Tugboat and small vessels handed over to MPA

Yangon, 20 Sept — The Myanmar Port Authority has strengthened its services with a tugboat and two garbage boats to accelerate its maritime trade. — MNA

Free counseling services to rural people with mental problems

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

Yangon, 20 Sept — The Myanmar Psychological Association (MPA) organized its first lay counselling training workshop on Saturday in Yangon, aiming to provide free counselling services to rural people faced with psychological problems.

U Saw Wai, Chairman of MPA, said that over 20 trainee teachers from universities enrolled in the training, adding that plans are underway to conduct more lay counselling trainings and educative talks across the country.

The association is now arranging to disseminate (See page 3)

Union ministers discuss plans on development of reading habits in rural areas

Terrorism is enemy of the nation

Burden is too heavy for children

“Annual General Meeting” of a public company

Union ministers discuss plans on development of reading habits in rural areas

Terrorism is enemy of the nation

Burden is too heavy for children

“Annual General Meeting” of a public company

FM programmes can now be tuned in 13 cities

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 Sept — Myanmar Radio’s programmes have been transmitted through FM system to 11 cities — Sagaing, Lashio, Nay Pyi Taw (Pyinmana), Mawlamyine, Pathein, Popa, Bago, Loikaw, Myeik, Minbu and Sittway — out of 15 as a first step. Now the programmes are being transmitted from Botshlang/ Maungtaw and Yanbya (Peinnetaung) retransmission stations starting from 16 September. — MNA

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Nay Pyi Taw, 20 Sept — Myanmar Buddhists decorate pagodas and stupas, Dhammayon, monasteries, housing, shops and shops with multi-coloured electronic lights and lanterns as the Fullmoon day of Thadingyut is drawing near. Their acts dedicate to offering lights to the Lord Buddha in line with the Buddhology.

Now, lantern shops selling various sizes and colour mushroom one after another in Pyinmana of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, and demand of lanterns is higher day by day.

The vendors sell their products at Ky600 per lantern in minimum and Ky15,000 in maximum.

Shwe Kokko

Kayah State officials discuss employment and human resources

Loikaw, 20 Sept — The Employment and Human Resources Development Subcommittee held a meeting with departmental officials, members of social organizations and entrepreneurs of Kayah State at the hall of the state government in Loikaw on Friday.

Chairman of the subcommittee Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Htin Aung and Kayah State Minister for Planning and Economic U Tawh Yei made speeches. Director of the Labour Department U Aung Htay Win explained endeavours of the subcommittee over employment and human resources.

The meeting ended with remarks by the deputy minister who replied to queries raised by attendees.—Kayah State IPRD

Relief items, foodstuffs donated to flood victims in Palauk

Palauk, 20 Sept — A ceremony to donate supply items to flood victims was held in Pyichar Village of Palauk Township in Taninthayi Region on 18 September. The Taninthayi Region Minister, the deputy commissioner of the district, departmental officials, NGOs and well-wishers donated 38 bags of rice and foodstuffs worth K794,500, Alinyaungchi (Dawei) Group relief items, KDN Group K1 million and Myeik Sasana Area (Head Office) K500,000 and personal goods to 91 flood victim households.

Palauk IPRD

Capacity of war veterans enhanced in training

Mandalay, 20 Sept — The advanced organizers course No 33/2014 conducted by Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee, concluded at the war veterans training school (Mandalay) in Yadagunthesing area of Pathein Township of Mandalay on Friday.

After delivering an address, Commandant of the training school Lt-Col Ye Lwin (Rtd) presented certificates to the trainees and presented first, second and third prizes to the outstanding trainees. Altogether 50 trainees from regions and states attended the four-week course.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)
Union ministers discuss plans on development of reading habits in rural areas

UNION Minister for Cooperative U Kyaw Hsan elaborates on sustainable development of libraries.

YANGON, 20 Sept—As part of the effort to promote sustainable development of libraries, Union Minister for Cooperative U Kyaw Hsan met the chairman and executive members of Myanmar Libraries Foundation on Saturday in Yangon. They discussed ways to enhance reading habits in rural areas, development of village libraries and publications of children’s literature in countries for joint training sessions.

Deputy minister for sports looks into training sessions for 28th SEA Games

NAV Pyi Taw, 20 September—The Deputy Minister for Sports U Zaw Win viewed the training sessions of Myanmar sports teams at Wunna Theikdi Stadium here on Saturday. The selected athletes are being prepared for the 28th SEA Games which will be held in Singapore from 5 to 16 June in 2015. The deputy minister said that Myanmar will send the athletes to foreign countries for joint training sessions.

Nestle expands its market in Myanmar

YANGON, 20 Sept—The Nestle Myanmar in partnership with the Myanmar Distribution Group introduced a programme called Nestle Trade Launch 2014 at the Sedona Hotel here on 19 September, sources said.

The joint programme is expected to create more jobs as Nestle is going to distribute wholesome food-stuff on a wider scale, according to Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.

New Light of Myanmar Sunday, 21 September, 2014 | 3

Comments on Reading Habit

The status of literature in a country reveals the civilization standard of its people. The increasing number of reader population is one of the reasons for the development of a country.

In this connection, Myanmar Libraries Foundation is making inserted efforts to accelerate the reading habits of people across the country and to ensure sustainable development of libraries by joining hands with relevant ministries.

Union minister for Cooperative, Union Minister for Information and members of Myanmar Libraries Foundation brainstormed the plans on the development of reading habits in the country. The followings are the excerpts of discussions made by some members of MLF public. Even if we could successfully make one or two messages out of ten, our mission is successful.

We have grown up with reading child comic books such as Shwe Thway, Aaur, Tayza and Do Kyang Thar which could lead us to a right way. In modern time, the children are addicted to TV games, while the adults are attaching to social media such as Facebook, I am not a conservative. But I want to suggest that everybody should consider about the possible benefits from modern technology.

By: Nandar Win
Photo: Ye Htut

Lamin Mo Mo (Writer)

Members of Committee for Myanmar Libraries Foundation

I am of the view that the reading habit is declining in our country. I have to start this practice by reading pictorial books when I was in childhood.

During these days, few people read the books of aesthetic enjoyment which can help develop the positive mindset of the reader. I will take part in the educative programmes.

U Ye Htet Oo (Actor)

Member of Central Committee for Myanmar Libraries Foundation

Our foundation is striving for the sustainable development of libraries through incentives for the young people to develop reading habits.

I have founded a library named ‘Thara Par’. I was established in January 2009 in Lamataw Township, Yangon. Our foundation has taken part in relief programmes to give message that libraries are not only the place for reading, but also the community centre and community space.

Myanmar Libraries Foundation was first established in 2010, and it has set up 5,982 libraries in both rural and urban areas.

Free counseling services to... (from page 1)

knowledge on psychology through broadcast media like MRTV, he added.

MPA Secretary U Hla Myint said that the association was founded in 2013 with qualified academics and professional psychologists to provide industrial and organizational services for job hunters, parents and teachers.

The MPA tries to change public attitude to psychotherapists as most Myanmar people tend to recognize psychology as insane, which is the main challenge for the association to tackle with, Patron of MPA Clinical Psychologist Dr Nyi Win Hman said.

In order to produce more psychologists across the country, the MPA has plans to provide scholarships to outstanding students.

MPA’s chairman said that psychotherapy plays a key role in reducing mental illness, which is a global health problem. He quoted a police record as stating that more than 6,000 people in Myanmar commit suicide every year.

A World Health Organization survey shows that more than 800,000 people annually commit suicide worldwide.—NLM

NATIONAL
Storm leaves 200,000 displaced in Philippines, heads for Taiwan

MANILA, 20 Sept — Storm Fung-Wong churned towards Taiwan on Saturday after killing at least five people in the Philippines, and forcing some 200,000 people into temporary shelter, including in the capital Manila, to escape massive flooding.

Most schools on the main island of Luzon remained closed for a second day as a huge mopping-up operation began. Some public offices have reopened.

“Some of our things are buried in mud, it will take awhile to clean up,” a resident in Marikina City told Reuters while clearing up layers of mud and debris inside their residence.

Residents take shelter at an evacuation centre for flood victims a day after tropical storm Fung-Wong inundated the Philippine capital Manila on 20 Sept, 2014. — Reuters

Fung-Wong, locally known as “Mario” centre is currently around 137 km northeast of Laoag City in the Ilocos Province in the north. It was expected to be at 647 kms north of Batanes on Monday, outside the Philippine area of responsibility.

Alexander Pama, executive-director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, said five people died, including a two-year-old girl who drowned in the capital. Two were electrocuted while wading in flood waters.

Pama said seven people were injured and one more was still missing in floods.

A boat capsized in the central Philippines but all 53 crew and passengers were rescued by the navy, Pama said.

Officials have declared a state of calamity in some areas in the capital and in Cebu City in the central Philippines due to floods, that have left some parts of the city 2 metres underwater.

Trading on the city’s stock exchange and local currency market was suspended on Friday and will resume on Monday. At least 40 domestic flights were grounded and six international flights were diverted by civil aviation authorities.

More than 700,000 people were affected by the storm and about 200,000 people were forced out from their homes and staying in shelter areas, disaster officials said.

Pama said some residents were rescued perching on their roofs or trapped inside their homes in Marikina and Quezon City. More than 300 areas in seven regions in the country were flooded.

Tropical storms regularly hit the Philippines, with Fung-Wong the second to hit in two weeks.

Last year, typhoon Haiyan struck in the central Philippines, killing more than 6,300 people. An average of 20 typhoons hit the country every year. — Reuters

Top rice exporter India importing over 100,000 T on temporary supply squeeze

New Delhi, 20 Sept — India, the world’s top rice exporter, is preparing to import the grain for the first time in nearly a quarter of a century to feed its remote and hilly northeastern region where rail freight is being disrupted due to a track overhead.

The country will import more than 100,000 tonnes of rice from neighbouring Myanmar over the next several months, likely spread out across 10,000-30,000 tonnes to meet demand, government officials said. The imported rice and grain from domestic stocks will be distributed to the northeast region through Bangladesh’s Ashuganj port, the officials said.

The imports and the distribution arrangement underscores the extensive challenges India faces as it tries to become a regional agricultural powerhouse. But the quantities are too small to shake up the rice market.

India took the crown as the world’s top rice exporter in 2012, with nearly 10 million tonnes of annual overseas sales since then. It last imported rice in the early 1990s. The country is undertaking the first major overhaul of the region’s rail infrastructure since the British laid tracks there nearly 100 years ago. The broadening of the railway gauge will start in October and is likely to be completed in April 2015. The states of Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, and parts of Assam state, which normally receive their grain supplies from the northern plains of India, look set to be impacted the most by the work, the officials said. Rice is the staple food of the region, with consumption estimated at 80,000 tonnes a month.

Bringing in the grain via Bangladesh, which is only a few hundred kilometres from the cut-off locations, is expected to be cost effective and less susceptible to delays than hauling it by truck across more than 1,000 km (621 miles) of mountain roads from traditional supply centres.

State-run Food Corporation of India (FCI), the main grains procurement agency, uses railway wagons to supply rice and other grains to the northeastern states. But in the absence of modern broad gauge railway tracks, supplies beyond Silchar in Assam frequently get delayed and disrupted.

Reuter

A labourer speaks on a mobile phone while lying on sacks filled with rice at the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) market yard, on the outskirts of Ahmedabad on 29 July, 2014. — Reuters

ASEAN members committed to strengthening healthcare cooperation

HANOI, 20 Sept — Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have committed themselves to strengthening healthcare cooperation with a vision of “A Healthy, Caring and Sustainable ASEAN Community.”

The commitment was stated in a joint statement adopted at the 12th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting which was held in Vietnam’s capital Hanoi from Monday to Friday.

In the joint statement, ASEAN members will strengthen cooperation in various fields, including promoting healthy lifestyle, responding to all hazards and emerging threats, strengthening health system and access to care, as well as ensuring food safety.

ASEAN members pledged to strengthen primary healthcare in order to achieve universal health coverage and increase access to primary healthcare for ASEAN people, prevent and control non-communicable diseases and newly-emerging infectious ones, and set up a sustainable and effective health financing system.

Meanwhile, ministers and heads of delegations responsible for health of ASEAN members plus three partners of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea have committed themselves to strengthening cooperation in areas of traditional medicine, healthcare-related issues of aging, pandemic preparedness and response, communicable diseases and emerging infectious diseases.

In addition, the ASEAN-China Health Ministers Meeting also released a joint statement noting ASEAN-China cooperation in communicable disease prevention and control, especially the collaboration on malaria, dengue fever, HIV/AIDS, and plague prevention and control in border areas, as well as prevention of newly emerging infectious diseases such as Ebola, H7N9, H5N1, and MERS-CoV.

The 12th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting and related meetings took place in Hanoi from Monday to Friday with the participation of some 450 delegates.
Iran, six major world powers start new round of nuclear talks in New York

United Nations, 20 Sept — Iran and six other major countries started a new round of talks towards a comprehensive agreement on its nuclear programme at the United Nations headquarters in New York on Friday. There was a hiatus after Iran and the six major world powers, namely the United States, China, Russia, Britain, France, plus Germany, met in July.

The talks are expected to last until 26 September.

“The six powers and Iran all showed willingness to reach the agreement as soon as possible,” said Wang Min, chief negotiator of the Chinese delegation, before the talks started.

Other attendees for the negotiations also included EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif.

In July, Iran and the six countries agreed to extend the negotiations over Iran’s controversial nuclear programme for another four months till 24 November as they could not narrow down the significant gaps on core issues during the past six months. An interim deal, which took effect on 20 January, was designed to buy time for negotiations.

Under the deal, Iran would suspend some sensitive nuclear activities in exchange for a limited sanction relief.

Wang said the negotiation has entered “the final key stage” and urged all sides to cherish the present opportunity and push for “concrete progress” in this new round of talks.

French jets strike in Iraq, expanding US-led campaign against Islamic State

Baghdad /Paris, 20 Sept — French jets struck a suspected Islamic State target in Iraq for the first time on Friday, expanding a US-led military campaign against militants who have seized a third of the country and also control large parts of neighbouring Syria.

President Francois Hollande said Rafale jets hit “a logistics depot of the terrorists” near the city of Mosul, which has been held by Islamic State for more than three months. It promised more operations in coming days.

The French military action, which follows US air strikes in northern Iraq and near the capital Baghdad, appeared to win qualified endorsement from Iraq’s top Shi’ite leader Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. In a Friday sermon, delivered by one of his aides, the elderly cleric acknowledged Iraq needed foreign help but said Iraq must not become subservient to outside powers.

“Even if Iraq is in need of help from its brothers and friends in fighting black terrorism, maintaining the sovereignty and independ-ence of its decisions is of the highest importance,” Sistani’s spokesman Sheikh Abdul Mehdi Karbala’i said.

Sistani speaks for millions of Iraq’s majority Shi’ites and has a world-wide following.

Islamic State fighters, who have controlled much of Syria’s eastern oil and agricultural provinces for more than a year, swept through mainly Sunni Muslim regions of north Iraq in mid-June, seizing cities including Mosul and Tikrit and halting only a few dozen miles (km) north of the capital Baghdad.

Iraq’s army and Shi’ite militia forces have battled the Islamic State and other Sunni militants, but failed to make significant territorial gains. Car bombs, some of them claimed by Islamic State, have been a near daily occurrence in the capital. On Friday, two car bombs killed nine people in Baghdad and a bomb in the majority Kurdish city of Kirkuk in the north killed eight people, security sources said.

Kurdish leader urges world to protect Syrian town from Islamic State

Derek, (Turkey), 20 Sept — Iraqi Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani called on Friday for international intervention to protect a Kurdish town in neighbouring Syria from Islamic State fighters who have forced many Syrian Kurds to flee across the border into Turkey.

Thousands of Kurds crossed the frontier on Friday, fearing an imminent attack on the border town of Ayn al-Arab, known as Kobani in Kurdish, as Islamic State (IS) fighters advanced after seizing dozens of nearby villages over the past two days.

“I call on the international community to use every means as soon as possible to protect Kobani,” Barzani, the president of Iraq’s autonomous Kurdish region, said in a statement. “IS terrorists must be hit and destroyed wherever they are. The United States is drawing up plans for military action in Syria against the radical Sunni Muslim group which has seized swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq, proclaiming a caliphate in the heart of the Middle East.

IS gains have set back efforts by Kurds to exploit the three-year-old civil war in Syria and carve out regions of their own in the northeast of Iraq.

The violence is also a headache for neighbouring Turkey, which is already sheltering more than 1.3 million Syrian refugees and fears hundreds of thousands more, waiting in the mountains on the Syrian side of the 900-km (560-mile) border, could seek to cross as fighting escalates.—Reuters

Turkish security forces stand guard as Syrians wait behind the border fences near the southeastern town of Suruc in Sanliurfa Province on 18 Sept, 2014.—Reuters

UNSG’s Message on The International Day of Peace

21 September 2014

Today is the International Day of Peace.

Every year, on this day, the United Nations calls for a global ceasefire.

We ask combatants to put down their arms so all can breathe the air of peace.

Armed conflict causes untold grief to families, communities and entire countries.

Too many are suffering today at the brutal hands of warmongers and terrorists.

Let us stand with them in solidarity.

Peace and security are essential foundations for social progress and sustainable development.

That is why, three decades ago, the United Nations affirmed the right of peoples to peace.

Throughout the coming year, we will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations.

Our organization is founded on the pledge to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

We have made much progress.

But much remains to be done.

We must douse the fires of extremism and tackle the root causes of conflict.

Peace is a long road that we must travel together — step by step, beginning today.

Let us all observe a minute of silence, at noon.

Let us all reflect on peace — and what it means for our human family.

Let us hold it in our hearts and minds and tenderly nurture it so it may grow and blossom.

Wang Min (C), head of the Chinese delegation, takes part in discussions with other officials from Iran, the P5+1 — (Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States plus Germany) and the European Union before starting their negotiation over Iran’s nuclear programme, at the UN headquarters in New York, on 19 Sept, 2014.—Xinhua

Two French Rafale fighter jets fly in formation during a mission from Al-Dhafra airbase on 18 Sept, 2014 in this handout image provided by ECPAD.—Reuters

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It's Renzi, unions clash over cuts, labour reforms

ROME, 20 Sept — Italian public sector workers on Friday announced plans for a one-day demonstration on 8 November against spending cuts and a public administration overhaul as verbal sparring increased between the unions and Prime Minister Matteo Renzi.

The country’s three main union confederations, the CGIL, CISL and UIL, said they would be protest ing against “five years of forced cuts and pay freezes and more than 10 of hiring freezes”. “The system is close to collapse while spending keeps going up despite welfare cuts and the heavy price paid by public service workers,” the unions said in a joint statement. 

On 8 November, we will all be on the streets in Rome, all together to defy this government of illusions and division,” they said. Separately, Italy’s big gest metalworkers union, the FIOM, announced it would hold a nationwide demonstration in Rome on 18 October to protest against Renzi’s plans to overhaul labour laws and ease firing restrictions. Tension has built up in recent weeks between Renzi and the unions, who accuse the centre-left leader of purs uing right-wing policies and wanting to make working class people pay the cost of spending cuts and unemploy ment.

On Friday, Renzi hit back, saying in a video posted on Youtube that the unions cared little about the jobless and carried much more weight for themselves than for the responsibility for a youth unemployment rate of around 43 percent. “Where were you during all these years when Italy’s greatest injustice was developing: the injustice between those who have jobs and those who don’t, between those who have permanent contracts and those who have temporary ones?” Renzi said. — Reuters

US won’t stand in way of Venezuela’s UN Security Council bid

UNITED NATIONS / WASHINGTON, 20 Sept — The United States will not stand in the way of Venezuela securing a temporary seat on the UN Security Council in 2015-16 among Latin American and Caribbean states unanimously endorsed its bid, UN diplomats and US sources say.

The US stance is in sharp contrast to its position in 2006, when Washington successfully campaigned against Ven ezuela’s drive to join the 15-nation council, the only US presidential candidate of that year who had opposed the move.

Washington, however, is clearly unhappy with the idea of Venezuela joining the Security Council, which has the task of overseeing international peace and security.

“Regional groups have a responsibility to put forward candidate countries that support the principles of the UN Charter, contribute to the Security Council’s role in maintaining international peace and security, and uphold and advance human rights,” said Kurtis Cooper, deputy spokesman for the US mission to the United Nations.

“Our concerns with regard to Venezuela’s record on human rights and democratic governance are well known,” Cooper added. He declined to comment on any diplomatic discussions that might be going on behind the scenes.

Acclaiming Venezuelan officials of abuses in a crackdown on recent protests against Chavez’s successor, President Nicolas Maduro, Washington has barred some Venezuelan government ministers and presidential advisers from entering the United States. Venezuela will likely use the council seat as a platform to aggressively back allies such as Syria and Russia in their diplomatic wrangling with the United States, part of its broader effort to continue the anti-Washington foreign policy of late socialist leader Chavez.

It has even named the Chavez’s daughter, Maria Gabriela Chavez, as its alternate ambassador to the United Nations. — Reuters

United States says role for Iran in tackling Islamic State

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Sept. — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Friday that Iran had a role to play in a global coalition to tackle Islamic State militants who have seized swathes of Iraq and Syria and proclaimed a caliphate in the heart of the Middle East.

“The coalition required to eliminate ISIL (Islamic State) is not only, or even primarily, military in nature,” Kerry told a United Nations Security Council meeting on Iraq. “It must be comprehensive and include close collaboration across multiple lines of effort. It’s about taking out an entire network, decimating and denuding a militant cult masquerading as a religious movement,” he said. “There is a role for nearly every country in the world to play, including Iran.”

Kerry’s remarks appeared to represent a shift away from previous US statements indicating a reluctance to cooperate with Iran to confront the threat of Islamic State. The United States cut off diplomatic ties with Tehran during a hostage crisis after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The United States, president of the UN Security Council for September, called the meeting on Iraq as it builds an international military, political and financial coalition to defeat the radical Sunni Muslim group. Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khameini, this week said he had rejected an offer by Washington for talks on fighting Islamic State. Kerry said he refused to be drawn into “back and forth” with Iran over the issue. Shi’ite Muslim-dominated Iran is a key ally of the governments in Iraq and Syria. The Islamic Republic of Iran is the only country in the region that is both capable of and has shown unqualified determination to help the Iraqi government and coordinate with it to assist all those threatened by ISIL,” Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Ararqhi told the council.

“Any real and genuine initiative to remedy regional predicaments needs to originate from within the region and be based on regional cooperation. Combating extremism is not an exception,” he said, repeating Tehran’s official view.

Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif are expected to hold bilateral talks on the sidelines of the annual gathering of world leaders at the UN General Assembly next week where Islamic State and Tehran’s nuclear programme will likely be among key topics of discussion.

US President Barack Obama has said 40 nations have pledged help to a coalition against Islamic State. French jets struck a suspected Islamic State target in Iraq for the first time on Friday, joining a US bombing campaign that started a month ago when Iraq asked for help. “In 2003, acting against Iraq was something that divided this council in 2014, acting for Iraq and against the (Islamic State) … terrorism is a duty for all of us,” French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told the UN Security Council, referring to French opposition to the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq. The UN Security Council on Friday adopted a statement urging “the international community, in accordance with international law, to further strengthen and expand support for the government of Iraq as it fights ISIL (Islamic State) and associated armed groups.”

The UN special envoy to Iraq, Nickolay Mladenov, said the United Nations is warning 8,500 have been killed during clashes in Iraq since January and more than 16,000 injured.

“ISIL is a scourge that has brought untold sorrow to the people of Iraq and Syria,” Mladenov told the Security Council. “They have shown contempt for equality, fundamental human rights and the dignity and worth of the human person.”

The United States is also planning to carry out air strikes against Islamic State in Syria, while the US Congress on Thursday gave final approval to Obama’s plan for training and arming moderate Syrian rebels to take on the militants.

Other Western powers have been more reluctant to launch military strikes in Syria, which could be seen as bolstering President Bashar al-Assad. Western states have repeatedly called for Assad’s departure over his crackdown and popular protests in 2011 that sparked a civil war, now in its fourth year. — Reuters

The US campaign against Venezuela came after late President Hugo Chavez compared former US President George W Bush to the devil, saying on the podium of the 2006 General Assembly in New York that he could still smell sulphur “a day after Bush addressed member states.

Campaigns intended to block countries’ aspirations to join important UN bodies are not uncommon. Washington was also among the countries that lobbed votes to block Iran’s and Syria’s ambitions to join the Human Rights Council in Geneva. Both withdrew from the race.

But things are different this year. Venezuela is unopposed in its regional group and is set to join the council for the next two years providing it can secure two-thirds majority of votes in the 193-nation General Assembly when the election is held in October.

A senior US congressional aide said Washington was not going to make an effort to stop Venezuela of the council. “People are resigned to it,” the aide said. UN diplomats and other US sources also said there was no US campaign.
Ebola lockdown brings Sierra Leone capital to a halt

FREETOWN, 20 Sept — Streets in the capital of Sierra Leone were deserted on Friday as the West African state began a unprecedented three-day lockdown in a bid to halt the worst Ebola outbreak on record.

President Ernest Bai Koroma urged people to heed the emergency measures as health workers, some clad in protective biohazard suits, went house to house, checking on residents and marking each doorway they visited with chalk. Radio stations played Ebola awareness jingles on repeat and encouraged residents to stay indoors.

“As they are fighting this Ebola, we pray that it will be eradicated. That’s what we are praying for,” said resident Mariam Banu-gura as she waited at her home in Freetown’s West End neighbourhood. Other residents looked out over the normally bustling seaside city from windows and balconies.

Nearly 30,000 health workers, volunteers and teachers aim to visit every household in the country of six million people by Sunday to educate them about the disease and isolate the sick. In Freetown, teams got off to a slow start, waiting several hours to receive kits containing soup, stick-ers and flyers.

A few police cars and ambulances, sirens blaring, were the only traffic on the otherwise empty streets. One emergency vehicle was seen stopping at a house to take on a patient. Ebola has infected at least 3,375 people in West Africa this year, mainly in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, killing 2,630 of those, according to the World Health Organization. The disease has also been reported in Nigeria and Senegal.

The outbreak of the hemorrhagic fever is the worst since it was identified in 1976 in the forests of central Africa.

Western nations, led by the United States, have pledged in recent days to ramp up their aid effort and the United Nations said on Thursday it would deploy a special mission, calling the outbreak a “threat to international peace and security.”

“As the disease spreads, a truth becomes clear. None of us is insulated from the threat of Ebola. All of us must be part of the response,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the UN General Assembly on Friday.— Reuters

Panama foreign minister invites Raul Castro to Americas Summit

HAVANA, 20 Sept — Panamanian Foreign Mi-nister Isabel de Saint Malo personally invited Cuban President Raul Castro to the Summit of the Ameri-cas her nation is hosting in April, according to a Cuban government statement published on Friday.

De Saint Malo met with Castro on Thursday during a one-day visit to Cuba, where she delivered a verbal invitation that puts the United States on the spot diplomatically.

Washington, which initiated the summits in 1994, blocked Cuba’s invitation to the previous six events, saying the Communist-rulled country’s one-party political system was undemocratic.

Panama’s invitation amounts to a diplomatic coup for Cuba and follows demands by governments of many Latin American and Caribbean countries that it be invited.

“The United States faces a tough choice: either alter its policy toward Cuba or face the virtual collapse of its diplomacy toward Latin America,” said Richard Feinberg, a senior fellow of the Wash-ington-based Brookings Insti-tution who helped organize the first summit when working for the Clinton administration.

De Saint Malo was in Washington earlier this month, when she informed Secretary of State John Kerry that Cuba would be invited to the summit.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki took issue with the invitation during a 2 September press briefing, noting that all participants at a summit in 2001 had agreed that respect for the democratic system was an essential condition of attendance at such events.

“So we should not undermine commitments previously made, but should instead encourage — and this is certainly our effort — the democratic changes necessary for Cuba to meet the basic qualifications,” Psaki added.

The Cuban government statement called Thursday’s meeting “cor-dial” and said it focussed on regional and international issues.

An empty street is seen at the start of a three-day national lockdown in Freetown on 19 Sept, 2014. — Reuters

Cuba’s president Raul Castro arrives for an event marking the 1953 assault on the Moncada military barracks, in Artemisa Province, near Havana on 26 July, 2014. — Reuters

Turkey secures release of 49 hostages seized in northern Iraq

SANLIURFA, (Turkey) 20 Sept — Turkish intel-ligence agents brought 49 hostages seized by Islamic State militants in northern Iraq back to Turkey on Saturday after more than three months in captivity, in what Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu described as a covert rescue operation.

The hostages, includ-ing Turkey’s consul-gen-eral, diplomats’ children and special forces soldiers, were brought to the south-ern Turkish city of Sanliurfa in the early hours of the morning. Police formed a cordon outside the airport as they arrived in buses with curtains drawn, a Reu-ters witness said.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said he was re-turning from an official visit to Azerbaijan to meet the group and would take them by plane to the capital Ankara. “I thank the prime minister and his colleagues for the pre-planned, carefully calculated and secretly-conducted operation throughout the night,” Er-dogan said in a statement.

“MIT (the Turkish intelligence agency) has followed the situation very sensitively and patiently since the beginning and, as a result, conducted a successful rescue opera-tion.”— Reuters

Campaign donations highlight winners, losers in Brazil election

BRASILIA/ SAO PAULO, 20 Sept — Brazil’s finan-cial markets have rallied on the prospect of envi-ronmentalist Marina Silva unseating President Dilma Rousseff in next month’s election, but political dona-tions show plenty of com-panies may be wary of a new administration.

Silva’s market-friendly proposals promise relief for oil giant Petrobras, etha-nol mills and private banks. But they could also cause headaches for a range of firms facing tougher com-petition, higher borrowing costs and maybe even more taxes, especially in the en-ergy and auto industries.

Political fundraising reflects the split among potential winners and los-ers, with the vast majority of donations going to the incumbent — a reflection of powerful business in-
terests comfortable with the status quo that Rouse-fiff represents. The money pouring into Brazil’s stock market has gone in the op-posite direction, driving up shares of companies that would benefit from a Silva presidency and lifting the Bovespa index as much as 11 percent when she first surged in polls.

“Right now in the in-vester community we’re focused on just getting Dil-ma Rousseff out of office, but once Silva is in power it’s a different ball game,” said Aryam Vazquez, a senior economist with the Oxford Economics investment consulting firm.

Rousseff has drawn the most campaign dona-tions from construction and agribusiness firms such as builder OAS and meat-packer JBS.— Reuters

An empty street is seen at the start of a three-day national lockdown in Freetown on 19 Sept, 2014. — Reuters

Havana, a special mission, calling the outbreak a “threat to international peace and security.”

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De Saint Malo “ex-pressed the interest of her government to advance bi-lateral relations and count on the presence of Cuba at the 7th Summit of the Americas an invitation that was received positive-ly by the Cuban president,” the statement said.

Cuba has normal rela-tions with every country in the Western Hemisphere except the United States, which has maintained com-prehensive sanctions on the Caribbean island for more than half a century.

At the same time, Cuba is the only country in the Western Hemisphere that does not have a multi-party system.— Reuters

Turkey secures release of 49 hostages seized in northern Iraq

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Cuba’s president Raul Castro arrives for an event marking the 1953 assault on the Moncada military barracks, in Artemisa Province, near Havana on 26 July, 2014. — Reuters

An empty street is seen at the start of a three-day national lockdown in Freetown on 19 Sept, 2014. — Reuters
Burden is too heavy for children

By Aung Khin

Children are the sprouts of future. They do not have enough strength to accept or encounter any social or environmental situation which adult persons can resist. In their earlier ages, a lot of mental, physical or social burden should not be put on them. Such situations have serious impacts on their way of life.

Nowadays, even many primary school children are seen with large bags which are acting as backpacks. Most of these children have to take tuition in addition to nearly six-hour of classroom time a day at school.

Preparing for a step change ahead - Challenges of globalization

Satyaki Banerjee

While there are always more than one defining moments in the history of each nation, certain decades play a role of transforming the face of the nation forever, in a positive way. Based on lessons from history, a nation also needs to start preparing towards how best to embrace the change, leverage the opportunity and create a new history of progress and development. For Myanmar, the time might just be right now.

With a strong heritage of export driven economy and agriculture, supported by rich history and culture, Myanmar has historically struggled to create and build upon the right growth platforms. However, the future might just enable the creation of such platforms. With the country opening up to trade and investment opportunities from outside, more foreign relationships being established and multi-national companies establishing operations, a fantastic future might just be in the making. However, preparing for this might be even more critical.

Investing in foreign funded sophisticated businesses might just be futile without adequate supporting infrastructure, human capital and a general willingness to be part of a positive change. This needs to be further supported by societal enablers, transparency in funding mechanisms (including tax policies and management) and government backed economic reforms. However, for a country like Myanmar, all these influx of ideas, funds and interventions are new. The key challenge ahead is to ensure synchronizations of internal forces in line with external drivers. With globalization, many developing countries have noticed an even increased gap or inequality between the rich and poor. As there is certainly a step change for the skilled workers, the lower skill counterparts are often left behind. Globalization might be the last one to blame. Countries need to take far greater responsibilities to use forces of globalization in order to bridge historic gaps in overall levels of development and yet leverage local capabilities, resources and infrastructure in order to create a more sustainable ecosystem vi creating further tensions, leading to further disintegration.

For Myanmar, while opportunities abound as foreign investors gather from around the world, there are way too many challenges which need to be addressed, even before the arrival of the new partners of growth. (The author of this article is Director of Strategic Planning and Business Development, for a global Consumer Goods Business, headquartered in the UK.)

Although free education system is opened to these children, their parents have to pay for other charges such as exercise books and photo copying at the schools of many towns and cities. Moreover, overcrowded classrooms of 60 to 80 children have to be managed by a single teacher, making teaching ineffective.

As a result, parents unavoidably have to send their children to tuitions which charge the minimum amount of K3, 000 each child per month. However, children are not possible to learn there as the tuition class of 40 to 50 children is also handled by a single teacher. While some educated parents have to re-check the lessons of their children at home, uneducated parents do not know whether their children understand the lessons well. This is a chronic education problem in Myanmar. Successive education officials cannot solve these problems until now. A good education system with practical approaches is as important as health care services of a country.

Only a few numbers of state-owned school or private schools would have sufficient teacher-student ratios with effective teaching. The future of country will be decided by the majority of people. Therefore, a good and effective teaching should cover many children.

Education system should not be a physical or social burden for the new generation of our future. Burden must be reduced from their backs. It can be vividly seen that our new generation have many challenges in global age. They should not fall victim to heavy burden resulted from mismanagement.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

U Win Sein

A public company after it’s incorporation, the First General Meeting shall be held within eighteen months from the date of it’s incorporation and thereafter once in every calendar year and not more than fifteen months after the holding of the last preceding General Meeting. It’s required by law to hold an A, G, M every year, to elect the Boards of Directors and to inform their members of the company’s previous and future activities. It is an opportunity for every shareholder to receive copies of the company’s accounts, the distribution of an interim dividend and financial information for the past year and asking any questions regarding the direction the company will take in the future.

It’s of vital importance for every shareholder, by paying a sum of money will receive a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company, internal auditors’ report, external auditors’ report. The shareholder of a public company is eagerly expected to attend the First General Meeting in eighteen months from the date of it’s incorporation. To hold it’s Annual General Meeting in the subsequent year but not more than fifteen months from the last preceding General Meeting! The purpose of the meeting is to:

— Review the accounts, the Directors’ report, the Internal Auditors’ report.
— After the approval of the Balance Sheet, the General Meeting will cast a vote on the discharge of Directors for the past financial year.
— The General Meeting will also approve certain proceedings of the Board of Directors and decide on the distribution of the financial results for the past financial year.
— To decide the appointment and dismissal or to renew the mandates of Directors, Internal or External Auditors or to decide on the distribution of an interim dividend.

There are also Extraordinary General Meeting, during which the shareholders must take a decision that involved an amendment of the Articles of Association such as:

— An increase or reduction of capital
— Amendment to the company’s objectives.
— Changes to the registered office.

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (20-9-2014)

Yagon Gold Price
Buying K652,300 per tical: Selling K653,300

Mandalay Gold Price
Buying K652,000 per tical: Selling K653,000

FE RATE
USD Buying K988- Selling K994
SDG Buying K776- Selling K785
EuroBuying K1260- Selling K1280
No religion encourages terrorism. ISIL and al-Qaedas commit inhuman acts on the pretext of a religion. They use religious sentiments to stir up animosity among different religious groups. This also includes the Taliban and al-Qaeda. For example, the September 11 attacks on the United States were carried out by cells of al-Qaeda. No religion encourages terrorism. ISIL and al-Qaida are not Muslims. They are not Muslims. They are claimed to be Muslims. They are not Muslims. They are claimed to be Muslims. They are not Muslims. They are claimed to be Muslims.

BY MAUNG THITSA

Terrorism is enemy of the nation

Without local support, they cannot function in the country. We, Myanmar Muslims, have warned our community not to fall prey to their instigation. We have explained to them that extremists are trying to shake the Myanmar society to the roots. Undoubtedly, we need be well aware of that impending danger.

At a recent get-together after the Rakhine incident, I met with some old university friends of different religions, including Christians, Hindus and Buddhists. Although time has passed, our friendship never fades away. There still is no change in our relations.

Myanmar is a country rich in natural resources, which is why Mongols, Persians and Indians had migrated into the country. Among Indian tribes were those whose faith is in Islam. Through Bagan, Taunggyi, Nyaungyan, Inwa, Kuthaung and other periods, Muslims had served Myanmar kings.

Thirty years after ascending to the throne, King Mindon ordered a new town plan for Mandalay, with 17 small towns allowed for Muslims to reside and 20 mosques to worship. Moreover, the king had a mosque built at the southeastern corner of the palace. The mosque was named “Gold Stake Mosque” because the king himself drove a gold stake when the construction started.

The plan was aborted when Myanmar was colonialized by the British, who then added a field in the place of the Shwe Panat Mosque. It was adjacent to the place where the independence monument stands. King Mindon died and a peace agreement with the British was signed, which led to the British military占领 the country.

When the first Indian-Myanmar riot broke out between Indian port workers led by Talaygu and Myanmar laborers, King Mindon stood side with their fellow citizen Talaygu while our citizen Muslims with Myanmar port workers. However, rumors spread that some citizen Muslims were among the Indian led by Talaygu and accused misunderstanding among Myanmar citizens.

When the peasant rebellion led by Sayan San broke out in 1930, one of the A-grade commander was a citizen Muslim called U Du Du and farmers from a Muslim village only four or five miles away from the headquarters of Sayan San took part in the rebellion. As soon as the peasant rebellion ended, Do Bama Asoinay was founded by Thakin and the slogan “Myanmar is our land, Myanmar language is our mother tongue” to oppose the colonialists. The organization was threatened with six-month jail terms but our citizen Muslims joined the organization. As the momentum of the anti-colonialist struggle accelerated, the British held the round table conference on 2 November 1930 to 12 January 1931 in England to separate Myanmar from India. One of the delegates to the conference was a citizen Muslim called Bo Yaktu.

It was when the historic 1933 ME revolution broke out, citizen Muslims worked together in the march of oil workers to Yangon. During the period from 1943 to 1945, when Myanmar was occupied by the Japanese, Citizen Muslims joined the Burma Independence Army and the Burma Defence Army to fight against the fascist Japan. Some of them even attended the officer training course during the Japanese occupation. Citizen Muslims also joined the Asian Youth Organization during the Japanese occupation. After the surrender of Japan in 1945, British allies took over Myanmar again and they announced that Myanmar would be ruled under dominium rule adopted in 1939 for three more years before granting 19-department administration in accordance with white paper project. Leaders of Anti-Fascist People freedom League led by General Aung San rejected the white paper project. They organized the people to expand the alliance and demanded the complete independence. General Aung San urged workers, peasants, ethnic national races as well as citizen Muslims to join the coalition of the AFPFL.

At the Shwe Dagon Middle Pinlek Conference from 18 to 21 January 1946 of the AFPFL, the new coalition founded and led by Bo Min Yaung, the grand-father for the national leader General Aung San, was announced on 1 January. Young Indian Rifle Regiment and the cavalry regiment led by Wali Khan under the reign of King Thibaw, the successor and son of King Mindon. When the British forces advanced to colonialize Myanmar, King Thibaw sent his troops to the British forces. However, there was no support from local people. Without local support, they could not have difficulty staying there when they went to Hajj, one of the five pillars of Islam. There were four artillery battalions, Young Indian Rifle Regiment, and the cavalry regiment led by Wali Khan under the reign of King Thibaw, the successor and son of King Mindon. When the British forces advanced to colonialize Myanmar, King Thibaw sent his troops to the British forces. However, there was no support from local people.

By Maung Thitsar

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Alibaba shares close at 93.89 USD, surging 38 pct on first trading day

NEW YORK, 20 Sept — China’s e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Limited on Friday ended its first day of trading at 93.89 USD a piece, surging 38 percent, following a record initial public offering on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

Alibaba shares opened more than two hours after the opening bell at 92.70 dollars per share, 36 percent higher than its initial public offering (IPO) price of 68 dollar set on Thursday.

The company’s shares popped to a session high of 99.70 dollars a piece shortly after it opened for trading, and were mostly traded between the range of 90 dollars and 100 dollars.

After trading for the first day, the company’s market capital reached 230 billion dollars, compared with 150 billion dollars market capital of its American rival Amazon.

The company offered 320 million shares and raised 21.8 billion dollars, becoming the largest IPO in US history.

Director of NYSE Floor Operations at O’Neill Securities Inc Kenneth Polcari told Xinhua that closing at 93.89 dollars, about 1.10 cents higher than where it opened, showed how well the process worked. “I think the first performance is actually was much better than most expectations,” Polcari said.

Executive Chairman of Alibaba Group Jack Ma said in an interview with CNBC that he was “excited and honoured about the IPO.”

Ma have a dream. We hope in the next 15 years that the world changes because of us,” said Ma, promising they would take care of investors and make shareholders happy.

“Today what we got is not money what we got is the trust from the people, millions of small businesses,” he said.

Alibaba, founded by Ma in 1999, has grown into one of the largest e-commerce behemoths in the world and now controls 80 percent of all online retail sales in China. It started its global roadshow on 8 September in New York and received enough bookings for the offering within five days thanks to massive interest from worldwide investors.—Xinhua

Start for a lifetime of good vision and healthy eyes

NEW YORK, 20 Sept — If your mother told you to eat your carrots so you’d be able to see in the dark, she was right. It turns out that feeding kids carrots is just one of a number of things parents can do to promote a lifetime of healthy eyes and good vision.

Other things include regular eye exams, and sunglasses or hats to shade kids’ eyes, experts say.

While so-called refractive error (that is, the need for glasses or contact lenses) is the biggest concern, eye disease is sometimes hereditary, and some eye disease is congenital, some issues are acquired.

Dr Ron Weber, an Atlanta-based ophthalmologist.

For example, myopia, or nearsightedness, “not only has a genetic component but is also influenced by how kids use their eyes during childhood,” he told Reuters Health by phone.

He said that extended close work, such as reading, has long been suspected to cause nearsightedness.

Recent support for the association has come from a study (online here: bit.ly/1TyhqKD) in which people with a higher level of education were more likely to have myopia, purportedly because they spend more time reading or working on computers. Another study (online here: bit.ly/IwzLsiU) showed that children who spend more time outdoors are less likely to become myopic.

But these findings don’t mean kids should be discouraged from reading or working on the computer. Instead, Weber suggests, make sure a child’s environment is well-lit while they are doing close work. Parents should also help kids get into the habit of holding their reading material at the optimal distance — about 18 to 22 inches, he said. Finally, taking a break every five minutes or so, to let the eyes relax and focus on an object in the distance, will also help.

One of the most important things a parent can do to help head off eye disease and vision problems is to make sure their child gets regular eye exams, beginning early in life. “The majority of vision problems in children are preventable and treatable,” said Dr. Ida Chung, president of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development. “Eye conditions, whether hereditary or not, can best be managed by having the child receive their first eye examination as early as possible.”

Chung recommends that children have their first eye exam before turning one. The American Optometric Association has a recommended schedule of exams for older kids, available online here: bit.ly/1Bu4BC.

Children should also be tested for visual skills before starting school — not just sight, but how eyes track, depth perception, 3D vision, and sustained focusing. “If a child is found to have deficient visual skills, treatment with optometric vision therapy can result in dramatic improvements in a child’s visual comfort,” Chung said.

Finally, many parents don’t think of putting sunglasses on their kids, but experts say it should be as second nature as other sun protection. “If your kid is in a situation where you’re putting sunscreen on their skin, that should prompt you to also put a hat on to shade their eyes, and maybe sunglasses,” said Chung.

Alibaba Group Holding Ltd founder Jack Ma (C) rings a ceremonial bell to start trading during his company’s initial public offering (IPO) under the ticker “BABA” at the New York Stock Exchange in New York on 19 Sept, 2014. — REUTERS

As G20 chases growth goal, members differ on how to get there

CAIRNS, (Australia) 20 Sept — As the Group of 20 leading economies meet to change no less than the “destiny” of the global economy, members remain divided on how to get there with Germany pushing back at the calls for more government stimulus.

Opening the meeting of finance ministers and central bankers in Austral-ian Treasurer Joe Hock-ey outlined an ambitious agenda of boosting world growth, firing up the global banking system and closing tax loopholes for giant multi-nationals.

“We have the opportunity to change the destiny of the global economy,” said Hockey, who back in February launched a campaign to add 2 percentage points to world growth by 2018 as part of Australia’s presidency of the G20.

That goal has seemed ever more distant as members from China to Japan, Germany and Rus sia have all stumbled in recent months.

Just this week, the Organization for Eco nomic Cooperation and Development (OECD) slashed its growth fore casts for most major economies.

“By far the US is the most stretched and the US is the most stretched to growth with US,” said Greece’s Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis in a speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos last week. “We need the right kind of stimulus. We need to focus on short-sighted stimuli.”

A German G20 delegate said that in most countries debt was still too high to allow for increased spending.

Berlin has been under intense pressure to allow the euro zone to ease back on fiscal austerity and to stimulate its economy through more government spending or tax cuts.
SpaceX aims to step up launch rate with next mission for NASA

CAPE CANAVERAL, 20 Sept — A cargo version of the spaceship being developed by privately owned Space Exploration Technologies is slated to launch early on Saturday from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, the company’s second launch in 13 days.

Quick turnarounds between flights are expected to become routine as SpaceX, as the California-based company is known, adds ferrying astronauts to the International Space Station to its fast-growing launch business.

“We are ramping up for that launch rate, and actually even more than that,” said Hans Koenigsmann, SpaceX vice president of mission assurance.

“In the future, I anticipate that this will be the norm,” he said.

SpaceX on Tuesday won a $2.6 billion contract to design and fly Dragon passenger ships, with a test flight targeted for 2016. NASA also awarded Boeing a $4.2 billion contract to develop a second space taxi.

The price difference is primarily the cost of the launcher. SpaceX’s Falcon 9 rockets sell for about $61 million; Boeing plans to buy Atlas 5 rockets, which cost about $150 million.

United Launch Alliance, a partnership of Boeing and Lockheed Martin, manufactures and sells Atlas 5, which predominantly are used for US military missions. SpaceX, owned and operated by technology entrepreneur Elon Musk, is running for that business as well. A lawsuit is pending in federal court contesting the US Air Force’s latest non-competitive award to United Launch Alliance.

SpaceX already flies cargo to the space station for NASA under a $1.6 billion contract and has a backlog of more than 35 commercial satellite and NASA station resupply missions.

Its fourth cargo run to the station is scheduled for launch at 2:15 am EDT on Saturday. In addition to food, clothes and science gear for the station’s crew, the Dragon freighter will also carry a 3-D printer, a science instrument to monitor winds over Earth’s oceans and 20 mice to be used in experiments.

Barring delays for weather or technical issues, Saturday’s quick turnaround launch will set a company record.

“That’s faster than we have ever done it. It’s near the record (for the Cape),” Koenigsmann told reporters at a pre-launch briefing on Friday.

SpaceX flies mostly from a leased launch complex at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. It also has a contract with NASA for one of the space shuttle launch pads at Kennedy Space Center, adjacent to the Air Force base.

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France’s Iliad sets mid-Oct deadline for T-Mobile US bid

FRANKFURT, 20 Sept — French low-cost telecom operator Iliad has set a mid-October deadline to decide whether to improve its bid for T-Mobile US or walk away as it faces resistance from seller Deutsche Telekom, several people familiar with the situation said.

Deutsche Telekom, which owns 66 percent of the fourth-largest US carrier, has doubts that Iliad will be able to improve the US business since the French startup has no retail presence in the country, a source close to the German company’s management said.

Under French insolvency court procedures proposed by Iliad, Deutsche Telekom would have to keep a stake in the combined company.

Iliad is currently in talks with several US banks to help finance a possible improved bid for T-Mobile US alongside existing lenders HSBC and BNP Paribas, the people familiar with the situation said, after a $33 per share offer for 56.6 percent of T-Mobile US was rejected by Deutsche Telekom.

Iliad’s management team has now finished road shows to meet US investors and is waiting to hear back from potential investors, the sources said.

Depending on how positive the feedback is from private equity investors, the French firm could be able to table an improved bid in the second week of October, two of the sources said.

Iliad could offer between $35 and $40 per share for a stake in T-Mobile of between 60 percent and 90 percent, depending on the appetite of private equity funds and lenders for the deal, two other sources said.

But Iliad, whose shares have fallen around 25 percent since it embarked on a bid for T-Mobile in late July, cannot afford a lengthy pursuit of T-Mobile if Deutsche Telekom is not willing to engage.

In a note this week after it hosted a dinner with T-Mobile US’s investor relations team, brokerage firm Jefferies said criteria for potential partners included a spectrum line in the United States and a US customers base, on top of favourable financial terms.

Such a constraint would rule out Iliad as an acquirer, although this could also be part of Deutsche Telekom’s tactics to get a better deal from Iliad, said some of the sources who are close to Iliad.

Reuters

Other automakers to challenge Tesla in over-the-air software upgrades

DETROIT, 20 Sept — Electric carmaker Tesla Motors Inc on Friday announced it is rolling out a software upgrade over-the-air to its current Model S owners, a unique ability that other automakers are expected to offer within a few years.

Tesla, based in Siliccon Valley, has completed more than a dozen over-the-air software upgrades since the Model S was first sold in mid-2012, said Egil Juliusen, director of research for automotive electronic technology for IHS Automotive.

Juliusen said other automakers have completed some over-the-air software upgrades but only on an experimental basis.

Normally, when an automaker wants to upgrade software in on-board computers in cars that are already on the road, owners must bring vehicles to dealerships.

Tesla is able to upgrade software remotely, similar to software updates on smartphones.

About 30,000 vehicles have been upgraded over the air this year, almost all by Tesla, with 2020, a full one-fifth, or about 22 million new vehicles globally, will have the ability to accept software upgrades over-the-air, Juliusen said.

Juliusen said by 2015, over-the-air software upgrades to cars already in consumer hands will expand to 230,000 and reach 1 million in 2016.

“The cost savings alone will make it very attractive for the auto manufacturers to use over-the-air software upgrades,” said Juliusen.

Automakers are expected, he said, to team up with software developers for over-the-air communication with the vehicles they have sold.

Three privately held software firms are in the lead as potential buyers, said they are Red Bend Software, based in Waltzem, Massachusetts; Symphony Teleca Corp based in Siliccon Valley; and Arynga, based in San Diego.

He said that it can cost $400 to $500 every time an owner brings a car into a dealership for a software upgrade. Doing so remotely will cut those costs dramatically, and dealers will not have to purchase as much equipment, Juliusen said.

For the current upgrade, Tesla Model S owners will be notified of the availability of it and will be asked to select a time for it to be downloaded, which takes several hours, Tesla spokeswoman Alexis Georgeson said.

Reuters

Lisbon to ban old cars from city centre to improve air quality

LISBON, 20 Sept — In a bid to improve the quality of the city’s air the Lisbon municipal council is set to ban vehicles that are over 14 years old from the city centre starting from 2015, according to local press reports on Friday.

The ban will impose a 24-euro fine on anyone who violates the ban.

At the public presentation of the new scheme — “Lisbon — A city to breathe” — Tiago Farias, the municipal director for Mobility, said the system will split Lisbon into “Zone 1” and “Zone 2”.

Cars registered after 1996 will be allowed into Zone 2 and Zone 1, which includes the historical downtown area, will be off limits to cars registered before 2000.

Between 7am and 9pm some downtown streets will be completely closed off to motor traffic, he also said.

The move, which is the third phase of a programme to reduce emissions in the capital city, is expected to reduce particulate emissions by 30 percent and nitrogen dioxide emissions by 22 percent, Farias said.
US Secret Service investigates after man jumps White House fence, reaches doors

WASHINGTON, 20 Sept — A man jumped over the White House fence and made it to the front doors of the executive mansion before being apprehended on Friday, sparking an evacuation within the complex shortly after President Barack Obama departed for the weekend.

Omar J. Gonzales, a 42-year-old white male from Texas, made it onto the grounds at 7:20 EDT (2320 GMT), a US Secret Service spokesman said. Gonzales ignored commands to stop and was ultimately caught, unarmed, just inside the North Portico doors of the White House, one of the building’s main entrances.

The intruder’s ability to get so far on the grounds before being apprehended is very unusual for a complex that is heavily guarded and the stability of the country, advance political dialogue and reconciliation, and strengthen military and security cooperation, the international community should carry out relevant actions on the basis of respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the countries concerned and in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic norms governing international relations.

“It is important to give full play to the leading role of the United Nations and its Security Council,” Liu said.

He also noted that double standards should not be applied to counter-terrorism, nor should terrorism be associated with a certain ethnic group or religion.

Meanwhile, the international community should follow closely the new features and changes of terrorist activities in the world, he said.

“The international community should come up with new ideas and measures to cut off the three channels used by terrorists to promote their activities, namely the online dissemination of terrorism, cross-border movement of terrorists and secret financing for terrorism,” he said.

Liu said that China is glad to see the formation of a new government in Iraq not long ago, which marks a milestone in the country’s political reconciliation process.

“China hopes that all factions in Iraq will continue to give top priority to the interests of the nation and people and the stability of the country, advance political dialogue and reconciliation, and strengthen military and security capacity building, so as to lay a solid domestic ground-work for the political process,” Liu said. — Xinhua
China aims to lower share of coal energy to below 62 pct by 2020

BEIJING, 20 Sept—To increase cleaner power generation and cut greenhouse gas emissions, China will order power firms nationwide to upgrade coal conservation technology and eliminate outdated capacity. With stricter environmental protection standards, China will lower the coal-fired generation to under 62 percent of the national total by 2020, according to the plan, and of that thermal coal use should be raised to above 60 percent. Average coal consumption at new power plants should be less than 300 grams of standard coal per kilowatt hour (kwh). Average coal consumption at existing furnaces should be brought below 310 grams of standard coal per kwh before 2020. At least 10 gigawatts of obsolete thermal power capacity will be phased out by 2020. At least 150 GW of coal-fired power generation capacity will be cleaned up by 2015, and another 350 GW by 2020.

An action plan for the 2014-2020 period was jointly released by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the National Energy Administration on Friday.

The action plan comes after the central government approved climate change goals to be met by 2020. Carbon emissions per unit of GDP will be cut by 40 percent to 45 percent by 2020 from the 2005 level. It will also bring the proportion of non-fossil fuels to about 15 percent of primary energy consumption by 2020.

China is the world’s largest consumer of coal, accounting for around half of global consumption. Nearly 70 percent of its energy comes from coal, a ratio much higher than in developed countries, which use cleaner resources like oil and gas. China has the world’s third-largest coal reserves but lacks gas and oil.—Xinhua

Foreign investors banned from opening primary schools in Mozambique

MAPUTO, 20 Sept—The Mozambican Ministry of Education has decreed that, as of January next year, foreign investors will be banned from opening primary schools, local newspaper reported on Friday.

Under the new regulations, only Mozambican entities will be allowed to open and run primary schools, while foreigners will still be allowed to open institutions of secondary, technical or higher education, the country’s independent daily newspaper O Pais reported.

The spokesperson for the Education Ministry, Eurico Banza, said that the “opening of primary schools must essentially be the responsibility of Mozambicans”, since this was a very sensitive phase in the socialization of children.

Banza added that foreigners can continue to participate in the opening of schools at other levels of education, but only in association with Mozambican citizens, based on the current foreign investment regulations.

The new regulations also decentralize the authorization for the opening of private schools.

As of the 2015 school year, the provincial authorities will be allowed to authorize the opening of private primary schools. The appointment of directors for public primary schools also passes to the local level.

Private educators will be allowed to open boarding homes for pupils studying in both public and private institutions.

There are currently 335 community owned schools in the country, and 299 in other forms of private ownership. Between them, they cater for 271,000 pupils.—Xinhua

China, in order to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, plans to cut primary energy consumption, coal-fired power generation, and coal use in power plants. The government has set targets for 2020, including a reduction of carbon emissions per unit of GDP by 40-45% compared to 2005 levels, and a non-fossil fuel share of 15% in primary energy consumption.

AU hails China’s support in battling Ebola in West Africa

ADDIS ABABA, 20 Sept—The African Union (AU) has hailed China’s support to the efforts geared to fight against Ebola, which has claimed over 2,600 lives in African countries since earlier this year.

The handing over ceremony of the certificate of donation from China had already pledged to support efforts to address the Ebola crisis, took place on Friday at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Xie Xiaoyan, Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia, handed over the certificate of China’s donation to Mustapha Siddiki Kaloko, AU Commissioner for Social Affairs.

China has been supporting the efforts in fighting against Ebola by providing financial and material support as well as sending medical teams to the most affected West African countries.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony, the AU Commissioner commended China’s efforts in fighting against Ebola since the time his country learned the eruption of the epidemic in April.

The Chinese ambassador noted that China has been supporting the efforts in fighting against Ebola since the time his country learned the eruption of the epidemic in April. China has committed millions of dollars in cash and in kind to support the noble cause against Ebola crisis in West Africa, particularly in Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone.

Cuba inks 61 bilateral accords on foreign investment protection

HAVANA, 20 Sept—Cuba has signed 61 bilateral treaties on foreign investment protection in a bid to attract more capital inflow, local media reported on Friday.

The treaties aim to protect both parties of business contracts and provide means for resolution of disputes through international arbitration. Cuban Youth daily Juventud Rebelde quoted a legal expert Raul Lozano Merino as saying.

Lozano also stressed the importance of social responsibilities for foreign companies, which should ensure job creation, technological transfer and sustainable development.

There was also a proposal in Cuba to establish an arbitration court for Latin America, which would put the region on an equal footing with the rest of the world, said Lozano, president of the Inter-American Academy of International and Comparative Law. The proposal has already got approval from several regional Chambers of Commerce, he said.

Weather report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 21st

Rain or thundershowers will be scattered and fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Sagaing Region, Kachin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%).
‘Fault In Our Stars’ crosses USD 300 million worldwide

LOS ANGELES, 20 Sept—Shailene Woodley starrer weepy romantic drama ‘The Fault In Our Stars’, which is all set to get a Bollywood remake, has earned USD 300 million globally.

The film, made on a budget of USD 12 million, the film became one of the most profitable movies of 2014 thanks to its amazing run at the box office. It has already surpassed Woodley’s ‘Divergent’, which earned USD 286.3 million. The film starred Woodley and Ansel Elgort as two young lovers who meet in a cancer support group. It was directed by Josh Boone.

The movie has earned a major chunk, USD 175 million, from its overseas run where it is still running in the theatres while its domestic earning stands at USD 124.8 million for a total USD 299.9 million through Wednesday, pushing its earning past USD 300 million sometime on Thursday, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

The film released in early June in North America.

PTI

A Minute With - Jane Fonda on learning from the young comic set

LOS ANGELES, 20 Sept—Actress and filmmaker Angelina Jolie has been hired to direct “Africa,” a feature film about paleoanthropologist and conservationist Richard Leakey and his campaign against ivory poachers that threatens Africa’s elephants.

The film, Jolie’s fourth directorial effort, is from Skydance Productions, the company behind recent “Terminator” and “Mission: Impossible” films. The screenplay is from Eric Roth, who won an Oscar for “Forrest Gump.” “I’ve felt a deep connection to Africa and its culture for much of my life,” said Jolie in a statement.

Leakey, she said, emerged from the violent conflict with elephant poachers “with a deeper understanding of man’s footprint and a profound sense of responsibility for the world around him.”

Skydance Chief Executive David Ellison, son of Oracle Corp founder Larry Ellison, said: “It is very close to my heart, and I know that it will exceed my expectations in Angelina’s hands.”

Jolie will be joined by cinematographer Roger Deakins, who also worked on her next release “Unbroken,” a Universal Pictures biopic of Louis Zamperini, the Olympic runner turned war hero that opens in December.

Universal said in July that it acquired worldwide rights to Jolie’s “By the Sea,” a drama in production, written and directed by the actress who is also co-starring with husband Brad Pitt.—Reuters

David Bowie exhibition lands in Chicago for only US visit

CHICAGO, 20 Sept—David Bowie has been best-known throughout his five-decade career as a prolific musician and songwriter, with hits like “Changes” and “Space Oddity” in constant radio circulation.

But he is also an actor and has signed up to design his own album covers, stage sets and costumes.

Now, 400 objects, from the multi-coloured jumpsuit he wore as “Ziggy Stardust” to a cocaine spoon, are going on display in Chicago at the exhibit “David Bowie Is,” running from 23 September to 4 January, 2015 at the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Ten of thousands of tickets already have been sold for the MCA show, the only US venue for an exhibit that has drawn huge crowds in London, Toronto, Sao Paulo and Berlin.

“Exhibition re-patriates David Bowie, the musical innovator, into the territory of cutting-edge visual and performing art that is his natural home,” said Michael Darling, MCA chief curator.

The multi-media exhibit was originally organized for London’s Victoria and Albert Museum by curators Victoria Brook- es and Geoffrey Marsh. Visitors wear headphones that play clips of Bowie interviews and music, which change depending on which object is being looked at. Speaking to reporters in Chicago on Friday, Marsh said the show reveals Bowie’s “degree of obsession” with the creation of culture.—Reuters
Hamilton edges Alonso in Singapore practice

SINGAPORE, 20 Sept — Lewis Hamilton laid down an early marker that he will be the man to beat in the Singapore Grand Prix this weekend when he set the fastest time in the second free practice session at the floodlit Marina Bay Street Circuit on Friday.

The Briton, who trails Mercedes team-mate Nico Rosberg by 22 points with six rounds remaining, clocked one minute 47.490 seconds to edge out the resurgent Ferrari of Fernando Alonso by 0.133 seconds around the 23-turn, 5.065km track.

Red Bull’s Daniel Ricciardo crossed the line in a time of 1:47.790 to claim the third fastest time of the day, with the second Ferrari of Kimi Raikkonen edging out quadruple world champion Sebastian Vettel to round out the top five.

Vettel, who has dominated this race for the last three years, had his track time compromised after an engine failure at the end of first free practice restricted the German to just eight minutes of action at the end of the second session. Championship leader Rosberg was unable to set a quick time in the second session after Pastor Maldonado crashed his Lotus into the Turn 10 wall, forcing a brief halt to proceedings just as the German was about to embark on his flying lap.

He eventually finished down in 13th but will look back at his third place in the first 90-minute session of the day as a more reliable marker to his speed and form ahead of the weekend. “I didn’t like my car at that point but it’s always important to get in that lap to know what the car is doing so I can adapt my car with the engineers tonight and improve for tomorrow,” Rosberg told reporters.

“I didn’t get the second part of the lap because of the red flag which is a pity, it would have been important to do that but anyway it’s not a big deal. I got some long run laps in so it’s ok.”

London’s Wembley stadium to host climax of Euro 2020

LONDON, 20 Sept — UEFA president Michel Platini’s vision of a European Championship spread across the continent came to fruition on Friday as London’s Wembley Stadium was chosen to host the climax of Euro 2020 tournament to be played across the continent, next to former Miss Switzerland Melanie Winiger during a ceremony in Geneva on 19 Sept, 2014. —Reuters

Lizard in food sends 300 school children in India to hospital

NEW DELHI, 20 Sept — About 300 pupils at an Indian school were rushed to a hospital after consuming government-provided lunches, evoking memories of 23 children who died last year after eating food from the same welfare scheme.

A dead lizard was found in one of the seven food containers provided under India’s midday meal scheme at a government school in southern city of Bangalore, a teacher told Reuters.

That led to a panic situation as food had already been served to several pupils.

“We stopped the children from eating and rushed them to a hospital,” said Syeda Tabassum, a school teacher who was part of the group that served food to the children on Friday.

“All students are safe now,” she added, saying most had been discharged from the hospital.

It was not immediately clear whether the contamination originated at the school or where the food was prepared. Police officials were not immediately available for a comment.

The Banglore school has been receiving meals under the scheme for the past 10 years, but had never faced a similar issue, Tabassum said. However, parents are now worried.

“My child started vomiting after eating the food. We will not let her eat government food now... we just have one girl,” a parent told the NDTV news channel.

The midday meal scheme, which gives more than 100 million school pupils a free lunch, is the largest such programme in the world. It has been widely successful welfare measures in India.

But last year, 23 children died after being poisoned by a school meal provided under the scheme, sparking violent protests in the eastern state of Bihar. Police said cooking oil used for the meals had been stored in a used pesticide container.

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London’s Wembley stadium was chosen to host the climax of Euro 2020 with 12 other cities joining the party. The 90,000-seater Wembley, rebuilt from 2003 to 2007 and venue of the 2011 and 2013 Champions League finals, will stage both semi-finals and the final of the 60th anniversary tournament dubbed a “Euro for Europe”.

It will be the first time in the competition’s history when a tournament will be hosted by more than two countries.

Wembley got the nod over Munich’s Allianz Arena, the other stadium initially bidding for semi-finals and final hosting rights. Munich had to make do with being one of 12 cities awarded one of the standard packages, comprising three group matches and a knockout round tie.

The home of Bayern Munich will host a quarter-final, along with the Baku Olympic Stadium in Azerbaijan, Rome’s Olympic Stadium and the Zenit Arena in St Petersburg, Russia.

Last 16 ties will take place in Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Bucharest, Bilbao, Brest, Brussels, Baku, Istanbul, Sofia and Minsk were all rejected. The vote for Wembley comes as a welcome tonic for the Football Association after its failed bids to host the 2006 and 2018 World Cup finals and its two-chairman Greg Dyke denied any deal had been done with their German counterparts, the DFB.

“There is no deal,” Dyke told reporters at the ceremony in Geneva. “Other than we will not bid (to stage) Euro 2024 because it would be a waste of time because we wouldn’t get it.”

Dyke, however, hinted that England would support a German bid to host the 2024 tournament.

DFB president Wolfgang Niersbach, whose federation are believed to have pulled out from trying to host final and semi-finals games with an eye on a 2024 bid, said: “I am very satisfied and happy that we could convince UEFA with our bid and have in 2020, after 32 years, European championship games again in Germany.”

UEFA President Michel Platini shows the name of Baku, one of the 13 cities which will host matches at the Euro 2020 tournament to be played across the continent, next to former Miss Switzerland Melanie Winiger during a ceremony in Geneva on 19 Sept, 2014. —Reuters
China off to golden start at Asian Games

Lee Hasung of South Korea performs during the men’s Changquan final of Wushu competition at the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea on 20 Sept, 2014. Lee Hasung won the gold medal with 9.71 points.

Incheon, 20 Sept—China’s seemingly inevitable march to the top of Asian Games medal standings got off to a quick start on Saturday as they claimed two early golds on the first day of competition. Less than 24 hours after a vibrant opening ceremony, the world’s second-biggest multi-sport event after the summer Olympics. A total of 439 gold medals in 36 sports are up for grabs over 15 days of competition.

Later on Saturday, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) will announce the host of the next Asian Games, and also confirm which year it is to be held.

OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah has told Reuters that an agreement is in place for Indonesia to stage the event, and that it is likely to take place in 2018, not 2019 as planned, to avoid clashing with a presidential election in the country.

Hanoi was awarded the right to stage the Games in November 2012 ahead of the Indonesian city of Surabaya but the Vietnamese capital stood down as hosts in April fearing the event would not be financially viable.

The OCA will formally ratify its decision to install Jakarta as host at its general assembly later in the day.

There was also success for South Korea’s athletes on Saturday as Lee Ha-sung picked up the hosts’ first gold medal in the men’s wushu changquan.

His coach, Park Chan-dae, said Lee had accomplished something he never could.

“He has achieved my dream for me,” said Park. “Although I won gold six times in the Wushu World Championships, I only got a silver medal at the Asian Games.”

Park said Lee’s mental focus set him apart from the rest.

“Lee’s greatest strength is his mind. He has the lowest mistake rate on the Korean national team.”

Lee’s combination of whirling kicks, athletic leaps and intricate hand movements earned him a score of 9.71 points to take gold in the martial arts discipline, ahead of Macau’s Jia Rui (9.69) and Japan’s Daisuke Ichikizaki (9.67).

Earlier at the Ong-nyeon International Shooting Range, Zhang was a picture of calm, even if she was shaking on the inside, as she took gold from South Korean Jung Lee-hae and India’s Shweta Chaudry.

“I’m happy because we shot very well. I was sure they would give me power,” Zhang said of her team mates Hou Yingjun and Gao Wenjun. “I felt a lot of pressure during the match.

However, Gao Wenjun was beside me, and it made me relax.”

A total of 18 gold medals are awarded on the first day with titles also to be decided in judo, fencing, weightlifting, equestrian, track cycling and synchronised swimming.

The swimming programme, featuring the highly-anticipated clashes between Olympic champions Sun Yang and Park Tae-hwan, starts on Sunday.

Guo Wenjun, Zhou Qingyuan and Zhang Mengyuan (from L to R) of China pose on podium after the women’s 10m Air Pistol team finals of shooting event at the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea on 20 Sept, 2014. China won the gold medal with 1,146 points. This is the first gold medal of the Incheon Asiad.—XINHUA

Lee Hasung of South Korea performs during the men’s Changquan final of Wushu competition at the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea on 20 Sept, 2014. Lee Hasung won the gold medal with 9.71 points. XINHUA

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China off to golden start at Asian Games

Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini reacts during their English Premier League soccer match against Stoke City at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, northern England on 30 Aug, 2014. —Reuters

Chelsea not a one-man band, says City boss Pellegrini

LONDON, 20 Sept—Chelsea’s in-form striker Diego Costa will be a threat but the Premier League leaders are more than a one-man band, champions Manchester City’s manager Manuel Pellegrini said on Saturday.

City host table-topppers Chelsea at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday after a slow start to their defence of the Premier League title while Jose Mourinho’s team have made a rip-roaring start, winning all four matches.

Much of Chelsea’s early season success has been down to Costa, who has scored seven goals in four league appearances, but Pellegrini says the west Londoners are not reliant on only the Spanish striker.

“I don’t think Chelsea are just about Diego Costa,” the Chilean told a news conference. “They have very good players and we will have to play a very good game if we want to win.”

“They have started very well and they are playing very well. They have increased their squad with better players so for me, it is no surprise they are there.”

City will be without striker Stevan Jovetic and Brazilian midfielder Fernando for the visit of Chelsea, but strikers Edin Dzeko and Sergio Aguero should be fit while former Chelsea midfielder Frank Lampard, the club’s all-time top scorer, is expected to start on the bench.

Having collected seven points from their first four games this season, City trail Chelsea by five points and Pellegrini does not want to see them slip further behind.

“It is very important to win on Sunday, but there is a long way until the end of the season,” he said. “This is just the fifth game and we have to play 38, so we will see what happens in the future.”

Pellegrini defended midfielder Yaya Toure after the powerful Ivorian was criticised for his defensive performance during Wednesday’s Champions League defeat at Bayern Munich.