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Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Indonesian President

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug —On the occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, which falls on 17 August 2009, His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends felicitations to Indonesian Vice-President

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug—On the occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, which falls on 17 August 2009, His Excellency Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Jusuf Kalla, Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein felicitates Indonesian President

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug— On the occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, which falls on 17 August 2009, His Excellency General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia.—MNA

Secretary-1 attends opening of Junction Centre-Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug —Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Tha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo attended a ceremony to open Junction Centre-Nay Pyi Taw this morning. He unveiled the signboard of the centre. The centre opening ceremony was also attended by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General. (See page 7)

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends opening of new school building

YANGON, 16 Aug—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony to open new building at post-primary school in Aphyauk Village, Kawhmu Township, Yangon South District this morning. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint and Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint formally opened the signboard by cutting the ribbon. (See page 7)
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Monday, 17 August, 2009**

**Ensure nutritional development of mothers and children**

The Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association has organized Nutritional Development Week movements at state and division, district, township, ward and village levels since the first week of August.

The Department of Health and local people are working together to bring Nutritional Development Week movements to fruition that cover breastfeeding in the first week, nutritional development of under-fives in the second week, nutritional development of pregnant women and breastfeeding women in the third week, and elimination of iodine deficiency in the fourth week.

Excessive nutrition and malnutrition can pose a health risk for the health of the people including children and women. The majority of the deaths of under-fives due to various diseases are associated with undernourishment. Some 700,000 children in northern, middle and southern Africa are suffering serious malnutrition.

In Myanmar, activities on nutritional development of women and children are carried out on a broad scale, such as vaccination, disease control, environmental sanitation, school health care, and collecting documentary records on health standards of mothers and children.

Moreover, giving additional Vitamin A pills to children between six months and five years, and distributing iron tablets and Vitamin B1 tablets to pregnant women are part of the drive. Nutritional Development Week movements also include organizing cooking competitions on nutritional development of pregnant and breastfeeding women and cookery courses to enhance the health knowledge of the people.

Each child can live a healthy and happy life if members of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, medical staff and the people work in collaboration in community based nutritional development campaigns at a time when the Ministry of Health is expediting public health care service across the nation.

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**Commander inspects regional development tasks in Tamu District**

**NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug —** Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe inspected Nanthalat Bridge on Tamu-Aungzayya Road on 8 August and fulfilled the requirements.

He also visited the station hospital in Myothit Township and donated cash to the hospital. After the visit to the hospital, the commander met with townsenders and governmental employees at the village of Mintha.

The commander inspected the rain-fed paddy fields on both sides of Tamu-Aungzayya Road and met with departmental officials in Tamu.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe visited a private rubber cultivation farm and fulfilled the requirements of the farm. — MNA

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**US Senator, wife and party leave Yangon**

**YANGON, 16 Aug—** The delegation led by Senator Mr Jim Webb, Chairman of the East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and wife who had been here at the invitation of Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win left Yangon by air this afternoon.

Before their departure, Senator Mr Jim Webb, Chairman of the East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, met with journalists from Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and editorial staff from journals and magazines at the lounge of Yangon International Airport.

Firstly, US Senator Mr Jim Webb explained the purpose of visiting Myanmar and replied to the queries raised by correspondents. At 1.30 pm, the delegation led by US Senator Mr Jim Webb and wife were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Charge d’Affaires ai of the US Embassy to the Union of Myanmar Mr Larry M. Dinger, Military Attaché Colonel Brey R. Sloan and officials. — MNA

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**Vice-Mayor inspects regional development tasks in Seikkyi/Khanaungto Tsp**

**YANGON, 16 Aug—** Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, yesterday, inspected completion of constructing Shukhintha ring road and graveled Laythakwin Kyaung road and Khanaungto road in west ward in Seikkyi/Khanaungto Township.

Next, the vice-mayor visited the site chosen for constructing self-reliant pontoon in East Seikkyi/Khanaungto. He then called for construction of pontoon meeting set standard for long-term durability and separation wall as well.

Afterwards, the vice-mayor attended the prize-presenting ceremony at the hall of Khanauhto Basic Education High School where he presented prize to 4-distinction winner in 2009-09 academic year.

The vice mayor went to Township People’s Hospital in which he looked around surgery room and medicine stored room and provided cashes for the patients undergoing treatments. He then met with medical superintendent, doctors and staff and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

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**L & F Ministry holds monsoon tree planting ceremony**

**NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—** The 2nd rainy season tree planting ceremony of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries at the plantation of the ministry here yesterday.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein gave a tree plant at the ceremony.

A total of 2000 teak plants were grown by directors-general, managing directors and staff at the ceremony.

Next, the minister inspected chosen site for construction of Kywe Model Farm of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and attended to the needs. — MNA

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**Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Indonesian Counterpart**

**NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug—** On the occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, which falls on 17 August 2009, His Excellency U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr N Hassan Wirajuda, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. — MNA

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Three Iraqis killed in US-Iraqi mortar exercise

BAGHDAD, 16 Aug — Three Iraqi men herding cattle were killed on Saturday after wandering into the middle of a US-Iraqi mortar training exercise north of the Iraqi capital, the US military said on Saturday.

American forces were conducting a live-fire training exercise with Iraqis near Taji, about 12 miles (20 kilometers) north of Baghdad, when the men walked onto the artillery range, the military said. An 11-year-old boy was also injured and evacuated to a US military hospital where he was in stable condition on Saturday night, the military said.

The accident comes at a time when the US military is shifting its primary role in Iraq from combat to training Iraqi security forces.

As part of the transition, the US military said on Saturday it will have reduced combat power in Iraq at the end of the month by the equivalent of two brigades, or roughly 8,000 troops, meeting the first target in President Barack Obama’s withdrawal plan. — Internet

Hamas, Fatah trade accusations over Gaza clashes

GAZA/ramallah, 16 Aug — Hamas movement and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’s Fatah party on Saturday traded accusations over deadly clashes that claimed the lives of 22 people in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip.

The clashes erupted on Friday afternoon when an al-Qaeda-inspired Imam announced the birth of an Islamic emirate in defiance of the moderate Hamas movement that has ruled the territory for the past two years.

Hamas sent troops to Rafah city in southern Gaza Strip to arrest the Imam, whose supporters called him Abu Noor al-Maqdisi, but the move sparked fighting that ended this morning with the death of al-Maqdisi, a local commander of Hamas, six Hamas policemen and six civilians in addition to a number of the Imam’s followers. — Xinhua

Indonesia claims to be largest fish poaching victim

JAKARTA, 16 Aug — An Indonesia fishery official said on Saturday in Manado that the country has become the world’s biggest victim of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, the national Antara news agency reported on Saturday.

“Indonesia has become the biggest victim of poaching by foreign countries. Around 1.6 million tons of its fish are poached every year,” said Aji Sularso, director general of fishery and marine resource control and supervision under the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

He said that Indonesia has a fish stock of up to 6.4 million tons a year while unreported and unregulated fishing, the national Antara news agency reported on Saturday.

“Indonesia has become the biggest victim of poaching by foreign countries. Around 1.6 million tons of its fish are poached every year,” said Aji Sularso, director general of fishery and marine resource control and supervision under the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

Military deployment can make kids at-risk

TACOMA, 16 Aug — Thirty-two percent of children of a deployed US military parent scored at “high risk” for psychosocial problems, researchers suggest.

The study, published in the Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics, says the finding did not mean the children had psychological problems, but that they were more vulnerable to developing such problems.

The percentage of children at risk was 2.5 times higher than national norms and 42 percent of the at-home spouses scored high-risk levels of parental stress. Children of parents with high stress levels were about seven times more likely to score at high risk for psychosocial problems, the study said.

Parents receiving support from military organizations were less likely to report psychosocial problems in their child. Problems were also less likely for children of college-educated parents, but rank, the child’s sex and race/ethnicity were unrelated to the psychosocial effects of deployment, the study said.

The study, led by Eric Flake of the Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash., analyzed the responses to questionnaires administered to 101 spouses of deployed soldiers. Each spouse provided information on a child ages 5-12. — Internet

Britain suffers 200th death in Afghanistan

LONDON, 16 Aug — A British soldier wounded in an explosion in Afghanistan died on Saturday, the defence ministry said, bringing the country’s military death toll there to 200.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown called the grim milestone “deeply tragic news.” It is sure to raise more questions about Britain’s increasingly perilous mission in Afghanistan.

The Ministry of Defence said the soldier from 2nd Battalion the Royal Welsh died on Saturday at a military hospital in England. — Internet

Huge storm spotted on Saturn moon

PASADENA, 16 Aug — A storm cell the size of India was identified on Titan, Saturn’s largest moon, scientists from the California Institute of Technology said.

The methane cloud mass spotted over a cold desert area likely played a major role in shaping the area with significant amounts of precipitation, Caltech scientists wrote in the journal Nature.

The cell was found in April 2008 by Emily Schaller, now a Hubble postdoctoral fellow at the University of Arizona, Caltech and NASA said in a release on Saturday.

Schaller was observing an area not known for cloud masses when a methane cloud mass appeared, generating bright, transient clouds in a region where clouds had never been seen and were thought unlikely to form, Caltech spokesman Mike Brown said. — Internet

Firemen put out a fire in a burning vehicle after a bomb attack in Karrada District, central Baghdad on 16 August, 2009. Two people were wounded in the attack, according to police. — Internet

An expert evaluates antiques for collectors during a folk antiques collection exhibition held in Chifeng, north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 14 Aug, 2009. The 3-day exhibition opened here on Friday. — Xinhua

A man poses next to a dinosaur model exhibited at the Asturias Jurassic Museum during the “Trapped in the Ice” exhibition in Colunga, northern Spain on 14 August, 2009. — Xinhua

Two years.

the territory for the past movement that has ruled the moderate Hamas emirate in defiance of the birth of an Islamic inspired Imam announced when an al-Qaeda-in-Hamas-controlled Gaza accused over deadly Mahmoud Abbas’s Fatah and Palestinian President President Barack Obama’s withdrawal plan.— Internet

The clashes erupted on Friday afternoon when an al-Qaeda-inspired Imam announced the birth of an Islamic emirate in defiance of the moderate Hamas movement that has ruled the territory for the past two years.

Hamas sent troops to Rafah city in southern Gaza Strip to arrest the Imam, whose supporters called him Abu Noor al-Maqdisi, but the move sparked fighting that ended this morning with the death of al-Maqdisi, a local commander of Hamas, six Hamas policemen and six civilians in addition to a number of the Imam’s followers. — Xinhua
India faces drought but economists upbeat

NEW DELHI, 16 Aug—Crops are shrinking as India faces the spectre of drought but economists say they are still upbeat about the country’s economic prospects.

They are banking that a strong industrial performance will help offset the impact of the worst monsoon in years in Asia’s third largest economy.

Analysts have been buoyed by new data showing industrial production jumped by 7.8 percent in June from a year earlier — its quickest pace in 16 months.

Output was spurred by record low interest rates and government stimulus that have prompted consumers to buy factory-made products such as cars and refrigerators.

The figures last week came on top of a slew of other economic indicators suggesting India is starting to rebound from the impact of the worst global downturn since the 1930s.

“The domestic economy is slowly but definitely reviving,” said Deepak Lalwani, India director at investment house Astaire & Partners in London.

Japan’s big businesses expect recovery by mid-2010

TOKYO, 16 Aug—Two-thirds of big Japanese companies expect the country’s economy to recover by the middle of next year, according to a survey by Kyodo News released on Sunday.

Of 108 firms polled, 71 expected a recovery by the middle of 2010. Twelve of them said the economy was already recovering, 15 expected the turn to come in the second half of 2009 and the 44 others in the first half of 2010.

Kyodo attributed the optimistic outlook to improved business results sparked by cost-cutting, rebounds in production and inventory adjustments.

The survey followed a report by the Bank of Japan in mid-July that said the economy should start recovering from the second half of this year.

However, annual gross domestic product was expected to shrink 3.4 percent in the financial year to March 2010. The bank also forecast GDP growth of 1.0 percent for the next financial year.

In the Kyodo survey, conducted late last month, 20 firms said the world’s second biggest economy was “recovering slowly” while 51 firms said it was “leveling off despite signs of recovery.”

Mexico’s president favour trade deal with Brazil

SAO PAULO, 16 Aug—Mexican President Felipe Calderon says he supports the idea of a free trade agreement between Brazil and Mexico, the two biggest economies in Latin America.

Calderon says he’s enthusiastic about the idea of a deal proposed by Brazilian business executives to push for a commercial accord for the two nations.

Calderon made the comments on Saturday in Sao Paulo at the start of a three-day visit to Brazil. He will tour installations of Brazil’s state-run oil company on Sunday and is to meet on Monday with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

The Mexican leader says a free trade accord could help both nations because the economies of Brazil and Mexico generate more than 70 percent of all economic activity in Latin America.

Qatar acquire 17% Porsche stake

DOHA, 16 Aug—Qatar Holding has announced it will acquire a 17 percent stake in Volkswagen AG, which is merging with Porsche, in a deal that will exceed $10 billion.

This comes after the Porsche and Piech families said it will sell a 10 percent stake of their shares to the Gulf company. In a statement released late Friday, Qatar Holding said it will now be the third largest shareholder in VW, after Porsche and Lower Saxony.

The purchase follows the UAE’s Aabar Investment acquisition in March of a 10 percent stake of Daimler AG, famed for its Mercedes-Benz brand, indicating continuing Gulf interest in the European automotive sector despite the economic downturn.

The statement says Porsche will also establish research facilities in Doha as part of the deal.

Chinese TV makers under pressure of soaring LCD panel prices

BEIJING, 16 Aug—Chinese domestic TV makers were suffering losses because of soaring LCD panel prices.

The price of 32-inch LCD panels rose from 120 US dollars in January to about 200 US dollars in July — an increase of about 70 percent.

Huang Xiangping, an executive with the consumer electronics department of Tsinghua Tongfang, said domestic TV makers are selling LCD TVs of certain sizes with no profits at all.

Analysts say that Chinese TV makers had failed to foresee the current booming LCD TV market and didn’t order or store enough LCD panels.

Liu Tangzhi, a market manager of Chinese colour TV maker Skyworth Group Co, Ltd, predicted LCD TV sales would reach 30 million in China this year, more than doubling the figure of 14 million last year.

Gloom lingers in Central Europe’s economies

BUCHAREST, 16 Aug—While countries in western Europe have begun to snap out of recession, the economic decline has continued across much of central and eastern Europe despite some optimistic signs, analysts said.

“Eastern Europe’s recovery from recession will be slow but encouraging figures are beginning to appear,” said Bogdan Baltazar, a Romanian analyst.

Baltazar underlined that economic contraction in almost the whole region was less sharp in the three months to June than it had been in the first quarter.

The only exception so far has been Lithuania, where the economy shrank by 12.3 percent in the second quarter compared to minus 10.2 percent in the first.

On the other end of the scale, the Czech Republic last week said it had emerged from recession, clocking growth of 0.3 percent in the second quarter.

“We’d already hit the bottom in the first quarter of this year,” said Helena Horska, a Prague-based analyst with Austrian lender Raiffeisenbank.

Slovakia did even better, growing 2.2 percent in the quarter in large part thanks to cash-for-clunkers programmes in its main car export markets.

Mexican LNG term project at top of list of US natural gas projects

WASHINGTON, 16 Aug—Mexico has moved ahead of Brazil in the list of US natural gas projects considered “top of list” by policymakers.

The US Department of Energy Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Chief Scientific Officer Ron Ramey said that Mexico was ahead of Brazil, which had been leading the list.

The Mexican government has recently lifted import barriers to US LNG, while the Brazilian government said it was considering allowing imports of LNG.

A US State Department official said Mexico’s move was a “good sign” for US natural gas projects.

China’s economy to remain strong next year

BEIJING, 16 Aug—The Chinese economy is expected to remain strong next year, despite slowing US and European economies, the National Development and Reform Commission said.

The commission said economic growth could range from 8.5% to 9.5% next year.

The government has been careful not to raise expectations about growth too high, as it tries to cool the property market and prevent inflation from rising too much.

China has been growing at a rate of around 10% per year for the past two decades, but economic leaders have been trying to slow things down since the global credit crunch because of overheating.

Agriculture is the biggest part of the Chinese economy and is expected to remain strong despite the economic slowdown in the US and Europe, the commission said.

New Delhi, 16 Aug—Crops are shrinking as India faces the spectre of drought but economists say they are still upbeat about the country’s economic prospects.

They are banking that a strong industrial performance will help offset the impact of the worst monsoon in years in Asia’s third largest economy.

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Mexico’s president favour trade deal with Brazil

SAO PAULO, 16 Aug—Mexican President Felipe Calderon says he supports the idea of a free trade agreement between Brazil and Mexico, the two biggest economies in Latin America.

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Analysts say that Chinese TV makers had failed to foresee the current booming LCD TV market and didn’t order or store enough LCD panels.

Liu Tangzhi, a market manager of Chinese colour TV maker Skyworth Group Co, Ltd, predicted LCD TV sales would reach 30 million in China this year, more than doubling the figure of 14 million last year.
Chinese, Brazilian presidents mark 35th anniversary of diplomatic ties

BEIJING, 16 Aug — Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Brazilian counterpart Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Saturday exchanged congratulatory messages on the 35th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

President Hu, in his message, said the relationship had developed profoundly, showing great potential across a broad range of areas since the establishment of diplomatic relations, especially the establishment of the Sino-Brazilian strategic partnership.

Against the background of a complicated and deep change in the world’s economic and political situation, strengthening the dialogue and cooperation between the two countries and honoring the consensus that had been reached were in line with the basic benefits and wills of the two peoples, Hu said. That would also maintain and support peace, stability and development in the world.

China was willing to work with Brazil to promote the Sino-Brazilian strategic partnership and to open a brighter future for diplomatic ties between the two nations, said the Chinese president.

Xinhua

S Africa celebrates 300 days countdown of 2010 World Cup

BEIJING, 16 Aug — Friday South Africa’s 2010 World Cup Local Organizing Committee (LOC) celebrated the fact there’s just 300 days to go until next year’s football worldwide kicks off.

“We are giving away 120,000 tickets to South African residents for the World Cup in all games, and 40,000 of all tickets will go to construction workers who help work on the stadiums,” said Jermaine Craig, LOC Media Manager. According to FIFA’s website, matches will be held in 10 stadiums between 11 June and 11 July 2010.

Beijing sees 261,000 new cars in first seven months

BEIJING, 16 Aug — Beijing reported the registration of 261,000 new cars in the first seven months, or about 1,240 daily, up 9 percent from the same period last year. Private cars took about 97 percent of the new cars registered in this period, according to the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau.

New cars with engine displacement of 1.6 liters or below hit nearly 200,000 in this period. It could be attributed to the government’s policies to encourage the public to buy low-emission cars for environmental protection.

Beijing had 5.47 million drivers by 6 Aug. Among them, 11.3 percent were aged below 25, according to the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau.

Xinhua

Iran training plane crash kills two

TEHRAH, 16 Aug — A training plane crashed west of Tehran on Saturday, killing two people on board, the semi-official Mehr news agency reported. The training plane crashed a few minutes after take off from Payam airport at 7:00 am (0230 GMT) on Saturday,” Mohammadali Zohoori, manager of the Payam International Airport in the city of Karaj, was quoted as saying. “According to received information, two people on board were killed,” he said, adding that the reason of the crash is under investigation and the airport has no responsibility for the incident.

Xinhua

Spain sees significant drop in illegal immigrants in 2009

MADRID, 16 Aug — The number of illegal migrants trying to reach Spain dropped significantly in 2009 as the country intensified its coastal patrol and repatriations, Interior Ministry data showed on Friday. A total of 4,457 African illegal migrants reached Spanish coasts in the first seven months of 2009, down 63.6 percent from the same period last year and equaled almost a quarter of the number recorded in 2006.

The Interior Ministry said stringent policies of border control and repatriation have held back many potential illegal immigrants.

Spain’s Canary Islands, which is located just off the northwest coast of mainland Africa and often serves as the springboard for illegal immigrants to enter the European Union (EU), have seen a significant fall in illegal immigrants. In the first seven months of 2009, only 1,798 illegal migrants arrived in the islands, down 63.6 percent from 2008.

In April and May this year, there were no single illegal immigrants setting foot on the Canary islands, breaking a record held since 1999 that there had been illegal immigrants landing at the islands every month.

Xinhua

UN climate change talks endangered by slow progress

BONN, 16 Aug — The talks on sealing a deal in Copenhagen later this year to curb greenhouse gas emissions need to pick up speed amid warnings that the negotiating process will be endangered otherwise, analysts say.

The third round of talks, which concluded in Bonn, Germany, last week, focused on negotiating a huge 200-plus-page draft treaty made during previous round of talks. The new draft to be agreed on in Copenhagen, Denmark in December will replace the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol whose first commitment period expires at the end of 2012.

Yvo de Boer, executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, said on Friday that negotiations would need to considerably pick up speed for the world to achieve a successful result at Copenhagen.

He warned that “if we continue at this rate we’re not going to make it.” We have a 200-plus-page text riddled with square brackets (where issues are unresolved),” he said at the opening of the Bonn meeting. “And it worries me to think how on earth we’re going to whistle that down to meaningful language with just five weeks of negotiating time left.”

Xinhua

Two visitors look into traditional dolls exhibited at the 2009 Central China Wuhan Wedding and Tourism Expo held in Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province, on 15 Aug, 2009. —Xinhua

A staff member shows a gold abacus in Beijing, capital of China, on 14 Aug, 2009. The abacus, issued by the China Golddeal Investment Co, Ltd. will be marketed on 18 Aug. —Xinhua

A man looks at a sand sculpture during the Sand Sculptures Festival in Rorschach at Lake Constance on 14 Aug, 2009. —Xinhua

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Suicide bomber kills two security members in W Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 Aug — A suicide bomber struck on Saturday near an Iraqi Army base in the central city of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar Province, killing an officer and a soldier and wounding nine soldiers, a provincial police source said.

A suicide bomber blew up his explosive-belt near the base in the Qadisiyah district in central Ramadi, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Iraq security forces cordoned off the scene as ambulances evacuated the casualties to the hospital.

Anbar Province is part of the so-called Sunni Triangle, which has been the scene of frequent deadly attacks recently.

The Province once was a main stronghold for insurgent groups, including al-Qaida network in Iraq, during the years following the US-led invasion in 2003.—Xinhua

Rich, poor see similar cognitive decline in old age

LOS ANGELES, 16 Aug — Socioeconomic status seems to make no difference in mental decline among rich and poor people after the age of 70, according to a new study.

The study challenges previous claims that economic status and background have an impact on cognitive functioning among the elderly.

Rates of cognitive decline among people aged 70 and older depended on other factors and were similar across socioeconomic and racial/ethnic groups, according to the study conducted by researchers at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA).

The researchers looked at data collected from 6,476 people born before 1924 who took part in the study of Assets and Health Dynamics Among the Oldest. Participants were tested five times between 1993 and 2002 on various memory and cognition tasks, including word recall, subtraction, attention, language and knowledge of current affairs.—Xinhua

Firefighting pilot missing after crash

VANCOUVER, 16 Aug — Police searched Saturday for the pilot of a helicopter that crashed into a river while fighting wildfires in western Canada.

The pilot was filling up with water when the helicopter went down in the North Thompson-Fraser River at about 4:20 pm on Friday, the Vancouver Sun reported. He was helping fight the Intinimp fire, one of scores of wildfires this season in British Columbia.

Drivers from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police joined local search-and-rescue teams. The search was called off about 8:30 pm and resumed on Saturday morning.

Police identified the missing man as Robert Christopher, Woodhead, 53, of Stoney Creek, Ont., the Province reported.

Don’t brush with baldness: put down that comb

An “unhinged” Russian woman threw a teacup attack at the world’s most famous painting, Leonardo da Vinci’s “Mona Lisa,” but it emerged unscathed due to its bullet-proof glass cover, the Louvre museum said on Tuesday.

“The young woman took a cup out of her bag and threw it over the heads of other people who were looking at the painting. The cup smashed on the bullet-proof glass which was slightly scratched,” a spokesman said.

“It looks like it was done by someone who was unhinged and wanted to draw attention to herself,” he said.

The woman put up no resistance when museum guards arrested her after the incident on August 2.

She was handed over to police who said the woman “did not have all her mental faculties and has been transferred to the police psychiatric infirmary. The Louvre, the biggest art museum in the world, has thousands of paintings, but most of the millions of visitors a year make a bee-line for the Mona Lisa, known in France as La Joconde.”

“Don’t brush with baldness: put down that comb results, as in medical circles the comb is believed to improve blood circulation and reduce hair loss,” Kirdman, whose study was recently published in the Journal of Dermatological Treatment.

Don’t brush with baldness: put down that comb

Leonardo da Vinci’s “Mona Lisa” at the Louvre museum in Paris. An “unhinged” Russian woman threw a teacup attack at the “Mona Lisa,” but it emerged unscathed due to its bullet-proof glass cover, the Louvre museum has said.

Man bikes 4,639 miles despite dialysis

A 57-year-old man who spent most of his life on dialysis says he bicycled 4,639 miles from California to Washington to highlight the medical needs of others.

Shad Ireland, who has no working kidneys, said he traveled thousands of miles on his bicycle to the U.S. Capitol to highlight the plight of the half a million people currently living on dialysis due to kidney failure, ABC News reported Thursday.

“For me to be on dialysis for 27 years, for me to do two triathlons, has really got the medical community scratching their heads,” Ireland said. “If you asked any doctor, if you told them about me, they would say it’s impossible.”

Ireland said he also hopes his bicycling feat will help bring attention to those U.S. residents facing possible kidney failure due to diabetes, high blood pressure or obesity.

In order to complete his cross-country journey, Ireland was forced to make stops along the way to undergo four-hour-long dialysis sessions.

ABC News said, according to doctors, dialysis patients can be bound to wheelchairs, suffer bone loss and face the possibility of death in relation to the medical treatment.

NEWS ALBUM

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Suicide Bomber kills two security members in W Iraq

Baghdad, 16 Aug — A suicide bomber struck on Saturday near an Iraqi Army base in the central city of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar Province, killing an officer and a soldier and wounding nine soldiers, a provincial police source said.

A suicide bomber blew up his explosive-belt near the base in the Qadisiyah district in central Ramadi, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Iraq security forces cordoned off the scene as ambulances evacuated the casualties to the hospital.

Anbar Province is part of the so-called Sunni Triangle, which has been the scene of frequent deadly attacks recently.

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Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends opening of new school...

(from page 1)

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and the minister sprinkled the scented water on it.

At the second session of the ceremony, the commander and the minister delivered addresses and presented sports gear to the headmistress.

Kawhmu Township education officer spoke words of thanks and the minister delivered a speech for making effort to carry out development tasks. MNA

Prizes presented for performing arts and magic contests

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—The prize-presentation ceremony for the eighth performing arts and magic competitions of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare under the Ministry of Defence took place at No.3 Mobile Public Relations Unit in Mandalay this morning. It was attended by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe, Brig-Gen Than Soe of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung, senior military officers of Mandalay Station, advisers, artists and others.

Officials concerned awarded the first, second and third prize winners and prize-winning groups. The commander presented the championship shield to No.4 Mobile Public Relations Unit. Later, talks on performing arts were given. MNA

A&I Minister meets with guests

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo met with Mr. Chu Chong Phuang, Ambassador of Socialist Republic of Vietnam at 5 pm, CEO Mr. Wang Xu of Sichuan Donun Corporation and party of the People’s Republic of China at 6.15 pm and Managing Director Mr. Tan Chee Heng and party of Techo Corporation Pte Ltd at 6.30 pm at the ministry here on 13 August separately.

They discussed cooperation in agriculture sector each other. MNA

Warming of arctic current over 30 years triggers release of methane gas

SCIENCE DAILY, 16 Aug—The warming of an Arctic current over the last 30 years has triggered the release of methane gas, a potent greenhouse gas, from methane hydrate stored in the sediment beneath the seabed. Scientists at the National Oceanography Centre Southampton working in collaboration with researchers from the University of Birmingham, Royal Holloway London and IFM-Geomar in Germany have found that more than 250 plumes of bubbles of methane gas are rising from the seabed of the West Spitsbergen continental margin in the Arctic, in a depth range of 150 to 400 metres.

Researchers in Germany have found that more than 250 plumes of bubbles of methane gas are rising from the seabed of the West Spitsbergen continental margin in the Arctic, in a depth range of 150 to 400 metres. Internet

Nutritional Development Week takes place in Bago

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—The opening of Nutritional Development Week took place at the Town Hall in Bago on 5 August and Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Hla Swe, the commander called on the audience to take part to the development tasks.

YANGON, 16 Aug—The opening ceremony of the eighth performing arts and magic competitions of Yangon East District was held at Yankin Township Education College in Yankin Township yesterday morning. The commander formally opened the competition. Next, the artistes presented variety songs. After that, the commander and wife gave the basket of flowers and cash awards to the artistes. MNA

Commander meets officials of State’s DAC

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye on 7 August met with executives and officials of State and township Development Affairs Committees at the Rakhine State Development Council Office in Sittway.

At the meeting, the commander called for making effort to inspect the quality of buildings, football ground and basketball ground, and classrooms. MNA

Meeting on extended paddy cultivation held in Magway

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—The coordination meeting on extension of paddy growing in Magway Division was held at Magway Division PDC Office in Magway on 5 August. Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe delivered an address and fulfilled the needs. MNA

YANGON Mayor inspectes task for smooth transport

YANGON, 16 Aug—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Then Lin went to City Clinic where he inspected renovation of the building task for smooth transport.

The coordinator and wife gave the basket of flowers and cash awards to the artistes. MNA

YANGON, 16 Aug—The opening of Nutritional Development Week took place at the Town Hall in Bago on 5 August and Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Hla Min delivered an address. Next, the commander and officials inspected the quality of iodized salt and gave mineral and vitamin B-1 tablets to pregnant women and breastfeeding women. He also fed Vitamin A tablets to children. MNA

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Officials concerned awarded the first, second and third prize winners and prize-winning groups. The commander presented the championship shield to No.4 Mobile Public Relations Unit. Later, talks on performing arts were given. MNA
Maung Kalu: How are you, Grandpa? I have just got home from a journey, and here are some fruit I bought on my journey for you.

Grandpa: Thank you, Maung Kalu. I thought you were here to say something about the hot news.

Lu: Right, that is one of the purposes why I am here. The news was on TV repeatedly the whole day on 11 August. On that day, I was in the country.

Grandpa: I happened to switch on the TV to watch that news when neighbours next to my door told me about it. By the way, what were the comments of country folks you met in the journey? Were they interested in the news?

Lu: No, they weren’t. When they heard of the news, they said, “Oh, is that so? The case is over, then.” What they are interested in is that peace has returned to normal the whole country due to the fact that armed groups are returning to the legal fold one after another.

Grandpa: You’re right. Since our country regained independence, many groups have been involved in armed conflicts against each other. Trains were blasted often and many people were killed in the bomb attacks. Insurgents set fire to villages once they were dissatisfied with situations. They collected extortion money from villagers. They often committed massacres. So, local people were in a state of panic. Indeed, a man can never come to power politicians are crazy about as long as he gets involved in violence, massacre, burning down villages and bomb attacks. He will be bestowed with the right to manage public affairs on behalf of the people only if he is elected by the people. I want to serve the people’s interest. In reality, the people entrust duties and authority to him.

Lu: The people are the ultimate owner of power, then. In an independent country, sovereignty is in the hands of the people. In an election, the people vote for candidates who are thought to be capable of serving the public interest. Indeed, they vested duties and authority in the candidates they are in support of.

Grandpa: Of course. Politicians, political parties and parliamentary candidates canvass for votes in elections by pledging the people what they will do and what programmes they will implement in the public interest if they are elected. Lu: The people vest the duties to exercise the three sovereign powers on their behalf in a systematic, not irresponsible way. Principles on the ways to exercise sovereign powers are prescribed in the State constitution.

Grandpa: Good, you have improved a lot. The State constitution is a thing that can guarantee freedom of business, nation’s economic growth, a prosperous future and higher living standard of the people. Those who are responsible for complying with the provisions of the constitution are representatives-elect. Therefore, I would say those who want to enter into politics must be the one who are fond of doing good for others. Serving others’ interest is a form of meritorious deed.

Lu: What I notice is that politicians must be loyal to the people and must serve the public interest in an upright way in order that they are vested with the people’s confidence. But, sometimes politicians later consider duties and author-

ity to be power. Then, they think nothing is more important than power.

Grandpa: If a politician is crazy about power and he no longer considers that power is a heavy duty to serve public interest, he begins to disregard public interest and misuse power. Then, he becomes desperate to seize power. He turns to armed insur-
gency and even commits acts of terrorism.

Lu: To impose economic sanctions in complicity with foreign countries against the mother country, launch bomb attacks to kill civilians and incite mass protests to destroy the people’s peaceful life is stupid, isn’t it, Grandpa?

Grandpa: I agree with you. If a politician really wants to serve the public interest and enjoy democracy, he should not trouble the people. He must be loyal and show loving-kindness for the people to win their trust. Instead, if he deepens poverty of the people until his party comes to power, urges foreign countries to impose economic sanctions against the nation, the people will get into trouble. Then, if the people are impoverished, they will be dissatisfied with the government. Then, the people take to the streets to oppose the government, and his party will come to power easily. I am sure you notice such power-craving politicians.

Lu: Yes, I do, Grandpa. To trouble the public instead of trying to win people’s votes, trust and reliance is not doing politics or democracy. If a politician claims he wants to lead the nation, but he makes the people impoverished, creates mass protests and violates the law and generates public outrage to destroy the life of the people, he will …

Grandpa: He will be kicked out of politics, then. Now, 92.48 per cent of the people have approved the new constitution the people’s representatives adopted, taking time. So, if they love the country, they have to respect the constitution for the opportunity to serve public interest. They have to take the way to democracy the people have paved. Then, they will have to stand for election in the multiparty democracy election that is to be held in 2010 in accordance with the new constitution.

Lu: So, the democratic process we are carrying out is getting smooth, isn’t it, Grandpa? You have di-

verted our conversation about the news story. We have heard from world news that Myanmar Television aired on 11 August, explain-

ing the transition to democracy.

Grandpa: Why are you in such a hurry? I’ll tell you now. Whatever’s done in a nation, politics, economy or social affairs, there is the law of that nation to be respected. If one is to violate law under the name of politics, one will be a criminal. If one uncrus-
pulously does what should not be done by breaching the economic laws one will be a greedy person, smuggler or criminal. So whatever one does, one must be in conformity with the law. The law itself has to be prescribed to ensure perpetuity of the State, national prosperity, peace and security of the peo-

ple, their freedom and improvement of their living standards. Respect for the law is to serve the people’s interests. If one violates law, one will face charges in accord with the law regardless of who-
ever one is rich or poor, educated or uneducated, employed or unemployed, high-ranking or low-
ranking. What happened to the US citizen John William Yettaw? He was sentenced US citizen John William Yettaw to seven years rigorous imprisonment for his three charges and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Daw Khin Khin Win and Ma Win Ma Ma to three years rigorous imprisonment each. The moment we heard this news on TV, we also had to watch news that the office of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council sent two letters of directive to the Ministry of Home Affairs on 10 August.

Grandpa: Well, the sentences were passed in a just and fair way by the court according to their respective charges. The directive of the Office of the SPDC Chairman was issued one day before Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s sentence was passed. The sentences of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Daw Khin Khin Win and Ma Win Pa Pa were commuted by half. Instead of serving rigorous imprison-

ment, she was allowed to stay at her house in peace. Under discourse, the directives said that if they three displayed good conduct, pardon would be granted accordingly.

Lu: So, although they are to serve three years imprison-

ment each, they are now to serve only 18 months according to the directives of the Office of the SPDC Chairman. They have only half of their sentence and can go back to their houses without serving their prison terms. Again, if they display good conduct during the remainder of their sentences, pardon will be granted and they will be freed forever.

Grandpa: This is loving-kindness and compassion shown by the State, like parents, towards chil-
dren. In other words, it is a way of showing goodwill attitude towards Daw Suu Kyi, being the daughter of Bogyoke Aung San, the architect of independence. As a result, there will be fruits of community peace and tranquility as there has been no cause for those wanting to incite unrest and violence. It is also a good deed setting aside the hatred between one another. The path we Myanmar people speedily marching on to achieve democracy will be free from any disturbances. Everyone would have realized the magnanimity and farsightedness of the State. There were many who phoned me after they had heard of the news. They praised the State for its good move.

Lu: Those from other towns are also pleased with that and even the sounds of outside instigation have been quiet.

Grandpa: It is like a Myanmar saying that goes by “One’s goodwill attracts another’s.” It can also be said that this is the reflection of goodwill. The State has eased restrictions by showing goodwill, loving-kindness and compassion. So in return, the other side should reciprocate.

Lu: As you have said, if the other side shows the same loving-kindness and goodwill as the State, it will surely win the hearts and souls of the people.

Grandpa: If there is cooperation for the sake of peace and stability and development desired by the people, not only the people but also the celestial beings will say ‘well-done’.

Grandpa: Is that so, Maung Kalu?

Lu: More than that, Grandpa.

Translation: MS+ST
Secretary-1 attends opening of Junction...

(from page 1)

General, deputy ministers, the directors-general of the Government Office, departmental heads, members of social organizations, service personnel, artists and guests.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Nay Pyi Taw, Mayor Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and the managing director of Junction Centre Group opened Junction Centre-Nay Pyi Taw and the mini theatre by cutting a ribbon.

Next, the Secretary-1 formally unveiled the signboard of Junction Centre-Nay Pyi Taw.

The Secretary-1 and party looked around the Ocean Supercentre, shops and stalls in the Junction Centre-Nay Pyi Taw. They then viewed the showing of a movie titled ‘Waso Candle’ in the mini theatre and arrangements.

Junction Centre-Nay Pyi Taw with an area of over 60,000 square feet is situated near Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone on Raza Thingaha Road. In the centre building there are a mini theatre with a seating capacity of over 200 people and a shopping centre. The mini theatre is installed with acoustic system, Dolby surround system and modern seating arrangements. Consumer goods and kitchen utensils are available at the Ocean Supercentre and there are also Game City Amusement and shops selling clothing, personal goods, computers and accessories and food stalls.

The Junction Centre is open daily from 10 am to 9 pm.

MNA
We left Yangon International Airport on 1 August morning and arrived in Beijing at night via Guangzhou by flight. While in Beijing, we visited the famous Forbidden City, the National Theater of Performing Arts, Silk Market, Xinhuanet.cn, China Radio International (CRI) and its Myanmar section. We cordially conversed with staff and officers of the Myanmar section and learned the transmission of programmes for Myanmar section.

At the Ministry of Commerce, we called on the Deputy Director-General of Asian Affairs Department. On the last day in Beijing, we paid a call on the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In Beijing, the ASEAN media team had the opportunity to observe the modern products and functions of Zhongguancun Science Park (Z-PARK) constituted with science and technological parks and national level bases namely Electronics Information Industries, National Base of Software (Exporting) Industry, Biomedical Industry, Engineering Innovation, National Center of Technology Transfer, Online Gaming and Animation Industry, Digital TV Park and Cultural Creation Industries.

On 4 August, we left Beijing and arrived in Nanjing. We visited buildings of Nanyang Real Estate (Nanjing) Co Ltd in Hexi District of Nanjing. Nanyang Real Estate launched the project named Baguo Garden situated in the south of the Olympic Stadium area of Hexi District. It covers a total land of 160,000 square meters. Combining the modern and classical architectural styles, Baguo Garden has created itself into an ecological living community with a beautiful view overlooking the Yangtze River and providing a tranquil and natural environment.

We proceeded to the bank of 34-kilometer Qinhuai River called the mother river of Nanjing. Officials welcomed all the ASEAN media team members. Qinhuai River flows into Yangtze River. We saw a high wall built during the six ancient Chinese successive dynasties. However, it is not the Great Wall. Onboard the cruise ship, officials explained that with rapid economic and urban development, the river has become a river outside the city to a river passing through the city. Particularly since the 1970s and 1980s, rampant unauthorized construction and direct sewage led to serious pollution and disorder in and along the river, which seriously affected the city image and the living environment of local residents.

They said, however, that in October 2002, Communist Party China Nanjing Municipal Committee and Nanjing Municipal Government decided to launch a comprehensive programme along the river. Under the programme, a total of 4,356 households and 97 factories were relocated, a total of 20 kilometers of anti-flood walls were renovated. Twenty-five kilometers of sewerage pipes were placed. Over ten new cultural spots were set up. More than 110 buildings and 13 bridges along the river were renovated.

Yet another, we went to the Xinhu Daily. Indeed, the CPC Jiangsu Provincial Committee is publishing the newspaper. With daily circulation of 400,000, Xinhu Daily brings the latest news to the readers. The newspaper covers the policy information, resolutions of CPC Jiangsu Provincial Committee and Jiangsu Provincial People’s Government. While we were observing the tasks of editorial staff, an official from the daily explained that to be able to report the latest news to the esteemed readers in time, over 300 reporters and correspondents of the daily across the world are trying hard to cover the news on various occasions.

On arrival at the coastal area of Jiangsu, we witnessed the better and faster development of Jiangsu and all-round improvement of the Yangtze River. At present, the authorities of Jiangsu Province are striving for overall improvement of infrastructures focusing on port construction, development of industries and wetland resources including enhancement of urbanization and eco-construction. We had one more opportunity to visit Lianyungang Port located in the middle of China’s eastcoast. It is one of 25 major ports in China. Lianyungang Port ranks among world’s top 100 container terminals and it is the only large-scale seaport in Jiangsu Province.

Moreover, we toured Lianyungang Economic and Technological Development Zone formed with national level Export Processing Zone, provincial level New High-Tech Industrial Zone, New Pharmaceutical Industrial Base, High-Tech New Material Industrial Base and Lianyungang International Outsourcing Service Demonstration Zone.

While in Suzhou, we visited Shantang Street. It is an ancient street with a history of over 1,180 years. The houses there usually face the street with their front doors while their rear doors provide access to the canal. We saw bridges gallery there. The buildings along the street portray ancient architectural designs.

At the hall of Suzhou Industrial Park, officials introduced the joint project between China and Singapore to us. The administrative division covers an area of 288 square kilometers and 80 square kilometers of which are planned area of Sino-Singapore joint development.

On 8 August, we departed Suzhou and left for Shanghai. At a domestic airport, we, Myanmar delegation members left Shanghai for Kunming by flight. We spent a night in Kunming.

On 9 August, we left Kunming by CA 905 flight for Yangon. While visiting the People’s Republic of China, we had been able to observe the development projects in all aspects. Especially, we witnessed the improvement of manufacturing the electronics and products of advanced technology. In the media sector, the newspapers in Chinese language have a large readership. At the same time, the Chinese people have easy access to the Internet these days.

During the visit, we also noticed the measures for environmental conservation by growing various shady trees, flowery plants and mangrove plantation across the country while the Chinese people are making efforts for improvement of science and technology sector.

Today is technology age. China becomes a developed country. We all the Myanmar people have the in-born duty to strive for building a peaceful and modern developed nation.

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An aerial view of a network of highways in Lianyungang city of Jiangsu Province.

A glimpse of developing sights and scenes in China

Article & Photos: Than Tun Aung (NLM)

Zhongguancun Science Park in Beijing.
Fire breaks out in Kuwaiti wedding tent, 41 killed

KUWAIT, 16 Aug—A fire broke out in a women’s tent at a Kuwaiti wedding party on Saturday killing at least 41 people, Kuwaiti media reported. The private al-Rai television channel quoted the head of Kuwait’s fire brigade Jassim al-Mansouri as saying 61 people were critically injured.

The state news agency KUNA said 41 bodies had been recovered from the smouldering remains of the tent, in the al-Jahra district west of Kuwait City. “The number of fatalities might increase due to the large number of injuries as result of a stampede that followed the outbreak of the fire at the tent that was packed with people at the wedding,” Mansouri told KUNA.

He said authorities were investigating the cause of the blaze. Weddings in Kuwait are mostly segregated, with women seated separately from men. Tents are often erected especially for the occasion. MNA/Reuters

ASEAN, Australia, NZ get closer to FTA realization

BANGKOK, 16 Aug—The ASEAN member countries and Australia and New Zealand are moving closer to the realization of ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA), the joint media statement said on Saturday after the 14th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)-Closer Economic Relations (CER) Consultation.

The AEM-CER Consultation, which was attended by the ASEAN Economic Ministers and the Ministers of Australia and New Zealand was held during the 41st AEM meeting and related meetings, having been officially hosted from Friday to Sunday in Thailand’s capital Bangkok.

The Ministers noted that the Parties to the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area are in various stages of completing their internal procedures for the entry into force of the Agreement, the joint media statement said.—MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN, ROK sign on Rules of Origin of Goods

BANGKOK, 16 Aug—ASEAN and Republic of Korea (ROK) on Saturday signed a letter of understanding on the Product Specific Rules of Origin to facilitate trade between two sides, one of the outcome documents of the Meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and Related Meetings here.

Thai Commerce Minister Porntitva Nakasai, who chaired the economic ministers’ consultation between ASEAN and ROK on Saturday, said the two sides signed a Letter of Understanding for the Amendment of the Product Specific Rules of Origin of Goods to facilitate trade. Both sides were pleased to see the completion of ASEAN ROK Free Trade Agreement, comprising of Trade in Goods, Trade in Services and Investments, Porntitva said.

The ministers urged member states to complete their internal process so that the ASEAN-ROK Agreement on Investment can enter into force as soon as possible. The ASEAN-ROK Economic Ministers’ Consultation is a part of the Meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and Related Meetings, which officially kicked off on Friday in Bangkok and concludes on Sunday. ASEAN is the third largest trading partner of ROK after China and the European Union.—MNA/Xinhua

Free trade to lift ASEAN+6 GDP by 1.3%

BANGKOK, 16 Aug—A feasibility study released on Saturday at the ASEAN+6 economic ministers’ meeting indicated that establishment of a free trade area within the member countries will result in 1.3 percent increase in their GDP.

The study was presented at the meeting where the ASEAN Economic Ministers met with their counterparts from six dialogue partners, namely China, ROK, Japan, India, Australia and New Zealand.

The ministers noted that if the member countries establish a free trade agreement among them, the GDP of the member countries will increase by 1.3 percent; For ASEAN alone, ASEAN’s GDP will increase by 3.83 percent.

The ministers viewed this integration as a very crucial step for the region. Therefore, they tasked government officials of the 16 countries to make further research based on the recommendations of the feasibility study in order to evaluate which direction they should proceed in the future.—MNA/Xinhua

School children perform during the Independence Day celebrations in the northern Indian city of Chandigarh on 15 August, 2009.—INTERNET

Typhoon “Morakot” kills 124, injures 45 in Taiwan

TAIPEI, 16 Aug—Typhoon Morakot has killed at least 124 people and left 56 missing in Taiwan as of 10 p.m. Saturday, according to local disaster response authorities. Another 45 people were injured after the typhoon, the worst on the island in nearly five decades, wreaked havoc across central and southern regions.

Sixty-six people died in Kaohsiung, 25 in Tainan, 16 in Pingdong, six in Chiayi, seven in Nantou, three in Changhua and one in Yunlin.

Nearly 23,700 people have been evacuated, and almost 5,000 are taking refuge in 170 sheltering camps. Morakot has caused more than 12 billion New Taiwan dollars (365 million US dollars) in damages to agriculture and forestry. Among the worst-hit regions are Pingdong, Kaohsiung and Tainan.—MNA/Xinhua

Dead dolphins are seen beached by the coast of Piriapolis, 100 km (62 miles) east of Montevideo, on 15 August, 2009. At least 15 dolphins were found beached by the coast and the cause of their deaths is still unknown.—INTERNET

Aleksandra Kiryashova of Russia breaks her pole vault qualification during the world athletics championships at the Olympic stadium in Berlin on 15 August, 2009. Picture taken with a fisheye lens.—INTERNET
**SAfrica reports fourth swine flu death**

JOHANNESBURG, 16 Aug.—South Africa on Saturday recorded its fourth swine flu death, health officials said. Regional spokesman Chris Mazon said the woman who was 31 weeks pregnant died on Wednesday at Addington hospital in the coastal town of Durban after she was admitted on Monday.

“The woman was admitted with complications, she had high fever and high blood pressure among other complaints. Tests came back on Friday they confirmed she had the A(H1N1) influenza virus.”—Internet

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**Mauritania to send 4,000 troops to Sahara to hunt terrorists**

Dakar, 16 Aug.—Mauritania will send some 4,000 military staff to the Sahara region to hunt terrorists, according to news reaching here from Nouakchott, citing Saturday’s announcement of the Mauritanian Defence Ministry.

The decision was made in line with the outcome of Wednesday’s meeting of the chiefs of staff from Algeria, Mali, Mauritania and Niger.

At the meeting, the four discussed their cooperation in fighting crimes, especially terrorist activities, along border areas and decided to launch massive military operations against al-Qaeda branch in the Islamic Maghreb.—Xinhua

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**Somali pirates find seven bodies, blame Egyptians**

BOSSASO, 16 Aug.—Somali pirates found seven dead colleagues floating in the ocean on Saturday and vowed to take revenge against Egyptian fishermen they say killed them during an escape, an associate of the pirates said.

The 5.2 shock occurred at 15:13 (Istakatime/0813 GMT) with the epicenter at 50 northeast Sipura of Mentawai of West Sumatra province and at 10 kms in depth, the agency said.

About ten minutes later, the 5.6 after shock struck with the epicenter at 81 kms southwest Padang, the capital of the province, and at 10 kms in depth, it said. —Xinhua

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**Internet**

"The woman was admitted with complications, she had high fever and high blood pressure among other complaints. Tests came back on Friday they confirmed she had the A(H1N1) influenza virus."—Internet

**CITIC Securities net profit falls 19.77% in H1**

SHENZHEN, 16 Aug.—CITIC Securities Co, China’s largest listed brokerage, posted a 19.77 percent decline in net profit in the first half of this year on a suspension of initial public offerings and a decrease in fund sales.

Net profit in the first half stood at 3.82 billion yuan (55.9 million US dollars), dropping 940 million yuan from a year earlier, the company said in its interim report Saturday.

*Business revenue fell 17.91 percent to 8.95 billion yuan (14.07 billion US dollars) in the first half year on year in securities underwriting business due to a 10-month ban on initial public offerings and a decrease in net profit in the first half of this year on a suspension of initial public offerings and a decrease in fund sales.*

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**Ministry of Information**

News and Periodicals Enterprise Invitation To Tender

1. Sealed tenders are invited for News and Periodicals Enterprise for supply of the following—

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Descriptions</th>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Tender documents are available at the Procurement Committee No. 28, Kokkine Yeiktha Street, Bahan Township.</td>
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Ministry of Information Procurement Committee Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise No. 28, Kokkine Yeiktha Street, Bahan Township.

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**Series after shocks hit West Sumatra, Indonesia**

JAKARTA, 16 Aug.—Two after shallow shocks with magnitude of 5.2 and 5.6 rocked West Sumatra of Sumatra Island in Indonesia, following the 6.9 main shock on Sunday, Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said here.

The 5.2 shock occurred at 15:13 (Istakatime/0813 GMT) with the epicenter at 50 northeast Sipura of Mentawai of West Sumatra province and at 10 kms in depth, the agency said.

About ten minutes later, the 5.6 after shock struck with the epicenter at 81 kms southwest Padang, the capital of the province, and at 10 kms in depth, it said. —Xinhua
China to complete eight-hour railway network around Beijing

BEIJING, 16 Aug—Passengers would be able to travel between Beijing and most capital cities in China in eight hours by 2012, through a nationwide express railway network, according to the Ministry of Railways. As about 10,000 km of passenger railways are currently under construction, a total of 13,000 km of passenger railways and intercity railways will be put into operation in 2012. The network would consist of four north-south and four west-east lines of railways throughout the country, which would connect most capital cities and major cities in China, including Shanghai, Guangzhou, Taiyuan and Nanjing.

The railway circuit could largely save passengers’ travel time. Departing from Beijing, passengers could reach Tianjin within one hour and southern China’s Guangzhou in seven hours by 2012. China planned to invest at least 700 billion yuan (102.49 billion US dollars) per year in railway construction over the next three years, said Vice Railway Minister Wang Zhiqiao Monday. By the end of this year, China would have a total of 86,000 km rail lines, second only to the United States, Wang said.

Animal foods not linked to breast cancer

BOSTON, 16 Aug—Three studies provide no evidence that animal food consumption increases the risk of breast cancer, US and European researchers said.

In one study, 35 obese postmenopausal women with type 2 diabetes received conjugated linoleic acid supplements or a control supplement each for 36 weeks. In a second study, researchers examined the association between conjugated linoleic acid intake from natural sources and breast cancer incidence in a large cohort of initially cancer-free Swedish women for 17.4 years. The third study assessed whether the consumption of meat, eggs and dairy products was associated with breast cancer risk in a group of healthy European women, who were tracked for 8.8 years.

The findings, scheduled to be published in the September issue of The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, provide strong evidence that consumption of meat and dairy products by women does not, by itself, increase breast cancer risk, but moderate and mindful consumption of these foods can be very important in attaining optimal nutrition for most women who often do not consume sufficient iron and calcium. However, conjugated linoleic acid supplementation may decrease adiposity — fat.

Finland says ransom demand received for missing cargo ship Arctic Sea

HELSINKI, 16 Aug—Finland’s National Bureau of Investigation (NIB) said that a ransom demand has been received for the missing cargo ship, the Arctic Sea, according to local media report Saturday. The NIB declined to say what the amount of the ransom is other than it is a significant sum. According to information received by Finnish Broadcasting Company, the lives of the crew have been threatened if the ransom is not paid. Viktor Matveev, the CEO of Solchart Management which operates the Arctic Sea on Saturday declined to comment on the information released by the NIB. Solchart Management operates in Finland. The Maltese-owned, Russian-crewed cargo ship disappeared two weeks ago while en route with a cargo of sawn timber from Finland to Algeria. The ship had been due to arrive in Algeria on 4 Aug. The disappearance of the Arctic Sea, which dropped off the radar in the English Channel on 28 July, has sparked intense speculation about its fate, with experts debating whether pirates, a mafia quarrel or a commercial dispute were involved.

Swedish police said the ship was hijacked in the Baltic Sea on 24 July, when masked men claiming to be anti-drugs police boarded the ship, tied up the crew and searched the vessel. But the men reportedly left after about 12 hours.

Two more A/H1N1 flu cases confirmed in Bangladesh

DRIARKA, 16 Aug—Two more A/H1N1 flu cases have been confirmed in Bangladesh, raising the total number to 38, leading English-language newspaper The Daily Star reported on Sunday. Malimudar Rahman, director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research under the Health Ministry, was quoted as saying that one patient has come back from Malaysia while another patient contracted the flu from the other victim. Now seven patients are undergoing treatment while the rest of the persons have been cured already, Rahman said.
Fergie ready to fight off City's challenge

MANCHESTER, 16 Aug—Rafa Benitez might claim that Sir Alex Ferguson is worried about Manchester City's incredible spending spree but the man himself appears unconcerned ahead of Manchester United's Premier League opener against Birmingham on Saturday. Many, including Liverpool boss Benitez, are tipping City to challenge for the Premier League crown currently held by United in the wake of their 100 million pound spending spree during the close-season. United manager Ferguson, however, insists clubs like City who want to break the stranglehold the top four have had on the English game in recent years will face a tough challenge.---Internet

Murray ready for Del Potro in Montreal tennis title

MONTREAL, 16 Aug—Andy Murray made sure of claiming the world number two ranking, but he'll have to get past Juan Martin Del Potro on Sunday to claim the ATP Montreal Masters crown. Third-seeded Murray beat fourth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-4, 7-6 (10/8) in the semi-finals and is set to rise to second in the world for the first time in his career. Sixth-seeded Del Potro, who won the title in Washington over Andy Roddick last weekend, continued his dominance over the three-time Wimbledon runner-up as he beat the fifth-seeded American 4-6, 6-2, 7-5. Del Potro fired 19 aces in a semi-final victory lasting just over two hours.---Internet

Wenger stays calm after Arsenal destroy Everton

LIVERPOOL, 16 Aug—Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger refused to get carried away after his side routed Everton 6-1 on the opening day of the Premier League season at Goodison Park. Victory left the Gunners top of the table after many pundits had questioned whether the London club could maintain its status as one of English football's 'Big Four' alongside champions Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea. "From before the game being ruled out by everybody to now become a super favourite, there's Woods one round away from capturing his 15th major, with more company than anyone expected."---Internet

Tiger claws out a 2-shot lead at the PGA

CHASKA, 16 Aug—The coronation of Tiger Woods turned into a contest Saturday at the PGA Championship. What had looked so immutable—Woods with a four-shot lead on the weekend at a major—suddenly became filled with possibilities as his margin vanished along the back nine at Hazeltine. Only a late birdie by Woods and a lone bogey from Padraig Harrington gave the final major a familiar look. Woods, playing it safe to avoid throwing away shots, wound up with a 1-under 71 and had a two-shot lead over Harrington and Y.E. Yang. That left Woods one round away from capturing his 15th major, with more company than anyone expected.---Internet

Beckham red-carded in Galaxy loss

CARSON, 16 Aug—David Beckham was ejected for a studs-up challenge in the 17th minute, and the Los Angeles Galaxy finished with nine men in a 2-0 loss to the Seattle Sounders FC on Saturday night. Beckham slid into Sounders midfielder Peter Vagenas trying to reach a ball, hooking his right ankle and bringing the former Galaxy midfielder down to the pitch. Referee Ricardo Salazar immediately issued the red card, and Beckham did not offer much of an argument before leaving the field. "Peter’s one of my best friends," he said after the game. "I’ve never gone into one tackle wanting to hurt someone. It was a hard tackle but by no means a red card." It was Beckham’s first red card in his MLS career and his second ejection in the MLS. The red card carries an automatic suspension that will force Beckham to miss Los Angeles’ match at Chicago on Wednesday night.---Internet

Answers to yesterday’s Crosswords Puzzle

WAUGHT TOBED
WOBBLY JG
S-spanner ideal
URDU VCE
RADIONERIA
POC ONE OD
CAST ESTR
OCIRLA OORDER
CRAWL AGELESS
KOGMASH
LOTTO PYGMY
Manchester United 1-0
Birmingham City

LONDON, 16 Aug—Wayne Rooney’s 99th goal for Manchester United was enough to get the champions off to a winning start. Playing in his preferred central role, Rooney tapped home from close range after his initial header had come back off the post after 34 minutes.

But United were made to work hard by a spirited Birmingham side who went close through Christian Benitez who had an angled shot well saved by Ben Foster while Michael Owen was denied by Joe Hart near the end.—INTERNET

Wayne Rooney puts Manchester United in front against Birmingham.—INTERNET

Tottenham Hotspur 2-1
Liverpool

LONDON: 16 Aug—Sebastien Bassong marked his Tottenham Hotspur debut by heading the winner against Liverpool.

Benoit Assou-Ekotto had twice been denied by Liverpool keeper Pepe Reina as Harry Redknapp’s men limped the first half on top. Steven Gerrard smashed Liverpool level from the penalty spot on 56 minutes following a foul on Glen Johnson by Heurelho Gomes.

Tottenham celebrate Benoit Assou-Ekotto’s stunning opener.—INTERNET

Reina as Harry Redknapp’s men limped the first half on top. Steven Gerrard smashed Liverpool level from the penalty spot on 56 minutes following a foul on Glen Johnson by Heurelho Gomes.—INTERNET

Monday, 17 August
View on today
7:00 am
1.  ဗုဒ္ဓမာလ (နေ့စဉ်)
7:25 am
2.  To Be Healthy
Exercise
7:30 am
3.  Morning News
7:40 am
4.  ကြော်ချင်းစာ (မိုးစာ)
4:00 pm
1.  Martial Song
4:10 pm
2.  Dance Variety
4:20 pm
3.  မိုးစာ (စိတ်ချင်း)
4:35 pm
4.  Musical Programme
4:50 pm
5.  အုပ်ချင်းတာ သိမ်းမှုများအရ
6.  လူနာများအား ကူညီပေးခြင်း (နိုင်ငံခြား)
7:00 pm
9.  Open Your Heart
8:00 pm
10.  Evening News
8:15 pm
11.  Weather Report
8:20 pm
12.  Sing & Enjoy
8:30 pm
13.  Myanmar Modern Song
8:40 pm
14.  News
8:45 pm
15.  International News
9:00 pm
16.  Weather Report
9:15 pm
17.  National Museum (Part-II)
9:30 pm
18.  Myanmar Modern Song
9:45 pm
19.  Signature Tune
10:00 pm
20.  ကြော်ချင်းစာ (ကြုံ)
10:15 pm
21.  Myanmar Modern Song
10:30 pm
22.  Myanmar Modern Song
10:45 pm
23.  Myanmar Modern Song
11:00 pm
24.  Myanmar Modern Song
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25.  Myanmar Modern Song
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11:45 pm
27.  Myanmar Modern Song
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46.  Myanmar Modern Song
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47.  Myanmar Modern Song
5:00 pm
48.  Myanmar Modern Song
5:15 pm
49.  Myanmar Modern Song
5:30 pm
50.  Myanmar Modern Song
5:45 pm
51.  Myanmar Modern Song

Programme Schedule (17-8-2009) (Monday)

Local Transmissions
* Signature Tune
* Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights
* The National Museum (Part-II)
* A Hidden Treasure (Kekku)
* Oxen Brothers
* Elegant Myanmar Dance (Part-2)
* Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmissions
* Signature Tune
* Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights
* The National Museum (Part-II)
* A Hidden Treasure (Kekku)
* Oxen Brothers
* Culture Stage
* Myanmar Modern Song
* Elegant Myanmar Dance (Part-2)
* Songs on Screen
* Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes
* Pop in Teenagers “Open Your Heart”
* Are they real or paper?
* Culture Stage
* Khamti Shan Weaving Technique
* Myanmar Modern Song
* Unique Inlay Lake, Distinctive Inle Resort
* Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

WEATHER

Sunday, 16th August, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Mon and Kayin States, Yangon Division, rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Kayah State, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Rakhine State and Bago Division, fairly widespread in lower Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Mandalay Division and isolated heavy falls in Magway Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (Yesin) (2.36) inches, Nay Pyi Taw (Pyinmana) (0.98) inch, Pyinoolwin (5.51) inches, Mokok (2.44) inches, Mandaley (1.77) inches, Aunglan (1.65) inches, Bhamo (1.61) inches, Putao and Machanbaw (1.22) inches each, Taunggyi, Sagaing and Kyauktaw (0.90) inch each and Kyun Kseik (0.75) inch. Maximum temperature on 15-8-2009 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 16-8-2009 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 16-8-2009 was 84%. Total Sun shine hours on 15-8-2009 was (6.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 16-8-2009 was Nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (79.02) inches at Mingaladon, (91.30) inches at Kaba-Aye and (93.38) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (Symph) from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 15-8-2009.

Bay inference: Monsun is weak in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 16th August, 2009: Rain or thunderstorms will be isolated Mon State, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Rakhine, Kayin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing, Magway and Bago Divisions, fairly widespread in Chin State, Mandalay Division and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of decrease of rain in the Coastal areas.}

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 17-8-2009: Isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-8-2009: Isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-8-2009: Isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

VOA, BBC - sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB - generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed
By broadcasts designed to cause troubles

A glimpse of developing sights and scenes in China

Recently, I had a great opportunity to observe the endeavours of the government and the people in improving science and technology sector and undertaking all-round development tasks in the People’s Republic of China. Together with Staff Officer (Planning) Daw Yi Yi Lwin of MRTV-4 of Myanmar Radio and Television, I, an editor of the New Light of Myanmar Daily under News and Periodicals Enterprise, paid an eight-day visit to the People’s Republic of China from 1 to 8 August 2009.

We joined the ASEAN joint press delegation to observe and cover the news on development of major cities in China. The delegation comprised 15 journalists in total from the ASEAN countries except those from Malaysia. (See page 10)

Earthquake Report

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—The Hydrology and Meteorology Department issued that a strong earthquake of intensity (7.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Indonesia) about (1300) miles South of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (14) hrs (12) min (54) sec MST on 16th August, 2009.

The News and Periodicals Enterprise has been delivering its three dailies to sales agents in towns throughout the country at the cost of K 50 per copy.

Order issued for US citizen Mr John William Yettaw serving seven-year prison term to serve only half of his prison term, remaining prison term to be suspended and to be deported

Mr John William Yettaw leaves together with Senator Jim Webb

Now, 92.48 per cent of the people have approved the new constitution the people’s representatives adopted, taking time. So, if they love the country, they have to respect the constitution for the opportunity to serve public interest. They have to take the way to democracy the people have paved.

INSIDE
Is that so, Maung Kalu?
More than that, Grandpa