

11th China-ASEAN Expo, China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit kick off in Nanning



Vice President U Nyan Tun with leaders of ASEAN countries and China at launching of Maritime Silk Road.—MNA

NANNING, 16 Sept — The 11th China-ASEAN Expo and the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit kicked off in Nanning of the People's Republic of China on Tuesday, sources said.

At the opening ceremony, addresses were given by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Vice

President Bounnhang Vorachith, Myanmar Vice President U Nyan Tun, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Pham Binh Minh, and Thai Deputy Prime Minister Phongthep Thepkanchana.

In his address, Vice President U Nyan Tun said:

At the outset, I wish to express my sincere thanks an appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Government of the

Guangxi Autonomous Region and the organizers of the 11th CAEXPO for the kind invitation and warm hospitality accorded to us and excellent arrangements made for the grand events in Nanning.

The theme of this year CAEXPO: Building the Maritime Silk Road of the 21st Century is most timely and of particularly relevant as we are striving to connect ASEAN Member (See page 2)

Myanmar planning to nominate its Natural Spirulina Lake for world heritage list

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 16 Sept— Myanmar environmentalists and the Ministry of Environmental Conservation

and Forestry are planning to nominate Twin Taung Lake where very rare Spirulina is found, and which is also on the verge of extinction, for inclusion on the

world heritage list.

"Twin Taung is a heritage not only for Myanmar but also for the world and our attempts are aimed at saving the Lake," said U

Aung Myint, an expert from the Renewable Energy Association Myanmar-REAM.

Twin Taung is a rare (See page 9)



An aerial view of Twin Taung Lake that produces Spirulina for valuable medicines.

PHOTO: ALGAEASIA.COM

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Heavy falls warning

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Sept — According to the observations at 1600 hrs MST on Tuesday, under the influence of the Typhoon Kalmaegi over the South China Sea rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kachin, Shan, Kayah and Kay-

in States with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavy falls during the next three days commencing on Tuesday evening.

Flood and landslide hazards are likely in some hilly regions due to the heavy rainfall, announced the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

NLM

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States as one of our top priority objectives. The Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) will serve as the vehicle to facilitate the ASEAN Community building process.

We welcome the initiative of Maritime Silk Road, which was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit to the Republic of Indonesia in October last year.

We also welcome the Silk Road Economic Belt, which was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping last year, to launch the modern international trade network in the region.

We share the view that the Maritime Silk Road will bring new opportunities for ASEAN Member States and China to promote cooperation and cordial relations in many areas especially in trade, infrastructure and cultural exchange programmes.

It will also strengthen economic ties with countries along maritime trade routes and boost two-way trade and investment between ASEAN Member States and China, at a time efforts are made to upgrade the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area.

As ASEAN is striving to build the ASEAN Economic Community by the end of 2015 and is set to build a single market and single production base, we are optimistic that the Maritime Silk Road will stimulate and spur the economic developments in ASEAN.

Furthermore, we are of the view that the Maritime Silk Road will complement and supplement the ASEAN's connectivity initiative

which encompasses people-to-people connectivity to further enhance mutual understanding between the ASEAN Member States and China.

As Myanmar is the current Chair of ASEAN, I wish to share the progress of ASEAN towards the ASEAN Community by 2015.

With the Declaration of Bali Concord II, signed by the ASEAN Leaders in 2003, we have charted a firm foundation for an ASEAN Community based on three pillars, namely, ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC).

We have further agreed to accelerate our concerted efforts to advance the ASEAN Community building process till 2015. The ASEAN Charter also reaffirmed our commitments to intensify our community building efforts through enhanced regional cooperation and integration.

We are on the right track towards the ASEAN Political-Security Community, which will provide a platform for dialogue and cooperation to enhance peace, stability and security in the region.

We constantly engage and strengthen our mutual beneficial relations among the ASEAN Member States as well as with our Dialogue Partners, including the People's Republic of China, while maintaining ASEAN's central and proactive role in the evolving regional architecture.

We have also attained sustainable progress in

the implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint. We are confident that the APSC will accelerate our political and security cooperation and thus contribute to our people to live in a just, peaceful, democratic and harmonious environment.

Through APSC, we are advancing political development in the region based on the principles of democracy, rule of law and good governance, respect for and promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter.

Let me now apprise you on the transformation towards ASEAN Economic Community.

It is encouraging that substantial progress has been achieved towards the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community by 31 December 2015.

We have promising achievements in trade facilitation, capital market development, food security, Intellectual property rights (IPR) and infrastructure development, among others. We also give special emphasis on financial integration in order to build stronger and integrated financial markets in the region.

There has also been significant progress in integrating ASEAN into the global economy through the implementation of the ASEAN Plus One Free Trade Areas (ASEAN + 1 FTAs) with our Dialogue Partners.

We have, at the same time, successfully launched the negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to accelerate and expand



Vice President U Nyan Tun cordially greets Peng Qinghua, Communist Party Secretary of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.—MNA

our scope of economic cooperation beyond our region.

We have given special emphasis on the realization of a people-centered and social responsible ASEAN by forging a common identity and building a caring and sharing society.

We have also accomplished considerable progress in our collaboration in education, sports, labours, social welfare and development, health, disaster management and humanitarian assistance, women and children, environment and youth sectors.

These are some the bold progress in our endeavours towards ASEAN Community by 2015.

We highly appreciate China's continued support towards ASEAN Community building efforts. We also appreciate China's sustained support to ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional architecture. We look forward to working closely with China in the ASEAN-led regional mechanisms such as ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three, East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional forum and ADMM Plus.

ASEAN and China celebrated the twentieth anniversary of dialogue relations at the 14th ASEAN-China Summit held in Bali, Indonesia in November 2011 with a number of meaningful and significant

activities.

Our strategic partnership significantly contributed to fostering friendly relations, mutual beneficial cooperation and good neighbourliness between ASEAN and China.

We have also commemorated the 10th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam last year. Our partnership has considerably contributed to foster friendly relations, mutual beneficial cooperation between ASEAN and China.

It is also worthwhile to recall that the 16th ASEAN China Summit, held in Brunei Darussalam in October 2013, designated the Year 2014 as the ASEAN-China Cultural Exchange Year. Myanmar will be honoured to host the Closing Ceremony of the ASEAN-China Cultural Exchange Year at the end of 2014. We also welcome China's initiative to designate 2015 as the ASEAN-China Maritime Cooperation Year.

We are committed to strengthening socio-cultural cooperation and promoting greater people-to-people interaction through increasing cultural, education, youth, sports and academic exchanges, and enhancing greater contacts between ASEAN and China.

During our ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014, we will work closely with

ASEAN Member States and China to further consolidate our strategic partnership as well as strengthen our friendly ties.

We have launched the ASEAN-China FTA in 2010. We are now considering to advancing trade facilitation, deepening industrial cooperation, increasing mutual investment and upgrading the ASEAN-China FTA.

ASEAN is currently China's biggest trading partner with annual bilateral trade amounted to US dollars 400 billion. In 2013, ASEAN's international trade amounted to US dollars 2.5 trillion, with total exports of US dollars 1.3 trillion and imports of US dollars 1.2 trillion. China's represented 12% of ASEAN's exports and 16% of ASEAN's imports.

We underscore the value of regional economic integration and note the encouraging process toward further trade liberalization and upgrading the ASEAN China Free Trade Area (ACFTA). We look forward to achieving the two-way trade goal of US dollars 500 billion by 2015 and US dollar 1 trillion by 2020, and two-way investment of US dollars 150 billion by 2020.

On a personal note, I wish to briefly touch upon the economic reform measures currently taken place in Myanmar.

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As ASEAN is striving to build the ASEAN Economic Community by the end of 2015 and is set to build a single market and single production base, we are optimistic that the Maritime Silk Road will stimulate and spur the economic developments in ASEAN. Furthermore, we are of the view that the Maritime Silk Road will complement and supplement the ASEAN's connectivity initiative which encompasses people-to-people connectivity to further enhance mutual understanding between the ASEAN Member States and China.

NATIONAL

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(from page 2)

The Government has undertaken four phases of reform process, namely, political reforms, economic reforms, public administration reforms and private sector development reforms.

The second phase of economic and social reforms has been implemented with the people-centred

approach. Due to these reform processes, we have achieved good socio-economic development outcome for our people.

We have achieved 7.3% GDP growth rate in 2012-2013 which exceeded the projected rate of 6.7%. This is one of the tangible results of economic development achieved through successful cooperation and

collaborations among the State, our people, private sector and our development partners. Through enhanced coordination and all-inclusive process, Myanmar has also projected 9.1% GDP growth rate for the fiscal year 2014-2015.

In concluding, I wish to extend our profound congratulations to the organizers of the 11th China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and

Investment Summit for their relentless efforts and wish them every success in their endeavours.

We also wish to reaffirm our commitments to further strengthen ASEAN-China dialogue relations and cooperation to forging peace, stability and economic prosperity of our region and beyond. We look forward to working closely with China in realizing the Maritime Silk

Road in the 21st Century.

China-ASEAN expos have annually been held in Nanning since 2004 with the aim of sharing benefits among the peoples of ASEAN countries and China.

In the 11th expo, Myanmar opens over 80 booths with a variety of local products on display.

Vice President U Nyan Tun met the party secretary of the Guangxi province at a government guest house

on Tuesday to discuss promotion of bilateral friendly relations, health, education, and transport.

At the guest house, Vice President U Nyan Tun responded to queries raised by Chinese and Myanmar media.

He also visited the Myanmar Consulate in Nanning, where he met diplomats, their families and scholars.

MNA

Mongton hydropower project to ensure less social and environmental impacts

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Sept— Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Maw Thar Htwe on Tuesday said that Mongton hydropower project (Thanlwin Upstream) will be implemented to ensure less impacts on environment and society after conducting surveys of EIA and SIA.

The deputy minister answered the question raised by Daw Nan Wah Nu, representative of Kung Hein Constituency, asked during the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) session on Tuesday about construction project of 7,000 megawatt hydropower plant.

U Maw Thar Htwe also said that the responsible persons have explained about the advantages and disadvantages of the project, as well as development plans for the residents in the project area.

Mongton hydropower project is located on Thanlwin River in Shan State. A MoU has been signed for the feasibility study by the China Three Gorges Corporation of PR China, the EGAT International of Thailand and local International Group of Entrepreneurs Co, Ltd.

During the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House)

session, Deputy Minister for Information U Paik Htwe said that Myanmar classical songs will be broadcast on Myanmar Radio Television with Myanmar language scripts.

U Thaung Tin, deputy minister for Communications and Information Technology, said that during the session that a total of five radio stations have been built in Kayah State, and the construction of seven more stations will be completed at the end of 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Dr Thein Thein Htay, deputy minister for health, explained the ministry has



examined the construction of healthcare facilities in Paletwa township in Chin State.—MNA

Representatives attending Amyotha Hluttaw on Tuesday.—MNA

AIPA organizes its 35th General Assembly in Laos

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann attends opening of 35th General Assembly: ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in Lao PDR.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Sept—The 35th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-parliamentary Assembly started at Donchan Palace Hotel in Laos on Tuesday, with an opening speech made by Pany Yathotou, President of the National Assembly of the Laos and also President of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and a welcome speech by Thongsing Thammavong, Prime Minister of Laos.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann urged ASEAN members and its dialogue partners to exert greater cooperation in the implementation of the ASEAN Community 2015, 80% of which he said has been accomplished. Keeping up with mutual understanding and sharing will ensure a peaceful and prosperous community in the future not too distant, he added.

Regarding the parliamentary functions in My-

anmar, he said parliament is engaged in launching campaigns designed to promote democratic practices, adding that the International Day of Democracy was observed in Myanmar on Monday with the theme of “Engaging Young People on Democracy”.

He pledged that the parliament, in tandem with the government and the people, will definitely carry out democratic reform in the country.

Thura U Shwe Mann,

Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House), attended a luncheon hosted by Pany Yathotou, President of the National Assembly of the Laos and also President of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), at Lao Plaza Hotel on Monday.

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann also attended Executive Committee Meeting presided by Panny Yathotou at Landmark Hotel on Monday evening.—MNA

Israeli Ambassador donates Soul Bird books to Shan State

LASHIO, 16 Sept—In continuation of its educational project 2013-14, the Israeli Embassy in Yangon continued the distribution of the “Soul Bird” translation books, this time in Shan State.

On 12 September, Ambassador of Israel Mr

Hagay Moshe Behar presented the books “Soul Bird” to No 6 Basic Education High School in Lashio.

Previously, the ambassador delivered over 300 copies of Soul Bird books to the libraries in Shan State through Shan State government office.—NLM



Ambassador of Israel Mr Hagay Moshe Behar presents the books “Soul Bird” to Lashio BEHS No 6.—NLM

Myawady Township marks Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

MYAWADY, 16 Sept—A ceremony to mark the Myanmar Anti-Human Trafficking in Persons Day

was held at Thaungyin Hall of Myawady in Kayin State on 13 September.

Chairman of District

Anti-Human Trafficking Committee Deputy Commissioner of the district U Lwin Ko Oo explained

brief history of human trafficking and endeavours of prevention against trafficking in persons.

Vice Chairman of the Committee Commander of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Aung Myint read the message sent by Chairman of the Myanmar Central Committee for Prevention against Trafficking in Persons Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko.

Departmental officials, social organization members and students attended the ceremony and viewed round documentary photos and posters displayed at the hall.

Thuzar
(Myawady Town)



Natogyi Township builds sub-power station for control of power supply

NATOGYI, 16 Sept—A switch bay of 33/11 KV (5) MVA sub-power station is under construction in Natogyi of Mandalay Region not to cut out electrification for the local people.

In the past, the power supply was controlled from Myingyan, 20 miles from Natogyi. Upon completion, the switch bay will

help supply of electricity to the local people in Natogyi, said U Ye Htet Hein, Township Electrical Engineer.

Natogyi is supplying electricity to urban and rural areas of its area and Myohta round the clock through 33 KV power line.—Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

Eye patients get free medical treatment at Sitagu Myitta free hospital

THANDWE, 16 Sept—Eye specialists give free treatments to the patients at Sitagu Myitta eye hospital in Thandwe of Rakhine State every Sunday.

Deputy Commissioner of the district U Hla Myo and party, Chairperson Daw Aye Aye Kyi of District Women's Affairs Organization and Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Zargyi Win Myint and party viewed eye treatment for the patients at the hospital. Po Thee Cho Company and Sitagu Myitta Free Eye Hospital donate eye glasses and medicines to the patients. About 50 patients a week receive eye treatment at the hospital.

District IPRD



Teak posts of Golden Palace Monastery under inspection in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 16 Sept—Inspection at ancient teak posts commenced at the Golden Palace Monastery in Mandalay, sources said.

The inspection team led by British scientist Dr Brian Ridout of Ridout Group together with World Monuments Fund (WMF) carrying out maintenance of wooden structures.

"The outer teak posts are destroyed by white ants according to the checking the posts. Two types of white ants—the first one destroys wet woods and another, dried woods—was found at the posts. The posts outside area of the monastery were decayed due to infiltration of water. It is necessary to remove white ants from the building at first. Although it may not

be easy, all personnel must try hard to do so. I have much experience in maintenance of buildings across the world. Of them, the Sikh Temple in Punjab State of India and the Golden Palace Monastery in Myanmar are the most beautiful and grandeur. But, this monastery is more significant because it was made of teak," said Dr Brian Ridout.

He has specialized studies in scrutiny and evaluation over damage of teak structures, interrelation of white ants and moisture at historical buildings.

He will give talks on his experiences and maintenance for the Golden Palace Monastery at Jack Pherson Centre on 17 September. Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)



LOCAL NEWS

MANDALAY, 16 Sept—The collective sanitation was carried out around the moats of Nanmyo in Mandalay on 14 September.

Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Soe Htut and Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moun viewed round the sanitation tasks. Over 600 servicemen of Central Command Headquarters and 600 workers and Secretary of Mandalay City Development Committee U Khin Maung Tin, personnel of Mandalay City Development Committee, staff of

Sanitation carried out around moats at Mandalay Palace

Archaeology and National Museum Department and officials participated in the sanitation tasks.

They cleared bushes and grass at the vacant areas between the walls of the Nanmyo and moats.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Servicemen of local station and departmental personnel and local people participate in sanitation along walls of Nanmyo and moats in Mandalay.



Specialists lecture liver transplant and radiation treatment



MANDALAY, 16 Sept—The specialists from Apollo Specialist Hospital Chennai India and Mandalay Hospital of Mandalay jointly organized the hepatic diseases at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay on 13 September.

Liver specialist Dr Aung Kyaw Nyunt made a speech, and Dr Anand Ramamurthy of Apollo Liver Specialist Hospital

of India gave lectures on liver transplant and latest surgical treatment and Dr P Mahdev radiation treatment and oncology.

Director of Mandalay Hospital Dr Maung Maung Saw said that outbreaks of liver and liver cancer diseases decline in the world but rise in Southeast Asian countries. Specialists from Apollo Specialist Hospital will make discussions on

liver diseases at Mandalay Hospital in Mandalay once a month, he said.

Those wishing to receive liver and kidney transplant at Apollo Specialist Hospital of India are to contact the Mandalay Hospital for ranging necessary preparations in advance.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Red Cross members participate in first aid skill contest



MANDALAY, 16 Sept—Mandalay Region Red Cross Brigade organized the first aid skill contest at Bahtoo Gymnasium in

Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on 13 September morning.

A total of 180 members of Red Cross Brigades

from seven districts and 28 townships of the region participated in the first aid skill contest.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

MAWLAMYINE, 16 Sept—The disaster risk reduction course kicked off at the hall of the Red Cross Supervisory Committee Office on U Zina Pagoda Road in Mawlamyine of Mon State on Monday.

Deputy Director Daw San San Maw of Disaster Management Section of Myanmar Red Cross Society explained the purpose of conducting the training.

Mon State Minister for Development Affairs Dr Toe Toe Aung made a speech. The training will give lectures on loss management in disaster, basic terms of management, falls of disaster and capacity assessment theory, planning of community-based disaster

Disaster risk reduction course given to locals in Mon State



reduction and monitoring. Altogether 30 trainees from villages from Chaungzon Township of Mon

State attended the three-day course from 15 to 17 September.—*Hset Nay Min Aung*

Another explosive found in front of Myawady Township Court

MYAWADY, 16 Sept—While carrying out sanitation to display goods for sales, vendor U Tin Pe of Kyauklongyi area of Ward 3 in Myawady found a polyethylene bag believed to be a mine at a corner of the fence in front of the Township Court near Myanma Economic Bank on U Aungzeya Road in Ward 4 of Myawady in Kayin State at 8.45 am on Tuesday. He informed his finding of the security personnel.

The local authorities

led by the tactical operations commander of the local station and security personnel checked the suspected material and related parts. The security person-

nel could defuse the time bomb at 9 am.

The security personnel conduct investigation for planting the mine.

Thuzar (Myawady Town)



U-20 ISR football tournament continues in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 16 Sept—The group matches of the Mandalay Region Chief Minister's Cup Inter-State/Region U-20 Men's and Women's Football Tournament continued at the designated sports grounds in Mandalay.

On Tuesday, Mon State beat Magway Region 2-1 in the women's event at PyinOoLwin District sports ground. On Monday, Ayeyawady Region thrashed

Nay Pyi Taw 2-1, and Yangon Region whitewashed Taninthayi Region 14-0. In the men's event at Mandalay Thiri Stadium, Yangon Region crushed Chin State 3-0, while Kayah State won over Ayeyawady Region 2-1 and Magway Region and Shan State played a 2-2 draw at the Shwe Mann

Taung Sports Ground.

The match between Mandalay Region and Kachin State ended at a 1-1 draw. Yesterday, Bago Region beat Kayin State 3-2 and Rakhine State and Taninthayi Region finished at 1-1 draw.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Afghan rivals said close to ending feud on how to share power

KABUL, 16 Sept—Afghanistan's rival presidential candidates may reach a deal on how to share power late on Tuesday, according to Afghan and Western officials, potentially ending months of tension over the outcome of a run-off election held in June.

The struggle to find a successor to President Hamid Karzai, who has held power since the Islamist Taliban were ousted in 2001, has destabilized Afghanistan and paralyzed its economy just as most foreign troops withdraw.

The rival candidates for the presidency have been negotiating for months on how to share power and the US secretary of state has twice flown in to try to broker a deal.

Abdullah Abdullah, a former anti-Taliban fighter who later served as foreign minister, says the election was rigged against him.

His rival, former finance minister Ashraf Ghani, denies that.

"If no new issues arise ... it is possible and expected that it could be concluded at the meeting today," Ghani's spokesman, Faizullah Zaki, said of an elusive pact. A deal between rival camps is widely seen as the best hope for peace after the fraud-marred vote

dented confidence in the legitimacy of the process and fueled ethnic and tribal rivalries between the teams.

Preliminary figures indicate that Ghani led the second round by more than a million votes, and the results of a UN supervised audit are also expected to show he is the winner, according to officials involved in the process.

Abdullah's team, however, disputes the legitimacy of the process and is calling for political power to be shared. Ghani's camp says everyone should accept the outcome once it is announced.

"The whole process will mean nothing if the results are not accepted," Zaki said. "For the government of national unity to be shared, there must be a legitimately elected and accepted president."

Abdullah's team did not discuss details but said progress had been made the previous day and a clearer picture would emerge later on Tuesday. Under the terms of the deal, outlined in an agreement signed during a visit by US Secretary of State John Kerry last month, the winner would become president while a new position of chief executive would go to the losing camp.—Reuters



Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah (L) talks with a member of his team during a news conference in Kabul on 8 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

Indian PM looks forward to welcoming Chinese president in home state



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI, 16 Sept—Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that he is looking forward to welcoming Chinese President Xi Jinping in his home state Gujarat.

In an interview with Delhi-based Chinese journalists, Modi said he is glad to hold the first meeting with the Chinese president in Gujarat during Xi's state visit to India, as the state has a long relationship with China in culture and civilization. "It's a great thing for us to welcome President Xi in Gujarat. It is good that President Xi has included Gujarat in his itinerary of his Indian visit," said Modi, "I am going to Ahmadabad today for the event."

He said Gujarat had become home of many people who have traveled to China while also having hosted many Chinese visitors in the past, including 7th century Chinese Buddhist pilgrim Xuan Zang.

"The oldest visitor from China (Xuan Zang) stayed in the village I came from," he said, adding that these historical, cultural and civilizational ties are extremely important for China-India relations.

On India-China relations, Modi said the two countries are bonded by

history and connected by culture.

"Both countries are rich in culture. This makes our traditional relations special and unique," he said. Modi said that India and China have about 35 percent of the world population and 300 years ago, the two countries contributed to half of the world GDP.

"If we work together, we can not only lift up the living standard of 35 percent of world population, but also can bring special meaning to the remaining 65 percent of world population by contributing to economic prosperity of the world," he said.

Modi said in Hindi, the word "sugar" is "Chini" meaning China, because it is the Chinese who first brought the technology of sugar refinery and manufacturing to India.

"The word 'sugar' in Hindi shows deep ties of the two countries," he said.

Modi also revealed that he now has a new idea on boosting bilateral cooperation, which he will introduce to President Xi.

"It is called 'Inch towards Miles', or abbreviation of 'India-China towards Millennium Synergy'," said the prime minister.—Xinhua

M5.6 quake hits north of Tokyo, no tsunami warning issued

TOKYO, 16 Sept—A strong earthquake measuring a preliminary magnitude of 5.6 struck parts of the Kanto region north of Tokyo on Tuesday, but no tsunami alert was issued, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The 12:28 pm quake, which originated in the southern part of Ibaraki Prefecture, northeast of Tokyo, at a depth of around 50 kilometres, registered lower 5 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in parts of Tochigi, Gunma and Saitama prefectures,

and 4 in Tokyo.

Japan Atomic Power Co confirmed there were no abnormalities at its Tokai No 2 nuclear power plant in Ibaraki.

Tokyo Electric Power Co said it has received no reports of any new abnormalities at its Fukushima Daiichi and Fukushima Daini plants.

An ambulance responded to a call from a man in his 50s in Kiryu, Gunma Prefecture, who reported bleeding after being hit by falling lighting equipment, according to a

local fire department.

East Japan Railway Co said the quake temporarily halted its shinkansen bullet train service in the country's northeast. Operations between Tokyo and Koriyama on the Tohoku Shinkansen Line resumed at 12:37 pm.

No damage was reported on runways or facilities at Tokyo's Haneda airport and Narita airport near the Japanese capital, and there was also no impact on flight operations, according to Narita International Airport Corp and

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

The government set up a task force at the prime minister's office to gather information about quake damage.

Police said the quake caused parts of the ceiling near the ticket gate of Kitasakado Station on the Tobu Tojo Line in Saitama to fall, and windowpanes at a store in the city of Konosu were shattered but no injuries were reported.

Kyodo News

Philippines evacuates thousands as volcano glows red

MANILA, 16 Sept—The Philippines has evacuated more than 12,000 people from around the foot of its most active volcano as the crater glows red and authorities warn of a possible eruption.

Mount Mayon, known for its near-perfect cone shape in the coconut-growing central Bicol region, has recorded a series of recent quakes and rockfalls, indicating a possible eruption within weeks.

"We are now raising the alert status of Mayon Volcano from alert level 2 to 3," Renato Solidum, head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), said on Tuesday.

Joey Salceda, governor of the central Albay province, said more than 12,000 people were forcibly evacuated.

"What the alert level 3 did was to fast-track the preparation to evacuate

12,000 families in the 6-8 km extended danger zone," he said.

The evacuees would be housed in temporary shelter for as long as three months, he said. More villagers, facing the southeastern crater rim, would be moved to safer areas if Mayon erupts.

Troops were enforcing the no-go area, preventing people from returning home. A major eruption is not expected to impact the

country's farm output with mostly subsistence farmers tilling the land around the volcano. There is also no major industry in the area.

But an eruption could boost tourism, as happened the last time Mayon erupted in 2009. It has erupted nearly 50 times over the last 600 years.

The most destructive eruption was in February 1841, when lava flows buried a town and killed 1,200 people.—Reuters



A fishing boat passes the Super Shuttle Ferry 7 which capsized in strong winds and huge waves unleashed by Typhoon Kalmaegi, locally named Luis, in Manila Bay on 15 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

WORLD

Vietnam to host 9th round of Vietnam-EU FTA talks

HO CHI MINH CITY, 16 Sept — The 9th round of negotiations on the Vietnam-EU free trade agreement (FTA) will take place in Vietnam's central Da Nang city on 22-26 September, local *Saigon Times* daily reported on Tuesday.

The report quoted Ambassador Franz Jessen, head of the Delegation of the European Union to Vietnam, as saying that negotiators at the next round of negotiations in Da Nang will seek ways to do away with outstanding differences.

Local media revealed that geographic indication and government procurement are among the main challenges.

Vietnam's apparel may enjoy FTA preferential tariffs in the EU market only if it is made from local materials or those from EU nations.

The EU official said the FTA would cut at least 90 percent of tariff lines on Vietnamese exports and this promises a great opportunity for Vietnamese businesses to further penetrate into the EU market.

Statistics from the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) showed that Vietnam exports to the EU represent around 20 percent of its outbound sales. Only 40 percent of these exports are tax free or subject to low duties (owing to the EU's unilateral preferences under GSP) while the remaining 60 percent are entitled to ordinary import duties (MFN).

Every year, Vietnamese producers could have saved 150 million euros (194.16 million US dollars) for footwear and 180 million euros (233 million US dollars) for textile products in each of the past three years (2011-2013) if a FTA had been in place. Under the current GSP system, Vietnamese footwear products are subject to import duties of 3.5-4 percent and textile products to 9.6 percent during pre-2014.

European pharmaceutical producers currently pay import duties of 5 percent to 8 percent for their exports to Vietnam. They would have saved nearly 60 million euros (77.6 million US dollars) for their exports to Vietnam in 2013 if a zero duty had been applied.—*Reuters*

Russian troops redeployed to surprise drill areas



Yuri Dolgoruky nuclear-powered submarine

MOSCOW, 16 Sept — Russian troops have ended redeployment and urgent deployment of troops from the Eastern Military District, Airborne Troops and long-range aviation during

surprise military exercises, the press service and information department of Russian Defence Ministry said.

"Military units and formations of 29th, 36th, 35th and 5th armies have rede-

ployed and massed at firing ranges in Trans-Baikal, Kamchatka and Primorsky territories, Sakhalin and Chukotka regions on Tuesday. Troops have moved to operative areas and began

performing combat tasks," the ministry's press service said.

Troops have been transferred by rail, sea and aircraft and have marched more than 4,000 kilometres.

Aviation of the Air Force and the Command of the Air Force and Air Defence Troops from the Eastern Military District have concentrated at operational airfields.

"Around 100 warplanes and helicopter gunships have been redeployed for a distance from 400 to 4,000 kilometres," the ministry's press service said.

All transport network, including water and air routes, were used on the borders of the Eastern Military District to relocate troops during surprise drills. Territorial branch-

es of Transport Ministry, Russian road construction service, railway transport agency and sea and river navigation service were used to fulfil this task.

More than 20 military trains made of more than 800 carriages and platforms as well as tens of auxiliary vessels were used to relocate troops.

A total of 100,000 servicemen are involved in surprise war games, the press service said.

All troops involved in military exercises are on combat alert to fulfil the scenario of military exercises supervised by General Staff's officers.

Surprise complex military exercises of the Eastern Military District will last for a week to end on 18 September.

Itar Tass

Britain pledges state funding to Scotland ahead of independence vote

EDINBURGH, 16 Sept — Britain promised to guarantee Scotland's high levels of state funding, granting Scots control over health-care spending in a last-ditch attempt to shore up support for the United Kingdom before Thursday's vote on independence.

With polls showing the decision on the fate of the United Kingdom is too close to call, welfare spending and the future of Britain's revered National Health System have formed

a central part of nationalist Alex Salmond's case for secession.

In a deal brokered by former Labour Prime Minister Gordon Brown, the leaders of Britain's three main political parties said they would retain the funding equation that sustains a higher level of public spending north of the border.

"People want to see change," said the agreement, published in Scotland's *Daily Record* news-

paper and signed by Prime Minister David Cameron, Labour leader Ed Miliband and Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg. "A no vote will deliver faster, safer and better change than separation," the agreement said. Scottish-born Brown, who has already outlined a timetable to grant more powers to Scotland, is taking a leading role in trying to convince wavering voters to shun independence.

Cameron, whose job is on the line if Scots vote to

break the United Kingdom, warned on his last visit to Scotland that there would be no going back and that any separation could be painful.

But London's rush to grant more powers to Scotland in an attempt to pull voters behind the union risks stoking anger among both voters and lawmakers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland where such guarantees are unlikely to be given. Seeking to tap into a cocktail of historical

rivalry, opposing political tastes, and a perception that London has mismanaged Scotland for decades, nationalists say an independent Scotland could build a wealthier and fairer country.

Unionists say independence would needlessly breakup the United Kingdom and usher in years of financial, economic and political uncertainty. They have warned that Scotland would not keep the pound as part of a formal currency union.—*Reuters*

Nikolic: Princip's acted in defence of his country

BELGRADE, 16 Sept — Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic said on Monday that Gavrilo Princip had acted in defence of his country when he assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, a form of counterattack against the symbol of the monarchy that had taken away his country's freedom.

"The trigger on Gavrilo Princip's gun was the trigger for freedom and for the conquerors to start World War one. The excuse, reason and cover for ambitions of global conquest," Nikolic said at the opening of an exhibition on Young Bosnia and the Sarajevo assassination at the Yugoslav Archive. Young Bosnia was created under the European influences

of its age, motivated by a strong need for freedom and justice for the people of annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina, by the idea of unification and creation of a country of South Slavic nations, Nikolic noted. The exhibition is of extreme significance for understanding the influences that created the system of values the society of high-school and college students known as Young Bosnia accepted, Nikolic said at the ceremony, which was attended by member of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency Nebojsa Radmanovic and a number of ambassadors, including US Ambassador Michael Kirby. "That significance is particularly highlighted in a year in which the

whole world remembers the start of the Great War by reviewing the causes and measuring the consequences, not only from the point of view of historical facts, but also in the context of today's political and economic powers in Europe and the world," the president pointed out. According to Nikolic, past, present and future are the same in the sense that the great economic and military powers are able to impose their values for the future and in interpreting historical events. Young Bosnia was nothing new or unusual in Europe, and different motives influenced students and intellectuals across Europe, but they all shared the need to establish new values in the society,



Nikolic remarked.

Young people have always been guided by the idea of freedom, as their main motivator, Radmanovic said. The exhibition is a great contribution to the debate on the causes of World War One and the Sarajevo assassination, and all those who speak in favour of Young Bosnia's

actions are freedom fighters, he stated.

"Young Bosnia was attacked by those who wanted others' resources and defended by those who wanted freedom. We in Republika Srpska and Serbia see them as freedom fighters and thank them for it," Radmanovic pointed out.—*Tanjug*

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 17 September, 2014

Rights follow responsibilities

By Aung Khin

Some might assume the title 'Rights follow responsibilities' is a capitalist ideology. Then let us turn to the motto: 'No pain, no gain'. The latter is quite familiar in our society, while the former might be bitter for some persons.

Our society needs citizens with social respon-

sibilities. Every effect results from a certain cause. Taking responsibilities could turn out to be their reward. If a certain object in the world is not useful for the earth, it will turn up, like a bad penny.

In a working environment, both management and employees must respect their respective accountabilities. Supervisors must be monitoring the working conditions of their employees to facilitate the processes. Employees are also responsible for the guidelines and principles of their organization. Professional negligence is intolerable behavior not only for the organization, but also for colleagues. No one put burdens on others, and not insult other with carelessness.

Similarly, a responsible citizen must serve the country when required, participate in the democratic process, respect and obey laws, respect the

rights, beliefs and opinions of others, and participate in the local community.

At the very least, a person should take responsibility for himself or family. As a shadow goes along with its original object, rights normally follow responsibilities. In many cases, responsibilities reward rights and chances in a certain mean. Sometimes, less want results in more opportunities.

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.

Refresher course of UM-1 focused on safe water supply for consumption



Speaker San Lo explains technologies for water purification.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 15 Sept—Refresher course on treatment of water with chemical burden took place on Sunday at University of Medicine (UM)-1 in Yangon with the aim of updating technologies for safe water supply for public consumption as well as highlighting the role of water in human physiology.

Dr Khin Maung Lwin, Retired Director of the Ministry of Health, highlighted the community-based arsenic mitigation, saying that arsenic is naturally occurring metal found in all lead, copper and gold ores.

The environmental protection agency has set the acceptable standards for arsenic at 10 parts per billion in tap water; however, many areas exceed this limit. It can cause vascular disease, liver disease, skin lesions and neurological disorders.

Dr Sanda Kyaw, Associate Professor of the Department of Physiology, discussed body water compartment, daily water intake, water balance, regulation of renal water excretion, dehydration and over hydration. She said water plays an important role in maintaining normal

blood pressure and regulating of body temperature.

Prof Khin Win Sein from the Department of Biochemistry shared her knowledge on drinking water contamination and its effect on human health, possible sources of man-made contaminants, cancer risk from inorganic arsenic in drinking water and environmental chemical exposures.

Speaker San Lo, General Manager of Ichiryu Water Purification Company, discussed types of water, common types of water purification system, raw water composition in Yangon and technologies for water purification.—NLM

Resettlement plans under way for people affected by Thilawa economic zone project

YANGON, 16 Sept—The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is committed to ensure that people affected by the Thilawa Special Economic Zone project, are duly resettled, sources said.

According to Ms Junko Kikuchi, a member of an expert team hired by JICA, measures are being taken to help project-affected people (PAP) adapt to their new places, with some training being given to them on job

hunting, especially how to take up business opportunities to ensure a lifestyle better than their previous existence.

Speaking of the Income Replacement Plan (IRP), she said that the IRP is the first ever official programme of its kind in the country, adding that the plan is aimed at 'community development' and covers vocational training, schooling for children of PAPs and other infrastructure.



Ms Junko Kikuchi.

MNA

(Ye Khaung Nyunt and Myat Thanda Maung)

Myanmar amateur Ye Htet Aung wins two prizes in gold tours in Thailand



YANGON, 15 Sept—Three men and one woman golfers of Myanmar team participated in the 80th Singha Thailand Amateur Open 2014 at Panya Indra Golf Club in Thailand from 9 to 12 September.

Of them, Ye Htet Aung secured the second prize with 279, Maung Maung Oo, 10th with 287, Hlaing Min Htet, 28th and Phu Pwint Yati Khaing 40th. In the Singha Chiangmai Open 2014 at Mae Jo Golf Resort & Spa in Thailand from 28 to 31 July, Myanmar amateur Ye Htet Aung won the first prize with 277 stroke.—NLM

Ye Htet Aung accepts championship trophy in 80th Singha Thailand Amateur Open 2014.—NLM

**GOLD PRICE,
FE RATE
(16-9-2014)**

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K655,500 per tical: Selling K656,500

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K655,300 per tical: Selling K656,300

FE RATE

USD Buying K981 - Selling K986
SGD Buying K773 - Selling K779
Euro Buying K1255 - Selling K1285

Marubeni Corp presents scholarship to eight Myanmar students

YANGON, 16 Sept—Marubeni Corporation of Japan presented K650,000 each to eight students who won the scholarship awards for master's courses of Technological University and University of Computer Studies for 2014-15 academic year.

The Ministry of Science and Technology selected four students from Yangon Technological University and two from Mandalay Technological University and two from Yangon University of Computer Studies for the Marubeni Scholarship Awards. An official of Marubeni Corporation presented scholarship awards to the students.

The corporation has been carrying out business with investment in Myanmar for over 70 years. At present, the corporation invests in Thilawa Special Economic Zone. The scholarship awarding for the students was for the first time of its kind.—MNA

NATIONAL

Border Affairs Ministry, WFP discuss socio-economic development of Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Sept — Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win met Mr Dom Scalpelli, Country Director and Resident Representative of World Food Programme (WFP) on Tuesday at his office here to discuss socio economic development of Rakhine State.

They also discussed food assistance for people in Shan, Kayin and Kachin states, additional supports for both communities in Rakhine State, food security situation in Kokant self-administered zone,

ongoing medical assistance to patients with HIV and Tuberculosis (TB), taking a survey of refugees in Kachin State and accelerating the development tasks of the state.

They exchanged views on fundraising matters to carry out development tasks, cooperation in resettlement of Rakhine state, negotiation tasks to build a harmonious society, security management, current implementation projects and citizenship verification process of Rakhine State.

MNA

Administrative reform to improve smooth process of administration between Union government and region and state governments



Union Minister U Hla Tun focuses on reform for smooth administration between Union government and region and state governments.—MNA

state governments on a basis of priority with a view to ensuring smooth process of administration between the Union government and region and state governments, Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun said at the coordination meeting 2/2014 of the committee at the President Office in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

Not only the Union government but region and state governments is to actively participate in reform process of administrative sector, he said.

Vice Chairman of the committee member of Union Civil Services Board U Khin Maung Aye, deputy ministers, the deputy attorney-general and officials discussed the submissions of the region and state governments.—MNA

Myanmar moves to attract more foreign investments



Myanmar Global Investment Forum in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Sept — The Myanmar Global Investment Forum took place here on Tuesday, with addresses by Euromoney Institutional Investor Mr Tony Shale and Myanmar Investment Commission

Chairman Union Minister U Zeyar Aung.

Speaking at the forum, U Zeyar Aung said that changes to economic and financial policies have added new momentum to Myanmar's economic reforms,

with major reforms sweeping in taxation and pension practices and trade liberalization in a bid to ensure macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability.

According to him, the new foreign investment

law is expected to create a favourable climate for investors and generate greater cooperation between local and foreign businesses in the country.

He went on to say that Myanmar's economic reform is focused on trade, with its active engagement in ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) as well as its earnest contribution to the healthy development of global community.

He pointed out the need to attract more foreign direct investment in an effort to create economic atmospheres for the improvement of the macroeconomic infrastructure.

MNA

Myanmar planning to

(from page 1)

lake in the world because it produces very rare Spirulina and lakes in Mexico and Kenya where Spirulina is also found have been damaged, he added.

Twin Taung is about 6 miles east west of Budalin Township in central Myanmar. It is about 200 metres above the surrounding area.

According to experts, the whole lake was filled with Spirulina in March in the past, but now it has already lost its peak season.

The Myanmar government is also seeking ways to save its natural Spirulina, an important type of alga that is on the verge of extinction.

"We are very willing to save our rare Spirulina from extinction. All experts and bodies concerned must find answers to save our natural Spirulina," Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint said during a tour of inspection to Twin Taung Lake in the Sagain Region in January this year.

He urged experts and officials concerned to step up efforts for find ways to alleviate the threat to the algae.

According to experts, river water has flowed into the natural lake since 2008, but it didn't serious hit production of Spirulina until 2012.

But since early 2013, green Spirulina has turned yellow and production has fallen, signaling that the ecosystem of the lake has been damaged by the inflowing river water, according to experts.

Experts at home and abroad have discussed the issue based on their experience during workshops, but they have not yet carried out a systematic ground survey, the minister said.

Myanmar exports food-grade natural Spirulina and also uses it to make food, medicine and drinks for the home market.

Natural Spirulina is found only in Myanmar and China in Asia.

NLM

Production sharing contracts for EP-1 block in Magway Region signed

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Sept — Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy, Brunei National Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd of Brunei Darussalam and IGE Ptd Ltd of Myanmar signed the production sharing contracts for EP-1 block (Kyaukkyi-Mindon area) in Magway Region at Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung, Brunei Energy Minister The Honourable Pehin Datu Singa-

menteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Haji Mohammad Yasmin Bin Haji Umar and Managing Director of MOGE U Myo Myint Oo made speeches.

MOGE Managing Director U Myo Myint Oo, Managing Director & CEO Dato Paduka Matsatejo Sokiaw of Brunei National Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd and Managing Director U Than Win Swe of IGE Pte Ltd signed the contracts. MOGE will get US\$ 3million for signature bonus in signing the contracts.—MNA

Officials sign production sharing contracts for EP-1 block (Kyaukkyi-Mindon area) in Magway Region.—MNA



Suicide car bomber kills three foreign troops in Afghan capital

KABUL, 16 Sept — A suicide car bomber killed at least three foreign troops in an attack on a convoy near the US embassy in Kabul on Tuesday, the NATO-led coalition said, one of the worst attacks on international forces in the Afghan capital in months.

The attack near the heavily fortified embassy comes amid a months-long political stalemate

and an emboldened insurgency, with a presidential election still unresolved as most foreign combat troops prepare to leave by the end of the year.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack on the main road leading to Kabul's international airport, not far from the sprawling US embassy compound that is also home to other members of the NATO-led Interna-

tional Security Assistance Force (ISAF) coalition.

ISAF said in a short statement three of its troops had been killed and that it was investigating the incident. The coalition recalled an earlier statement that said four troops had been killed. At least five were wounded.

There was no immediate word on any Afghan casualties.

Afghan Deputy In-

terior Minister Mohammad Ayub Salangi said on Twitter a suicide car bomber had targeted a convoy of vehicles carrying foreign troops.

In a text message sent to journalists, a Taliban spokesman said the suicide bomber, identified only as Bilal, had been lying in wait for foreign troops in a car packed with explosives.

Reuters

Japan rules out military support for US fight against Islamic State

TOKYO, 16 Sept — Japan does not plan to provide any military support to the United States or other countries joining a coalition to fight Islamic State extremists in Iraq, the top government spokesman said on Tuesday.

"We plan to extend humanitarian assistance as our country is not allowed to make military contributions" under the pacifist Constitution, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a Press conference.

"Up until now, we have adamantly condemned terrorism in any forms. We'd like to support the Iraqi government and other countries in their fight against terrorism," Suga said about US military intervention.

The operations of Japan's Self-Defence Forces are strictly limited to defense under the Constitution, which bans the use of force to settle international disputes.

Prime Minister Shin-



Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga

zo Abe is hoping to give the SDF an expanded role abroad by increasing participation in peacekeeping operations, but has rejected the idea that Japanese troops will go to war.

In July, the Cabinet approved a reinterpretation of the supreme law to allow Japan to defend allies like the United States should they come under attack, but the legal framework needs to be worked out.

Kyodo News



US troops keep watch near a damaged vehicle at the site of a suicide attack in Kabul on 16 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

Iran supreme leader spurns US overture to fight Islamic State

PARIS/ DUBAI, 16 Sept — Iran's supreme leader said on Monday he had personally rejected an offer from the United States for talks to fight Islamic State, an apparent blow to Washington's efforts to build a military coalition to fight militants in both Iraq and Syria.

World powers meeting in Paris on Monday gave public backing to military action to fight Islamic State fighters in Iraq. France sent jets on a reconnaissance mission to Iraq, a step towards becoming the first ally to join the US-led air campaign there.

The United States launched an air strike against an Islamic State target southwest of Baghdad, the US Central Command said on Monday night, expanding its campaign against the militant group that has seized parts of Iraq and Syria. Iran, the principal ally of Islamic State's main foes in both Iraq and Syria, was not invited to the Paris meeting. The countries that did at-

tend — while supporting action in Iraq — made no mention at all of Syria, where US diplomats face a far tougher task building an alliance for action.

Washington has been trying to build a coalition to fight Islamic State since last week when President Barack Obama pledged to destroy the militant group on both sides of the Iraqi-Syrian border.

That means plunging into two civil wars in which nearly every country in the Middle East already has a stake. It also puts Washington on the same side as Teheran, its bitter enemy since the Islamic revolution of 1979. In a rare direct intervention into diplomacy, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said Washington had reached out through the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad, requesting a meeting to discuss cooperation against Islamic State.

Khamenei said that some Iranian officials had welcomed the contacts, but

he personally vetoed them.

"I saw no point in co-operating with a country whose hands are dirty and intentions murky," the Iranian leader said in quotes carried on state news agency IRNA. He accused Washington of "lying" by saying it had excluded Iran from its coalition, countering that it was Iran that had refused to participate.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said Washington was "not cooperating with Iran" but declined to be drawn on whether it had reached out through the embassy in Baghdad for talks.

"I am not going to get into a back and forth," he said. "I don't think that's constructive, frankly."

Islamic State fighters have set off alarms across the Middle East since June when they swept across northern Iraq, seizing cities, slaughtering prisoners, proclaiming a caliphate to rule over all Muslims and ordering non-Sunnis to convert or die.

IS fighters, known for

beheading their enemies or captives, raised the stakes for the West by cutting off the heads of two Americans and a Briton in videos posted on the Internet that showed the prisoners bound in orange jumpsuits.

French officials said they had hoped to invite Iran to Monday's conference, but Arab countries

had blocked the move.

"We wanted a consensus among countries over Iran's attendance, but in the end it was more important to have certain Arab states than Iran," a French diplomat said.

Calling the decision regrettable, Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari said Baghdad had wanted

Iran to attend.

Iran sponsors the governments of both Iraq and Syria and has been at the centre of defences against Islamic State in both countries. The United States reached out to Iran last year when secret talks led to a preliminary deal on nuclear issues.

Reuters



A Kurdish Peshmerga fighter launches mortar shells towards Zummar, controlled by Islamic State (IS), near Mosul on 15 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

US to Assad — Beware of interfering with US airpower in Syria

WASHINGTON, 16 Sept—The Syrian military's air defences would face retaliation if Syria attempted to respond to US airstrikes that are expected against Islamic State targets in Syria, senior US officials said on Monday.

President Barack Obama's authorization of the use of American airpower against Islamic State's strongholds in Syria has raised the question of whether Syrian President Bashar al-Assad would respond in some way. Senior US officials who briefed reporters said Assad should not interfere, that the United States has a good sense of where Syrian air defences and command-and-control facilities are located.

One official said if



US President Barack Obama

the Assad military were to demonstrate that it was a threat to the US ability to operate in the area, it would put Syrian air defences in the region at risk.

The United States has stressed it will not coordinate with the Assad government in any way in its fight against Islamic State. Obama's position has long been that he would like to see Assad leave power, particularly after using chemical weapons against his own people last year. But airstrikes against Islamic State in Syria could have the indirect effect of benefiting Assad because the extremists have been fighting the Syrian government during what is now a three-year civil war.

Washington wants to

train and equip Syrian rebels who are deemed to be moderate to hold territory cleared by US airstrikes.

The US military has conducted dozens of airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq, but has yet to launch any in Syria as Obama works to solidify an anti-Islamic State coalition.

The president will meet on Tuesday at the White House with retired Marine General John Allen, who is in charge of coordinating the activities of a coalition expected to include some Western allies and a number of Arab states. A senior US official said some Arab states have agreed to join the United States in launching airstrikes, but declined to identify them.—Reuters

Six policemen killed in blast in Egypt's Sinai

CAIRO, 16 Sept—Six policemen were killed when their armour vehicle struck an explosive device in Egypt's northern Sinai city of Rafah on Tuesday, an official security source told *Xinhua*.

The blast happened as the vehicle hit a planted explosive device along the Rafah-Arish road, the source said on condition of anonymity.

A statement published on the Interior Ministry website confirmed that one police officer and five security personnel were killed and another two civilians wounded in the blast.

Police and army forces are combing the area to search for perpetrators.

Egypt has been suffering from an Islamist insurgency led by Sinai-based militants, who mainly target security forces since the 2013 ouster of Islamist leader Mohamed Morsi and the subsequent massive security crackdown on his supporters. Hundreds of soldiers and police officers have been killed.

Sinai-based al-Qaeda-inspired Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis group claimed responsibility for most of the attacks against the security personnel.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has vowed to fight terrorism and restore stability of the Arab world's most populous state.—Reuters

UN Golan peacekeepers pull back from Syrian positions amid clashes

UNITED NATIONS, 16 Sept—UN peacekeepers in the Golan Heights are pulling out from four positions and a camp on the Syrian side of the Syrian-Israeli border due to a severe deterioration of security in the region, the United Nations said on Monday.

The decision to pull blue-helmeted observers back to the Israeli side of the Golan Heights comes after recent clashes between members of the UN mission, known as UNDOF, and al-Qaeda-linked militants. The skirmishes have been due to increasing spillover from the three-year-old Syrian civil war.

"The situation in UNDOF on the Syrian side and the area of separation has deteriorated severely over the last several days," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters.

"Armed groups have made advances in the area of UNDOF positions, posing a direct threat to the safety and security of the UN peacekeepers along the 'Bravo' (Syrian) line and in Camp Faouar," he said, adding that all UN personnel in those positions have

been moved to the Israeli side.

According to a diplomatic source, troops pulled back from four positions in the northern part of the so-called area of separation.

"UNDOF continues to use all available assets to carry out its mandated tasks in this exceptionally challenging environment," Dujarric said.

UNDOF, which was established in 1974, moni-

tors a ceasefire line that has separated Israelis from Syrians in the Golan Heights since a 1973 war.

Separately, a new UN report on UNDOF submitted to the Security Council, an advance copy of which was obtained by *Reuters*, said the Syrian military and various armed groups have increased their presence along the ceasefire line in violation of the 1973 truce, forcing the mission

to abandon key positions.

That was "significantly impacting the mission's ability to carry out its mandate," it added.

There was no suggestion that UNDOF was shutting down. Late last month, 45 Fijian peacekeepers were kidnapped by members of the al-Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front, Islamist militants fighting the Syrian army. They were released last week. At

the time the Fijians were abducted, 72 UNDOF Filipino peacekeepers were trapped by the militants, though they succeeded in escaping.

Syria and Israel technically remain at war. Syrian troops are not allowed in the area of separation, a narrow strip of land running about 45 miles (70 km) from Mount Hermon on the Lebanese border to the Yarmouk River frontier with Jordan.

UNDOF monitors the area of separation, with about 1,220 peacekeepers from six countries.

Before the Syrian civil war, now in its fourth year, the region was generally quiet and the peacekeepers had mostly found their biggest enemy to be boredom.

The force's personnel come from Fiji, India, Ireland, Nepal, Netherlands and the Philippines. The United Nations said last month that the Philippines has decided to pull out of UNDOF and from a UN force in Liberia, which is struggling with an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus hitting several West African countries.

Reuters



Members of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) ride on an armoured personnel carrier (APC) in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights before crossing into Syria on 31 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS

Nigeria sentences 12 soldiers to death for mutiny in northeast

ABUJA, 16 Sept—Nigerian military authorities have sentenced 12 soldiers to death for mutiny in the northeastern region where a Boko Haram Islamist insurgency is raging, they said on Tuesday.

The soldiers also attempted to kill their commanding officer during the mutiny in May, the military's statement said.

Reuters

Verheugen: Countries have unalienable right to EU membership



BELGRADE, 16 Sept — It is not possible to tell when the next country or a group of countries would be granted EU membership due to problems in the Union and the challenges on its margins, but the process must not be allowed to stop under any excuse, participants of the conference entitled ‘EU and the Western Balkans’ stated on Monday.

As former EU enlargement commissioner who held office for a number of years in the past during which he conducted the preparations for the accession of central and eastern

Europe countries, Gunther Verheugen expressed the belief that in case the EU is seriously approach to consideration of its future and role in the world, it has no alternative to the enlargement policy.

The idea of European unity belongs to every nation in Europe and this is why the question as to which country can be part of the process does not demand an answer based on charity but an answer based on the fact that all European nations have the same rights, Verheugen said.

He recalled that the conflicts in Kosovo and

the crisis in Ukraine gave ground to a widespread belief that peace is not a given in Europe and that the European integration process is the only instrument for and guarantee of lasting stability.

Enlargement is not something that we can opt for but do not have to complete, it simply has to go on in case there are countries that are interested in the membership status, Verheugen said.

On the other hand, there is also the fatigue and the president of the European Commission is not ranking enlargement at the top of its agenda, he noted and added that it is perhaps true that EU enlargement will not take place in the next five years, but this does not rule out enlargement policy.

The conference opened by speeches of representatives of the Belgrade-based Centre for Foreign Policy and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation as conference co-organisers. Director of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Serbia Heinz Albert Huthmacher stated that the future of the EU enlargement process and

economic recovery of the Western Balkans are deeply connected.

The crisis in Ukraine introduced fundamental changes in the security environment and it calls for a peaceful solution, Huthmacher said and added that he believes the outcome will exert a deep impact on the future of the Western Balkans.

On the other hand, Western Balkan countries need to complete thorough reforms and reconciliation process because these constitute the prerequisite for stabilisation in the region and continuation of the process of economic recovery which has full support of the EU.

Commenting on the message from Brussels that there will be no enlargement in the next five years, President of the Centre for Foreign Policy Aleksandra Joksimovic said that Western Balkan countries will need over half a decade to prepare for membership which is why the message, primarily addressed to the audience within the EU, does not essentially change anything.

Tanjung

Brazil election poll shows very tight presidential race



Brazil's President and Workers' Party (PT) presidential candidate Dilma Rousseff.—REUTERS

BRASILIA, 16 Sept — President Dilma Rousseff is running neck-and-neck with her main rival, Marina Silva, less than three weeks before Brazil's presidential election that will likely go down to the wire in a runoff, a poll published on Monday showed. The new survey was consistent with polls last week that showed Rousseff had recovered from an initial surge by environmentalist Silva and the race will go to a second-round vote that looks so close that some analysts are reluctant to pick a favourite.

The election is being closely watched by investors who are hoping that an end to 12 years of rule by Rousseff's Workers' Party will issue in more market friendly policies to shake the world's seventh-largest economy out of stagnation.

In the latest survey by polling firm Vox Populi, Silva has 42 percent of voter support in the expected runoff, one percentage point ahead of Rousseff, the same level of backing that each candidates had in the previous poll five days ago.

For the first-round vote, Rousseff's lead has widened to nine percentage points from eight, according to Vox Populi. Rousseff's voter support was unchanged at 36 percent, while Silva's slipped one percentage point to 27 percent from the earlier poll on 10 September.

Support for centrist candidate Aécio Neves, the market favorite, was unchanged at 15 percent. If no

candidate gets a majority in the first vote on 5 October, the two top vote-getters will decide the race in a runoff on 27 October.

The polls show Silva's sudden growth in voter support has peaked as she comes under heavier attack from her rivals, while a new scandal brewing at state-run oil company Petrobras does not appear to have damaged incumbent Rousseff.

Silva accused the Workers' Party of “raiding the coffers” of Petrobras after a jailed executive reportedly alleged that the company was at the centre of a vast kickback scheme involving dozens of politicians and even Brazil's current energy minister.

The Rousseff campaign has targeted Silva, an icon of the green movement, for delaying infrastructure projects needed for Brazil's development when she was minister and favouring industrial policies that will cause layoffs.

“The probability of victory is equal for both candidates,” said Credit Suisse analyst Nilson Teixeira. Silva looked like a sure winner when she surged last month, but that has changed and now “uncertainty is a more reasonable scenario to work with.”

The Vox Populi poll surveyed 2,000 voters on Saturday and Sunday and has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.2 percentage points. The results were broadcast by TV Record on the network's nightly news programme.

Reuters

Obama awards Medal of Honour to two Vietnam War veterans

WASHINGTON, 16 Sept — President Barack Obama awarded the Medal of Honour, America's most distinguished honour for heroism in combat, to two soldiers who fought in the Vietnam War, one who survived and one who was killed in action.

Obama hung the medal around the neck of 80-year-old Bennie Adkins, of Opelika, Alabama, who as a 32-year-old Green Beret in 1966 braved enemy fire again and again to help fight back an attack by the North Vietnamese on the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

The president also awarded the Medal of Honour to the survivors of Army Specialist Donald Sloat, who was killed in 1970 when he used his body to shield fellow squad members from an exploding grenade. Typically the Medal of Honour must be awarded within a few years



US President Barack Obama applauds after he awards the Medal of Honour to Army Command Sergeant Major Bennie G Adkins for actions during the Vietnam War while in the East Room of the White House in Washington on 15 Sept, 2014.

REUTERS

of the action, which is why more recently Obama has been honoring veterans who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But as Obama put it to a crowd gathered in the White House East Room in explaining the Vietnam War designees, “some-

times even the most extraordinary stories can get lost in the fog of war or the passage of time.”

Reuters

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J015R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.9.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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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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For Mitsubishi Electric Corporation
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Weather report

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (12:30)hrs MST today, the typhoon (Kalmaegi) over South China Sea is centered at about (200)miles East- Southeast of Hanoi(Vietnam). It is forecast to move westwards and cross the Northern Coast of Vietnam during next (12)hours.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 17th September, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions, Chin and Rakine States, fairly widespread in Bago Region, Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon - Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

EU, US blast Iceland for stepping up whaling

BRUSSELS, 16 Sept—The European Union and United States delivered a strongly worded complaint to Iceland on Monday condemning an increase in whaling and urging it to observe an international ban on the commercial hunting of whales.

In a joint move with other nations, including Brazil, Mexico and Australia, the European Commission said its ambassador in Reykjavik delivered a note — a diplomatic "demarche" — saying Iceland was harming efforts to save endangered species and urged it to stop trading whale meat, oil and other material.

"We ... call upon Iceland to respect the IWC's (International Whaling Commission) global moratorium and end its commercial whaling and international trade in whale products," read the text, also signed by Israel and New Zealand.



A man stands near a finwhale being towed to a port in Reykjavik on 18 June, 2013. The first finwhale of the whaling season is brought to land in Hvalfjord, Iceland, just outside of Reykjavik. —REUTERS

Iceland says its policy on whaling has a scientific basis and reflects effective management of marine resources. The North Atlantic island, home to 325,000 people, applied to join the EU five years ago after its economy was devastated

by the global banking crisis but EU leaders do not expect to expand membership of the 28-nation bloc in the next few years.

While not threatening government sanctions against Iceland, the EU envoy warned that whaling

could damage its economy, through boycotts that were supported by many voters:

"Public opinion in the countries that are Iceland's main trading partners is very much against the practice of whaling," the Commission said. — Reuters

Odile batters Mexico's Baja resorts, knocks out power to most area



Power lines and debris are knocked over on a street after Hurricane Odile hit La Paz, in Baja California on 15 Sept, 2014. —REUTERS

CABO SAN LUCAS, (Mexico), 16 Sept—Tropical Storm Odile ground its way up Mexico's Baja California peninsula on Monday, gradually losing strength after forcing the evacuation of thousands and smashing shops open to looters in the popular tourist area.

The government said it would use military and commercial planes to airlift stranded tourists after the peninsula's two major airports were closed on Sunday due to one of the worst storms to hit the luxury retreats of Los Cabos on Mexico's northwestern coast. The US National Hurricane Centre (NHC)

said Odile weakened to tropical storm status on Monday night after it became a category four hurricane over the weekend.

Odile was expected to weaken further to a tropical depression by early Wednesday, but the NHC said it would likely cause life-threatening flooding and mudslides in the next day or two. About 240,000 customers of national electricity utility CFE, or 92 percent of those living on the southern half of the peninsula, lost power on Monday, the company said in a statement.

The storm, with sustained winds of 70 miles per hour (113 km per hour),

shut down San Jose del Cabo's international airport as well as the La Paz airport about 100 miles (161 km) to the north. It was unclear when flights might restart.

"We're going to need about two weeks to clean this up, these are some serious losses," said Gerardo Rodas, 50, owner of a small hotel in the town of Loreto on the eastern flank of the peninsula by the shores of the Gulf of California.

Around 135 people required hospital treatment due to Odile, most for minor injuries, said Luis Felipe Puente, head of national emergency services. No deaths were reported.

Reuters

Madonna to release new album in 2015

LOS ANGELES, 16 Sept—Queen of Pop Madonna will release her new album through Interscope Records in 2015. Representatives for the 56-year-old ‘Material Girl’ singer said that she is currently at work in the studio and will release her anticipated 13th album

next year, reported Billboard magazine. “She’s currently in the studio with Diplo and having a lot of fun,” Madonna’s manager Guy Oseary added. Diplo previously said that the pair have created at least three “amazing smashes”, and that one of the tracks is “super weird”.

The star recently teased a collaboration with Alicia Keys, the latest addition in a string of collaborators Madonna has drip revealed through Instagram. The singer has also suggested that her forthcoming record will include contributions from Toby Gad and Avicii.—PTI



“She’s currently in the studio with Diplo and having a lot of fun,” Madonna’s manager Guy Oseary added. PTI

George Clooney to receive Golden Globes’ Cecil B DeMille award

LOS ANGELES, 16 Sept—Oscar-winning actor, director and producer George Clooney will receive the Cecil B DeMille Award, an honorary Golden Globe for his contribution to cinema, organizers of the event said on Monday.

Clooney, 53, one of Hollywood’s leading men on screen and behind the camera, will be honoured in January at the Golden Globes Awards, one of the year’s most high-profile awards ceremonies for film

and television organised by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

Theo Kingma, the association’s president, said the award was for Clooney’s “outstanding contributions both in front of and behind the camera.”

Clooney is a two-time Oscar winner, as supporting actor in “Syriana” and as a producer of the 2013 best motion picture “Argo.” He has also won three Golden Globes, including best actor in a motion picture for “The Descendants” in 2012

and “O Brother, Where Art Thou?” in 2001.

This year, he released his fifth film as director, the World War Two drama “The Monuments Men,” and he recently signed to direct Sony Pictures’ “Hack Attack,” about the phone hacking scandal that ensnared British politicians and media figures.

News of the Cecil B DeMille award comes as Clooney prepares to wed his fiancée, lawyer Amal Alamuddin, in Venice in late September.

The award is named after the influential Hollywood director who spanned both the silent and sound eras of film. Last year, it was awarded to prolific director Woody Allen, who in keeping with his custom to not attend awards shows sent actress Diane Keaton to pick up the accolade.

Recent winners include actors Jodie Foster, Morgan Freeman and Robert De Niro, and directors Steven Spielberg and Martin Scorsese.—Reuters



George Clooney arrives for the premiere of his movie “The Monuments Men” in New York on 4 Feb, 2014. REUTERS

Shah Rukh open to promoting ‘Happy New Year’ on Salman Khan’s ‘Bigg Boss’



SRK said: “That will be decided by the marketing team. But given an opportunity and if everything permits, I would definitely go for that. It is very gracious of Salman bhai and ‘Bigg Boss’ that they have thought of me.”—PTI

MUMBAI, 16 Sept—Shah Rukh open to promoting ‘Happy New Year’ on Salman Khan’s ‘Bigg Boss’.

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan says he has no issues promoting his upcoming film ‘Happy New Year’ on Salman Khan-hosted reality TV show ‘Bigg Boss 8’.

The upcoming season of the show will start from 21 September and

with SRK’s action comedy drama film set for an October end release, speculations are rife that the ‘Chennai Express’ star will share the stage with Salman to promote the movie.

“That will be decided by the marketing team. But given an opportunity and if everything permits, I would definitely go for that. It is very gracious of Salman bhai and ‘Bigg Boss’ that they have thought of me,”

Shah Rukh told reporters during the music launch of ‘Happy New Year’ here. “But due to some reason if I don’t go then please don’t take it as a negative,” he added. ‘Happy New Year’, directed by Farah Khan, also stars Deepika Padukone, Abhishek Bachchan, Boman Irani, Sonu Sood Vivaan Shah, and will hit theatres on 24 October.—PTI

New Yorker Kira Kazantsev “Happy” to be crowned Miss America

ATLANTIC CITY, 16 Sept—New Yorker Kira Kazantsev won the coveted 2015 Miss America Pageant crown on Sunday, a “three-peat” for contenders from the Big Apple.

As part of the competition, Kazantsev, 23, sang Pharrell William’s song “Happy”, keeping time by tapping a red plastic cup. She said in a question-and-answer segment that sexual assault in the US military was a problem that needed to be addressed by US lawmakers.

Wearing a long-sleeved, backless white gown and clutching red roses, the newest Miss America walked the runway with a wide smile and waved to a cheering crowd in Atlantic City, where the 94-year-old beauty pageant returned last year after eight years in Las Vegas.

Kazantsev’s win marked New York’s third consecutive Miss America title. The crown was handed to Kazantsev by Nina Davuluri, a New Yorker and the first Indian-American winner. Davuluri was the successor to Mallory Hagan from New York.

The title comes with a \$50,000 scholarship.

Kira’s platform is focused on protecting women from

domestic violence, and the Miss America Organization said she regularly spoke at homeless and domestic violence shelters.

Pageant judges scored contestants from the 50 US states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands based on a talent competition, a personal interview, their answers to an on-stage question, and their appearance in gowns and swimsuits. Atlantic City officials hope the pageant will help revive the city in the wake of recent financial turmoil.

The pageant was held in a hall next to Trump Plaza, whose slated shutdown on Tuesday means the gambling mecca will have lost a third of its casinos since the start of the year.—Reuters



Miss New York Kira Kazantsev (front)

GENERAL

Lockheed delivers next version of F-35 logistics system

WASHINGTON, 16 Sept — Lockheed Martin Corp on Monday said it has delivered the next version of the computer-based logistics system used to support the F-35 fighter jet to the US military for flight testing.

That paves the way for the system's deployment in the first quarter of 2015 to nine military bases in the United States where F-35 Lightning II training and testing is taking place.

Lockheed's Autonomic Logistics Information System (ALIS) enables daily operations of the F-35 fleet, ranging from mission planning and flight scheduling to repairs and scheduled maintenance, as well as the tracking and ordering of parts.

The F-35 programme has faced challenges in the past but is now making progress, according to US officials.

Mary Ann Horter, a vice president with Lockheed's mission systems

and training division which runs the ALIS program, said the company had met its deadline to deliver the next version of the ALIS system by 1 September.

She said the new software, called ALIS 2.0, and a portable memory device to be delivered by the end of the month will allow faster downloads of fault codes and other information from the jets, which will shorten the time required between F-35 flights.

Horter said it will now take 15 minutes to download the data from each F-35 after it returns from a flight, three times faster than the previous version of ALIS.

"ALIS development is on track and on schedule," Horter told *Reuters* at the annual conference of the Air Force Association outside Washington.

ALIS 2.0 will also give each country flying the radar-evading F-35 more advanced reporting features to manage their fleets and



Workers can be seen on the moving line and forward fuselage assembly areas for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter at Lockheed Martin Corp's factory located in Fort Worth, Texas in this on 13 Oct, 2011 handout photo provided by Lockheed Martin. —REUTERS

analyze data from the aircraft, Horter said.

Joe DellaVedova, spokesman for the Pentagon F-35 programme office, said the new version of ALIS was now in flight testing.

Flight testing of the new ALIS software is taking place at Edwards Air Force Base in California, and Naval Air Station Patuxent River in Maryland, Horter said.

Air Force Lieutenant General Christopher Bogdan, the Pentagon's

F-35 programme chief, said Lockheed was also making progress on a smaller, more portable version of ALIS, the next version to be released after ALIS 2.0.

Horter said Lockheed was on track to certify and test the portable version of ALIS in the first quarter of 2015. She said Lockheed continued to improve and update The ALIS system, taking into account input from pilots, mechanics and the officials that coordinate F-35 logistics.— *Reuters*

World 100 metres champion Magnussen splits with coach



Australia's James Magnussen celebrates after winning the gold medal in men's 100m Freestyle final at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, on 27 July, 2014. —REUTERS

SYDNEY, 16 Sept — World 100 metres freestyle champion swimmer James Magnussen is gambling on a new coach taking him to Olympic gold in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 after parting ways with his long-time mentor Brant Best.

The 23-year-old Australian successfully defended his title at the world championships in Barcelona last year but missed out on gold in the blue riband sprint at the 2012 Olympics in London by a fingertip.

"Brant has been such

an important part of my journey as a professional swimmer, and in shaping me as person," Magnussen said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Those things combined have made this decision incredibly difficult.

"As I launch into this next competitive block, I have resolved that in order to refocus my programme, and to achieve a sense of renewed invigoration, part of that change process involves working with a new coach." —*Reuters*

Singer Robin Thicke says was high during 'Blurred Lines' breakout year

LOS ANGELES, 16 Sept — R&B singer Robin Thicke said he was high on painkillers and alcohol in 2013 when "Blurred Lines" became a hit, and he exaggerated his contribution to writing the song, according to court papers filed on Monday.

Thicke, 37, said in a deposition in April that he had been largely absent during the composition of "Blurred Lines," due to being under the influence of opioid painkiller Vicodin mixed with alcohol.

"I had a drug and alcohol problem for the year and

I didn't do a sober interview. So I don't recall many things that I said," Thicke said in the deposition. He added that he was no longer taking Vicodin.

The song was created by R&B artist and producer Pharrell Williams, who said in deposition two days before Thicke's that he had composed the melody and written the lyrics for the hit, and that Thicke had "embellished" the origins of the song.

The previously sealed depositions were filed in Los Angeles federal court

on Monday in connection with a lawsuit by the estate of late soul singer Marvin Gaye against Thicke and Williams, accusing them of stealing from the Motown legend's 1977 song "Got to Give it Up."

Thicke's attorney Howard King said in a statement on Monday that the release of the deposition was aimed at "diverting attention from the obvious weakness of their legal claim."

Representatives for Williams did not respond to requests for comment.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(17-9-2014, Wednesday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:00 am

* News/ Weather Report

7:20 am

* Myanmar Language

8:00 am

* News / International News

8:30 am

* TV Drama Series

9:30 am

* Documentary

10:00 am

* News

11:00 am

* Documentary

11:15 am

* Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

11:30 am

* Musical Programme

12:25 pm

* Myanmar Video

3:40 pm

* Teleplay (Traffic)

4:15 pm

* Science and Technology Programme

4:45 pm

* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Second Year (Psychology)

5:15 pm

* Musical Programme

6:00 pm

* News/ Weather Report

6:20 pm

* Documentary

7:25 pm

* TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

* News/ International News/ Weather Report

9:00 pm

* News

9:30 pm

* Documentary
* People Talks
* Fine Arts Bosom of Dramatic Performance

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(17-9-14 07:00 am~
18-9-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Products of Myanmar Craft Blacksmithing
- * World News
- * The Photographer: Kyaw Kyaw Winn
- * Local News
- * Aesthetic Chinlone
- * World News
- * Pictures Decorated With Seashells And Gemstones
- * Local News
- * A Simple And Peaceful Life
- * World News
- * A Way of Life: Karate-do
- * Local News
- * Ngapali, Unique Spot To Relax
- * World News
- * Visiting A Serence Village In The Northwest of Myanmar
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- * A Visit To Today's Along-Daw-Kathapha
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- * Local News
- * The Richly Blessed Gem Land
- * World News
- * Orphanage



A young customer buys drinks via self-service checkout in an unmanned supermarket in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, on 13 Sept, 2014. The supermarket consists only of auto retailing machines which accept self-assisted payments by bank notes, coins or quick response (QR) codes. —XINHUA

Chinese women hold world champions Japan 0-0

INCHEON, 16 Sept — The Chinese women's team held world champions Japan to a goalless draw in their Asian Games soccer opener on Monday.

"Our players did very well in the game, but we have yet to reach technical or tactical peak," said Chinese women's team head coach Hao Wei.

"The first match is always

difficult," added Hao, who also noted there were some details the team need to work on.

According to the head coach, the Chinese team originally targeted at victory, which explained three substitutions throughout the match. "We wanted to make the team more offensive," said Hao.

Hao said he believed the Chinese

team would play better as the tournament went on.

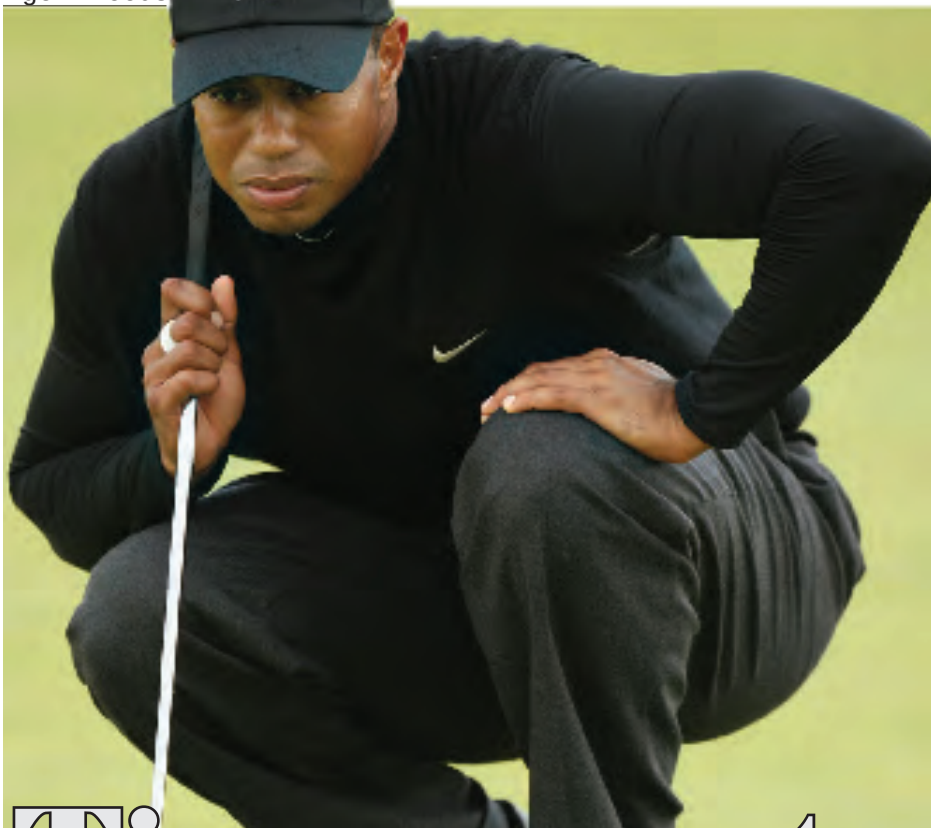
Xinhua

Ma Jun (L) of China vies with Kana Kitahara of Japan during the women's football first round group B match at the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, on 15 Sept, 2014. The match ended in a 0-0 draw.

XINHUA



Tiger Woods



Tiger expects

'very full' schedule next season

NEW YORK, 16 Sep — Tiger Woods has yet to swing a golf club since missing the cut at last month's PGA Championship but said on Monday his recovery from a back injury was progressing well and that he anticipated a full playing schedule next year.

Woods, speaking during a news conference for the 4-7 December Hero World Challenge in Orlando, an event he hosts and where the former world number one is scheduled to make his return, said his focus until now had been solely on regaining his strength.

"I haven't swung a golf club yet," said Woods. "I've just been shadow swinging without a club, but I've been busting my butt in the gym pretty hard.

"I've got my strength back, which

is nice. Now the next goal is to get my explosiveness and my fast twitch going, and that's the next phase of my training."

Woods, a 14-times major winner, has struggled to find form since recovering from back surgery in late March and his disappointing performance at the PGA Championship led to only the fourth missed cut of his professional career in a major.

Two weeks after the PGA Championship, Woods ended a four-year alliance with swing coach Sean Foley, whose redesign of the American's swing failed to produce a major title.

Woods, who worked with Hank Haney and Butch Harmon before joining forces with Foley in August 2010, has no plans to name a new coach.

"Am I looking for a new coach? As of right now, no, I'm not," the 38-year-old said. "Right now I'm just trying to get physically better, stronger, faster, more explosive."

Reuters

Chelsea, Costa set to heap more misery on Schalke

LONDON, 16 Sept — The good news for Schalke 04's defenders as they prepare to face Chelsea in their opening Champions League Group G match on Wednesday is that striker Diego Costa is nursing a slight hamstring injury.

The bad news is that even without being fully fit he has scored seven goals in his opening four matches for his new club since his 32 million pounds transfer from Atletico Madrid.

Schalke will have plenty to fear if, as expected, he plays against them at Stamford Bridge.

Those goals, which included a hat-trick in Chelsea's 4-2 win over previously unbeaten Swansea City on Saturday, have helped preserve Chelsea's

perfect start to the season, in contrast to winless Schalke's start in the Bundesliga.

Chelsea are top of the Premier League with a maximum 12 points while Schalke are languishing near the foot of the German table with one point from their first three matches.

They know what to expect from Chelsea, too, after losing to them 3-0 both home and away in last season's Champions League group stage, and on current early season form Chelsea look capable of beating them again by at least that margin.

After another impressive performance on Saturday, Costa, the first player since 1992 to score in his first four Premier

League games, said despite his great start he had not yet settled down to life in London, but was settling in well at the club.

"I have not yet been out in London, but I am trying to get to know it and bit by bit adapt to London," the Brazil-born naturalised Spain international said.

"To have an old team mate (Filipe Luis) here is very important. Ramires, Willian, Oscar, Cesc Fabregas and Cesar Azpilicueta have all helped me a lot. I am very happy."

Fabregas, who joined Chelsea from Barcelona in the summer, has also made an excellent start at Stamford Bridge, with assists in every game he has played so far.

Reuters



Chelsea's Diego Costa celebrates scoring a second goal against Swansea during their Premier League match at the Stamford Bridge in London on 13 Sept, 2014.

REUTERS