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Visit of PRC delegation to Myanmar contributes to continued maintenance of long-lasting friendly ties fostered by leaders of two countries

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Mr Wu Bangguo at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 11 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thein, U Tin Naing Thein, U Than Htay, U Win Myint, Dr Pe Thet Khin and U Htay Aung, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Transport, Communications and Construction Affairs Committee U Thein Swe and departmental heads. The visiting PRC guests were accompanied by PRC Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on contribution of the visit to friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and PRC, continued maintenance of long-lasting friendly ties fostered by leaders of the two countries, promotion of relations to comprehensive strategic partnership from Pauk-Phaw level, bringing peace in the region through further promotion of Sino-Myanmar relations, ensuring peace and stability in border areas of both countries, making peace with ten national race armed groups out of 11, increase in bilateral economy and trade, further promotion of bilateral friendship through economic cooperation, further promotion of amity between peoples of the two countries through cooperation in religious, cultural, sports, tourism and education sectors, arrangements for promotion of friendly ties among non-governmental organizations of the two countries, cooperation in the drawing of strategic action plan, arrangement for attendance of ASEAN-China Expo by President U Thein Sein and inviting of foreign investments by Myanmar for creation of job opportunities in the nation.

MNA

***President U Thein Sein receives Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC Mr Wu Bangguo at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.*—MNA**

President U Thein Sein to attend 9th ASEAN-China Expo in Nanning

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Sept—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein will pay a visit to the People's Republic of China in the near future to attend the 9th ASEAN-China Expo to be held in Nanning, the People's Republic of China.—*MNA*

President U Thein Sein, Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress Mr. Wu Bangguo attend ceremony to sign bilateral agreement

***President U Thein Sein and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC Mr Wu Bangguo witness signing of agreements between the two countries.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Mr. Wu Bangguo attended the ceremony to sign bilateral agreement held at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 12.15 pm today.

At the ceremony, agreement on economic and technological cooperation between the Myanmar government and the PRC government, Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in technological assistance to be provided to 27th SEA Games to be held in Myanmar, MoU on provision of Hepatitis B vaccines for children, MoU on provision of medical equipment, Mo U on plan for provision of facilities in education sector, MoU on feasibility study of assistance to be provided in the establishment of agricultural demonstration centre, MoU on recognition of the handover of assistance over construction facilities, MoU on recognition of the handover of small-scale rice mills construction project, agreement on broadcasting of Chinese TV series in Myanmar language between the MRTV of Myanmar and CRI Broadcasting Station of the PRC, agreement on loans for Thahtay Hydropower Project and agreement on loans for Baluchaung Hydropower Project were signed by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than, Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung, Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut and Vice-Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Nay Aye from Myanmar side and Deputy Minister for Economy Mr. Li Junzao, Ambassador Mr. Li Junhua, Chairman of CRI Broadcasting Station Mr Wang Gangnian and Deputy Governor of Chinese Export and Import Bank Mr Zhu Hongjie from China side and they exchanged notes.

MNA

Symposium on investment opportunity in Myanmar Communications and ICT sectors held

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—Symposium on investment opportunity in Myanmar Communications and ICT sectors was held at MICC, here, this morning, attended by Union Ministers U Soe Thein, U Tin Naing Thein, U Thein Tun, Dr Kan Zaw and Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, U Han Sein and Dr Khin San Yi, the Hluttaw representatives, economic attaches from the international community, responsible persons from foreign companies and computer associations, departmental heads and officials from communications and ICT firms. The Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs is going through a series of reforms in imrovement of mobile phone density, provision of better communications services and enabling the people to use mobile phones at a reasonable price to keep pace with the reforms underteken by the President. With competitive communications sector, the price for communication services will go down and its quality will become high.

The ministry has now entered the last step of choosing the advisory group, and with this it will invite investors to tender with the approval of Myanmar Investment Commission. The reform in communications calls for huge investment and high technical skills.

In the discussion, Principal U Kyaw Soe of Telecommunications and Postal Training Centre discussed the investment opportunity in Myanmar communication and ICT industry, Deputy Director U Than Tun Aung of Directorate of Telecommunications reform strategy of communication laws, President U Ye Yint Win of Myanmar Computer Federation investment opportunities in IT industry, Deputy Director Daw Tin Aye Han of Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration Myanmar's Investment Law and Deputy Chief Executive Officer U Myint Oo of Yadanapon Teleport investment opportunities in Yadanapon Teleport and those interested made discussion back. Altogether 72 local companies and 95 foreign companies attended the conference.—*MNA*

Myanmar Payment Union (MPU) office and Data Center opened

YANGON, 14 Sept— The opening of Myanmar Payment Union (MPU) office and Data Center was held in front of the Central Bank of Myanmar (Yangon Branch) here this morning. Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein and Chairman of MPU U Maung Maung Win cut the ribbon to open the MPU office and Data Center. Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun pressed the button to open MPU signboard. They then sprinkled (MPU) Data Center with scented water and looked round the center.

The explanation ceremony for using MPU cards followed. At the ceremony, Union Minister U Win Shein said highly efficient payment system is needed for a nation to enjoy economic development. Only then, will socio-economic status of people improve.

Safe and effective payment system plays a leading role in production and service sectors of the country, and central banks of every nation are responsible for development of payment system and the Central Bank of Myanmar is no exception, he said.

Union Minister U Win Shein went on to say that MPU has 16 initial members and now become altogether 17 banks.

As MPU or Local IT provider has been cooperating with foreign organizations, IPU cards will be used in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay after producing it in home. Arrangements are being made to use international cards VISA, Master, American Express, China Union Pay and JCB in Myanmar, he added.

Chairman of MPU U Maung Maung Win extended greetings and Secretary of MPU U Ye Min Oo explained completion of the tasks, future programmes and knowledge for MPU cards.

MPU cards will be available in 8 banks out of 17 MPU members till now. Everybody can draw cash from the ATM machines and carry out payment at the place where point of sale machine is being installed. *MNA*

***Union Minister for CPT U Thein Tun speaking at Symposium on investment opportunity in Myanmar Communications and ICT sectors.*—MNA**

NATIONAL SPORTS

Relief camps fumigated in Sittway Township

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—Under the supervision of Rakhine State Health Department, malaria specialist, 10 staff of Rakhine State and township malaria control squads, 10 member of Myanmar Red Cross Bridge and six health assistants from Myanmar Health Assistant Association fumigated tents and buildings at the relief camps for prevention against malaria in Sittway Township from 1 to 10 September.

The squads sprayed anti-fumigation at 149 sheds, 1434 rooms, 1369 tents and 388 other buildings ay relief camps in Mingan, Thetkebyin, Bawdupha, Thechaung, Kaungdokkha, Dahpaing and Danyawady camps in Sittway Township of Rakhine State for 15023 people from 2707 households.

They also gave malaria care services to the local people.

Members of the squad continues fumigation and malaria care services.—*MNA*

Outstanding students honoured in Yinmabin Township

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—A ceremony to houour outstanding students and teachers and disburse agricultural lone took place in Yinmabin Town Hall in Yinmabin Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Region on 11 September, with an address by Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan.

At the ceremony, the Union Minister and responsible persons presented prizes, cash assistance for regional development, books and publications and loan.

After that, the Union Minister enjoyed loan disbursement to the members of the rural production cooperatives societies in Thayatkan village in Yinmabin Township.—*MNA*

Power supply launched on self-reliant basis

YINMABIN, 14 Sept—As self-reliant electricity supply tasks were undertaken in Kyaukhmaw Village of Yinmabin Township of Sagaing Region, the local people now enjoy fruits of power supply round the clock on 8 September 2012.

With the main sponsorship of U Win Myint-Agga Maha Thirithudhamma Theingi Daw Kyway Kywa of Tayoktan Road in Phayagyi Ward of Monywa, local people from 500 houses contributed to supply of electricity.

At 5 pm on 8 September, a ceremony to launch the supply of electricity was held in the village. Sagaing Region Hluttaw representatives U Kyaw Myint Thein and U Win Myint cut the ribbon to launch the supply tasks.

A five-mile long power line was installed with ShwetaungU sub-power station, and the village is illuminated through two 200-watt transformers. The local people spent K 160 million on works.—*Kyemon*

Enlisting Myanmar cultural heritage to world list discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu received Mr. Sardar Umar Alam, Programme Manager/Head of Office from Yangon, at the Ministry this morning.

At the call, they had a cordial discussion for enlisting Myanmar cultural heritage into world cultural heritage and undertaking of cultural programmes in Myanmar with the aids of UNESCO, future tasks and further coopeation programmes.

Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers Daw Sanda Khin and U Than Swe.—*MNA*

Express bus crushes two vehicles in a row

MYINMU, 14 Sept—An express bus driven by Zaw Lwin Oo of Mahanwe Bus Line derailed into the left side due to tyre problem between mile post 48/5 and 48/6 on Monywa-Myinmu-Mandalay Road in front of Shin Thant-1 Restaurant in Ayezeya Ward of Myinmu at 6.45 pm on 10 September.

The express bus collided head-on with a light truck driven by Ko Myo Swe and dragged Mark II in a row on the opposite way. In the incident, four members of the Sangha, two men and one woman were injured. The injured were rushed to Myinmu People's Hospital with the use of two ambulances of Myat Thukha social and health service association.

The express bus, light truck and Mark II were damaged. The injured persons were transferred to Mandalay General Hospital from Myinmu People's Hospital.

Myinmu Police Station filed a lawsuit against reckless driver Zaw Lwin Oo, son of U Mya Maung, 30 of Thalla Ward 6.—*Myanma Alin*

WORLD

Weeks before US election, Mideast gives Obama perfect storm

US

WASHINGTON, 14 Sept — An eruption of violent unrest across the Middle East is confronting President Barack Obama with the most serious challenge yet to his efforts to keep the Arab Spring from morphing into a new wave of anti-Americanism - and he has few good options to prevent it.

Less than two months before the US presidential election, a spate of attacks on embassies in Libya, Egypt and Yemen poses a huge dilemma for a US leader who took office promising a "new beginning" with the Muslim world but has struggled to manage the transformation that has swept away many of the region's long-ruling dictators.

On top of that, even as he tries to fend off foreign policy criticism from Republican rival Mitt Romney, Obama is grappling with an escalating crisis in US-Israeli relations over Iran's nuclear programme and increased bloodshed in Syria, where President Bashar al-Assad has defied international calls to step aside.

Obama's Middle East woes deepened this week with a series of mob attacks on US diplomatic compounds and the killing of America's ambassador to Libya. Demonstrators were incensed by a US-made film they consider blasphemous to Islam.

US President Barack Obama waves as he returns to the White House in Washington on 13 Sept, 2012, after campaigning in Colorado. XINHUA

With the White House fearing further violence in the region after Muslim prayers on Friday, Obama and his aides were scrambling to re-calibrate their approach to the problem. Warnings were issued to Muslim governments around the world that they would be expected to help protect US interests.

All of this may simply point to a larger challenge that will endure well beyond November's US vote — an apparently growing gulf between the United States and increasingly assertive Islamist forces within the Middle East.The irony is clear.

With his vaunted 2009 speech in Cairo, Obama had hoped to "reset" relations with the region and ease some of the ill feeling stoked by the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq and "war on terror" rhetoric of Obama's Republican predecessor, George W Bush. The Obama administration was caught flat-footed by a wave of pro-democracy revolts last year that toppled autocratic leaders — some, like Egypt's Hosni Mubarak, a longtime US ally.

But Washington gradually gave cautious backing to the goals of the Arab Spring movement. Now, with much of the US optimism that accompanied the Arab world's uprisings seemingly gone for good, Washington faces an apparent rise in Islamic activism and declining influence over countries it once counted as allies.

Reuters

UN Security Council condemns suicide bombing in Yemen

UNSC

UNITED NATIONS, 14 Sept — The UN Security Council strongly condemned on Thursday a recent terrorist attack that occurred in Sanaa, the capital of Yemen, and caused many deaths and injuries.

In a Press statement issued here, the members of the Security Council expressed their deep sympathy and sincere condolences to the victims of the attack and their families, as well as the people and the government of the Republic of Yemen.

A car bomb attack targeting the motorcade of the Yemeni defence minister took place in central Sanaa on Tuesday, killing 12 people including seven bodyguards of the minister. The minister, Mohammed Nasser Ahmed, survived the attack, but was critically injured in his chest.

"The members of the Security Council reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed," said the statement.

The Council members reiterated their determination to combat all forms of terrorism, in accordance with their responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations, according to the statement.

The Council also reminded states that they must ensure that measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, the statement added.

Xinhua

RMS sees insured losses from Hurricane Isaac up to $2 billion

LONDON,14 Sept — Hurricane Isaac caused wind damage that could reach $1-2 billion, disaster modeler RMS said in an update on the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season.

This season is proving the second most active since records began in 1851, with only 2005 and 2011 having more named storms as of 13 September, the San Francisco-based RMS said.

The first hurricane to hit the United States this year, Isaac struck New Orleans last month, almost exactly seven years after Hurricane Katrina devastated the city, but it proved to be a much less damaging storm.

Flood waters from Hurricane Isaac partially submerge homes in neighborhoods in Lafitte, Louisiana on 31 August, 2012.—REUTERS

RMS' estimate excludes all losses caused by flooding and all losses from the National Flood Insurance Programme.

The latter, a state-run entity, was wiped out by Katrina in 2005, requiring a bailout that has left the programme with a debt load it may never shift. The programme still has 193,000 policies in force in Louisiana alone.

Eqecat, another catastrophe modeling firm whose software is used by the insurance industry, said Isaac caused up to $1 billion in economic losses for offshore energy properties and up to $1.5 billion in insured losses onshore in Louisiana and neighboring states.—*Reuters*

Japan set to win extended waiver of US sanctions on Iran oil

SINGAPORE, 14 Sept — Japan has made deeper cuts in crude oil purchases from Iran since it secured an exemption from US sanctions in March, putting the country in a strong position to obtain a renewal when the United States reviews the six-month waiver. Japan was the first of Asia's top four buyers of Iranian crude to receive a waiver from the United States of tough new sanctions aimed at reducing Iran's oil income and persuading it to halt a nuclear program the West suspects is meant to build weapons. Tehran denies its nuclear work has a military purpose.

The exemptions were granted to buyers of oil from Iran on condition that they reduced their purchases.

The combination of tight US and European sanctions has forced Iran to cut its oil output and almost halve exports from around 2 million barrels per day last year as Asian customers struggled to pay for the crude and ship it. Japanese and US officials have already held meetings on the renewal, with Tokyo presenting trade data to demonstrate it is reducing Iranian imports, a Japanese government official said, declining to be identified as he is not authorized to talk to the media.

"We expect to be informed of their decision in coming days," the official said, referring to a decision by the United States on extending a waiver on Japan. "We are not so much worried about their response about the extension."

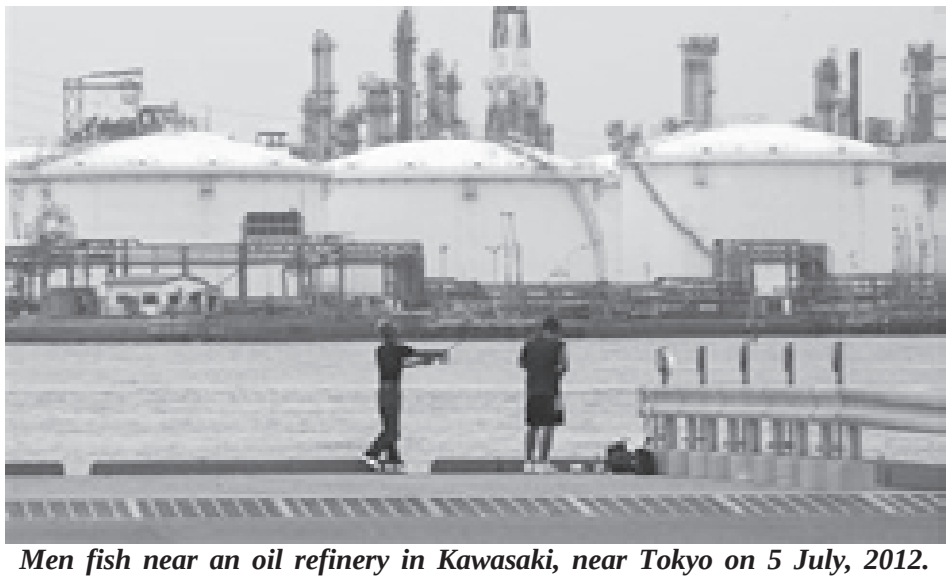
Since it won its first waiver in March, the world's third-largest oil consumer has cut imports each month by more than a quarter except for an increase of 6.8 percent in June. It completely halted shipments in July.

The United States next granted waivers to South Korea and India on 11June. Their renewals are due in December.

Since Washington issued those exemptions, official data from Seoul has shown imports fell by a quarter in June and by 42 percent in July and may halt completely in August.

European Union sanctions, banning insurance cover for ships carrying Iranian oil, spurred that fall. While South Korea's shipments are expected to recover in September as Seoul asks Iran to ship the oil, three months of sharp cuts puts the country in a strong position to secure a renewal come December.

Reuters



Men fish near an oil refinery in Kawasaki, near Tokyo on 5 July, 2012. REUTER

Libya arrests four over deadly Benghazi attack

TRIPOLI, 14 Sept — Libyan authorities have made four arrests in the investigation into the attack on the US consulate in Benghazi in which the US ambassador and three embassy staff were killed, the deputy interior minister said on Thursday. "Four men are in custody and we are interrogating them because they are suspected of helping instigate the events at the US consulate," Wanis Sharif told *Reuters.* He gave no more details.

US ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and three other Americans died after the gunmen attacked the US consulate and a safe house refuge in the eastern city of Benghazi on Tuesday night.

Demonstrators attacked the US embassies in Yemen and Egypt on Thursday, and American warships were moved closer to Libya. President Barack Obama has vowed to bring to justice those responsible for the Benghazi attack, which US officials said may have been planned in advance.— *Reuters*

Technology

3D printers bring hi-tech manufacturing to the home

NEW YORK , 14 Sept — Not so long ago, harried moms and dads would brave the holiday season crowds at the mall to buy those Lego accessories or that Star Wars battle cruiser. Now, with increasingly cheap and easy-to-use three-dimensional printers, they can turn out such gifts in the comfort of the family living room or garage. 3D printers — which use a process called additive manufacturing to make objects from a digital model by laying down layers of material — aren't new.

They've been used to make manufacturing and engineering prototypes for more than 25 years.

But printer makers are now turning their attention to the consumer market, and have been rewarded with soaring sales and stock prices — as well as the prospect of lucrative buyouts. Some printers capable of churning out simple items such as keychains, wine bottle holders and missing board game pieces are already selling for as little as $350.

That's cheaper than a high-end version of Microsoft's Xbox 360 with Kinect. "The consumer segment in the next few years will potentially devour everything else that we do," said Abe Reichental, chief executive of 3D Systems Corp, the biggest listed US 3D printer maker.

Shares of Rock Hill, South Carolina-based 3D Systems, now trading around $38, have more than doubled since it launched its first printer for home use, the Cube 3D, in January. Demand is three times more than expected, Reichental said, although he declined to give exact numbers. Shares of Stratasys Inc, the other major listed 3D printer maker, have more than doubled since the start of the year, to around $65 as investors sense the next big thing. Privately held MakerBot, which released its first plug-and-play 3D printer, the Replicator, for $1,749 at the start of the year, faces a problem of too much demand, CEO Bre Pettis said.

Bre Pettis, co-founder and CEO of Makerbot Industries LLC, is pictured in front of Makerbot Industries LLC manufacturing location, the Botcave, with a three-dimensional printer ''The Replicator'' in Brooklyn, New York, in this undated handout photograph.— REUTERS

"We expected our orders to double from our previous machine, Thing-A-Matic, and instead orders quadrupled," Pettis said. Brooklyn, New York-based MakerBot, founded in 2009, has shipped 13,000 printers so far. About 80,000 3D printers of all sizes have been sold in the United States since 2007, research firm Wohlers Associates Inc says."

Reuters

Apple snubs emerging mobile payment standard

SAN FRANCISCO/NEW YORK, 14 Sept — EBay Inc Chief Executive John Donahoe often quotes a merchant saying NFC stands for "Not For Commerce" — and dismisses the prospects of Near Field Communication technology used to turn cellphones into mobile wallets. He got some support this week from Apple Inc, which did not embed NFC chips into the iPhone 5. NFC proponents had hoped Apple would endorse the technology, which passes encrypted data between devices at close range without contact. So instead of swiping a credit card, shoppers can simply wave their phones at a checkout terminal to pay for their goods.

The technology is backed by the largest US carriers and credit card companies, but has failed to take off in America because merchants have been reluctant to spend money to upgrade their checkout terminals until NFC is more widely adopted. "Anyone hoping NFC would be a reality soon is disappointed," said Sanjay Sakhrani, an analyst at Keefe, Bruyette & Woods. "Many in the industry were hoping inclusion in the iPhone would be a springboard for more adoption. This takes the impetus away."

NFC technology, which has uses beyond mobile payments, is backed by Isis, a mobile wallet joint venture between Verizon Wireless, AT&T Inc and T-Mobile USA. Isis' financial services partners include American Express, JPMorgan Chase and Capital One Financial.

Reuters

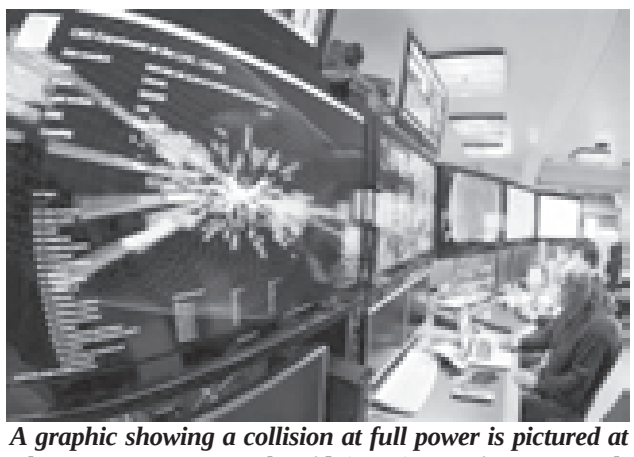
The iPhone 5 on display after its introduction during Apple Inc's iPhone media event in San Francisco, California on 12 Sept, 2012. REUTERS

ALICE scientists enter primeval plasma wonderland

Science

GENEVA, 14 Sept — Scientists at CERN have smashed together various particles for the first time, moving closer to learning what was in the super-hot plasma wonderland that formed right after the primeval Big Bang, the European physics research centre said on Thursday.

The announcement followed another boost for physicists at CERN near Geneva with the effective endorsement by independent experts in a key journal of their claimed discovery of a new particle, the Higgs Boson.



A graphic showing a collision at full power is pictured at the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experience control room of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Meyrin, near Geneva on 30 March, 2010. — REUTERS

CERN's ALICE experiment, one of six grouped around its underground Large Hadron Collider (LHC), has been analyzing particles that emerged from the overnight smashing together of tiny hydrogen-derived protons and much larger lead nuclei."

It was really a pilot run to see if the LHC can produce these asymmetric collision systems. It showed that it can, and it worked like a charm," Johannes Wessels, an ALICE scientist, told *Reuters*. "We are very excited about the results." The function of ALICE —acronym for A Large Ion Collider Experiment —is to probe what happens to matter when it is heated to 250,000 times the temperature at the centre of the sun—as in the "quark—gluon plasma" at the birth of the cosmos.

Reuters

China's Huawei urges Australia not to discriminate on telco security

CANBERRA, 14 Sept — China's Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, which was banned from tendering for work on Australia's national broadband network, urged Australia not to discriminate against foreign communications companies.

Huawei, the world's largest telecoms company, is struggling to win business in the United States and other markets due to security concerns. Last year it was blocked from participating in Australia's $38 billion broadband network (NBN). Though Huawei sells telecoms equipment to major carriers in Asia, Africa and Europe, competing with Nokia Siemens Networks GmbH, Alcatel Lucent and compatriot ZTE, most of its corporate clients are in China.

"With the NBN decision, I was summoned to the Attorney-General's at short notice," Huawei Technologies Australia chairman John Lord told an Australian parliamentary intelligence committee in Canberra. "We were disappointed. We were not given the reasons for the decision."

When Australia's decision was made public in March, the Australian Financial Review said Huawei was seeking to secure a supply contract worth up to A$1 billion ($1.04 billion) with NBN. The company made net profit of $1.8 billion in 2011.

Lord said while he accepted the right of governments to protect critical infrastructure, Huawei had been given no reasons for being blocked from the broadband project and had not been given a chance to respond to any concerns.

Reuters

Russia will not cut emissions under extended Kyoto climate pact

ENVIRONMENT

MOSCOW, 14 Sept — Russia confirmed on Thursday it would not make cuts in greenhouse gas emissions from 2013 under the UN's Kyoto Protocol, joining Canada and Japan in rejecting an extension of the plan for fighting climate change.

The foreign ministry said Moscow would not join industrialized nations led by the European Union in signing up for cuts beyond a first round of commitments ending on 31 Dec, 2012.

Earlier this month, Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich said on Twitter that a decision "had not been made" on new obligations, suggesting the government was still mulling participation. Russia said on Thursday it would now focus on a UN plan, agreed last year, to come up with a new international deal by 2015 obliging both developed and developing countries to limit gas emissions that would enter into force from 2020.

"The Russian Federation finds the extension of the Kyoto protocol in its current state ineffective and does not intend to take on obligations to lower greenhouse gas emissions as part of the so-called second round of liabilities," Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich said in a statement.

"The content of the climate obligations and actions may be different for developed and developing countries, but they must be reflected in a single document. Without that, it will be useless," he added.

Reuters

Drought hurt world crops less than many had feared: USDA

WASHINGTON, 14 Sept — Searing droughts in the United States and Russia will deplete harvests of wheat, corn and soybeans, the US government said on Wednesday, but global food supplies were not hurt as badly as many had feared. With the US harvest off to a fast start, the Agriculture Department said the country's corn crop would be the smallest in six years and the soybean crop would be the smallest in nine years. But even though USDA lowered its crop estimates for the United States and Russia, they are bigger than expected.

USDA's estimates of the corn and soybean stockpiles at the end of this marketing year were also larger than traders expected. One factor: high corn prices have prompted cutbacks in livestock production, reducing demand for feed and keeping more corn in stockpiles. The USDA's World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report will guide the Group of 20 wealthiest nations as it decides whether joint action is needed to prevent a repeat of the 2008 food price spike that left tens of millions of people hungry and sparked food riots in some countries.

The report eased worries about severe shortages and brought down prices of some US agricultural futures. Corn futures on the Chicago Board of Trade fell to a seven-week low and wheat fell too on the prospect of larger supplies." Corn prices likely have peaked," said agricultural economist Darrel Good at the University of Illinois, unless a quarterly report due 28 Sept, shows the corn stockpile is too small.— *Reuters*

Nintendo Wii U adds TV, video for November launch

Market

NEW YORK/TOKYO, 14 Sept — Nintendo Co's "Wii U", packed with innovative TV and video features, will hit US store shelves on November 18 as it plays catch-up with Microsoft and Sony and aims to lure gamers back from the Internet and mobile devices.

The first Nintendo home console in six years will allow users to make personal TV and video programming lists and record shows through TiVo and other digital recording services. "It should be the entertainment hub in the center of the house," said Scott Moffitt, Nintendo of America's executive vice president of sales and marketing.

The machine, starting at just under $300, will also come with a dedicated "Super Mario" game title. For Nintendo, known for its game-centric approach, adding an entertainment component is a positive step, said Billy Pidgeon, an analyst at M2 Research. "It's a must-have right now and with this, they can catch up somewhat to Microsoft's Xbox offerings."

The Wii U is the first console machine to be sold by a major gaming industry company in more than six years. With a new Microsoft Corp Xbox and updated Sony Corp Playstation expected in 2013, sales will offer clues as to whether more advanced, next-generation game hardware can boost the ailing video game console and packaged games market.

Gamers have migrated steadily online or to mobile devices such as Apple Inc's iPad and this shift has weakened video game hardware and software sales. The Wii has been a bonanza for Nintendo, with 100 million sold, but demand is waning. In the three months to June 30, Wii sales more than halved to 710,000 from 1.56 million a year earlier. Nintendo, which is struggling to reverse years of losses, badly needs a hit. But the console is launching into a holiday season of tooth-and-nail competition.

Nintendo's Wii U tablet is shown on a large video screen as it is used to play the video game "Rayman Legends" at the Ubisoft press briefing during the E3 game expo in Los Angeles, California on 4 June,2012.— REUTERS

Consumers are "going to make choices this holiday whether they want to buy a Fire, an iPhone 5, an iPad, a Wii U, and it's the broadest group of products and services we've ever seen," said PJ McNealy, CEO of Digital World Research.

Reuters.

Ireland eyes renewable power exports to UK by 2017

Business

LONDON, 14 Sept— Power grid operators signed a deal on Thursday to develop a 5,000 megawatt electricity transportation system which could export wind power from Ireland to the UK within five years. The UK's National Grid and Portugal's grid operator REN are working on a feasibility study for the project alongside Dublin-based renewable energy generator Mainstream Renewable Power. REN is 25 percent owned by China's dominant utility firm State Grid Corp.

"REN believes this memorandum of understanding sets the ground for the study of a potentially groundbreaking infrastructure for the future of European energy highways," REN Chief Executive Rui Cartaxo said in a statement. Mainstream Renewable Power aims to supply 1.2 GW of power to the UK by 2017. Ireland is expected to produce more wind power than it needs, leaving room for exports to Britain, which has a target to generate 15 percent of its energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020, compared with around 9 percent last year.

Mainstream said it has already secured an offer for 5,000 MW of grid connection to the UK which is independent of Ireland's existing grid structure. A spokeswoman for the project was unable to confirm whether the Chinese firm would have any direct involvement in the scheme. Chinese firms are also bidding to build nuclear power stations in Britain, with two Chinese firms teaming up to take part in the UK's 6-gigawatt Horizon project.

Reuters

Smokers may have more sleep problems: study

Health

BERLIN, 14 Sept — Smokers may get fewer hours of sleep and have less restful slumber than non-smokers, according to a German study that looked at more than two thousand people. Researchers whose work appeared in the journal *Addiction Biology* found that of nearly 1,100 smokers surveyed, 17 percent got fewer than six hours of sleep each night and 28 percent reported "disturbed" sleep quality.

That compared with rates of seven percent and 19 percent respectively among more than 1,200 non-smokers who were also surveyed, said lead researcher Stefan Cohrs, of Charite Berlin medical school in Germany."This study demonstrates for the first time an elevated prevalence of sleep disturbance in smokers compared with non-smokers in a population without lifetime history of psychiatric disorders even after controlling for potentially relevant risk factors," Cohrs and his colleagues wrote. The findings cannot prove that smoking directly impairs sleep, since smokers may have other habits that could affect their shut-eye such as staying up late to watch TV or getting little exercise, Cohrs told *Reuters Health* in an email.

A woman disposes a cigarette in Los Angeles, California, on 31 May, 2012.—REUTERS

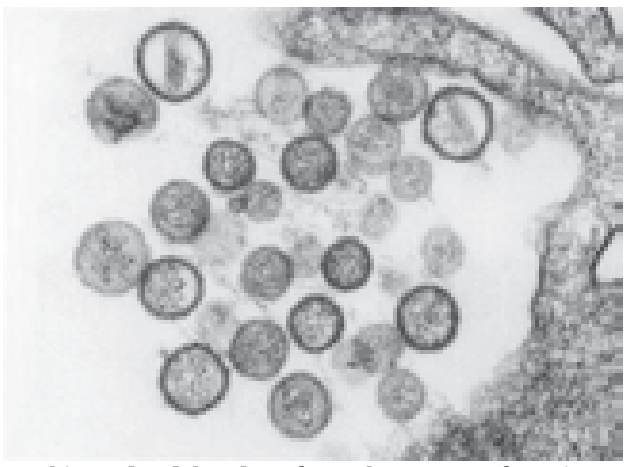
But there is also reason to believe the stimulating effects of nicotine may be to blame. "If you smoke and you do suffer from sleep problems, it is another good reason to quit smoking," Cohrs said. Poor sleep quality may not only make your waking hours tougher. Some studies have also linked habitually poor sleep to health problems like obesity, diabetes and heart disease. The study included 1,071 smokers and 1,243 non-smokers who were free of mental health disorders, since those conditions may make a person both more likely to smoke and more vulnerable to sleep problems.

The researchers used a questionnaire that gauges sleep quality. Overall, more than one-quarter of smokers had a score than landed them in the category of "disturbed" sleep, meaning they had a high probability of insomnia. Many things can affect sleep quality, and Cohrs's team was able to account for factors such as age, weight, and alcohol abuse. —*Reuters*

Yosemite extends hantavirus warning; 9th infection confirmed

SAN FRANCISCO, 14 Sept — Yosemite National Park expanded a warning about the deadly hantavirus to 230,000 more recent visitors and confirmed on Thursday that a ninth person had contracted the virus, which has already killed three people. The Californian, the latest person confirmed to have been infected with hantavirus, had stayed in Yosemite in July and has already recovered, National Park Service spokesman John Quinley said.

Yosemite said it had previously alerted 30,000 visitors, who slept in two locations where officials believe the nine visitors were infected, but expanded the warning by sending emails to 230,000 more who stayed elsewhere out of an abundance of caution, Quinley said. "Because we have heard from concerned guests who stayed throughout the park, today we are reaching out to additional overnight visitors to raise awareness about this rare disease and to ensure they know where to find information regarding hantavirus," the statement said.



In this undated handout from the Centers for Disease Control image library, this transmission electron micrograph (TEM) reveals the ultrastructural appearance of a number of virus particles, or "virions", of a hantavirus known as the Sin Nombre virus (SNV). — REUTERS

"Public health officials have no evidence at this time to indicate that persons who stayed elsewhere in the park this summer were at increased risk of exposure to hantavirus," it said. Although there is no cure for hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, which kills more than a third of those infected, early detection through blood tests and supportive hospital care increases the chances of survival. Deer mice carry the virus in their urine and feces.

Reuters

Health

Stressed at work? Look out for your heart

LONDON , 14 Sept — People who have highly demanding jobs and little freedom to make decisions are 23 percent more likely to have a heart attack compared with their less stressed out colleagues, according to research published on Friday. But lighting up a cigarette or remaining chained to your desk rather than getting out to do some exercise is far more damaging for your heart health, researchers said.

A study of nearly 200,000 people from seven European countries found around 3.4 percent of heart attacks can be attributed to job strain — a significant proportion, but far less than the 36 percent attributable to smoking and 12 percent put down to lack of exercise. For the study, which was published online in *The Lancet* medical journal, researchers analyzed job strain in employees who had no previous coronary heart disease (CHD). Participants completed questionnaires about their job demands, workload, the level of time-pressure demands, and their freedom to make decisions.

"Our findings indicate that job strain is associated with a small, but consistent, increased risk of experiencing a first CHD event such as a heart attack," said Mika Kivimaki from University College London, who led the research. Peter Weissberg, medical director at the British Heart Foundation, said the findings confirmed that being under stress at work and being unable to change the situation could increase the risk of developing heart disease.

But he noted they also showed the negative effects of workplace strain are much smaller than the damage caused by smoking or lack of exercise. "Though stresses at work may be unavoidable, how you deal with these pressures is important, and lighting up a cigarette is bad news for your heart," he said in an emailed comment. "Eating a balanced diet, taking regular exercise and quitting smoking will more than offset any risk associated with your job."— *Reuters*

Business

No progress in talks to sell stake to Hon Hai: Sharp

OSAKA, 14 Sept — Sharp Corp said no progress has been made in the past week in talks to sell a stake to Hon Hai Precision Industry that would make the Taiwanese company its biggest shareholder "There has been no development regarding capital from their side," a Sharp executive said at a briefing on Friday in Osaka on condition he was not identified.

The two companies had been expected to conclude an agreement for Hon Hai to buy a 9.9 percent stake in Sharp during a visit to Japan by Hon Hai's chairman, Terry Gou, in August. Gou left Japan early without meeting Sharp executives and the meeting has yet to be rescheduled.— *Reuters*

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Netanyahu deputy disagrees on setting Iran "red line" ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, 14 Sept — Benjamin Netanyahu's deputy for intelligence and atomic affairs on Thursday broke with the Israeli prime minister's call for Iran to be confronted with a "red line" beyond which its disputed nuclear programme would face military attack. In a broadcast interview, Deputy Prime Minister Dan Meridor appeared to side with the United States in balking at Netanyahu's repeated demand that it set Iran an ultimatum or risk seeing Israel launch region-rattling unilateral strikes.

Meridor's remarks also underscored debate within the leader's inner circle about potentially exacerbating the rift with Washington with a war that polls show most Israelis, including several senior security figures, would oppose. "I don't want to set red lines or deadlines for myself," Meridor, one of several Netanyahu deputies who form the core of his security cabinet, told Israel's Army Radio when asked how much time remained before force against Iran should be used. He called for international sanctions against Teheran to be intensified "so it understands that the price it is paying is mounting and that the only way to be rid of it is to stop the (nuclear) race, to arrive at an agreement, or an international understanding, that it is calling it quits". "You always consider other options, for when everything else is exhausted.

And I think that, for now, we have to continue with the pressure." That echoed US President Barack Obama, who seeks reelection in November and has tried to champion continued carrot-and-stick diplomacy with Iran while fending off charges by Republican rival Mitt Romney that he is soft on the Jewish state's security. Iran denies seeking nuclear weapons.

Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Dan Meridor (front) arrives at the Incheon International Airport ahead of the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul on 25 March, 2012.— REUTERS

Obama, in an interview broadcast on Thursday with the US Spanish-language network Telemundo, insisted he had set a red line for Iran, but offered no new specifics that would come close to meeting Netanyahu's demands for a tougher US stance."

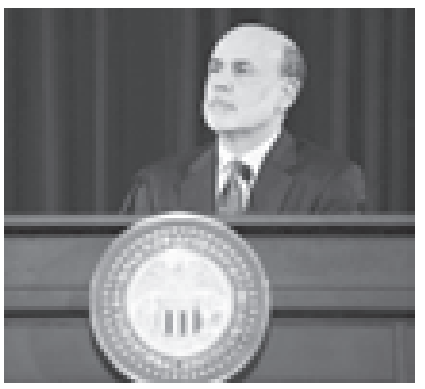
I've stated repeatedly, publically, that red line, and that is we're not going to accept Iran having a nuclear weapon — not only because it threatens Israel, not only because it could potentially threaten the United States," he said. "It could also fall into the hands of terrorists and it would trigger a nuclear arms race in the region."

Reuters

Fed bets big in new push to rescue economy US

WASHINGTON, 14 Sept — The Federal Reserve launched another aggressive stimulus programme on Thursday, saying it would pump $40 billion into the US economy until it saw a sustained upturn in the weak jobs market. The central bank's decision to tie its controversial bond buying directly to economic conditions was an unprecedented step that marked a big escalation in its efforts to drive US unemployment lower. Stock prices jumped, while gold hit a six-month high as investors braced for higher inflation.

Unlike in its two previous bond-buying sprees, the Fed said it would only purchase mortgage-backed debt, hoping in part to unstick a housing sector that Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke called "a missing piston" in the US recovery. One top Republican charged that the move was a bid to help President Barack Obama ahead of November's closely contested presidential election. Republican nominee Mitt Romney's campaign said it confirmed the failure of Obama's policies.Bernanke dismissed talk the Fed was taking sides, saying it acted solely because of the dire state of the US labour market.



US Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke listens to a question as he addresses US monetary policy with reporters at the Federal Reserve in Washington on 13 Sept, 2012. REUTERS

"The employment situation ... remains a grave concern," Bernanke told reporters. "While the economy appears to be on a path of moderate recovery, it isn't growing fast enough to make significant progress reducing the unemployment rate." The economy created just 96,000 jobs last month, less than needed to keep up with population growth. While the unemployment rate edged down to 8.1 percent, it was only because many Americans gave up on the search for work. —*Reuters*

In largely symbolic move, US sanctions Hezbollah's Nasrallah

US

WASHINGTON, 14 Sept — The US Treasury sanctioned the leader of the Lebanese militant group and political movement Hezbollah on Thursday for helping Syria crush anti-government protests, as well as two other members for the group's "terrorist activities" in general. Sanctions experts described the move against Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah as largely symbolic because the penalties — freezing any assets he holds in US banks — had been imposed under earlier US sanctions.

Lebanon's Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah addresses his supporters via a screen, during a rally marking "Quds (Jerusalem) Day",in the southern suburbs of Beirut, on 17 Aug, 2012.— REUTERS

The Treasury said it had "designated" Nasrallah under US Executive Order 13582, signed by President Barack Obama in August 2011 in part to crack down on those helping Syria repress the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad's rule. More than 27,000 people are believed to have died in the 17-month-old conflict. The Treasury also said it sanctioned two other Hezbollah members: Mustafa Amine Badreddine, who has been accused by a UN tribunal in the 2005 killing of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, and a man it identified as Talal Hamiya, the head of Hezbollah's external security organization.

Those two were targeted under Executive Order 13224 "for providing support to Hezbollah's terrorist activities in the Middle East and around the world," the Treasury Department said in a written statement.—*Reuters*

UN General Assembly convenes meeting on mediation UNGA

UNITED NATIONS, 14 Sept— President of the UN General Assembly Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser said on Thursday that mediation in settling international disputes or situations requires seamless cooperation among different partners. Regional organizations and civil society are playing an " important role" in mediation, in addition to that of the United Nations and its member states, Al-Nasser told a meeting of the UN General Assembly on mediation held in UN Headquarters in New York City.

"Since every situation is unique, we should benefit as much as possible from the comparative advantages of different actors," he said. "This requires seamless cooperation among all." The GA president pointed out that some past and current crises have shown that if mediation and other peaceful means are used at a timely and early stage, it would be cost-effective, leading to saving of innocent lives and alleviating the suffering of civilians, particularly women and children.—*Xinhua*

Talisman Energy leaving Peru as it continues to shed assets

PERU

LIMA, 14 Sept — Canada's Talisman Energy Inc is giving up its eight-year-long effort to produce oil in Peru, the company said on Thursday, as it continues to shed assets in a bid to boost its share price. The energy producer, which replaced its CEO on Monday after an eight-month review of strategy and operations, said it could not afford to chase expensive long-term prospects in Peru. The company, with operations in North America, the North Sea and Southeast Asia, has been discussed as the next big takeover target in the Canadian oil patch following Nexen Inc , which has agreed to be acquired by Chinese state-owned CNOOC Ltd in a $15.1 billion deal that is not finalized.

Talisman's withdrawal from Peru will open its concessions in the Maranon Basin in the north of the country, including the 40,000 barrels of light oil it discovered in block 64, to new operators. "We haven't been able to generate a substantial production potential in the blocks we control in Peru, despite our discovery in block 64," spokeswoman Veronica Bonifaz said. "After reviewing our global portfolio we've decided to focus on near-term liquid hydrocarbons." Talisman said it will work with government regulator Perupetro on the transition of its holdings as it wraps up commercial transactions.

The company currently operates blocks 64 and 103, and has non-operated interests in blocks 123 and 129 in Peru.

Reuters

US consulate in Berlin evacuated for unknown substance

BERLIN, 14 Sept — The consular section of the US embassy in Berlin was partly evacuated for unknown substance on Thursday, a police spokesman confirmed to *Xinhua*.

Policemen and firemen are on duty in the consular section of the US embassy in Berlin, Germany, on 13 Sept, 2012.— XINHUA

A consular employee felt hard to breathe after receiving an envelope containing visa application papers from a man unknown, Michael Merkle said. Two other employees also felt unwell after touching the same documents, he said.

Dozens of people in the building had been evacuated and the three had been sent to hospital, said Merkle. The police has been carrying out investigation, while identity of the man who brought the envelope in has not been confirmed yet.— *Xinhua*

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

British insurers set up fraud register as bogus claims rise

UK

A man walks past an AVIVA logo outside the company's head office in the city of London on 5 March, 2009.—REUTERS

LONDON, 14 Sept — British insurers on Thursday launched a register of insurance fraudsters after calculating that bogus claims rose 5 percent last year, adding 50 pounds to the average policyholder's bill. The register is designed to help insurers identify fraudulent claims, easing a financial burden that has weighed on the industry's profits, the Association of British Insurers said.

"The register will make it easier for insurers to prevent fraud by making details of known fraudsters available to insurers through a secure protocol," said Richard Davies of the ABI's Financial Crime Committee. "Those that defraud insurers and their honest customers face real and tangible consequences for their actions."

Insurers detected 139,000 bogus claims in 2011, saving themselves almost 1 billion pounds of payouts, according to the ABI. Fraudulent motor insurance claims were the most costly, accounting for more than half the savings. British motor insurers say a steady rise in spurious or fraudulent claims has been a factor behind their suffering an underwriting loss every year since 1994.

Reuters

British engineers develop ultra-cheap ultrasound

LONDON, 14 Sept — Engineers in Britain have developed an ultrasound scanner that costs under 40 pounds to make and could improve prenatal care in parts of the developing world where this technology is out of reach. The device, if it gets commercial backing, would enter a market where hospital-based ultrasound scanners cost anything between 20,000 pounds and 100,000 pounds and low-cost, portable devices sell for around 4,500 pounds each.

"You could be looking at something certainly less than 200 pounds (to buy)," said Jeff Neasham, the sonar technology specialist at Newcastle University who developed the device with his colleague Dave Graham. "Things are at a very early stage," Neasham said. "We have talked to a couple of interested companies and have had contact with a couple of charities, but we are still looking for partners." Around 250,000 women die each year from complications in pregnancy and childbirth, 99 percent of them in developing countries, according to the United Nations.

Some of the world's biggest healthcare equipment companies like General Electric and Siemens are pouring resources into developing low-cost devices for emerging markets. GE has developed a handheld ultrasound scanner called Vscan with an integrated screen and Seattle-based start-up firm Mobisante has a device that can link to a smartphone for viewing. The Newcastle University scanner is about the size of a computer mouse and can be used via a USB plug with any PC or laptop built in the last 10 years, which the developers hope will make it accessible.

Reuters

Home Depot's do-it-yourself model fails in China's do-it-for-me market

MARKET

HONG KONG, 14 Sept — Home Depot Inc, the world's largest home improvement chain, will close all seven of its big box stores and cut 850 jobs in China as the retailer changes its focus in the Chinese market to online and specialty stores and becomes the latest retailer to feel the chill from China's slowing economy. Earlier this week, British fashion house Burberry Group Plc warned a slowdown in China could hit earnings. The profit warning came as recent Chinese data signaled a further slowing of the world's second-largest economy.

Chinese home appliance retail chain operators such as Suning Appliance Co Ltd and GOME Electrical Appliances Holding Ltd who are seen by some as China's answer to Best Buy Co Inc , are also slowing their expansion to focus on raising efficiencies at existing stores and refining their e-commerce operations. China's retail sales growth in all consumer goods categories slowed to 13.2 percent year-on-year in August to 1.67 trillion yuan ($263.84 billion) from 18.1 percent in December, official data showed. Home Depot will retain two recently opened specialty stores in Tianjin and is "developing relationships with several of China's leading e-commerce websites," it said in a statement late on Thursday.

"China is a do-it-for-me market, not a do-it-yourself market, so we have to adjust," Home Depot spokeswoman Paula Drake told *Reuters* late on Thursday. The company made its first foray into the rapidly-growing Chinese market in late 2006 through its acquisition of a 12-store Chinese chain called The Home Way. However, it has struggled to expand ever since as it was a relatively late entrant into the market behind other international chains such as Britain's Kingfisher Plc which ventured into the world's most populous country in the late 1990s.

Reuters

Risk assets rally broadly, dollar slips

TOKYO, 14 Sept — Risk assets from Asian shares to commodities rallied while the dollar slipped further on Friday as markets digested the US Federal Reserve's aggressive new stimulus to drive job creation in the US economy.

The Fed's move supported the risk-positive momentum at work since the European Central Bank's bond-buying scheme to get borrowing costs down for struggling euro zone members was approved by Germany's constitutional court.

MSCI broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan soared 2.2 percent to four-month highs after US stocks scaled multi-year peaks, with the Standard & Poor's 500 Index hitting its loftiest close since December 2007 on Thursday. Japan's Nikkei stock average jumped 1.5 percent, pulled higher by gains in beaten-down cyclical, but the firm yen weighed. The dollar index measured against a basket of key currencies fell to a fresh four-month low of 79.134. Shanghai commodities futures, from copper, zinc to reb jumped between 3 to 5 percent on hopes the Fed's move would bolster global demand for manufacturing and building materials.

"The Fed took the best possible policy option that's available now, aiming to bolster asset prices while taming the rise in key commodities and energy prices but also aiming to achieve an inflation target," said Antihero Niimura, a partner at Tokyo-based research and consulting firm Market Risk Advisory."The key is that it's open-ended, eyeing a gradual and longer-lasting effect of monetary easing," he said, adding that base metals such as copper, which has been weighed by concerns about sluggish demand as economic fundamentals weakened, have a big scope for further gains after the Fed's action.

Traders works at their desks at the Frankfurt stock exchange on 6 Sept, 2012.— REUTERS

The Fed said it will buy $40 billion of mortgage-backed debt per month until the job market improves substantially as long as inflation remains contained — acting on its dual mandate to maintain price stability and tackle unemployment. The US central bank also said it was unlikely to raise interest rates from current lows until at least mid-2015, extending the time frame for such a move from late 2014." —*Reuters*

BAE's British roots sprout trusted American faces in US defence landscape

WASHINGTON, 14 Sept — Around the United States, Britain's BAE Systems is widely seen as just another powerful US defence contractor, unlike European aerospace group EADS , which is always firmly identified by its French, German and Spanish roots. With nearly 40,000 employees in states like Virginia, Texas, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire; outreach programmes at myriad US universities, and its own savvy lobbyists, BAE's British origins seldom merits a mention.

Now that the two companies want to tie the knot, the question is, whether BAE will be able to extend its hard-earned reputation to EADS, or whether the relationship with EADS could complicate its own business relationships in the United States.

Analysts and industry executives said BAE, which announced on Wednesday that it was in advanced merger talks with EADS, has firmly established itself in the US defence industry landscape over the past decade through a series of strategic acquisitions and rigid adherence to tough security procedures.

A BAE Systems sign is seen outside the company's Warton site near Preston, northern England, in this file picture taken on 1 Oct, 2009.
REUTERS

Thousands of its employees hold government security clearances and BAE is a member of the Aerospace Industries Association, the US aerospace and defense industry's largest trade group, which has steadfastly refused to admit EADS because its shareholders include foreign governments.

Linda Hudson, chief executive of BAE's US unit and a member of the parent company's board, said her company had a unique special security agreement that allowed the US unit to work on the highest level US national security programmes.

Reuters

Brazil witnesses 73 percent down in child mortality in last two decades: UNICEF

BRAZIL

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 Sept — The mortality rate of children under five years old in Brazil fell by 73 percent in the last 21 years, said a UN report released on Thursday. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said that Brazil's child mortality rate fell from 58 deaths for every 1,000 children in 1990 to 16 deaths for every 1,000 children in 2011, adding Brazil registered the world's fourth biggest advancement in this issue, after Turkey, Peru and El Salvador.

There were improvements in the access to health services in Brazil, with the establishment of community health programmes and family health strategies in the 1990s, which "helped reduce inequities in coverage and cut child mortality," UNICEF report said. Other important factors contributing to this included improvements in sanitation, maternal education, breastfeeding and immunization coverage, and growth in vulnerable families' incomes, UNICEF stated.

The fund qualified Brazil's progress as "impressive," but stressed that a lot of children still die from neo-natal diseases and post-partum complications in the country.

According to UNICEF, most countries registered have made improvement in reducing child mortality rates in the past two decades, and fighting disease is largely credited for this achievement. The global figures dropped from almost 12 million deaths of children aged five in 1990 to 6.9 million in 2011. — *Xinhua*

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 15 September, 2012

Democracy Education

What is democracy? Is democracy a word only to find in the rhetorical speeches of politicians? Does it really guarantee people better life, social justice, freedom and equality before the law?

While democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy. Democracy is a universal value based on the freely-expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems, and their full participation in all aspects of life, defined the United Nations General Assembly.

Democracy has been popularly said over one year in the country, bringing about dramatic changes especially in political dimension. Everyone is looking forward to the brighter future. But then, can democracy make our dreams come true?

The subject of this year's theme of International Day of Democracy—Democracy education—is essential for long-term success of democracy. All the citizens in all nations need to fully understand their rights and responsibilities for the level of participation and education of citizens has decisive effect on promotion of democracy.

Nearly 70 per cent of the country's population resides in rural areas with little or no political awareness. The country cannot see economic prosperity without their participation. It needs to educate the rural population to understand their constitutional and legal rights as well as responsibilities. Otherwise, it would only contribute to widen the gap between the rich and poor.

The education standard of the citizens is as crucial as the rule of law and discipline in a democracy. The rise or fall of a democracy largely depends on citizens because of the popular sovereignty of the citizens and thereby government by consent of the governed in polity. The intellectual capital of citizens is of great value to economic performance of a nation without which there would not be social stability, the soil for democracy.

Therefore, citizens need to fully understand and respect their rights and responsibilities either legal or moral. If the citizens of a democracy would have security for their rights, they must take responsibility for them. They must respect the rights of others and act to defend their own rights and the rights of others against those who would abuse them. They must exercise their rights in order to make democracy work. They need to make their voice heard through civic institutions and the free press to promote and consolidate democracy.

Democracy is a practice rather than a political system. Democracy is not a magic wand but it depends on how we practise. It is only with educated citizens that a sustainable culture of democracy can emerge.

Tobacco Kills

President U Thein Sein and Chairman of Standing Committee of Chinese National People's Congress Mr Wu Bangguo attend signing ceremony of bilateral agreements. **(News on page 1)**—MNA

Mechanized farming calls for participation of peasantry

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing together with Bago Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Tin Soe viewed 200-acre Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation near Padaukkhin Village in Ottwin Township this morning.

Speaking to the local farmers at the briefing hall of Kabaung Dam, the Union Minister stressed the need for irrigation system, quoting the agricultural development of neighbours, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos through effective irrigation system. It is the responsibility of all citizens to make a shift from conventional farming to mechanized farming. It is mechanized farming that can help farmers free from the life of migrant workers.

The Union Minister urged the farmers to work hard for success of mechanized farming like Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.

The Union Minister handed over 500 kilos of maize seeds to the region minister and five kilos to each farmers.—*MNA*

Chairman of the Standing Committee of Chinese National People's Congress Mr Wu Bangguo and party arrive in Yangon

YANGON, 14 Sept—Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win and wife, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung and wife, chairman and secretaries of Yangon Region Hluttaw Legislative Committee, National Race Affairs Committee, Representatives of Scrutiny Committee and officials of Chinese Embassy in Yangon welcomed Chairman of the Standing Committee of Chinese National People's Congress Mr Wu Bangguo and wife who arrived in Yangon from Nay Pyi Taw by special flight at 5 pm today.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe met the visiting delegation led by Chairman of the Standing Committee of Chinese National People's Congress Mr Wu Bangguo at Sedona Hotel. Also present on the occasion were the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Region Hluttaw and Region Ministers.—*MNA*

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe meets Chairman of Standing Committee of Chinese National People's Congress Mr Wu Bangguo and party at Sedona Hotel.

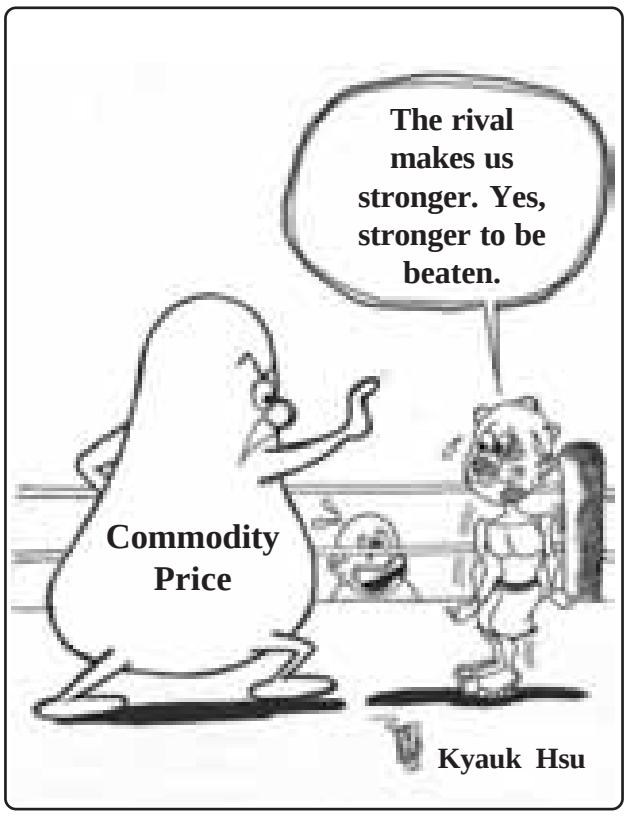
MNA

Unhygienic snacks destroyed in Kyaukme

KYAUKME, 14 Sept—Under the instructions of Shan State Government, the public health care group comprising staff from various departments visited canteens of various schools and snack shops in wards of Kyaukme and checked sales of snack made of bean imported from China due to unhygienic matter.

The group destroyed the unhygienic snacks.

The health care group tours urban areas of Kyaukme on Mondays and Tuesdays.—*Kyemon*



News in Brief

DA (Part-I) for Nay Pyi Taw staff

Diploma in Accounting (Part-I) will be opened for government service personnel in Nay Pyi Taw at the training school of Auditor-General of the Union at Office No. 12 in Nay Pyi Taw as of 1 February 2013. The course will be opened from 7 am to 9 am from Monday to Saturday daily.

Turkish Ambassador donates relief aid

Turkish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Murat Yavuz Ates and party donated relief aids to Rakhine State Government at the state government office on 11 September. The ambassador presented rice and medicines to victims at relief camps in Sittway.

UMFCCI, Japan CCI to hold joint meeting

UMFCCI and Japanese Chambers of Commerce and Industry will organize the 9th Joint Meeting of Myanmar-Japan CCI Business Cooperation Committee at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 28 September to discuss mutual cooperation in investment and trade.

Educational assistance provided to needy students

Free Education Assistance Group was constituted at Shwepyiaye Monastic Education School in Mawlamyinegyun on 8 September. Five wellwishers donated K 210,000 as education assistance. The group will provide assistance to needy students for 2013-2014 academic year.

World First-aid Day observed

Myaungmya Township Red Cross Brigade and Township Public-based Health and First-Aid Work Committee observed the World First-Aid Day at BEPS (Thabawt) in Teteku Village-tract in Myaungmya Township.

Slaughters, cow markets inspected

The head of Veterinary and Slaughters Department of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee inspected slaughters and cow markets in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 13 September and urged the licensees to abide by prescribed rules and regulations of the committee.

Fire breaks out eight times in Yangon Region

Yangon Region Fire Services Department issued that fire broke out in the region eight times in August 2012. Fire broke out once in Kyauktada, two times in Sangyoung and one time each in Tamway, Thakayta, South Okkalapa, Hline and Hlinethaya townships.

Bird watching course 15-17 September

Myanmar Birds and Nature Society will conduct Basic Bird Watching Course 2/2012 in Bagan from 15 to 17 September to tour guides for turning out bird watching tour guides. A total of 25 tour guides around Bagan region has enlisted to attend the course.

Invitational discussion for local and foreign investment on 21 Sept

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—The invitational discussion for local and foreign investment will be held at the Ministry of Energy, here, on 21 September morning.

Those wishing to make investment in electricity generation and distribution sectors may attend the discussion.

The purpose of the discussion is aimed at adopting short- and long-plans for implementation the tasks and development of the energy and electricity sectors.

Those willing to make investment in the fields of hydropower, coal, natural gas, wind energy, solar energy and bio-mass in respective region/state may take the proposal data at the discussion. —*MNA*

Myanmar to take steps to promulgate intellectual property laws

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—"As a member of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and World Trade Organization (WTO) and international organizations like ASEAN, Myanmar would take steps to promulgate intellectual property laws ahead of 1 July, 2013 according to Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)", said Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo at the coordination meeting on enactment of new laws on intellectual property at the ministry here this morning.

The Union Minister said that firm laws that can protect the direct foreign investment in the country are essential as foreign investors attach importance to protective power of intellectual property laws in making decision to invest in a country. The country needs to enact intellectual property laws to be able to define and protect patent rights at a time it is striving for economic performance with might and main. The Ministry of Science and Technology is taking a leading role in drafting patent law, industrial design law, trademarks and service marks law and copyright law.

Next, personnel of the ministry explained feedback of respective ministries, representatives of region and state governments and organizations on drafts of those laws, followed by queries of those present.

The Union Minister called for enactment of laws in line with international practice without harming the interests of citizens. The meeting was attended by deputy ministers, departmental heads, and representatives from regions and states, scholars and invited guests.

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo speaking at coordination meeting on enactment of new laws on intellectual property.
MNA

The enactment of intellectual property laws would arouse he invention and innovation of citizens, protecting their interests, contributing to small and medium enterprises. It would also attract foreign investment and increased commodity flow, spurring national economic growth, promoting local and foreign investments.

MNA

Investigation Commission continues enquiries in Rakhine State

YANGON, 14 Sept—Chairman of Investigation Commission Dr Myo Myint, Secretary Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing and Commission members arrived in Kyaukpyu yesterday morning and met with Mro and Khami townselders, Islam religious leaders and townselders.

At the meeting, the chairman and the secretary explained the tasks and cooperation with the commission and enquired some persons separately.

At Taungup, they met State Hluttaw representative, departmental officials and local people and enquired some people separately.

They met with townselders, teachers, Islam religious members at Kyauknimaw Village in Yanbye Township and then met families of Ma Thida Htwe.

After that, the commission members made interviews with some persons to gather the firm evidences and data for conducting investigation for exposing the correct event with regard to the riots in Rakhine State and giving suggestions for enhancement of national interests.

Later, the Investigation Commission Chairman and members arrived in Yanbye and met departmental personnel, Rakhine and Kaman national race townselders. They also met some persons separately.

MNA

UNFPA, Myanmar to collaborate for Global Review on Population and Development

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—UNFPA and the Ministry of Immigration and Population (MOIP) jointly organized today a multisectoral workshop to assess the progress towards the Goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014- Global Review. The purpose was to review the achievements in the 18 years following ICPD in Cairo in 1994 and to look forward to a new development agenda.

Myanmar was one of the participants and a signatory to ICPD committing to population and development issues. The underlying tenet of ICPD is to assure each individual a healthy and fulfilling life, with respect for their dignity and equal rights, in a world looking beyond 2014.

UNFPA was mandated by the UN Secretary-General to lead the Global Review on ICPD beyond 2014 as the 20th anniversary of the ICPD approaches. Countries around the world are asked to complete the standardized questionnaire that measures the results and promises kept. The findings will be reported to the UN General Assembly in September 2014.

In Myanmar, the national review mechanism is Government led with formation of a national forum for the review process. A wide range of stakeholders from government ministries: Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Immigration and Population, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Education, Attorney-General of the Union's Office, and Civil Society, the United Nations, young people and representatives from local and international NGOs, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA), Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (MWAF), Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and Community Based Organizations were consulted during the process and these ministries and organizations attended the validation workshop.

NLM

Mongkai Township Administrator's Cup wraps up

MONGKAI, 14 Sept—The final match of Mongkai Township Administrator's Cup Football Tournament was held at the Township Sports Ground on 5 September afternoon.

In the final match, Ward 1 team beat All Staff team 1-0.

Next, Township Administrator U Hlaing Maung presented trophy, medal and K 120000 to the first prize winner. Shan State Hluttaw representative U Sai Pan and departmental officials awarded the remaining winners.

The tournament started on 20 August with the participation of eight ward and village teams.

Myanma Alin

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MIDDLE EAST

Peace with Israel remains far away 19 years after Oslo treaties

RAMALLAH, 14 Sept — Nineteen years after the signing of the interim peace treaties, better known as Oslo accords, chances of reaching a permanent deal between Israel and the Palestinians became slim once again as their peace talks have been stalled since October 2010. Observers said that the Israeli policies and practices on the ground over the past 19 years after the deal, which was based on the principle of a two-state solution, had complicated the accurate and full implementation of the interim deal thus hinder the achievement of a permanent one.

The Oslo peace accords was signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in the White House in Washington on 13 Sept, 1993 to end decades of bloody conflicts. The aim of the negotiations at that time was to form a transitional Palestinian authority in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, after which the two sides should start talks on permanent status issues, such as Jerusalem, refugees, settlement, water and security. Oslo deal had guaranteed the establishment of a transitional self-rule authority for the Palestinians. However, no Palestinian state has been established yet and Palestinian officials hold Israel responsible for the stalemate in the peace process.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat told *Xinhua* that all the governments of Israel "did their best to waste every possible opportunity that Oslo accords brought about to achieve permanent peace." The Palestinians alleged that Israel is still controlling 60 percent of the West Bank territory and at the same time keeps escalating its settlement construction, which ruins all the chances of establishing a Palestinian state in the future beside the state of Israel. Israel, meanwhile, pulled out from the Gaza Strip in 2005 and evacuated its settlement there. In June 2007, the Islamic Hamas movement, which opposes Oslo accords, violently seized control of it after weeks of infighting with the forces of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Khalil Shahin, a political analyst from the West bank city of Ramallah, told *Xinhua* that "Oslo agreements divided the Palestinian people into Palestinians of Gaza, Palestinians of West Bank and Palestinians in the Diaspora."The Palestinians want Israel to completely halt all settlement activities in the West Bank and east Jerusalem and want to start talks on permanent status issues to establish an independent Palestinian state on the territories Israel occupied in 1967 with east Jerusalem as its capital. Salah al-Bardaweel, a senior Hamas leader based in Gaza, told *Xinhua* that his movement believes that toppling Oslo accords 19 years after it was signed is a Palestinian national need, adding " Oslo was illusive and didn't bring the Palestinians anything fruitful except disasters and tragedies."

In addition to the stalled peace process, the Palestinians are complaining about the high cost of living partly caused by the Paris economy agreement signed between Israel and the Palestinians in 1995, soon after the two sides began to implement Oslo accords. Following a violent wave of protests in the West bank against the hard living conditions, the Palestinian National Authority called on Israel to reconsider amending the Paris protocol.Samer Anabtawi, a Palestinian commentator, told *Xinhua* that Oslo accords had yielded a Palestinian economy completely linked to the Israeli economy. "This reality kept the Palestinian economy linked to the world donations and the Israeli blackmail," said Anabtawi, adding that Israel considers the Palestinian territories a good consuming market.

Erekat said that the Palestinian choice is still based on the two-state solution, adding that the Palestinian leadership is counting on the international law and the international resolutions to give the Palestinian people the right to establish their state on the territories occupied by Israel in 1967. However, Hani al-Masri, another West Bank-based political analyst, cautioned that "nothing will change on the ground amid the ongoing difficult situation."—*Xinhua*

British Defence Minister Philip Hammond speaks during a news conference in Doha on 12 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

Britain considers early withdrawal from Afghanistan—paper

UK

LONDON, 14 Sept — Britain could withdraw its troops from Afghanistan faster than expected next year, as military commanders reassess how many troops they need to help local forces fight the Taleban, Britain's defence secretary said in an interview.

Britain is due to withdraw 500 soldiers by the end of this year, leaving 9,000 soldiers to help Afghan National Security Forces, but Philip Hammond said there WAs potential to further "draw down troops in 2013."

"Six months ago the message coming from them was that we really need to hold on to everything we have got for as long as we possibly can. I think they are seeing potentially more flexibility in the situation," Hammond told Friday's *Guardian* newspaper.

He did not go into details and said no decisions had been taken on an accelerated withdrawal of troops, with the bulk of Britain's soldiers planned to return home by the end of 2014.

"I think there is a bit of a rethinking going on about how many troops we do actually need," said Hammond. "There may be some scope for a little bit more flexibility on the way we draw down, and that is something commanders on the ground are looking at very actively."

He said British military thinking was evolving because commanders had been "surprised by the extent to which they have been able to draw back and leave the Afghans to take the lion's share of the combat role". Hammond said the security situation was improving in Helmand province in Afghanistan's southwest, where British troops have mainly been based, after some of the bloodiest fighting in the Afghan conflict and the deaths of more than 20 British troops in recent months.

Reuters

Canada's Harper seeks budget balance but top priority is growth

CANADA

OTTAWA, 14 Sept — Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said on Thursday he hoped to balance the federal budget before the next election in October 2015 but his top priority was to make sure the economy continued to grow. "We have to go on financial circumstances. Look, I want the budget to be balanced and that's a goal in this Parliament. But our first objective is not balancing the budget, our first objective is to make sure the Canadian economy keeps growing," he said in an interview on Sun News Network's "Byline with Brian Lilley" programme.

"In my judgment, a gradual reduction in the deficit is the way to go if that can be managed, and I think it can be managed, so that's the route that we'll continue on." The most recent federal budget set a target to bring the budget into surplus in the fiscal year that starts on 1 April, 2015. He estimated that the deficit is currently C$24 billion to C$25 billion ($24.7 billion to $25.8 billion), which is relatively tiny by comparison with the US federal deficit but still quite large by fiscally conservative Canadian standards.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper is pictured during an interview during a Canada-Asia Dialogue at Canada Place in Vancouver, British Columbia on 6 Sept, 2012.— REUTERS

The prime minister, interviewed in his office, said that while he had expected the recovery would be slow, he had not seen the high level of uncertainty, stemming largely from Europe's intractable economic difficulties and the US "fiscal cliff" approaching at the end of this year. The fiscal cliff refers to tough legislative decisions that must be made in Washington on whether to extend expiring low tax rates or make deep spending reductions that could pinch economic growth.

"I'm sort of coming, and I think many Canadians are coming, to see a lot of this uncertainty as the new norm," he said, adding that Canadians should not fret too much about week-to-week uncertainties in other countries over which Canada had limited control."We have to make sure that we just look past and beyond these troubles and position Canada well for the very radically changed economy we see emerging in the future." —*Reuters*

50 arrested in Texas in operation against convicted sex offenders

HOUSTON, 14 Sept— US federal immigration agents and state police have arrested 50 immigrants across the state of Texas as part of an operation to remove convicted sex offender and other criminals from the US and other countries, officials said on Thursday.

The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) said the five-day operation was aimed to arrest people who have convictions for sex crimes and other felony convictions. The initiative, called Sex Offender Alien Removal or SOAR, targeted immigrants who have committed sex crimes, particularly against children. Federal authorities call it the first statewide operation of its kind, according to local media website.

The operation began on Saturday and ended on Wednesday. About half of the 50 people arrested were from North Texas.—*Xinhua*

Hepatitis outbreak kills 16 in South Sudan refugee camps

SUDAN

JUBA, 14 Sept — An outbreak of the Hepatitis E virus has killed 16 people in three South Sudanese refugee camps near the volatile border with Sudan, authorities and the United Nations said on Thursday. South Sudan's border region has been flooded with hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing fighting in Sudan's South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. South Sudan's Ministry of Health has reported almost 400 cases of the virus since the outbreak was identified in July.

"Cases are rising day by day, thus placing immense pressure on the available heath services and resources. This is of grave humanitarian concern," the ministry said in a joint statement with UN agencies. In Maban county, the area affected, 108,000 Sudanese refugees live in camps in dire conditions, aid officials say. Hepatitis E causes liver infections and is spread by drinking water contaminated with faeces. John Lagu, director of preparedness and response at the Ministry of Health, said the virus thrived in camps that are overcrowded and flooded.

"The good thing is that the virus is not very aggressive ... and that cases of mortality are low. Few people die from it," Lagu told *Reuters* by telephone.However, he warned that there was a risk the virus could spread to local people, who have less access to healthcare than those in the camps.

"It's just another indication of the very bad conditions that are there," said Stefano Zannini at medical aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres.—*Reuters*

REGIONAL

CHINA

China surveillance ships near islands disputed with Japan

A Chinese surveillance ship Haijian No 15 cruises in waters about 6 km (3.7 miles) off Uotsuri island, part of the disputed islands in the East China Sea, known as the Senkaku isles in Japan, Diaoyu islands in China, in this handout photo by Japan Coast Guard's 11th Regional Coast Guard headquarters on 14 Sept, 2012.— Xinhua

Tokyo/Beijing, 14 Sept— Six Chinese surveillance ships entered waters near disputed islands claimed by Tokyo and Beijing on Friday, raising tensions between Asia's two biggest economies to their highest level since 2010 over a long-running territorial row. China's foreign ministry said that the ships entered the disputed waters to conduct maritime surveillance and that for the first time China was carrying out a mission of "law enforcement over its maritime rights".

"It reflects our government's jurisdiction over the Diaoyu islands," it said in a statement. The ministry has used similar language in the past. The islands, known as Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese, are near potentially huge maritime gas and oil fields.The Japanese coast guard said it ordered the ships to leave Japan's territorial waters, but only three complied, leaving three vessels still in the disputed area. No force had been used to remove the Chinese ships, a coast guard official said.

"We'll do our utmost in vigilance and surveillance," said Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda when asked about Japan's responses. Diplomats say Tokyo and Beijing would prefer to keep the row from spiraling out of control and harming deep economic ties.But with China facing a once-in-a-decade leadership change and an election looming in Japan that the ruling party looks set to lose, managing the row could be harder than in the past.

"The dangers of miscalculation are real," said Brad Glosserman, executive director at Honolulu's Pacific Forum CSIS.

The uninhabited islets were at the centre of a chill between Beijing and Tokyo in 2010, after Japan arrested a Chinese trawler captain whose boat collided with Japanese Coast Guard vessels near the area.Sino-Japanese relations have long been plagued by China's bitter memories of Japan's military aggression in the 1930s and 1940s and present rivalry over resources and regional clout.

Reuters

NPAs kill two former comrades in S Philippines

PHILIPPINES

Davao City, (Philippines), 14 Sept — Guerrillas of the leftist group New People's Army (NPA) have shot and killed two of their former comrades in southern Philippines, police said on Friday. Caraga regional police office spokesperson Superintendent Martin Gamba identified the fatalities as Alfredo Antong, 57 and his son, 37-year-old Mario.

Gamba said the two died of multiple gunshot wounds after they were attacked by guerrillas of the NPA in Mahaba village, Cabadbaran City in the southern Philippine province of Agusan del Norte at around 11 am on Thursday. "The victims who were former rebels were hauling falcata logs at the hinterland village when they were fired upon by NPA gunmen using assault rifles, killing them instantly," Gamba told *Xinhua* in a statement.

He said the NPAs may have been angered by the decision of the victims to leave the leftist group and become small-time loggers. Gamba said government security forces are now pursuing the suspects.The 4,000-strong NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, is fighting a 43-year leftist insurgency in 60 provinces. The rebel group has been known to target former members suspected of helping in the government's counter-insurgency operations.— *Xinhua*

Death toll from DPRK floods rises to 300, with 600 still missing

DPRK

Pyongyang, 14 Sept— The death toll from recent floods in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has risen to 300, while 600 others remain missing, the official *KCNA* news agency reported on Friday.

The floods between mid-June and late August destroyed 87,280 houses and affected roughly 298,050 residents, damaging farmland and social infrastructure such as electric cables, coal mines and railways, according to the *KCNA.*

Typhoon Bolaven, which pounded most of the country in late August, inflicted the largest damage, leaving 59 people dead and 50 others missing, it added.

The DPRK said on Wednesday that it would not accept a "negligible" amount of aid from South Korea, accusing the southern neighbour of lacking sincerity, the *KCNA* reported on Thursday.—*Xinhua*

Shenyang Military Region holds actual combat drills .— Xinhua

Japan seen exiting nuclear power by 2030s

JAPAN

Tokyo, 14 Sept — Japan is expected on Friday to propose abandoning nuclear power by the 2030s, a major shift from policy goals set before last year's Fukushima disaster that aimed to increase the share of atomic energy to more than half of electricity supply. But Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's unpopular government, which could face an election this year, also looks set to call in the meantime for the restart of reactors idled after the 2011 disaster if they are deemed safe by a new atomic regulator.

Japan's growing anti-nuclear movement, which wants an immediate end to atomic power, is certain to oppose any such proposal to secure electricity supplies. A shift from nuclear means Japan should seal its position as the world's biggest importer of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and third-largest purchaser of oil to feed its power stations. The government estimated last week it will need to spend about 3.1 trillion yen ($40.03 billion) more on fuel imports a year if it abandons nuclear power immediately.

Japan's hunger for energy has helped sustain an investment boom in gas projects from Australia to new export terminals in the United States, where a shale gas revolution is in full swing. LNG prices also soared earlier this year as Japan scoured the world for supplies. Japanese ministers were due to meet on Friday afternoon and media said a decision was expected then with the cabinet likely to sign off on the new energy policy as early as next week.

Anti-nuclear demonstrators gather outside Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's official residence in Tokyo on 10 Aug, 2012. — Reuters

A new policy would comes 18 months after a March 2011 earthquake and tsunami devastated Tokyo Electric Power Co's Fukushima Daiichi plant, triggering meltdowns, spewing radiation and forcing some 160,000 people to flee.

The new strategy, which would strictly apply a rule limiting the operation of reactors to 40 years, will also call for a push to reduce energy consumption by raising efficiency but leaves unclear the fate of Japan's troubled programme to reprocess nuclear waste, according to a source familiar with a draft.

Reuters

S Korea's import prices rebound for 1st time in 5 months

S KOREA

Seoul, 14 Sept — South Korea's import prices rebounded for the first time in five months due mainly to a jump in farm goods and mining product prices, data by the central bank showed on Friday. In local currency terms, import prices advanced 1.7 percent in August from a month earlier, a turnaround from a 0.8 percent on- month decline tallied in the previous month, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK). From a year before, the prices rose 0.3 percent.

The on-month figure for August made its first rebound in five months, and the on-year reading logged the first rise in three months. The rebound was attributable to jumping agricultural product prices and global crude prices. Dubai crude, South Korea's benchmark, averaged 108.6 US dollars a barrel in August, up 9.6 percent from the previous month.

Prices in raw materials imported from overseas climbed 4.6 percent in August from a month before. Farm goods price growth rebounded from a 0.8 percent decline in July to a 1.7 percent gain in August, with mining product prices jumping 4.9 percent last month, up from a 0.9 percent rise in July.

Intermediate goods prices fell 0.3 percent on-month in August, up from a 1.7 percent retreat a month earlier. Oil product price gain accelerated to 11.7 percent in August from 5.0 percent in July, while chemical product prices rose 0.4 percent last month, a turnaround from a 2.6 percent decline in the previous month.—*Xinhua*

Advertisement

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MV SUNRISE 18 VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SUNRISE 18 VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.9.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (5) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: FORTUNE SHIPPING & AGENCY
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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G. LINK EXPRESS CO LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGKAJA VOY NO (78)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKAJA VOY NO (78) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.9.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1238)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1238) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.9.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Australia's immigration minister confirms arrivals of asylum seekers to Nauru

CANBERRA, 14 Sept—The first transfer of asylum seekers by aircraft from Christmas Island to Nauru under Australian govern-ment's new offshore processing regime had gone " smoothly and without incident", Immigration Minster Chris Bowen confirmed at a media conference on Friday.

An aircraft has landed at the Nauru airport with a number passengers, apparently Sri Lankans, who were then loaded onto a pair of mini buses for the trip to the newly completed camp. More transfers would occur next week and in the weeks to come. "Implementing all of them is key to breaking the people-smugglers' business model," he said. Bowen signed the legislative instrument designating Nauru as a regional processing country under the Migration Act of Australia on Monday.

Xinhua

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		-Cylinder Liner(Open Grain)	200 Nos
	Closing Date - 26.10.2012(Friday)(12:00) Hour		

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 17.9.2012 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone:95-1-291985, 291994,

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P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 15 September 2012

The 153-year-old Big Ben clock tower which is renamed "the Elizabeth Tower" is seen at central London, Britain on 13 Sept, 2012. The iconic clock tower that houses the great bell, the Big Ben, was officially renamed Elizabeth Tower Wednesday to honor the 60 years of Queen Elizabeth on the throne.
XINHUA

Train crashes into truck at level railway crossing in Australia's Brisbane

BRISBANE, 14 Sept— A truck driver has been seriously injured after a passenger train hit his truck at a level railway crossing in Brisbane, Australia's Queensland capital city, police said on Friday. The crash occurred at the St Vincents Road level railway crossing in the suburbs of Banyo in Brisbane at around 6:30 am local time on Friday.

The truck driver has been taken to hospital with serious leg injuries and it is believed 15 people have been treated for minor injuries, police said.Police and emergency services are currently on the scene, trying to clear the twisted remains of the truck from the tracks at Banyo station.Queensland Police Minister Jack Dempsey told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) that there are no life-threatening injuries at this stage.—*Xinhua*

ENTERTAINMENT

Matchbox Twenty get to No 1 at last with "North"

LOS ANGELES, 14 Sept— Pop-rock band Matchbox Twenty scored their first No. 1 album with their long-awaited "North" release, selling 95,000 record to top the Billboard 200 chart, according to Nielsen SoundScan figures on Wednesday.

"North" is the first full-length studio album since 2002 for the four piece band from Florida, which formed in 1995 and had big hits with singles "Unwell," and "3 AM".

Sales for "North" were powered by the new album's first single "She's So Mean," released in June.

Matchbox Twenty have not played a major tour since 2008 and started work on "North" about two years ago. Band members have said the disc was delayed because they wanted to get the album right after such a long absence.

"North" was one of four new arrivals on the Billboard 200. Rock band Imagine Dragons came in at No 2 with their first full-length effort "Night Visions," and Christian hip-hop artist Lecrae debuted at No 3 with "Gravity."

It was the highest Billboard entry ever for Lecrae, and came just a week after fellow Christian singer TobyMac debuted at No 1 with "Eye On It" in what was the first Christian act to reach the top Billboard 200 spot since 1997. TobyMac slipped to No 8 in this week's chart.

On the digital songs chart, country pop artist Taylor Swift topped the list for the fourth consecutive week with her infectious hit single "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together," while her new cancer charity single "Ronan," entered at No 2.

Reuters

Rob Thomas (R) of Matchbox Twenty performs during the Muhammad Ali Celebrity Fight Night awards banquet in Scottsdale, Arizona, on 19 March, 2011. REUTERS

Why Nemo, T-Rex and Indiana Jones are returning in Imax

NEW YORK, 14 Sept— Hollywood is not doing so hot with its new releases, but it's hoping to find gold elsewhere: in its vaults, and in today's higher-ticket-price formats.

Last weekend, five months after Paramount's 3D Imax re-release of "Titanic," the studio re-released "Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark" for a one-week Imax run (Fox handled international).

On Friday, Disney rolls out its third toon adapted for 3D, following "Beauty and the Beast" and "The Lion King": the less-than-a-decade-old "Finding Nemo."

More are in the offing from the Mouse House, which has had a long history with regular-format re-releases. It will bring back a 3D "Monsters, Inc" in the winter, seven months before the release of its prequel "Monsters University," and has others in the pipeline but is not yet willing to say which ones.

"We're fortunate at Disney to have the power of the brand," Dave Hollis, EVP of theatrical exhibition and sales at Disney, told TheWrap. "Relative to other studios, we find ourselves in a fortunate position to have a treasure trove of opportunity because of our vault."

Though some may begrudge the studios for this unabashed pursuit of profits at a time when most fans and critics crave original material, the decision is rooted in simple economics. "It's an obvious thing for studios to do, given that they have these classic movies that are sitting on the shelves that they can relatively easily turn into a 3D version," Bruce Nash, founder of the box-office statistics site The Numbers, told TheWrap. "There's a very small incremental cost in doing the conversion—and a proven market for the films."

Hollis said it cost Disney less than $10 million to convert each of the animated films. Nash noted that converting animated films is much easier because they begin life as a computer file, anyway.

The low cost of conversion makes this a win-win situation for studios, which can use these beloved films to boost quarterly grosses.

All of the films released so far, "The Lion King," "Beauty & the Beast," "Star Wars: Episode I—the Phantom Menace" and "Titanic," surpassed $40 million at the domestic box office.—*Reuters*

***Actress Kate Winslet signs autographs for fans as she arrives at the world premiere of "Titanic 3D" at the Royal Albert Hall in London on 27 March, 2012.*—REUTERS**

Led Zeppelin to release reunion concert film

LONDON, 14 Sept—British rockers Led Zeppelin will release a concert film based on their 2007 charity performance in London that hits cinemas on 17 October, the band said on Thursday.

The film, called "Celebration Day" and directed by Dick Carruthers, was taken from the long-awaited reunion of one of rock's most successful acts.

The theatrical release will be across 1,500 screens in more than 40 territories, followed by an audio and video release on 19 November.

There will be premieres in London, Los Angeles, New York and other major cities before the theatrical release, raising the possibility of seeing the three surviving band members on the same red carpet, if not the same stage.

The band broke up in 1980 after the death of their drummer John Bonham, but despite repeated calls from millions of fans to get back together to tour and record, reunions have been fleeting and, by their own admission, unsatisfactory.

But in 2007, singer Robert Plant, guitarist Jimmy Page and bass player John Paul Jones, along with Bonham's son and drummer Jason, took the stage at London's O2 Arena for a tribute gig to Atlantic Records' founder Ahmet Ertegun.

It was the first headline show by the band in 27 years, and according to Cineworld, the cinema chain which will screen the movie in Britain, it was the most over-subscribed gig in history after more than 20 million people applied for 18,000 tickets.

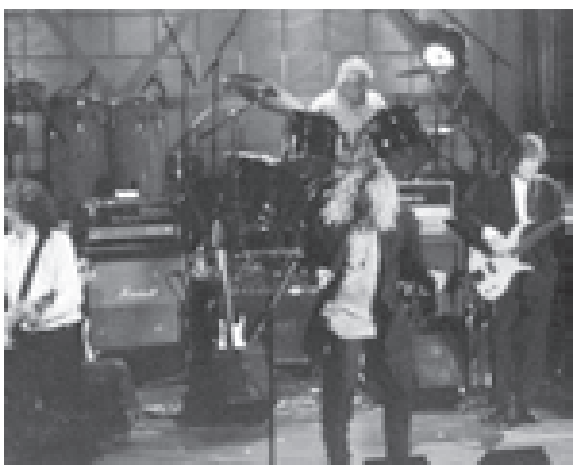
"It's a unique opportunity to savor what is likely to be Led Zeppelin's final performance," Cineworld said.

The band, one of rock's biggest acts with global album sales estimated at up to 300 million, played 16 songs on the night including hits like "Whole Lotta Love", "Kashmir" and "Stairway to Heaven".

The poster promoting the film features a cartoon of a zeppelin airship against a red sky above London's Houses of Parliament, reminiscent of the artwork on the band's 2007 compilation album "Mothership".

Following is the track listing of the upcoming film, which will last just over two hours.

1. Good Times Bad Times
2. Ramble On
3. Black Dog
4. In My Time Of Dying
5. For Your Life
6. Trampled Under Foot
7. Nobody's Fault But Mine
8. No Quarter
9. Since I've Been Loving You
10. Dazed And Confused
11. Stairway To Heaven
12. The Song Remains The Same
13. Misty Mountain Hop
14. Kashmir
15. Whole Lotta Love
16. Rock And Roll.—*Reuters*



Led Zepplin performs together for the first time in seven years during the 10th introduction ceremonies for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in New York in this on 13 January, 1995 file photo. REUTERS

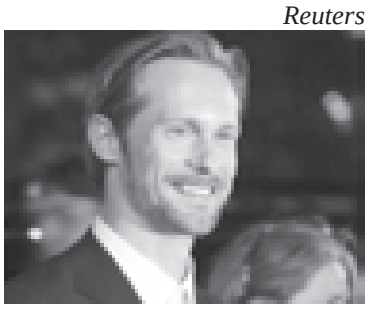
Millennium picks up modern take on "What Maisie Knew"

LOS ANGELES, 14 Sept— Millennium Entertainment has taken domestic distribution rights to "What Maisie Knew," the company announced on Wednesday in Toronto. Alexander Skarsgard, Julianne Moore and Steve Coogan star in this modern-day version of the classic Henry James novel. Scott McGehee and David Siegel direct.

Set in current-day New York, the film chronicles the falling apart of a family as seen through the eyes of a six-year-old girl who watches the grown-ups around her behave like children.

Moore plays a rock 'n' roll icon married to a distracted art dealer (Coogan) who each pursue separate love interests and eventually part ways. Maisie (Onata Aprile), their only child, is caught in the middle and used as a bargaining tool.

Reuters



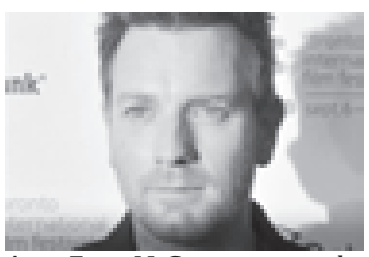
Cast member Alexander Skarsgard

Ewan McGregor joins Roberts, Streep in "August: Osage County"

NEW YORK, 14 Sept—Ewan McGregor has joined the cast of "August: Osage County," John Wells' upcoming film adaptation of the Pulitzer-Prize winning play, The Weinstein Company announced on Wednesday. Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts have already signed on to star in the film, in which McGregor will play Bill Fordham. Fordham is the estranged husband of Barbara (Roberts) and son-in-law of Violet Weston (Streep).

The play, written by Tracy Letts, chronicles the women of the Weston family, who, after years apart, come together for a family crisis. George Clooney, Grant Heslov, Jean Doumanian and Steve Taxler are producing Letts' adaptation, which will begin principal photography on 24 September.

McGregor was last seen in "Salmon Fishing in The Yemen" and "Beginners," and will next appear in Juan Antonio Bayona's "The Impossible." He's also set to star in "Jack the Giant Killer," Bryan Singer's revisionist take on "Jack and the Beanstalk."—*Reuters*



***Actor Ewan McGregor poses at the gala presentation for the film "The Impossible" at the 37th Toronto International Film Festival on 9 Sept, 2012.*—REUTERS**

International Sports

Cameroon suspend French coach Lavagne

Soccer

(Front L-R) Cameroon's Stephane Mbia, Achille Emana, Benoit Assou-Ekotto, Samuel Eto'o, Enoh Eyong, Geremi, (rear L-R) Achille Webo, Sebastien Bassong, Nicolas Nkoulou, Alexandre Song and Hamidou Souleymanou pose for a team photo during a 2010 World Cup Group E soccer match against Denmark at Loftus Versfeld stadium in Pretoria on 19 June, 2010. REUTERS

YAOUNDE, 14 Sept— Cameroon have suspended French coach Denis Lavagne, less than a year after he took the helm of the national soccer team, following an embarrassing defeat to lowly-ranked Cape Verde, Cameroon's state television said on Thursday.

Cameroon, four-times winners of the African Nations Cup, are in danger of missing out on a place at the next finals in South Africa after losing 2-0 to the tiny Atlantic archipelago nation in Praia on Saturday, in the first leg of the final round of qualifiers.

Lavagne had been suspended with full pay until the end of his contract in October, the television said.

Jean Paul Akono, who led Cameroon's squad to Olympic gold in Sydney 2000, has been appointed as interim coach, with Martin Ntoungou Mpile as assistant.

The appointment is Akono's second stint as head coach of the team after briefly holding the position from 2000 to 2001.

Cameroon, who host the Cape Verdians on October 13 and have long been one of the dominant forces in African football, missed out on the last Nations Cup.

They were the first African country to reach the World Cup quarter-finals and won Olympic gold in Sydney in 2000.

However, instability at the helm of the team - 11 different coaches have been in charge since Akono was removed in 2001 - has been accompanied by a long stretch of poor form.

Administrative bungles have prompted players to strike over pay and led to key players being suspended. Striker Samuel Eto'o last month declined to make a comeback for the team after an eight-month suspension because of what he called "amateurish and bad management".

Angry fans demonstrated outside the offices of Cameroon's football federation after the defeat to Cape Verde, prompting authorities to deploy police and military personnel.

Reuters

Boxing great Ali honoured for fights outside the ring

PHILADELPHIA, 14 Sept— Heavyweight boxing legend Muhammad Ali was honored on Thursday for his humanitarian efforts and civil rights work at an awards ceremony in Philadelphia.

The $100,000 award called the Liberty Medal, sponsored by the nonprofit National Constitution Centre, was presented to Ali by his daughter, Laila Ali, a former boxer herself. Ali, 70, who has been silenced by a long battle with Parkinson's disease, was honored as an icon of constitutional ideals and the American dream, the center said. He "has been an outspoken fighter for religious and civil rights; a conscientious objector who took his battle to the Supreme Court and won; an ambassador for peace and justice worldwide, and a tireless humanitarian and philanthropist," the centre said in a statement.

"Muhammad Ali continues to this day to inspire young people throughout the world," Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter told the ceremony.

Since he retired from boxing in 1981, Ali has worked on philanthropic and social causes around the world. He has made goodwill missions to Afghanistan and North Korea, delivered medical aid to Cuba, travelled to Iraq to secure release of 15 US hostages during the first Gulf War, and most recently, worked for the eventual release of the three American hikers held captive in Iran, the centre said in its statement.—*Reuters*

Boxing great Muhammad Ali waves after being awarded the Liberty Medal, as his wife Lonnie (L) and sister-in-law Marilyn Williams (R) look on, at the National Constitution Centrer in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on 13 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

Argentina's Lionel Messi (L) breaks through during the 2014 World Cup qualifying soccer match against Paraguay in Cordoba, Argentina, on 7 Sept, 2012. Argentina won 3-1.—XINHUA

"Messi and Higuain are little girls", says defender

Soccer

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 Sept— Peru defender Carlos Zambrano has labelled Argentina stars Lionel Messi and Gonzalo Higuain "little girls" following the teams' 1-1 draw in Tuesday's World Cup qualifier in Lima.

In an interview published on Peruvian sports website Depor.pe on Thursday, Zambrano also accused Messi of being "scared" by the occasion.

"He didn't do much. Maybe he was scared, I don't know," Zambrano said. "We deserved to win. We were the better team and I'm angry that we only managed to get one point from the match."

"They complained about everything. They are little girls. Higuain tried to provoke me the entire match but I didn't get sucked in."

Zambrano gave Peru the lead with an early strike before Real Madrid forward Higuain equalized at the Estadio Nacional.

Peru had the best of the second half chances while Argentina struggled to maintain possession in the opposition half.

"They were impotent and frustrated. They didn't know how to stop us and couldn't win possession of the ball," Zambrano added.

"They tried to unsettle me with insults but when they were tackled they complained and went to ground. They think they are untouchable but football is a game for men."—*Xinhua*

Pacquiao set for 8 December bout with Marquez

Boxing

LON ANGELES, 14 Sept—Filipino southpaw Manny Pacquiao is expected to return to the ring on 8 December for a fourth fight against long-time rival Juan Manuel Marquez of Mexico, according to several media reports.

Promoter Bob Arum told *Reuters* on Thursday that fight negotiations were being hammered out this week with a decision likely in "a couple of days."

Arum was not prepared to give any further details, though some media have reported that a formal news conference promoting the fight will take place on Tuesday in Los Angeles.

Pacquiao beat Marquez with a controversial majority decision when they met in Las Vegas in November, and said afterwards he would be happy to take on the Mexican again "any time."

The Filipino has fought just once since then, surrendering his WBO welterweight title on a hotly disputed split decision to American Timothy Bradley in Las Vegas in June.

That stunning result ended a run of 15 consecutive wins by Pacquiao, who has won world titles in an unprecedented eight weight divisions.—*Reuters*

WBO welterweight champion Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines is treated in his corner between rounds during his title fight against Timothy Bradley Jr of the US at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada on 9 June, 2012.—REUTERS

Alexis added to Barca injury woes

MADRID, 14 Sept—FC Barcelona confirmed on Thursday that Chilean winger Alexis Sanchez will miss this Saturday's La Liga game away to Getafe.

Alexis returned from playing two World Cup qualifying matches for his country with what the club describes as a slight muscle tear on the left side of his groin which means he will definitely not be available at the weekend and is doubtful for next week's Champions League debut against Spartak Moscow.

The loss of Alexis, who suffered several muscle injuries last season comes just a day after it was confirmed influential midfielder Andres Iniesta will also be sidelined for the next two weeks.

Iniesta also suffered his injury while on international duty while playing for Spain away to Georgia on Tuesday night.

The news is a blow for Iniesta, who like Alexis has suffered a lot of muscle injuries in recent seasons and who just two weeks ago was named as UEFA player of the year.

However, the injuries to Alexis and Iniesta could open the door for Cesc Fabrigas or David Villa to return to the starting 11 in Getafe. Villa scored a penalty for Spain against Saudi Arabia last Friday, while Fabrigas, whose early season form has been questioned by some, helped set Roberto Soldado up for Spain's winning goal in Georgia after coming on as a substitute in the game.

Winger Christian Tello, who has been in coach Tito Vilanova's plans in this early part of the campaign could also be given his chance. Fortunately for Barca, Leo Messi and Javier Mascherano both returned unscathed from Argentina's 1-1 draw in Peru.

Reuters

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(15-9-12 09:30 am ~ 16-9-12 09:30 am) MST

* News
* Meditation Centres throughout Myanmar
* Yamanya Land: Heritage of Mons
* News
* Road to 27th SEA GAMES (Karatedo)
* News
* Youth & Career "Massaging" (Hi-Hair Beauty & Spa)
* News
* Great Shwedagon (Historic & Mysterious Places)
* News
* Lucrative Myanmar Rattan Industry
* News
* Culture Stage
* News
* Song on Screen
* News
* Applied Myanmar Traditional Movie "Kamma"
* Myanmar Movie "Touching Bonds"

MYANMAR TV

(15-9-2012) (Saturday)

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

7:15 am
2. Dhamma Puja Song

8:15 am
3. Selected Songs For 19th Myanmar Traditional cultural Performing Arts Competition (2012) (Modern Song) (Amateur (Second) Division (Level Men)

8:15 am
4. International News

8:40 am
5. Myitta Pawana By Mingun Sayadaw Phayagyi

11:15 am
6. Game for Children

11:40 am
7. Round Up Of The Week's TV Local News

14:15 pm
8. Dance of National Races

4:00 pm
9. Martial Song

4:15 pm
10. Dhamma Sekka Thutta Reciting Competition (2nd Prize Winner) (Tar Hmwe) (B-E-H-S-4)

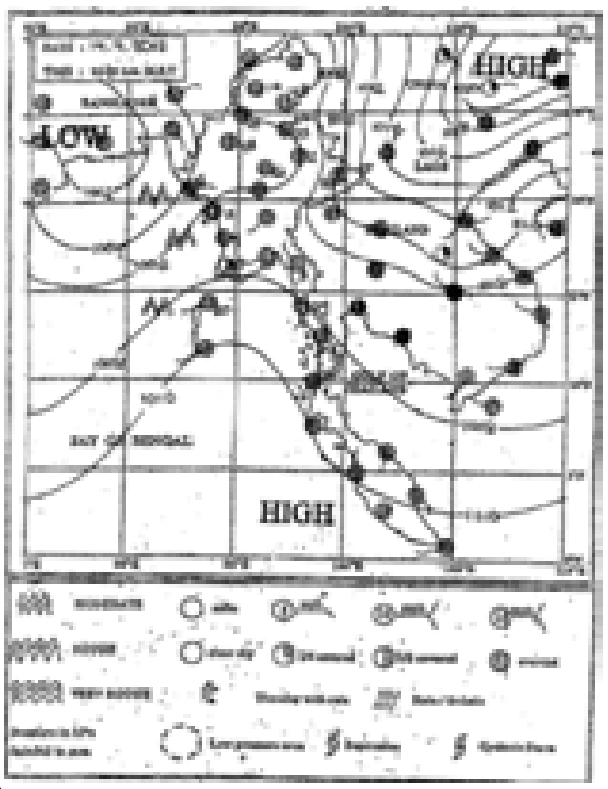
4:40 pm
11. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Third Year (Myanmar)

5:10 pm
12. Beautiful "Asean"

6:20 pm
13. Road to 27th SEA BAMES (Table Tennis)

8:15 pm
14. Carton Series
15. Gitadagale Phwinfbaohn

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 15th September, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F) Maximum	Minimum	For Tomorrow Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	28/82	22/72	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
2	Kayah	31/88	22/72	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
3	Kayin	33/91	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
4	Chin	23/73	14/57	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
5	Upper Sagaing	29/84	23/73	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
6	Lower Sagaing	36/97	25/77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
7	Taninthayi	31/88	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
8	Bago	31/88	24/75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
9	Magway	33/91	26/79	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
10	Mandalay	36/97	25/77	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
11	Mon	30/86	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
12	Yangon	32/90	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
13	Rakhine	31/88	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
14	Southern Shan	25/77	17/63	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
15	Northern Shan	29/84	18/64	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
16	Eastern Shan	27/81	18/64	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
17	Ayeyawady	30/86	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	34/93	24/75	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	32/90	23/73	One to two rain or thundershowers	(100%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	36/97	25/77	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today	During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and Kayin State, fairly widespread in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions and isolated heavy falls in Mon State. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Mawlaik (4.72) inches, Tamu (3.74) inches, Monywa (3.54) inches, Kyeikkhami (3.39) inches, Cocogyun (2.63) inches, Minkin (2.60) inches and Mandalay (2.44) inches.
Bay Inference	Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
State of the Sea	Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for sub-sequent two days	Continuation of increase of rain in the Southern Myanmar Areas.

American imprisoned in Nicaragua freed after appeals court decision

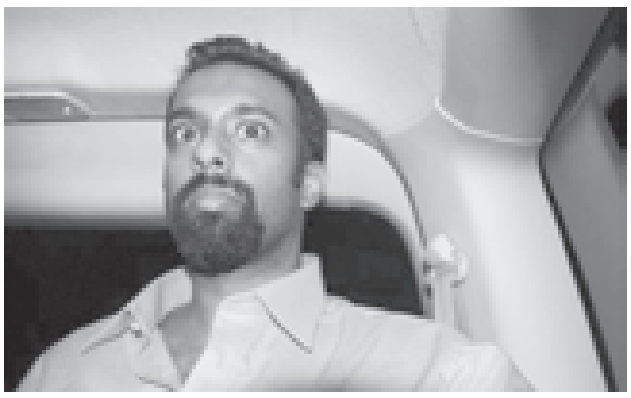
MANAGUA, 14 Sept — A US citizen sentenced to 22 years in prison in Nicaragua on drug-trafficking charges walked out of jail a free man on Thursday after his conviction was thrown out by an appeals court in a case that rallied international rights activists. Jason Puracal, 35, left La Modelo prison in Tipitapa, just east of the capital, Managua, on Thursday afternoon after the appeals court that heard his case last month ordered he be set free.

Puracal was found guilty of drug trafficking and money laundering by a Nicaraguan trial judge last year, along with 10 Nicaraguan co-defendants, after being detained in 2010. He has maintained his innocence. The appeals court ordered that the trial be annulled because the judge did not substantiate the reasons for his ruling, and excluded evidence defence attorneys wanted to present. Puracal's immediate fate was unclear. A person familiar with the case told Reuters that Puracal was restricted from leaving Managua. The source voiced concern that Puracal would be rearrested by Nicaraguan authorities.

Before Puracal was released, Nicaraguan Attorney General Julio Centeno told a local television station that his office was considering whether to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court, the nation's highest judicial body. "We have been fighting for this moment for two years, and it is an amazing feeling to know that the appellate court has recognized what the rest of the world recognized a long time ago, and that is that Jason is innocent," Puracal's sister, Janis Puracal, said by telephone.

Puracal emerged from the prison behind his co-defendants, who were also released under the court order. He was then taken in a motorcade to Managua, although his exact destination was unknown. Members of the media were not allowed to approach Puracal as he left.

Reuters



US citizen Jason Puracal sits in a car after his release from prison at Tipitapa town in Managua on 13 Sept, 2012. — XINHUA

US defence secretary's visit signals warming relationship with New Zealand

NEWZEALAND

WELLINGTON, 14 Sept— United States Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta will be the first US defense secretary to visit New Zealand in 30 years when he arrives this week, the New Zealand government announced on Friday. Panetta, who will arrive in New Zealand after visiting Japan and China, would hold bilateral talks with Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman and Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully, said a statement from Coleman.

"The New Zealand government is looking forward to hosting Secretary Panetta. His visit is a reflection of the excellent state of the relationship between our two countries," said Coleman. The trip followed the signing of the Washington Declaration at the Pentagon in June between Panetta and Coleman. During his visit, Panetta would also lay a wreath at the Auckland World War II Hall of Memories to honor fallen New Zealand troops in that war and more recently in Afghanistan.

The Washington Declaration, a companion document to the Wellington Declaration, has two key elements: regular high level dialogue and enhanced cooperation within the Asia-Pacific region. It aims to enhance cooperation in key areas that New Zealand and the US had been working on closely together over the past two years: maritime security, including counter-proliferation, counter-terrorism and anti-piracy. It also sets out cooperation for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in the region, and promotes peace-keeping and peace-support initiatives.

Military links between New Zealand and the US have been warming since November 2010, when US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully signed the Wellington Declaration, which outlines fields of cooperation between the two nations, including climate change, renewable energy, trade, security and economic development.—*Xinhua*

A model prepares backstage before Ralph Lauren Spring 2013 show during Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in New York, the United States, on 13 Sept, 2012. — XINHUA

Pakistani police arrest former prime minister's son on drugs charge

PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD, 14 Sept — Pakistani police arrested the son of a former prime minister on Friday in connection with a drugs case, the latest twist in a power struggle between the increasingly assertive Supreme Court and the ruling party. The feud could hurt Pakistan's young democracy and distract the government from tackling widespread poverty, a Taliban insurgency and chronic power shortages. Police said they detained Ali Musa Gilani ahead of his scheduled court appearance. In June, the Supreme Court removed his father, Yusuf Raza Gilani, from his post as prime minister over his refusal to re-open corruption cases against President Asif Ali Zardari. The current prime minister, Raja Pervez Ashraf, could face the same fate if he too fails to re-open the corruption cases against Zardari. Television stations showed police dragging Ali Musa Gilani from his vehicle and handcuffing him.

He is accused of pressuring Health Ministry officials to exceed export quotas for ephedrine, an ingredient for cough medicine which can also be used to make ecstasy. Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry has earned a reputation for taking on Pakistan's most powerful figures, including members of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the military, which has ruled the country for more than half of its history. Critics say he meddles in areas outside the Supreme Court's jurisdiction and creates political tensions that fuel instability in nuclear-armed Pakistan, a strategic US ally. Chaudhry himself has come under scrutiny. A real estate tycoon, Malik Riaz, accused the chief justice of turning a blind eye to his son's alleged financial practices. Riaz said he has given more than $3 million to the top judge's son, Arsalan Iftikhar Chaudhry, who denies the allegations.— Reuters

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President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win host a luncheon to Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress of PRC Mr Wu Bangguo and wife

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted a luncheon to the goodwill delegation led by Chairman of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Mr Wu Bangguo and wife, at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 1 pm today.

Also present at the luncheon together with the President were Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thein, U Tin Naing Thein, U Than Htay, U Win Myint, Dr Kan Zaw, U Htay Aung and Dr Pe Thet Khin, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Transport, Communication and Construction Committee U Thein Swe and wife, Deputy Minister U Zin Yaw and departmental heads. The delegation was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua.

Before the luncheon, President U Thein Sein and Mr Wu Bangguo viewed the scale model of Myanmar-China Gas and Oil Pipe Line project.

Vice-Chairman of CNPC Co of China Mr Liao Yong Yuan and Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay explained the implementation of the project.

MNA

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win host a luncheon to the goodwill delegation led by Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Mr Wu Bangguo and wife at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.—MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives Founder and Chairman Mr Hou Weigui of ZTE Corporation from the People's Republic of China.
MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives Founder and Chairman of ZTE Corporation

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Founder and Chairman of ZTE Corporation Mr Hou Weigui at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 3 pm today.

Also present at the call together with the Vice-President were Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo and departmental heads.

At the call, they discussed opportunities for cooperation in development of communication sector.

MNA

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives UNSG's Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann met a delegation led by UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar, at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 11.30 am today.

At the call, Mr Vijay Nambiar said that he is pleased to see Hluttaw's active undertakings in Myanmar's reform process. As a UNSG's Special Adviser, he is making efforts for promoting relations and further cooperation with Myanmar.

Mr Vijay Nambiar asked about the recent dispute between the government and Hluttaw and foreign investment law, the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw replied that it is usual as in democratic countries. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has already discussed the foreign investment law drafted with the advices of hluttaw representatives, law experts, economists, entrepreneurs and people. He believed that the law would be the reliable one for foreign investors. Also present at the call together with Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann were Chairman of Citizens' Fundamental Rights, Democracy Rights and Human Rights Committee U Htay Oo, International Relations Committee Chairman U Hla Myint Oo, Economic and Trade Development Committee Chairman U Maung Maung Thein and officials from Hluttaw Office.—*MNA*

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives UNSG's Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex.
MNA