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Myanmar, China focus on cooperation in drugs eradication

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Sept—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Mr Wang Jiarui, Vice Chairman of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Minister of International Department, Central Committee of Communist Party (IDCPC) at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday to hold talks about further strengthening friendly relations between the two countries and preserving the friendly ties.

They also discussed implementation of peace-making process, undertakings in rural development and poverty alleviation, and cooperation in drugs eradication between the two countries.

Also present at the call were union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Aung Min and officials. The Chinese delegation was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yang Houlan.—*MNA*

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Chinese delegation led by Mr Wang Jiarui, Vice Chairman of the 12th NCCPPCC Minister of IDCPC at Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

2014 KOICA feedback seminar held in Nay Pyi Taw

By *Ye Myint*

YANGON, 12 Sept — South Korea's Korea International Cooperation Agency organized a seminar on feedback in the knowledge sharing process of Myanmar government officials who participated in its fellowship program from 2013 to 2014 at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

As a result of sharing knowledge and experience they gained during their fellowship programs in South Korea, there will be connectivity among KOICA participants who were present at the seminar for creation of further knowledge, a KOICA official told The New Light of Myanmar.

Participants' feedback is aimed at strengthening a network of fellows to make more contributions to their own country and enhancing the effectiveness of KOICA's training and fellowship programs for Myanmar, KOICA said in a press release on the seminar.

During the seminar, former KOICA participants made presentations of their knowledge and experience, with discussions and feedback given on the presentations.

Since 1991, KOICA has provided educational opportunities to Myanmar, allowing about 1,600 officials to participate in its fellowship program consists of short-term training and master's degree courses. According to the press release, KOICA has offered different fellowship programs, including 15 scholarship courses, to more than 70 Myanmar officials this year.

To keep in touch with each other and among former fellows, Myanmar-KOICA Club was founded in 2010, organizing seminars, annual meetings and voluntary services in the country, the release added.

"A delegation from Korea is here to discuss with ministries concerned for realization of an upcoming country program in which nearly 20 Myanmar officials are expected to take public sector management and mine hazards management for green mining courses in Korea for two weeks," the official said.KOICA was established in 1991 with the aim of sharing Korea's developmental experience with developing countries around the world. — *NLM*

Chinese Blue Sky Rescue Team will arrive at Yangon International Airport on Saturday

YANGON, 12 Sept— According to an official of Chinese embassy in Yangon, on September 13, the Blue Sky Rescue Team will arrive at Yangon International Airport at around 10:40 a.m. by flight CA905. Time is now very limited and very precious for the rescue searching of the missing young climbers from the University of Yangon. The rescue team will have a short rest at the airport and then soon be transferred to Putao to reninforce the search mission of the local rescue teams on the same day.

Blue Sky Rescue (BSR) Team is a non-government charitable outdoor rescue organization which has been formally established in 2007 by a group of outdoor enthusiasts who are keen on public welfare. As a comprehensive rescue team, BSR plays a role in mountain rescue, water rescue, natural and other disasters relief. So far, BSR has participated in more than 600 rescue case annually. On November 9, 2013, typhoon struck the Philippine islands, resulting more than 8,000 death and 4 million homeless victims. BSR sent a search and rescue team with eight elite, working for 15 days to search and disposal 53 remains, which reflected the professional level of the Chinese rescue team. The United Nations, Philippine government and the International Federation of the Red Cross spoke highly of BSR.—*NLM*

Building bridges to connect people to opportunities

SITTWAY, 12 Sept—Villagers in Myanmar's Rakhine State capital Sittway on 10 September turned out in numbers to witness the inauguration of the Ye Chan Pyin bridge construction. The bridge will connect four villages to Sittway providing easy, all-season access to the capital. More than 4,000 households in this locality have difficulties reaching schools, hospitals, jobs and businesses in Sittway especially during the long rainy season when ferry services are irregular or suspended.

The bridge construction is part of the United Nations Development Programme's efforts to improve the lives of people in the Rakhine State and responds to a request made by the State Government and local communities.

UNDP's support to Ohm Re Paw village and construction of the Ye Chin Pyin bridge is being supported by the Governments of Japan and Denmark as part of its local governance and local development programme.

The construction work was officially inaugurated by the Rakhine State Chief Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and the United Nations Assistant Secretary General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia Pacific, Haoliang Xu on 10 September. Mr. Xu is on his joint official visit to Myanmar, with Mr. John Ging, Director of Coordination and Response Division of the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

(See page 9)

Ludu Literary House sells books at discount to mark its silver jubilee anniversary

MANDALAY, 12 Sept—The 75th anniversary of Ludu Kyeepwaryay Press and the silver jubilee anniversary of Ludu Literary House were marked in Mandalay from 10 to 12 September, crowded with writers, journalists and enthusiasts from Mandalay.

The press and house are located at the corner of 84th street and 33rd street in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay.

At the book fair, the books written by journalists-cum-writers Ludu U Hla and Ludu Daw Ahmar, founder of Ludu Kyeepwaryay Literary House, were sold at the special discount.

In addition to the books published from Ludu Literary House, books on biography and various genres were sold at the house at 15% discount.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

MFF 100 Plus U-15 Super Cup 2014 kicks off in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 12 Sept—With the sponsorship of Alpine and 100 Plus, Myanmar Football Federation organized the opening of MFF 100 Plus U-15 Super Cup 2014 at Mandalar Thiri football ground in Mandalay on Wednesday, with an address by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint.

Next, the chief minister, ministers, MFF President U Zaw Zaw, Yadanabon FC owner Dr Sai Sam Tun and Country Director Mr Graham of 100 Plus launched the football tournament.

The chief minister and party watched the match between Myanmar Football Academy (A) and (B) teams of the Group (A) that ended at a goalless draw.

Five youth teams from each group are taking part in the tournament up to 18 September.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Fingerlings released into farmlands in Waw Township

WAW, 12 Sept—Under the supervision of Bago Region Fisheries Department, Waw Township Fisheries Department organized the release of fingerlings to farmlands and natural wetland.

Region, district and township departmental officials and local authorities released 185,000 fingerlings into 370 acres of farmlands owned by farmer U Tin Tun in Eastern Bank Ward of Waw in Bago Region on Thursday.

Tin Soe (Bago)

Water pumps provided to townships of Yinmabin District

YINMABIN, 12 Sept—With the assistance of Sagaing Region government, a ceremony to provide water pumps and related equipment to four townships of Yinmabin District was held at the hall of Township Agricultural Mechanization Department in Yinmabin of Sagaing Region on Friday.

It was the second time provision of the region government.

On the occasion, Yinmabin District Management Committee Chairman U Zaw Myo Nyunt said that priority will be given to providing water pumps to actually needed villages.

He presented five water pumps to Yinmabin Township, five to Kani Township, six to Salingyi Township and six to Pale Township, totalling 22 through Township Management Committee chairmen.

Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)

MCDC, AFD sign agreement for development Mandalay urban area

MANDALAY, 12 Sept—Asia Development Bank and Mandalay City Development Committee jointly implement the Mandalay Urban Services Improvement Project.

On Thursday, MCDC officials and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) signed an agreement on expertise provision for Mandalay urban services improvement project at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay.

Mandalay City Mayor and Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Moung and MCDC members, region level departmental officials and officials of Mandalay University of Technology and Myanmar Engineering Society (Mandalay) attended the ceremony.

Ms Eri Honda of ADB explained implementation of projects of the bank, Daw Myat Thuza undertakings of the Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA and Regional Manager Mrs Ariane Duceux implementation of the tasks of AFD.

Joint Secretary of MCDC U Thet Naing Tun and AFD Regional Manager Mrs Ariane Decueux signed the agreement on Mandalay urban development projects namely utilization of underground water, systematic supply of water and technology to effectively use of water without waste.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Resettlement of Myanmar migrant workers, refugees, and foreign loans discussed at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Sept —Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session on Friday focused on foreign loans and resettlement of Myanmar migrant workers and refugees in Thailand.

The Ministry of Health is drawing plans to implement the Myanmar Essential Health Services Access Project with US$ 100 million international development aid credit of the World Bank to provide affordable healthcare services to the public.

Another US$ 100 million loan from the World Bank will be spent on Ayeyawady Valley management project, according to Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein.

Twenty million euro loan from Italy Development Cooperation will be spent on infrastructure projects in rural areas, according to Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fishery and Rural Development U Tin Ngwe.

The Ministry of rail Transportation will receive US$ 45 million loan from the Economic Development Cooperation Funds of South Korea to produce and purchase railway carriages.

Concerning with the Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand, Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Htin Aung told the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw that measures will be taken to provide jobs to Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand in accordance with their skills when they come back to Myanmar.

The deputy minister is confident of providing jobs to Myanmar migrant workers as a total of 1.263 million jobs were created during first four months of 2014-2015 fiscal year and arrangements are underway to create job opportunities in cooperation with foreign companies investing in Myanmar. The deputy minister also said that Thilawa Special Economic Zone and Dawei Special Economic Zone will also create jobs for Myanmar workers.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin said at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session that a total of 130,000 Myanmar refugees form nine refugee camps in Thailand will be sent back to Myanmar in three groups over an estimated period of one year in the near future. He added that his ministry will handle the issue in cooperation with other ministries in accordance with the guidance of the union government and diplomatic negotiations with the government of Thailand.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Chinese guests

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Sept — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met Mr Wang Jiarui, Vice Chairman of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Minister of International Department of the Central Committee of Communist Party of China (IDCPC), on Friday in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss promotion of relations between the two countries.

Also present at the call were Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, senior military officers and the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar.

Myanmar has established diplomatic ties with China since 8 June 1950, and China, India and Myanmar also signed the Treaty of Peaceful Coexistence 60 years ago, source said.—*Myawady*

***Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Vice Chairman of NCPPCC and Minister of IDCPC Mr Wang Jiarui about cementing friendly relations between Myanmar and China.*—Myawady**

Union Defence Minister, Norwegian guests discuss defence issues

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Sept—Union Defence Minister Lt-Gen Wai Lwin met a Norwegian delegation led by Ms Anniken Huitfeldt from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, on Friday at his office here to discuss bilateral relations between the two countries as well as defence affairs.—*MNA*

High-power stoves to deter environmental degradation

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Sept—A growing population with improved lifestyle leads to more exploitation of natural resources, with consequent environmental detriment, Union Minister U Win Tun told a workshop at the Forest Department here on Friday.

U Win Tun, Union Minister for Environmental Conversation and Forestry, said that greenhouse emissions account for 17.4% of other sectors put together, blaming the use of wood for fuel for deforestation.

The use of high-power stoves will reduce not only the use of wood for fuel by 40% annually but also carbon emission, thereby saving time and money and preventing possible fire outbreaks, he said.

The workshop was aimed at persuading people to turn to high-power stoves.

MNA

Committee meets to hold ASEAN Summit

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Sept —Committee for Holding ASEAN Summit and Related Meeting held its second biannual meeting on Friday morning with a speech by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin.

The Union minister urged the committee members to cooperate for the success of the 25th ASEAN Summit and related meetings as it is an important summit during chairmanship of Myanmar. Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw and Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu discussed work related to ASEAN community and members of the committee reported on the agenda of the summit and related meetings. —*MNA*

Third-placed match between Myanmar and Thailand to be broadcast live

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Sept—MRTV and Radio Myanmar will broadcast live the third-placed match between Myanmar and Thailand in the AFF U-19 Youth Championships in Hanoi of Vietnam as of 3.45 pm on 13 September.—*MNA*

***Union Ministers U Ohn Myint, U Khin Maung Soe and U Nyan Tun Aung visit Vieux Emosson hydropower project that can generate 360 megawatts in Switzerland on 5 September.* (News reported)—MNA**

Pagoda on elephant shape rock in Kanma Township

KANMA, 12 Sept—Kyaikhteeywet Pagoda, significantly built on a large rock of Shinma Hill is located near Kyaukpadaung Village of Kanma Township in Magway Region.

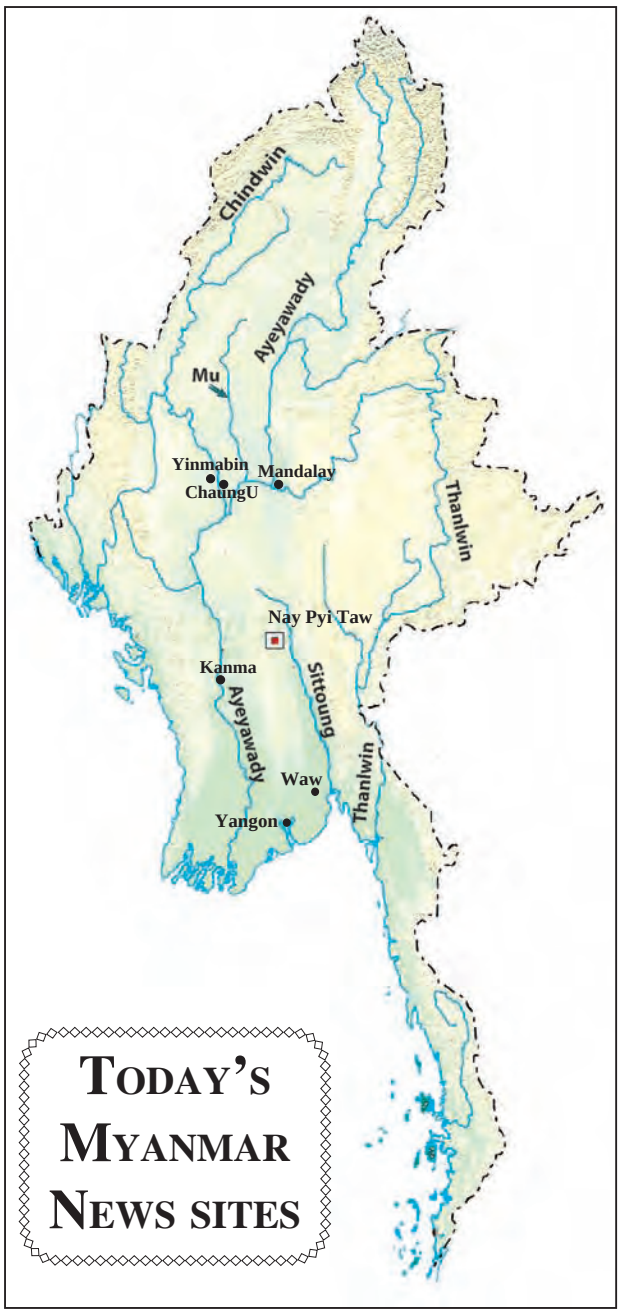
The rock is 412 feet long and 1250 feet high. It shapes an elephant, bearing a large stone.

Sayadaw U Pannava and other Buddhist monks built a 10.5 feet high pagoda on the rock in 1269 Myanmar Era, with the title of Kyaikhteeywet Pagoda.

With the assistance of wellwishers, a five-mile long earthen road has been built leading to the pagoda for enabling the pilgrims to visit the pagoda.

According to the officials, the road will be upgraded to a gravel one in the coming open season.

Kyaw Zeyar Win (IPRD)



ChaungU Township gets 27 medicine kits

CHAUNGU, 12 Sept—In commemoration of the World First Aid Day, a ceremony to hand over Red Cross medicine kits was held at the hall of Basic Education High School in ChaungU of Sagaing Region on Thursday.

Member of the Township Management Committee Township Education Officer U San Htay Maung made a speech. Staff Officer Grade-I of Sagaing Region Red Cross Brigade U Tint Wai explained the purpose of donating the medicine kits and presented seven kits to Headmistress Daw Kyawt Kyawt Khaing.

A student of the school presented membership applications to Sporting Officer Daw Thinn Nanda Aung of Sagaing Region Red Cross Brigade.

In accord with the directives of the Sagaing Region Chief Minister, Sagaing Region government provides medicine kits to townships of the region yearly. So far, ChaungU Township has accepted 10 medicine kits in 2012, another 10 in 2013 and seven in 2014, totalling 27.

Township IPRD

Nay Pyi Taw Sibin Bank opens branch at Myoma Market

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Sept—A ceremony to commission Myoma Market branch of Nay Pyi Taw Sibin Bank into service was held at the branch in Myoma Market of Zabuthiri Township on Wednesday.

Joint Secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Myo Aung, member U Soe Yan Naing and Deputy Managing Director U Hla Soe of Nay Pyi Taw Sibin Bank Ltd formally opened the foreign exchange counter of the bank branch.

Vice Mayor of Nay Pyi Taw U Than Kyaw Htoo and guests visited the bank branch.

The newly-opened bank branch is located at the brokerage wing Pa/218 of Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market in Zabuthiri Township. The bank branch links with Yoma bank, Ayeyawady bank, United Amara bank, World Yadana bank and Rural Development bank for smooth remittance.—*MNA*

Disbursement of loans from ADS for development of Mandalay discussed

MANDALAY, 12 Sept—Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint received urban development expert Ms Eri Honda and a delegation of Agence Française de Développement (AFD) at the hall of the region government in Mandalay on Thursday.

Also present at the call were Region Ministers U Aung Moung and Dr Myint Kyu, and Mandalay City Development Committee member U Tun Kyi.

They cordially discussed disbursement of loans from Asia Development Bank.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

China opens trial of Kunming train station attackers

BEIJING, 12 Sept — Four people accused of participating in an attack at a train station in southwestern China went on trial on Friday, charged with murder and organizing a terror group, a case that triggered a sweeping crackdown on what Beijing calls militant violence.

The government has said knife-wielding militants from the unruly western region of Xinjiang launched a premeditated attack in March at the Kunming station in Yunnan Province, in which 31 people were killed and 141 injured. Police shot dead four of the attackers.

China's leaders have vowed to strike hard at religious extremists and separatist groups, which they blame for a series of violent attacks in Xinjiang, the traditional home of the Muslim Uighur ethnic minority.

State television showed the four suspects — three men and one woman — sitting in the court in Kunming, watched over by heavily armed policemen dressed all in black.

The court, announcing the opening of the trial on its official microblog, named the four as Iskandar Ehet, Turgun Tohtunyaz, Hasayn Muhammad and Patigul Tohti, all of whom are Uighur, to judge by their names.

Patigul Tohti was shot and wounded by police at the station, while the other three were arrested a few days before the attack while trying to flee the country, the court said.

In total eight people were involved in the plot, though only five carried out the attack, it added.

The eight were "influenced by extremist religious thinking" and began meeting in December to plan their attack, the court said. Five more people were involved in forming their terror group, a case which is baeing handled separately, it added.

Some of the people who were attacked, as well as relatives of the dead, were in the courtroom, it said.

The court did not say how long the trial would last, but typically it will be completed in a single day. The defendants are likely to get the death penalty.

Courts in China are controlled by the ruling Communist Party, making it unusual for those accused of crimes — particularly in politicised cases — to have a fair trial.

The Kunming attack was one of the single deadliest incidents attributed by the government to militants. A suicide bombing in May killed 39 people at a market in Xinjiang's capital, Urumqi. Xinjiang, resource-rich and strategically located on the borders of central Asia, is crucial to China's growing energy needs. Analysts say most of the proceeds from the sale of its resources have gone to the majority Han Chinese, stoking resentment among Uighurs.—*Reuters*

Thai PM aims to broaden tax base, bring in inheritance tax

BANGKOK, 12 Sept — Thailand's Prime Minister, Prayuth Chan-ocha, said on Friday his military-backed government aimed to broaden the tax base in the new fiscal year from October, bringing in an inheritance tax among other changes.

In his first speech to an appointed parliament after seizing power in a military coup in May and becoming prime minister in August, Prayuth said that only 20 million people out of Thailand's population of about 68 million pay taxes.

"The tax collection in this new fiscal year will be broadened to new tax bases to boost revenue to the country and promote fairness. This will include an inheritance tax and land tax," he said. "The tax issue is aimed at promoting fairness, with a limited impact on low-income earners... Those tax (benefits) that favour the rich will be terminated," Prayuth said.

In a wide-ranging, two-hour policy speech that was short on detail, Prayuth gave no indication on how long he would need to push through reforms he plans for Thailand.

He has said that a general election could be held late next year, after a reform of the electoral system, although some political analysts believe he could be in power longer.—*Reuters*

Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha (R) reads out his government's policy, as Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan listens, at the Parliament in Bangkok on 12 Sept, 2014. —REUTERS

87 pct of young people in Singapore feel financially unprepared

SINGAPORE, 12 Sept — A latest survey shows that no fewer than 87 percent of the young people feel financially unprepared for challenges ahead, local daily *Straits Times* reported on Friday.

The survey commissioned by NTUC Income, an insurance company operated by the local labour union and conducted by Nielsen, shows that almost 79 percent are not confident of their current financial situation.

The survey covered more than 1,000 final-year polytechnic students, university undergraduates and workers between the ages of 18 and 29.

It also shows that the young people have some financial awareness, but lacked a deeper understanding of proper financial planning.

Asked how much cash should be set aside for emergencies, 80 percent responded that they need at least three months of their income for emergencies. An insurance industry professional said that this falls far short of what financial planners recommend and that it is better to have a buffer that is enough to last six to 12 months in case one loses his or her job.

The survey also finds that the average expected retirement age is 57, and that the respondents expect to be retired for 23 years. On average, they believe slightly more 1 million Singapore dollars (800,000 US dollars) is needed for retirement expenses.

However, the survey found that the mean projected savings by the time of retirement is less than 400,000 Singapore dollars (320,000 US dollars).

Luca Griseri, Nielsen's head of financial services in Singapore and Malaysia, was quoted as saying that the amount of the shortfall is surprising.

He was also surprised by the pessimism youth had about the future.

"... young people are normally positive, and people in South-east Asia are the most confident, and we track confidence too," he said.

"We certainly need to do something to help them help themselves."

Xinhua

Firefighters try to put out fire in a residential building in Xinbei City, southeast China's Taiwan on 12 Sept, 2014. The fire left 25 people injured. One of them died after being taken to hospital.—XINHUA

95 fall ill after eating temple food in E India

NEW DELHI, 12 Sept — At least 95 people, including children, were taken ill after eating contaminated food offered to deities in Hindu temples in the eastern Indian state of Bihar on Friday, reported local media.

The incident took place in Darbhanga district's Bahadurpur block, about 200 km from state capital Patna, said *Indo-Asian News Service.*

The medical condition of 20 of the 95 affected was stated to be critical and all the patients complained of stomach pain and started vomiting after eating the food.

Food poisoning incident takes place in India from time to time.—*Xinhua*

Mongolia has huge potential in nontraditional energy

ULAN BATOR, 12 Sept — Mongolian Prime Minister Norovyn Altankhuyag has said that his country owns huge potential in nontraditional energy resources, such as oil shale and methane.

"Mongolia has huge potential in nontraditional oil. Recently, a new reserve of coal bed methane gas was discovered ... and the chemical compound of the methane is the same as Russian natural gas," Altankhuyag told an international investment conference on Wednesday.

Altankhuyag said Mongolia has a favourable legal environment for the energy sector and the government supports contractors in research, extraction and processing phases through exemption of value-added tax and customs tax.—*Xinhua*

*A Russian worker walks past the Bushehr nuclear power plant, 1,200 km (746 miles) south of Teheran on 26 Oct, 2010.—*Reuters

Iran says "difficult road to go" to reach nuclear deal

Vienna, 12 Sept — Iran and world powers remain far apart over Teheran's nuclear programme, and they face a "difficult road" to reach a deal by a late November deadline, a senior Iranian negotiator said on Thursday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi spoke after a day of talks in Vienna with the three European members of the group of six major powers that is seeking to negotiate an end to a decade-old nuclear dispute with Iran.

The discussions between Iran and Britain, France and Germany took place less than a week after Iran and the United States held a bilateral meeting in Geneva.

Asked how big the differences were, Araqchi told reporters: "Still big." He added: "We are always optimistic ... but we have a difficult road to go."

The six powers, also including Russia and China, will hold their first full negotiating round with Iran since July on 18 September in New York, seeking to narrow gaps over the future size of Iran's uranium enrichment infrastructure and other issues.

Iran denies Western allegations that it is refining uranium to develop the capability to assemble nuclear weapons, saying it is doing it to help generate electricity.

The United States and its allies have in recent years imposed ever tighter financial and others sanctions on Iran, a major oil producer, to make it scale back its nuclear programme.

After years of escalating tension and fears the stand-off could lead to a new Middle East war, the election last year of Hassan Rouhani, widely seen as a pragmatist, as Iranian president on a platform to end the country's international isolation raised hopes for a peaceful settlement.

Araqchi said the talks with the European officials had been useful ahead of what he called next week's real negotiations.

"It was just some consultations and exchange of views trying to bridge the gaps between the two sides," he said. "We hope to make progress next week in New York."

Diplomats say the main stumbling block is disagreement on how many centrifuges Iran should be allowed to keep to refine uranium, with Teheran rejecting demands to significantly reduce the number below the more than 19,000 it has now installed, of which roughly half are operating.

Ahead of the meeting in the Austrian capital, Araqchi called on the powers to abandon their "illogical demands", Iran's *Fars* news agency reported.—*Reuters*

US wins Arab support for Syria/ Iraq military campaign

*US Secretary of State John Kerry waits for the start of a Gulf Cooperation Council and Regional Partners meeting in Jeddah on 11 Sept, 2014. —*Reuters

Jeddah, 12 Sept — The United States signed up Arab allies on Thursday to a "coordinated military campaign" against Islamic State fighters, a major step in building regional support for President Barack Obama's plan to strike both sides of the Syrian-Iraqi frontier.

After talks in Saudi Arabia's summer capital Jeddah, Secretary of State John Kerry won backing from 10 Arab countries — Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and six Gulf states including rich rivals Saudi Arabia and Qatar — for a coalition to fight the Sunni militants that have seized swathes of Iraq and Syria.

"Arab nations play a critical role in that coalition, the leading role really across all lines of effort: military support, humanitarian aid, our work to stop the flow of illegal funds," Kerry told a news conference.

Non-Arab Sunni power Turkey also attended the Jeddah talks but two other major regional players — Shi'ite Iran and Syria itself — were excluded, a sign of the difficulty of building a coalition across the Middle East's sectarian battle lines.

The Arab states agreed in a communique to do more to stop the flow of funds and fighters to Islamic State and help rebuild communities "brutalised" by the group.

"The participating states agreed to do their share in the comprehensive fight against ISIL, including ... as appropriate, joining in the many aspects of a coordinated military campaign against ISIL," they said, using the acronym for Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, a former name for the group.

Kerry met the Arab leaders to drum up support a day after Obama announced his plans to strike fighters in Iraq and Syria.

U.S. officials said Kerry also sought permission to make more use of bases in the region and fly more warplanes overhead, issues that were not mentioned in the communique. Kerry said none of the countries in the coalition would send ground troops.

In a hopeful sign of outreach across the sectarian divide that has spread war across the Middle East and fed Islamic State's militancy, Sunni Saudi Arabia said it might open an embassy in Shi'ite-ruled Iraq after decades of suspicion.

The Saudis, who support other Sunni armed movements in Syria but consider Islamic State a terrorist group, have also promised to help Obama's campaign by providing training camps for moderate Syrian Sunni fighters.

But Iran, the main Shi'ite power in the Middle East and supporter of Syria's President Bashar al-Assad, said it had severe reservations over the new US-led coalition, and doubted it would fight "the root causes of terrorism", which it blames squarely on Sunni Arab states like Saudi Arabia.

Obama announced his plans in a prime time address on Wednesday to build an alliance to root out Islamic State in both Syria and Iraq, plunging the United States into two conflicts in which nearly every country in the Middle East has a stake. The region has been galvanised since June when Islamic State fighters, already in control of much of Syria, swept through northern Iraq, seizing cities, slaughtering prisoners, and proclaiming a "caliphate" that would rule over all Muslims.

The White House says the group is a threat to the West as well, attracting fighters from around the world who could return to carry out attacks at home.

Reuters

Syria's Nusra Front releases UN peacekeepers in Golan

*An Israeli soldier talks on the radio as vehicles carrying Fijian UN peacekeepers released by al-Qaeda-linked group Nusra Front in Syria on Thursday, arrive in Israeli-held territory on the Golan heights on 11 Sept, 2014. —*Reuters

Golan Heights, 12 Sept — Dozens of Fijian UN peacekeepers, released by al-Qaeda-linked group Nusra Front in Syria, arrived in Israeli-held territory on the Golan Heights on Thursday, an Israeli military spokeswoman said.

"We opened the border and they entered," the Israeli military spokeswoman said, without giving numbers.

A *Reuters* witness said after the peacekeepers crossed over they were driven away in a convoy of UN minibuses.

Some 45 Fijian soldiers were taken hostage two weeks ago when Islamist militant groups including Nusra attacked them in the volatile frontier area between Syria and Israel.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed their release and, according to a spokesman, demanded that all parties in the area respect the UN force's "mandate, freedom of movement and the safety and security of its personnel." Nusra initially said it held the peacekeepers because they were aiding soldiers loyal to President Bashar al-Assad. Later, sources close to Nusra said it demanded the removal of the group from the West's terrorist list.

The Nusra group on Wednesday posted a video on its Twitter and YouTube accounts in which the hostages said they expected to be freed soon.

A UN source earlier told *Reuters* the militants had insisted on such a video as a condition of the peacekeepers' release.

"We are all safe and alive, and we thank Jabhat al-Nusra for keeping us safe and keeping us alive. I'd like to assure you that we have not been harmed in any way," one hostage, who was not identified, said in the footage.

"We understand that with the limited resources that they have, they have provided the best for us and we truly appreciate it and we thank them. We are thankful that Jabhat al-Nusra has kept its word and that we will be going home." A UN spokesman said in New York on Thursday no ransom had been requested for the Fijian peacekeepers and none was paid. He said the UN mission in the region remained viable and would continue to fulfil its mandate.

Reuters

Australia raises threat level to 'high' on Iraq, Syria

SYDNEY, 12 Sept— Australia on Friday raised its terror threat level to 'high' for the first ever time, citing the likelihood of terrorist attacks by Australian citizens radicalised in Iraq or Syria, despite stressing there was no knowledge of a specific attack plan.

Australia is concerned over the number of its citizens believed to be fighting overseas with Islamist militant groups, including a suicide bomber who killed three people in Baghdad in July and two men shown in images on social media holding the severed heads of Syrian soldiers.

David Irvine, the director general of the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO), flagged the prospect of lifting the threat level on Tuesday, citing the growing risk posed by the returning fighters.

"Last night the director general of security raised the terror threat to high, consequently today the government is raising the public awareness level to high," Prime Minister Tony Abbott said in a news conference in Melbourne.

"I want to stress that this does not mean that a terror attack is imminent. We have no specific intelligence of particular plots. What we do have is intelligence that there are people with the intent and capability to mount attacks here in Australia."

Australia had been at the "medium" alert level since a four-tier system was introduced in 2003. A "high" alert level is used when officials believe an attack is likely, while a "severe" level means they believe an attack is imminent or has occurred.

Australian police on Wednesday arrested two men suspected of helping Australian citizens fight alongside militants in Syria on terrorism-related charges.

Up to 160 Australians have either been involved in fighting there or actively supported it, officials say, and at least 20 have returned to Australia after fighting in the Middle East and pose a national security risk.

Two Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) C-130J Hercules aircraft fly above the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge during a display, in this handout picture released by the Australian Defence Force on 10 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

Abbott, whose conservative Liberal-National coalition has struggled in the polls since winning elections last year, is pursuing an increasingly muscular foreign policy that has moved him closer to the United States on crises like Iraq and Ukraine.

Voter support for Abbott's coalition tanked after handing down an unpopular budget in May, but his tough stance over the shooting down of a Malaysia Airlines *Boeing 777* in eastern Ukraine in July delivered a sharp popularity boost.

Opposition Greens Party leader Senator Christine Milne said she accepted security advice behind the heightened alert, but said Abbott's support for a US-led military campaign against the Islamic State militant group was helping to drive extremism in Australia. "We cannot bring Australians together and combat extremism at home by blindly following the USA into yet another Iraq war," she said in a statement. The UN Security Council is planning to demand countries "prevent and suppress" the recruitment and travel of foreign fighters to join extremist militant groups like Islamic State by ensuring it is considered a serious criminal offence under domestic laws.

The United States circulated a draft resolution late on Monday, obtained by *Reuters*, to the 15-member Security Council and hopes it can be unanimously adopted at a meeting chaired by US President Barack Obama on 24 September. —*Reuters*

Obama leads US in remembrance of 11 September victims

(L to R) US President Barack Obama, US first lady Michelle Obama and Vice President Joe Biden observe a moment of silence on the 13th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks at the White House in Washington 11 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 12 Sept— Led by President Barack Obama, Americans commemorated the 13th anniversary of the 11 Sept, 2001, attacks on Thursday by observing moments of silence for the thousands killed that day at New York City's World Trade Centre, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field.

In what has become an annual ritual, relatives began slowly reciting the nearly 3,000 names of the victims at a ceremony in lower Manhattan, from Gordon Aamoth Jr to Igor Zukelman.

Readers would occasionally pause as a silver bell was rung to mark the exact times when each of the four planes hijacked by al-Qaeda militants crashed at the three sites and when each of the World Trade Centre's twin towers collapsed. With each bell, a moment of silence was observed.

Obama spoke at the Pentagon during a private ceremony for relatives of the 184 people killed in the attack on the US Department of Defence headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, several miles from the White House.

He laid a wreath of white lilies and chrysanthemums, and kept his hand on his heart as "Taps" played.

"Thirteen years after small, hateful minds conspired to break us, America stands tall and America stands proud," Obama said.

In New York, the voice of Tom Monahan, a 54-year-old man with salt-and-pepper hair and broad shoulders, cracked when he talked about the brother and cousin he lost in the attack.

"Everything is fine until you get here," he said before waving his hands as if to signal he could not talk anymore. He emerged from the security checkpoints an hour later and showed a reporter a message he had sent on his cell phone to his sister. "9-12 couldn't come soon enough," it said.

Beyond the checkpoints, an invitation-only crowd stood beneath an overcast sky in the memorial plaza at the heart of the new World Trade Centre, which is nearing completion in lower Manhattan. Some of those in attendance were dressed in military uniform, others wore T-shirts and sneakers.

Many people held up posters with smiling photographs of their dead relatives. Red roses and American flags poked up from the bronze plates bearing victims' names that ring the two waterfalls that now trace the footprints of the fallen towers.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and two former mayors, Michael Bloomberg and Rudy Giuliani, were among the mourners.

The high fences blocking off public access to most of the World Trade Centre site finally came down in May. While lower Manhattan may look different this year, the threat to the United States represented by the 11 September attacks remains. Washington and its allies see Islamic State, a group that began as an offshoot of al-Qaeda, as an increasing danger.

Reuters

Support for Scottish independence slips — poll

EDINBURGH, 12 Sept — Supporters of keeping Scotland in the United Kingdom have clawed back a narrow lead over separatists, a YouGov poll showed just one week before Scots vote in a referendum on independence.

The YouGov survey for *The Times and Sun* newspapers put supporters of the union on 52 percent, narrowly ahead of supporters of independence on 48 percent, excluding those who said they did not know how they would vote.

"This is the first time NO has gained ground since early August," YouGov President Peter Kellner said in a commentary. "Although NO is back in front, the YES campaign has held on to most of its gains since early August."

YouGov, one of Britain's most respected pollsters, polled 1,268 people between 9 September and 11 September. Scots vote on 18 September. YouGov's last poll at the weekend put support for "YES" at 51 percent, overturning a 22-point lead for the anti-independence "Better Together" campaign in the space of a month to establish a two point lead.

Reuters

'Yes' campaign supporters try to disrupt a gathering of a 'No' campaign rally that Labour party leader Ed Miliband addressed, in Glasgow on 11 Sept, 2014.
REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 13 September, 2014

A life without books is a life without success

By *Kyaw Thura*

Everyone knows that reading is a good habit. In addition, reading is regarded as a sort of window on the world. It therefore stands to reason that reading determines success. This attaches importance to what we read. Yet, how we read is more important than what we read. One reason for this is that the real value of a book does not lie in reading it.

It should be noted that not all books are worth reading. That is why a famous thinker once said that 'some books are to be tasted; some are to be read; and some are to be digested." This means that we must make a careful choice of books.

We read books on business, education, marketing, success and the like. It is important for us to prepare ourselves to get the most out of what we read. Reading books is one thing, acting on what we have read is quite another. This means that the real meaning of reading books is learning from books and acting in real life.

Reading books without getting anything out of them is a form of wasting time. We should never read books just for fun. Nor we should read books just because they are popular. The best way to read a book is to have a goal in mind. Before we buy or borrow a book to read, we should always ask ourselves what we can get out of it. If you feel the book is for you, you will be able to take out as much information contained in the book as you can.

Most important of all, books are not meant to be read once. We need to re-read books containing pieces of information that can bring us closer to our goals. All in all, we need to keep in mind that the value of a book does not come from reading it. Instead, it comes from what we integrate what we read into our daily life. Then success will be yours!

Write for us

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

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish articles that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your article will be edited.

Working With Love

Kyi Mun

" Do small things with great love."
-Mother Teresa.
" If you love the mountain that you are climbing, your climbing will surely become easier."
-The International Mountaineering Association

Although it is said: **"We don't live to work, we work to live,"** work is very important in our lives. If we do not work, not only our money-earning power will decline or disappear, our health, happiness and friendship will diminish in many dimensions. So, I would like to sing in praise of work as follows:

L *for* **Liking** somebody or something very much
O *for* **Object** of the Heart's Desire
V *for* **Value** of Life
E *for* **Energy** of Life

Liking Work A Great Deal

If you like to work at something with great enthusiasm, and you do it repeatedly, that means you love the work which is honey to your heart. If you don't love your work, you won't get joy out of working. It would be futile just dragging yourself to your place of work day in and day out, if there is no love in your work.

Object of the Heart's Desire

Love is the object of the heart's desire. Yes, love is the flower of the plant which is called HEART. The heart is, in order words, the citadel of love. So, if you love yourself, you have got to love your work by putting your heart into it. Only when your heart is in your work, your work will be worth doing well and you will get a kick out of your work.

Value of Life

Love is a core value of Life. If you work with love in your heart, you are putting your heart into what you are doing. If that is so, your work will be done very well. There is bound to be added value to your work. There is a real story which portrays about a man who put not only his heart into his work, but also his whole life into it. Here is the story.

The Miracle Bridge

The Brooklyn Bridge that spans the river between Manhattan and Brooklyn is simply an engineering miracle. In 1883, a creative engineer, John Roebling, was inspired by an idea for this spectacular bridge project. However, bridge-building experts told him to forget it, it just was not possible. Roebling convinced his son, Washington, an up-and-coming engineer, that the bridge could be built. The two of them conceived the concept of how it could be accomplished, and how to overcome the obstacles. Somehow they convinced bankers to finance the project. Now with unharnessed excitement and energy, they hired their crew and began to build their dream bridge.

The project was only a few months under way when a tragic on-site accident killed John Roebling and severely injured his son. Washington was severely brain-damaged, unable to talk or walk. Everyone thought that the project would have been scrapped since the Roeblings were the only ones who understood how the bridge could be built.

Though Washington Roebling was unable to move or talk, his mind was as sharp as ever. One day, as he lay in his hospital bed, an idea flashed in his mind as to how to develop a communication code. All he could move was one finger, so he touched the arm of his wife with that finger. He tapped out the code to communicate to her what she was to tell the engineers who continued building the bridge. **For 13 years, Washington tapped out his instructions with one finger until the spectacular Brooklyn Bridge was finally completed.**

From Brian Cavanaugh's A Fresh Packet of Sower's Seeds

Energy of Life

Love is the energy of life. A mother is always energetic because of her love for her children. If you have love in your heart, you will be awake, alert, and active. You will be enthusiastic. Energy will flow from your being, if you are full of love - love for life. With the love of life, you will spare no effort to finish or accomplish your work.

Conclusion

Man can have a great mind and man can have a great will;
But his love in his heart can have a greater power still!
So, with that greater force or energy which is love,
Let's work with all our heart !

Ref : Chicken Soup for the Soul
by
Jack Canfield –Mark Victor Hansen –Patty Hansen

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (12-9-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K653,800 per tical: Selling K654,800

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K653,600 per tical: Selling K654,400

FE RATE

USD	Buying	K976 -	Selling	K981
SGD	Buying	K768 -	Selling	K776
Euro	Buying	K1245 -	Selling	K1270

Urbanization Makes Countryside vanish

Tommy Pauk

Normally we like to enjoy the scenery and panoramic view of the countryside when we spend our leisure at a country retreat. The reason is that countryside is tranquil, green, lush and clean. Besides, there have natural beauty and wildlife. This pollution –free zone is liked by city-dwellers and tourists alike. The atmosphere of peace and tranquility attracts all of us.

However, due to an increasing number of populations in cities, human settlement has to be expanded to the countryside to construct housing, factories and other infrastructure of urban areas. Therefore the landscape is changed in order to urbanize the designed area existing in the country. Thus its natural beauty and atmosphere vanish totally. The concreted infrastructure takes place and transforms it into concrete –wood. The concrete-wood cleared and destroyed all the lush greenery, trees and natural environment. The landscape of countryside turns to be grey and stark. Modern complex, factory and infrastructure are mushrooming here and there. As the human habitation expands, the wildlife of surrounding countryside loses their habitat. For man's point of view, newly occupied land is a kind of developing of human settlement even though they love to enjoy natural beauty of countryside. They only think for their survival. Absolutely this attitude is human nature and there is no equal share between humans and creatures for survival.

This is a vital and an urgent issue to preserve the balance of our mother earth's eco-system. If there are more cities than villages on earth, there will be severe impact on-food production for human beings. Consequently, farmworkers as well as peasants will give up their conventional professions and change to work as factory workers in conformity with urbanized society. These are the impacts caused by urbanization. Potentially, the disappearance of countryside will be a misery for not only creatures but also for human beings indeed. No matter how much man tries to explore other suitable planet for human settlement in future, our mother earth is best suited for us to live. It is not good enough to say that we are the ones who love our mother earth. Then it is an obligation for entire mankind to maintain the earth harmoniously. Don't erase the natural landscape of our mother earth recklessly! Be wise and witty!

*****

Action plan for development of Rakhine State discussed

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win receives Mr John Ging, director of the Coordination and Response Division at the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Sept — Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win met Mr John Ging, director of the Coordination and Response Division at the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and party on Thursday at his office here to discuss action plan for development of Rakhine State.

Both sides discussed border regions development, progress of human resource development tasks for people in border areas contributed by the government, the U.N. and international organizations, Myanmar's reforms processes, challenges and development of Rakhine State, and citizenship verification process in the state.

They also discussed further opportunities for cooperation, balancing humanitarian aids for both communities in Rakhine State, formation of central committee and working committees to implement peace, stability and development of the state and their duties.—*MNA*

Foreign Affairs Ministry opens skill development course for staff in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Sept— The proficiency course for staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs opened on Thursday here, with the aim of ensuring ways to manage the ministry's functions and operations, and improving financial management system. Altogether 40 staff members from the ministry are attending the two-day course. Up to now, more than 70 officers and about 150 staff out of 900 were given the skill development courses, according to the ministry.

In his opening speech, U Thant Kyaw said that the ministry has plans for increasing numbers of staff and working area as well as establishing diplomatic relations with remaining countries. Myanmar has been established diplomatic ties with 115 member states of the United Nations, he added.—*MNA*

Building bridges to connect people ...

Together with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, UNDP Assistant Administrator Haoliang Xu and team inaugurated construction work of a bridge that will connect four villages with Rakhine's capital.—UNDP

(from page 1)

"This bridge has tremendous symbolism. It symbolizes the partnership between the Government of Myanmar and specifically, the Rakhine State Government, the United Nations and the international donor community and our collective interest in the peace, security and development of Rakhine State," said Mr. Xu.

"I hope also that this bridge will serve as a symbol of connectivity between the people of Rakhine; that it does more than facilitate business; that it helps communities on all sides to grow in understanding, tolerance and respect and work together towards the development of Rakhine State."

"This bridge meets a critical need for the people of this area, and the Rakhine State Government under my leadership, UNDP and the Governments of Japan and Denmark are coming together to meet this need. I hope this will be a model for future development activities," said Rakhine State Chief Minister U Maung Maung Ohn.

UNDP

BIDV provides 50 scholarships to students at YUE

Yangon, 12 Sept— Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam (BIDV) provided 50 scholarships to Myanmar outstanding students from Yangon University of Economics (YUE) on Tuesday at the campus of the university in Yangon, source said.

The BIDV has been provided 150 scholarships and 41 computers worth US$46,000 to Myanmar outstanding students since 2011.

MNA

Environmental conservation and forest sector discussed

Yangon, 12 Sept— Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun received Mr. Haoliang Xu, UN Assistant Secretary General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director Regional Bureau Asia and the Pacific at the ministry on Thursday.

They exchanged views on present situation of environmental conservation and forest sector, land utilization, development of green economy, sector-wise projects about climate change, maintenance of Inlay Lake, drawing of REDD+Readiness Roadmap, reduction of climate change impact, drawing of national environmental policy implementation strategy and future tasks.

MNA

Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun holds talks with UN official about environmental conservation.—MNA

Yangon Region and Kayah State trying to control the ball in quarterfinal match of Yangon Region Chief Minister's Cup ISR National Hockey Tournament at Theinbyu turf hockey pitch on Friday.
Than Swe (Pabedan)

IMF says Ebola hits economic growth in West Africa

WASHINGTON, 12 Sept — Economic growth in Liberia and Sierra Leone could decline by almost 3.5 percentage points as the world's worst outbreak of Ebola has crippled mining, agriculture and services sectors in the two West African states, the IMF said on Thursday.

Growth in Guinea, where industrial mining has been unaffected so far, could fall by more than 1 percentage point, said Bill Murray, spokesman at the International Monetary Fund.

"Particularly in the cases of Sierra Leone and Liberia, the largest sectors of these already fragile economies ... are being affected," Murray said. "This is in turn engendering significant financing gaps for the fiscal and external accounts of these two countries, and triggering higher inflation."

He said the crisis had exposed financing gaps totalling $100 million (61.64 million pounds) to $130 million in each of the three countries, and that the IMF was working with authorities to figure out additional funding. All three countries are already getting IMF loans under programmes that predate the Ebola outbreak. The IMF said economic growth in Sierra Leona was likely to fall to 8 percent from 11.3 percent this year, Liberia's growth might decline to 2.5 percent from 5.9 percent, and in Guinea, economic output could fall to 2.4 percent from 3.5 percent.—*Reuters*

A man has his temperature taken using an infrared digital laser thermometer at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport in Abuja, on 11 Aug, 2014.
REUTERS

Brazil's Silva would cut spending, end forex intervention programme

BRASILIA, 12 Sept — Marina Silva would push for large budget cuts and end a central bank foreign exchange programme aimed at supporting the currency if she is elected Brazil's next president in October, a senior economic adviser told *Reuters* on Thursday.

Alexandre Rands, an economist who helped draft Silva's economic plan, said she could cut up to 100 billion reais (26.4 billion pounds) — or about 2 percent of gross domestic product — in budget spending next year to send a strong signal to investors worried about the deterioration of public finances.

"Our priority is not to cut spending for the sake of it. Our priority is to control inflation in order to create an environment that will allow Brazil to grow more," he said in an interview that provided some of the most specific guidance yet about Silva's financial policies.

Silva, an environmentalist whom polls show is running neck-to-neck with President Dilma Rousseff in a likely runoff next month, has encouraged many investors with her market-friendly economic platform, which includes giving the central bank full independence.

A sluggish economy and growing fiscal deficits during Rousseff's four years in office has cost Brazil a downgrade of its debt rating and scared off some investors who say the leftist leader is too interventionist.

Rands said Silva would eliminate many of the economic distortions that have dragged the once-booming Brazilian economy into recession.

He mentioned the central bank's currency intervention scheme, which has kept the real stronger since last year, as one of those distortions that will be corrected under Silva.

"That does not mean that you cannot carry out small, temporary actions to eliminate volatility," Rands said.

The real weakened slightly in late trading due to Rands' comments, traders said.

Since last August, Brazil's central bank has intervened daily in the foreign exchange market by selling currency swaps, derivatives designed to support the real.

Rands, who runs an economic consultancy in the northeastern state of Pernambuco, is part of Silva's team of economic advisers, which also includes well-known economist Eduardo Giannetti da Fonseca.

Presidential candidate Marina Silva of Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB) speaks during a news conference at the Art Museum of Rio de Janeiro on 11 Sept, 2014.
REUTERS

He said the budget cuts would spare initiatives such as the Bolsa Familia welfare programme for poor families, focusing instead on pork-barrel spending for projects in lawmakers' districts.

"There is a lot of fat that can be cut and the Marina (Silva) camp is sending positive signals on that fiscal front," said Alex Agostini, chief economist with Austin Rating. "It could generate a confidence shock that will allow the economy to grow more in the future."

Rands said a Silva administration would also aim to lower the centre of Brazil's official inflation target below the current 4.5 percent.

Economists complain that such a wide target range has allowed politicians to keep inflation high, hurting retailers and dragging down investments in Latin America's largest economy.

He said the campaign's economic team is debating whether to keep the current leadership at the central bank or opt for a new team during the transition toward full independence if she is elected.

Rands was a macroeconomics classmate of current central bank chief Alexandre Tombini at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. —*Reuters*

St Louis grand jury weighs charges in Ferguson shooting

ST LOUIS, 12 Sept — The white officer who shot dead unarmed black teenager Michael Brown in August, spurring a wave of violent protests, would be the first policeman charged for killing a suspect in St Louis County in more than two decades.

For weeks, protesters in the mostly black St Louis suburb of Ferguson have piled pressure on authorities, demanding that the officer, Darren Wilson, be charged and Prosecutor Bob McCulloch be replaced with a special prosecutor.

The prosecutor opted not to press charges and presented the case to the grand jury because of conflicting testimony from witnesses, his office said.

"It's not even a question about whether there will be unrest, people have made it very clear. We have a very fragile peace right now. If people don't feel like they get justice, it will be very hard to hold these folks back," said St Louis Alderman Antonio French.

The embattled McCullough, whose office has prosecuted more than 700 murder cases since 1991, has overseen 33 prosecutions of police officers during his 23-year term but has never pressed charges against an officer accused of killing a suspect.

His spokesman, Edward Magee, said prosecutors review several police shootings each year but rarely pursue charges, largely because laws give police a broad latitude to defend themselves and use deadly force if they believe they are in imminent danger.

McCulloch's office said there were four cases of police shootings he has brought to a grand jury. None resulted in criminal charges, including a much publicized 2000 case of two law enforcement officers who shot and killed two unarmed black men during a drug bust.

Activists raise their hands as they demand justice for the killing of Michael Brown while marching to the Thomas F Eagleton United States Courthouse from City Hall in downtown St Louis, Missouri, on 26 Aug, 2014. —
REUTERS

In a process much different from a trial, a grand jury is guided by the prosecutor, who determines what evidence to present and instructs members on what charges may apply.

The prosecutor's office is asking for patience as forensics and autopsy evidence are presented to the grand jury, which is meeting four to eight hours each Wednesday. Witness testimony is still being gathered, Magee said.

Two attorneys at the prosecutor's office, Kathi Alizadeh and Sheila Whirley, are presenting the evidence to the grand jury, Magee said. Alizadeh, with 26 years on the job, including 22 murder cases, is leading the presentation.

"People just need to wait," Magee said. "People are still coming forward and we are still waiting for the investigation to be completed." In the 33 cases prosecuted by McCulloch's office, police officers were charged with a range of crimes that included allegations of rape, assault and murder. In most of those cases, McCulloch's office levelled charges directly and did not take the cases to a grand jury. Charges are brought directly when there is a "clear-cut probable cause," Magee said. adding that there is no such clarity in the Brown shooting.

Accounts of the altercation between Wilson and Brown differ. Some witnesses have said Brown posed no threat to the officer and had his hands raised in surrender when he was shot, while friends of the officer have said Brown injured Wilson before the shooting. An autopsy showed the teenager was shot at least six times, including twice in the head.— *Reuters*

Double solar storms headed to Earth raise disruption concerns

An X1.6 class solar flare flashes in the middle of the sun in this image taken on 10 Sept, 2014, in this image courtesy of NASA.— Reuters

Cape Canaveral, 12 Sept — A rare double burst of magnetically charged solar storms will hit Earth on Thursday night and Friday, raising concerns that GPS signals, radio communications and power transmissions could be disrupted, officials said on Thursday.

Individually, the storms, known as coronal mass ejections, or CMEs, wouldn't warrant special warnings, but their unusual close timing and direct path toward Earth spurred the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Space Weather Prediction Centre to issue an alert. The first CME, which burst from a magnetically disturbed region of the sun on Monday night, should reach Earth on Thursday night, center director Thomas Berger told reporters on a conference call. The same patch of solar real estate produced a second, more powerful storm about 1:45 pm EDT on Wednesday."We don't expect any unmanageable impacts to national infrastructure from these solar events at this time, but we are watching these events closely," Berger said. The sun currently is in the peak of its 11-year cycle, though the overall level of activity is far lower than a typical solar max.—*Reuters*

NASA Mars rover Curiosity reaches base of target mountain

This self-portrait of NASA's Mars Curiosity rover is shown in this NASA handout composite image released on 30 May, 2013.—Reuters

Cape Canveral, 12 Sept — NASA's Mars rover *Curiosity* has arrived at the base of a mountain of layered rock that scientists suspect holds clues about whether the planet most like Earth in the solar system had the ingredients to support and preserve signs of microbial life.

The 1-ton rover touched down inside an ancient impact basin in August 2012. It quickly discovered a region inside the Gale Crater landing site that was chemically and geologically suited for the same kind of rock-eating microbes commonly found on Earth. With the primary goal of the mission met, scientists set about the more daunting task of finding environmental niches that not only could have hosted life, but also preserved signs of its existence — a tricky prospect since the same processes that make rock tend to destroy organic carbon.

Scientists figured their best chance for success lay inside rocks on Mount Sharp, a 3-mile (5-km) high mountain rising from the centre of Gale Crater.

After 18 months of driving, scientists on Thursday announced that *Curiosity* had arrived at the base of Mount Sharp ahead of schedule, thanks to a somewhat serendipitous decision to take an alternative path that would be gentler on the rover's damaged wheels. Within two weeks, *Curiosity* will reach an outcrop of rock called Pahrump Hills, where the first drill samples of Mount Sharp real estate will be made, California Institute of Technology geologist John Grotzinger told reporters on a conference call on Thursday. Scientists previously expected to cross the boundary between the cratered plains of Gale Crater and the relatively smooth rocks of Mount Sharp in a region called Murray Buttes. "Curiously, because of the wheel damage it drove us on a pathway further south to be safer to the wheels and once we got to the location ... we recognized that in fact this was an even better place to go across the boundary than it would be to keep traveling toward Murray Buttes," Grotzinger said. The decision to stop driving and start drilling should please a NASA oversight panel that earlier this month criticized the Curiosity team for short-changing the mission's science goals.

"When the senior review proposal was written in February and March the base of Mount Sharp looked kilometers away. In reality, we really cut out some of the drive time ... We're going to be starting to do much more science along the way," said Jim Green, director of NASA's planetary science division.

Reuters

Huawei Technologies uncovers corruption in internal probe

Beijing, 12 Sept— Huawei Technologies Co Ltd [HWTUL], China's largest telecom equipment maker, found four employees in violation of the company's policies on corruption as part of an internal inspection, a source familiar with the matter said.

In response to the findings, Huawei has held training sessions to educate employees on how to steer clear of possible bribery, the source said, declining to be identified because he was not authorized to speak about the matter to the media. The internal probe coincides with a government crackdown on corporate misbehaviour within both foreign and domestic firms. Chief Executive Ken Hu told the *Financial Times* on Thursday that graft inspections were done every year and "nothing new," adding that it only attracted media attention this year.

Huawei has declined to address the exact nature of the cases. *Local financial* news outlet Caixin, which first reported the inspection last week, said a total of 116 employees were implicated in soliciting and accepting bribes from outside sales agents in exchange for rebates. "In the enterprise market, Huawei is firmly implementing an open, transparent and stable channel policy, in order to pursue fairness and justice in the market, and to fight firmly against any form of employee practice that fails to meet the standards we set for ourselves," Huawei said in a statement this week.—*Reuters*

A man walks past a Huawei logo in Paris on 7 May, 2014.—Reuters

Ancient flying reptile named after 'Avatar' creature

The ecological reconstruction of Ikrandraco avatar is shown in this illustration courtesy of Chuang Zhao. — Reuters

Washington, 12 Sept — Some of the most visually stunning sequences from director James Cameron's blockbuster movie "Avatar" involved graceful flying creatures that were ridden by blue human-like beings facing ecological destruction on a moon called Pandora.

It turns out that an animal very similar to those "Avatar" creatures, called Ikran, actually did exist here on Earth long ago.

Scientists on Thursday announced the discovery of fossils in China of a new species of flying reptile called a pterosaur that lived 120 millions years ago and so closely resembled the creatures from the 2009 film that they named it after them. It is called Ikrandraci avatar, meaning "Ikran dragon" from "Avatar." And this pterosaur is noteworthy for more than just its resemblance to a movie creature.

The scientists said it appears that Ikrandraci avatar had a throat pouch similar to that of a pelican. It probably fed on small fish from freshwater lakes, flying low over the water and catching prey by skimming its lower jaw into the water, they said. It may have stored the fish in the pouch, they added. This Cretaceous Period pterosaur boasted an unusual blade-like crest on its lower jaw like the one on the movie creatures. "The head structure is similar in this pterosaur to the Ikran in 'Avatar,'" said one of the researchers, paleontologist Xiaolin Wang of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.

"Of course, nobody and nothing can ride this pterosaur," Wang added.

Another of the researchers, paleontologist Alexander Kellner of Brazil's National Museum at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, joked: "Please, (there were) no blue hominids during the Cretaceous."

Ikrandraci avatar, whose fossils were unearthed in China's Liaoning Province, boasted a wingspan of about 8 feet (2.5 metres), Kellner said.

It did not have a crest on the top of its elongated head as many pterosaurs did. Behind the lower jaw crest was a hook-like structure that appears to have been the anchor point for the throat pouch, Kellner said. It had relatively small teeth good for snaring small fish.

It lived in a warm region teeming with life, with feathered dinosaurs, birds, mammals, frogs, turtles and other animals along with a variety of trees and other plants, Wang said.

The researchers studied fossils of two specimens of Ikrandraci avatar.

Pterosaurs were Earth's first flying vertebrates, with birds and bats making their appearances later. They thrived from about 220 million years ago to 65 million years ago, when they were wiped out by the asteroid that also doomed the dinosaurs.

The study was published in the journal *Scientific Reports.*

Reuters

Third US Ebola patient showing 'remarkable improvement'

CHICAGO, 12 Sept—The third American to be treated for Ebola in the United States is showing "remarkable improvement" after receiving an infusion of plasma from US Ebola survivor Dr Kent Brantly, as well as an undisclosed experimental drug, his doctors said on Thursday.

Dr Rick Sacra, 51, who is being treated in a special biocontainment unit at the University of Nebraska Medical Centre in Omaha, received two doses of plasma from Brantly, which doctors are calling a convalescent serum, and has been given nightly doses of an undisclosed experimental drug, Dr Phil Smith, one of Sacra's doctors, said in a news briefing.

"I don't know how much of his recovery is due to the drug, how much is due to the convalescent serum and how much to the aggressive intravenous fluids," Smith said.

Brantly's blood likely contains protective antibodies that may help buy Sacra some time while his body tries to fight off the infection, Smith said. The hospital tried a number of potential donors, but Brantly's blood type turned out to be a match for his friend and fellow missionary Sacra.

"It really meant a lot to us that he was willing to give that donation so soon after his recovery," Debbie Sacra, the patient's wife, told the briefing. "I spoke to his (Brantly's) wife. We marveled that they had the same blood," she said.

The worst-ever Ebola outbreak, which has already killed at least 2,296 people in West Africa, has triggered a scramble to develop the first drug or vaccine for a deadly disease that was discovered nearly 40 years ago in the forests of central Africa.

Smith said he has been asked not to disclose the name of the experimental drug Sacra is receiving because it is still in the early stages of development and there is no data on whether it works.

Sacra arrived at the Nebraska hospital from Liberia on Friday, 5 September, and has since shown a "remarkable improvement," Dr Angela Hewlett told the briefing.

Smith said Sacra's first day was "pretty rocky" but he began improving by the third day of care. His wife, Debbie, said she is "amazed" at how quickly Sacra has "turned around since he arrived."

She said Sacra contracted Ebola on 29 August while working at a hospital in Liberia on behalf of the North Carolina-based Christian group SIM USA. Sacra had worked in the obstetrics ward at the ELWA Hospital of SIM in Monrovia.

Reuters

Debbie Sacra, wife of Dr Rick Sacra, reads Bible verses to him (on screen) during a video conference at the Nebraska Medical Centre in Omaha, Nebraska in this 10 Sept, 2014 handout photo courtesy of the centre.—REUTERS

Gov to lift evacuation order on Fukushima village 1 October

FUKUSHIMA, 12 Sept—The Japanese government decided on Friday to lift an evacuation order on 1 October for part of a Fukushima Prefecture village within 20 kilometres of the disaster-struck Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

It will lift the order for a portion of the village of Kawauchi, the second such case following the lifting in April of an evacuation order for an area of the city of Tamura.

Some municipalities in the prefecture remain subject to evacuation orders imposed following the March 2011 nuclear disaster.

Kyodo News

For Assad, US plan will weaken one foe but bolster others

BEIRUT, 12 Sept—By striking Islamic State in Syria, the United States would be weakening one of President Bashar al-Assad's major enemies. But the new US strategy may still unnerve Assad by helping other opponents determined to overthrow him.

The US strategy for tackling Islamic State in Syria is unlikely to yield quick results. Unlike in Iraq, where US air strikes were able to quickly roll back some Islamic State advances, Washington has no strong partner on the ground.

But in a war that has already lasted over three years and killed more than 190,000 people, the US plan looks set to bring with it the most serious effort yet to bolster what is left of the fragmented "moderate" opposition to Assad.

Syria's President Bashar al-Assad heads a meeting of his cabinet in Damascus on 31 Aug, 2014 in this picture released by Syria's national news agency SANA.—REUTERS

It could be a long time before rebel fighters loosely defined as "the Free Syrian Army" can be turned into anything approaching a serious military force. That may not even be the goal. Both Assad's allies and opponents agree there can be no military solution to a war that requires a political settlement.

But enhanced support — including training that Saudi Arabia has agreed to host — may at least provide a life line for the mainstream rebels who have faced the risk of being wiped out altogether by Assad and Islamic State.

Eventually, a unified opposition better able to stand its ground could create new momentum for a stalled diplomatic track involving both the West and Assad's main allies, Russia and Iran which are also alarmed by the rise of Islamic State.

President Barack Obama, in a major policy speech on confronting Islamic State, said on Wednesday he would not hesitate to strike the group in Syria, where it has taken over swathes of territory in the east and northeast.

He also ruled out the idea of cooperation with the Syrian government which some analysts thought would be an eventual outcome of the fight against Islamic State. Some still believe indirect cooperation through third parties may be possible.

"The Assad regime and the Iranians are natural bookends to this in the east and west, but he (Assad) is not going to get to deal with the West as he had hoped," said Andrew Tabler, a senior fellow at the Washington Institute and an expert on Syria.

"The United States has decided this is going to be a very long war, and they are going to support the opposition."

Obama said the United States had already ramped up military assistance to the Syrian opposition — a possible reference to aid delivered through an ostensibly covert CIA training programme. He also asked Congress to approve additional resources of $500 million to help the opposition.

Mainstream rebel groups say they have already started to reorganise themselves. One, the Hazem movement, has reported receiving new supplies of anti-tank missiles in recent weeks.—*Reuters*

Chinese envoy calls for speeding up economic reconstruction in Haiti

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Sept—A Chinese envoy on Thursday called for the speeding up of economic reconstruction in Haiti and the enhancement of the country's development capacity.

"Underdevelopment has been one of the underlying causes of the political and social problems in Haiti," said Wang Min, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, at a Security Council meeting on Haiti.

The international community should make good its pledges for donations and actively participate in Haiti's state building process with a view to helping the country to achieve development as soon as possible, he said. The Chinese envoy also called for the facilitation of the election process to achieve a peaceful political transition in Haiti, and said that the international community and relevant regional organizations can play a positive role in providing good offices and facilitation. "China hopes that all stake holders in Haiti will put the country's future and the people's welfare first, resolve the differences on election and other issues as soon as possible through dialogue and negotiation, and ensure the smooth holding of the elections by the end of this year," said Wang.—*Xinhua*

US plane disappears in Dominican Republic

SANTO DOMINGO, 12 Sept—A small plane disappeared in the Dominican Republic with two people on board, authorities said on Thursday. The plane took off from the capital Santo Domingo on Wednesday night, heading for Punta Cana, a popular tourist destination 205 km to the east.

At 10:42 pm local time (0242 GMT Thursday), the twin-engine Hawker Siddeley took off from the Las Americas International Airport, but never reached its destination, the Dominican Aviation Institute (IDAC) confirmed.

"A flight plan will never be fulfilled," the IDAC said in a statement, adding the agency's technicians and international specialists were investigating the incident.

The IDAC didn't reveal the names or nationalities of the two people in the AE Hawker 125, with a US registration number N600. The plane disappeared on the radar screen 10 minutes after taking off, local media reported.

At the end of 2012, two people died when their small plane crashed in a mountainous region in the municipality of Constanza, in La Vega province, 170 km north of the capital.

Xinhua

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV GIANG HAI-11 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.9.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-3 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.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1436)

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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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Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Hot lava explodes from the crater of Mount Slamet volcano in Central Java, Indonesia, on 11 September, 2014. Local residents were advised to stay away at least four kilometres from the volcano, the activity of which continues to increase.

XINHUA

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(18/2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -090(14-15)	Smart UPS for Ywama Gas Distribution Station (2) Items	US$
(2)	IFB -091(14-15)	Electrical Spares for ZJ70LSRI Rig (1) Item	US$
(3)	IFB -092(14-15)	Deutz Genuine Engine for HDD Rig (1) No	US$
(4)	IFB -093(14-15)	Spares for CNG Storage Cascade and Dispenser Pipe Line (14) Items	US$
(5)	DMP/L -016(14-15)	Siemens DC Converter (4) Nos	Ks
(6)	DMP/L -017(14-15)	Spares for Nissan RD 8 Engine Ex:435TC P & H Crane (1) Lot	Ks
(7)	DMP/L -018(14-15)	Spares for Mitsubishi 6 DB 10C-K Engine Ex P & H Crawler Crane	Ks
(8)	DMP/L -019(14-15)	Spares for MUD Pump Ex Road Boring Machine (1) Lot	Ks
(9)	DMP/L -020(14-15)	Spares for F 1600 Mud Pump Ex ZJ 70L Rigs (1) Lot	Ks
(10)	DMP/L -021(14-15)	Valve Assembly & Valve Seat for D375 Rig Pump (2) Items	Ks
(11)	DMP/L -022(14-15)	PGGO 140 (Gear Oil) (1) Lot	Ks
(12)	DMP/L -023(14-15)	H.O.L (Hydraulic Oil) (1) Lot	Ks
(13)	DMP/L -024(14-15)	Engine Oil for Gas Engine (1) Lot	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 6-10-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 10th September, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (077N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (077N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.9.2014 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.

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FAW-Volkswagen gets antitrust ticket in central China province

BEIJING, 12 Sept— FAW-Volkswagen has been fined 249 million yuan (40.7 million US dollars) for price fixing by Hubei Provincial pricing bureau. FAW-Volkswagen Automotive Co Ltd, a joint venture between Chinese automaker FAW Group and Germany's Volkswagen Group, signed agreements with car dealers in Hubei between 2012 and 2014 on prices for car sales and repairs, according to the National Development and Reform Commission on Thursday.

In addition to the fine, eight of its car dealerships in Hubei will receive antitrust tickets with a combined value of 29.96 million yuan.

Regulators have recently focused on anti-monopoly enforcement in the luxury car market. Both automobiles and spare parts can cost significantly more in China than in other countries.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Tuesday spoke out against the perception that China is targeting foreign firms with its antitrust activity. Speaking at Summer Davos in Tianjin, Li told business people and entrepreneurs that only 10 percent of all such probes have examined the practices of foreign firms in China.

Xinhua

Weather report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 13th September, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Magway Region and Kayah State, scattered in Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States and fairly widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Miley Cyrus turns visual artist

Miley Cyrus collaborated with fashion designer Jeremy Scott .—INSTAGRAM

LOS ANGELES, 12 Sept —Pop star Miley Cyrus debuted her series of accessories range, titled 'Dirty Hippy', at the ongoing New York Fashion Week.

Cyrus, 21, collaborated with fashion designer Jeremy Scott for the colourful collection that includes necklaces, bracelets and hats, reported Ace Showbiz.

Jeremy said the collection was inspired by music festival and outdoor party. The 'Wrecking Ball' hitmaker also shared several photos of her colourful collection on Instagram.—*PTI*

Gwen Stefani working on new solo album

Gwen Stefani has already started work on the follow-up to her 2006 album The Sweet Escape.—**PTI**

LONDON, 12 Sept— Rocker Gwen Stefani has confirmed plans for a new solo album with Grammy-winning musician Pharrell Williams. The 44-year-old singer revealed that she has already started work on the follow-up to her 2006 album The Sweet Escape, reported Digital Spy.

"I'm going into the studio tonight with Pharrell (Williams), I'm going to be writing and also just seeing what comes along my way. I've been recording a few things..," she said.

Stefani and Williams currently both serve as coaches on 'The Voice'. The stars previously collaborated on Stefani's famous hit 'Hollaback Girl' in 2004.

PTI

Vanessa Hudgens
to play Gigi on broadway

LOS ANGELES, 12 Sept — Actress and singer Vanessa Hudgens has been cast as the lead in a new production of beloved musical 'Gigi'. The 'High School Musical' star will play the title role in the Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe production, which will be directed by Eric Schaeffer, reported Variety online.

Gigi has previously been played onstage by Audrey Hepburn, and French actress Leslie Caron. British playwright and BAFTA-winning screenwriter Heidi Thomas will revamp the story for the new production, which will open at the Eisenhower Theatre at The John F Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC from 16 January to 12 February next year.

Hudgens, who played the role of Gigi in recent readings in New York, says, "I started performing in musicals from a young age, and it has always been my dream to be on Broadway. I cannot wait to get back on stage, singing and dancing these songs and living in Gigi's glamorous world."

"I think it's (musical theatre) the true test. There are no second takes. You've got to bring everything you've got for the most critical of audiences. It's an honour, if anything. I'm over the moon," she added.—*PTI*

NY Fashion Week: 2015 Ralph Lauren collection

A model presents a creation of the Spring/Summer 2015 Ralph Lauren collection during the New York Fashion Week in New York, the United States, on 11 Sept, 2014.—XINHUA

Models present creations of the Spring/Summer 2015 Ralph Lauren collection during the New York Fashion Week in New York, the United States, on 11 Sept, 2014.—XINHUA

Actress Katie Holmes to make directorial debut with 'All We Had'

NEW YORK, 12 Sept— Actress Katie Holmes will make her directorial debut and star in the film adaptation of artist and writer Annie Weatherwax's book "All We Had," its producers said on Thursday.

Holmes, 35, the ex-wife of actor Tom Cruise who is appearing in "The Giver" currently in movie theaters, will play the mother in the drama about a poor woman and her daughter living on the edge of poverty who find a home in small town America.

Jane Rosenthal, a co-founder of New York's Tribeca Film Festival with actor Robert DeNiro, will produce the film with Holmes and Berry Welsh, vice president of production and development at Tribeca Productions. "The Fault in Our Stars" director Josh Boone will pen the script. "Katie has such a clear vision for the book's irreverent, original mother-daughter relationship," Rosenthal said in a statement.

"All We Had," Weatherwax's first novel, follows a mother and her teenage daughter as their landlord kicks them out of their home and they take off in a battered car looking for a better life.

Holmes found fame in the 1990s with TV series "Dawson's Creek," and recently appeared in the film "Miss Meadows" and "Days and Nights."

Reuters

'Pawn Sacrifice' film captures chess drama of Fischer-Spassky face-off

Former world chess champion Bobby Fischer gestures during his match against his archrival Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union, in the Yugoslav resort of Sveti Stefan in this September 1992 file photo.
REUTERS

TORONTO, 12 Sept — There might have been something more nerve-wracking than being an opponent to world chess champion Bobby Fischer, and that was being the mercurial man's minder.

"Pawn Sacrifice," a film premiering at the Toronto International Film Festival on Thursday, chronicles not only the rise of the young American grandmaster but how hard it was to get him to his crowning moment, the famous "Match of the Century" in 1972 against Soviet rival Boris Spassky.

Fischer, played by Tobey Maguire, is rude, inappropriate, anti-Semitic, unpredictable, brilliant, and as director Edward Zwick says, "probably paranoid and delusional." He is also a cultural hero ill-equipped to handle his celebrity.

Spassky is, on the other hand, a cool cat who enjoys the privileges as an icon of the Soviet state. He is played by Liev Schreiber, who speaks Russian in much of the film in what the actor called "one of the scariest things I have ever done." Spassky, the world champion, and Fischer, the challenger, find themselves in a Cold War proxy battle when they agree to the "Match of the Century" to be played in Iceland. On the newscasts, their showdown upstages the Vietnam War and the break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in what would become the Watergate scandal.

"I don't think it was about America or the Russian programme for either of them," said Schreiber. "I think it was about being No 1." The irascible Fischer threatens to upend the competition at every turn, demanding more money and going missing right before he is to fly to Reykjavik, much to the frustration of his handlers, a savvy lawyer and a patient priest played by Michael Stuhlbarg and Peter Sarsgaard.

Once there, Fischer doesn't show for one match and won't proceed unless he and Spassky play in a ping-pong room away from the crowd.Spassky agrees even though he could win the championship by forfeit.

Reuters

As music sales fall, sax player Kenny G turns to stockpicking

NEW YORK, 12 Sept — Kenny G, the best-selling jazz musician who once played at President Bill Clinton's inaugural ball, wakes up every morning to Starbucks.

The saxophonist doesn't drink coffee. Instead, the man whose real name is Kenny Gorelick obsessively checks the company's stock price. Gorelick was one of the first investors in the Seattle-based chain. He was introduced to Starbucks chief Howard Schultz through an uncle, before the company went public, and soon bought a stake. Shares are up more than 12,000 percent since beginning public trade.

That success helped spark a stockpicking habit that consumes his attention as his music earning potential is eaten away by digital music, which pays less than physical album sales, and online piracy.

These days, Gorelick spends his mornings in front of his computer screen, trading blocs of shares of the approximately 30 companies in his portfolio. Over the last decade, he has earned about as much money from stock trading as from music, he said.

"Most people in the music business don't make as much money as we used to," said Gorelick, who topped the contemporary jazz sales charts for several years running in the 1990s and whose 2010 album cracked jazz's top ten. "You have your 1 percent of Beyonce and U2, who are playing stadiums, who are going to make tons of money. I'm going to put myself in the normal category of a music person who has been successful."

Gorelick, who holds a degree in accounting from the University of Washington, keeps his assets in two main accounts: one for his own trading and one that is overseen by Todd Morgan, a founder of Los Angeles-based firm Bel Air Investment Advisors.

Morgan said that it was common for his clients, all of whom must meet the firm's $20 million (12.3 pounds) minimum in investable assets, to keep a portion of their portfolios for stock trading. "We encourage them that if they are active traders to open an account away from us. Why get in the middle of it?" Morgan said. Wealthy investors with more than $1 million in their accounts are unusual in their affection for trading individual shares, according to new data from E*Trade and other brokers.

The wealthy typically keep 30 percent of their portfolios or more in individual stocks, said Lena Haas, senior vice president of Retirement, Investing and Saving at E*Trade. Investors with accounts below the $1 million mark typically hold 10 percent or less of their assets in individual shares, about half of the amount typically seen before the 2008 financial crisis, she said. That reflects a rush by small investors into index funds that passively track the performance of the broad market.

Picking stock winners is not easy. Only 30 percent of professional fund managers outperformed the benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index over the last decade, according to data from Lipper, a Thomson Reuters company. —*Reuters*

Musician Kenny G performs at a fund-raising reception before a fundraiser chaired by then first lady of California Maria Shriver in Monterey, in this 5 Sept, 2008 file photo. — REUTERS

Mitsubishi to join oil, gas exploration project in Ivory Coast

TOKYO, 12 Sept — Mitsubishi Corp said on Friday it will take a 20 percent stake in a block for oil and gas field exploration in the Ivory Coast from US oil developer Anadarko Petroleum Corp.

The stake, subject to the Ivory Coast government's approval, will make the trading house the first Japanese company to undertake an oil and gas project in the West African country, Mitsubishi said in a Press release.

Anadarko and the other stakeholders in the block — British oil developer Tullow Oil Plc and Ivory Coast's national oil company Petroci — have received approval to proceed with appraisal operations, having confirmed oil and gas deposits at an exploratory well they drilled in 2012, the company said.

Anadarko's stake in the CI-103 block, about 50 kilometres off the coast of the country at a water depth of 2,000 metres, will fall to 35 percent from 55 percent after Mitsubishi takes its stake, with those held by Tullow and Petroci unchanged at 30 percent and 15 percent respectively.

Oil and gas exploration activities have been increasing along the western coast of Africa since the discovery of oil and gas deposits off the coast of Ghana several years ago.

Mitsubishi said it will "draw on (its) expertise which has been accumulated through projects" in western Africa over many years, as it aims to double "attributable equity production in resource businesses" by 2020.

Kyodo News

MYANMAR TV

(13-9-2014, Saturday)

6:00 am
* Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:30 am
* Physical Exercise

7:00 am
* News/ Weather Report

7:40 am
* Hyper Sports

8:00 am
* News / International News

8:30 am
* TV Drama Series

10:00 am
* News

10:45 am
* TV Drama Series

11:30 pm
* Game for Children

12:00 pm
* News / International News / Weather Report

12:40 pm
* Round of the week's TV Local News

3:00 pm
* News

3:30 pm
* 2014 AFF U-19 Championship (Live) (Third Place) (Myanmar U-19 Vs Thailand U-19)

5:45 pm
* Musical Programme

6:20pm
* MRTV's Youth Programme

6:50 pm
* Teleplay

7:00 pm
* News

7:20 pm
* Teleplay

8:00 pm
* News/ International News/ Weather Report

9:00 pm
* News

9:30 pm
* Business News
* Myanmar Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(13-9-14 07:00 am~ 14-9-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* The Historic Bells
* World News
* A Girl Guide
* Local News
* Shwe Kyet Yet — Shwe Kyet Kya's Boat Race Festival
* World News
* Waso or the Buddhist Retreat Period
* Local News
* The Man and The Elephant
* World News
* Wholesale Fish
* Local News
* Young Artist Pann Kyi
* World News
* A Monk's Robe
* Local News
* The Beauty In The North of Myanmar
* World News
* Myanmar Harpist
* Local News
* Independent Filmmaker
* World News
* Trishaw Man
* Local News
* Contemporary Art
* World News
* Creations of a Designer
* Local News
* "Myanmar's Beauty and Nature" Beach
* World News
* Human Rights & Human Dignity "This Land is our Land"

US ease past Lithuania into basketball World Cup final

BARCELONA, 12 Sept — Holders United States showed no sign of missing their top players as they breezed into the basketball World Cup final with a commanding 96-68 win over Lithuania on Thursday.

The Americans, competing in Spain with a second-string team, will head confidently into Sunday's showdown against either European champions France or upstarts Serbia who clash in the other semi-final on Friday.

The champions had steamrollered into the last four and their athletic outfit, even without top NBA players such as LeBron James and Kevin Durant, enjoyed another largely effortless evening.

"Lithuania are a great basketball country and were more than worthy opponents," US coach Mike Krzyzewski, one of America's biggest admirers of top European teams, told a news conference.

"We fouled like crazy (in the first half). In the second half we started afresh, we adjusted the defence and it made a huge difference."

The Lithuanians were able to hold their own only in the opening five minutes, when some erratic shooting from the champions allowed the Baltic nation to take a 13-10 lead.

Kenneth Faried (7) of the US dunks over Jonas Valanciunas of Lithuania during their Basketball World Cup semi-final game in Barcelona on 11 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

But they had no reply for US domination under the boards as the tournament favourites scored an avalanche of second-chance points from offensive rebounds.

With a 43-35 halftime lead, the US team shored up their defensive leaks after the interval and built a 76-49 advantage in the third quarter, when captain James Harden scored all of his 16 points.

Guard Klay Thompson added as many while playmaker Kyrie Irving led the charge with 18 points and four assists.

Usually a high-scoring team, the Lithuanians nailed only 17 of 56 shots from the field and conceded they were second-best in all departments.

"In the first two quarters we were fairly good but it changed in the second half," said playmaker Adas Juskevicius.

"We lost our rhythm, there were too many turnovers and we lost our way."

Coach Jonas Kazlauskas added: "When you face the USA you can't afford to lose your concentration for a minute. In the first half we were fighting but then the difference got to 20 points and there was nothing we could do." While Lithuania's bronze-medal game on Saturday against the loser of the France v Serbia semi should be a cracker, the final may well boil down to another one-sided contest after the French stunned much-fancied Spain in the quarterfinals.

Asked to comment on the 24-nation event's biggest shock, Krzyzewski said: "I am not surprised by anything. We didn't know who we would play or whether we would play in the final."

Reuters

Falcao stays cool under Manchester United glare

New Manchester United signings Radamel Falcao (L) and Daley Blind (R) pose with manager Louis Van Gaal during a photocall at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 11 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 12 Sept — A composed and measured Radamel Falcao made his media bow at Manchester United on Thursday, showing few signs of the weight of goal-scoring expectation on his shoulders.

United, who have managed only two points in three league games under new coach Louis van Gaal so far this season, paraded Falcao and fellow new signing Daley Blind to the press and cameras before their expected debuts against Queens Park Rangers this weekend.

The club signed the Colombian striker, who has spent most of 2014 out injured, on a year's loan from Monaco just before the transfer market closed last week with an option to buy at the end of the season, in a deal that some commentators said smacked of desperation.

But Falcao, 28, speaking in careful English, said what the fans wanted to hear — that he was looking long-term.

"I hope to stay many years at Manchester United and make history at this club."

Falcao sidestepped questions about his short stays at Porto, Atletico Madrid and Monaco — three clubs in four years — and about talk of a transfer to Real Madrid before his last-minute move to Manchester.

He said all the right things.

"I feel good. I have had a great welcome. Any settling in period is easy when the quality of players is so good," the Colombian, who joins Robin van Persie and Wayne Rooney in United's attacking lineup, said.

Falcao's anterior cruciate ligament injury kept him out of the World Cup. He played some pre-season friendlies with Monaco and some 15 minutes of Colombia's defeat by Brazil last Friday.

"I feel well," said Falcao, who scored seven goals in his first seven games for Monaco last season. "I started to play two months ago with Monaco. I've improved in the last month. I've scored goals which is important to a striker.

"I'm confident with my physical form and I'm comfortable with my knee."

Van Gaal, appointed after United finished in an unaccustomed seventh last season under David Moyes, has been criticised for splashing out 150 million pounds on new players.

Reuters

Confident Welbeck is 'ideal' Arsenal signing, says Wenger

LONDON, 12 Sept — England striker Danny Welbeck is the "ideal" signing for Arsenal and could make his debut against Manchester City this weekend, manager Arsene Wenger said on Thursday.

Welbeck joined the Gunners from Manchester United for 16 million pounds ($26.00 million) on transfer deadline day, after United manager Louis van Gaal signed Colombian forward Radamel Falcao on a season-long loan.

"I was happy to take a permanent transfer with Danny Welbeck," Wenger told reporters. "He is ideal because when you analyse his game he can play through the middle — I think his best position — but as well on the flanks."

Welbeck, who had become fifth-choice striker at Old Trafford under Van Gaal, scored twice to lead England to a 2-0 win over Switzerland in their Euro 2016 qualifier on Monday.

Wenger said: "Welbeck brings quality and a team attitude and, as you can see with England, his goalscoring.

"I cannot tell you if Welbeck will start (against City) but it's a possibility. I have to assess the squad. Welbeck is young and I feel he can improve his career here — he is confident."

Welbeck backed himself to succeed at the Emirates when he told British media on Thursday: "Once I get into the box and get the opportunities I have got faith in my ability."

"Before (for much of his time at United) I wasn't getting into the box because I wasn't playing too much as a striker and I had to worry about my defensive work."

"Once I get the opportunity and a run of games up front I will do my best."

Welbeck is likely to start against City, as Wenger needs cover for injured French striker Olivier Giroud.—*Reuters*

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