Myanmar enjoys GSP with retroactive benefit for exports

Japan should learn to get along with neighbors, says China's FM

NAT PYI TAW, 19 Oct—Pyithu Hluttaw continued its second day of the fifth regular session at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex, here, today, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 389 MPs.

At the meeting, six questions were answered, one proposal, recorded and one report, submitted.

At question-and-answer session, Union Health Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin answered the queries raised by two Hluttaw representatives on health sector.

Regarding the query on "If there is any plan to appoint an eye specialist at Kyaukpyu District Hospital and there is any restriction on appointment of eye specialists at any hospitals (100-bed)," raised by U Ba Shein from Kyaukpyu Constituency, the Union Health Minister answered that appointment of eye specialists is out of the organizational structure of the 100-bedded hospitals. But mobile eye specialists groups are making field trips to needy areas and assist

Proposal on the bill amending Region or State Level officials’ emoluments, expenses and insignias submitted

Bakri Eid Day

NAV PYI TAW, 19 Oct—The Republic of the Union of Myanmar government announced that as 12th Waxing of Thadingyut, 1374 ME, "Bakri Eid Day" is to be celebrated on 27 October.

NAV PYI TAW, 19 Oct—Fifth regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw continued for 2nd day, at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Building, here, at 10 am today, attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and 209 MPs.

At the session, Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu replied to two educational questions.

With respect of the query on "if there is any plan to Government Technical High School in Momeik. But that plan will be on the list at an opportune time. Regarding the query on "How much benefit sanctuaries would being to regions and the State" raised by U Hla Tun from Khamti Constituency. Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun said that the benefits are preservation of ecosystem, sustaining favourable environmental conditions, minimizing land disputes, reducing conflicts between human beings and animals, recording and conducting research on biodiversity, recording habitats of the wild animals, saving endangered species, curbing illegal trade of animals, developing (See page 8)

With respect of the query on "if there is any plan to upgrade them into BEMSs as there are 149 students in BEMS (branch) in Hsaukwainggyi village. The deputy minister replied that at present there is no any plan to upgrade them into BEMSs as there are 149 students in BEMS (branch) in Hsaukwainggyi village and 123 students in BEMS (branch) in Thitkhaunggyi village.

Gyobury BEMS (branch) in Gyobury model village tract has been upgraded into (See page 8)
Community-based CMP development discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Oct— "Recently US has lifted economic sanctions against Myanmar and EU gives back GSP to Myanmar. So it is the best time for development of CMP," said Chairman of CMP Supervisory Committee Union Minister for Labour U Maung Myint, at Committee’s third coordination meeting, at Ministry of Labour, here, yesterday.

He also said that in an attempt to develop CMP, it should be done by mean of community-based system. Drafting strategy for Poverty alleviation is crucial for creating job opportunity. When foreign investments flow into the country, the country sees more job opportunities. So, Committee member are urged to give suggestion for CMP development. After that, committee member deputy ministers, officials from sub-committee, directors-general, joint secretary of Myanmar Ministry of Labour, Mr Hideo Watanabe, and party paid a call on Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann at Pyithu Hluttaw Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Complex here.ermnoon. Pyithu Hluttaw committee chairpersons U Maung Maung Thein, U Thein Swe and U Hla Myint Oo, secretaries U Aye Mauk, U Kyi Tha, U Khin Maung Oo and U Ko Ko Tun, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and officials of Hluttaw Office were present at the call. They frankly discussed matters related to deepening of friendship between the two countries and further cooperation in economy.

Tax Service Unit opened in Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Oct— The Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue has opened Tax Service Unit for tax payers at No.59, Pansodan Street, Yangon from today onwards.

As Tax Service Unit would respond to the questions asked by local and foreign investors, foreign companies, INGOs, NGOs, visitors and people, if Tax Service Unit can’t afford what the people know for the time being, it will reply to answer at once after taking approval of the Head Office. The Tax Service Unit made discussion on the tax rates laws, bylaws, principles and notifications carried out by the Internal Revenue Department when the tax collectors or people are not satisfied with these matters. If necessary, it will provide for those who want to know the taxation with books related to tax. As such the people and tax staff are inconvenient with these matters, it will make complaint form for those people and reply them as soon as quickly.—MNA

Performing Arts Competition goes on

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Oct — The 19th Myanmar National Races’ Traditional Performing Arts Competitions continued today at Yezin Universities’ Campus on a grand scale.

A total of 8 contestants from States and Regions took part in higher level men’s Maha Gita contest, and five in amateur level (first class) women’s solo Myanmar orchestra contest.

Three troupes participated in amateur level (second class) women’s orchestra contest, and four in higher level women’s orchestra contest. Five contestants took part in basic level (second class) women’s xylophone contest, and six in amateur level (first class) men’s xylophone contest.

The drama contest was held for the final day at the convocation hall of the University of Veterinary Science in the evening in which the troupe representing Ayeayawady Region took part.

The drama contest was held for the final day at the convocation hall of the University of Veterinary Science in the evening in which the troupe representing Ayeayawady Region took part. The meeting focused on further strengthening already-existing amity between two countries and promoting bilateral cooperation in the sectors of mines and trade as well as agriculture.—MNA

Myanmar, China to promote agricultural, mines and trade sectors

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Oct— A delegation led by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua had a cordial discussion with Union Ministers U Myint Hlaing, U Win Myint and Dr Myint Aung at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, here, this morning.

The meeting focused on further strengthening already-existing amity between two countries and promoting bilateral cooperation in the sectors of mines and trade as well as agriculture.—MNA

Formation of Public Service Media Governing Body

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Oct— The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has formed the Governing Body with the following persons hereunder in order to transform the three dailies- Myanma Alin, Kyemon and the New Light of Myanmar currently run by the Ministry of Information into Public Service Media-PSM under Notification No 72/2012 dated 18-10-2012.

(a) U Ye Tint Chairman
(b) U Ye Myint Pe Member
(c) U Ye Naing Moe Member
(d) U Kyaw Zaw Naing Member
(e) U Kyaw Soe Secretary

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Region took part.

Among the audience were Chairman of Organizing Committee Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Ministers U Htet Aung, U Aung Than Oo and U Chan Maung, Deputy Attorney-General U Tan Tun Oo, Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union U Myint Aung and enthusiasts.

Myanmar, Japan eye closer ties

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Ma Aye Nyein Zaw of Sagaing Region competes in solo orchestra contest.

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Ma Aye Nyein Zaw of Sagaing Region competes in solo orchestra contest.
Colombian government, FARC rebels to meet in Cuba for peace talks

Colombia

Diplomacy inbox fills up as UN awaits US presidential vote

Washington, 19 Oct — The United States prepares for a presidential election next month, thorny diplomatic issues like arms trade treaties, the Palestinians’ UN aspirations and talks on regulating international trade have under US jurisdiction.

The US Treasury also took action against al-‘Harbi, imposing financial sanctions that will prohibit US citizens from dealing with al-‘Harbi and freezing any assets he may have under US jurisdiction. The Treasury had previously targeted six other members of the group in June 2011. Al-‘Harbi was blacklisted by the Treasury in 2005.

We will continue targeting this crucial source of al Qaeda’s funding and support, as well as highlight Iran’s ongoing complicity in this network’s operation,” David Cohen, Treasury undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, said in a statement. — Reuters

US offers rewards for Iran-based al-Qaeda operatives

Washington, 19 Oct — The United States offered up to $7 million for information leading to the location of two al-Qaeda members accused of facilitating the movement of funds and operatives through Iran.

The Obama administration is offering up to $7 million for information leading to the location of Iranian-based financier Muhsein al-‘Harbi, who was among the few al-Qaeda leaders who received advance notification of the 11 Sept, 2001 attacks, the State Department said.

Up to $5 million is being offered for al-‘Harbi’s deputy, Adel Razi Sayq al-Wahabi al-‘Harbi, who is accused of working with a network that served as a pipeline for al-Qaeda to move operatives and funds in South Asia and the Middle East.

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Japan, others propose reviving UN arms trade treaty talks in March

New York, 19 Oct — Britain, Japan and five other countries introduced a draft resolution on Thursday at a UN disarmament meeting calling for convening a conference in March aimed at regulating international trade in conventional arms, after negotiations in July failed to reach an agreement.

Diplomatic sources said the resolution on the arms trade treaty — designed to keep such arms from those committing mass murders and terrorism — has a strong chance of winning approval both at the First Committee on disarmament and as well as at the General Assembly. While it may well receive negotiations on the treaty, it remains to be seen whether negotiators will be able to reach an agreement, given the wide disparities in views among prospective participants and that like the July conference, a consensus of all participants, rather than a majority endorsement, is required for an accord. — Kyodo News

S Korea among 5 new nonpermanent Security Council members

South Korea garnered 149 votes in the second round of voting in the General Assembly, beating Cambodia, which got only 43, Bhutan was eliminated in the first round. Argentina, Rwanda, Australia and Luxembourg were elected to the other four seats.— Kyodo News

The United Nations headquarters building is pictured in Vienna on 28 March, 2012. — Reuters

In this undated photo, a wind turbine feeds renewable electricity into the Ontario grid at the CNE grounds in Toronto. — Reuters

New York, 19 Oct — South Korea was among the five countries elected on Thursday as nonpermanent members of the 15-member UN Security Council to serve two-year terms from 1 January, with President Lee Myung Bak hailing it as a big diplomatic breakthrough.

Washington wanted to “bump (the issue) down the road until after the election,” in the words of a European diplomat. David Bosco of American University in Washington said: “The administration clearly feared that the treaty would become a major election issue for gun rights organizations and, with a few other countries, worked to ensure that it would not move anywhere until after the election.”

Frank Jannuzzi of Amnesty International echoed Bosco’s views. Gun control is controversial in the United States, where the Constitution guarantees the right to bear arms. — Reuters
Science

New planet discovered in Earth's back yard

SCI-ENCE & TECHNOLOGY

A man walks past a Huawei company logo outside the entrance of a Huawei office in Wuhan, Hubei province on 9 Oct, 2012.—Reuters

The IBM logo is seen outside the company's offices in Petah Tikva, near Tel Aviv on 24 Oct, 2012.—Reuters

White House-ordered review found no evidence of Huawei spying: sources

“We knew certain parts of government really wanted” evidence of active spying, said one of the people, who requested anonymity. “We would have found it if it were there.”

A spokesman for Huawei said the company was not familiar with the review but it was not surprised that no evidence of Huawei espionage was found.

Last week’s report from the Republican and Democratic leaders of the House Intelligence Committee noted the potential for spying through Huawei gear installed to manage traffic on wireless networks. The committee also criticized Huawei’s leadership for failing to provide details about its relationships with Chinese government agencies.

Huawei, whose chief executive officer, Ren Zhengfei, founded it 25 years ago after he was laid off by the Chinese army, has rejected the House report as unfair and inaccurate. China’s Commerce Ministry has also called the allegations “groundless.”—Reuters

New Light of Myanmar

IBM in talks to buy Israel mobile software firm

Red Bend

TEL AVIV, 19 Oct—IBM Corp (IBM.N) is in advanced talks to buy Israel-based Red Bend Software, a provider of mobile software, for $200 million to $250 million, Israeli media reported on Thursday.

Red Bend provides software for device management and mobile virtualization, technology that enables multiple operating systems to run simultaneously on a mobile phone. It helps cellular phone manufacturers speed up new embedded services, respond swiftly to faults and reduce support costs via remote updates using the web.

The company has over 80 customers, including China Mobile, Intel, LG Electronics, Motorola, Qualcomm, Samsung Electronics, Sharp and Sony Ericsson.

Officials at Red Bend were not immediately available for comment. A spokeswoman at IBM Israel said the company does not comment on rumors and speculation.

The Calcalist financial newspaper said this would be IBM’s 12th acquisition in Israel and its second in the mobile sector.

Leaders & Cape Canaveral, Florida, 19 Oct—Astronomers have found a new planet, the closest to our solar system and just an astronomical stone’s throw away at four light years, raising the chances of finding a habitable planet in Earth’s neighbourhood. Researchers say the new planet is too close to its sun to support known forms of life, with a surface temperature estimated at 1.200 degrees Celsius (2,192 Fahrenheit). But previous studies suggest that when one planet is discovered orbiting a sun, there are usually others in the same system.

The new Earth-sized planet, announced in science journal Nature by Stephane Udry and Xavier Dumusque at the Geneva Observatory, orbits one of the suns in Alpha Centauri, roughly 25 trillion miles away.

It’s a landmark discovery because it’s very low mass and it’s our closest neighbor,” said Udry. “Its orbit is very close to its star and it must be much too hot for life as we know it but it may well be just one planet in a chain of several.”

Commenting on the find, University of California astronomer Greg Laughlin said: “This is our back yard, so to find out that planet formation occurred there is just extraordinary.”

Since the discovery of the first exoplanets — those outside our solar system — in the early 1990s, more than 800 have been found but this one is the closest to Earth.

Getting there is extremely unlikely in the foreseeable future. Laughlin estimated it would take about 40,000 years to travel to the newly discovered planet with current propulsion technology.

It was detected using the HARPS instrument on a telescope at the European Southern Observatory’s La Silla site in Chile. The device is able to pick up tiny changes in the color of the light coming from a host star as it wobbles under the gravitational influence of orbiting planets.

The gravitational effect in this case is minute, causing it to move back and forth by no more than 51 centimeters (20 inches) per second.

Alpha Centauri is a three-star system consisting of two stars similar to our sun and a faint red star called Proxima Centauri. The planet orbits Alpha Centauri B.

Astronomers have speculated about planets orbiting these stars since the 19th century but small planets like this are hard to find and instruments have only recently become sensitive enough to detect them.

“Our observations extended over more than four years using the HARPS instrument” said Dumusque.

The researchers said this planet, which can make its data available to other astronomers to test their findings but in the meantime some remain sceptical.

“Actually, I still have my doubts,” astronomer Artie Hatzes at Thuringian State Observatory in Tautenburg, Germany, told Reuters.

Hatzes said the wobble detected in the star could be caused by a series of other factors, including sun spots, and the data need to be tested by other researchers.

“Experience of some of the instruments have to be filtered from the data before one can extract the signal due to the possible planet,” he said. “It could well be that someone else analyzing the same data may come up with a different conclusion. That is why I am not 100 percent certain.”

But Dumusque is confident. “We have considered in this analysis all the known possible explanations, including instrumental noise and stellar origin. In the end, the planetary solution is the most likely one.”—Reuters

This artist’s impression shows the planet orbiting the star Alpha Centauri B, a member of the trio of stars called the Alpha Centauri system that is the closest to Earth in this image released on 17 October, 2012.—Reuters

The Moon passes between the sun and the earth as viewed through coastal fog rolling in from the ocean in Encinitas, California on 20 May, 2012.—Reuters

Harvard scientists suggest Moon made from Earth

ENCINITAS, California, 19 Oct—A new theory put forward by Harvard scientists suggests the Moon was once part of the Earth that spun off after a giant collision with another body. In a paper published on Wednesday in the journal Science, Sarah Stewart and Miatta Cuk said their theory would explain why the Earth and Moon have similar composition and chemistry.

The Earth was spinning much faster at the time the Moon was formed, and a day lasted only two to three hours, they said.

With the Earth spinning so quickly, a giant impact could have launched enough of the Earth’s material to form a moon, the scientists said in an explanation published on a Harvard website. www.fas.harvard.edu/planets/sstewart/Moon.html According to the new theory, the Earth later reached its current rate of spinning through gravitational interaction between its orbit around the Sun and the Moon’s orbit around Earth. The scientists noted that their proposition differed from the current leading theory, which holds that the Moon was created from material of a giant body that struck the Earth.

Stewart is a professor of earth and planetary sciences at Harvard, and Cuk, an astronomer and an investigator at the SETI Institute, which supports research into the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. The Longy post-doctoral research at Harvard.—Reuters
**Sales stumble raise fresh worry for corporate America**

BOSTON, 19 Oct—A flagging world economy took a toll on much of Corporate America in the third quarter, leading the likes of eBay Inc, American Express, IBM and Textron Inc to miss Wall Street’s sales targets or warn that spending was slowing into the holidays.

Those missives sparked concerns among investors that corporate America’s year-long streak of profit growth could be nearing an end as CEOs run out of costs to cut and customers are increasingly wary about spending.

A major worry is the risk of the year-end fiscal cliff—$600 billion of spending cuts and higher taxes that could take effect at the end of the year if lawmakers in Washington fail to agree on a plan—to shrink the federal deficit.

A majority—54 percent—of the 70 companies that have reported so far have missed analysts’ revenue forecasts, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

The list of companies’ reasons for weaker performance has expanded, with some citing a decline in demand in the United States — until recently a more reliable source of growth — as well as in Europe, which is mired in a debt crisis.

American Express warned that cardmembers’ spending was starting to wane. After nine quarters of double-digit growth, spending among its mostly affluent customer base grew just 8 percent in the last quarter.

The online marketplace eBay beat estimates, but analysts said the magnitude was unimpressive and the holiday outlook cautious as price competition increases among retailers.

International Business Machines Corp, the world’s largest technology services company, missed analysts’ sales forecasts for a fifth consecutive time with a 5 percent drop in the third quarter, as corporate customers in the United States and Canada cut their spending on equipment and services.

“When I look at our skew of business in the quarter, through the first two months, our revenue was fairly consistent with our second-quarter performance,” IBM’s Chief Financial Officer Mark Loughridge told investors. “The online marketplace has been weaker than expected.”

**FDA finds fungus in steroid shots, meningitis toll rises**

New York/Los Angeles, 19 Oct—US health officials made their first confirmation of the presence of a deadly fungus in one of three lots of steroid tied to a national meningitis outbreak as the death toll rose to 20 on Thursday.

The US Food and Drug Administration said it was still testing two additional lots of methylprednisolone acetate, the steroid used to treat back pain, for the presence of the rare Exserohilum fungus.

It is also testing other injectable drugs that were supplied by the New England Compounding Centre, or NECC, in Massachusetts.

“Now we can definitively say that the injections are linked to the infection,” Dr Tom Chiller, an epidemiologist with the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, told Reuters in an interview.

“To date, CDC has no firm evidence of infection in any patients beyond those exposed to the contaminated lots.”

The CDC said the death toll climbed by one to 20, while nine new cases brought the national total to 254, including the first in New York — the 16th state with confirmed infections.

Michigan reported its fourth fungal meningitis death and new cases were also reported in Indiana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio and Tennessee.

There are also three cases of peripheral infections in joints, the CDC said.

“There were a lot more spinal infections performed versus joint infections, but the infection rate may also reflect the fact that joint infections might be slower or the incubation period could be longer . . . we just don’t know,” Chiller said.

About 14,000 patients are believed to have been exposed to the potentially tainted NECC steroid and some 97 percent of them have been contacted so far, the FDA and CDC said.

**Brent crude steady above $113 on hopes of China rebound**

SINGAPORE, 19 Oct—Brent futures were held above $113 on Thursday, buoyed by hopes for a rebound in year-end economic growth in China, the world’s second-biggest oil consumer, and with simmering tension in the Middle East providing additional support.

China’s economy expanded 7.4 percent in the quarter to September from a year earlier. That was its slowest pace since the first quarter of 2009 and was in line with a Reuters forecast.

But other data released on Thursday suggested that the worst may be over and that the world’s No 2 economy will pick up in the final quarter.

Brent had gained 143 cents to $113.55 a barrel by 0345 GMT, after setting 78 cents lower at $113.22. US oil rose 2 cents to $92.14, after ending 3 cents higher.

“While the overall GDP numbers were in line with expectations, retail sales, industrial output and other numbers are stronger if you look at the break-down,” said Ben Le Brun, a market analyst at OptionsXpress in Sydney.

“I would expect a continuation of the momentum on the back of these numbers.”

China’s refinery throughput in September rose 7 percent from a year earlier to a record daily rate of 9.43 million barrels, after new refining capacity came on stream. Daily runs were around 6 percent, or $40,000 barrels per-day (bpd), higher than the 8.89 million bpd in August.

Supply disruption concerns stemming from Iran’s disputed nuclear programme are also putting a drag under oil prices.

In another sign of Teheran and foreign oil supply cutbacks, US weekly crude stockpiles fell last week to 341.3 million barrels, the lowest in four years.

**Chipmaker Intel Corp also said lower corporate spending hurt its revenue, which was down 5 percent for the quarter, is a fourth-quarter sales target that was below analysts’ forecasts.**

While trouble in the tech sector reflect in part a lack of corporate confidence, with companies holding back on committing to major new investments, soft drink makers PepsiCo and Coca-Cola Co also reported weaker-than-expected revenue.

PepsiCo said on Wednesday that its sales in the Americas were down about 3 percent in the quarter, which partly reflected its decision to stop selling some juices and bottled water packages after “a hell of a price war,” CEO Indra Nooyi said.

The company, which also makes Frito-Lay snacks and Tropicana orange juice, also noted that the strong dollar hurt its results by decreasing the value of sales made outside the United States.

Many major US companies with international operations have cited the strong dollar as a drag on growth this year.
Man arrested in New York bomb plot has student visa, confirms official

WASHINGTON, 19 Oct — A Bangladeshi man arrested for alleged plot to bomb the Federal Reserve Bank in New York City entered the United States with a student visa issued in December, a State Department official confirmed on Thursday. “Let me start by continuing that the suspect did have a student visa to attend a legitimate academic program in the United States for which he was qualified,” said State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland at a regular briefing.

“Visa decisions are made in accordance with applicable law and department regulations,” she told reporters, adding that each application is looked at by case basis, taking into account “all of the information contained in the US government databases.”

Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis, 21, was arrested on Wednesday in a sting operation by US federal authorities for alleged plot to bomb the Federal Reserve bank in Lower Manhattan, New York City. He was captured while trying to detonate what he believed to be a 1,000-pound bomb in front of the Federal Reserve Building on Liberty Street. The fake bomb was provided to him by an undercover agent. Nafis arrived in the United States in January. He had tried to recruit people in the US to help him conduct the terror attack. Nafis appeared at a federal court in Brooklyn Wednesday to face charges of attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and attempting to provide material support to al-Qaeda. He was ordered held without bail.—Xinhua

Tennessee clinic linked to meningitis scare closed after outbreak

NASHVILLE, 19 Oct — The Tennessee clinic that received more potentially tainted steroid than any facility in the nation has been closed temporarily as it struggles to cope with an avalanche of patient calls about the deadly meningitis outbreak, its administrator said. The Saint Thomas Outpatient Neurosurgery Centre in Nashville received 2,000 vials of the steroid from a Massachusetts company.

The drug was shipped to 76 facilities in 23 states. Twenty people have died, including three at the hospital where the clinic is located, and 254 contracted fungal meningitis traced to vials from New England Compounding Centre used mainly for epidural injections to ease back pain. Tennessee has more confirmed cases than any other state. The Nashville clinic was one of the first to notice its patients were suffering from severe headaches and other symptoms. The clinic, which administered about 5,000 epidural injections a year for back pain, closed on 20 September and has not reopened. “We started out with 300 phone calls a day and now we are getting 40 or 50. As long as these phone calls are coming in, we are not comfortable to be open,” Scott Butler, administrator of the clinic, said in an interview on Wednesday. “I would never want somebody who called in, in pain, to be told ‘We’re working here. We’ll call you back,’” Butler said. It is still not clear how much of the clinic’s medication was tainted with a fungus. The Tennessee Department of Health said 477 of the 2,520 vials shipped to three facilities in the state, including Saint Thomas clinic, were not used. Nafis of the clinic, were not used.

Explosive device goes off near Syrian Interior Ministry in capital

DAMASCUS, 19 Oct.— An explosive device went off Thursday afternoon near the Syrian Interior Ministry in the capital Damascus, causing only material damage, sources and media reports said. The Interior Ministry in Kafarwoush district, the sources said. The state-news agency SANA said the minor explosion had caused material damage only.

The explosion marked a new trend in using bicycles to carry out blasts after the Syrian authorities have maximized the security measures in Damascus, riling all the governmental buildings with blast walls and increasing the number of checkpoints at the entrances of Damascus and in some sensitive streets inside of it, causing suffocating traffic jams. Separately, the pro-government Sham FM radio said about 200 armed rebels were killed Thursday during clashes with government troops in the northwestern province of Idlib. It said the Syrian troops have closed in on armed groups at Ma’arat al-Nu’man town in Idlib, adding that those armed men are being chased by the troops.

In another account, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an activists’ network, said that a Syrian fighter jet bombarded on Thursday the town of Deir Shargh in Idlib, destroying a field hospital and 12 neighbouring houses, adding that no casualties have been reported since the hospital and the houses had been evacuated earlier. Another activists’ network, the Local Coordination Committees (LCC), said that 30 people were killed on Thursday in Ma’arat al-Nu’man by the government troops.
Myanmar, Japan to move a step forward in bilateral cooperation

**NAY PYI TAW, 19 Oct**— Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received former member of the House of Councilors in the Diet of Japan and Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Hideo Watanabe and party at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall this noon.

Myanmar parliamentary delegation to attend 127th IPU

**YANGON, 19 Oct**—The Myanmar parliamentary delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa left here yesterday to attend the 127th Inter-Parliamentary Union to be held in Quebec.

All urged to carry out good manner for health of the people: Dy Health Minister

**NAY PYI TAW, 19 Oct**—Jointly-organized by the Health Department under the Ministry of Health and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the concluding ceremony for workshop on Communication for Development Training Programming & Monitoring in Behavior & Social Change was took place at Thingaha Hotel here yesterday evening.

Commercial billboards withdrawn from Zaygyo Market

**MANDALAY, 19 Oct**—As Mandalay City Development Committee does not allow commercial billboards that put cover on beauty and grand images of Zaygyo Market which is one of the significant symbols of Mandalay City.

National Level Mines and Mineral Development Workshop held

**NAY PYI TAW, 19 Oct**—“Myanmar, stunningly beautiful country covering with flora and fauna and forest has enough space for booming economy, earning achievement in all round development through stability of the state, optimistic economic outlooks and equality of relationship among people in the near future”, said Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung at National Level Mines and Mineral Development Workshop held at Mani Yadana Hall of Myanmar Gems Museum here this morning.

Formation of political party allowed

**NAY PYI TAW, 19 Oct**—While the Union Election Commission is scrutinizing and allowing applications for formation of political parties, the application for formation of National Democratic Party for Human Rights applied by 22 members including Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thein fulfilled the requirement reported by the entrepreneurs working within Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association. The entrepreneurs working together with Myanmar Pearl Production and Dealer’s Association, Myanmar Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise, Nos 1, 2 and 3 Mining Enterprises made clarifications.

Over 5000 visitors pass through Muse Palace Gate daily

**Muse, 19 Oct**—Friendly relations and trade are in promotion day by day. About 5000 to 6000 people enter and depart between China and Myanmar through Palace Gate in Muse which is a border exit in Myanmar.

Relief and Resettlement Department posts website

**YANGON, 19 Oct**—As part of efforts to enable people to take preventive measures against natural disasters in time and enjoy various subjects of knowledge, the Department of Relief and Resettlement posts an Internet website for the public. The website presents duty and functions of the department, weather forecasts, documentary photos, forecasts on storms, earthquakes, outbreak of fire and floods and preparedness works. The website of the department links with 14 ministries. The Internet users may visit www.rdmyanmar.com.
Thadingyut

When light showers alternate with bright sunshine the whole day accompanied by clouds glowing with reflected light at sunset, it is obvious that the monsoon will soon be over. When there comes the warning against explosion of firecrackers through radio and television, everyone, child or adult, knows that Thadingyut is very near.

Thadingyut, the seventh month of Myanmar calendar, marks the end of long rainy days. After four months of rain, everyone is looking forward to the warmth of glorious sunshine which Thadingyut would bring to him.

Thadingyut in addition to being a month of religious significance for Myanmar people is also a month of weddings, perhaps the happiest time for modern Adam who could afford to say ‘I do’ at Thadingyut or any time in Myanmar society. Marriage in Myanmar means more than a legal ceremony, facilitating socio-economic development of local people and acquiring technology and fund from local and international organizations and handing down these sanctuaries to the next generation as natural legacies.

With respect to the query on “Is there any plan of transformer with the use of capital from No. Basic Education Township into BEMS (branch),” the deputy minister replied that at present, there is no any plan to upgrade it as the school has 69 students only. After that, the deputy minister submitted the lists of schools that are required yearly with the use of capital expenditures. Regarding the question of U Paw Lwin of Chin State Constituency No.9 “If there is any plan to upgrade Ohwah BEMS in Sedoktara Township into BEHS (branch),” the deputy minister replied that there is no any plan to upgrade it into BEHS (branch) at present, the school has 69 students only. New transformer for over 300 houses in Myitkyina

Miyitkyina, 19 Oct—The transformer installed in Kyunbintha Ward of Miyitkyina launched supply of electricity to Region 8 of the ward as of 4 pm on 15 October. The transformer supplies electricity to over 300 houses of nine regions in the ward.

Township Electrical Engineer’s Office, Buga Electricity Supply Co, Ward Administrator, Electricity Supply Committee Chairman and local people supervised the installation of transformer with the use of heavy machinery through contribution of the local people.

PYITHU HLUTTAW

AMYOTHA HLUTTAW

Proposal on the bill amending Region...

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Propagation on the bill amending Region...
In informing Myanmar, a junta mouthpiece gets a makeover

By Andrew R.C. Marshall

The New Light of Myanmar has an image problem. That’s putting it mildly.

Created in 1993 as the mouthpiece of the then ruling junta, the newspaper once described democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi as a “toothless icon”, a “stultifyingly parochial” and a “global pariah”. Even so, it camps out at the office because he finds his government-issue apartment too small and his wife, who is an English teacher, teaches at a Western school.

The New Light of Myanmar, a newspaper owned by the state-run Myanmar Broadcasting Corporation, is the latest in a string of state-run newspapers to be turned into a more modern, more appealing publication. The move comes as part of a broader reform effort to open up the media in Myanmar, a country that has been ruled by military governments for most of its history.

The newspaper has undergone several changes in recent years, including a new design, more coverage of local news, and a more independent editorial line. It is now one of the most popular newspapers in Myanmar, with a circulation of over 200,000 copies.

But the newspaper is still far from ideal. It is still heavily censored, and its articles are often propaganda for the government. The editors are often political prisoners, and the paper is not independent of the government. Despite these problems, the newspaper is still an important source of news for people in Myanmar.

The New Light of Myanmar is one of several state-run newspapers being rebranded to reflect the new government’s efforts to open up the media. Other newspapers that have undergone similar changes include the New Light of Myanmar’s sister paper, the New Light of Yangon, and the New Light of Mandalay.

The reform of state-run media is part of a larger effort to open up Myanmar’s economy and society. The government has been working to attract foreign investment, and is encouraging the growth of private businesses. The media reform is seen as an important part of this effort, as it will help to create a more competitive and dynamic media landscape.

The New Light of Myanmar is owned by the Myanmar Broadcasting Corporation, which is part of the Ministry of Information. The newspaper is run by a team of journalists and editors who are supervised by government officials.

This article was written by Andrew R.C. Marshall, a freelance journalist based in Myanmar. He can be reached at andrewwmarshall@gmail.com.
Alberta sets up environmental monitor for oil sands

The government described the new unit as providing “credible” and “arms-length” (independent) research, though officials said on Wednesday it will answer to Environment Minister Diana McQueen and the scientific information it produces will be sent to her before it is released to the public. “The independent part comes about when we are taking a look at the science information, and saying: based on some of this evidence, what decision should be made in complex tasks. And that’s where we would certainly give the advice to the minister,” said Howard Tammett, former University of Lethbridge president who will lead the agency’s management board.

The move by the Conservative government of Premier Alison Redford is the latest in a series of responses to scientific studies and a federal report that have concluded the northern Alberta region, which encompasses the oil sands, needs to be more closely monitored for contamination development.

US

Charges against Prokopiclude a photograph taken by a Mongolian citizen that shows Prokopi “physically seized by the US government shortly after it was auctioned in Manhattan in May for $0.7 million. “The charges against Prokopi, 38, of Gainesville, Florida, comes amid an international custody battle over a Tyrannosaurus bataar skeleton,” District of New York, said in a statement.”

Aviation agreement to boost trade between New Zealand, India

New Zealand Aviation Arrangement was signed in New Delhi during a visit by a high-level delegation led by New Zealand Economic Development Minister Steven Joyce. “India is predicted to jump from the ninth largest civil aviation market in the world to the third by 2020. Domestic traffic in India is expected to grow from 46 million to 90 million passengers per year, with international traffic soaring from 34 million to 90 million in the same period,” Joyce said in a statement from his office. “This rapidly growing market provides massive opportunities for New Zealand companies involved in aviation and the signing of the aviation agreement with India will strengthen the business relationship between our two countries.”

The arrangement would encourage greater training and technical cooperation in aviation, including in the design and building of airports in India and flight training for Indian students in New Zealand. Joyce was accompanied on his visit by nine New Zealand aviation companies.

Florida man arrested for smuggling dinosaur bones from Mongolia

NEW YORK, 19 Oct — A Florida man described as “a one-man black market in prehistoric fossils” was arrested on Wednesday on charges of smuggling dinosaur skeletons from Mongolia, authorities said.

The arrest of Eric Prokopi, 38, of Gainesville, Florida, comes amid an international custody battle over a Tyrannosaurus bataar skeleton, the US government shortly after it was auctioned in Manhattan in May for $0.7 million. “Our recent seizure of the Tyrannosaurus bataar skeleton from Eric Prokopi was merely the tip of the iceberg,” Preet Bharara, the US Attorney for the Southern District of New York, said in a statement.”

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WELLINGTON, 19 Oct — The New Zealand government on Thursday predicted a boost for the country’s aviation sector following the signing of an arrangement to strengthen aviation collaboration and trade with India. The India-New Zealand Aviation Arrangement was signed in New Delhi during a visit by a high-level delegation led by New Zealand Economic Development Minister Steven Joyce. India is predicted to jump from the ninth largest civil aviation market in the world to the third by 2020. Domestic traffic in India is expected to grow from 46 million to 90 million passengers per year, with international traffic soaring from 34 million to 90 million in the same period,” Joyce said in a statement from his office. “This rapidly growing market provides massive opportunities for New Zealand companies involved in aviation and the signing of the aviation agreement with India will strengthen the business relationship between our two countries.”

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Environmental survey launched nationwide

BEIJING, 19 Oct— A nationwide survey of China’s environmental protection industry was launched on Tuesday, said the Ministry of Environmental Protection. The survey aims to compile scientific data for the nation’s policymakers, and will cover the manufacture and operation of resources recycling and environment-friendly products in 2011. Services related to the environmental protection industry, including the operation of environmental protection facilities and the construction of environment-related projects, will also be included in the census. Wu Xiaoping, vice-minister of environmental protection, said China’s environmental protection industry is working harder to control services, environmental regulation, environmental policy planning and consulting services, environmental assessment and evaluation services, environmental education services and environmental financial services and trade services. Fu Tao, director of Tsinghua University’s Environmental Protection Industry Research Centre, told China Daily that the number of businesses providing environmental services is growing, indicating a maturing of the industry. “Environmental service businesses occupy about 50 percent to 60 percent of developed countries’ environmental protection industries,” he said. “The figure in China is somewhat between 15 percent to 20 percent now.” All officially registered corporations in the Chinese mainland with independent accounting and an operating income above 2 million yuan ($319,000) in relevant sub-industries, State-owned or not, will be asked to participate in the survey before the end of February. Only data from 1 Jan to 31 Dec, 2011, will be collected. The final report will be released to the public before August and will be updated on a regular basis from then, said Wu from the Ministry of Environmental Protection. “The industry has been growing fast. About 3 million people are providing 30 million kinds of environmental protection products and services in roughly 30,000 enterprises,” he said. “And I strongly doubt these figures are still the same by now, which we can tell after the survey is finished.”

According to data released in the Development Plan of Energy-saving and Environmental Protection Industry during the 12th Five Years (2011-15) in late June, the total output value of the whole industry is estimated to reach 4.5 trillion yuan by 2015, forming 2 percent of the GDP. “The environmental protection industry is very likely to become a pillar industry of the national economy in the next 20 years,” said Fu from the research center at Tsinghua University.

Apple to open largest Asia retail store in Beijing

BEIJING, 19 Oct— A new Apple store scheduled to open on 20 October in Beijing will be the company’s largest retail store in Asia, a senior company official said on Thursday. John Browett, Apple’s senior vice president of retail, said the new store in the Wangfujing shopping district will be the company’s largest store in Asia, with more than 300 employees and a full range of accessories for Apple products. Browett did not say whether the company will offer the iPhone 5 to the media market when the Wangfujing store opens. The Wangfujing store was open to the media for one hour on Thursday morning. The iPhone 5 was not on display at the store, although headphones designed for the phone were on display. Apple is stepping up its efforts to expand its presence in China. Browett said a store in south China’s city of Shenzhen is “just about to open” and “more stores are coming across China.” “We are looking forward to serving every Chinese customer in every city,” said Browett. “But that’s going to take us some time.” Smartphones have overtaken desktop computers as the primary means of accessing the Internet for most Chinese, according to data from the China Internet Network Information Centre (CNNIC). CNNIC data indicates that 388 million Chinese regularly surfed the Internet via their mobile phones as of the end of June. Apple has 390 retail stores around the world. The Wangfujing store is its third in Beijing and sixth on the Chinese mainland.

Japan, Russia make arrangements in Tokyo ahead of summit in East China Sea

TOKYO, 19 Oct— Japan and Russia made arrangements on Friday in a vice ministerial-level meeting for a planned summit in December, with Tokyo hoping to rejuvenate negotiations over a long-running territorial dispute. The meeting in Tokyo was effectively the first working-level talks since Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed in June to reactivate the long-dormant negotiations over the sovereignty of four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido, which are claimed by Japan. In the meeting, Japan’s Deputy Foreign Minister Masataka Saiiki and Russia’s Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov, who is in charge of Asian affairs, were likely to begin work on an agreement that would be concluded at the December summit, according to Japanese officials. —Kyodo News

Nobel laureate Yamanaka wants to use more Japan products in research

TOKYO, 19 Oct— Stem cell researcher Shinya Yamanaka, joint recipient of this year’s Nobel prize in medicine, said on Friday he wants to use more domestic devices and other products in carrying out research in regenerative medicine, and asked the industry ministry to encourage the development of such items. “A large part of the devices and reagents (I am using) are not domestically produced and are made in the United States or elsewhere,” he said. “I feel frustrated about that.” Yamanaka said after meeting with Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yukio Edano in Tokyo.

Five sailors killed as boat capsizes off S Korea’s Jeju Island

SEOUL, 19 Oct— Five sailors were killed on Thursday after a Coast Guard boat carrying them in seas off the south coast of Jeju capsized during a rescue operation for a Malaysian-flagged cargo vessel, the Coast Guard said.

The Coast Guard boat, which was capsized in waters about 27.3 nautical miles off the west coast of Jeju Island at 12:26 pm, was transferring 11 sailors from the ill-fated Malaysian freighter to a rescue ship when high waves turned it over, according to Yonhap News Agency. Three of the dead sailors were from the Philippines, while the two others were Chinese, the Coast Guard said. The Chinese Consulate-General in Jeju has confirmed that two Chinese crew members were killed. The boat was on a rescue mission, with other accompanying vessels, for the Malaysian freighter heading to Singapore, which had sought the Coast Guard’s assistance because it began taking in water, Yonhap said. Six South Korean Coast Guard officers were also aboard the boat. One of the officers lost and later regained consciousness and is receiving treatment at a Jeju hospital, the Coast Guard said. The freighter, which was carrying 13 Chinese and six Filipino sailors, sank at around 3:50 pm, said the Coast Guard.

Market

China to conduct exercise in East China Sea

ZHOUZHAN, ZHEJIANG, 19 Oct— The Chinese navy will conduct a joint exercise in the East China Sea with the country’s fishery administration and marine surveillance agency on Friday, navy sources announced on Thursday. A total of 11 vessels from the Donghai Fleet of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Navy, the fishery administration and marine surveillance agency will take part in the exercise along with eight aircraft, according to a statement from the fleet. The exercise is aimed at improving coordination between the navy and administrative patrol vessels and sharpening their response to emergencies in missions to safeguard territorial sovereignty and maritime interests, the statement said. While carrying out missions in disputed waters, patrol vessels of the fishery administration and marine surveillance agency have been stalked, harassed and even intentionally interfered with by foreign vessels, greatly challenging their duties, it added. During the exercise, administrative vessels will practice patrol voyages with the backup of the navy vessels, and contingency plans will be tested. The PLA navy has conducted several joint exercises with the fishery administration and marine surveillance agency in the past.—Xinhua

The warship “Zhou Shan” sets sail on 18 Oct, 2012. XINHUA
Middle East

US, Israel to test missile defence in joint drill

WASHINGTON, 19 Oct — US and Israeli military will hold a joint exercise next week, with testing missile systems at one of the main objectives. US and Israeli officials announced on Wednesday.

The drill, Exercise Aureste Challenge 2012, will involve more than 3,500 US service members and be conducted throughout Israel and off-shore, US Air Force Lt Gen Craig Franklin and Israel Defence Forces Brig Gen Nitza Nuriel said during a teleconference with reporters. Franklin commands the 3rd Air Force and is the senior US commander for the exercise. Nuriel is the Israeli lead planner.

Franklin said more than 1,000 US military personnel are arriving in Israel for the exercise, and they will be posted in a variety of locations across the country for the next several weeks. The exercise will test the cooperative missile defence of Israel.

US service members will man Patriot anti-missile systems, an Aegis ballistic missile defence ship and various other air defence systems. The Israelis will put more than 1,000 service members into the field and will test the Iron Dome and Arrow systems. The Israelis will also tie the developing David’s Sling system into the scenarios.

According to Nuriel, most of the three-week exercise will be simulation, but some training will entail live-fire. Aureste Challenge 2012 is the largest US-Israeli military exercise to date, and it is the latest in a long line of such exercises.—Xinhua

Canada ups cyber security spending as China worry rises

OTTAWA, 19 Oct — Canada said on Wednesday it will beef up spending on defences against Internet hackers as it grapples with reports of Chinese hacking of Canadian companies and a US warning of the risks of Chinese cyber espionage. The Conservative government will spend an additional C$155 million ($158 million) over five years on strengthening its response centre for dealing with cyber threats in the private sector as well as boosting the security of the government’s own communications. Public Safety Minister Vic Toews announced an increase in funding for cyber security at a community college in Ottawa on Wednesday.—REUTERS

Afghan police kill eight Taleban, arrest 23 within day

KABUL, 19 Oct — Afghan police in conjunction with the national army and NATO-led troops have killed eight Taleban militants and arrested 23 others during series of operations across the country over the past 24 hours, Interior Ministry said in a Press release on Wednesday.

“Afghan National Police, backed by the units of national army and the NATO-led Coalition forces launched seven joint operations in Balikh, Sar-e-Pul, Nangarhar, Helmand, Ghazni, Paktya and Parwan provinces over the past 24 hours which left eight rebels dead and injured another,” the Press release added.

The police also arrested 23 Taleban fighters during the operations, it further said. There were no casualties on the security forces, according to the Press release. Taleban militants fighting the government and NATO-led force are yet to comment.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PHU AN 36 VOY NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHU AN 36 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.10.2012 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.

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.

REPORTING AGENCY
INTERNATIONAL PORTS GROUP LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV JIANG RUI VOY NO (001)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV JIANG RUI VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.10.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (7) 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.

REPORTING AGENCY
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (515)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (515) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.10.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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.

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INTERNATIONAL PORTS GROUP LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGPAKAEW VOY NO (98)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGPAKAEW VOY NO (98) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.10.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
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REPORTING AGENCY
INTERNATIONAL PORTS GROUP LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797
Jennifer Aniston is planning a three-day wedding

NEW DELHI, 19 Oct—The former Friends actress had initially planned a small, intimate ceremony for when she ties the knot with Justin Theroux but the couple’s celebration ideas are growing increasingly more “extravagant”.

A source told the UK edition of Grazia magazine: “What started out as quite low-key is now looking more extravagant. They are still keen on a beach wedding in Hawaii or Mexico towards the end of the year, but Jen wants it to be more like a massive party and, at the moment, it looks like it could stretch over three days. Half of Hollywood will be there too.”

After Jennifer Aniston—who was previously wed to Brad Pitt—showed off her eight-carat emerald-cut diamond for the first time last week, there is now speculation she will break from her usual simple, classic style choices when choosing her wedding dress.

A source said: “The dress is being kept top secret. After Jennifer Aniston—who was previously reported ShowbizSpy. A source said: “The dress is being kept top secret. But now Jen’s debuted this massive ring, it’s kind of set of a precedent so who knows, we could see Jen break from her conservative, simple style and go for a show-stopper of a dress too.”—PTI

I don’t have a physique like James Bond: Daniel Craig

LONDON, 19 Oct—Daniel Craig’s exit from the sea in Casino Royale wearing just a tight-fitting swimming trunks remains one of the most memorable scenes from his run as James Bond. But the actor says it’s not a physique he keeps up in his day-to-day life. The 44-year-old however says it is no big deal to get in Bond shape for the role, reported Access Hollywood.

“It’s just a ball, quite frankly. I mean, I’ve just got to do it. I spoke to a doctor while I was doing the film who said, ‘You’re playing a football match kind of every day, and not getting any rest.’

“Normally, football players would come Saturday or Sunday and take three days off at least. So I was sort of constantly sort of bashed up. So keeping in shape - it was just so I moved — at all,” he said.

In Skyfall Craig has one scene where he’s wearing just a towel, and he says producers let him know ahead of time, so he could prepare.

Demi Moore “jealous and frustrated” by Ashton, Mila romance

LOS ANGELES, 19 Oct—Sources close to her circle say some friends are worried the Ms Moore hasn’t fully recovered. Actress Demi Moore’s friends aren’t convinced she is over her separation with Ashton Kutcher and, if sources are to be believed, she is jealous of his romance with Mila Kunis.

Demi Moore, who will mark her 50th birthday on 11 November, has had an eventful year - her six-year marriage to Ashton Kutcher ended last November in the wake of the actor’s public cheating scandal, she was hospitalised last January, and has since endured intense scrutiny of her well-being. Sources close to her circle say some friends are worried the Ms Moore hasn’t fully recovered. Her reduced frame is raising concerns, while a source reveals “her friends aren’t convinced she’s all better”, reports people.com.

Another source close to Ms Moore says she is “jealous and frustrated” by the Ashton Kutcher-Mila Kunis romance, while an insider says the actress is taking Ashton Kutcher’s cheating the hardest.

“What was humiliating was having her husband cheat on her in such a public way,” the insider said. “But once that happened, she has not looked back.”—Reuters

Angelina Jolie wants to be her children’s friend

LONDON, 19 Oct— Actress Angelina Jolie wants to be her kids’ friend when they grow up.

The 37-year-old, who raises six kids with fiance Brad Pitt, is looking forward to her brood reaching rebellious stages in their lives, though she knows it will be a tough time for the whole family, reported ShowbizSpy.

“I am looking forward to them being teenagers. I am looking forward to them trying to pretend they are not doing anything wrong. I’ll be their friend and I’ll be honest with them and I hope whatever they do through they can talk to me. That’s the best I can do. I’ll try to be as close to them as I am now. So when they get to the point they don’t want to talk to me, they know deep down I love them and we have that relationship.

“It’s tough for everyone those years,” she said. Jolie also said she is much less strict with her sons than daughters. “Brad is more lenient on the girls and I am more lenient on the boys. We can’t quite figure out why that is,” she added.

Robert De Niro has been left homeless after a house fire

NEW DELHI, 19 Oct—The 69-year-old actor and his wife Grace Hightower had to move out of the home in Central West Park in New York City in June after a blaze caused by a lint build-up in a clothes dryer spread across the building.

Despite originally planning to renovate they are now moving out permanently after it was deemed uninhabitable.

They had lined up a $100,000-a-month apartment to rent on the 64th floor of the Park Imperial, but the deal turned sour with Robert claiming it was “misrepresented” to him.

A source told New York Post’s Page Six: “There was an issue with misrepresentation of the apartment and they managed to get out of the lease.

The apartment went back on the market two days ago.

Grace Hightower has also been heard telling friends she and her husband are looking for a five-bedroom rental which has “tons of closet space”.

An eyewitness at the time of the fire — which took an hour to put out — was shocked at how tall the flames were.

The onlooker, who was driving at the time, said: “Right above my head these 12 ft tall flames exploded out of the fifth floor window.”—PTI
**Top seed Dolgopolov stunned by French qualifier in Moscow**

**MOSCOW, 19 Oct—** Qualifier Edouard Roger-Vasselin saved four match points as he stunned top seed Alexandr Dolgopolov of Ukraine 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 in the second round of the Kremlin Cup on Thursday.

The 116th-ranked Frenchman forced a tiebreak after saving two match points on his serve in the 12th game of the third set.

In the tiebreak Roger-Vasselin recovered from 6-4 down to win the last four points, sealing victory when his opponent’s forehand went long.

Roger-Vasselin reached his third quarter-final of the year and now plays Croatian Ivo Karlovic or Russian Alex Bogomolov on Friday.

**Second seed Andreas Seppi of Italy and fourth-seeded Brazilian Thomaz Bellucci also went through.**

Seppi beat Dutchman Igor Sijsling 7-5, 6-2 and Bellucci eliminated Italian Flavio Cipolla 6-4, 6-1. In the women’s event, fourth-seeded Serbian Ana Ivanovic booked her spot in the last eight with a routine 6-1, 6-4 win over Russian qualifier Valeria Solovieva.

“I think she looked nervous, especially in the first set, because it was probably her first big match,” former world number one Ivanovic told reporters.

Edouard Roger-Vasselin

Ivanovic next meets 158th-ranked compatriot Vesna Dolonc. Moscow-born Dolonc, who took Serbian citizenship last year, crushed Romanian Simona Halep 6-1, 6-0 to reach her first quarter-final on the WTA Tour this year. Australian Samantha Stosur, the top seed, begins her campaign against France’s Alize Cornet later on Thursday.—Reuters

Messi the best in the world: Brazil’s Lula

**BUENOS AIRES, 19 Oct—** Barcelona FC striker Lionel Messi is “the best one in the world.” In an interview published on Thursday by Buenos Aires’ local daily “La Nacion”, Lula said he can’t imagine a “worst nightmare” than to see Argentina become champion in Brazil 2014.

“Before we fought to know who was the best, if Maradona or Pelé. And of course Pelé was better. But today, there are no doubts: Messi is the best one in the world,” said Lula, who didn’t mention his fellow citizen Neymar.

**Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Thursday that Argentinean star and Barcelona FC striker Lionel Messi is “the best one in the world.”** In an interview published on Thursday by Buenos Aires’ local daily “La Nacion”, Lula said he can’t imagine a “worst nightmare” than to see Argentina become champion in Brazil 2014.

“Before we fought to know who was the best, if Maradona or Pelé. And of course Pelé was better. But today, there are no doubts: Messi is the best one in the world,” said Lula, who didn’t mention his fellow citizen Neymar.

**BUENOS AIRES, 19 Oct—** For former Brazil defender Ashley Cole, who has just announced his retirement at the age of 37, it was a World Cup to forget.

In a World Cup qualifier on Wednesday, his 99th England cap, against his former club Chelsea’s John Terry, Cole had a chance to shine for his country and his future football career, but instead he is remembered for saying the words “t***s” after being accused of “evolving” his statement supporting team mate John Terry’s defence against the charge he racially abused Queens Park Rangers defender Anton Ferdinand in a game last October.

Cole removed the tweet within hours of posting it and then apologised unreservedly, including a personal apology to FA chairman David Bernstein.

“Chelsea’s Ashley Cole has been fined £90,000 after he admitted a FA charge in relation to a Twitter comment which was improper into disrepute,” the FA said.

“Cole, who had personal hearing, as to his future in the 99th England cap,” the FA said. “Cole removed the tweet within hours of posting it and then apologised unreservedly, including a personal apology to FA chairman David Bernstein.”

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Europe advances towards single banking supervisor

BRUSSELS, 19 Oct — European Union leaders took a big stride towards establishing a single banking supervisor for the euro zone, agreeing it would enter into force next year, opening the way for the bloc’s rescue fund to inject capital directly into ailing banks. European Council President Herman Van Rompuy said the 27 leaders agreed at a Brussels summit to adopt a legal framework by the end of this year giving the European Central Bank overall responsibility for banking supervision. “Once this is agreed, the single supervisor, which could probably be effectively operational in the course of 2013,” he told a news conference after nearly 10 hours of talks.

French and EU officials said all 6,000 banks in the single currency area would gradually come under ECB supervision by 2014, starting with banks receiving state aid, then large cross-border institutions. Most day-to-day oversight would be delegated to national bodies. Creating an effective banking union, for which this deal was a first step, is regarded by some as an essential part of European banking super-vision. Germany has been reluctant to see its politically sensitive savings and cooperative banks come under outside supervision.

Robotic suit made to aid workers in heavy gear at nuclear accident

TOKYO, 19 Oct — A robotic suit developed to help workers wearing heavy protective gear against radiation exposure at nuclear accident sites was unveiled in Tokyo on Thursday. The HAL suit contains radiation-shielding metallic materials and weighs around 70 kilograms, but workers can move freely for a variety of tasks thanks to motors located at joint sections that assist movements, according to maker Cyberdyne Inc., based in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture. The device was developed by a team including Yoshiyuki Sankai, professor at the University of Tsukuba.

Japan’s shiatsu amma therapy getting popular in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 19 Oct — The traditional Japanese healing technique of shiatsu amma is gradually but steadily getting popular in Nepal to the extent that Kathmandu has dozens of copycat ‘Japanese massage’ centers that claim to provide the therapy without actually doing so.

Canada’s top court rules for Glaxo in tax case

OTTAWA, 19 Oct — The Supreme Court of Canada ruled on Thursday in favour of GlaxoSmithKline Plc in a tax case centered on whether the drug conglomerate charged its Canadian unit excessive prices for ingredients so that it could avoid Canadian taxes.

The court confirmed the decisions we took, if Glaxo finds a lasting solution, if Spain recovers funding mechanisms, then we will be done with a situation which weighed on markets and on the confidence in the euro zone,” German Chancellor Angela Merkel said it would take more than a couple of months before the supervisor was fully effective and direct bank recapitalisation could be considered. However, the agreement appeared to be a defeat for German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble’s efforts to delay and limit the scope of European banking super-vision. Germany has been reluctant to see its politically sensitive savings and cooperative banks come under outside supervision.

Japan’s shiatsu amma therapy getting popular in Nepal

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The court ruled unanimously that it was appropriate for Glaxo’s Canadian unit to pay more for drug ingredients than a generic drug maker might pay because of benefits that flow to the unit from its license agreement with GlaxoSmithKline.

The Canadian unit of GlaxoSmithKline lost on one point, and as a result the case will be sent back to tax court to decide what a reasonable price would have been for the Canadian unit to have paid. This price will be seen as higher than what some generic drugmakers would pay.

The ruling “may make it easier for foreign companies to dodge Canadian tax liabilities,” said Art Cockfield, a tax law expert and professor at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario. Multinationals are constantly moving goods, services and assets across borders, with internal payments flowing among subsidiaries. By managing the pricing of transfers, companies can shift profits to low-tax countries from high-tax ones. Transfer pricing management is legal, but sometimes national authorities rule against corporations that push too hard.

Global standards call for setting transfer prices at levels resembling those on the open market. Drug and technology firms with intellectual property easily shifted from one country to another — are often involved in transfer pricing disputes.

The Glaxo case will “substantially influence transfer pricing jurisprudence in Canada — There are a bunch of transfer pricing cases now in the pipeline in Canada,” said Al Meghi, a partner with law firm Omer Hoskin & Harcourt LLP, who represented Glaxo.
Dragonair operates Hong Kong-Yangon-Hong Kong flight

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Oct—According to Skytrax’s annual survey of the world’s airlines in 2010 and 2011, Hong Kong-based Dragonair is the internationally-recognized best regional operator. The airline will operate direct flight to Yangon as of 9 January, 2013.

The airline will operate Hong Kong-Yangon and Yangon-Hong Kong flights. The departure and arrival time for Hong Kong-Yangon is 9.20 pm and 11.35 pm (Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday) and for Yangon-Hong Kong trips, 1 am and 6 pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday). Its plane can seat 36 passengers. The airline operates flights to 39 regional destinations. The newly-launched flight is hoped to contribute to the development of recreation and economic relations between Myanmar and Hong Kong. The number of direct flights to Myanmar has reached 22, including the Dragonair airline. —MNA

Aungbalay consecutive sister numbers prizes introduced K 50,000

YANGON, 19 Oct—On 1 November, 2012, starting from 286th series the awarding of consecutive sister numbers prizes will be introduced and those prize winners will be awarded K 50,000 for each prize for all series, announced by Aungbalay State Lottery Directorate of the Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue.

When launching the consecutive sister numbers prizes, the number 100000 and 100001 with alphabets that did not include in the printing process will be substituted with new prizes.

The distribution number of prizes are K 150 million (one prize), K 100 million (one prize), K 50 million (one prize), K 30 million (four prizes), K 20 million (five prizes) and K 10 million (14 unit) plus extra unit and special prizes totaling 25125.

Commemoration from 286th series, the number of prizes will be further increased to 6131 and the highest prize will be K 150 million and the lowest prize K 50,000, said Aungbalay Directorate. —MNA

US ambassador clarifies humanitarian assistance of US government in Rakhine State

YANGON, 19 Oct—US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell held a press conference on provision of US$ 2.73 million in humanitarian assistance for displaced persons in Rakhine State by United States of America at US Embassy on University Avenue here at 3 pm today.

US ambassador said that recent visits of President U Thein Sein and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi are historic visits. Myanmar-US Human Rights Dialogue held in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 and 17 October further strengthens the amity and mutual understanding between the two countries, US Government assists US$ 2.73 million in line with international humanitarian basic principles.

US Government provided altogether additional US$ 2.73 million including US$ 2 million for United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and US$ 730,000 for United Nations Children’s Fund to the persons who are discharging United Nations responsibilities in Rakhine State. —MNA

US to invite Myanmar to observe military exercise “Cobra Gold”

BANGKOK, 19 Oct—The United States will invite Myanmar to observe “Cobra Gold”, which brings together thousands of American and Thai military personnel and participants from other Asian countries for joint annual maneuvers, officials from countries participating in the exercises told Reuters.

“It’s a significant and symbolic gesture that shows the rapprochement is gathering momentum”, said Christopher Roberts, a security expert at Australia National University.

It is also seen as a first step towards US-Myanmar military-to-military ties, cut off after 1988. The invitation came after intense lobbying by Thailand, co-host of the exercises, the sources said.

The invitation follows a visit this week by a delegation led by Michael Posner, the US State Department’s top human rights official, to Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of Myanmar. The US team also included Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Vikram Singh and other US military officials.

Last year, about 10,000 US military personnel took part, along with about 3,400 Thais. Five other countries participated—Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea and nine countries sent observers, including China. —MNA/Reuters

Water purifier installed in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 19 Oct—A water purifier has been built at Basic Education High School No. 1 in Meiktila for the student consumption.

“Water quality has been tested at Region Health Department. The purifier is supplying purified drinking water to over 4000 students sufficiently. The purifier supplies water to the taps directly with a view to enabling the students to drink clean and hygienic water.

The installation of purifier cost K 10 million. —Kyetmon

Japan’s shiatsu anma therapy getting popular in Nepal

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Murray and Roddick to play on white court in Miami

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