish labour reform, the Spanish economy minister said on Thursday, waiting for Spain to ask for a bailout. However analysts say that there will not be big surprises.

MV PHUONG NAM-1 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM-1 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.10.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (316)

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MV PLATINUM JADE VOY NO (PJ/V09/12)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PLATINUM JADE VOY NO (PJ/V09/12) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.10.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

Amanda Bynes “obsessively hates” Lindsay Lohan

LOS ANGELES, 4 Oct—Lead singer Dave Grohl of Greenday, a 26-year-old rock band Foo Fighters, said on Tuesday the band was not splitting up but was taking a break.

Dave Grohl, 36, fueled speculation about a split by telling fans at a New York festival on Saturday that “this is the show where we come out and we play as many songs as we can. . . . I don’t know when we’re going to do it again,” according to MTV News.

But in a public letter sent by Foo Fighters’ representatives, Dana West, Grohl said the band was taking a break but had no intentions of disbanding.

“I can’t give up this band. And I never will. Because it’s not just a band to me. It’s my life. It’s my family. It’s my world,” Grohl said. The singer said he did not know when Foo Fighters were going to play again, but added that “it’s a good thing for all of us to go away for a while. It’s one of the reasons we’re still here.”

Foo Fighters was founded in 1994 by Grohl, the drummer for grunge band Nirvana, following the death of Nirvana’s lead singer Kurt Cobain.

During the hiatus, Grohl said, he will be releasing a documentary and album project called Sound City. “It could be the biggest, most important project I’ve ever worked on,” he said.

The band, which also includes bassist Nate Mendel, drummer Taylor Hawkins and guitarists Chris Shiflett and Pat Smear, has released seven studio albums led by singles such as “Everlong,” “Times Like These” and “Learn To Fly.” It has won 11 Grammy awards.—Reuters

The 26-year-old star has suffered a string of setbacks recently including being charged with driving on a suspended licence and having her car impounded.

She was also involved in two bizarre episodes last month, locking herself in a store changing room for nearly two hours and refusing to come out and stripping off during a gym class and friends say her parents don’t know what to do as Amanda has cut contact with everyone.

The insider explained: “Amanda shut them out and isn’t speaking to them. She is doing everything on her own. She has no direction. Amanda is spiraling out of control. She won’t accept help from anybody. . . . She’s completely lost.”

Lindsay’s mother Dina Lohan recently offered some advice to Amanda’s parents, saying: “Just be around. . . . It’s hard when your daughter’s not, you know, over 18, and you want to let them go . . . and they want to, you know, feel like they’re in control of themselves. So it’s a very strategic place for a parent to be, but she’ll be OK.”—PTI

Milla Jovovich doesn’t have many friends

LONDON, 4 Oct—Milla Jovovich only has “a few friends”. The Resident Evil: Retribution actress doesn’t believe film stars have many friends because people can rely on life and rather than hang out with “acquaintances” she prefers to spend time with her director husband Paul W S Anderson and make dolls houses and sew dolls with their four-year-old daughter Ever.

She said: “I feel like movie stars don’t have many friends at all. They have acquaintances. I really only have a few friends. My regular life today is reading books, making dolls houses, sewing dolls with my daughter and barbecuing.”

The 36-year-old star admits it is “stressful making movies with her husband—who has worked on all five films in the Resident Evil franchise, in which Milla portrays main character Alice—but generally the couple have a great time on set.

In an interview in the Independent newspaper, she added: “Working with Paul, in particular, there’s a lot more pros than cons because we make really fun movies together. It’s stressful physically but emotionally we have a good time. We don’t have that kind of tension of like ‘Aarrgghh you’ve made me squeeze my soul out during the day and now I have to look at you all night.’”—PTI

Film composer Williams wins two UK classical awards

LONDON, 4 Oct—Veteran film composer John Williams picked up two Classic BRIT Awards in London on Tuesday, adding a best composer honour to the lifetime achievement prize which had been previously announced.

The classical music awards, held at the Royal Albert Hall, also saw 28-year-old British pianist Benjamin Grosvenor become the youngest male recipient of a Classic BRIT Award winning the critics’ prize for the album “Chopin, Liszt and Ravel”. Among the highlights of the ceremony was a medley of Williams’ film scores performed by the London Chamber Orchestra, including passages from such memorable movie compositions as “Star Wars”, “Harry Potter”, “Jaws”, “E.T.” and “Indiana Jones”.

The 80-year-old American won the composer award for his work on “War Horse” and “The Adventures of Tin Tin”. With a total of 47 Academy Award nominations, Williams is the second most nominated individual after Walt Disney, and he has five Oscar statuettes to his name.—Reuters

Chinese filmmaker to get Lifetime Achievement Award at Mumbai film festival

MUMBAI, 4 Oct—Acclaimed Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou, the man behind movies like Curse of The Golden Flower and House of Flying Daggers, will be awarded the Lifetime Achievement award at the upcoming 14th Mumbai Film Festival.

Considered to be one of China’s most prominent directors, the 60-year-old prolific director and actor is in the Mumbai to promote his latest film Hero which will be screened at the festival from October 18 to 25.

In addition to his cinematic achievements, Yimou also directed the opening and closing ceremonies for the Beijing Olympic Games 2008, which received widespread global acclaim.

The Mumbai Film Festival, an initiative by MAMI, has been known to honour cinematic legends who have contributed to enrich the art and craft of cinema in various capacities. It is being held between October 18 and 25 this year.

The recipient of this award at the 12th and 13th Mumbai Film Festival were director Oliver Stone and actor Morgan Freeman respectively.— PTI

Besotted again: Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart enjoy romantic date

LOS ANGELES, 4 Oct—Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart couldn’t keep their hands off each other Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart enjoyed a romantic dinner date in Los Angeles on Saturday.

The couple—who recently reconciled following their split during the summer when it was revealed Kristen had a fling with married director Rupert Sanders—dined at Soho House in West Hollywood with friends but couldn’t keep their hands off each other. A source told Hollywoodlife.com: “Rob and Kristen had dinner at The Soho House in West Hollywood on Saturday night and they looked like a couple, smiling, holding hands. It was like old times.

They were with a few other friends, two guys and another girl. They sat in the restaurant, which is decorated with really beautiful lights everywhere. It’s really romantic.”

Although it took Robert, 26, some time to forgive 22-year-old Kristen for her infidelity, the eyewitness said they seemed completely besotted with each other once more. The source explained: “Both Rob and Kristen were dressed casually. They were laughing a lot with their friends and stayed for a pretty long time. Like from nine until past midnight.”

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**SPORTS**

**Champions League**

Manchester City's Mario Balotelli scores a penalty kick against Borussia Dortmund during their Champions League Group D soccer match in Manchester on 3 Oct. 2012. — Reuters

Manchester City's Mario Balotelli was given a lucky draw with Dortmund when he converted a 90th-minute spot kick to ensure City a lifetime in the competition against an impressive Dortmund side who dominated for large periods and were only prevented from winning the match comfortably by the brilliance of Hart. The England keeper was beaten in the second half by Marco Reus but produced a string of top-draw saves that kept Dortmund from scoring a few goals that would have rendered Balotelli's late penalty little more than a consolation.

As it was, the Italian placed the ball on the spot following a handball from defender Neven Subotic and, despite the best efforts of Dortmund keeper Roman Weidenfeller to put him off, stuttered in his run up and stroked the ball low into the net. Had City lost they would have been pointless from the opening two games and facing a mountain to climb to qualify for the knockout round.

="We didn’t play well. We didn’t deserve to take this point but in the end it could be important.” — City manager Roberto Mancini told Sky Sports. “Borussia Dortmund played better than us and at this moment they are a better side. We need to run and fight for every ball.” It’s not enough to have just a good quality. I knew before the game it was going to be difficult as Dortmund have more experience in the Champions League. “I think that Joe Hart saved us because he did very, very well. I know the problem and I will solve it very quickly. If we don’t improve it will be difficult (to qualify) but this point could be important.” — Reuters

**Arsenal overcome Olympiakos 3-1 at Emirates**

Arsenal’s Aaron Ramsey scores a goal against Olympiakos during their Champions League Group B soccer match at the Emirates Stadium in London on 3 Oct. 2012. — Reuters

Arsenal put themselves in pole position to reach the Champions League knockout rounds with a 3-1 home victory in Group B over Olympiakos at the Emirates on Wednesday.

Goals either side of halftime from Gervinho and Lukasz Podolski sealed the Gunners’ second successive win in the group with Aaron Ramsey scoring the third with the final move of the game. Gervinho gave Arsenal the lead against the run of play in the 42nd minute with a well-placed shot but Olympiakos reached halftime deservedly all square when striker Kostas Mitroglou headed an equaliser.

Arsenal, who have never lost to Greek opposition at home, started the second half in more lively fashion and Lukasz Podolski fired what turned out to be the winner after 56 minutes, his shot piercing a crowd of players. — Reuters

**Karabatic denies betting on game under investigation**

Montpellier, 4 Oct — France’s Olympic champion Nikola Karabatic, under formal investigation for fraud amid a match-fixing scandal, has denied betting on the handball game at the centre of the affair.

Montpellier player Karabatic was placed under formal investigation on Tuesday, two days after he was arrested following a French handball game with his Montpellier club at Paris St Germain.

“I’m going to read you Nikola Karabatic’s statement to the judge,” his lawyer, Eric Dupond-Moretti, told reporters late on Wednesday.

“It goes like this: ‘You asked me if I placed a bet? No, I did not place a bet. Did my girlfriend place a bet? Yes, she did. Did she tell me about it? Yes, Why did she bet? She’s been following Montpellier for two years, she knows the (French) league,’” the lawyer said.

Karabatic, along with his brother Luka and Samuel Honrubia — a former Montpellier player — were among 15 people being heard in Montpellier by judges Thomas Meindl and Marie-Christine Desplat-Didier.

Honrubia, who now plays for PSG, admitted to betting, but denied influencing the result of the game.

Prosecutor Brice Robin alleges that a total of 87,800 euros ($13,480) of bets were placed on a first-division game between Montpellier and Cesson-Sevigne in May - 40 times the usual amount for such a match.

Most of the bets were placed around the same time of day and 99.94 percent were placed on struggling Cesson-Sevigne to lead at halftime, he added.

Robin said the investigation focused on the players and their relatives, with both clubs’ chairmen and coaches having been cleared of any suspicion of wrongdoing.

Karabatic led France to back-to-back Olympic titles in 2008 and this year while Germany’s Martin Kaymer thought of Langer before Ryder Cup-winning putt

Germany’s Martin Kaymer jokes as he sits next to the Ryder Cup during a news conference at the Dunhill Links Championship in the Old Course in St Andrews, Scotland on 3 Oct. 2012. — Reuters

Kaymer had his secret thoughts crossed my mind for half a minute when I was standing behind the ball and then when I looked down Bernhard’s miss crossed my mind for half a second. But it didn’t have any influence in a positive or negative way. “And if you stick to the facts it was the easiest putt you can have despite all the circumstances because it was uphill and an inside the right line. There is no easier putt. We have that putts millions of times and I had to try to forget about the Ryder Cup.”

Kaymer admitted that since arriving in Scotland he had been surprised at how many people had congratulated him on his performance.

“Obviously I had the pleasure to make the putt but at the end of the day I only got one point even though I played twice and there were other guys who inspired the team a lot more on the Sunday.” — Reuters

**Wigan manager Martinez fined for referee comments**

Wigan manager Roberto Martinez fined for comments.

Manchester, 4 Oct — Roberto Martinez, the manager of Premier League club Wigan Athletic, was fined 10,000 pounds by the Football Association on Wednesday for comments he made after his side’s 4-0 defeat to Manchester United last month.

The 59-year-old Spaniard was also warned about his future conduct after admitting a charge of misconduct in a personal hearing.

The decision was posted in a statement on the FA’s website (www.thefa.com).

Martinez was unhappy with referee Michael Oliver’s performance and told the BBC after his side’s defeat at Old Trafford: “In the last two games here we have had three sendings off, and today I knew. When you come to places like this you need a strong referee. “And the first decision — the penalty, it sets you back a lot. “It is difficult to come to Old Trafford and get a referee that gets affected by the event and the circumstances surrounding the game. It was a real shame in that respect.”

**Ronaldinho treble fires Real to 4-1 win at Ajax**

Montpellier’s Nikola Karabatic is seen in action during his team’s Ligue 1 handball match against Paris Saint Germain in Paris on 30 Sept. 2012. — Reuters

Real Madrid’s Cristiano Ronaldo (C) celebrates his goal with teammates during their Champions League Group D soccer match against Ajax Amsterdam at the Amsterdam Arena stadium on 3 Oct. 2012. — Reuters

A dominant Real won a host of chances before Ronaldo pounced on a loose ball to score from close range in the 42nd minute and Benzema finished off a swift Real break three minutes into the second half when he smashed home a Kaka centre.

Real’s vulnerability at set pieces gave Ajax hope in the 56th minute when Niklas Moisander stole in at the far post and nodded under Iker Casillas before Ronaldo scored twice in two minutes to kill off the game.

The victory consolidated Real’s lead at the top of the group with six points from two matches as the record breaking bid for the 10th European title that has eluded them since 2002.

**LONDON, 4 Oct— Arsenal put themselves in pole position to reach the Champions League knockout rounds with a 3-1 home victory over Steve Stricker the German knew it was not a tough one. But he was also aware that his fellow German Bernhard Langer has never been allowed to forget a missed putt of the same length which handed the Americans Ryder Cup victory at Kiawah Island in 1991.

It was such a fine line between being the hero and the biggest idiot and fortunately it went the right way,” Kaymer told reporters as he prepared for the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship.

“When I was standing behind the ball and then when I looked down Bernhard’s miss crossed my mind for half a second. But it didn’t have any influence in a positive or negative way. “And if you stick to the facts it was the easiest putt you can have despite all the circumstances because it was uphill and an inside the right line. There is no easier putt. We have that putts millions of times and I had to try to forget about the Ryder Cup.”

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Former world No 1 Ivanovic upset at China Open

Australia were all ousted in earlier rounds. On a sunny but windy afternoon, Ivanovic never felt comfortable throughout the match and succumbed to a 6-4, 6-3 defeat in just 70 minutes. “Really strong, my rhythm was out there, especially on the forehand. The ball was coming with so much pace, and I wasn’t really efficient moving forward and taking advantage of that,” said a disappointed Ivanovic. Ivanovic hit 23 winners to just 8 from Oprandi, but the former French Open champion made 17 unforced errors compared to Oprandi’s 2. It seemed Oprandi just tried to extend rallies and waited for the Serb to make a mistake. “She’s a tricky opponent. She really has good game, very talented girl. I think the unforced errors made a big difference,” the 24-year-old Ivanovic added. They played a solid game at the beginning and both held serve in the first six games of the opening set. The Swiss broke first in the seventh game, but Ivanovic broke back immediately. Oprandi notched up the second break in the ninth game and then served for victory.

Canadian airports lose traffic to US rivals for higher costs

“Cross-border air fare shopping is being driven by ‘a perfect storm’ of factors that also includes differences in wages, aircraft prices and industry productivity in comparison with US aviation policies,” said Vijay Gill, principal research associate of transportation and infrastructure in the Conference Board of Canada.

The report finds that Canadian fees and taxes contribute to roughly 40 percent of the total air fare difference in the markets that it examined.

While other factors are beyond Canada’s control, the report estimates changes to Canadian policies alone could bring more than two million passengers a year back to Canadian airports.

While lower Canadian fees and taxes would reduce government receipts in the short term, much of this loss could be recaptured through direct and indirect tax revenues generated by the additional traffic originating in Canada, it says.

**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**
(5-10-12 9:30 am - 6-10-12 9:30 am) MST


**MYANMAR TV**
(5-10-2012, Friday)


**Tropical Storm Oscar forms in eastern Tropical Atlantic: NHC**

**MIAMI, 4 Oct—** Tropical Storm Oscar, the fifteenth named storm of the season, has formed in the eastern Tropical Atlantic on Wednesday, the US National Hurricane Centre said in its latest bulletin.

The storm was located about 1,220 miles west-northwest of the Cape Verde islands packing winds of about 40 miles per hour (65 km per hour).

“Oscar is forecast to become an open trough on Friday and then dissipate by Friday night,” the Miami-based center said.

**Maria Sharapova of Russia serves the ball during her singles match against Polona Hercog of Slovenia at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing, China, on 4 Oct, 2012.—Xinhua**

Sharapova romps into top eight at China Open

BEIJING, 4 Oct—World No 2 Maria Sharapova romped into the quarter-finals by defeating Polona Hercog of Slovenia in straight sets at the China Open here on Thursday. Sharapova, who survived an early-exit scare with a hard-fought 7-5, 7-5 opening victory over Simona Halep of Romania, enjoyed a much easier encounter by Friday night,” the Miami-based center said.

Sharapova, who was making her fifth appearance at Beijing with a best semi-final showing in 2011, took just one hour and a half to dispose of Hercog, breaking three times in the opening set to give Hercog a bagel. Sharapova continued her dominance in the second set, hers held the next serve by saving two break points, and then leveled the set 3-3. She played a solid game at the beginning and both held serve in the first six games of the opening set. The Swiss broke first in the seventh game, but Ivanovic broke back immediately. Oprandi notched up the second break in the ninth game and then served for victory.

**Consumers shop in a duty-free store in Sanya, south China’s Hainan Province, on 3 Oct, 2012. Duty-free stores in Hainan have seen a business boom as the number of tourists to the island province grows during China’s National Day holiday.**

**Ann Ivanovic of Serbia**

**BEIJING, 4 Oct—** Serbian Ivanovic’s fourth consecutive run to the quarterfinals at the China Open was snipped here on Wednesday as the former world No.1 lost to Romina Oprandi of Switzerland in the third round.

The current world No.12 joined seed casualty after Czech Republic’s world No.5 Petra Kvitova, sixth seed Sara Errani of Italy and eighth seed Samantha Stosur from Australia were all ousted in earlier rounds. On a sunny but windy afternoon, Ivanovic never felt comfortable throughout the match and succumbed to a 6-4, 6-3 defeat in just 70 minutes. “Really strong, my rhythm was out there, especially on the forehand. The ball was coming with so much pace, and I wasn’t really efficient moving forward and taking advantage of that,” said a disappointed Ivanovic. Ivanovic hit 23 winners to just 8 from Oprandi, but the former French Open champion made 17 unforced errors compared to Oprandi’s 2. It seemed Oprandi just tried to extend rallies and waited for the Serb to make a mistake. “She’s a tricky opponent. She really has good game, very talented girl. I think the unforced errors made a big difference,” the 24-year-old Ivanovic added. They played a solid game at the beginning and both held serve in the first six games of the opening set. The Swiss broke first in the seventh game, but Ivanovic broke back immediately. Oprandi notched up the second break in the ninth game and then served for victory.

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Nay Pyi Taw, 4 Oct
The ceremony to hand over a two-storey building for staff of 25-bed Yezin Station Hospital was held at the new building in Yezin Universities’ Campus in Nay Pyi Taw this morning. Eight donor companies including Momentum Co., donated K 11 million for medical funds and maintenance works of the hospital. On behalf of locals, Rector Dr Myint Oo of University for Environmental Conservation and Forestry spoke words of thanks.

With the aim of providing more health care service to university students and locals, Momentum Co., upgraded 16-bed hospital into 25-bed one and spent K 260 million for construction of the two-storey new building. It was attended by Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, Union Minister and deputy ministers, rectors and departmental heads, rectors and officials and locals. MNA

New staff housing for Yezin Station Hospital

U Win Tun, Union Minister for Health Dr. Pe Thet Khin and locals, Momentum Co., providing more health care service to university students and locals, Rector Dr Myint Oo of University for Environmental Conservation and Forestry spoke words of thanks.

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Transformer installed for supply of electricity

Mandalay International Airport to be shaped as aviation focal point

The Ministry of Transport will cooperate with private sector to designate Mandalay International Airport as a focal point of aviation logistics for swift flow of commodities among regional countries. As Mandalay International Airport is in a strategically located area, tenders are invited to create the airport as the focal point of airlines and transportation routes from Southeast Asia, South Asia and Europe. Local and foreign companies may participate in the joint venture tasks. The company that achieved success in tender is to launch the tasks beginning 1 April 2013.

The airport located on 27554 acres of land is the second largest airport across the world. Its runway is 14000 feet by 200 feet. Italian Thai Co took responsibility for construction of the Mandalay International Airport on 17 May 1996 and spent US$ 150 million on construction tasks.

Public Works spent US$ 8049.52 million on construction of runway and related tasks and the airport was put into service on 17 September 2000.

Tokyo quarters

Canadian because of a calf injury at 3-0 down in the first set, Raonic had warmed up for the match with a rickshaw ride around Tokyo’s sacred Asakusa district where he also spent time looking at a collection of samurai swords. Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus battled past fourth-seeded Argentine Juan Monaco, last month’s U.S. Open semi-finals, will play Japan’s Kei Nishikori in the last eight of the $1.2 million hardcourt event. Eighth seed Nishikori hit back in style after dropping the first set to record a 5-7 6-1 6-0 victory over Spain’s Tommy Robredo. Third seed Janko Tipsarevic also progressed with a 6-4 6-2 victory over Swiss qualifier Marco Chiudinelli. The Serb faces sixth seed Milos Raonic next after Tipsarevic’s compatriot Viktor Troicki retired against the