President U Thein Sein meets local media

Government’s actions will be translated into success only through cooperation between the government and media, the fourth estate

It is required to give correct information about government’s actions to the people

Race tightens for Obama, Romney ahead of final debate

Senior Chinese leader arrives in Bangladesh for official visit

Medal tally of region/state troupes at 19th Myanmar National Races’ Traditional Performing Arts Competition (21-10-2012)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Gold Medal</th>
<th>Silver Medal</th>
<th>Bronze Medal</th>
<th>Special Mention</th>
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Sufficient electricity to be supplied to Mohnyin, Mogaung, Hopin, Nannya in Dec

MOHNYIN, 21 Oct.—The local people from in Mohnyin, Mogaung, Hopin and Nannya regions along Myitkyina-Mandalay railroad in Kachin State will enjoy sufficient electricity as of December this year, said Kachin State Minister for Electricity and Industry U Sai Maung Shwe in meeting with local people at the office of Mohnyin District General Administration Department on 15 October.

“The 99-megawatt hydropower plant built on Chipwe creek has completed. The 132 KV power line linking Chipwe, Waingmaw and Myitkyina has been installed. At present, the power line between Myitkyina and Mogauung (Nannya power station) is under installation. In coming December, the local people can be supplied electricity,” he continued.

The 100 miles long Nabao-Mohnyin 66 KV power line has been completed by cent per cent. However, the electricity is yet to be supplied. Thus, the local people consume electricity in rotation from small-scale Namkhamkha and Kalgaihng hydropower stations built in 1990s.

Under the arrangement of Bago Company, Malichaung Power Station at Waingmaw Township supplies electricity to Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships at K 300 per unit for industries, K 160 per household and K 100 per religious organizations.

Women’s Development Centre inspected

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin viewed works of weaving, tailoring and knitting at Women’s Development Centre of Kayah State yesterday.

Show Case Malaysia 2012 opened

The Show Case Malaysia 2012 was opened at Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Yangon on 19 October morning, attended by Yangon Region Social Welfare Department.

Instruction given to athletes

NAY PI TAW, 21 Oct.—Deputy Industry Minister U Thein Aung called for seeking strengths and weaknesses of textile in the market to claim the market share in the competitive market.

Land management coordinated

Central Farmland Management Committee and the Vacant, Virgin and Fallow Land Management Central Committee held the first coordination meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on 17 October.
Race tightens for Obama, Romney ahead of final debate

WASHINGTON, 21 Oct — The race between President Barack Obama and rival Mitt Romney has tightened in the days before their final televised debate, with the Republican closing the gap on Obama’s slight but steady lead in a Reuters/Ipsos online poll.

While opinion polls showed on Saturday the White House race will be determined by electoral votes from a handful of states such as Ohio and Florida that swing, historically, between voters of both parties and Democrats in presidential elections. A RealClearPolitics average of polls on Sunday showed Obama ahead in Ohio by 2.5 percentage points and Romney ahead in Florida by 2.1 percentage points. The precision of Reuters/Ipsos online polls is measured as an 80 percent confidence interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.0 percentage points for likely voters.

Monti expects to see Italy recovery signs within months

WASHINGTON, 21 Oct — The US Special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Marc Grossman, on Saturday started a day-long visit for talks on a range of bilateral issues and peace process in Afghanistan, officials and diplomats said. The Pakistani Foreign Ministry said that the visit is part of the ongoing engagements between the two countries and that the two sides will discuss all issues of mutual interest as well as concern.

The visit comes at a time when the US diplomat efforts for solution of the longstanding Afghanistan problems are gaining momentum as the endgame approaches. Pakistan, Afghanistan and the United States have also an exclusive mandate to push for the reconciliation process in Afghanistan ahead in an increasingly integrated Europe.

Putin flexes muscle in big test of Russia’s nuclear arsenal

WASHINGTON, 21 Oct — Putin speaking during a meeting with members of All Russia People’s Front at the Novo-Oruzhnoye residence outside Moscow, on 18 Oct, 2012. REUTERS

West Bank vote held to help plug Palestinian democracy gap

RAMALLAH, (West Bank), 21 Oct — Palestinians voted in elections in the Israeli-occupied West Bank for the first time in six years on Saturday, but their scant choice of candidates put them out of step with democratic revolutions elsewhere in the Arab world.

While local elections were running uncontested, the election was less meaningful than in previous years. But with Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, who took office when Hamas won a surprise majority in a parliamentary vote in 2006 - an outcome nullified by the civil war that followed a year later - derided the latest poll as “unilateral elections removed from a national consensus”. Fatah finally found time ripe for the repeatedly-delayed local elections.

The party edged out Hamas in university ballots throughout the West Bank earlier this year. Opinion polls show support for the two groups is roughly equal, since it began the uphill task of governing impoverished and crowded Gaza. With Gaza not participating in Saturday’s vote and a majority of West Bank residents living in areas where local council elections are running uncontested, the election was less meaningful than in previous years. But with Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, who took office when Hamas won a surprise majority in a parliamentary vote in 2006 - an outcome nullified by the civil war that followed a year later - derided the latest poll as “unilateral elections removed from a national consensus”. Fatah finally found time ripe for the repeatedly-delayed local elections.

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Science

Genius” inventor Stanford Ovshinsky dies

New York, 21 Oct.—Stanford R. Ovshinsky, the Michigan-based inventor whose development of the nickel-metal hydride battery helped the Toyota Prius become the world’s first successful hybrid car, died on Wednesday evening, aged 89.

Ovshinsky, a self-taught scientist, also developed — and often patented — a wide variety of breakthrough products and processes, from thin-film solar cells to hydrogen fuel cells.

It was his work on the rechargeable NiMH battery, however, that had the broadest reach and greatest impact on consumers.

Until being replaced by more advanced lithium-ion batteries, Ovshinsky’s patented NiMH battery chemistry was used in millions of devices such as laptop computers, digital cameras and mobile phones.

Ovshinsky was often hailed in the scientific community and by the media. In 1987, he was profiled as “Japan’s American Genius” in the PBS television series Nova.

In 1999, Time magazine named him a “Hero for the Planet.” Britain’s Economist magazine in 2006 dubbed Ovshinsky “the Edison of our age.”

Ovshinsky held hundreds of patents in the United States and overseas and was awarded honorary doctoral degrees at least seven schools, including the University of Michigan.

He died on Wednesday evening at his home in New Hope, Pa.

Ovshinsky was often profiled as a key figure in the development of modern technology, from solar cells to hydrogen fuel cells.

Iran capable of launching nano-satellites weighing below 10 kg

TEHRAN, 21 Oct.—Iran Space Agency (ISA) Director Hamid Fazeli said the Islamic republic has the capability to launch nano-satellites weighing below 10 kg into space.

Some of Asian countries and an Austrian university have announced readiness to set their satellites into orbit using Iranian space shuttles, Fazeli was quoted as saying.

He said Iran is among a handful of countries in the world that are capable of developing satellite-related technologies.

In February, Iran launched an observation satellite into orbit. The spacecraft, named Navid (Herald), weighed 50 kg and could take pictures in low altitudes of about 250 km to 375 km from the earth.

Iran, a founding member of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, launched its first domestically-made data-processing satellite, the Omid (Hope), into space in 2009. —Xinhua

Tech

Web-based technology system on food launched in Togo

LEON, 21 Oct.—Togo’s agriculture, livestock and fisheries ministry on Friday launched a web-based information technology system for food and agriculture at the national and sub-national level dubbed CountrySTAT, an official source has said.

The system was launched in collaboration with technical support from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the financial support from the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA).

CountrySTAT is a statistical system that will help to organize, integrate and publish data on food and agriculture. It will provide information in matters such as production, prices, trade and consumption.

The system which was initiated by FAO, is regarded as a rapid window for accessing, through the web, reliable and credible information that will help decision-makers to formulate development policies.

Togo’s Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Minister Ouro Kouka Agadazi said that CountrySTAT-Togo is a tool that was initiated for decision makers and development partners to use in the fight against hunger and poverty in Togo.

He said that it will facilitate planning and decision making in order to accelerate the process of reducing hunger and malnutrition. —Xinhua

HP to end storage resale deal with Violin Memory:

Bloomberg

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 Oct.—HP will wrap up its deal with Violin Memory for an initial public offering, Bloomberg reported.

HP will work with its deal with Violin Memory, one of a growing number of companies selling high-performance solid-state drives, to focus on selling storage machines from 3PAR, which it agreed to buy in 2010 for $2.4 billion, Bloomberg reported, citing an HP spokesman.

HP spokesman Michael Thacker told Reuters: “HP 3PAR is our strategic platform for solid-state storage.”

He declined to comment further.

Violin Memory, which could not be reached for comment, has been planning a stock listing for over a year.

Retrieving data from flash memory chips is much faster and more energy efficient than from hard drives, which read data from spinning metal disks.

While storing data on flash chips is still expensive compared to hard drives, IT executives see the extra cost as worthwhile for functions where speed is important — like operating social media websites or banking transactions.—Reuters

AT&T will boost pension fund with $9.5 billion equity stake

WASHINGTON, 21 Oct.—AT&T said on Friday it will contribute a stake in its wireless business to the company's pension plan worth $9.5 billion in an effort to secure the fund, according to a US Securities and Exchange Commission filing.

AT&T filed for approval for the proposal with the US Department of Labour on Thursday. It said the move would not significantly affect company earnings.

The pension plan was underfunded by about $10.2 billion at the end of 2011, a company official said.

The move follows a similar deal that General Motors Co did with Prudential earlier this year.

The move follows a similar deal that General Motors Co did with Prudential earlier this year.

Microsoft quarterly earnings lower than estimates

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 Oct.—Microsoft on Thursday announced its latest quarterly financial results, with numbers lower than analysts’ expectations.

For the quarter ended on 30 Sept, the software giant reported revenue of $16.01 billion US dollars and 5.31 billion dollars in operating income. Its profit was 4.47 billion dollars or 53 cents in diluted earnings per share (EPS).

The revenue, operating income and EPS decreased by 8 percent, 26 percent and 22 percent respectively from the same period a year earlier.

Analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters gave an average estimate of 16.42 billion dollars in revenue and 56 cents in EPS.

Microsoft said the results were suppressed by an accounting rule that the deferral of some revenue will be regained next quarter.

According to the company, the deferral affected 1.36 billion dollars of revenue and 13 cents of EPS from the Windows Upgrade Offer, pre-sales of Windows 8 to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) prior to general availability and the Office 2013 Cloud.

As the company’s new Windows 8 operat- ing system will be generally available on 26 Oct., the Windows and Windows Live Division of Microsoft posted revenue of 3.24 billion dollars, 33 percent decrease year over year.

“The slowdown in PC demand ahead of the Windows 8 launch resulted in a decline in operating income,” Peter Klein, chief financial officer at Microsoft, said in a statement.

“The launch of Windows 8 is the beginning of a new era at Microsoft,” noted Steve Ballmer, Microsoft’s chief executive officer.

“Investments we’ve made over a number of years are now coming together to create a future of exceptional devices and services, with tremendous opportunity for our customers, developers, and partners,” Ballmer said. —Xinhua
**Like girls, US boys may be hitting puberty earlier**

New York, 21 Oct—Boys in the United States may be entering puberty earlier than in generations past, a new study has found, suggesting it’s not just girls who are developing at younger ages.

In comparisons with decades-old data, boys who were seen for well-child visits between 2005 and 2010 were maturing six months to two years sooner, based on their genital development.

The finding is significant for researchers seeking to understand why the age of puberty may be creeping down. The discovery is also important for parents, who have to know how and when to discuss changing bodies with their children, according to the lead author of the study published online Saturday by the journal Pediatrics.

“They need to talk to their boys earlier than they would have thought about puberty and sexual development and all of those related issues,” said Marcia Herman-Giddens at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Recent studies from the United States and elsewhere have shown that girls are maturing at a younger age, with many same chemicals would be expected to delay sexual maturation in boys. But even if boys are developing earlier than in the past, that doesn’t mean they are more mature socially and psychologically at younger ages, researchers said.

“Now there’s probably a bigger disparity between their physical maturation and their psychosocial maturation,” said Dr Frank Biro, head of adolescent medicine at Cincinnati Children’s Medical Centre, who wasn’t involved in the new analysis. “People are going to interact with them like they’re older,” he told Reuters Health.

For the new study came from 144 US pediatric practices and included 4,131 boys age 6 to 16.

Based on the so-called Tanner stages of development—a technique doctors use to measure how far along in puberty a young person is—genital changes in boys started around the age of 9 or 10, and pubic hair appeared between age 10 and 11 1/2, on average.

A study from the 1950s through 1970s of white boys in England—for which the Tanner scale is named—found boys started genital development at age 11.6, on average. Other data through the 1970s also put the start of genital changes between age 11 and 12, and pubic hair development typically between 12 and 13 —about two years later than in the new study.

**BP, Rosneft set for $25 billion-plus**

**TNK-BP deal**

Moscow, 21 Oct—Rosneft (ROSNEFT) and BP (LSE:BP) are preparing to announce a deal worth over $25 billion that could give the British oil company a stake of between 16 and 20 percent in the state-controlled Russian energy firm, sources familiar with the situation said.

The agreement, which has yet to be finalized but which could be made public on Monday or Tuesday, folds BP’s half of TNK-BP (TNBP.MM), Russia’s third-largest oil company, into Rosneft, in exchange for cash and Rosneft stock.

It allows BP to end a stormy relationship with its partners in the venture, AAR, and to pursue closer ties to a Russian government that exerts a much tighter hold on the oil industry than it did in the 1990s when BP first invested there.

TNK-BPs highly profitable and provides a quarter of BP’s total production, but its fields are mature, and the Soviet-born business tycoon who owns the other half through AAR were in the way of BP’s search for growth in oil-rich Russia through closer ties with Rosneft and its powerful boss.

The deal can be described as having two steps for a single transaction worth in excess of $25 billion, according to one source familiar with a proposal that was put to BP by Rosneft last week. Under step one, BP will receive a 13.4 percent holding of Rosneft’s shares that put the value of the company at around $73.5 billion. It will also receive an amount of cash.

Under step two, BP will use some of that cash to buy more Rosneft stock, as it promised to do at a recent meeting between Sechin and BP’s chief executive Bob Dudley.

That would most likely be sourced from the 75.2 percent stake held by Rosneft’s OAO ROSGUNUL, a state energy-holding company which is also headed by Sechin. The price and amount of shares was still being hammered out at the weekend, but based on a total deal value of $25 billion, a Rosneft stake of 16-20 percent would be worth about $12-15 billion, leaving $10-13 billion in cash, some of which share-holders hope will be returned to them—Reuters

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**China’s FDI inflow continues to drop**

Business

BRUSSELS, 21 Oct—Foreign direct investment (FDI) into China dropped 6.8 percent year-on-year to 83.43 billion US dollars in September, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said Friday.

This is the fourth consecutive monthly drop of the country’s FDI inflow. The figure brought the total FDI inflow for the first nine months of the year to 83.42 billion US dollars, down 3.8 percent year-on-year, said ministry spokesman Shen Danyang. “Investment from developed economies including the European Union (EU), the US and Japan saw both rises and drops, but the drops have narrowed in general,” Shen said.

In the first nine months, investment from the US dropped 0.63 percent year-on-year to 2.37 billion US dollars, down from a 2.9 percent drop in the January-August period.

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Deadly Marburg disease breaks out in southwestern Uganda

Health

KAMPALA, 21 Oct—The deadly Marburg disease has broken out in the southwest- ern Ugandan district of Ka- bale after samples taken to the Uganda Virus Institute tested positive, local media here reported on Friday.

State owned New Vi- sion reported that on Thurs- day police stopped the burial of two family members after it emerged that their family had lost four people from a mysterious disease in just a month.

The Marburg virus was last reported in Uganda in 2008. According to the World Health Organization, Marburg is a severe and highly fatal disease caused by a virus from the same family as the one that causes Ebola hemorrhagic fever.

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Interview: Peru’s coffee producers look to Chinese market

Health

LIMA, 21 Oct—Peruvian coffee producers dreamt of entering the Chinese market and would conduct a feasibility study to that end, a local coffee dealer said.

“We are trying to estab- lish trade ties now by doing a market study,” Julian Aucca Echarre, manager of the Coffee Growers Agrarian Cooperative, told Xinhua in an interview on the sideline of the 2nd Perú Coffee Show 2012 that opened here Thursday.

“It’s important to diver- sify the market, not just sell to the Europeans and to the United States, when we have such a great potential as the Asian market,” he said, underscoring the huge business potential of China, a market of some 1.3 billion people.

The feasibility study of the Chinese market would be complemented with a profile of Chinese consum- ers, he said.

The biggest facilitator of the bilateral coffee trade came from the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two nations that came into force in 2010, Echarre said.

“Establishing closer ties with China helps a lot, especially for non-traditional products,” such as coffee, he said. Echarre, who promotes cultivation and commerciali-
Confusion in Libya over fate of former Gaddafi spokesman

Tripoli, 21 Oct — Libyan militias captured Muammar Gaddafi’s chief spokesman on Saturday, the government said, but an audio clip posted on Facebook purporting to be the voice of Moussa Ibrahim denied his capture. There was no independent verification of the authenticity or timing of the Facebook post, dated on 20 October, a year to the day after the dictator’s death.

A statement from the prime minister’s office said Ibrahim, who was the mouthpiece of the Gadhafi regime during last year’s war, was caught in the town of Tarhouna, 70 km (40 miles) south of Tripoli. “He is being transferred to Tripoli to begin interrogation,” the statement said.

The government has previously made false claims regarding the capture of Gaddafi loyalists, and produced no photographs on Saturday showing Ibrahim in detention. “His whereabouts have been unknown since the fall of the capital in August 2011. The government claimed to have caught him last October but he called Reuters to deny the report. Libya’s new rulers have led the nation to elections but have struggled to impose their authority on a country awash with weapons.”

US says no plans for one-on-one meeting with Iran on nuclear issue

WASHINGTON, 21 Oct — The White House on Saturday denied a report in the New York Times that said the Obama administration had agreed to one-on-one talks with Iran on its nuclear programme. National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vilsack said in a statement that the United States would continue to work with fellow permanent members of the UN Security Council to resolve the issue.

“It’s not true that the United States and Iran have agreed to one-on-one talks on any meeting after the American elections,” the statement said.

“We continue to work with the P-5+1 (five permanent members of the UN Security Council) on a diplomatic solution and have said from the outset that we would be prepared to meet bilaterally.”

London-bound flight searched for bomb at Los Angeles airport

Los Angeles, 21 Oct — A London-bound United Airlines flight was searched at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on Saturday evening after a phone call of bomb threat. The plane was taken to an isolated area at LAX, and a bomb squad with dogs searched the aircraft. The FBI, Los Angeles Police Department and the airport police took part in the search, according to local media reports.

The United Flight 934, a Boeing 777, was scheduled to take off at 6 pm local time (0300 GMT Sunday) for London’s Heathrow Airport. The anonymous phone call was made from a pay phone at 6:16 pm, the reports said.
Entrepreneurs permitted to supply electricity in Mandalay

Private entrepreneurs are allowed to engage in supply of electricity to the local people of Mandalay.

For the first phase, the private electricity supply programme is being undertaken in Mandalay District. To be able to meet supply of standard voltage, 22.11.14 KVA transformers are being installed in wards. In the past, Myanminda, Kanbaya and Hunton wards of Charnnya Ahtai Township could enjoy about 160 volts in the evening.

The Pacific Company permitted to supply electricity extends and repairs power lines and construct power stations for minimizing the waste of electricity. The company announced that it will not change rate of meter bill, and now, the company is making preparations not to cut off the supply of electricity in the summer.

Kyein Pi Chein and owner Yan Kyi Hsan from Lashio to Mandalay.

They seized solid opium oil weighing 881.82 grams from the dashboard.

Nawngkhi Police Station opened files of lawsuit against Yan Kyi Hsan, 20, son of U Yin Hau of Awayian Road in Region 19 of Ward 12 in Kavnong region and Kyein Pi Chein, 22, son of U Kyein Wam Hson of ringroad in region 1 of Monwun China Ward 7 under narcotic drug and psychotropic substance law.

YANGON, 21 Oct—Theadle the training course will be moved to the plot near the taxi-free market on Yamonna Road in Dawbon Township in November with the aim of ensuring convenience of flower lovers, according to the Parks and Playgrounds Department of the Yangon City Development Committee.

In the past, priority was given to allotment of shops to those who wished to sell flowers at the present flower market in Mindhamma Ground.

Africa

This training course will

Farmland Law multiplier course lectured

Officials gave lectures to the trainees. A total of 34 trainees attended the multiplier course. The topics of the books on Farmland, Vacant, Virgin and Fallow Land Management Law and Bylaw were addressed to the trainees.

The law.

In November, Myanmar will be standing at the 155th position which leap up 7 positions above that of Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore.

Among the ASEAN member countries, the Philippines stands 142nd position due to playing tune-up matches.

As Viet Nam plans to play against Turkmenistan, Laos and South Korea (U-23) in the VFF Cup, the former’s standing may be higher. Myanmar National Team won four wins and one draw in the Suzuki Cup qualifier this month. FIFA will issue the standing on 7 November officially.

Match fixtures drawn for MFF AYA Futsal League

Organized by Myanmar Football Federation, the team managers meeting and press conference for the MFF AYA Futsal League 2012, with Ayeyawady Bank as title sponsor and Best Auto as main sponsor was held at MFF Office, here, on 1 pm on 19 October.

General Secretary of Myanmar Football Federation U Tin Aung made a speech.

In charge of the Futsal sport of the federation U Ye Htut Tin, Secretary U Kyi Min Thein and media director U Soe Moe Kyaw explained matters related to the league.

After that, the players drew the match fixtures. Eight Futsal teams will take part in the MFF AYA Futsal League 2012 through two legs system.

The league organizers are looking forward to the participation of the top teams and the national team.

In the past, Myanmar National Team was standing at the 155th position which leap up 7 positions above that of Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. Among the ASEAN member countries, the Philippines stands 142nd position due to playing tune-up matches.

As Vietnam plans to play against Turkmenistan, Laos and South Korea (U-23) in the VFF Cup, the former’s standing may be higher. Myanmar National Team won four wins and one draw in the Suzuki Cup qualifier this month. FIFA will issue the standing on 7 November officially.

MFF AYA Futsal League 2012 in Myanmar

Member Union of ASEAN has only been benefited from the ASEAN Trade, Promotion and Co-operation agreement, the member states must also promote economic and trade between the two countries.

The business conference was organized by the Business Bureau at MFF AYA Futsal League 2012 in Myanmar at Tattamaw Convention Hall, here, from 10 to 10 November.

A total of 3400 entrepreneurs and trade officials will attend the conference to discuss promotion of economic and trade between the two countries.

YANGON, 21 Oct—The aim of promoting bilateral trade, raising investment relations and flowing Vietnamese entrepreneurs into Myanmar, the Ministry of Commerce of Myanmar is organizing the Vietnam Expo 2012 in Myanmar. The Ministry will jointly organize the Vietnam Expo 2012 in Myanmar at Tattamaw Convention Hall, here, from 25 to 28 October.

Among the ASEAN countries, Vietnam is the second biggest economic partner of Myanmar. Vietnam is the ASEAN country which has invested most in Myanmar. In 2012, Vietnam invested more than $500 million in Myanmar.

The business conference will be held at 8 am. On the opening day, tentatively selected Myanmar women’s Futsal team will play against movie stars team in the tune-up match.

The launching ceremony will be held at 8 am. On the opening day, tentatively selected Myanmar women’s Futsal team will play against movie stars team in the tune-up match.

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It is a long history to talk about Myanmar dramatic performance. With a tradition deep in the past, its origin is still the unfinished homework of the researchers. The late professor Dr Hnin Aung in his doctorate dissertation was submitted to the University of Dublin and which was published “Burmae-Drama” in 1937, says that Myanmar drama originated in the ritual performance of spirit mediums [nat kadaws]. Pre-Buddhist belief systems in Burma, such as nature worship, spirit worship, ancestor worship, planet worship, Buddhism imparted those beliefs and they still persist today. Spirit mediums [usually women] reenact the live stories of nat-spirits mostly through the accompaniment of song, music and mimetic actions, appealing to the spectators, and re-affirming their beliefs.

When Buddhism was introduced and well established, jatakas retelling of Buddha’s births at that time were re-enacted in different genres at different periods. The first of its kind, according to Dr Hnin Aung, was “Nipatkhin” which a dumb show, similar to Christmas Pantomime. Major scenes from a well-known jataka were presented without dialogue, action, song, or music by some amature actors in the village on a circle scene on a bulllock cart, followed at the end of the procession, a troupe of village youths playing folk music, songs and performing folk dances. Such Nipatkin took place at annual religious festival.

Later, Kwetseik [drama-tic narration of jataka story by one person assuming all characters’ roles, miming voices, actions, even music] appeared. Next followed Myey Waing Zat, a dramatic performance in a circular patch of ground in the village by a trio of one male actor, one female actress and one male extra with three to five instrumentalists. In the light of torches set around the performance area, any jataka, begging or historical episodes could be re-enacted. A full-fledged drama whether by puppets or human actors developed later.

All Myanmar dramatic performances whether traditional or modern or post-modern are called Zat. Even movies are called Yoke Shin Jat because “Zat” is a derivative of Pali word “jataka” and Myanmar dramas basically were re-enacting jataka stories which are tragic, comic or melodramatic, which have all essential qualities of drama.

Suvannasama Jataka, the story for dramatic performance competition of the 19th Myanmar National Traditional Performing Arts Competitions held in Nay Pyi Taw is the third Buddha’s birth story in the list of the Ten Penultimate lives of the Buddha. These ten stories brought the matter to the Buddha, who explained “Well-done” three times expressing appreciation as well as blessing. What the monk was doing, saying to that monk “Oh monk, you are taking the path I had taken before. Like you, I had taken care of my old parents while living an ascetic life.” Then the monks entreated the Buddha to tell them about his past life. The following is the summary of Suvannasama jataka.

Long long ago, there was a village named Nesada gama, near the city of Veravan. In that village lived a fisherman. In another village across the river was also a fisherman. They were friends and they made promise to marry son and daughter each other. A son named Dukula was born to one fisherman and a daughter Parika was born to other. Monk, the marriage of their son was arranged by the Buddha. When they grew up their parents married them each other as promised. But the married couple visited the temple frequently and they practised Brahmacarya – chaste life with moral precepts. So they went into the forest for reclusion. As they sailed upstream the River Megatama in the Himalayan Forest they came to an island created by Sakka Deva. They moved in and lived as hermits.

One day Sakka Deva forewarned the couple that they should expect an evil hermit like them. The couple expected an evil hermit. The blind hermits (See page 9)

PERSPECTIVES

Myanmar dramatic performance competition
Suvannasama Jataka

At the Jatavana Vibha in the kingdom of Savathi Lord Gotama Buddha narrated Suvannasama Jataka to the monks audience in 125 Pali stanzas. The reason why the Buddha told that story was that there was one monk who was feeding his poor old parents with alm foods he received from donors. Previously his parents were quite wealthy and he was the only son. They consented to the son’s request to become a monk and devoted his life in feeding seed and care of poor. Other monks thinking that feeding alm food to laymen was sinful and they advised them to marry to get a child. The two refused. Sakka Deva prescribed immaculate conception to them not to be Surrey. Then he handed the navel of Parika. A son was born— so handsome that they named him Suvannasama — golden son, who grew up caring his aging parents cherishingly.

One day, during their tramping, when they were starved, a god appeared with some fruits, heavy showers came down. The sheltered under a big tree where there was a snake. Smelling the scent of human, the snake blew out his poisons which immediately entered into the eyes of the two hermits making them totally blind. The worried son feared some mishap had befallen to his old parents. He came out in search of them. Hearing the son’s footsteps the blind parents yelled out warning not to come near them as there was a poisonous snake around them. They wept when they were united. Suvannasama comforted the blind parents vowing that he would look after them. The three were happy at the hermitage while his son seeing to all the needs of his parents. Daily the son went out to gather fruits and bringing water from the river.

King Pilirekha of Beranasi kingdom was so fond of deer meat that he left his kingdom and came out into the forest alone with his bow and arrow to hunt deer and animals. He was a hunter. Suvannasama and his herd of golden deer around him coming to the river to take water. So astonished to see a handsome youth among the wild deers. To find out his identity, human, spirit of the deer. Suvannasama asked Sakka Deva why the blind parents forsook him. Sakka Deva told them the story of his past life. Then the monks entreated the Buddha to tell them about his past life. The following is the summary of Suvannasama jataka.

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One day Sakka Deva forewarned the couple that they should expect an evil hermit like them. The couple expected an evil hermit. The blind hermits (See page 9)
Myanmar dramatic performance...

(continued from page 8)

knowing that the steps were not of their son, asked who the stranger was. The king explained all that had happened and told them that he would take their son’s place to do filial duties. They insisted to take them to their son and he returned to his capital as he was king.

Upon reaching the scene, the blind parents touched their son’s body and they sensed that the son was not dead, only unconscious. So the father at the head and the mother at the feet began praying for the revival of their son. The blind parents and their son returned to this kingdom, because they loved him so much and that he had been guarding for ages. Suvannasama recovered from the wound and the three were happily reunited.

The king after hearing the dhamma from Suvannasama gave up deer hunting and returned to this kingdom, doing good deeds till his death.

In winning up this jataka, the Buddha identified Suvannasama as Gotama Buddha, King Puliretha became his cousin Maha Thera Ananda, the guardian goddess of the forest became Maha Theri Upalavana, Dukula became Maha Thera Kassapa, Parika became Maha Theri Bhudda Kapilani and Sakka Deva became Maha Thera Anuruddha.

Although originated text in Pali of this jataka was silent about the appearance of Bhadda Kapilani and Sakka Deva, the translation of Suvannasama mention the descent of this Deva from his celestial kingdom Tavatimsa to the final scene to perfect the happy ending.

The Buddha illustrated one of the Ten Myanmar traditional arts of speaking with an intention to gain one’s aim called “Oh Ten Hsan Khat” [tactics of expressing oneself in a way appropriate to the situation, just as the right amount of rice should be put into a pot when cooking.]

In the final scene, after the blind parents and the guardian goddess had taken their oaths of truthfulness to revive Suvannasama Sakka Deva came down from Tavatimsa and asked the blind parents to choose only one of the three questions he asked them to answer:

(1) Do you want your son to revive? or
(2) Do you want to regain your eyesight’s? or
(3) Do you want a pot of gold? Whereupon the blind parents gave only one answer.

“We want to see our son with a pot of gold on his shoulder.”

With that stroke of one answer, all three wants were fulfilled. It was Minbu Sayadaw monk U Awntha in the reign of King Bodawpaya [1782-1819 A.D] who started translating Pali Texts of the Ten Pennultimate birth stories of the Buddha into Myanmar. But he could finish only eight jatukas because he passed away. The remaining two Buridat jataka and Suvannasama jataka were translated by his two monk disciples U Nanda and U Toraplan by the royal clerk of King Bagyidaw, Maung Thaik requested the dhamma lecturer Minbu monk U Pannatikha to translate the Pali texts of Suvannasama into Myanmar. For many years, Myanmar translation of Suvannasama jataka was the prescribed text book for the middle schools.

Hailing the 19th Myanmar National Races’ Traditional Performing Arts Competition held in Nay Pyi Taw.

Winners of Performing Arts Competition awarded

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 October—
The prize presentation ceremony of the 19th Myanmar National Races’ Traditional Performing Arts Competition was held at the convention of University of Veterinary Science, here.

U Thaung Nyo and family of Yanink Township in Yangon Region donated K 300,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently.

Motto for nationwide census open to all

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 October—
Motto contest for national census to be taken by the Ministry of Immigration and Population from 30 March to 10 April, 2014 is open for all and the selected motto will be awarded K 300,000.

The outlines for the motto are— it must be able to inform the taking of nationwide census in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; must stimulate the eager anticipation of the entire nation; must represent each and every one in the country is counted; must reflect the vital part of accurate number of population in building new modern developed nation; must enclose the definition of the message and terminological usage.

The rules for the motto are— it must not harm the sovereignty of the nation; it must be short and effective (must not be more than two lines); must not have been sent for any competition before; one can at most five different mottos; must be sent by 14 November, 2012.

The selected motto shall have ownership copyright of Population Department which is vested to use it in all related works of taking census.

The contestants shall send the motto attached with letter of self-acknowledgement, and full contact address to Office No. 40, Population Department, Ministry of Immigration and Population either in person or by express mail and the name of the composer of the selected motto will be announced in dailies with prize-presentation.

Entries invited to country-wide census taking logo competition

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 October—
Participants are invited for logo competition of country-wide census taking by Ministry of Immigration and Population during 30 May-10 April. The winner will deserve K 0.5 million.

The logo must include the following facts:
- must denote the importance of population in implementing important projects or building up a modern developed nation;
- must symbolize amity between national races;
- must describe the content of paintings or graphic design and of colours used;
- should not include other organization’s seal and emblem that undermine the State’s sovereignty;
- must be own creation;
- must be ones that have never been sent to other competition;
- a competitor can send at most three logos;
- it must be sent to Population Department not later than 14 November, 2012.

The selected logo is Population Department’s patent, and the department has rights to use it in country-wide census taking processes. Paintings, graphic design and soft copy (CD) along with admission and full addresses, are to be sent to Office No.48, Population Department, Nay Pyi Taw.

Banking service discussed

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 October—
Pyithu Hluttaw Banks and Monetary Development Committee Chairman U Aung Thaung and a mission led by Deputy Director Chant Enoch, Assistant General Council Barend Jansen and Sector Manager Hormoz Aghdaey from World Bank held a cordial discussion at
Katatni elected as Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood party chief

CAIRO, 21 Oct — The Muslim Brotherhood’s political party, Egypt’s biggest, chose veteran conservative Saad al-Katatni as its new leader on Friday to replace Mohamed Mursi as its new leader on Friday to win majority of votes over the “occupied lands” by the drone (IRGC). Last week, Iran’s only the smallest part of the report was on Friday. The in…

Newark Airpot workers may be fired over improper screening

New York, 21 Oct — Detectives screening officers and supervisors at Newark Liberty International Airport, one of three airports serving New York City, face dismissal or suspension for failing to search baggage properly, the Transportation Security Administration said on Friday. The TSA, in the largest personnel action it has taken at an airport, said it planned to fire 25 workers and suspend another 19 for up to two weeks without pay as a result of an investigation into screening practices at Newark. Eight other employees were fired as part of the same investigation in June. TSA spokesman David Castelvetter could not give details of any security lapses but said that roughly 250 bags affected last November and December were deemed safe by other parts of the screening system, and passenger safety was not threatened. TSA holds all of its employees to the highest professional and ethical standards and has a zero tolerance for misconduct in the workplace, it said in a statement, adding that lapses like this were necessary to ensure public safety.

Air Canadaflight helps rescue Australian sailor

SYDNEY, 21 Oct — A lucky sailor is back on dry land after a Commercial flight from Canada helped find his crippled yacht adrift in rough seas hundreds of miles off the Australian coast, rescue authorities said. The Air Canada flight from Vancouver to Sydney was one of two diverted on Wednesday to look for solo yachtman Glenn Ey, who activated an emergency beacon after his 11-metre (36 foot) yacht flipped and was damaged. The Boeing 777 dropped down to 5,000 feet and cut its speed while the crew peered out and lowered a rescue helicopter to passengers. “As we got to about two to three miles of this yacht, the first officer said ‘there it is, I see it,’” Detective Inspector Anthony Brazzill of Marine Area Command told Australian Associated Press. “Sea and weather conditions were challenging and had been drifiting further and further out to sea. He can consider himself very lucky to be alive.”

Meningitis toll rises; pharmacy owners sued

Boston/New York, 21 Oct — Executives at the Boston-area pharmacy whose steroid shots have been linked to a deadly meningitis outbreak were sued in a bid to freeze their personal assets, while the death toll in the scandal rose to 21, with 268, and the death toll rose to 21, with 268 cases of infection reported. Peter McGrath, a lawyer who is a former federal prosecutor, said he was spearheading a civil case that blames Massachusetts-based NECC and company officers Barry and Lisa Cadden and Greg Conigliaro for the tainted drugs. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of an unnamed plaintiff in Middlesex County Superior Court in suburban Boston, court records show. “We want to pierce the corporate veil and go after the individuals,” McGrath said Friday in a telephone interview. Fourteen new cases of fungal meningitis in patients who received the contaminated shots for back pain were reported on Friday, bringing the total to 268, and the death toll rose to 21, with 268 cases of infection reported. Three potentially contaminated lots of the drug, which shipped to 76 facilities in 23 states. — Reuters

Argentina warns to bring Ghana’s warship seizure to UN

BUENOS AIRES, 21 Oct — Argentine Foreign Minister Hector Timerman warned on Friday that his country would resort to the UN if necessary over Ghana’s seizure of the warship Libertad is “illegal,” because “the warship has immunity established in several international conventions signed by the Republic of Ghana.” Timerman said at a press conference. “Argentina keeps all the options open, but it is necessary to respect the international law and, in case it’s necessary, it will come before the UN.” added the minister. The terror attack started earlier this month when Libertad was detained at the eastern Tema Port during a “good will” mission. On board were 220 crew members as well as 110 students, some of whom are from the US. The move to embargo the ship was sparked by a claim by NML, Capital Limited, which is suing the South African company over its 2002 bond default. Argentine President Cristina Fernandez has refused to pay 20 million US dollars as bail to free the warship and its crew. At Friday’s Press conference, Timerman said that “to negotiate with vultures like this is impossible. They don’t have an option.” — Xinhua

US

Brazil

Argentina

Russia

Meningitis toll rises; pharmacy owners sued

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Russia

Meningitis toll rises; pharmacy owners sued
**Tourism**

**Bangkok**, 21 Oct — The Thai government is now promoting Thailand tourist spots in the country’s southern region lying in the middle and along the shores of the Gulf of Thailand to further invigorate its already flourishing tourism industry.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra was scheduled to leave for Koh Samui Island and nearby coastal areas on the weekend, beginning Saturday’s flight from Bangkok to the world-renowned island resort. After landing at Koh Samui International Airport, the prime minister will proceed by boat to the islands of Koh Phangan and Koh Tao.

On Sunday, she will visit Nakorn Sri Thammarat, the mainland province just across the sea from Koh Samui.

She will then return to Koh Samui where she will preside over a “roving” Cabinet meeting on Monday, according to deputy government spokesman Amorn Ammarawat. The Yingluck government plans to restore and promote the reputed tourist sites on those islands as well as along the shores of the Gulf, including those in Surat Thani, Chumphon, Pattalung, and Nakorn Sri Thammarat provinces, in line with the Yingluck government’s tourism promotion scheme, as part of the government’s tourism promotion scheme, the deputy government spokesman said.

**China**

China plans to improve social services for retired officers

Beijing, 21 Oct — The Chinese government plans to improve social services for retired officers, including those senior and disabled ones, said Sunday’s Xinhua News. The daily newspaper quoted a statement from the Ministry of Civil Affairs as saying that the ministry planned to introduce private nursing and day care services into the services for retired officers so as to improve efficiency.

Elderly retired officers used to be taken care by armed forces but over the past few years they have been gradually handed over to the civilian sector. According to the ministry, more than 240,000 retired officers have been under the civilian care. The government will provide housing and nursing services for them.

**US carrier to pass through waters around Huang’yan Island: media**

Beijing, 21 Oct — Philippine media say the US aircraft carrier, the George Washington, passed through the South China Sea on Saturday, on its way to the Philippines.

The ship will also pass through waters around Huang’yan Island. The aircraft carrier is accompanied by at least two destroyers.

It will arrive in the Philippines on Wednesday, for a four-day visit. The US Embassy in the Philippines says the visit is aimed at improving historic relations between the US and the Philippines.

**China calls for DPRK, ROK to remain calm, restrained**

Beijing, 21 Oct — China on Saturday called for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK) to keep calm and restrained to safeguard the peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

“China expects related parties to remain calm and restrained, not to take provocative or radical actions and jointly safeguard the peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said in a statement.

Hong’s comments came as the Western Front Command of the Korean People’s Army (KPA) on Friday warned that it might fire on a ROK border area where Seoul plans to scatter anti-DPRK leaflets next week while the ROK defense chief said the ROK would wipe out the attackers.

“China is concerned about the development of the issue,” Hong said. As a neighbor, China supports the DPRK and the ROK to resolve the issue through dialogue and consultation, Hong said, stressing China opposes any actions that might escalate the tensions or any military confrontations on the peninsula.

**China-Vietnam bilateral business cooperation expected to strengthen**

Hanoi, 21 Oct — Bilateral trade and investment cooperation between China and Vietnam are expected to strengthen in the future as the two countries have similarities in culture and governance structure, according to Gu Chaoping, chairman of Business Association of China in Vietnam.

In recent interview with Xinhua, Gu, who has been in Vietnam for over ten years, said that he has witnessed many changes on investment environment and policies in Vietnam.

“Infrastructure has improved quickly in the past few years. When I just came here, there were only a few high-rise buildings, but now people can see high and modern buildings looming all over the country,” Gu said.

However, said that Vietnam still has many things to do to further upgrade its infrastructure to meet the demands of its citizens and for businesses to flourish. “For example, it takes at least one hour to travel only 30 kilometers of road, and an hour and a half if there is traffic jam, while in China, we only spend 20 minutes for that distance. This is a big waste of time,” Gu said.

According to Gu, Vietnam also need to further develop its support industries in order to create convenient conditions for businesses. Gu said that the global economic crisis has affected Chinese investments in Vietnam, adding that in the past few years, Chinese investments were in all fields, but now it has shifted from quantity to quality.

Chinese investment in Vietnam now focuses mainly on garment and textile sector with two large-scale companies with investment of over 100 million US dollars and two companies with around 30 million US dollars, Gu said.

Gu said that in the past, Chinese investments were mostly in southern Vietnam but now they are concentrated in the border areas that are closer to China, particularly in the northern provinces of Quang Ninh, Lao Cai, Nam Dinh and Thai Binh.

“High-quality services for retired officers, including those senior and disabled ones, will be made to ensure the living quality of these elderly officers,” Gu said.

Elderly retired officers, especially those serviceless, at very old age or in poor health, are expected to be allocated enough budget and resources for them.

**Xinhua**

Participants compete in the final match of 2012 China Dragon Boat Open Tournament in Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 20 Oct, 2012. A total of 16 teams took part in the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal on Saturday. — Xinhua

**World**

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**People’s Army of Korea (KPA)**

People visit the 30th China Jiangsu International Bicycles Electric Bicycle & Parts Fair in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 20 Oct, 2012. The three-day fair, with the participation of 500 exhibitors from home and abroad, opened here on Saturday. — Xinhua

**China**
**New York, 21 Oct**

News Corp is looking to buy the Los Angeles Times and Chicago Tribune, two of the country’s largest newspapers, when owner Tribune Co emerges from bankruptcy. The paper also reported that News Corp executives are in the early stages of talks with Tribune Co’s CEO Rupert Murdoch has long eyed publishing assets such as its cable networks and two in Chicago. The companies have 30 days to make the offer more attractive, the Nexen decision. Some firms hoping for foreign investment is needed in Malaysia and volatile areas such as Sudan. It also raises doubts over Chinese oil group CNOOC’s US$1.5 billion offer for oil producer Nexen and could weigh on other Canadian firms hoping for foreign investment to tap their vast energy reserves.

**Toronto/Kuala Lumpur, 21 Oct** — Canada has blocked Malaysian state oil firm Petronas’ US$1.7 billion ($5.2 billion) bid for gas producer Progress Energy Resources in a surprise move that could signal problems for a much larger Chinese deal in the country’s energy sector. Canada’s announcement late on Friday, minutes before a deadline, was a blow to Petronas, whose domestic oil supplies are shrinking and which has been seeking to boost its resources beyond Malaysia and volatile areas such as Sudan.

Canada blocks US$5.2 billion Petronas bid for Progress Energy

**Toronto/Kuala Lumpur, 21 Oct** — A passenger bus in southwestern Iran overturned on Friday evening, killing 26 female high school students on board, Iranian media reported on Saturday. Eighteen others were injured when the bus, carrying students from the town of Borujen, flipped on the Izeh-Lordegan road, about 700 km (435 miles) southwest of the capital Teheran, Iranian media reported.

“Travelling at excess speeds on slippery roads was the cause of this accident,” said Colonel Samad Esfandiari, a highway patrol official, told the Iranian Students’ News Agency. The injured were taken to various hospitals in southwest Iran for treatment, state television said.

Road traffic accidents kill nearly 28,000 people and injure or disable 300,000 people a year in Iran, a country of 75 million people, according to statistics from Unicef, the United Nations Children’s Fund. Road accidents occur at a rate 20 times higher than the world average in Iran, Unicef said — Reuters
**Lindsay Lohan is ‘done’ with her father?**

NEW YORK, 21 Oct—Michael Lohan is so worried about his troubled daughter following a number of recent incidents including a high profile with his mother Dina and allegedly failing to show up for post-production work on her movie The Canyons this week that he got together a team of people to try to help her.

Michael reportedly believes the Liz & Dick actress - who has had numerous stints in rehab - has fallen off the wagon but he and those he arrived at her home with were reported for trespassing.

According to gossip website TMZ, a man claiming to be Lindsay’s boyfriend asked the group to leave and he said any problems she may have cannot be solved by her dad.

Michael recently blasted the party-loving crowd that Lindsay has been spending time with in New York City and blames their “misguided morals” for her recent bust-up with her mother - where she accused Dina of being high on cocaine before retracting her claim - and her public spat with a Congressional aide.

Venting in an email to a newspaper, Michael wrote: “I am very upset with the crowd around Lindsay. My advice to ALL the negative influences in Lindsay and my other children’s lives is, this time; you have crossed the line and bitten off a lot more than you can chew!”

“My family will not be subject to your misguided morals and ways! There WILL BE changes!! Just watch. (sic)”

However, the actress has said she is “done” with her father after he betrayed her trust by making public a conversation they had about her with Dina.

Lindsay, 25, insisted: “I told my dad a really hurtful and untruthful lie about my mom. She was not on cocaine.

“Daughters have fights with their moms. It happens a lot. It’s normal.”—PTI

**Alleged Alec Baldwin stalker says Facebook could clear her**

New York, 21 Oct—Canadian actress Genevieve Sabourin said she has been unable to obtain records of her Facebook conversations with American actor Alec Baldwin that would help clear her of stalking charges.

“While appearing before a New York jury (on November 27) without my evidence. I wonder what my chances are of getting a fair trial,” she told AFP on Thursday.

Alec Baldwin filed stalking charges against Sabourin earlier this year, accusing her of sending love-struck emails, asking him to marry her and showing up uninvited at his Manhattan apartment.

Ms Sabourin, who was arrested on April 8 and detained for 36 hours, said the stalking allegations are part of a “misunderstanding.”

Records of their Facebook messages would show that the interest was mutual and reveal the “true nature” of their relationship, she said.

“When I saw that he had begun seeing someone else, I decided to cancel our friendship on Facebook, and because of that I lost the entire content of our conversations.”

She said she had been working with her lawyer to obtain the content from Facebook but to no avail, saying the law did not oblige the social media giant to provide her with evidence she could use to defend herself.

As to US media reports of a “love triangle,” Sabourin said she had been “stoned in the public square.”

“My personal and professional reputation has been completely destroyed,” said the 40-year-old actress.—PTI

**Halle Berry vomited on beau Olivier Martinez**

New York, 21 Oct—Halle Berry vomited on Olivier Martinez’s shoes when they worked together for the first time.

The couple met while working on drama Dark Tide and the Oscar-winning actress - who plays a shark naturalist - was shocked when her boyfriend admitted working on the film was a huge “challenge” because the cast and crew were in such a confined space, which meant preparation was difficult.

She added: "We are out there in the middle of nowhere on a little boat and on most days there are around twenty men and women on that little boat trying to make a movie, with all these tight corners, in a very constricted space. Which is an acting challenge - something I had to learn how to do.

"We had to find a little corner and deal with whatever the process is at that time, and sometimes we couldn’t prepare at all but just have to hit the deck running.” Dark Tide is released on DVD by Revolver Entertainment on 22 October.

**Jennifer Aniston was shocked when Justin Theroux proposed to her**

WASHINGTON, 21 Oct—Justin Theroux’s proposal to Jennifer Aniston was “one of the sneakiest jobs” she has ever seen.

The 43-year-old actress was shocked when her boyfriend of just over a year proposed to her on his birthday in August but admitted she is happier than she has ever been.

She said: “The biggest story right now is that I have a beautiful partner and a lot of joy. Every Single Day. I didn’t know what I wanted for a ring. He just knows what I like. The proposal was one of the sneakiest jobs I’ve ever seen. I had no idea.”

While Jennifer Aniston, who was previously married to Brad Pitt, isn’t giving away any details on the wedding, she doesn’t plan to deviate from her own classic style for the big day.

She explained to People magazine: “A bride should look like herself. Just be yourself. If you try something new, you’ll feel uncomfortable.”

It was recently revealed Jennifer is planning a three-day wedding after initially wanting something quite small. A source said: “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 Jennifer 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.”—PTI

**If I’m satisfied, I’d be creatively dead: Amitabh Bachchan**

NEW DELHI, 21 Oct—Forty-three years in showbiz, over 180 films, national and international honours in his kitty and not to forget a huge fan following - Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan has achieved a lot, but as an actor he never wants to be satisfied. “I think every actor would wish there is some challenge that is left. I would consider to be creatively dead if I were to say that I am satisfied now,” Big B told IANS in an interview in his trademark baritone.

“I think no actor should be ever satisfied because there is always something new to do, something fresh to get challenged by… I do hope there are filmmakers who will challenge me, who will create stories and characters that would excite me enough and provoke me to perhaps take up a job; so, as I said, I hope I never get satisfied,” added the megastar who is called a “living legend” thanks to many milestones in his career.

From flops to stardom, from failure to scaling dizzying heights of success again, he has seen both good and bad times.
Barca win chaotic game to remain eight clear of Real Madrid

MADRID, 21 Oct—FC Barcelona maintained their eight point lead over Real Madrid at the top of the BBVA Primera Liga table in Spain thanks to a thrilling anarcho-5-4 win away to Deportivo la Coruna.

Barca were 3-0 up after just 17 minutes thanks to goals from Jordi Alba, Christian Felloff and Leo Messi. They squandered that lead, with a comeback 2-6 6-3 her a bogey free afternoon. Furyk, one of his Ryder Cup host, birdied his final hole to secure the lead after the third round of the McGladrey Classic at Sea Island.

Furyk and Love III share McGladrey lead

The McGladrey Classic at Sea Island continued at last month’s Ryder Cup when Furyk struggled late against Spain’s Sergio Garcia as the Europeans complete a stunning comeback. Courtesy of his 20 career Tour wins list, Furyk is looking for his first title since 2008.

A 21st win would move him into a tie for 29th place on the all-time wins list with Stoner a distant third with 197.

Argentina striker Barcos leads Palmeiras’ survival fight

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 Oct—Argentina international striker Hernan Barcos scored two second-half goals as Palmeiras kept alive their hopes of avoiding relegation with a 2-0 victory over Cruzeiro on Saturday.

Barcos gave the home side the lead in the 66th minute by heading in Marcos Assuncao’s lobbed cross before doubling his tally 10 minutes later by dribbling inside the area and chipping over goalkeeper Fabio. The victory is Palmeiras’ second in four days and lifts the club to 17th place in Brazil’s Serie A standings, four points from 16th-placed Bahia. Teams finishing from 17th to 20th will be relegated to Brazil’s Serie B.

“The most important thing is that Palmeiras win,” delighted Barcos said after the match.

“Nobody believes the team is going to go down,” he said. “We are confident that we can get ourselves out of this situation.” Barcos, capped three times by Argentina, has now taken his season tally to 25 goals across all competitions.—Xinhua

Argentine striker Barcos leads Palmeiras’ survival fight

Heman Barcos

Argentina striker Hernan Barcos leads Palmeiras’ survival fight

Record lap puts Lorenzo on pole in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 Oct—Jorge Lorenzo’s record-shattering late burst put the MotoGP championship leader on pole position for Sunday’s Malaysian Grand Prix at the Sepang International Circuit.

The Yamaha rider cranked up the pace in the closing stages of Saturday’s session to clock a record lap of two minutes 0.334 seconds and snatch his seventh pole position of the season ahead of title-rival and fellow Spaniard Dani Pedrosa (2:00.528).

While it was unannounced Andrea Dovizioso (2:00.567) briefly held provisional pole in a thrilling qualifying session before finishing third on the timesheets to seal the front row on the front row.

Australian world champion Casey Stoner (2:00.811), still lacking speed following an ankle injury, struggled with the set-up of his Honda but still heads the second row, ahead of the Yamaha duo of Briton Cal Crutchlow and American Ben Spies. Lorenzo leads the championship standings on 310 points to Pedrosa’s 282

Motorcycling


Example: Argentina striker Hernan Barcos

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Motorcycling


China welcomes UN, AL leaders’ call for Syria ceasefire

BEIRUT, 21 Oct—China on Saturday said it welcomes the statement by leaders of the United Nations and the League of Arab States (AL) which called for a ceasefire in conflict-torn Syria during the upcoming Islamic Festival of Eid al-Adha.

"China welcomes and supports the statement by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and AL Secretary-General Nabil El-Arabi, which appealed to all parties in Syria to heed the call of the Joint Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi for a ceasefire during the period of Eid al-Adha," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said in a statement.

Hong said ceasefire and cessation of all violence is the top priority to resolve the Syrian issue.

"We urge all parties in Syria to take into account the fundamental and long-term interests of the nation and the people, respond to and implement the call for ceasefire so as to avoid any bloodshed and start the political dialogue and political transition at an early date," Hong said.

Xinhua

Guyana backs Cuba against US embargo

### Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham leaves for Cambodia to attend former Cambodian King’s funeral

**Yangon, 21 Oct.—** Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham left here for Cambodia by air to attend the funeral of former Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk this morning.

The Vice-President and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and officials, and Charge d’Affaires ai of Cambodian Embassy in Myanmar Mrs. Toot Kunthea.

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### Slight earthquake jolts outside Myanmar

**Yangon, 21 Oct.—** A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.9 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar near Andaman Island, India about 220 miles South of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 14 hrs 24 mins 45 secs M.S. Tuesday, Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced.

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### Taniguchi defends Bridgestone Open title with last-gasp eagle

**Chiba, 21 Oct.—** Toru Taniguchi drained a dramatic eagle on the last hole to come from behind and successfully defend his title at the Bridgestone Open on Sunday.

The 44-year-old started the day one shot behind fellow veteran Hiroiuki Fujita and South Korea’s Lee Dong Hwan, but a final-round 66 at the par-71 Sodegaura Country Club in Chiba was enough to give Taniguchi a one-shot victory and his second title of the season.

His 19th career victory on the JGTO Tour earned him 30 million yen. Taniguchi took the lead at the 12th hole after making four birdies against no bogeys, but he allowed Fujita to regain top spot after consecutive bogeys from the 13th.

“First the day I have tasted a victory like this. I am delighted,” said Taniguchi, whose win moved him into second on the money list behind Fujiita.

“When I hit the shot (for eagle) I couldn’t see because of the light but realized it had gone in when the cheers went up.—Kyodo News

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### Performing Arts Competition resumes

**Yangon, 21 Oct.—** A prize presentation for the Ngwehsaung Zone Photo Show organized by Myanmar Hoteliers Association was held on the first floor of DagonCentre-2 in Myenigon Sangyoung Township yesterday.

The first prize went to Ma Lin Phyu Phyu, the second to Frankie TunTin and the third to Kyaw Zaw Lay.

There were consolation prizes awarded to the respective winners.

The photo show was held for the fourth time with the aim of attracting public attention to the beauties of Ngwehsaung Beach.

In the Ms Ngwehsaung Contest, Po Ei Phyu Sin secured the first prize in 2011.

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### Works depicting picturesque scenes of Ngwehsaung awarded

The ongoing performing arts competitions are Maha Gita, modern song contest, old song contest, Donnin, Orchestra, Medolin, Xylophone, Oboe, Guitar, piano, marriott contest and Thuwana Thama Jataka contest.

The interim prize presentation during the competition is first-ever for prize winners. It is used to award to prize winners after the competition at the former Yeizin University Campus from 22 to 24 October.

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### Kozuka leapfrogs Hanyu as Japan sweeps podium at Skate America

**Washington, 21 Oct.—** Takahiko Kozuka took advantage of a mistake-filled free programme from Yuzuru Hanyu to win the Skate America for his fourth Grand Prix victory as Japan swept the podium in the season-opening event Saturday.

A night after setting the world record in the short programme, the 17-year-old Hanyu slipped to place third in the free as Kozuka had a clean skate for a total of 251.44 points, winning on the Grand Prix circuit for the first time in two seasons.

Hanyu still managed second with a 229.95, in the free and fourth in the competition has been held at designated places in Yeizin University Campus from 22 to 24 October.

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