Responsibility to represent country and win medals falls on athletes
Cash donated to funds for success in XXVI and XXVII SEA Games

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Four political objectives</th>
<th>Four economic objectives</th>
<th>Four social objectives</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order</td>
<td>Building of modern industrialized nation through the agricultural development, and all-round development of other sectors of the economy</td>
<td>Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening of national solidarity</td>
<td>Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system</td>
<td>Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building and strengthening of discipline-flourishing democracy system</td>
<td>Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investment from sources inside the country and abroad</td>
<td>Flourishing of Union Spirit, the true patriotism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the Constitution</td>
<td>The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples</td>
<td>Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**NAY PYI TAW, 18 June**—A ceremony to donate cash to the funds for achieving success in the XXVI SEA Games and the XXVII SEA Games was held at the Ministry of Sport, here, this morning, attended by Patron of the Leading Committee for Preparing XXVII SEA Games Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

Also present on the occasion were Union ministers, deputy ministers, members of the leading committee, departmental heads, chairmen of subcommittees, presidents of Myanmar sports federations and wellwishers.

Speaking on the occasion, Patron of the Leading Committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that Myanmar athletes are being trained at the camps for the XXVII SEA Games to be held in Jakarta of Indonesia from 11 to 22 November this year. Likewise, tentatively selected players are also being trained at the camps as part of efforts to secure the largest number of medals in the XXVI and XXVII SEA Games to be held in Nay Pyi Taw of Myanmar in December 2013. The SEA Games has been organized since 1959 once for every two years; and Myanmar hosted it two times in 1961 and 1969. After 40 years due to various reasons, Myanmar will host the games for the third time.

In the 1961 South-East Asia Peninsula Games, Myanmar as host country stood first with 104 medals. Likewise, Myanmar secured 149 medals in the first position in 1969 Games. As such, it can be seen that Myanmar as host country and for winning the first prize in the XXVII Games the country will host.

In addition to encouragement of the government, energetic efforts, disciplines and perseverance of the athletes, and correct supervisions of respective sports federations and coaches, public financial support and advisement are greatly required.

After evaluating the weaknesses and strong points at the Jakarta Games, all-out efforts should be made to realize the aims.

With the aim of successfully holding the XXVI/XXVIISEA Games in Nay Pyi Taw, the government has formed the Leading Committee for Preparing the Games and 12 subcommittees by making preparations for the competitions. At present, tasks are being undertaken for the construction of necessary stadiums, gymnasiums and sports villages and recruiting the new generation athletes.

The entire nation is providing encouragement to raise Myanmar sports standard in addition to uplifting national prestige through sports.

(See page 8)
**PERSPECTIVES**

Sunday, 19 June, 2011

Take precautionary measures against dengue fever

Dengue fever is a viral disease caused by four types of dengue virus. The virus is transmitted to people by infected mosquitoes called Aedes.

Worldwide, 75 percent of dengue fever outbreaks are from Asian and Pacific regions. Southeast Asian nations alone have 52 percent of the outbreaks in the world. But, dengue fever is most common in Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar.

Although such disease occurred in big cities of Myanmar in the past, now it has spread to rural areas. Myanmar launched dengue fever monitoring system in 1964. Mortality rate from dengue fever was six out of 100 patients in 1970. But in 2010, it was only one out of 100.

The dengue fever outbreak was common among under-15s, especially most common among kindergarten children. However, it also breaks out among people, young and adult. A person who has been infected with the virus can be taken ill suddenly.

Normal symptoms of dengue fever include having a fever for 2 to 7 days, headaches and muscle pain. Serious cases can cause rash, gum bleeding, nausea and vomiting in brown colour and nose bleeding. If a serious case happens, the patient must be rushed to a hospital or clinic.

As dengue fever is most common in the rainy season, the people are to cooperate with health staff in taking preventive measures against dengue fever and to follow the warnings issued by the ministry health so that mosquitoes cannot reproduce.

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**Poster contest hails World Population Day**

**NAY PYI TAW, 18 June** — Basic Education Level Poster Contest was held at No (3) Basic Education High School (Ywadaw) here this morning, hailing World Population Day 2011.

From towns in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, 101 students participated in the competition under the title “The World at 7 Billion”. Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Kyaw Kyaw Win, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member Col Myint Aung Than, Acting Director-General of Population Department U Aung Chit and officials encouraged participants at the contest.

Similar contests were simultaneously held in other Regions and States.—MNA

**Sports competitions held to mark World Olympic Day for 2011**

**YANGON, 18 June** — Sports competitions were conducted at gymnasiams in Yangon Region today to mark the World Olympic Day for 2011.

Presidents and responsible personnel of Myanmar Swimming Federation, Myanmar Table Tennis Federation, Myanmar Volleyball Federation, Myanmar Cricket Federation and Myanmar Basketball Federation awarded winners of the respective competitions.

Men and women athletes of the selected volleyball team, cricket team and basketball teams also demonstrated their skills to mark the World Olympic Day for 2011.—MNA

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**People’s Desire**

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

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**Union EP-2 Minister awards outstanding matriculation-passed students**

**NAY PYI TAW, 18 June** — The ceremony to honour outstanding students who passed matriculation exam for 2010-2011 academic year and to provide stipend for this academic year was held at the ministry here yesterday, attended by Union Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Soe.

The Union Minister awarded two six-distinction winning students and presented K 46,697,500 for 1689 students for 2011-2012 academic year as stipend.

Deputy Minister U Aung Than Oo and officials presented cash awards to 71 outstanding students.

**Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 bestowed K 16,900,000 on 73 students.**—MNA

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**Officials of MHT receive English writing skills**

**NAY PYI TAW, 18 June** — Twenty officials of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism have received English skills for office work at the ministry here.

They learnt the English writing skills for office work during the course No 2/2011 on English writing skills for office work at the ministry and the course ended today with an address by Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Hay Aung.

The deputy minister awarded the outstanding trainees of the course.—MNA

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**Union Minister for Cooperatives U Ohn Myint addresses the concluding of work efficiency course for officers of Cooperative Department.**—MNA

(News reported)
**Computer outage affects United Airlines flights**

**Chicago, 18 June**—Thousands of flyers were stranded Friday night in airports across the country when United Airlines computers crashed, interrupting departures and reservations and disrupting the airline’s website.

The airline confirmed the problem on Twitter. United spokesman Charles Hobart said the computer problems started at about 7:15 pm. He did not elaborate on the nature of the problem.

As a result of the outage, long lines of passengers formed at check-in counters at Chicago’s O’Hare International and Denver International airports, two of United’s largest hubs.

The plans of landscape designer Stephanie Hochman, of Denver, to fly to Wichita, Kan. to visit her family were stymied by the outage.

“I was rushing, because I was running a little late,” she said. “I kept checking computers to see if the (8:30 pm) flight was still on time. I thought it was all good, until I got to the airport and saw the people standing around at the checkout counter.”

Hochman, 26, said United workers were telling customers the computers were down and they were trying to get things going.

**Gunfight kills two in Mexico border city**

**Mexico City, 18 June**—A gunbattle between soldiers and suspected cartel gunmen left two suspects dead Friday in the northern Mexico border city of Matamoros, authorities said.

Mexico’s Defence Department said an army patrol came under fire and two gunmen were killed in the ensuing shootout in Matamoros, across the border from Brownsville, Texas.

Soldiers found four rifles, two pistols and about 1,000 rounds of ammunition at the scene and a bulletproofed vehicle was apparently killed in the gunbattle.

A US newspaper reported that Zetas drug cartel leader Heriberto “El Lazca” Lazcano was apparently killed in the gunbattle. The Defence Department statement said that “the physical characteristics of the dead men allow the conclusion to be drawn that Heriberto Lazcano, leader of the Zetas criminal organization, was not among them.”

The Matamoros area has seen frequent battles between the Zetas and their rivals in the Gulf cartel. The gangs frequently kidnap migrants who move through the area, and hold them for ransom.

Lazcano is considered the top leader of the Zetas, considered Mexico’s most bloodthirsty major cartel. The United States is offering $5 million and Mexico another $2.5 million in rewards for information leading to Lazcano’s arrest.—Internet

**Car bombing rocks Iraqi capital killing three, wounding eight**

**Baghdad, 18 June**—A car bombing rattled the Iraqi capital of Baghdad late Friday, killing three civilians and injuring eight others, a police source said.

The source, who asked not to be identified, told Xinhua that the bombing was possibly triggered by a remote controller but failed to provide any further information, noting that the incident was under investigation.

Karrada, where the bombing hit, is a major affluent District of Baghdad and has a mixed population with the Shiaite community as the majority. The District is widely regarded as a relatively peaceful section in the city. The police source said another car bomb exploded Friday near a police checkpoint in the Garma area, some 30 km northwest of Baghdad. Killing one policeman and wounding three others, Garma, which is located in the central Anbar Province, was considered the most violent area in Iraq from 2005 to 2007. Unlike neighboring Fallujah, it has no wall around the city, enabling anti-American insurgents to move freely in and out of the area.

**Two roadside bombs kill four in eastern Afghanistan**

**Kabul, 18 June**—Two roadside bomb attacks on Saturday killed four private security guards escorting supply convoys for a NATO base in eastern Afghanistan, a police chief said.

The blasts in Ghazni Province took place along a major road that runs to a base used by Polish troops stationed in the region as part of the NATO mission, said acting provincial police chief Mohammed Hussain. The bombs detonated within two hours of each other as the convoys passed, killing 4 Afghans working for security contractors hired to guard the convoys, Hussain said.

Also in Ghazni, NATO said Saturday its forces killed “several” militants in a gunbattle a day earlier, seizing rocket-propelled grenades, AK-47s and body armor. NATO offered no further details, but Hussain identified the dead militants as eight Pakistanis.

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The fighting in Ghazni comes amid a renewed push by the Taliban as part of its spring offensive in eastern Afghanistan. The militants have used roadside bombs, suicide attacks and other tactics in an attempt to move freely in and out of the area.

**Houses, monument damaged in Colombian bomb blast**

**Bogota, 18 June**—The monument of late Colombian president Laureano Gomez and more than 50 houses were damaged after a bomb exploded in northern Bogota late Thursday evening, police said.

Although no suspect has been identified yet, the Gomez family said the blast was intended to intimidate the family, which is taking legal actions in a bid to find out the truth behind the 1995 assassination of Alvaro Gomez, son of Laureano Gomez, a resident of the neighbourhood, told Xinhua. Bogota’s Mayor Clara Lopez called on citizens to remain calm and assured that swift measures were being taken to ensure their safety.

**Afghan women wait for alms at the entrance of the Shah-i-do Shamshera shrine during Friday prayers in Kabul, Afghanistan on 17 June, 2011.**

**Internet**
US scientists test on-off memory switch in rats

WASHINGTON, 18 June—US scientists said Friday they have developed an on-off memory switch that helped laboratory rats remember a behaviour that they had forgotten.

The brain prosthesis marks the first time that researchers have been able to duplicate the brain’s learning process, restoring memories that test rats were dragged to forget, and could offer hope for people with dementia.

“Flip the switch on, and the rats remember. Flip it off, and the rats forget,” said Theodore Berger of the University of Southern California’s Viterbi School of Engineering’s Department of Biomedical Engineering.

Working with scientists from North Carolina’s Wake Forest University Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Berger’s team focused on the hippocampus, the section of the brain where memories are made.

The communication between two regions of the hippocampus results in a short-term memory being converted into a long-term memory.

The team studied the signals sent between these subregions as rats learned a task that involved pressing a lever in order to get a reward. Through repetition, the rats learned the behaviour as a long-term memory.

When scientists drugged the rats to halt neuron signals between the two regions, the rats forgot the long-term memory.

But when they implanted an electronic brain prosthetic that duplicated the signaling process between the subregions, the rats could remember again.

In normal rats, “the device could actually strengthen the memory being generated internally in the brain and enhance the memory capability,” said the study published in the Journal of Neural Engineering.

The team hopes to test the device in monkeys next, in the hope it could one day help people who suffer from memory loss due to dementia, stroke or brain injury.

Newfound comet will swing by Earth in 2013

WASHINGTON, 18 June—A newfound comet discovered by a telescope designed to hunt for dangerous asteroids will make its closest pass by Earth in 2013 and should be visible to the naked eye when it draws near, astronomers say.

Hawaii’s Pan-STARRS 1 telescope detected the comet, which is called C/2011 L4 (PANSTARRS), on the night of 5 and 6 June, and the discovery was confirmed by follow-up observations with a different instrument a day later. The comet will likely come within about 30 million miles (50 million kilometers) of the sun in February or March 2013 — about the same distance as the planet Mercury, researchers said.

During its closest approach to Earth in two years, comet C/2011 L4 (PANSTARRS) likely to be visible low in the western sky shortly after sunset, weather permitting. Skywatchers interested in seeing the newfound icy wanderer should look up then, because they may never get another chance to see it.

“The comet has an orbit that is close to parabolic, meaning that this may be the first time it will ever come close to the sun, and that it may never return,” said the University of Hawaii’s Richard Wainscoat in a statement. Wainscoat helped confirm the comet’s existence.

The comet’s chunky moniker is slightly unusual. Comets are usually named after their discoverers, but in this case such a large team of researchers helped spot the icy wanderer that it took the name of the telescope instead.—Internet

Evernote unveils Windows Phone 7 App

WASHINGTON, 18 June—Evernote, a cloud-based service that stores text, audio files, and images that are accessible from a multitude of devices, has launched an app for Windows Phone 7.

Evernote was an early force on Apple’s iPhone and has also had a mobile app for Android phones for a while, so it was only a matter of time before the Windows Phone 7 version appeared.

As much as the company tends to deliver a fairly consistent design and set of functionality across its tools, the Evernote app for Windows Phone 7 looks rather different from both the iPhone and Android versions.

The new app takes advantage of the Windows Phone 7 Panorama interface, giving it a distinctive look. From the panorama panel, you’ll find a list of all your notes, notebooks, tags, and recent notes. Luckily, in terms of functionality and usability, it’s very close to the other mobile apps.

Another interface element in the Windows Phone 7 Evernote app is an application bar that resides at the top of most pages and shows three dots when more information and functionality is available for the page you’re currently viewing.—Internet

iPad App to replace flight navigation charts?

NEW YORK, 18 June—Days after it announced plans to provide passengers on select flights with access to the Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1, there are reports that American Airlines is also looking to ditch paper flight charts in favor of a digital navigation map powered by an iPad app.

According to ApplesInsider, using an iPad would save space: flight charts generally weigh at least 35 pounds while the iPad weighs just a pound and a half. Additionally, ApplesInsider claims the switch will save the airline about $1.5 million in printing costs. However, it’s unclear how that number was determined, considering the starting price of an iPad is $499 and American would also have to spend some cash to develop a navigation app.

The app will be tested on several flights between Los Angeles and Asia. In May, Alaska Airlines became the first airline to start using this technology through an app called GoodReader, which is loaded with PDF versions of maps, manuals, reference materials, and other flight information.

But what about that pesky rule that requires passengers to stow their devices at the beginning and end of flights? The Federal Aviation Administration used to consider the iPad “a class 1” electronic device, one that needs to be stored during takeoff and landing by passengers and pilots alike.—Internet

Kids play with the Kinect for Xbox 360 at Kidstock at Greystone Mansion on 5 June in Beverly Hills, California. Motion controls are a hit, with millions of Kinect and Move devices being snapped up by a broadening audience of gamers.—Internet
**Health**

HPV vaccine shows improvement in teens

MELBOURNE, 18 June—Australia, which began a national human papilloma virus vaccination effort for young women in 2007, has seen a drop in cervical abnormalities, researchers say.

HPV, the virus that triggers cervical cancer, causes cervical abnormalities—changes to the cells in the neck of the womb that can be the precursor to cancer.

Michael Quinn, professor of gynecology and gynecologic oncology at the University of Melbourne, says the study is the first to show falling rates of high-grade (cervical abnormalities) in very young women, The Guardian reported.

“Although this is likely to be due to the effects of the vaccination program, further analysis of information linking women’s smear history to their vaccination history will be needed to prove that the fall is entirely due to vaccination rather than other factors,” Quinn says.

The findings, published in the Lancet, say the proportion of girls age 17 and younger with high-grade abnormalities fell by 0.38 percent—almost halving the numbers, but there was no drop in the numbers of women with cervical abnormalities who were older than age 17. The study involved girls and women ages 12-26.

Quinn says the findings are not surprising because the vaccine is known to be most effective if given before the girls become sexually active. The Guardian said.—Internet

**Health Tip: Prevent heat-related Illness**

- As the weather heats up, illnesses ranging from heat exhaustion to heatstroke become more common.
- The US National Library of Medicine suggests how to help prevent heat-related medical emergencies:
  - Wear lightweight, loose-fitting clothing.
  - If working outdoors, take frequent breaks in the shade or indoors.
  - When weather is particularly hot or humid, avoid heavy exercise or physical activity.
  - Increase your fluid intake.
  - Avoid becoming overheated, especially if you’re elderly, overweight or taking a medication that affects your body’s heat regulation.
  - Let your car cool down before you get inside.—Internet

**Business**

Sears lays off 700 employees at its Kmart stores

NEW YORK, 18 June—Sears Holdings Corp (SHLD.O) has laid off 700 employees who worked in the appliance section of its Kmart discount stores, a company spokesman confirmed.

The decision, which affects associates in about 225 stores, came a month after the company, led by hedge fund manager Edward Lampert, reported a bigger-than-expected loss in its latest first quarter.

Quinn says the decision to change the way it sells appliances.

“...When we first put appliances in Kmart stores, their point-of-sale systems were not set up for appliance sales. They now are. So at the time, we had to put an associate trained on the Sears POS system, in the Kmart store to handle the sales,” said the company spokesperson Chris Brathwaite in an email to Reuters.

While the retailer is letting go workers dedicated only to selling appliances, Brathwaite said that other Kmart associates will now be trained to assist customers with questions about appliances.

There will also be a toll-free number that customers can call for additional assistance, he added.—Reuters

Mazda to build 500-mln-USD plant in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 18 June—Japanese auto-maker Mazda said Friday it plans to build a new plant in Mexico with an investment of 500 million US dollars, in a bid to boost market presence in Latin America.

Construction will start soon in Salamanca, 300 kilometers north-west of Mexico City, and is expected to be completed in 2013, it said.

With a 70/30 ownership split between Mazda and its partner Sumitomo Corp, the new plant will churn out the Mazda2 and Mazda3 models, boasting an output capacity of 140,000 vehicles and engines when fully operational.—Xinhua

**Health**

**The skyline if Copenhagen. Denmark has registered a doubling of cases of the venereal disease chlamydia over the past decade, Danish health officials said Thursday, saying the rise was very worrying. Internet**

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Residents stand amidst their destroyed dwellings leveled by a fire at the Tondiapet slum in the southern Indian city of Chennai 17 June, 2011. About 300 hats were gutted in the fire but no casualties were reported, a fire official said on Friday. The cause of the fire was unknown.—Xinhua

Cuba: Seas to rise more than 30 inches by 2100

HAVANA, 18 June—Cuban scientists calculate that median sea levels around the Caribbean nation will rise more than 30 inches by the end of the century due to global climate change, official media said Friday.

Models predict the sea will rise 10.6 inches (27 centimeters) by 2050, and 33.5 inches (85 centimeters) by 2100, Abel Centella, scientific director of the country’s Meteorological Institute, was quoted by Communist Party daily Granma as saying.

There were no details of what preparations the island is undertaking, but Granma said scientists are closely monitoring sea levels.

Government scientist Marcelino Hernandez warned of the need to protect environments that can mitigate the effects of sea encroachment.

“Right now it is urgent to preserve mangroves, coral reefs, sea grass and sand beaches,” Hernandez was quoted as saying. “Each of these ecosystems is a natural barrier to defend the coasts from the impact of climate change. If they deteriorate, the consequences will be worse.”

International scientific studies have projected sea levels will rise between 30 and 75 inches (190 centimeters) by the end of the century, fed by melting glaciers and ice caps.

The rises will not be uniform worldwide due to currents, winds and other factors.

Internet

City workers drain the ponding on a road in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province, 18 June, 2011. Nanjing was pounded with torrential rain from Friday night to Saturday morning, which left many roads flooded, affecting local traffic. Warnings against further rainstorms have been issued.—Xinhua

Reading with mom can boost kindergarten readiness

NEW YORK, 18 June—Home learning experiences such as reading books with parents can improve low-income preschool children’s readiness to start school, researchers say.

The new study included more than 1,850 US children and their mothers in families with household incomes at or below the federal poverty line. During home visits when the children were ages 1, 2, 3 and 5 years, the New York University researchers looked at how often the children took part in literary activities (such as shared book reading), the quality of the mothers’ interactions with their children (such as exposing children to frequent and varied adult speech), and the availability of learning materials, including children’s books.

The researchers also assessed the number of words the children understood and their knowledge of letters and words at age 5.

Differences in the children’s home learning environment predicted their readiness to start school, according to the study in the current issue of the journal Child Development. —Internet

German authority detects first human spreading E coli

BERLIN, 18 June—German authority said on Friday first case of human spreading E. coli was detected, as death toll increases to 39 worldwide.

A woman working in a kitchen of a catering company was infected by E coli from sprouts, though she didn’t fall ill immediately, said Harald Keilborn, a spokesman for the consumer protection ministry of German state Hesse.

Then she spread E coli unconsciously to another 20 people through the food she prepared, said Keilborn.

The woman later developed serious complication of hemolytic-uremic syndrome (HUS), which causes failure of kidney and nervous system.

According to the data of the Robert Koch Institute, Germany’s national disease control centre, the number of people who are infected has reached 3,408 in Germany and 798 people have fallen into HUS, while the infection speed is slowing down.—Xinhua

China-Indonesia joint training for special forces ends in Bandung

BANDUNG, 18 June—“Sharp Knife 2011” joint training for special forces of China and Indonesia concluded successfully on Friday in Bandung, Indonesia.

Hou Shusen, deputy chief of general staff of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA), and Budiman, deputy chief of staff of the Indonesian National Army (TNI-AD), together attended the closing ceremony and Press Conference after witnessing a joint field exercise.

Hou said that the PLA and the Indonesian National Armed Force (TNI) had achieved great development in their relationship in recent years, as their pragmatic cooperation in personnel training, equipment and technology, joint training, offshore security and multilateral dialogue was firmly improved.

He said that the two forces learned from each other, made trainings together and exchanged counter-terror skills and tactics through the “Sharp Knife 2011” in a dozen days.

“They had not only obtained good training results but also promoted the mutual understanding and trust between them, as well as consolidated and developed the traditional friendship between the two countries,” Hou added.

Budiman said that the armies of China and Indonesia had differences in history, culture, tradition and military thought, but the two countries shared a historical traditional friendship.—Xinhua

Police gather near the Pentagon in Washington, the United States, on 17 June, 2011. A suspicious vehicle was found near Pentagon early Friday, and one person has been arrested near the Arlington National Cemetery, local media reported.—Xinhua

California loses more jobs as economic recovery stumbles

LOS ANGELES, 18 June—California, the most populous state in the United States, lost 29,200 jobs in May, indicating a stumbling economic recovery, according to figures released on Friday.

The losses were spread across sectors of the economy — construction, manufacturing, trade, professional and business services, educational and health services, and leisure and hospitality, the federal Bureau of Statistics said.

Despite the job losses, the state’s unemployment rate still dropped to 11.7 percent, from 11.8 percent the month before, the bureau said.—Internet
China to complete geographical disaster prevention system by 2020

Beijing, 18 June—China will finish building a geographical disaster prevention system by 2020 to cope with increasingly serious natural disasters in recent years, according to the State Council, or China’s cabinet.

By the end of 2015, the government will finish reinforcing key projects and evacuating people from disaster-prone areas near the Three Gorges Dam and the Wenchuan and Yushu quake zones, the State Council said in a statement on the Chinese government’s official website.

A system for evaluating, monitoring, preventing and responding to natural disasters will be completed by the end of 2020, according to the statement. The peril of large-scale natural disasters will be essentially non-existent by that time, human life and property losses of human life and property will be remarkably reduced, the statement said.

The State Council urged local authorities to step up water preservation and consolidate problematic reservoirs. The ecological environment of disaster-prone regions should also be protected, the State Council said.

China is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, with its complicated geographical structure and activity.—Xinhua

Strange and rubbery ‘SpongeBob’ mushroom discovered in Malaysia

Washington, 18 June—San Francisco State University researchers have discovered a new species of mushroom called Spongiforma squarepantsii, which look almost as strange as its cartoon namesake, in the forests of Borneo.

Shaped like a sea sponge, S.squarepantsii was found in 2010 in the Lambril Hills in Sarawak, Malaysia.

It’s bright orange—although it can turn purple when sprinkled with a strong chemical base—and smells “vaguely fruity or strongly musty,” according to researcher Dennis Desjardin and colleagues’ description.

Under a scanning electron microscope, the spore-producing area of the fungus looks like a seawall carpeted in tube sponges, which further convinced the researchers to name their find after the famous Bob.

The new species is only one of two species in the Spongiforma genus. The other species is found in central Thailand, and differs in colour and odor.

Desjardin said Spongiforma are related to a group of mushrooms that includes the tasty porcini.

But the genus sports an unusual look that is far from the expected cap and stem style. “It’s just like a sponge with these big hollow holes. When it’s wet and moist and fresh, you can wring water out of it and it will spring back to its original size. Most mushrooms don’t do that,” he explained.

In its humid home, Spongiforma has taken a different approach to keeping its spores wet.

“It’s become gelatinous or rubbery. Its adaptation is to revive very quickly if it dries out, by absorbing very small amounts of moisture from the air,” said Desjardin.

The discovery was published in the journal Mycologia.

China cows produce milk like human breast milk

Beijing, 18 June—Chinese scientists claim to have produced genetically modified cows whose milk could be a substitute for human breast milk.

Researchers at the State Key Laboratory of Agrobiotechnology of the China Agricultural University introduced human genetic coding into the DNA of Holstein dairy cow embryos. They then transferred the embryos into cow surrogates, the China Daily reported.

The scientist said that after years of tests on mice, they managed to create in 2003 the first cow that could produce milk with the same nutritional properties as human breast milk “but with a taste even stronger and sweeter”. “The genetically modified cow milk is 80 percent the same as human breast milk,” said lead researcher Li Ning.

“Our modified cow milk contains several major properties of human milk, in particular proteins and antibodies good for health and able to improve our immune system.” Over 300 cloned cattle are now at an experimental farm in Beijing. The researchers said an affordable form of the milk could be marketed within three years.—Internet

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Responsibility to represent country and win medals... (from page 1)

Accordingly, the responsibility to represent the country and to win medals falls on athletes as the national duty.

Moreover, encouragements are being given to the athletes for uplifting the Myanmar sports standard with the concept that securing victories in the international sports competitions can reflect the progress of the nation and national prestige and integrity.

With a view to enabling the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to keep abreast of other nations, strenuous efforts are being made for progress of the nation in all aspects. In so doing, systematic plans have been adopted with the aim bearing “From Myanmar level to world level” so as to possess best outcomes in the international sports events.

Everybody can see unprecedented encouragements of the government, sports federations, entrepreneurs, sports enthusiasts, wellwishers and social organizations with financial, manpower and mental support to develop Myanmar sports.

As such, selected Myanmar athletes will have better physical fitness, nutrition, concentration on training of respective sports with the use of advanced sports gear and precious experiences from the trainings in the countries that are taking leading roles in respective sports events.

The Vice-President thanked all the entrepreneurs, people and sports enthusiasts for their donations to the funds so as to secure the victories in both XXVI and XXVII SEA Games. Moreover, he urged them to participate in honouring the victorious athletes to be organized by the State.

Next, Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Thet Lin and wife, Minister of Myanmar Volleyball Federation and of Asia World Company U Tha Htay Naing and wife, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu receives cash from a wellwisher.—MNA

Kayin State excursion members on tour of Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing welcomed 50 excursion members from Hpa-an, Hlaingwe, Papon and Kawkareik townships of Kayin State led by Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding of Kayin State U Saw Win Htein, at the briefing hall of 30-acre integrated farming and breeding farm in Pobbathiri Township, here, today.

The Union Minister gave necessary instructions on agriculture development.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing and excursion members observed sugarcane farm, breeding of cows and displaying agricultural implements.

Union Minister for Cooperatives U Ohn Myint elaborated on agricultural loans for farmers to be provided by the Cooperatives Ministry. The excursion members then studied sunflower farms.

They also observed paddy and crop plantations, and breeding farms in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw, Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw.

On arrival at Nay Pyi Taw Council Region, Union Minister U Myint Hlaing urged the excursion members to earnestly carry out development tasks of their own region taking experience and lessons from this trip.—MNA

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing explains agriculture and livestock breeding tasks to excursion group members of Kayin State.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 19 June, 2011
Nay Pyi Taw, 18 June — The Committee for Prevention against Recruitment of Minors held its 12th meeting at the Ministry of Defence here today.

It was participated by Chairman of the committee Union Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Hla Min, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and members of the committee.

Union Minister Maj-Gen Hla Min delivered address and called on members of the committee to review the work of the committee during the meeting.

Joint Secretary of the committee Maj-Gen Ngwe Thein reported on the work of the committee and members of the committee presented review on the work.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Union Minister Maj-Gen Hla Min. — MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 June — The third coordination meeting of the central committee for holding jade, gems and pearl special sales in July 2011 took place at Mani Yadana Jade Hall near Gems Museum here this afternoon. Patron of the central committee Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik attended the meeting and left necessary instructions.

It was also attended by members of patronage and officials and guests.

At the meeting, responsible persons of sub-committees and members of Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association reported on their respective tasks for successful holding of the sales.

Next, Union Minister U Tint Hsan and Deputy Minister U Htay Aung explained arrangements for holding Nay Pyi Taw travel show and food show at the special sales. Then, Union Minister U Thein Htaik fulfilled the needs and the meeting came to a close.— MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 June — Monsoon tree-planting ceremony was held at Basic Education High School (Branch) in Tatkon Township here this morning. Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Aung, Dr Paing Soe, U Khan Chun and U Myo Nyunt also planted star flower trees. Next, officials and those presented also planted teak trees and shade trees. At the ceremony, a total of 1200 trees were grown.

Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee is planting various kinds of trees at the City Hall, staff housing, along roads and in parts and gardens and about 0.7 million trees have been grown up to June 2011.— MNA
Plan to hold Jade, Gems…
(from page 16)
Therefore, jewellery are held at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. As the 48th Myanma Gems Emporium was held in Nay Pyi Taw in last March, the coming Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales will be organized for the third time of its kind in Nay Pyi Taw.

The special sales will last from 1 to 13 July. Pearl lots will be sold on 2 and 3 July. Jewellery lots will be sold through tender and competitive bidding system on 4 July. Jade lots will be put on sales through tender from 3 to 9 July and through competitive bidding system from 10 to 13 July. Plans are under way to sell uncut jade stones, finished jade products, uncut gemstones, finished jewellery, pearls, ornaments made of jade, jewellery and pearls, stones like jade, uncut Ingin fossils and finished products, figurines, crystals, mosaic paintings and silver wears. These products will be sold to foreign and local gem merchants.

Together with Myanma Pearls Enterprise and Myanma Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines, private companies for selling jewellery at gems shops in line with the Myanmar Gems Laws and private entrepreneurs, companies and cooperative societies with export licences for jewellery will participate in the sales.

The main building of Mani Yadana Jade Hall, where the special sales display of jade, gems and pearl lots. The Jade Hall is located on 21.42 acres of land. The jade, gems and pearl lots to be sold at the special sales are being displayed at Mani Yadana Jade Hall.

To be able to achieve success in the special sales, the Central Committee for Organizing the Myanma Gems Emporium formed the accommodation subcommittee, the transport subcommittee, the information subcommittee, the health subcommittee, the jade subcommittee, the gems subcommittee, the pearl subcommittee and the management subcommittee in advance for making preparations. In so doing, the Myanmar Jewellery Entrepreneurs and meals in Nay Pyi Taw so as to successfully organize the special sales. Moreover, all the subcommittees will open temporary offices for carry out their tasks smoothly.

Bandoola Transport Service will run Parama Taxis for smooth transportation of gem merchants. Likewise, a total of 23 hotels in Nay Pyi Taw reserve over 1600 hotel rooms for convenient accommodation of the merchants. The hotels have made arrangements for giving food services to over 5000 people at restaurants and over 30 canteens simultaneously.

It was reported that the gem merchants who bought jade, gems and pearl lots worth the largest amount will be honoured with gifts and certificates of honour.

Larger number of local and foreign gem merchants than that of previous years attended the 48th Myanma Gems Emporium held in March 2011 and they purchased jade, gems and pearl lots in competitiveness.

The Central Committee for Organizing the Myanma Gems Emporium in coordination with Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association could secure achievements in Myanmar Gems Emporium one after another. Therefore, arrangements are being made for holding the Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales on a grander scale.

As such, earnest efforts of responsible persons can be seen for providing necessary assistance of accommodation, transport and meals for better convenience of local and foreign gem merchants who will buy jade, gems and pearl lots at the special sales.

Translation: TTA
Insomnia therapy reduced suicide thoughts

STANFORD, 18 June—Treating insomniacs with cognitive-behavioral therapy can reduce thoughts of suicide, US researchers suggest.

“This is the first investigation to show that a sleep-targeted intervention has a therapeutic impact on suicide risk specifically,” lead author Rebecca Bernert, a fellow at Stanford University in California, says in a statement. “This suggests that a treatment focus on sleep disturbances may have important implications for the prevention of suicidal behaviors.”

A growing body of evidence suggests self-reported insomnia and poor sleep quality constitute modifiable risk factors for suicide and sleep complaints also are listed among the top suicide warning signs by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration, Bernert says.

The study involved 303 outpatients ages 18-88, who completed group cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia. The Beck Depression Inventory, which includes a question about suicidal thoughts or wishes, was administered at the beginning of the study and after treatment.

Boosting cold immunity may hurt asthma

ANN ARBOR, 18 June—Some asthma sufferers try to “boost” their immunity to prevent colds via supplements and fortified foods, but US researchers say this approach may be flawed.

Dr Marc B Hershenson of the University of Michigan said the researchers used mice engineered to have a reduced innate immune response to the common cold. Their study of the mice shows that, in the airways, the immune response to the common cold is actually maladaptive.

“The mice actually showed less, not more, airway inflammation and bronchoconstriction, or airway spasm, following infection.”

“You often hear that people want to boost their immunity to prevent and fight colds,” Hershenson said in a statement.

“However, boosting the immune response could increase inflammation. Up to now there have been no convincing data supporting the theory that the immune response might be deleterious. In our study, we offer the first direct evidence that limiting the immune response reduces the manifestations of rhinovirus infection.”

The findings, published in the journal PLoS Pathogens, may hold important implications for individuals with asthma, who often experience life-threatening flare-ups due to infections with cold viruses.—Internet

Gas tanks explode at English docks

FALMOUTH, 18 June—Hundreds of gas cylinders exploded into flame at a dockyard in Cornwall, England, Friday morning, authorities said.

The Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service in Falmouth, a popular cruise ship port, told the BBC the blaze broke out around 8:20 am.

“The local Falmouth Packet reported in the afternoon that the fire had been put out after 7 hours and evacuees ordered out of a 1,000-foot exclusion zone could begin returning.

At one point there were 56 firefighters on the scene. No injuries were reported.

Fire official Kevin Thomas said there were 240 acetylene cylinders at the site, but many were empty. Jamie Clark was awakened by the blast. “There was some massive, massive explosions and we saw a big raging fire on top of these canisters,” he said.

Fire crews will stay at the scene for another 24 hours to cool the cylinders, Thomas said. “It will be a protracted incident for a very good reason,” he said.

Most in California strive for five

SACRAMENTO, 18 June—California adults who report eating five or more servings of fruit and vegetables a day increased by more than half in the past decade, researchers say.

A study in the July-August supplement to the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behaviour describes the 10-year trend for California adults’ fruit and vegetable consumption using surveillance data.

Researchers at the Network for a Healthy California, California Department of Public Health and Public Health Institute surveyed 1,400 to 1,700 California residents starting in 1997 and continuing biennially until the most current data from the 2007 survey. The survey tool used a single 24-hour dietary recall to assess intake of food.

The study found over the decade mean daily fruit and vegetable consumption rose from 3.8 servings to 5.2 servings. The number of California adults who reported eating five or more servings of fruit and vegetables on their 24-hour diet recall increased 57 percent in the past decade.—Internet

Firefighters spray water to put out a fire triggered by a chemical leak in Payang County, central China’s Henan Province, on 17 June, 2011. —Internet

Dogs in gangs not just used as weapons

PONTYPRIDD, 18 June—Contrary to popular perception, youths in gangs do not use dogs primarily for protection and status, but for companionship, British researchers say.

Jennifer Maher and Harriet Pierpoint of the Centre for Criminology at the University of Glamorgan in Wales say there is rising concern in Britain over irresponsible dog ownership, and the use of so-called status or weapon dogs, by street-based youth gangs.

Maher and Pierpoint interviewed 25 youths in total and seven animal welfare and youth practitioners, including a vet, a dog warden and a youth offenders team warden.

Companionship and socialization with friends were the main reasons the youths described for their ownership, the study says.—Internet

Members of government panel are seen here inspecting the damaged building housing reactor number three at the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, on 17 June. Tokyo Electric Power said it stopped treating highly radioactive waste water at a crippled Japanese nuclear plant just hours after the system came online because parts needed to be replaced.—Internet

The rear of 1937 Dubonnet Hispano-Suiza H-6C “Xenia” is shown at the Allure of the Automobile exhibit on 10 June, 2011, at the Portland Art Museum, in Portland, Ore. The Allure of the Automobile examines the golden age of automotive design by celebrating some of the world’s finest cars from the 1920s to the early 1960s.—INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DAN JIANG VOY NO (021)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAN JIANG VOY NO (021) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.6.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BIENDONG TRADER VOY NO (1134)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG TRADER VOY NO (1134) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.6.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD
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Tombs in Suffolk studied with aid of space-age science
LEICESTER, 18 June — The science of the space age is being deployed to probe the secrets of the Tudor tombs of the great Howard family. Laser imaging and X-ray spectrometers are being used to scan the tombs so they can be virtually deconstructed and reassembled in their original guise. It is thought two of the tombs, in the church of St Michael the Archangel in Framlingham, Suffolk, were substantially remodelled after they were moved from Thetford Priory in Norfolk in 1540.

The belief is that the salvaged tombs received a Renaissance makeover, with new simpler additions or replacements probably made in the 1550s. Other elements seem to have been abandoned at Thetford following its dissolution, where they were found during excavations in the 1930s. These fragments will also be scanned and thrown into the 3D jigsaw.
300 pounds of pot found in abandoned truck

 Authorities investigating an 18-wheeler abandoned on the side of a Texas road with the engine running discovered about 300 pounds of marijuana inside.

 The Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office said deputies arrived at the truck, which was at the side of US 59 near FM 1314, early Wednesday morning and found it was abandoned with the engine running, the Houston Chronicle reported Thursday.

 The marijuana was discovered in the cab of the vehicle, deputies said. They said they do not know what happened to the driver or how long the truck had been at the side of the road.

 Garth Brooks and Billy Joel Share the Spotlight at 42nd Songwriters Hall of Fame Celebration

 NEW YORK, 18 June – The Songwriters Hall of Fame celebrated its 42nd Anniversary Induction at the award ceremony held on Thursday night, 16 June, in New York. It was a show by support of musical artists, and fellow songwriters alike, as those that came out, whether to perform or receive awards, all showed a special appreciation for the craft.

 Hosted by SHOF chairman Jimmy Webb, this year’s inductees included John Bettis, Leon Russell, Billy Steinberg and Tom Kelly, Allen Toussaint and country music star Garth Brooks. The first of many performances throughout the night, Steinberg and Kelly sang one of their greatest songwriting successes, “Like a Virgin,” more familiarly sung by Madonna. The duo also claim triumph to Cyndi Lauper’s “True Colours” and “Crazy for You” by The Pretenders. Hip-hop sensation Drake was the recipient of the Hal David Starlight Award, given to songwriters making significant im-pact in the music industry via their original lyrics. He performed “The Calm” and dedicated his award to his mother.

 Kelly Osbourne’s pup Noodles dies

 LOS ANGELES, 18 June—British singer and TV personality Kelly Osbourne said via Twitter her 3-month-old Pomeranian puppy Noodles has died.

 People.com said Osbourne took the dog to the vet this week after she suffered a seizure. Tests revealed she had swelling in her brain.

 “Noodles is not going to make it,” Osbourne wrote on her Twitter account Wednesday. “She was born with a brain defect and I have to put her to sleep today. I’m devastated. I just can’t believe it.”

 Rahm Emanuel takes wrong student to signing

 Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel called a first-grader to apologize for taking the wrong pupil to the signing of an education reform bill. Emanuel, who championed the bill to prepare for the possibility of longer school days and longer school years, took first-grader Rei Kong to Gov. Pat Quinn’s signing of the bill and identified her as the pupil who asked him about the plans during a classroom visit, the Chicago Sun-Times reported Friday.

 However, the question was actually asked by Rei’s classmate at South Loop Elementary School, Parker Rasmussen. Parker’s mother said Thursday she was baffled by the error.

 “Everybody knows it was Parker [who asked the question]. It’s on the school’s Web site. So is the [Chicago Sun-Times] article with the picture of my son being kissed on the head by the mayor,” Marla Vender Rasmussen said.

 The mother said she received an apologetic call from one of Emanuel’s press aides, who complimented her son for “asking an awesome question.”

 “They said they were sorry but the mayor talked to a lot of kids that day,” Vender Rasmussen said.

 “I accept their story, and my son enjoyed getting a call from his mayor,” she said. “He probably enjoyed it more than if he went to the signing of the bill.”

 Woman got unemployment while jailed

 Prosecutors in Florida said a woman who allegedly collected unemployment benefits while in jail has been charged with public assistance fraud.

 Rob Ballard Dekle, 51, of Haines City was charged with the felony Tuesday by the Florida State Attorney’s Office, The (Lakeland, Fla) Ledger reported Friday.

 Dekle received unemployment compensation from September 2009 until November 2010. She was arrested on a probation violation in May 2010 and continued to collect unemployment while serving a jail sentence, prosecutors said.

 “While she was receiving the unemployment compensation, she was required to be available for work at all times and she had to actively look for work,” investigator David Lyon wrote in an affidavit.

 “At the time of Dekle’s release on 6 October, 2010, the balance in her account had increased to $5,221.62,” Lyon wrote.

 “After being released, Dekle utilized all of these funds for her own use at stores, restaurants, Disney World and Universal.”

 Dekle is in jail again on unrelated charges of marijuana possession and violation of a domestic violence injunction, both misdemeanors.

 Kara DioGuardi to star in Broadway’s ‘Chicago’

 NEW YORK, 18 June—Kara DioGuardi is about to make her Broadway stage debut as a merry murderess. The songwriter and former “American Idol” judge is the latest celebrity to step into the role of Roxie Hart in the Tony Award-winning revival of “Chicago.” DioGuardi is now the head judge on Bravo’s “Platinum Hit.” She will be in the show for eight weeks beginning 5 Sept. “Chicago” is now the fifth longest-running production in Broadway history. It debuted in 1996. Other big names have played Roxie including Christie Brinkley, Brooke Shields, Sandy Duncan, Marilu Henner, Bebe Neuwirth, Ashlee Simpson, Michelle Williams and Melanie Griffith.

 Kelly Osbourne arrives at the Pre-Grammy Gala & Salute to Industry Icons with Clive Davis honouring David Geffen in Beverly Hills, California on 12 Feb, 2011. Internet

 In this 14 Feb, 2008, file photo, Wayne Brady appears at the 39th NAACP Image Awards in Los Angeles. Brady is right at home amid the glitz and glamour of Las Vegas, so he jumped at the chance to put on the old razzle-dazzle as host of the Daytime Emmys. Brady first hosted the awards honoring everything from soap operas to game shows to talk shows in 2003. Now, he’s back for the 38th annual shindig airing live on CBS from the Las Vegas Hilton on Sunday night.

 Rahm Emanuel, pictured at his mayoral inauguration ceremony in Chicago on 16 May, 2011.

 Kelly Osbourne’s pup Noodles dies

 LOS ANGELES, 18 June—British singer and TV personality Kelly Osbourne said via Twitter her 3-month-old Pomeranian puppy Noodles has died.

 People.com said Osbourne took the dog to the vet this week after she suffered a seizure. Tests revealed she had swelling in her brain.

 “Noodles is not going to make it,” Osbourne wrote on her Twitter account Wednesday. “She was born with a brain defect and I have to put her to sleep today. I’m devastated. I just can’t believe it.”

 Kelly Osbourne arrives at the Pre-Grammy Gala & Salute to Industry Icons with Clive Davis honouring David Geffen in Beverly Hills, California on 12 Feb, 2011. Internet
**Rain washes out pre-Wimbledon Eastbourne play**

**EASTBOURNE, 18 June** — Steady rain forced abandonment Friday at the ATP-WTA Eastbourne grasscourt event as the pre-Wimbledon tournament stalled at the semi-final stage. With Wimbledon starting on Monday and players keen to get to London for final practise at the All England club, officials will now try and conclude on schedule Saturday with a double-up programmed to meet a tight timetable. Held hostage by the weather were men’s and women’s matches for places in the finals, with Czech fifth seed Petra Kvitova due to include on schedule Saturday with a double-up programme to meet a tight timetable. Held hostage by the weather were men’s and women’s matches for places in the finals, with Czech fifth seed Petra Kvitova due to

French sixth seed Marion Bartoli, a 2007 Wimbledon finalist, will take on former Roland Garros finalist Samantha Stosur of Australia, seeded seventh. On the men’s side, number three Janko Tipsarevic, lone seed left in a field which had been headed by Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, faces Japan’s Kei Nishikori. The other semi-final will pit Italian Andreas Seppi against Russia’s Igor Kunitsyn. — Internet

**Man Utd at West Brom for Premier League opener**

LONDON, 18 June — Champions Manchester United will kick off the defence of their Premier League crown at West Brom before facing Tottenham and Arsenal at Old Trafford, fixtures for the 2010/2011 season showed on Friday. Untied will travel to The Hawthorns on 13 August after consecutive home games against Spurs and old rivals Arsenal. Sir Alex Ferguson’s team will complete their domestic campaign with a trip to Sunderland on 13 May next year. Arsenal meanwhile will open their season against Newcastle at St James Park, where the Gunners squared up a 4-0 lead earlier this year as the Magpies battled back to draw 4-4. Arsene Wenger’s men then have a daunting home fixture against Liverpool before travelling to Old Trafford for their tie with United. Chelsea meanwhile will open their campaign at Stoke before facing West Brom at Stamford Bridge. Liverpool new signing Jordan Henderson will meet his old club Sunderland on the opening day at Anfield before the Reds travel to London to face Arsenal. — Internet

**McLeish appointed Aston Villa manager**

LONDON, 18 June — Alex McLeish vowed to win over Aston Villa’s supporters on Friday after being confirmed as the Premier League club’s new manager following days of angry protests by fans. Villa confirmed in a statement they had appointed McLeish with immediate effect just five days after the 52-year-old Scot resigned from bitter local rivals Birmingham City, who were relegated last month.

“I know that some of our fans have voiced concerns and I can understand why,” McLeish said. “It will be up to me to convince you that I am the right man to drive the club forward and I intend to give absolutely everything to prove that I can be a success at the club.”

McLeish described the lure of Aston Villa as “irresistible.” “I am honoured to have this opportunity to manage a club with such a fantastic history as Aston Villa’s,” he said.

**Alex McLeish**

**Fellow rider says Soler hit curb before crash**

**GUESS, 18 June** — Colombian cyclist Juan Mauricio Soler hit a curb near a traffic circle, tumbled onto a spectator and smashed into a fence during the crash that left him with brain injuries and multiple fractures, a fellow rider said on Friday.

Tour of Switzerland spokesman Christoph Arnold said Soler remains in an induced coma at a hospital in the eastern city of St Gallen. Soler’s team Movistar said the rider remained in intensive care in “stable though serious” condition, but that swelling on the brain had reduced.

“All of a sudden there was a footpath with a (2-inch) edge dropping down to the road level,” Australian rider Baden Cooke told Associated Press in an email. “(Soler) had no time to brake at all.”

The 28-year-old Soler hit a fence about two feet away from the road. “The fence did not move at all so Soler took the full impact,” Cooke said. — Internet

**FIFA will allow Mexico to replace 5 players**

**MEXICO CITY, 18 June** — Mexico will be allowed to replace the five players who have been dropped from the Gold Cup squad after testing positive for the banned substance clenbuterol. FIFA approved the move and was asking CONCACAF, the regional governing body, to implement it, FIFA Secretary General Jerome Valcke said Friday at the Under-17 World Cup.

The five players and the Mexican federation are blaming the positive tests on contaminated meat. The players involved are defenders Francisco Rodriguez and Edgar Duenas, goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa, and midfielders Christian Bermudez and Antonio Alonzo.

**Internet**

**De Gendt wins Tour de Switzerland seventh stage, Cunego still in yellow**

**GUESS, 18 June** — Belgian cyclist Thomas De Gendt took the victory of the seventh stage in the Tour of Switzerland on Friday, while Italian Damiano Cunego was still in the race leader’s yellow jersey.

De Gendt held off the pressure of Luxembourg’s Andy Schleck in the final climb to claim victory in five hours 38 minutes 42 seconds. Leopard-rider Schleck, a two-time runner-up in the Tour de France, finished 35 seconds adrift of Vacansoleil rider De Gendt. Jose Joaquin Rojas of Spain took the third at 48 seconds. — Internet

**McIlroy roars into the record books at US Open**

**BETHESDA, 18 June** — In one of those can’t-miss moments in sports, thousands of fans covered every inch of space on the hill behind the 10th green at Congressional. They spilled onto the clubhouse veranda, pressed their faces against the windows and lined up against the balcony railing to watch Rory McIlroy deliver a performance never before seen in the US Open. “It was Tiger Woods of 11 years ago,” Ian Poulter said. In some respects, it was even better.

McIlroy, the sympathetic figure at the Masters, was as close to perfect as golf allows Friday during a stunning assault on the record book. — Internet

**Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland**

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**Internet**

**S P O R T S**

**Internet**

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**Internet**
Marveaux is latest French arrival at Newcastle

NEWCASTLE, 19 June—Newcastle’s Francophone recruitment drive moved up a gear Saturday as the club announced the signing of Rennes midfielder Sylvain Marveaux.

The 25-year-old is set to arrive on July 1 on a Bosman free transfermove to St James’ Park, having coup to have signed Sylvain, who has received interest from a number of other clubs.—Internet

Rennes striker Sylvain Marveaux kicks the ball during a match against Sochaux in September.

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Mandalay Region, Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Magway Region and Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region, Rakhine and Mon States isolated heavyfalls in Kayin State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were thanade (12.45) inches. Longdon (9.69) inches, Chauzonge (6.22) inches, Taungup (5.94) inches, Mawlamyine (5.83) inches, Gwa (5.79) inches, Kyakmaw (5.66) inches, Kyaukkhazhi (5.43) inches, NyaungOo (5.31) inches and Sittway (5.04) inches.

Nay Pyi Taw

Maximum temperature on 17-6-2011 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 18-6-2011 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 18-6-2011 was (92%). Rainfall on 18-6-2011 was (Nil).

Nay Pyi Taw (Airport)

Maximum temperature on 17-6-2011 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 18-6-2011 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 18-6-2011 was (92%). Rainfall on 18-6-2011 was (Tr).

Rainfall on 18-6-2011 was (Nil) at Nay Pyi Taw. (2.52) inches at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) and (Nil) at Mandalay. Total rainfall since 1-1-2011 was (17.71) inches at Nay Pyi Taw, (37.68) inches at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) and (13.39) inches at Mandalay. Maximum wind speed at Nay Pyi Taw was (11) mph from South at (12.30) hours MST on 18-6-2011.

Bay Inference: According to the observations at (12.30) hrs MST today, the Depression over North Bay of Bengal has crossed West Bengal Coast (India) and remained practically stationary as Land Depression. Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 19th June 2011: Rain will be isolated in scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the Sea: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 19th June 2011: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19th June 2011: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19th June 2011: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
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 killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Judges should be committed to truth

Yangon, 18 June—“All citizens will be under the protection of law to enjoy equal rights and the judicial pillar will be strengthened,” vowed Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo at a meeting with judges, law officers and court staff at Yangon Region High Court here this morning.

The Union Chief Justice noted that judicial system stands to settle rows and conflicts among citizens, bringing about stability of the nation. Righteousness, fairness, calmness and sobriety are strength of judiciary. Judges should be committed to truth and thus are to do away with corruption and bribery, pointed out the chief justice, urging them to safeguard the judicial system.

MNA

Plan to hold Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw

Article & Photos: Yan Gyi Aung

Mani Yadana Jade Hall, located near the Myanmar Gems Museum, is a large and grand building. Myanmar Gems Emporiums have been successfully organized at Mani Yadana Jade Hall two times. Preparations are being made for holding the Jade, Gems and Pearls Special Sales in the near future.

As Myanmar is rich in natural resources, an abundant array of jewellery are being produced. Among various kinds of gems, foreigners prefer jade, ruby and sapphire of Myanmar which are the best quality of their kinds across the nation. Of two types of jade namely Jadeite Jade and Nephrite Jade, Jadeite Jade has all characteristics of jade. Jadeite Jade of Myanmar is best quality, most beautiful and precious of its kind across the nation. Quality of Myanmar jade is unrivalled in the world market. Even China that purchases largest volume of jade from Myanmar can produce Nephrite Jade only. Although there are four countries producing South Sea Pearls throughout the world, foreigners prefer Myanmar pearl than others.

(See page 10)