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The New Light of Myanmar

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Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker sees off Parliamentary delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Sept—At the invitation of US Senators Jim Webb and James M Inhofe, eight-member delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee Chairman U T Khun Myat left for US to observe functions of US legislature yesterday.

They were seen off by Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee Chairman U Hla Myint Oo and Hluttaw representatives at Yangon International Airport.

The delegation comprised member of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee U Staphen, Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee Secretary U Maung Toe, Members of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee U Tin Mya and Col Hla Tun, Member of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Member of Amyotha Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee U Steven Thabeik and Member of Amyotha Hluttaw Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee U Tun Kyaw (a) U Aik Kyaw.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee Chairman U T Khun Myat and party seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for the US.—MNA

Views on Myanmar's peace process exchanged between Myanmar and Indonesia, Philippines

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Sept—Members of Peace-making work Committee Union Ministers U Soe Thein, U Aung Min, U Khin Yi, U Ohn Myint, U Than Htay and Dr Kan Zaw, Deputy Minister U Aung Thein, Colonel Kyaw Soe Win of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Office exchanged views with those who took part in peace process and conflict settlement in Philippines and Indonesia, under Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue programme, at Office No. 14 here this morning.

Present on the occasion were former Indonesian President Muhammad Jusuf Kalla, former Commader-in-Chief Endriartono Sutarto and former Human Rights and Judicial Affairs Minister Hamid Awaludin, Presidential Adviser on the peace process of Philippines Ms Teresita Quintos Deles, Chief of Staff (Retd) Alexander Yano, Professor Mariam Coronel Ferrer, Advisor to President Alma Evangelista and personnel of Center for Humanitarian Dialogue. Members of Peace-making work Committee said the country would be able to avoid wrongs and act more appropriately as it has learnt experiences, wrongs and success in peace processes of other countries. The country is in critical need of international support and assistance for peace process and the committee is committed to keep on working with peace-making process as a historic duty.

In the peace process of Indonesia, the innovations of those who led the movement was crucial and systematic formulation and implementation of policy was pivotal in the case of Philippines. Those are invaluable lessons for peace process of Myanmar. It would be required to take actions for creation of particular framework that can affect far and wide across the nation for national reconciliation like National Unification Council established in peace process of Philippines.

Presidential Adviser on the peace process of Philippines Secretary Teresita Quintos Deles said she was satisfied with peace process of Myanmar. Though conflicts differ from one another, there are some cases from which lessons can be drawn. She said she assumed that the discussion and exchange of views is a way to bring about unity between countries building peace.

Former Indonesian President Muhammad Jusuf Kalla said he welcomed the success of peace process of Myanmar. He hoped that the country would be able to build eternal peace. Conflict settlement and peace-making are in urgent need for political stability, economic development and socio-economic development of citizens.

Asia Office Regional Director of HD Centre Micheal Vatikiotis said the centre would continue its active role in support for peace process of the country.

MNA

Members of Peace-making Work Committee of Myanmar, former Indonesian President Muhammad Jusuf Kalla and peace-making experts of Philippines pose for documentary photo.—MNA

International investment, trade fair kicks off in Xiamen

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Abbas: Palestinians to apply for UN status despite pressure

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Pakistan, Indian FMs hold formal talks

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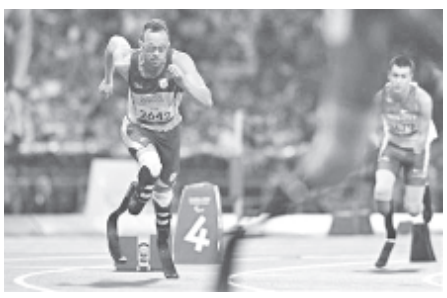
Pistorius wins final track gold of Paralympic Games



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Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (9-9-2012)

Budalin	(3.20) inches
Sittway	(3.00) inches
Shwebo	(2.60) inches
Manaung	(2.52) inches
Kyaikmaraw	(2.32) inches
Mindat	(2.28) inches
NyaungU	(1.94) inches
Myingyan	(1.81) inches
Htilin	(1.65) inches

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Union Information Minister recommends launching a TV channel to distribute more facts about publications

YANGON, 9 Sept—Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi recommended Myanmar Libraries Foundation launching a TV channel to distribute more facts about publications as he met the chairperson, vice chairpersons and central executive committee members of Myanmar Libraries Foundation at Printing and Publishing Enterprise on Theinbyu Street here this morning.

He called for an emphasis on quality over quantity of libraries, stressing the need for winning combination of reforms and innovative ideas for sustainable development of rural libraries.

He underscored the role of the foundation as an essential institution for the nation, demanding the improved capability. He recommended adopting methods from international countries, revealing the ministry's commitment to support the foundation. The goal of the government today is to offer best service delivery through people-centred approach, and thus it is required to seek means that could produce direct effects for better social-economic life of the people. There have been some effects on people's conceptual value on library due to changing conditions, but libraries still survive and are growing in developed countries. The Union minister called efforts for establishment of reference libraries.

The chairperson, vice-chairpersons, and CEC members suggested measures for sustainable development of rural libraries.—*MNA*

Union SWRR Minister impressed with soccer glory

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Sept—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin praised fighting spirit of the ministry's football team which emerged champion of 2012 Inter-Ministry Football Tournament at the honouring ceremony at the ministry here yesterday morning.

The Union Minister boasted of her Ministry side's contribution to promotion of sports standards of the government.

The coach and an footballers presented her the championship sheild, impressing the new minister with the glory they had earned in the inter-ministry game.—*MNA*

District News

K 5000-top up cards to satisfy demands of telephone users

YANGON, 9 Sept—The good news has recently came out that Myanma Posts and Telecommunications will satisfy telephone users with sales of K 5000 pre-paid cards soon.

The news crew of Myanma Alin daily had an interview with Principal U Kyaw Soe of Telecommunications and Postal Training Centres of MPT.

The principal disclosed, "The good news is right. A plan is under way to issue pre-paid card worth K 5000 each for convenience of telephone users."

Telephone user people applauded the plan on issuance of new system pre-paid cards by MPT as part of efforts to ease difficulties of service personnel with lesser salaries.

A departmental personnel expressed his opinion that it was good news; the users waited for refilling the pre-paid card till pay-day when top up card run out; so the users stopped out-going calls and waited for incoming calls only; and now they all were in convenient for calls.

A woman primary teacher of Kyimyindine Township showed off her thanks for the plan to distribute new top up cards worth K 5000 each.

Myanma Alin

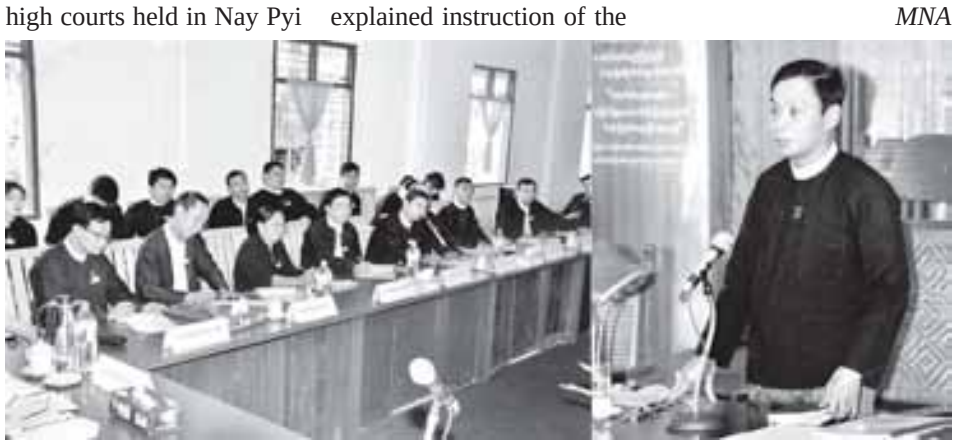
Instructions of Chief Justice of Union clarified

YANGON, 9 Sept—A ceremony to recount experiences from the third coordination meeting between Supreme Court of the Union and region/state high courts held in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 and 17 August took place at Mon State High Court in Mawlamyine on 2 September afternoon.

Chief Justice of Mon State U Khin Maung Gyi explained instruction of the Chief Justice of the Union in the meeting and heard reports on judicial matters and office works presented by district and township judges.

Mon State High Court judges and officials explained judicial matters.

MNA



Magway University opens Inter-Subject Research Show

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Sept—The Inter-Subject Research Show for 2011-2012 academic year of Magway University was held at its convocation hall on 7 September. Rector of Magway University Dr. Aye Kyaw explained purposes of holding the research show.

Chief Minister of Magway Region U Phone Maw Shwe, Region Minister for Social Affairs U Aung Kyaw Min and the Rector of Magway University opened the ceremony and viewed research papers, teaching aids books and scale models.

At the hall of Magway Basic Education High School No 1, the Region Chief Minister delivered an address at the ceremony to mark International Literacy Day of the Region. Region Education Officer U Chit Htway read the messages sent by the UNSG and the UNESCO Director-General.

The Region Chief Minister awarded the students who won prizes in the essay and poster contests to mark International Literacy Day. The Region Chief Minister viewed books on various subjects, teaching aids scale models and works of painting and posters.—*MNA*

NPO from Japan donates Judo grass mats and judo-gi suits to MJF

YANGON, 9 Sept—Jointly-organized by Myanmar Judo Federation and The Solidarity of International Judo Education (NPO) of Japan, Judo grass mats and Judo-gi suits providing ceremony for Myanmar Judo athletes with a view to achieving success in 27th SEA Games was held at Judo sports gymnasium of National Swimming Pool in Dagon Township here yesterday.

Japanese Attaché to Myanmar Mr Ichiro Maruyama explained the purpose of donation and President of MJF U Tun Tun spoke words of thanks.

On behalf of Mr Yasuhiro Yamashita of NPO from Japan, Japanese attaché to Myanmar donated 99 judo grass mats and 100 suits of judo-gi to MJF president who returned certificate of honour. Under the arrangement of NPO, two Japanese judo athletes from Tokai University made joint-training with tentatively selected Myanmar players for one month from 14 August to 13 September.—*MNA*

Sayadaw U Uttama Day commemorative essay contest held

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Sept—Organized by Rakhine State Government, the essay contest to mark the Sayadaw U Uttama Day which falls on 9 September was held at Basic Education High Schools in districts and townships of Rakhine State yesterday.

Officials presented prizes to first, second and third prize winners each at middle and high school levels at the ceremony to mark International Literacy Day at U Uttama Hall in Sittway.—*MNA*

Man striken by lightning in Bago

BAGO, 9 Sept—U Kyaw Naing Oo, 29, son of U Khin Maw stricken of lightning died on the spot at 7.15 pm on 6 September. Bago Police Station opened a file of lawsuit for the death case.—*Kyemon*

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Sept—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Victor Daniel Ramirez Pena as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. Victor Daniel Ramirez Pena was born on 24 September 1952. In 1974 he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations and in 1982 he also earned a Bachelor of Law from University of Havana. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba since 1975 and served in various capacities at the Cuban Embassies in India, Sri Lanka and Brazil. From 2001 to 2005, he served as Cuban Ambassador to St. Lucia and from 2009 to 2011 he also served as Cuban Ambassador to Libya.

Mr. Victor Daniel Ramirez Pena is married and has a daughter. He will reside in Bangkok and will be concurrently accredited to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

MNA

WORLD

US

Poll: Obama widens lead over Romney despite jobs data

US President Barack Obama poses with crowd members after speaking at a campaign event at Natural Habitat Park Field on the St Petersburg College Seminole Campus in Florida on 8 Sept, 2012. REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 9 Sept — President Barack Obama, picking up support following the Democratic National Convention, widened his narrow lead over Republican US presidential challenger Mitt Romney in a new *Reuters*/ Ipsos poll released on Saturday.

The latest daily tracking poll showed Obama, a Democrat, with a lead of 4 percentage points over Romney. Forty-seven percent of 1,457 likely voters surveyed online over the previous four days said they would vote for Obama if the 6 November elections were held today, compared with 43 percent for Romney."The bump is actually happening. I know there was some debate whether it would happen... but it's here," said Ipsos pollster Julia Clark, referring to the "bounce" in support that many presidential candidates enjoy after nominating conventions. Obama had leapfrogged Romney in the daily tracking poll on Friday with a lead of 46 percent to 44 percent.

The president's lead comes despite a mixed reaction to his convention speech on Thursday night in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Friday's government data showing that jobs growth slowed sharply last month. Obama's lead over Romney is comparable to Romney's former lead over the president after the Republican National Convention finished last week, Clark said. "We don't have another convention now to turn our attention to, so (Obama's bounce) may maintain," Clark said. "How big it'll be and how long it will last remains to be seen."

Obama increased his lead over Romney in certain favourable characteristics. Asked who was more "eloquent," 50 percent of the 1,720 registered voters questioned in the poll favoured Obama, compared to 25 percent for Romney. Asked about being "smart enough for the job," 46 percent sided with Obama compared to 37 percent for Romney.In fact, Obama led Romney in a dozen such favorable characteristics, such as "represents America" or "has the right values." The only such category in which Romney had an advantage was being "a man of faith," as 44 percent picked Romney, who is Mormon, compared to 31 percent for Obama, who is Christian.

The Democratic National Convention itself received a rather muted response in the poll. Of those registered voters who had heard, seen or read at least something about it, 41 percent rated it as "average" and 29 percent as "good." The Republican National Convention that wrapped up 30 August in Tampa, Florida similarly was rated "average" by 38 percent and "good" by 27 percent in Saturday's polling results. The precision of the *Reuters*/Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.7 percentage points.— *Reuters*

Abbas: Palestinians to apply for UN status despite pressure

MIDDLE EAST

RAMALLAH, 9 Sept — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Saturday stressed that a request for a non-member state would be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly this month despite pressure to cancel the Palestinian bid.

Abbas, speaking during a news conference at his West Bank office, said that "At the United Nations, we want to say that we are a state under occupation ... we already have 133 states recognizing Palestine with (East) Jerusalem as a capital." The pressure by the United States aim to prevent the Palestinians from seeking the membership in the United Nations, but there are other "Arabs" who ceased their financial support to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in agreeing with the American position.

The Obama administration wants the Palestinians to resume peace talks with Israel, which has been stalled since 2010 over a dispute on Jewish settlement building in the West Bank. The lack of fiscal support, together with Israeli actions, resulted in the PNA's inability to pay salaries to its employees this month, as well as the rising prices of fuel and other basic items in the West Bank.

Over the past days, public protests broke out in the West Bank against the high living costs there, with observers seeing that Abbas' Fatah party directing the protests against Salam Fayyad, the prime minister who is not a member of Fatah.

But Abbas on Saturday supported Fayyad by saying that the US-educated economist "is part of the PNA and all of us, including me first, shoulder the responsibility."

Meanwhile, Abbas slammed his rival Hamas party, which controls the Gaza Strip, for banning elections committee from operating there and so obstructing reconciliation. "There will be no dialogue without the Central Elections Commission working in Gaza," he said. He also said that Hamas contributed to the PNA's financial crisis by not sending taxes to the West Bank.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (C) speaks during a Press conference in the West Bank city of Ramalahon, on 8 Sept, 2012. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Saturday stressed that a request for a non-member state would be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly this month despite pressure to cancel the Palestinian bid.— **Xinhua**

Hamas depends mainly on smuggling tunnels beneath Gaza's southern borders with Egypt, and Abbas said that these tunnels created up to 1,000 tycoons in the coastal enclave.

Israel imposed a blockade on the territory since Hamas routed pro-Abbas forces and took over the area in 2007.

Abbas also indirectly criticized Egypt as its president Mohamed Morsi received Hamas' Prime Minister Ismail Haneya in Cairo in June. "Whoever receives Haneya as a prime minister helps the split," Abbas said of the man he fired when Hamas wrested control of Gaza. Morsi and Haneya share similar Islamic roots as Hamas is an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood movement.

Xinhua

Chinese President Hu Jintao (2nd L, front), Russian President Vladimir Putin (C, front) and leaders from other Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) members pose for a group photo with members of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) after a dialogue meeting in Vladivostok, east Russia, on 8 Sept, 2012.— XINHUA

APEC leaders discuss food security, innovative growth

APEC

VLADIVOSTOK, 9 Sept — Chinese President Hu Jintao and leaders of other Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) members are meeting for the second day here on Sunday on strengthening food security and fostering innovative growth.

At Saturday's meeting, APEC leaders reviewed APEC achievements made in the past 20 years, and exchanged views on trade and investment liberalization, regional economic integration and the establishment of reliable supply chains. In addition to the topics being discussed at Sunday's meeting, APEC leaders will exchange views on the world and regional economic situation at a working luncheon.

Speaking at Saturday's meeting, Hu said that China wishes to take the hosting of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in 2014 as an opportunity to deepen cooperation with other APEC members and make fresh and an even greater contribution to the development, prosperity and people's well-being in the Asia-Pacific and beyond. Referring to trade and investment liberalization and regional economic integration, the Chinese leader said APEC members should follow the spirit of the Bogor Goals and move forward trade and investment liberalization and facilitation with Bogor at its core.

The Bogor Declaration adopted by APEC leaders in 1994 sets the goals of achieving trade and investment liberalization and facilitation by 2010 for developed economies and 2020 for developing ones. On the establishment of reliable supply chains, Hu called on the APEC members to scale up investment in infrastructure, enhance connectivity and increase network building in the region. This year's APEC meeting convened at a time when destabilizing factors and uncertainties remain prominent in the world economy.—*Xinhua*

EU break-up would condemn it to "insignificance": Italy's president

EU

CERNOBBIO, (Italy), 9 Sept — The only possible future for the European Union (EU) is a strengthened economical and political governance, Italy's President Giorgio Napolitano said on Saturday. In his video address to the Ambrosetti economic forum in northern Italy, Napolitano ruled out the possibility of an EU break-up, which would condemn the region to "insignificance" in the globalized world.

He noted the size of the region, which counts over 450 million people, is an obstacle for its cohesion, but building a stronger economic and political union is "the only possible direction of travel." Pursuing collaboration-oriented policies at the national level will help strengthen "the architecture and governance" of the union, he said, calling on national leaders to "make of European policies a vividly-debated topic among common citizens." He added no rifts should be created between stronger and weaker member states, but "every country must play its part."

Speaking of crisis-hit Italy, Napolitano said problems to be solved are still "complex." The emergency government of technocrats led by Prime Minister Mario Monti over the past 10 months has strengthened the country's financial sustainability and credibility on the international level.

Xinhua

Science

UK paraplegic woman first to take robotic suit home

LONDON, 9 Sept — A British woman paralyzed from the chest down by a horse riding accident has become the first person to take home a robotic exoskeleton that enables her to walk. Although bionic exoskeletons have been used in hospitals and rehabilitation centers, Claire Lomas is the first to take the ReWalk suit home for everyday use. Lomas earlier this year used the suit to complete the London Marathon in 17 days, raising about 200,000 pounds ($317,900) for research into spinal damage, and she was recently given the job of lighting the Paralympic cauldron in Trafalgar Square.

But she said more routine activities are equally gratifying. "One of the best experiences was standing at a bar," she said. "To be stood up in this means everything to me." Larry Jasinski, chief executive of Argo Medical Technologies, the company that developed the suit, told Reuters he was initially nervous about backing the marathon bid because the suit was still being tested but Lomas said it held up well. "The suit was really reliable in the worst weather and I got there 17 days later," she said. The exoskeleton is activated by the wearer tilting their balance to indicate the desire to take a step. It supports the body's weight and also allows the person to go up or down stairs, as well as sit or stand up independently.

It costs 45,000 pounds and although clinical studies are ongoing that could back a case for health authorities to fund purchases of the device, the developers argue that savings on the treatment of ailments related to inactivity could offset the cost. Paralyzed people are prone to pressure sores and a loss of bone density, as well as problems linked to poor posture. Jasinski said estimates on the cost of treating these range from $500,000 to $3 million over a patient's life. The company estimates that of the 6 million wheelchair users in the US and Europe, around 250,000 could be suitable for using the ReWalk device. A report in 2010 by US firm ABI Research forecast the market for this technology could be worth $320 million within 10 years.

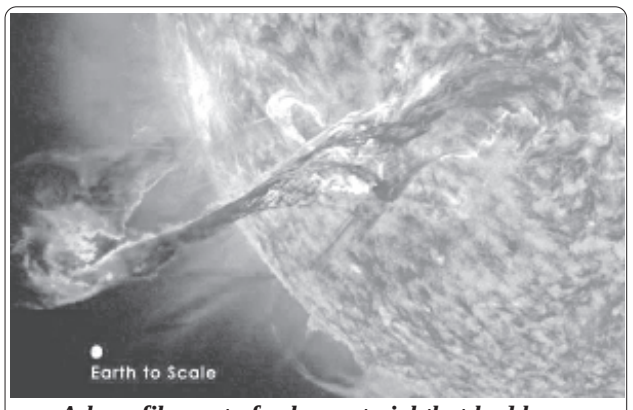
In the meantime, says Jasinski, the US and Israeli military have shown an interest for use by injured soldiers. Research into exoskeletons goes back 50 years but advances in software management systems and sensors have only recently made them practical. Argo, which is backed by Israeli venture capitalists SCP Vitalife and Israeli Healthcare Ventures, is working on a similar device for quadriplegics, as well as a brain interface that could allow more intuitive 'thought control' of the exoskeleton. Although Jasinski says this is still years away, scientists have recently unveiled devices that can be controlled in real time by thought using advanced brain scanning.

Others are working on materials that can interact with human nerves and tissue that could eventually lead to prosthetics that are fused with the body and controlled directly by the nervous system. In June, a team at Maastricht University in the Netherlands unveiled a device that uses functional magnetic resonance imaging, which monitors blood flow in the brain, to allow people to spell out words simply by thinking of each letter. Another experiment reported in July saw FMRI used by a man at Bar-Ilan University in Israel to control the movements of a robot thousands of miles away at Beziers Technology Institute in France.

Lomas said that after her accident, she rejected pleas from doctors to give up on the idea of using her legs, saying that as a young, active woman before her 2007 accident, "I didn't want to have a big stomach and spindly legs". Since the accident she has got married, had a child, and next year plans a London-to-Paris bicycle ride using a so-called Functional Electrical Stimulation bike that artificially stimulates the paralyzed rider's own muscles to propel it along.

Reuters

People view a latest developed digital servo control system during the International Broadcasting Covention (IBC) Exhibition in Amsterdam, on 7 Sept, 2012. The IBC2012 Exhibition kicked off on Friday at the RAI Exhibition and Convention Centre in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. IBC, Europe's largest professional broadcast show, is held annually for broadcasters, content creators/providers, equipment manufacturers, professional and technical associations, and other participants in the Broadcasting industry. XINHUA



A long filament of solar material that had been hovering in the Sun's atmosphere, the corona, erupts out into space at 4:36 pm EDT on 31 Aug, 2012. The coronal mass ejection, or CME, travelled at over 900 miles per second. The CME did not travel directly toward Earth, but did connect with Earth's magnetic environment, causing aurora to appear on the night of 3 Sept, 2012. —REUTERS

Singapore begins pilot deployments of "Super Wi-Fi" networks

SINGAPORE, 9 Sept — Singapore announced on Wednesday its first series of commercial pilot deployments of the co-called "Super Wi-Fi" networks. The "Super Wi-Fi" was first named by the United States Federal Communications Commission for unused TV broadcast frequency bands, known as "white spaces", which is planned to use for the creation of longer-distance wireless internet.

It is able to travel over longer distances and penetrate more obstacles, like trees, buildings and bodies of water, comparing with the traditional Wi-Fi. The name "Super Wi-Fi" can " translate to better coverage, lower power consumption and reduced network costs", Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research said in a statement.

By using the unused broadcasting spectrum, the government can reduce the tension caused by explosive growth of wireless data traffic. The trial is firstly conducted in Singapore Island Country Club, Changi and the National University of Singapore by a local group comprising Microsoft, StarHub and the city-state's Institute for Infocomm Research, targeting to explore and promote the use of " Super Wi-Fi" to deliver commercial wireless broadband services.— *Xinhua*

Technology

Google buys cybersecurity startup VirusTotal

SAN FRANCISCO, 9 Sept— Google Inc has bought startup VirusTotal, picking up a fledgling but widely used cybersecurity industry player in a move that could beef up protection for its Internet services.

The acquisition of VirusTotal, which aggregates warnings on submitted files and websites from most antivirus solutions, including Intel Corp's McAfee and Symantec Corp, could significantly shore up the search giant's ability to weed out infectious content from Gmail, social network Google+ and even the pages it shows search users.

VirusTotal operates by accepting requests for virus checks, running every available protection software on the questioned document or pages, then distributing the results to security vendors.

Because those results include the documents and websites submitted, the service is considered a valuable source of information by the security industry about emergent threats and potential targets.

"VirusTotal will continue to operate independently, maintaining our partnerships with other antivirus companies and security experts," the startup said in a blogpost announcing the acquisition.

"We've worked hard to ensure that the services we offer continually improve. But as a small, resource-constrained company, that can sometimes be challenging."

Google did not disclose the amount it paid, and did not respond to requests for comment.— *Reuters*

A woman walks past the Google Chicago headquarters logo in Chicago, on 20 March, 2012. — REUTERS

EU says Microsoft pledged to meet antitrust requests on browsers

Technology

CERNOBBIO, (Italy), 9 Sept—Software giant Microsoft is ready to introduce measures that would address the European Union's antitrust concerns about users' ability to chose between different browsers, European Commissioner Joaquin Almunia said on Saturday.

EU antitrust regulators are investigating whether Microsoft blocks computer makers from installing rival web browsers on its upcoming Windows 8 operating system, following complaints from several companies. Almunia is in charge of antitrust enforcement at the European Commission.

"In my personal talks with Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer he has given me assurances that they will comply immediately regardless of the conclusion of the anti trust probe," Almunia said at an economic conference in northern Italy, adding that he considered the matter a "very, very serious issue."

The affair is part of an investigation opened in July into the world No 1 software company's failure to offer users a choice of rival web browsers which it had agreed with regulators three years ago.In its latest spat with the US group, the EU watchdog is also looking into allegations that Microsoft does not provide access to complete interfaces (APIs) for non-default browsers in Windows 8.

Separately, Almunia said he was in favor of extending a temporary authorization for state aid for stricken Franco-Berlgian bank Dexia beyond a 30 September deadline. "But the most important thing is to advance on a final, structural solution about the future of the Dexia group," he said.

Reuters

Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer speaks at a Nokia phone launch, with Microsoft's Windows 8 operating system in New York, on 5 Sept, 2012. — REUTERS

HEALTH

Half of women may have sleep apnea

NEW YORK, 9 Sept—Fully half of the 400 women given overnight sleep tests in a new Swedish study turned out to have mild-to-severe sleep apnea.

In the random population sample of adult women who answered a questionnaire and were monitored while sleeping, half experienced at least five episodes an hour when they stopped breathing for longer than 10 seconds, the minimum definition of sleep apnea.

Among women with hypertension or who were obese — two risk factors for sleep apnea — the numbers were even higher, reaching 80 to 84 percent of women. Many of the women in the study represent mild cases of sleep apnea. "How important is the mild sleep apnea, we don't know," said Dr Karl Franklin, the lead author of the study and a professor at Umea University in Sweden.

Terry Young, a professor in the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Wisconsin, said mild sleep apnea is important to pay attention to.

"We see that it doesn't go away and it gets worse," she said.

Sleep apnea is tied to a higher risk of stroke, heart attack and early death.

One recent study also found that women who have sleep apnea are more likely to develop memory problems and dementia (see Reuters Health story of August 9, 2011).

Franklin said his group wanted to get updated evidence of how common the condition is. The researchers selected 400 women between the ages of 20 and 70 from a larger population sample of 10,000, and asked them to sleep overnight at home with sensors attached to their bodies.

The sensors measured heart rate, eye and leg movements, blood oxygen levels, air flow and brain waves.

Each apnea event was defined by at a least a 10-second pause in breathing accompanied by a drop in blood oxygen levels.

Women who had an average of five or more of these events during each hour of sleep were considered to have sleep apnea. The study, which was funded by the Swedish Heart Lung Foundation, found that apnea became more common in the older age groups.

Among women aged 20-44, one quarter had sleep apnea, compared to 56 percent of women aged 45-54 and 75 percent of women aged 55-70.

Young said these numbers are higher than her own estimate, but that's likely because she used a more strict definition of sleep apnea than Franklin's group.

Franklin also said his equipment, being newer, is more sensitive in detecting interruptions in breathing.

Severe sleep apnea, which involves more than 30 breathing disruptions per hour, was far less common.

Just 4.6 percent of women 45-54 and 14 percent of women 55-70 had severe cases.

Among women of all ages with hypertension, 14 percent had severe sleep apnea, and among women who were obese, 19 percent had severe apnea.—*Reuters*

ECONOMY

China, Russia sound alarm on world economy

BEIJING, 9 Sept—China and Russia sounded the alarm about the state of the global economy at a summit on Saturday and urged Asian-Pacific countries to protect themselves by forging deeper regional economic ties.

Chinese President Hu Jintao said Beijing would do all it could to strengthen the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and boost prospects of a global recovery by rebalancing its economy, Asia's biggest.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said trade barriers must be smashed down. He is hosting the event on a small island linked to the Pacific port of Vladivostok by a spectacular new bridge, a symbol of Moscow's pivotal turn to Asia away from debt-stricken Europe.

"It's important to build bridges, not walls. We must continue striving for greater integration," Putin told APEC leaders seated at a round table in a room with a view of the $1 billion cable-stayed bridge, the largest of its kind.

"The global economic recovery is faltering. We can overcome the negative trends only by increasing the volume of trade in goods and services and enhancing the flow of capital."

China's Hu told business leaders before the summit the world economy was being hampered by "destabilising factors and uncertainties" and the crisis that hit in 2008-09 was far from over.

Beijing would play its role, he said, in strengthening the recovery.

"We will work to maintain the balance between keeping steady and robust growth, adjusting the economic structure and managing inflation expectations," he said.

Hu spelled out plans for China, whose economic growth has slowed as Europe's debt crisis worsened, to pump $157 billion into infrastructure investments in agriculture, energy, railways and roads. Hu, who steps down as China's leader in the autumn after a Communist Party congress, promised continuity and stability for the economy.

Putin, who has just begun a new six-year term as president, said on Friday Russia would be a stable energy supplier and a gateway to Europe for Asian countries, and also pledged to develop his country's transportation network.

Gazprom, Russia's state-controlled gas export monopoly, signed an agreement with Japan to develop plans for a $7 billion liquefied natural gas plant on Russia's Pacific coast, underscoring Moscow's eastward shift.

Reuters

China August inflation at 2 percent, narrows room to ease

BEIJING, 9 Sept—China's annual rate of consumer inflation ticked up to 2.0 percent in August from July's 30-month low of 1.8 percent, official data showed on Sunday, suggesting that room to ease monetary policy to shore up growth may be narrowing. Economists polled by *Reuters* had forecast inflation to pick up to 2.0 percent in August.

Month on month, however, inflation was a touch ahead of forecasts, up 0.6 percent in August versus July. Analysts had anticipated a rise of 0.5 percent. Food inflation was up 3.4 percent on a year ago while non-food prices rose 1.4 percent.

"Inflation is coming back quickly. Together with rising home prices, it will limit the scope for further policy relaxation," said Dong Xian'an, economist with Peking First Advisory.

Separately, the National Bureau of Statistics said China's producer price index dropped 3.5 percent in August from a year earlier, which compared to forecasts for a 3.3 percent decline.

It marked the sixth straight month of producer price deflation, putting a further squeeze on corporate profits already dampened by a drop-off in demand at home and abroad courtesy of global economic headwinds stemming from Europe's sovereign debt crisis.

Investors widely expect the central bank to ease monetary conditions further as part of the government's campaign of "policy fine-tuning" unveiled in the autumn of 2011.

The People's Bank of China has cut interest rates twice since June and trimmed banks' required reserve ratios (RRR) in three 50 basis point steps since last November that has freed an estimated 1.2 trillion yuan ($190 billion) for new lending.

But a seeming recent preference for using money market operations over interest rates to boost liquidity conditions in the economy is seen as a sign of the policy dilemma facing a central bank and a government super hawkish on inflation and wary of aggressive rate cuts.

Reuters

BUSINESS

A vendor waits for customers inside his stationery stall in Shenyang on 9 Sept, 2012. —REUTERS

Bank of England's Dale warns about risks of loose policy

BUSINESS

DUBLIN, 9 Sept — The Bank of England must guard against fuelling inflation in a stalled economy when deciding on the need for more stimulus, its chief economist warned on Saturday, showing his reluctance to sanction further asset purchases.

In a speech at a conference in Dublin, BoE chief economist Spencer Dale stressed that pumping more money into the faltering economy may not be the appropriate remedy if the weakness was caused by a hit to its capacity to grow. "If the handbrake on your car is stuck, putting your foot further and further down on the accelerator won't get you very far before the car starts to overheat," he said.Dale voted against the current round of 50 billion pounds of new asset purchases when it was launched in July, as he was worried the inflation outlook may not have improved enough and pinned hopes on other steps the central bank had taken. "If output growth remains weak, we will need to assess carefully develop-ments in potential supply as well as demand before deciding how to respond," he said.

"The rates of growth enjoyed prior to the crisis may not be the correct benchmark for the next few years." "Above all, we need to remain firmly focused on hitting our inflation target," he said.

People walk and jog past the Bank of England, London on 15 June, 2012.— REUTERS

The central bank also had to consider the potential costs of further easing, Dale said, as a long period of loose monetary policy could lure investors into taking excessive risks and delay necessary economic restructuring. "Monetary policy can and should provide short-term support in times of need, but it must avoid becoming a long-term crutch obstructing the required rebalancing of our economy," he said.—*Reuters*

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Nicaraguan volcano spews ash cloud, residents evacuated

VOLCANO

MANAGUA, 9 Sept — Nicaragua's highest volcano belched an ash plume up to 3 miles into the atmosphere on Saturday, prompting the evacuation of hundreds of nearby residents.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage, authorities said. But the government issued a yellow alert, indicating emergency plans had been activated.

The plume formed a cloud extending 30-miles from the 5,725-foot (1,745-meter) San Cristobal volcano, which is about 95 miles north of the capital Managua in the country's volcano-dotted northwest, said the Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies, or Ineter. Javier Mejia, executive director of Ineter, which monitors seismic and volcanic activity, said he recommended that civil aviation authorities close down the air space near San Cristobal because of the ash plume and cloud, the largest recorded in recent years.

The volcano has long been active, and stirred in mid-2008, when it expelled gas and rumbled with a series of small eruptions. For months it has emitted "abundant gases in a constant manner," Ineter said in its monthly bulletin.

The government expects to evacuate about 3,000 people from around San Cristobal, though numerous families already have evacuated of their own, said Guillermo Gonzalez, who heads Sinapred, a government emergency and disaster relief agency.

"A response plan exists for volcano eruptions and every community has clearly defined places for people to go to once they are evacuated," Gonzalez said. In a preliminary report, Ineter said "more gas emissions and sporadic explosions" could be expected from San Cristobal.

The volcano is one of the most active along Nicaragua's Pacific coast, according to the institute, and at times averages nearly 100 seismic movements a day. Government spokeswoman Rosario Murillo earlier said as many as 20,000 people could ultimately be affected.

Reuters

A boy covers his face from San Cristobal volcano ashes at the Chonco town, some 180 km north of capital Managua on 8 Sept, 2012.— REUTERS

Participants dressed in ancient costumes learn fencing during the Giostra baroque festival in Porec, Croatia, on 8 Sept, 2012. The 3-day festival attracted over 300 participants, who give spectators a vivid demonstration of the Baroque period life.

XINHUA

Israeli police arrest five Jewish teenagers for attacking Arab youth

ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, 9 Sept — Jerusalem police on Saturday arrested five Jewish teenagers who are suspected of attacking against an Arab youth, Israeli media reported. 28-year-old Ibrahim Abu Ta'ah was on his way home from a club in the Talpiyot area of Jerusalem with friends from work when he was attacked on Thursday night around midnight.

According to police, a group of about six or seven teenagers attacked Abu Ta'ah, beating his leg with a metal rod and punching him with their bare hands. Abu Ta'ah was sent to hospital with a broken leg. Police arrived on the scene and tried to locate the suspects but they scattered after Abu Ta'ah's coworker called the police.

Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben Ruby said he expects additional arrests in the coming days, according to *The Jerusalem Post*. The first three suspects, arrested earlier in the evening, admitted that they were involved in the attack and told police they thought "the Arab was abusing the Jewish girl."

Four of the suspects will have remand hearings on Sunday, and a 16-year-old guy will have his hearing on Monday. The attack against Abu Ta'ah comes exactly three weeks after the lynch against another Arab youth in Jerusalem by a group of Jewish teenagers chanting racist slogans. Eight youth and one adult were indicted in connection with the attack.

Xinhua

Iran ready to hold nuclear talks in "win-win" situation

IRAN

TEHERAN, 9 Sept—Iran's Foreign Minister Ali-Akbar Salehi said on Saturday that his country is ready to hold negotiations with world powers on Iran's nuclear programme in a win- win situation, Press TV reported. "We have repeatedly expressed our readiness and announced that we are ready for talks in a win-win situation," Salehi was quoted as saying. Iran has never lost the "opportunity for diplomacy," said the foreign minister.

"Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has asserted that Iran's nuclear energy programme is peaceful," Salehi said, adding that "If there is any problem today, it is the problem of the West and the United States." In the past years, several rounds of talks over the controversial nuclear programme of the Islamic republic have been carried out, but bear no breakthrough to peaceful settlement of the issue.

During intensive talks in Russia's capital of Moscow on 18- 19 June, Iran and the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany), did not sign any agreements but agreed to meet again in Turkey's Istanbul in July at the expert level. In July, Iran's deputy nuclear negotiator Ali Baqeri said that the nuclear talks with deputy head of the EU's foreign relations in Istanbul were "positive." However, no date and venue was set for further high-level negotiations.

The United States, Israel and some Western countries suspect the Iranian nuclear programme is a cover for building nuclear weapons. The Islamic republic has rejected the allegations and insisted on the "peaceful" nature of its nuclear activities.

The United States and the EU have imposed several rounds of sanctions to pressure Iran to give up its uranium enrichment activities. Although Iran has stated that Western sanctions have had no significant impacts on the economy of the country, Iran's currency, rial, has been depreciating against major foreign currencies including the US dollar significantly in the past year and domestic inflation has been rising.

Xinhua

French hostages kidnapped in Niger by al-Qaeda appear in video

FRANCE

PARIS, 9 Sept — Four French men kidnapped by al-Qaeda militants in northern Niger almost two years ago appeared in a video on Saturday appealing to French President Francois Hollande and their employers to continue negotiations to secure their release. The seven-minute video, posted on a Mauritanian news website, shows the four men — Pierre Legrand, Daniel Larribe, Thierry Dole and Marc Ferret — looking healthy and kneeling in a desert setting with armed men in traditional Bedouin clothing and turbans standing over them carrying kalashnikov rifles. The video is the first evidence to emerge in nearly 18 months proving the hostages kidnapped by al-Qaeda's north African arm (AQIM) are alive. France's Foreign Ministry said the men shown in the video were the French hostages named and it was working to authenticate when the footage was shot. "We are Wednesday, 29 August and it will soon be two years we're here. I am in good health and I am well treated," Larribe, the oldest of the four men, said in the video.

The four were among seven people working for French nuclear group Areva and Sogea-Satom, a subsidiary of construction group Vinci, who were kidnapped in September 2010 in the town of Arlit in Niger's northern uranium mining zone.—*Reuters*

Tornado sweeps out beachfront neighbourhood in New York City

DISASTER

NEW YORK, 9 Sept— A tornado ripped through a beachfront neighbourhood in Queens, New York on Saturday, hurling debris into the air, knocking out power, flooding roads and even forcing the delay of the US Open tennis tournament. But so far no injuries have been reported, according to the local media.

The US National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed that an EFO tornado touched down near Breezy Point, Queens earlier in the day. The swirling column of wind and water was captured by dozens of people on cell phone cameras, and instantly posted on the Internet.

A woman clears debris after a tornado hit Rockaway peninsula of the borough of Queens, New York, the United States, on 8 Sept, 2012. — XINHUA

The tornado lasted only minutes, according to witnesses, but already long enough for it to tear down walls, lift roofs off homes and tangle power lines as it cut a path through the Rockaways, near Breezy Point.

New York City Police Commissioner Raymond W Kelly arrived at Breezy Point on Saturday afternoon to assess the damage, media reports said.

The NWS issued a tornado warning for Queens and Brooklyn as a line of strong thunderstorms moved through the city, the reports added. — *Xinhua*

Magnitude 5.6 quake hits Costa Rica

EARTHQUAKE

WASHINGTON, 9 Sept — A magnitude 5.6 earthquake struck northwestern Costa Rica on Saturday, three days after a powerful 7.6-magnitude quake hit the Central American country. The US Geological Survey said the quake on Saturday was centered 40 miles south-southeast of Liberia, Costa Rica, at a depth of 22 miles.

There was no immediate report of damage on Wednesday's quake, the severest in Costa Rica in over two decades, sparked landslides and knocked down buildings, but caused no deaths. It was also centered in the northwestern part of the country.— *Reuters*

INTERNATIONL NEWS

Police start searching house of Britons shot dead in French Alps

CRIME

French police officers speak with their British counterparts as they arrive at the home of Saad al-Hilli in Claygate, south of London on 8 Sept, 2012.
REUTERS

PARIS, 9 Sept — French and British police began searching the house on Saturday of a British man shot dead in the French Alps with his wife and another woman and a state prosecutor said the man's brother would be officially questioned as part of the investigations. Forensics experts who performed autopsies on the three victims and a passing local cyclist who was also shot dead, determined all four had been shot twice directly in the head.

"The four people were killed by several bullets and ... were victims of shots straight to the head," State Prosecutor Eric Maillaud told reporters. Maillaud confirmed the people killed in the car were a couple from Britain— on a camping holiday in the Annecy region with their two daughters— and an older woman. The girls, aged seven and four, survived and are under police protection in hospital after the shootings on a remote forest road near the village of Chevaline on Wednesday.

Maillaud said a family feud over money was one of several motives being considered for the murders and the brother of Saad al-Hilli, the Iraqi-born British driver, would be formally questioned. He said he understood the brother had denied any dispute with Hilli, who lived in Surrey, south of London. "It's clear that during an investigation we will try and find out as much about the life of the Hilli family," Maillaud said.

The prosecutor said investigators had gleaned little from their "moving" chat on Friday with the four-year-old girl, who is in a psychiatric hospital in the city of Grenoble, accompanied by a nurse and British embassy staff. He said members of the family had arrived on site, but declined to say who they were.

Police hope Hilli's seven-year-old daughter, who was still in an artificial coma in a Grenoble hospital after suffering serious skull fractures, will be able to eventually provide more information."The two girls are doing as well as can be expected," Maillaud said.

Reuters

Austerity necessary to regain credibility: Greek PM

GREEK

ATHENS, 9 Sept — Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras on Saturday stressed that a fresh austerity package under discussion is necessary to regain credibility and overcome the threatening debt crisis. "We are at a crucial crossroads," Samaras said when inaugurating the 77th Thessaloniki International Fair in the northern Greek city port. "In order to avert the catastrophe we had to restore credibility," he added.

The annual commercial exhibition for decades has been the showcase of achievements of Greek and foreign entrepreneurs, and an opportunity for Greek Premiers to present their economic policies. But on Saturday, thousands protesters in the streets were denouncing austerity. Samaras acknowledged in a short statement that Greek citizens suffer from recession due to rounds of painful spending cuts to counter the crisis since 2010.

He underlined, however, that there is no alternative way at the moment rather than the implementation of an additional 11.5 billion-euro (14.7 billion US dollars) austerity package to 2014. The reduction of deficits and the acceleration of the structural reform part of the bailout deals with EU and International Monetary Fund (IMF) are the keys to regain the trust of creditors and unlock further rescue loans this autumn to boost liquidity, growth, keep Greece away from the brink of default and in the eurozone, he argued.

But, as Samaras aims to finalize the new austerity package in talks in Athens with his two junior coalition partners on Sunday and visiting EU/IMF auditors on Monday to secure new multi billion euro funding under bailout agreements, reactions by labour unions culminate. Approximately 20,000 protesters participated on Saturday in a series of peaceful rallies organized in Thessaloniki by the two umbrella unions of public and private sector employees, ADEDY and GSEE, along opposition Left parties.

Xinhua

A Ford Speedster produced in 1912 is seen at a classic car show during the "24 Hours of Elegance 2012" luxury event in Belgrade, Serbia, on 8 Sept, 2012.
XINHUA

EU needs to help stem regional water conflicts

EU

PAPHOS, (Cyprus), 9 Sept — European governments must wield their influence and engineering skills more effectively to prevent conflicts over water supply that could threaten global security, the European Union's policy chief Catherine Ashton said. The EU has a strategic interest in ensuring stability in regions with some of the world's biggest water problems, including North Africa after the Arab Spring revolts and Central Asia which holds crucial energy reserves. Ashton said the Nile basin was a particular concern.

"If managed well, the Nile holds the potential to catalyze regional integration and to help bring prosperity and stability to a vast area," she said in written responses received late on Friday to *Reuters*' questions. "If handled poorly, each of the Nile countries could feel the negative consequences in their economic and social development." Along the Nile, growing demand for water due to population growth, foreign investment and climate change pits Egypt's new government against upstream states such as South Sudan, Ethiopia and Rwanda, who are frustrated by what they see as Cairo's disproportionately large share of the river's water.

In central Asia, one of the world's driest places, poor Soviet-era planning has left countries heavily dependent on thirsty crops such as cotton and grain, leading to tensions over water use and dam construction. Uzbek President Islam Karimov said on Friday a dispute over water resources risks provoking military conflict in the former Soviet region. Ashton, who was hosting a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Cyprus where water security was discussed, said the bloc would offer its know-how in order to help calm tensions in the region. "Central Asia's ... increasing demand on a limited, shared resource carries risks but also opportunities for cooperation in the entire region and we will continue our efforts to help the region in this direction," she said.

With the world population predicted to grow to more than 9 billion in 2050, from 7 billion, demand for food is expected to increase by 70 percent in the next four decades, United Nations forecasts show, putting unprecedented strain on water resources. "Water shortages, poor water quality, droughts and floods are likely to affect many places ... over the next few years and this can lead to instability and insecurity, which could have a direct bearing on Europe," Ashton said.

Reuters

Cyprus' Foreign Minister Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis (R) speaks as EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton looks on during a news conference in Paphos on 8 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

Teenage bomber kills six near NATO HQ

AFGHANISTAN

KABUL, 9 Sept — A 14-year-old suicide bomber detonated explosives near the heavily barricaded NATO headquarters in Kabul on Saturday, killing six civilians including children, NATO and local officials said. The bomber wore a vest packed with explosives and rode right up to the NATO gates on a bicycle, underscoring the insurgents' ability to strike deep inside the Afghan capital, ahead of the withdrawal of most foreign combat forces by the end of 2014.

Pieces of flesh and splattered blood lay on the street near the base, where the small bodies of children were lifted into ambulances. Scores of young children peddle trinkets and chewing gum around the foreign bases, hoping to earn a bit of cash. Wailing women in head-to-toe burqas who said they were the dead children's mothers rushed shortly after the attack to the site, where small flip flops lay strewn in the mud. Kabul Police, in a statement to media, said the bomber was 14 years old, without giving details.

The Taleban took responsibility for the attack, but denied they had deployed a teenage bomber, saying instead he was a 28-year-old who targeted the Kabul offices of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) condemned the use of children. "Forcing underage youth to do their dirty work again proves the insurgency's despicable tactics," said spokesman Brigadier General Gunter Katz.

The US embassy in Kabul said in a statement that using "the most impressionable and vulnerable", such as a teenager, to carry out such attacks revealed the true nature of the insurgents.

Reuters

Afghan security forces personnel secure the area after an incident at the site of a suicide bomb attack in Kabul on 8 Sept, 2012.
REUTERS

13th int'l fair of amber held in northern Polish city

POLAND

GDANSK, (Poland), 9 Sept — The 13th international fair of amber was held in Gdansk, northern Poland city over the weekend. This year, the fair moved to the new pavilion which is close to the Gdansk PGE Arena Stadium, covering an area of about 3,000 square meters.

More than 140 exhibitors from Poland and the Baltic coast countries joined this autumn exhibition. The exhibits include the silver and gold jewelry with amber, crafts made of amber, and raw amber. More than 3,000 guests took part in the Fair.

Poland is famous for its exquisite amber processing industry, the biannual grand international fairs of amber are held in spring and fall every year. It always attracts a large number of international amber wholesalers from around the world.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 10 September, 2012

Differences of over 60 million people

It is usual that people have differences as they have different origins, different backgrounds, different beliefs, different ideas and different visions. But the more important issue here is every one's right to express the differences freely and openly, because we will be able to solve the problems, settle the disputes, establish mutual understanding and foster sympathetic minds only if we know the differences of each and everyone.

If the open and independent expression of public differences is denied or people's voices of differences cannot be heard, honesty will be lost together with the courage of finding or speaking out the truth as difference is natural in all human societies where diversity ever exists.

Moreover, misdeeds and wrongdoings such as corruption, immorality, bribery and unfaithfulness will find their place in a society that abandons the truth.

Let alone a community or an institution, even a family has differences. So, it's not unusual that differences exist everywhere in human society. Differences may be sometimes like fire. They can destroy a happy marriage, a firm organization or even a powerful empire (history has many proofs). But through clever and wise tactics and tolerance and transparency, they can be useful or they can even become a constructive power as opposite forces when working in harmony generate powerful energy and strength.

Negotiations and compromises, coordination and cooperation, candidness and sincerity, and forbearance and lucidity are the basic forces for converting differences into agreements, enmities into amities, diversity into unity, enemies into friends, segregation into integration, and weakness into strength.

Accordingly, we must acknowledge and accept the differences, instead of denying or hiding them. We must find out the differences among the communities, institutions or localities or even in the whole country, and seek ways that will mitigate them or solve them.

More importantly, we must turn the diverse ideas and views or in other words "differences" of over 60 million Myanmar people into powerful consolidated force towards our goal —a genuine democratic state.

Union EP Minister on inspection tour of Ywama natural gas power station

YANGON, 9 Sept—Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe paid an inspection tour of Ywama natural gas power station in Insein Township, here, yesterday afternoon.

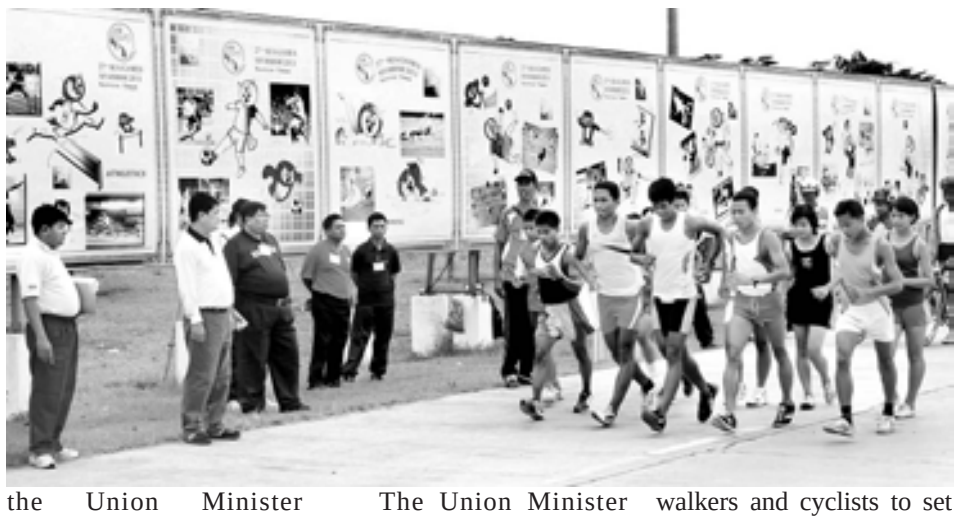
After he had viewed the chosen site for natural gas power engine to be jointly-conducted by the ministry of electric power of Thailand and the ministry, he urged officials concerned to systematically find right location for the station with easy access to carry gas since before it starts to be under construction. He then looked into progress of generating electricity and distribution of electricity by two gas turbines running there.

At the meeting hall of the power station, the Union Minister met with officials concerned and left necessary instructions on the extension of the power station installation with new turbines from Thailand.

It is learnt that the new two turbines to be equipped with the power station would produce about 125 Megawatt of electricity for each. One will be generating in eight months after their arrival, and in one year for another. They are believed to fulfill the need of electricity supply in municipal areas of Yangon.

MNA

New generation athletes taking trainees at sports zones



NAY PYI TAW, 8 Sept—Cyclists of Myanmar Cycling Federation are taking training at Gold Camp of Nay Pyi Taw Sports Centre as of 15 December 2011.

Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan viewed training of marathon athletes, walkers and cyclists at Training Centre 1 at Wunnatheikdi Sports Zone in Zabuthiri Township this morning.

In meeting with cyclists, the Union Minister presented first, second and third prizes to the winners.

The Union Minister enjoyed participation of long-distance runners, walkers and cyclists to set their records.

MNA

Disaster

CASH PROVIDED: ***Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Swe of Dawei District General Administration Department and party present edible oil and condensed milk worth over K 300,000 to 23 flood victim households of Paikhtelay Village in Damaminseik Village-tract in Yebyu Township on 29 August.—MYANMA ALIN***

Regular transport resumes along Kawkareik-Myawady Road

KAWKAREIK, 9 Sept—Heavy rains caused landslides and land cracks between mile post No. 79 and 80 on Kawkareik-Myawady Road crossing Dawna Mountain Range in Kayin State on 3 September.

Except vans, super customs and pickups, the local authorities did not allow 10-and 12-wheeled vehicles to roll on the road that is a Myanmar-Thai trade route.

Under the supervision of the Kayin State Superintending Engineer of Public Works and the senior engineer of Kawkareik District, workers carried out filling of gravels along the retaining walls and maintenance of the road. As of 7 September, the road gives better transport services to all sizes of vehicles.

Myanma Alin

Mindon Creek erodes banks in Mindon Township

THAYET, 9 Sept—Due to bank erosion of Mindon Creek, the landslides occurred near Thitseintbin Village of Minywakaing Village in Mindon Township of Thayet District.

It was reported that if preventive measures cannot be taken against bank erosion, the four-mile long communication road linking Mindon and Pathein-Monywa Road for the use of 95 per cent of the local people will be damaged.

As of 2011 rainy season, landslides occurred near Thitseintbin Village, four-furlong square area of croplands was eroded. At present, water of the creek is eroding the communication road linking Mindon and Pathein-Monywa Road. That is why it is necessary to build retaining walls and bank protection at the eroded areas as quickly as possible.

Myanma Alin

To mark 23rd birthday, Ma Myat Moh Moh Theint on Thiri Myaing Road in Ward 13 in Hline Township of Yangon Region donated K 150,000 for a day meal to the fund of Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Joint-Secretary U Maung Maung recently.

NLM

Cartoon *Paw Lwin Kyaw*

Union CPT Minister inspects tasks for mobile network extension

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Sept—Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun visited Network Management Centre in Dekkhinathiri Township here yesterday.

He inspected auxillary power system and security systems.

He then inspected installation of BTS machines for GSM/UMTS mobile network extension at Mile post No. 285 highway terminal on Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay Expressway.

The Union Minister then inspected BSC room and fibre transmission cables for GSM/UMTS mobile network extension in Pakokku Auto-exchange.

MNA

Union Energy Minister calls for bold reforms

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Sept—"The ministry could achieve success in both upstream and downstream sections of the energy sector. The operating ratio stands at approximately 49.06 per cent in five years beginning 2006-2007. The projected ratio for 2012-2013 fiscal year is 57.17 per cent. The ministry should not be content with current success but is to exert greater efforts for contribution to national economic performance and better service delivery. The staff personnel are to make self-assessment while evaluating the objective conditions of own department and the ministry in comparison with international norms and are to make reforms as necessary" said Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay at coordination meeting of the ministry on national development planning at the ministry here on 7 September.

The Union Minister said that there are only two driving forces in implementing a piece of work, principle and personnel. The upper hierarchy needs to adopt proper policy and management system as necessary and the staff personnel are to try hard to change their mindset and ensure self-improvement. Energy sector development strategies are to be formulated considering the present economic, political and social status of the country.

Deputy Minister U Htin Aung, director-general and managing- directors and participants made suggestions for energy sector development and reform.—*MNA*

National Sports

Basketball championships wrap up

YANGON, 9 Sept—Double Golden Horses battery factory secured champion in the final match against Fire Wolf team with a 66-55 points result in the Men's Open Basketball Event of the National Basketball Championship 2012 and the U-18 Basketball Tournament on 7 September.

DGH men's team and A&I women's team possessed championship trophies due to three years successive victories.

In the U-18 event, Venom emerged champion.

Officials of Ministry of Sports and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation awarded winners in the tournaments.—*Myanma Alin*

District News

Blast in pounding gunpowder leaves one death

TACHILEK, 9 Sept—Aik Shan, 36, son of U Auk Hsaung of No. 2/46 in Region 2 of Mekhaung Ward in Tachilek pounded gunpowder into a bottle of pesticide on the vacant plot between No. 2/44 and 2/45 houses at 1.45 pm on 5 September to use it as fireworks in Wethataya Festival of Shan tradition.

An explosion occurred from the pounding gunpowder. In the blast, Aik Shan died on the spot with loss of left leg and injuries at a half of face and waist. Tachilek Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against death case.—*Myanma Alin*

Kicks of drunkard kill son

NYAUNGLEBIN, 9 Sept—While Ohnma Kyaw, 18 of Shwekantha 3rd Street in Myoma 4 Ward in Nyaunglebin Township was breastfeeding her son, one month old on 3 September, her husband Kyaw Htay, 28, arrived back home. Due to crying of child, the drunkard husband kicked her wife, but the kick hit her hand and then head of baby. Moreover, the drunkard blew her wife and it deflected to his son. The baby died on the spot.

The wife opened a file of lawsuit at Nyaunglebin Police Station that took action against the drunkard under Pa/324/2012 and Section 302/325 of the Criminal Law.—*Kyemon*

Chief Minister's Cup Inter-District U-25 Football Tournament commences

HINTHADA, 9 Sept—The Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister's Cup Inter-District U-25 Football Tournament was kicked off at the people's sports ground in Hinthada Township on 4 September with an address by Region Minister for Forestry and Mines U Soe Myint.

Outstanding athletes will be picked up from the tournament for training them in the camp to be able to show off their brilliant football skills in the sports festival to be held in Nay Pyi Taw in January 2013.—*Myanma Alin*

News in Brief

Indian entrepreneurs to invest in Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Indian entrepreneurs discussed bilateral trade, promotion of border trade, investment of Indian entrepreneurs in education, agriculture, health, services and transport infrastructures, cultivation of cotton and establishment of cotton ginning factory in Sagaing Region, direct flight of India-Myanmar aviation on 30 August.

Asian Cement Trade Seminar 13-14 Sept

A seminar on cement trade and businesses of Asian countries will be held at Sedona Hotel on 13 and 14 September. The seminar will mainly be attended by entrepreneurs from China which is the top cement producing country, Indian businesses and cement exporters from Thailand for enabling local cement entrepreneurs to have cement production and better techniques.

Ayeya Chief Minister honours victorious athletes

Ayeyawady Region All-round Development Foundation held a meeting at hall of Ayeyawady Region Government on 7 September with an address by Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung. The meeting focused on aim, formation, undertakings, financial and general matters. The Region Chief Minister then awarded victorious sports teams representing the region and gave cash award K 4,120,000 to athletes.

Yangon Region Chief Minister inspects two overpasses

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe inspected progress of Hledan Junction Overpass Project in Kamayut Township on 7 September. The Region Chief Minister met responsible persons at Bayintnaung Junction Overpass Project in Hline Township and left necessary instructions.

National race ministers sightseeing Nay Pyi Taw

Region and State national race ministers went sightseeing Nay Pyi Taw including Planetarium, Zoological Garden and Safari Park. They also visited Chaungmagyi Dam, City Golf Course, Wunnatheikdi Advanced stadium project and staff quarters.

AGM and Prize awarding ceremony for 2011-2012 academic year of No. 6 BEHS Mawlamyine was held at Yadanarmon Hall on 2 September. On the occasion, Dr Toe Toe Hlaing awards first prize winner Maung Okka Kyaw.

NLM

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

IRAQ

Multiple bombings kill five, wound dozens in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 9 Sept — A total of five bombings rocked Iraq's northern city of Kirkuk on Friday morning, killing at least five people and wounding dozens more, most of whom were Shiite worshippers and security members, a local police source said.

The apparently-coordinated attacks seemed to target mosques as four of them happened near four different mosques, three Shiite and one Sunni, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.The fifth attack was a car bombing targeting a police patrol.

"Our report says at least five people were killed and 65 others wounded in the five attacks which happened this morning," the source said. Most of the dead were Shiite worshippers and a number of policemen were among the wounded, he added.

Kirkuk, some 250 km north of Baghdad, is a major oil hub and a multi-ethnic community. It is part of the disputed areas between Kurds, Arabs and Turkomans. The area has long been a hotbed of insurgency since the US-led invasion in 2003.

Xinhua

Firemen work at the site of a car bomb in Kirkuk, Iraq, on 7 Sept, 2012. XINHUA

Agricultural commodity futures trading mixed on weather issues

CHICAGO, 9 Sept — Chicago corn and wheat futures rose on Friday while soybean futures fell, as weather concerns offered some underlying support and traders positioned themselves ahead of Monday's report from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). The most active corn contract for December delivery edged up one cent, or 0.13 percent, to close at 7.995 dollars per bushel. December wheat rose 13.25 cents, or 1.49 percent, to settle at 9. 05 dollars per bushel. November soybeans fell 10.5 cents, or 0.6 percent, to close at 17.365 dollars per bushel.

The grains saw a mixed session on Friday, despite the positive outside market forces of a sharply lower dollar and gains in supportive commodities. The greenback fell sharply after a disappointing US jobs report from the US Department of Labour, while gold and crude oil moved higher after the employment data release. Soybeans were unable to take much support from the positive outside market forces, as traders instead took advantage of recent high crop prices and engaged in some profit taking before the weekend.

Soybean and corn prices in particular have risen sharply over the summer, as drought conditions damaged crops and significantly reduced crop yields. Traders expect Monday's report from the USDA to show even further cuts to corn and soybean crop yields, which provided some underlying support to the markets.Weather concerns also dominated the wheat trade, as traders believe adverse conditions in other parts of the world could increase demand for the US crop.

Xinhua

Disciples of China's famed Shaolin Temple perform at the opening ceremony of the 2012 European Shaolin Culture Festival in Berlin, Germany, on 7 Sept, 2012. Shaolin Kungfu Test Conference, photo show of Shaolin culture and some other events will be held during the festival. — XINHUA

CULTURE

First world young artists festival opens in Britain

LONDON, 9 Sept — The World Event Young Artists 2012, the first of such cultural festivals ever held for young artists, kicked off on Friday with 1,000 young artists from 100 countries showcasing some of the best creative talents from around the world.

During the 10-day event in Nottingham city, central England, there will be various forms of activities incluidng exhibitions, performances, concerts and workshops. More than 40 Chinese artists aged between 16 and 30 have brought their works, including paintings, sculptures, installation art works, photos and music to the event. "World Event Young Artists is a rare opportunity to see the work of creative talents from all corners of globe, but what makes it genuinely unique is the opportunity to meet all the artists involved," said Silke Pillinger, director of the event.

Terry Shave, a professor with the Nottingham Trent University, said: "Following the successful UK Young Artists event that took place in Derby in 2010, we perceived a clear need to provide a platform, here in the UK, for emerging young artists to collaborate with their international counterparts within a large scale, cross-artform festival environment."

Xinhua

Chile, HK ink free trade accord

SANTIAGO, 9 Sept — Chilean President Sebastian Pinera on Friday signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to boost bilateral trade which currently stands at more than 500 million dollars.At a sideline event of the 20th summit of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in the Russian city of Vladivostok, Pinera said the accord contained and expanded on almost every aspect of interest to both parties.

The accord aims to join the forces of Hong Kong's innovative and technologically advanced economy with Chile's, "which is also an economy that is growing, that is innovating, that is progressing towards fulfilling its objective of turning Chile into a developed country," said Pinera.

According to the latest Global Competitiveness Report, released this week by the World Economic Forum (WEF), Chile's economy is the most competitive in Latin America, ranking 33rd among a list of 144 countries worldwide.

Arriving in Vladivostok, Pinera said Chile was "eager to participate in the issues proposed by this APEC summit, including free trade, combating protectionism, transparency and the fight against corruption." Chile is attending the summit with the "firm intention of starting Free Trade Agreement negotiations with Indonesia and of starting feasibility studies with Russia and other countries," he added.

Summit members are also dwelling on food security and innovative development, "topics of interest to Chile, in which we hope to not only take part, but also contribute," said Pinera. Hong Kong has one of the world's most open and competitive economies, especially in providing financial and maritime services. —*Xinhua*

European confucius institutes gather in Vienna

VIENNA, 9 Sept— Delegates of 47 confucius institutes from 22 European countries attended the 2012 Joint Conference of European Confucius Institutes opening ceremony in University of Vienna on Friday. The three-day conference is held specifically for the confucius institutes established no longer than three years ago to exchange their experience.

Confucius institutes and Chinese teaching are flourishing in Europe in recent years, which serve as a window for Europeans to understand Chinese culture. There have been 132 confucius institutes established in 34 European countries, with a total enrollment of over 97,000 European students. Liu Min, head of Confucius Institute for Traditional Chinese Medicine, told *Xinhua* that foreigners are increasingly interested in learning Chinese language, history and culture, while many students won job opportunities thanks to learning Chinese.—*Xinhua*

AFRICA

Dozens killed in clashes between Sudan army and rebels

KHARTOUM, 9 Sept — Clashes erupted between Sudan's army and rebels in the western Darfur region and in a southern state, killing dozens of people including civilians, the sides said on Friday, the latest violence in the country's borderlands. Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir is battling an alliance of rebel groups operating in Darfur and two states bordering its neighbour South Sudan. Sudan accuses South Sudan of supporting the rebels, while Juba says Khartoum funds militias in South Sudan.

Diplomats say that both allegations are credible. South Sudan split from Sudan last year under a 2005 peace deal that ended decades of civil war, but the two have remained at odds over a range of issues and conflict has continued to plague their borderlands. The nations came close to war in April. Sudan's military spokesman al-Sawarmi Khalid said the army killed 77 rebels in two separate clashes on Thursday in South Kordofan, a state bordering South Sudan, and in North Darfur state. The army is fighting rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-North) in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, another state bordering South Sudan.Khalid said SPLM-North rebels attacked the village of Hajr al-Dum in South Kordofan. He said 45 rebels and 21 civilians were killed in the violence, among them women and children. "The armed forces are continuing to expel the rebels from the area," he said.

The SPLM-North gave a different account, however. It said its forces had attacked an army position in the area of Hajr al-Dum and had driven out all troops from the area. One soldier was killed and five wounded, spokesman Arnu Lodi said in a statement.

Military spokesman Khalid said the army repulsed a rebel attack on the village of al-Adradib in North Darfur, killing 32 insurgents.

Reuters

*Photo taken on 5 Sept, 2012 shows a scene of a training of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy Beihai Fleet in the Yellow Sea.—*XINHUA

REGIONAL

Chinese President, Canadian PM discuss cooperation

CHINA

Chinese President Hu Jintao (R) meets with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Vladivostok, east Russia, on 9 Sept, 2012. — Xinhua

Vladivostok, 9 Sept — Chinese President Hu Jintao met Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper here on Sunday to discuss the development of strategic partnership between their two countries. The two leaders met on the sidelines of the Economic Leaders' Meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), which has convened in the Russian Far-Eastern city on Saturday and Sunday.

Hu said he and Prime Minister Harper reached consensus on a number of major issues at the G20 summit in Los Cabos, Mexico. The Chinese president appreciated Harper's efforts to promote the Canada-China friendly cooperation in various fields. Harper said Canada and China have further cemented their trade and economic relations as well as mutual investment after forging the strategic partnership.

The two countries are make an assessment of the complementarity between their two economies, Harper said, adding that a bilateral agreement on foreign investment protection will be inked on Sunday.

Following the meeting, the two sides are expected to sign the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, Chinese diplomats said. China and Canada announced the conclusion of negotiations on the deal in February, when Harper visited China. The China-Canada relations have made steady progress since the two countries established diplomatic ties in 1970. They decided to upgrade their relations to the strategic partnership during Hu's visit to Canada in September 2005.

The two countries have enlarged cooperation in the fields of trade and economy, energy and resources, education, culture, judicature and law enforcement in recent years. Chinese officials said the two sides should continue to promote the strategic partnership, expand mutually beneficial cooperation and cultural exchanges, while respecting each other's major interests and properly handling sensitive issues for healthy and steady development of bilateral ties.— *Xinhua*

Pakistan, Indian FMs hold formal talks

ASIA

Islamabad, 9 Sept — Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and India on Saturday held talks here and reviewed the outcome of the last year dialogue process and discussed matters relating to the dialogue process in the future, officials said. Earlier, Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar and Indian Minister for External Affairs S M Krishna held one-on-one meeting before the start of the delegation level talks.

Photo released by Pakistan's Press Information Department (PID) on 8 Sept, 2012, shows that Indian Foreign Minister S M Krishna (L) shakes hands with his Pakistani counterpart Hina Rabbani Khar before their meeting in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan.— Xinhua

Various issues including, peace, security and confidence building measures, Jammu and Kashmir, Siachen Glacier, Sir Creek, visa regime and economic cooperation are the top the agenda of the talks. The two ministers will also co-chair plenary session of Pak- India Joint Commission later Saturday before signing two agreements on visa regime and expansion of trade activities. Both sides will sign a new liberalized visa regime that will replace the old agreement inked in 1974.

Officials said the new visa relaxation will benefit businessmen, tourists, senior citizens and children. Senior citizens will be exempted from police reporting. Children and senior citizen will be given visa on arrival facility at Wagah. Businessmen will be allowed multiple entries and to visit five cities instead of one at present. The agreement was earlier to be signed in May during Home Secretary-level talks, but had to be postponed after Pakistan expressed some reservations, saying that it has to complete some procedures. Pakistan said that the agreement had been finalized.— *Xinhua*

International investment, trade fair kicks off in Xiamen

Xiamen, 9 Sept — More than 600 delegations from 110 countries and regions gathered on Saturday in the southeastern city of Xiamen to attend the 16th China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT). The fair, sponsored by China's Ministry of Commerce (MOC), aims to facilitate global investment flows through the hosting of bilateral and multilateral economic promotion activities.

The 16th China International Fair for Investment and Trade is opened in Xiamen, southeast China's Fujian Province, on 8 Sept, 2012. More than 600 delegations from 110 countries and regions attended the event. — Xinhua

The forum this year, which runs from Saturday to Tuesday, will feature topics such as new forces driving global economic development, cross-border investments and global capital flows. "We look to using the platform to deepen investment exchanges and help restore the global economy back to shape," Vice Minister of Commerce Gao Hucheng said at the opening ceremony. China's economic strides in recent years had made it an attractive destination for foreign investment.

Official statistics showed foreign direct investment in China reached 116 billion US dollars in 2011. Meanwhile, China's "go global" strategy had fuelled the country's outbound direct investment (ODI) growth.Last year's ODI increased 8.5 percent year on year to 74.65 billion US dollars, ranking the sixth worldwide, according to the MOC.— *Xinhua*

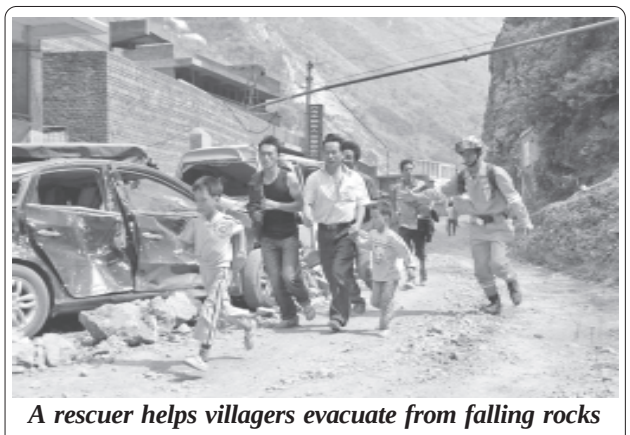
Rescue in full swing after quakes claim 80 lives in SW China

CHINA

Yiliang, 9 Sept — China is pouring aid into a mountainous area in Yunnan Province after multiple earthquakes on Friday had killed 80 people and injured more than 800 others. More than 11,000 tents, 8,500 quilts, 6,000 coats and other relief materials including bottled water and rice have been delivered to the hardest-hit Yiliang County in Zhaotong City, and more are on the way, the rescue headquarter said on Saturday.

State and provincial civil affairs authorities earlier said they had sent 21,000 tents, 31,000 quilts and 26,000 winter coats to Yunnan for disaster relief. The headquarter said more than 11,000 rescuers were working to clear roads, evacuate residents and search for the missing. More than 7,200 soldiers and militiamen had been mobilized as of Saturday evening to help with the rescue. Officials said the death toll may climb further, as the quakes have seriously damaged telecommunications and traffic infrastructure, making it difficult to collect information.

Another 820 people were injured in the two quakes, which hit an area near Yiliang County in Yunnan and Weining County in Guizhou Province at 11:19 am and 12:16 pm Friday, respectively, and were followed by more than 60 aftershocks. Some 200,000 people in Yunnan have been relocated, as more than 6,600 houses had been destroyed and another 430,000 damaged.— *Xinhua*



A rescuer helps villagers evacuate from falling rocks in the quake-hit Luozehe Town, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 8 Sept, 2012. — Xinhua

An aerotransport of PLA Chengdu Military Area Command prepares to take off in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 8 Sept, 2012. The plane carrying rescuers flied to the quake-hit Zhaotong of southwest China's Yunnan on Saturday. Eighty people have been confirmed dead and 820 others were injured after multiple earthquakes struck a mountainous region in Yunnan on Friday. — Xinhua

Reserve currency diversification key to global financial stability

RUSSIA

Vladivostok, 9 Sept — The world needs diversified reserve currencies as a necessary condition for the stability of global financial system, Russian President Vladimir Putin said here Saturday. "If we want to get rid of unnecessary derivatives and raise the discipline and stability of the global financial system, we must go over to a multitude of global reserve currencies," Putin said at a meeting between APEC leaders and the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC).

If there was only one global reserve currency, the issues of the currency would always be tempted to use it in its own interests, Putin warned. This situation will lead to the harm to the issuer itself and the violation of fundamental principles of the global financial system, he added. The president noted that building a diversified reserve currency system was a difficult but correct work, adding that the United States, as a chief issuer, was also involved in such a process. "So it would be possible to find forms of joint action that won't destroy anything but would create new opportunities for the stabilization of the world economy," Putin said. He also suggested using the currencies of some APEC member economies for that purpose. The ABAC was a primary platform for dialogue between the political and business elites within the framework of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.— *Xinhua*

International News

Zetas cartel feud augurs more blood, fear in Mexico

MEXICO

SAN LUIS POTOSI, 9 Sept —The most brutal drug cartel in Mexico appears to be rupturing with its hit men turning their guns on each other in a twist to the country's turf wars that threatens a new wave of bloodshed and chaos. The killing of Zetas by Zetas, including the massacre of 14 suspected gang members on the outskirts of the central city of San Luis Potosi last month, springs from an internal feud between the cartel's supreme commander and his deputy, Mexican investigators say.

As much as the Mexican government and rival gangs may welcome discord in the Zetas' ranks, an explosion of violence ordered by its notoriously bloodthirsty leaders could be a major headache for President-elect Enrique Pena Nieto. He takes office on 1 December and has vowed to quickly reduce the number of beheadings and mass executions seen over the past six years. But if the Zetas cartel were to break in two, it could unleash havoc as its 10,000-plus gunmen fight for control of local trafficking networks and smuggling routes. "It's a real problem. It's like if the HIV virus mutates. Then you have to find two vaccines," said a Mexican military officer who has been battling the Zetas across the country.

Some officials tout the split as evidence of the success security forces have had in cracking down on the Zetas, from stings on their US assets to assaults by Mexican marines on their urban safe houses and guerrilla-style camps. The in-fighting has been a boon for security forces as Zetas operatives inform on their former colleagues. And another beneficiary of the chaos is Mexico's most-wanted man, Joaquin "Shorty" Guzman, boss of the powerful Sinaloa Cartel that has been mired in a costly fight for control against Zetas across much of the country. *Reuters*

Police trucks are parked underneath a bridge at a crime scene in San Luis Potosi on 6 Sept, 2012. — REUTERS

Hurricane Isaac costs US state over 100 m USD

DISASTER

HOUSTON, 9 Sept — Louisiana state agencies have spent more than 100 million US dollars to deal with Hurricane Isaac and the costs are expected to rise, a local news website said on Thursday.

The costs, estimated at 116 million US dollars, include money used to mobilize the National Guard, set up shelters, provide food and water to hurricane-affected residents as well as pay state employees for storm response, according to the website NOLA.com.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was expected to cover at least 75 percent of the costs, and the state has to cover the remaining 29 million dollars in costs, said the report. Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal is reportedly asking the federal government to cover a larger portion of the costs. Hurricane Isaac struck the Gulf Coast last week, dumping heavy rain across southern Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama and pushing in storm surge that led to widespread flooding.

Isaac was the first hurricane to strike the United States this year, hitting New Orleans seven years after Hurricane Katrina devastated the city, causing an estimated 1,800 deaths.

The full scope of the damage Isaac left behind in Louisiana is not yet clear. Emergency officials said earlier this week that at least 13,000 homes were damaged.— *Xinhua*

Soda tax war taking shape in two California cities

CALIFORNIA

A sign protesting the proposed Richmond beverage tax is pictured in Richmond, California on 1 Sept, 2012. — REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 9 Sept — Two small California cities are the latest battlegrounds in the $111 billion US soda industry's fight to defend a near-perfect record of defeating proposed taxes on sugary drinks. In November, voters in cash-strapped Richmond and El Monte will decide whether to pass penny-per-ounce taxes on sugar-sweetened drinks to bolster municipal coffers and fight obesity.

Approval could open the floodgates to similar taxes around the country. Calls to tax sugary drinks have gathered steam as more cities and states struggle to close budget gaps and American waistlines continue to expand. A few decades ago, cigarette taxes in several small California cities paved the way for what are now significant taxes on tobacco products — and the soda industry does not want to suffer the same fate.

"The first few victories make an enormous difference," said Kelly Brownell, a soda tax proponent and director of Yale University's Rudd Centre for Food Policy & Obesity. The American Beverage Association — which represents PepsiCo Inc, Coca-Cola Inc, Dr Pepper Snapple Group Inc and other beverage companies — has spent millions of dollars to beat back soda taxes around the country.

Jeff Ritterman, the Richmond city council member who championed the tax, expects a "tsunami" of spending from the beverage industry after its focus shifts from this month's vote on New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's proposal to ban large-sized sugary drinks at restaurants and other food outlets. *Reuters*

Rousseff to cut power rates to sharpen Brazil's edge

BRAZIL

BRASILIA, 9 Sept — Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff announced sweeping cuts to electricity rates on Thursday in a new effort to lower some of the world's highest business costs that are stifling a once-booming emerging-markets star. In a widely anticipated announcement, Rousseff said that cuts could drop industrial electricity rates by as much as 28 percent, while residential consumers would see rates fall on average by 16.2 percent.

With growth in the world's sixth-largest economy stalled for nearly a year now, Rousseff's measures will bring needed relief to local industries that are losing market share to foreign competitors that have lower costs. "This reduction in the cost of the electricity will make our productive sector even more competitive," Rousseff said in a televised address to the nation ahead of the country's independence day on 7 September. She said cuts will take effect in early 2013 but did not detail how the government plans to carry them out. Officials have said her administration plans to reduce federal taxes on electricity companies.

Rousseff, a trained economist, has pushed ahead with more than a dozen stimulus measures such as tax cuts and subsidized lending to pull the economy out of its lull. However, growth continues to disappoint and industry leaders say her targeted measures miss meeting more structural challenges.— *Reuters*

Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff participates in the meeting of the Economic and Social Development at the Planalto Palace in Brasilia on 30 Aug, 2012. REUTERS

Lloyds CEO calls for radical change at UK banks

UK

LONDON, 9 Sept — The chief executive of Britain's biggest retail bank Lloyds has joined calls for a radical change within the industry, saying it must make a break with the culture of the past in order to restore the trust of customers. UK banks have been hit by a series of scandals including interest rate rigging and the mis-selling of financial products, heightening disillusionment among Britons who already blame them for the 2008 financial crisis — which resulted in Lloyds and Royal Bank of Scotland being bailed-out by the taxpayer.

"Issue-by-issue and scandal-by-scandal the faith and trust in our industry has been eroded. Why? Because I believe that many banks lost sight of their core values and became complacent, non-customer-focused and inefficient," Chief Executive Antonio Horta-Osorio said in a speech at the CBI Scotland Annual Dinner in Glasgow on Thursday. Horta-Osorio said the industry cannot continue lurching from crisis to crisis and a fundamentally different approach was required including changes to how banks serve their customers and pay employees at all levels.

His comments come a day after Britain's Financial Services Authority (FSA) gave banks 18 months to stamp out incentives that encourage mis-selling or face action. At a Thomson Reuters Newsmaker event on Wednesday, the FSA's managing director Martin Wheatley said it was time to tackle incentives for sales staff as banks were no longer serving customers properly. The FSA said it had started enforcement action against one firm which a source told *Reuters* was Lloyds. Horta-Osorio, who joined Lloyds from Santander at the start of 2011, said in his speech that banks and their regulators should "forge a new relationship".

"It cannot be in anyone's interest to enter into the long legal disputes of the past. Now is the time to move on."Horta-Osorio said Lloyds was committed to ensuring pay is increasingly linked to the long-term performance of the bank. For customer-facing staff, he said there would be less emphasis on hitting sales targets which have been blamed for encouraging mis-selling. "In recent years the structure of variable pay in banking has focused too much on sales targets. —*Reuters*

ARMS SMUGGLING

Ex-US soldier pleads guilty to smuggling guns to China

NEW YORK, 9 Sept — A former member of the US National Guard on Thursday pleaded guilty to smuggling shipments of firearms from New York City to China, federal prosecutors said. Joseph Debose, 30, formerly a staff sergeant with a unit of the US Special Forces National Guard, was arrested in May in a sting operation by federal agents in North Carolina, according to the US Attorney's Office in Brooklyn. At the time of his arrest, he was carrying a .45 caliber pistol and 12 other firearms he intended to send illegally overseas, prosecutors said. According to court documents, Debose provided multiple shipments of firearms to co-conspirators who then hid the weapons in packages and transported them to shipping companies to be sent to customers in China.

"In blatant disregard for everything he was sworn to uphold, the defendant placed numerous firearms into a black market pipeline from the United States to China," said Loretta Lynch, US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York.Debose, a North Carolina resident, faces up to 20 years in prison, prosecutors said. He entered the plea in federal court in Brooklyn. A sentencing date has not been set, and he remains in federal custody.— *Reuters*

ENTERTAINMENT

Leisure-oriented looks hit runways at New York Fashion Week

NEW YORK, 9 Sept—Fashion world trendwatchers were validated on Friday when collections by top designers Nicole Miller and Charlotte Ronson exhibited the predicted influences of casual, athletic and leisure wear.

Miller, a favourite of professional women for her wearable, stylish and confident designs, ventured into a more playful arena for spring 2013, with a dominant theme of floral prints configured in geometric shapes, and tight leggings in stretch leather or mottled prints.

A model presents a creation from the Nicole Miller Spring/ Summer 2013 collection during New York Fashion Week, on 7 Sept, 2012. REUTERS

The collection, which Miller dubbed "Batteries Not Included" and was meant to suggest improbable juxtapositions, 1980s surrealist art, digital nature and sci-fi, used a palette of teal, soft greys, pink, mushroom and the ubiquitous black.

In keeping with another trend this season, hard met soft with Miller topping a white linen dress with a black leather biker jacket.

Shorts, which suggested running or track shorts, were well represented, lapels were large and coat and jacket sleeves pushed up.

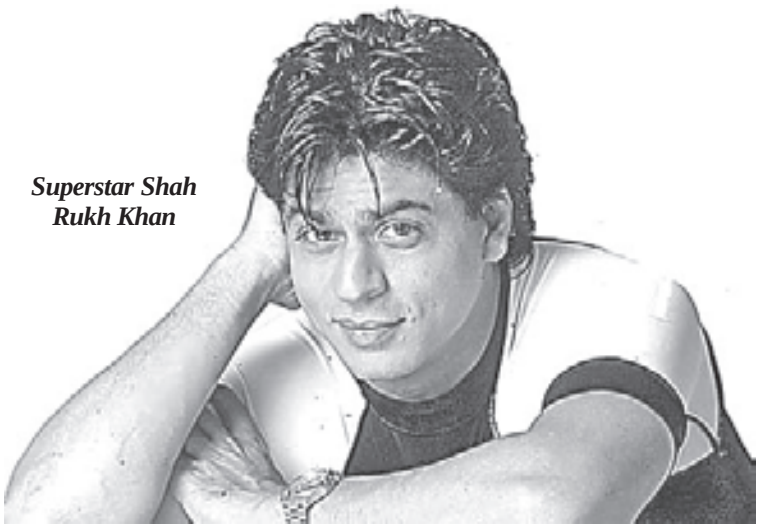
The collection was also heavy on tunics, which were variously rendered in silk and organza or abstract floral silk, paired with tight striped pants or stretch leather leggings.

Vests were loose, oversized and flowing, while details were evident in beaded bodices or tank tops. Texture got a nod from separates rendered in leather, and what Miller called pixilated sequin or jacquard, which she employed for tunics and dresses.

The looks were decidedly more classic, if similarly leisure-oriented, at English designer Ronson's on Friday evening show. The Friday shows spoke to what Ken Downing, fashion director of Neiman Marcus, called "relaxed chic."

Ronson, especially popular with younger fashion mavens, showed mostly classic, highly wearable, mostly unstructured looks.

Hemlines were short, and midriffs often bare in a collection rendered in shades of soft spring green and yellow, the latter which Ronson dubbed lemonade. *Reuters*



Superstar Shah Rukh Khan

Indian superstar talks about stay in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, 9 Sept—Famous Indian film star Shah Rukh Khan on Thursday said his stay in Kashmir would encourage film makers and other people to visit this place. "Naturally people who hear me would like to come here either to make a movie or to simply see the beauty of the place," Khan said at a Press conference in Srinagar city, the summer capital of Kashmir, at the end of is nine-day shooting schedule for his upcoming Bollywood film.

Khan arrived in Pahalgam, a tourist destination, around 100-km south of Srinagar on 27 August for his film shooting.

"I have shot films in Switzerland, Mauritius, London and other places and the beauty of Kashmir is definitely unmatched by any other place," Khan said. "Inshallah (God willing), other filmmakers will come here to shoot their films in future." Khan said he enjoyed the stay in Kashmir and had never felt this kind of happiness in life before.—*Xinhua*

Toronto Film Fest showcases literary tried and true

TORONTO, 9 Sept—Call it renewed appreciation for literary classics or merely further evidence of Hollywood shying away from unproven material, but this year's Toronto Film Festival slate is heavy with literary adaptations, some of which may make a splash during Oscar season. "Cloud Atlas," and "Silver Linings Playbook," both based on recent best-sellers, are among the most eagerly anticipated titles set to unspool at the festival, which is considered part of the opening bell for the Hollywood awards season.

Classic novels, such as Leo Tolstoy's "Anna Karenina," Charles Dickens' "Great Expectations," and Jack Kerouac's "On the Road," are also experiencing new interpretations on celluloid.

Actress Kristen Stewart

Among the most eagerly anticipated is Deepa Mehta's "Midnight's Children," based on the Booker Prize-winning novel by Salman Rushdie about India's independence from British rule in 1947 and subsequent partition of the country.

Tipped early on to be one of many Toronto entrants to be in contention for the upcoming awards season, the film has instead garnered shaky reviews ahead of its Sunday premiere in front of a festival audience. The film "dawdles and fails to justify its two-and-a-half-hour running time," said the *Hollywood Reporter*, while Variety said it "feels like too much to take in all at once."—*Reuters*

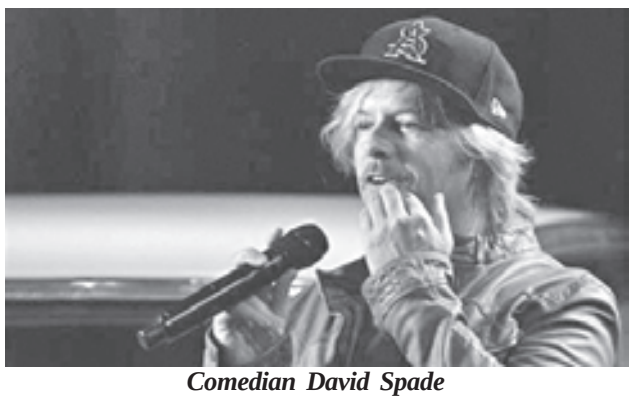
David Spade looks to life beyond 'Rules of Engagement'

LOS ANGELES, 9 Sept—Comedian David Spade, wearing a sleek gray suit, slinks along the set of "Rules of Engagement," past his character's executive office and the greasy diner where he trades sarcastic one-liners with the rest of the cast.

Soon, the jokes will likely end. A new season of the comedy starts on Monday on local television stations. But Spade said he expects this seventh season of the show to last 13 episodes— rather than the usual slate of 22 — and bring the series to an end. Spade, who in the 1990s rose to fame on "Saturday Night Live" with biting one-liners about Hollywood celebrities, has since settled into a successful career as a mainstream star in his own right. Before playing the shallow and flirty manager Russell Dunbar on "Rules of Engagement," he had similar television roles in "Just Shoot Me!" and "8 Simple Rules."

Spade, 48, said he is looking forward to doing something different next time —if only slightly. "I only have one note, let's be honest," Spade told *Reuters*. "But I'll play a different version of that one note."

Spade said he realizes he is not like Oscar winner Robert De Niro and able to tackle "all these different levels" as an actor. But he would like his next project to not be a traditional TV comedy. "If I played the same (type of character) but I had a wife and kid, it would be different," Spade said. "If I'm a cop it would be different." *Reuters*



Comedian David Spade

Korean film director Kim Ki-Duk holds the Golden Lion.

South Korean movie "Pieta" wins Venice Golden Lion

VENICE, 9 Sept—South Korean movie "Pieta", an ultra-violent story of a loan shark confronted by a mysterious woman claiming to be his mother, won the Golden Lion award for best picture at the Venice film festival on Saturday.

The victory will prove popular on the Lido waterfront, where Pieta was one of the hot favourites to scoop the top prize from among 18 main competition films.

Also cheered will be the best actor award that was shared by Hollywood heavyweights Philip Seymour Hoffman and Joaquin Phoenix for their performances in "The Master", a film loosely based on the founding days of the Church of Scientology.

Hoffman flew to Venice and rushed from the airport to receive the award on his and Phoenix's behalf, and apologized for his disheveled appearance.

He also accepted the Silver Lion for Paul Thomas Anderson, who directed the movie.—*Reuters*

Snoop drops the Dogg, aims for reggae style

Actor Snoop Lion

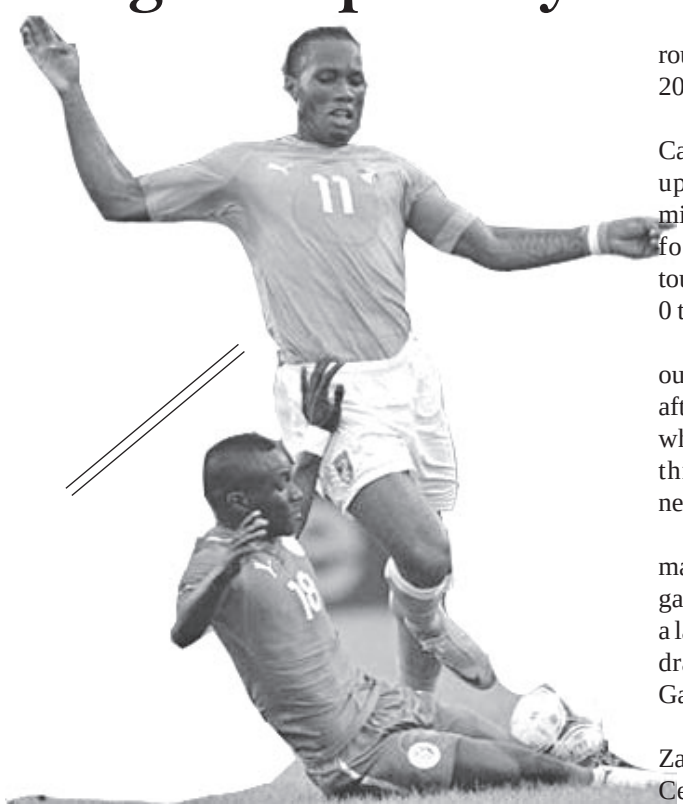
TORONTO, 9 Sept—Rapper Snoop Dogg insists, for now, he is dropping the 'Dogg' to take on a new moniker, Snoop Lion.

Snoop became one of the world's most recognizable names in rap music after his 1993 debut album "Doggystyle" helped forge the rise of gangsta rap. But the California singer and actor with the tough image of guns, drugs and "pimping" out women now claims he is now embracing reggae music, peace and love.

His transformation, he told reporters on Friday at the Toronto International Film Festival about a new documentary chronicling the change, should not be too surprising: "I was always saying to myself I was Bob Marley reincarnated."

His new nonfiction film, made by his own company, is called just that, "Reincarnated."—*Reuters*

Drogba helps Ivory Coast to comeback win



CAPE TOWN, 9 Sept— Didier Drogba and former Chelsea team mate Salomon Kalou were among the goal scorers as the Ivory Coast twice came from behind to beat Senegal 4-2 in an African Nations Cup qualifier in Abidjan on Saturday.

Gervinho and Max Gradel scored the other goals to give the Ivorians a two-goal advantage ahead of next month's return leg in the final round of preliminaries for the 2013 finals in South Africa.

Three-time winners Cameroon, however, face an uphill struggle to avoid missing out on qualification for a second successive tournament after they lost 2-0 to the Cape Verde Islands.

Nigeria, who also missed out last time, are well-placed after drawing 2-2 at Liberia while Sudan completed a thrilling 5-3 win over neighbors Ethiopia.

Emmanuel Adebayor marked his first competitive game for Togo this year with a late equalizer in a 1-1 away draw with 2012 co-hosts Gabon.

Defending champions Zambia, Ghana, Mali and the Central African Republic were also winners in Saturday's final round, first leg games, with five fixtures to be played on Sunday.

Senegal stunned the home crowd by taking a 32nd-minute lead through Dame Ndoye before Kalou equalized soon after halftime.

Papiss Cisse restored Senegal's advantage on the hour mark and the possibility of an upset against Africa's top-ranked team loomed large.

Ivory Coast, however, scored three goals in 20 minutes to turn the match around with Gervinho equalizing in the 65th minute, Drogba adding a penalty soon after and Gradel scoring the fourth with five minutes to play.

Drogba also had a late effort disallowed.

Cameroon were without forward Samuel Eto'o, who is refusing to play for his country in protest against the team's management.

They face a tough task in the return leg of their tie after Portuguese-based Helton and Djanini scored in Praia for Cape Verde, who are now poised to qualify for the first time.—*Reuters*

Iverson wants to stay in China, report

BEIJING, 9 Sept— American basketball star Allen Iverson would say goodbye to the National Basketball Association (NBA) and was looking forward to play for a Chinese club, local reports said on Wednesday.

"Talking about his condition, Allen has already farewelled the NBA. Our future is in China," his agent Gary Moore was quoted as saying by 163.com.

Iverson, 37, is taking a tour in China, sparking specualtion that he wanted to play in the Chinese Basketball Association league (CBA) next season.

"I hope China will be his home. I hope he will have more activities here in the future, and I even hope he will live here," Moore told the website reporter on Wednesday.

The former Most Valuable Player of NBA almost retired from the professional ranks in January of 2011 after he end a spell in Turkey with Besiktas due to a calf injury.

He played 14 seasons in the NBA before he retired from the 76ers on 3 March, 2010.

The 163.com reports said Iverson called on Wednesday morning former NBA star Yao Ming, the boss of the Shanghai Sharks of the CBA, which is a sign of contacting CBA clubs for future connection.—*Xinhua*

Paralympic Games

International Sports

Pistorius wins final track gold of Paralympic Games

LONDON, 9 Sept—South Africa's Oscar Pistorius brought the curtain down on a summer of thrills in the Olympic Stadium when he won the final Paralympic track gold medal with a dominant display in the men's 400 meters on Saturday.

It was a happy ending for Pistorius who finished the Paralympic Games with an individual gold after failing to successfully defend the 100 and 200 titles he won in Beijing four years ago. He also won a gold medal in the 4x100 relay.

Pistorius finished nearly four seconds ahead of his nearest rival, Blake Leeper who was followed home by David Prince of the United States, while Brazil's Alan Oliveira, who beat the South African in the 200 this week, finished fourth. "This whole month, this whole season, I've had a lot of challenges and I have a lot to thank my coach for," Pistorius, who also competed in the London Olympics last month, told Channel Four television. "I'm so proud, this summer has been a dream come true and I couldn't hope for anything better. It's my 11th time on this track and I wanted to give the crowd something special that they could take home with them."—*Reuters*

***South Africa's Oscar Pistorius (L) starts in the men's 400m - T44 final in the Olympic Stadium at the London 2012 Paralympic Games on 8 Sept, 2012.—*REUTERS**

Klitschko stops Charr in fourth to retain WBC title

MOSCOW, 9 Sept— Ukraine's Vitaly Klitschko retained his WBC world heavyweight title on Saturday when the referee stopped the contest against Manuel Charr in the fourth round after the German sustained a deep cut above his right eye.

The 41-year-old Klitschko controlled the fight in the first three rounds, keeping his previously undefeated opponent at bay with his left jab.

The 27-year-old challenger tried to fight back before suffering a gash over his right eye.

With blood pouring down Charr's face, referee Guido Cavalleri ended the fight with less than a minute left in round four after consulting the ring's doctor.

Charr, who had a 21-0 record with 11 knockouts coming into the fight, was furious at the decision, kicking and punching at the ropes.

He challenged the Ukrainian to continue before being restrained by his trainers, with the pro-Klitschko crowd at Moscow's Olympic indoor arena booing and whistling at the German.

Klitschko, who won a unanimous points decision against Britain's Dereck Chisora in February, improved his record to 45-2 with 40 knockouts.

"I'm disappointed I didn't manage to win the fight with a real knockout," he told Russian television. "Sadly, it was the doctor's decision. We both wanted to continue the fight."

Reuters

Murray reaches final at windy US Open

Tennis

NEW YORK, 9 Sept— Britain's Andy Murray produced a masterful performance against Tomas Berdych to book his place in the US Open final on Saturday but will have to wait to discover his opponent after foul weather wreaked havoc.

The forecast of a massive thunderstorm forced tournament officials to suspend the remainder of Saturday's schedule, including the second men's semi-final between Novak Djokovic and David Ferrer and the women's final between Serena Williams and Victoria Azarenka.

Those matches were both rescheduled for Sunday, meaning the men's final will be pushed back until Monday, for the fifth year in a row.—*Reuters*

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(10-9-12 09:30 am ~ 11-9-12 09:30 am) MST

* News
* Mingalar Byuha and Course of Buddha Desana
* News
* Stream of Songs
* News
* Certificate Awarding Ceremony of Cambridge Young Learner's Exams
* News
* Finding One's Soul On Mt. Shwe Myin Tin
* Myanmar Business Plan Contest 2012 Prizes Awarding Ceremony
* News
* Myanmar International frontier" Myanmar-Israel Bilateral Relation
* News
* Kid's Talent
* News
* Advanced Technology for Quality Transport
* News
* Myanmar Movie "Challenging of Love"

MYANMAR TV

(10-9-2012) (Monday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:40 am
3. Nice & Sweet Song

8:00 am
4. Cute Little Dancers

8:25 am
5. Song Of National Races

8:30 am
6. Selected Songs For 19th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions (2012) (Oldies & Mono Classical) (Basic Education Level) (Men)

4:00 pm
7. Martial Song

4:05 pm
8. Dance Variety

4:25 pm
9. Teleplay (Agri)

4:35 pm
10. Musical Programme

4:45 pm
11. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (English)

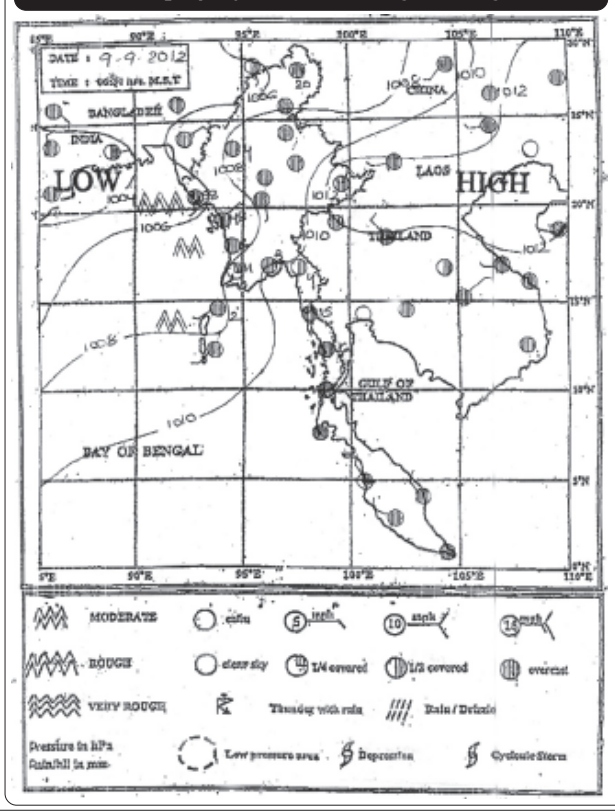
5:00 pm
12. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5:25 pm
13. Myanmar Language

6:20 pm
14. Sing & Enjoy

8:00 pm
15. News
16. Cartoon Series
17. TV Drama Series
18. India Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 10th September, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F) Maximum	Minimum	For Tomorrow Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	29/84	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
2	Kayah	28/82	20/68	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
3	Kayin	31/88	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
4	Chin	19/96	16/61	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
5	Upper Sagaing	31/88	24/75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
6	Lower Sagaing	31/91	24/75	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
7	Taninthayi	31/88	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
8	Bago	29/84	25/77	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
9	Magway	27/81	24/75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
10	Mandalay	33/91	25/77	Scattered rain or thundershower	(100%)
11	Mon	33/91	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
12	Yangon	30/86	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
13	Rakhine	30/86	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
14	Southern Shan	24/75	18/64	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
15	Northern Shan	31/88	28/82	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
16	Eastern Shan	26/79	22/72	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
17	Ayeyawady	32/90	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	31/88	23/73	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	30/86	24/75	Some rain or thundershowers	(100%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	33/91	25/77	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today	During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions and isolated heavy falls in Magway Region. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Butalin (3.20) inches, Sittway (3.00) inches, Shwebo (2.60) inches, Manaung (2.52) inches, Kyeikmaraw (2.32) inches, Mindat (2.28) inches, NyaungOo (1.94) inches, Myingyan (1.81) inches and Htelin (1.65) inches.
Bay Inference	Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and Strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
State of the Sea	Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph.
Outlook for subsequent two days	Likelihood of increase of rain in the Lower Myanmar areas.

District News

No 11 LID hockey team emerges champion in Sky Net Cup

YANGON, 9 Sept—Jointly organized by Myanmar Hockey Federation and Shwe Than lwin Co, the prize presentation for Sky Net Cup 2012 Men's Hockey Tournament was held at Theinbyu Artificial Turf Pitch this afternoon.

Among the spectators were Yangon Region ministers, the president of Myanmar Hockey Federation and executives and officials of Sky Net channel.

In the final, No 11 LID team clinched title with a 1-0 win over Yangon Command team.

Vice-Presidents of the federation U Saw Lu Lu Phaw and U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing presented prizes to best player award and individual medals to the respective players.

President of MHF U Htin Zaw Win, Daw Nan Mauk Loang Hsai and Yangon Region Ministers Dr Myint Than and U Than Myint gave awards to respective winning teams.

Kyemon

Golf

Mickelson finding form at perfect time

Phil Mickelson of the US watches his putt roll on the eleventh green during round one of the BMW Championship golf tournament in Carmel, Indiana on 6 Sept, 2012.

REUTERS

CARMEI, 9 Sept—Phil Mickelson's third round birdie binge that shot him to the top of the BMW Championship's leaderboard on Saturday offered another sign that his game is rounding back into form after a mid-season meltdown. The timing could not be better.

With the lucrative Tour Championship set for 20-23 September in Atlanta followed a week later by Ryder Cup duty against Europe, there is plenty on the line for Mickelson this month as he looks to end his season on the upswing. After matching a career high with 10 birdies on the way to an eight-under 64 to share the lead with Vijay Singh going into Sunday's final round, Mickelson can certainly feel positive about the challenges ahead. "I knew this week was going to be a good week," he told reporters. "I came out a little bit anxious the front nine on Thursday and didn't play well."

"I kind of settled in and started to make some putts, started to make some birdies but the game feels really good."

"It's finally back and I'm looking forward to being in the mix tomorrow but also the Tour Championship and the Ryder Cup, I'm just glad that it's back in time."—*Reuters*

Cycling

Cavendish looking for amicable departure from Team Sky

LONDON, 9 Sept—Britain's world road cycling champion Mark Cavendish wants an amicable end to his Team Sky contract less than a year after signing for Dave Brailsford's outfit, he said on Saturday.

Cavendish, who has won 23 stages of the Tour de France, will meet Brailsford at the Tour of Britain, which starts in Ipswich on Sunday, and is hoping the principal will not demand any compensation for allowing the rider to join another team.

"I want the best for British cycling, it has grown so much and we had this idea that we could have this British super team," he told a news conference ahead of the Tour of Britain.

"We can win GCs (general classifications), we can win stages, we can win the green jersey, we can just go and dominate and Dave sold me that idea last year but for some reason or another it hasn't worked out like that. It's difficult to do."

With Sky's efforts focused on helping Bradley Wiggins win the Tour de France there has been speculation Cavendish could join the Belgian team Omega-Pharma-Liquigas and be reunited with his sporting director at HTC-Highroad, Brian Holm.

On the Tour Cavendish sacrificed his chances of successfully defending the green jersey he won for the first time in 2011 and worked as a domestique.

"Winning the yellow jersey is the biggest thing in cycling, for me not to want a team and a company I love not to go and do the biggest thing would be wrong," said the 27-year-old Manxman.

"But obviously it restricts me and what I can do as a professional cyclist myself. I have got an ambition of winning as many stages as I can in the Tour de France and I want to be somewhere I can do that. We had ambitions that can't work out."

Cavendish is edging closer to Eddy Merckx's 34 Tour de France stage wins after taking the 18th and 20th stages and triumphing on the Champs-Elysees for a fourth straight year but his ambitions are clearly at odds with Sky's.

Reuters

Mark Cavendish of Britain races on the Box Hill circuit during the men's cycling road race at the London 2012 Olympic Games, on 28 July, 2012.

REUTERS

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Union Border Affairs Minister, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State observe objective conditions of Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Sept—Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay together with a delegation led by Mr Joseph Yun, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Southeast Asia and Pacific Affairs of the US Department of State and Mr Derek Mitchell, American Ambassador to Myanmar arrived in Sittway yesterday morning to observe the objective conditions in Rakhine State.

Clarifying the current situations of Rakhine State to Mr Joseph Yun and party at the meeting hall of Rakhine State Government Office, the Union Minister said that steps are being taken for attending to the basic needs of victims including education and health; that humanitarian aids are being distributed to victims regardless of race and religion; that relief and rehabilitation measures are being taken by the government in close cooperation with local people, UN agencies and international community; that makeshift tents are being set up as temporary shelters for victims while houses are being constructed for long-term rehabilitation; that steps are being taken for physical and mental development of victims as part of rehabilitation; that long-term plans are being drawn for creating more job opportunities and improvement of socio-economic status of victims to ensure that their livelihood returns to normal.

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay and a delegation led by Mr Joseph Yun, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Southeast Asia and Pacific Affairs, the US Department of State, meet locals at relief camp in Mingan ward in Sittway.—MNA

Next, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for his part said that they had witnessed the objective conditions of Rakhine State and they were satisfied with the handling of situations by the government; that they acknowledged the efficiency of the government that could address the situations in a short period; that they would cooperate with the government in providing humanitarian aids and assistance in order to address matters on Bangladesh-Myanmar population density.

On arrival at refugee camps being opened at Shwezedi Monastery in Sittway, the Union Minister and party met with local people and asked what they want to know.

The Union Minister and party met with Muslim families in Aungmingala Ward, Sittway and spoke words of encouragement.

Later, the Union Minister and party met with local people in Kyaunggyilan Ward, displaced persons at relief camps in Mingan Ward, Thetkepyin relief camp and Bawdupha Village relief camp and asked what they want to know.—*MNA*

Reserve rice ready for satisfying public demand

YANGON, 9 Sept—Myanmar Rice Industry Association will start sale of reserve rice at Bayintnaung Brokerage and Wadan Street Brokerage as of early September with the aim of satisfying domestic rice demand.

"We prepare for more transparency in sale of rice. About 10000 bags of rice will be sold directly at brokerage daily. It is aimed at controlling price of rice in domestic rice market as much as we can," an official of Myanmar Rice Industry Association.

In the previous sales through tender, the news spread out that only some rice merchants got the opportunities for sales of rice and it consequence raised the prices of rice. This time, the transparency of sale opportunity will be performed.

Rice merchants from regions and states have planned to sell out over 100,000 bags of rice at fair price for the people.

Last month, heavy rains and floods inundated over 200,000 acres of farmlands in Ayeyawady Region.

"Although reserve rice is being sold, price of rice is still high due to the fact that people buy rice based on their worry. Regular consumers also purchase rice more than their needs. If reserve rice is sold, anybody should not worry about problem of rice price in the market. Not only the association but also other rice companies will sell out their reserve rice if necessary," said a general manager of rice company.—*Myanma Alin*

Defender Cole ruled out of England match against Ukraine

LONDON, 9 Sept —Defender Ashley Cole will miss England's second World Cup qualifier against Ukraine on Tuesday after failing to recover from the ankle injury that sidelined him for Friday's 5-0 win over Moldova.

Cole, who has won 98 caps, took the knock when his Chelsea side were thumped 4-1 by Atletico Madrid in the European Super Cup match in Monaco last week.

The FA said in a brief statement on their website (www.thefa.com): "Ashley Cole was assessed by the medical staff on Saturday and will not be available for the qualifier with Ukraine on Tuesday." The FA also said that Cole's Chelsea team mate John Terry was having treatment from the medical team after hurting his ankle against Moldova.

England finished the game with 10 men after Terry limped off just before the end.

Xinhua

Russia's Vladimir Kramnik (R) competes with Germany's Arkadij Naiditsch during the 11th round of the men's team competition at the World Chess Olympiad held in Istanbul of Turkey, on 9, Sept. 2012.—XINHUA

Terry out of Ukraine game with ankle injury

John Terry is going to miss Ukrain test.

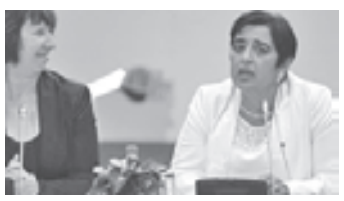
LONDON, 9 Sept —John Terry is out of England's World Cup soccer qualifier against Ukraine, the FA confirmed on Sunday.

The Chelsea defender picked up an ankle injury during England's Group H opener, a 5-0 win in Moldova on Friday.

"Following further treatment from the England medical staff today, John Terry will not be available," a statement on the FA's website (www.thefa.com) read.

Terry had left the squad and returned to his club.England host Euro 2012 co-hosts Ukraine at Wembley Stadium on Tuesday.—*Xinhua*

Poll: Obama widens lead over Romney despite jobs data PAGE 3



EU needs to help stem regional water conflicts PAGE 7

Chinese President, Canadian PM discuss cooperation PAGE 11

Drogba helps Ivory Coast to comeback win PAGE 11