State has provided quake-hit Tahlay with supplies worth K 1162.7 million
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspects reconstruction tasks in quake-hit Tachilek, Tahlay

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham comforts a patient undergoing medical treatment at Tahlay Station Hospital.—MNA

State has provided supplies worth K 1162.7 million for the victims of the earthquake that struck Tahlay, Shan State, on March 24, 2011. The supplies were provided by the State, and entrepreneurs and wellwishers from both inside and outside the country lent a large volume of rehabilitation aid within three months. On behalf of the government, the deputy minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Tahlay area has been supervising reconstruction tasks and with the concerted efforts of entrepreneurs, wellwishers and government service personnel, reconstruction of the damaged buildings has completed by nearly cent per cent. The remaining rehabilitation tasks will continue. The rehabilitation tasks could be accomplished within a few months with the contribution of local and foreign entrepreneurs, wellwishers and members of the Sangha. The Vice-President said he, on behalf of the government, was grateful to them for their contribution and hoped that they would give a helping hand in the future too.

(See page 8)

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham gives encouragement to students at Basic Education Primary School in Phakan Village.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, accompanied by Union Ministers, deputy ministers and departmental heads, left Nay Pyi Taw by air yesterday morning and arrived in Heho of Shan State at 8.30 am. They were welcomed by Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and wife, State Ministers and State level departmental officials.

Accompanied by Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, the Vice-President and party proceeded to Tachilek.

At the lounge of Tachilek Airport, Shan State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Thu reported on damage caused by earthquake in Tachilek Township and Tahlay, rehabilitation task, cash assistance and supplies to quake victims, progress in reconstruction of departmental buildings, religious edifices, schools, hospitals and housings, resettlement of people from Kyakuni Village to new place.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-President said that he went to there on 3-4-2011 for the first time to provide necessaries for damaged Tahlay area hit by strong earthquake on 24-3-2011. Now is the second time to provide a large amount of necessary assistance to the victims. So far, the State has provided them with supplies worth K 1162.7 million and entrepreneurs and wellwishers at home and abroad contributed to a large volume of rehabilitation aid within three months. On behalf of the government, the deputy minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement based in Tahlay area has been supervising reconstruction tasks and with the concerted efforts of entrepreneurs, wellwishers and government service personnel, reconstruction of the damaged buildings has completed by nearly cent per cent.

The remaining rehabilitation tasks will continue. The rehabilitation tasks could be accomplished within a few months with the contribution of local and foreign entrepreneurs, wellwishers and members of the Sangha. The Vice-President said he, on behalf of the government, was grateful to them for their contribution and hoped that they would give a helping hand in the future too.

(See page 8)
Crush the danger of illicit drugs

Today (26 June) is International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The drug problem is threatening and hampering the economic and social affairs and future developments of global countries.

As narcotics constitute a threat to all nations, big or small and rich or poor, Myanmar like other nations is actively participating drug elimination tasks. Committees for drug abuse control from regions, states, districts and townships are working harmoniously with the entire national people to prevent the danger of narcotic drugs.

There can be repercussions due to drug abuse. Particularly, young people who fall prey to drugs die of infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS. Use of stimulants like ATS has made life difficult for some people and they are suffering ill consequences.

Educative campaigns must be launched for the entire people including young students so that they can be well aware that narcotics are no way to be touched as drug abuse can lead to a very miserable life.

Knowing the importance of cooperation with the international community in grappling with the drug problem, Myanmar is actively taking part in the fight against narcotic drugs by signing agreements with the countries in the region and sub-region and neighbouring countries.

As illicit drugs are a threat to the entire mankind, cooperative efforts are necessary to root out the danger of drugs not only from Myanmar’s soil but also from the earth.

People’s Desire

Crush the danger of illicit drugs

Central Committee for Organizing Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales meets

Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik addresses coordination meeting of Central Committee for Organizing the Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales.—MNA

Ministry of Health held monsoon tree-planting and fingerling-releasing ceremonies-2011 in the ministry compound here this morning in the presence of Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin.

Deputy Health Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khan, Directors-General and officials concerned planted vegetations at the respective places.

The ministry has grown a total of 1550 plants in this year tree-growing season, and released a total of 11,000 fingerlings into Shopeik dam of the ministry still now.—MNA

General Secretary of Myanmar National Sports Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik and officials participate in mass walk activities to mark International Olympic Day 2011 in Yangon on 25 June.

MNA
Suicide bombing kills 35, wounds 53 in Logar Province, Afghanistan

KABUL, 25 June—A suicide bombing hit Logar Province, 60 km south of Afghan capital Kabul on Saturday, killing 35 people and injuring 53 others, an official said. “The blast happened close to a hospital leaving 35 people dead and wounding 53 others, almost all of them civilians,” spokesman for the provincial administration Deen Mohammad Darwish told Xinhua. On the other hand, Abdul Wali Wakil, the head of Logar’s Provincial Council, in talks with Xinhua, asserted that 30 people, all of them civilians including women and children were killed in the blast.

Several others were injured in the blast, he added. Meantime, Sedeqi, the spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry, in talks with Xinhua, confirmed the blast and said it was a suicide attack targeted at a clinic in Azra District killing and wounding several people.

Sedeqi said that complete details and the exact number of casualties would be released to media after completion of investigation.—Xinhua

Six police killed, 25 held hostage in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 25 June—At least six policemen were killed and 25 others were held hostage following an attack Saturday afternoon by a dozen of militants at a police station in northwest Pakistan, local Urdu TV channel Geo quoted police sources as saying. According to the local media reports, the attack took place at about 4:30 pm local time when 12 armed militants launched an attack at a police station in the Kulachi area of Dera Ismail Khan, a district in northwest Pakistan. Eyewitnesses said that handgrenade blasts and firing were heard shortly after two men and one woman with veil over her face entered the police station.

There were an estimated 30 police inside the police station when the attack happened, said local media reports. Six policemen were killed in the shootout. Army and police stationed nearby were called in after the attack was reported. However, the security personnel rushing to the attack site were unable to enter the police station as some of the police inside were held hostage by the attackers.—MNA/Xinhua

10 killed, 24 injured in blast in N Afghanistan

KABUL, 25 June—Ten people were killed and 24 others were injured when a bicycle bomb went off in Kunduz Province 250 km north of capital city of Kabul on Friday evening, the interior ministry confirmed on Saturday.

“A bomb placed in a bicycle was detonated by a remote control device late on Friday in Khan Abad District of northern Kunduz Province. As a result 10 people including a teenage girl and a policeman were killed,” said a statement issued by interior ministry here on Saturday.

According to the statement, a total of 24 others including five women and a police officer were also wounded in the blast.

The statement blamed Taleban for attack but the insurgent group has yet to make comment.

The Taleban-led insurgency has been rampant since the militant group announced to launch spring offensive from 1 May against Afghan and NATO-led troops stationed in Afghanistan.

Xinhua

Blast hits government office in Karachi, Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 25 June—Civilians were feared as a blast hit a government registration office in downtown area of Karachi in southern Pakistan Saturday morning, reported local Urdu TV channel Express.

According to the report, the blast took place at about 11:30 am local time near an office of the National Accountability and Database Registration Authority (NADRA) in the Bahadar Abad area of the city.

Police sources said that the bomb, which contained an estimated five kg of explosives was planted somewhere between the NADRA office and a nearby international red cross office. No casualties have been reported yet in the blast.

Police have arrived at the blast site shortly after the blast was reported and a bomb disposal squad is searching for other possible bombs planted nearby. Other details about the explosion are not immediately available.—Internet

Amtrak collision kills two, injures dozens in Nevada

LOS ANGELES, 25 June—An Amtrak train collided with a tractor-trailer rig on a rural Nevada highway on Friday, killing at least two people and injuring dozens, authorities said. The accident occurred at a rail crossing about 70 miles (112 kilometers) east of Reno, Nevada, according to Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP).

The truck drove into the side of an Amtrak train carrying 204 passengers and 14 crew members, leaving at least two persons dead, including the driver of the truck, NHP spokesman Dan Lopez said.

About 60 people were injured, among them 10 suffering serious injuries. The injured were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment, hospital sources said.

Internet
Scientists take temperature of long-gone dinosaurs

WASHINGTON, 25 June—Scientists have figured out a way to take the temperature of dinosaurs, and it turns out to be almost the same as ours.

They found the long-necked Brachiosaurus had a temperature of about 100.8 degrees F and the smaller Camarasaurus had a temperature of about 98.3 degrees. People average 98.6.

Their study, reported online Thursday in the journal Science, won’t settle the long-running debate over whether dinosaurs were warm-blooded like modern mammals or cold-blooded, requiring outside sources of warmth to get them going like lizards.

“Our analysis really allows us rule out that they could have been cold, like crocodiles, for example,” lead researcher Robert A. Eagle of the California Institute of Technology said in a briefing.

But, he added, “this doesn’t necessarily mean these large dinosaurs had high metabolism like mammals and birds ... they could have been ‘gigantotherms’ and stay warm because they were so large.”

A giant body mass is very good at keeping the temperature constant, explained co-author Thomas Tuetken of the University of Bonn, Germany.

Their research was on sauropods, the largest of dinosaurs, and the researchers explained that animals that large can retain body heat even with a relatively low metabolism, simply because they are so big.

Brachiosaurus weighed in at 40 tons and Camarasaurus was a 15-ton creature. Both lived about 150 million years ago.

The finding “confirms that dinosaurs were not sluggish, cold-blooded animals,” commented Roger Seymour of the University of Adelaide, Australia, who was not part of the research team.

But, he added, “the debate about dinosaur metabolic rate will go on, no doubt, because it can never be measured directly and paleoscientists will often seek evidence to support a particular view and ignore contrary evidence.”

Jeffrey F. Birchard of George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. agreed that the debate is likely to continue.—INTERNET

Small asteroid to pass Earth: NASA

LOS ANGELES, 25 June—Near-Earth asteroid 2011 MD will whip past Earth on 27 June, but will not pose any threat, NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) said on Friday.

The asteroid will pass only 12,000 kilometers (7,500 miles) above the Earth’s surface at about 9:30 EDT, according to JPL in Pasadena, Los Angeles.

This small asteroid, only 5-20 meters in diameter, is in a very Earth-like orbit about the Sun, but an orbital analysis indicates there is no chance it will actually strike Earth on Monday, JPL said.

If a rocky asteroid the size of 2011 MD were to enter Earth’s atmosphere, it would be expected to burn up high in the atmosphere and cause no damage to Earth’s surface, said JPL.

The accompanying diagram gives a view of the asteroid’s trajectory from the general direction of the Sun. This view indicates that 2011 MD will reach its closest Earth approach point in extreme southern latitudes (in fact over the southern Atlantic Ocean), according to JPL. The incoming trajectory leg passes several thousand kilometers outside the geosynchronous ring of satellites and the outgoing leg passes well inside the ring, JPL said.

For a brief time, it may be bright enough to be seen even with a modest-sized telescope.

One would expect an object of this size to come this close to Earth about every six years on average.

The asteroid was discovered by the LINEAR near-Earth object discovery team observing from Socorro, New Mexico.—INTERNET

Google pulling plug on PowerMeter, Health services

SAN FRANCISCO, 25 June—Google on Friday announced that it is pulling the plugs on free Health and PowerMeter services that haven’t won legions of users.

“We’re going to retire two products that didn’t catch on the way we would have hoped, but did serve as influential models,” Google Health senior product manager Aaron Brown and Green Energy czar Bill Weihl said in a blog post.

“While they didn’t scale as we had hoped, we believe they did highlight the importance of access to information in areas where it’s traditionally been difficult,” they said.

A PowerMeter service for tracking home electricity use will shut down on 16 September.

Google Health service for storing and selectively sharing personal medical records online will “retire” on 1 January but users will be able to download their information through the following year.

“Both were based on the idea that with more and better information, people can make smarter choices, whether in regard to managing personal health and wellness, or saving money and conserving energy at home,” Brown and Weihl said.

Google Health launched in early 2008 and PowerMeter software made its debut in late 2009.

Batphone app will record ultrasonic bat sounds

LONDON, 25 June—Scientists have created a “batphone” by designing a smartphone app to help people capture the ultrasonic calls of bats in their area, the Zoological Society of London has revealed. The iBats app for iPhones and Android phones aims to make it easier to monitor local bat species, by replacing three pieces of recording kit with just a phone and an ultrasonic microphone.

Researchers say it will help a network of more than 700 volunteers to figure out what was in their area.

“We hope the iBats app will encourage more of eating insects and acting as pollinators for many different plant species.”

Climate change will affect bat populations

Scientists believe species could spread to the Arctic

WASHINGTON, 25 June—Scientists believe species of bats and moths could spread to the Arctic as climate change warms the region.

“Our analysis reveals that bats and moths will likely spread to the Arctic as climate change warms the region,” said Dr Robert Tewkesbury of the University of Cambridge.

The findings come as part of a broader study of how climate change will affect bat populations.

“We found that species such as pipistrelle bats and moths, which are typically found in southern Europe, could spread to the Arctic as temperatures rise,” said Dr Tewkesbury.

The study, published in the journal Science, used models to predict how species ranges would shift under different climate scenarios.

The results suggest that species could spread northwards as far as 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) by the end of the century.

“Climate change will affect bat populations in many ways,” said Dr Tewkesbury.

“We expect species to shift northwards as the Arctic warms, but also that some species will be unable to keep up with the pace of change.”

The study highlights the importance of conservation efforts to protect bats in the face of climate change.

“We must continue to monitor bat populations and work to conserve habitats,” said Dr Tewkesbury.

Google Health to retire, PowerMeter shut down

SAN FRANCISCO, 25 June—Google on Friday announced that it will retire its Health and PowerMeter services, which were launched in early 2008 and 2009 respectively.

Google Health was designed to let users store and share medical records online, while PowerMeter was intended to help users track their home electricity use.

However, both services failed to gain widespread adoption.

“Both were based on the idea that with more and better information, people can make smarter choices, whether in regard to managing personal health and wellness, or saving money and conserving energy at home,” Google Health senior product manager Aaron Brown and Green Energy czar Bill Weihl said in a blog post.

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Google Health launched in early 2008 and PowerMeter software made its debut in late 2009.

This undated handout photo provided by the journal Science shows fossil hunting at Como Bluff. Scientists have figured out a way to take the temperature of dinosaurs, and it turns out to be almost the same as ours.

INTERNET

A pipistrelle bat munches a grub at a sanctuary in Strasbourg. Scientists have created a “batphone” by designing a smartphone app to help people capture the ultrasonic calls of bats in their area, the Zoological Society of London announced.—INTERNET

INTERNET
**Health**

**Stress may worsen lung function in kids breathing dirty air**

Los Angeles, 25 June—Children who live in stress-filled homes experience more air pollution-related lung damage than kids in less stressful environments, a new study finds. Researchers looked at the effects of traffic-related pollution and parental stress on 1,400 children, aged 10 to 12, in California. There were no significant associations noted between parental stress alone and lung function levels in the children. But as exposure to traffic pollution increased, lung function decreased among children in high-stress homes. This did not occur among children in low-stress homes, said the researchers at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

**China’s Baidu invests $306 mln in travel website**

Beijing, 25 June—Chinese search engine Baidu has agreed to invest $306 million in domestic travel website Qunar as it seeks to cash in on the booming tourism market in China. Baidu, which dominates the Chinese search market after Google retreated following a spat with Beijing over censorship and cyberattacks last year, will take a majority stake in the travel search engine, Baidu said late Friday.

“Travel has long been one of the top categories on Baidu, and the number of travellers in China has been growing very rapidly, so this is a market of obvious strategic importance to us,” chief financial officer Jennifer Li said in a statement. Chinese tourism has ballooned in recent years along with blistering economic growth as an increasingly wealthy middle class travels around the country and overseas for leisure.

The country’s air travel market is growing fast with a total of 267 million air passenger trips in 2010, up 15.8 percent from the previous year, according to official figures. Qunar will operate as an independent company, with both firms cooperating on certain areas of online travel search, the statement said. “By working with Baidu, we can focus on enhancing our search technology and the quality of our products and services,” said Zhuang Chenchao, co-founder and chief executive of Qunar. China is the world’s biggest online market, with 477 million Internet users, according to official data.

Two people walk past a Habitat furniture and design store at the Montparnasse tower in Paris, October 2009. Britain’s Home Retail Group on Friday said it had bought the Habitat UK brand and three of its London furniture stores for £24.5 million from US private equity firm Hilco.

**Home retail group buys Habitat UK**

London, 25 June—Britain’s Home Retail Group on Friday said it had bought the Habitat UK brand and three of its London furniture stores for £24.5 million from US private equity firm Hilco.

HRG, which owns catalogue chain Argos and home improvements chain Homebase, agreed to pay the equivalent of $39 million or 27.5 million euros after the upmarket Habitat chain was placed in administration to save it from bankruptcy.

“How Retail Group (HRG) today announced that it has agreed to acquire certain rights to the Habitat brand, one of the UK’s leading contemporary home retailers,” it said in a statement. “The rights are for the exclusive use of the Habitat brand, its brand designs and intellectual property in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. In addition, Home Retail Group is also acquiring the Habitat UK website, three of its London stores and certain brand support functions.” At the end of June, Habitat UK has applied to go into administration — the process whereby a troubled company calls upon independent financial help in a bid to restructure the business and remain operational. The profitable Euro-pan division includes 27 stores in France, five in Germany and six in Spain, with franchise arrangements in Belgium and Luxembourg. Habitat, set up by designer Terence Conran in 1964, epitomised London’s young and trendy image in the 1960s with a range of trendy upmarket clothes and products based on his designs.
World's most advanced robot with muscles, tendons that correct its own mistakes created

LONDON, 25 June—A team of scientists at the University of Zurich have created the world's most advanced robot. Ecci- short for Eccerobot- is the first ever robot to have "muscles", "tendons" and "bones", which helps it in movement, and are made of a specially developed plastic.

And to top it all, it also has a brain with the ability to correct its mistakes - a trait previously only seen in humans. Ecci, which in Latin means Lo or Behold, uses a series of electric motors to move the joints the tendons are connected to. And a computer built into the brain of Ecci allows him to learn from his mistakes.

"It opens up a lot of possibilities but in particular it will help us to understand better how the human moving apparatus works - a complicated task," the Daily Mail quoted Rolf Pfeifer, who is director of the laboratory for artificial intelligence at the University, as saying. "If we can make a robot hand operate like ours then it opens up all sorts of possibilities for artificial limbs. It would also mean a robot that moved like a person could take over some of the jobs done by people where human hands are needed," added Pfeifer.

Secrets of Otzi's death and stomach contents

WASHINGTON, 25 June—Scientists studying the remains of a 5,000-year-old mummy known as the Iceman have found that he had goat meat less than two hours before his death.

The frozen body of "Otzi" the Copper Age hunter had been discovered in 1991 in the Alps of northern Italy, but the nature of his death was not fully known. The most popular theory, based in part on the discovery of an arrowhead in his back, is that he was murdered by other hunters while fleeing through the mountains.

Scientists previously analysed the contents of Otzi’s lower intestine and determined that he ate a meal of grains along with possibly cooked red deer and goat meat up to 30 hours before his death. But attempts using an endoscopic tool to sample Otzi’s stomach were unsuccessful.

The reason for the failure became clear in 2009, when scientists studying CAT scans of Otzi discovered that the Iceman’s stomach had shifted upward after death, to where the lower part of his lungs would normally be.

"Why it moved upward, we don’t know," National Geographic News quoted Frank Maixner, a microbiologist at the Institute for Mummies and the Iceman in Bolzano, Italy, who was involved in the new investigation, as saying.

The team found the stomach by examining other associated organs, which had maintained their relative positions to one another when they shifted.

As a result of the natural mummification process, Otzi’s stomach had shrunk considerably, but the researchers were able to get sample of its contents, which, like the intestines, contained evidence of meat and wheat grains.

"What’s more, the state of the partially digested food suggests the Iceman ate a substantial meal less than two hours before his death.

"The stomach content is yellowish to brownish coloured and mushy, with some bigger pieces of meat and grain," Maixner said.

Birds eavesdrop on chipmunks to protect nests

WASHINGTON, 25 June—Some birds eavesdrop on their enemies, using this information to find safer spots to build their nests.

Nesting birds use a range of cues to decide where to build their nests, the Journal of Animal Ecology reports.

Ovenbirds and veeries both build their nests on the ground, risking the loss of their eggs or chicks to neighbouring chipmunks, which resemble squirrels.

But Quinn Emmering and Kenneth Schmidt from Texas Tech University wondered whether the 'chips', 'chucks' and 'trills' which chipmunks use, to communicate to one another, were being eavesdropped on by the birds.

Emmering and Schmidt tested their theory that ovenbirds and veeries might be eavesdropping on chipmunks' calls before deciding where to nest by setting up a playback experiment.

"Chipmunks are vociferous, calling often during the day and sometimes joining in large choruses. We thought this might be a conspicous cue that nesting birds could exploit," said Emmering, according to a Texas Tech statement.

Lost Amazon tribe found in Brazil

LONDON, 25 June—A 200-member lost tribe has been spotted in Brazil's Amazon rain-forest, a media report said Friday.

Their existence was verified after airplane expeditions in April gathered more data, Daily Mail reported.

Brazil has a policy of not contacting such tribes but working to prevent the invasion of their land, it said.

The National Indian Foundation, known by its Portuguese acronym Funai, estimates 68 isolated populations in the Amazon.

The most recently identified tribe lives in four large, straw-roofed buildings and grows corn, bananas, peanuts and other crops, the Mail said.

According to Funai, preliminary observation indicates they belong to the pano language group. The community is near the border with Peru in the massive Vale do Javari reservation, which is nearly the size of Portugal and is home to at least 14 uncontacted tribes.

"The work of identifying and protecting isolated groups is part of Brazilian public policy.

"To confirm something like this takes years of methodical work," the report quoted Funai coordinator, Fabricio Amorim, as saying.

The region has a constellation of uncontacted people considered the largest in the world, he said.

Tiny camera reveals ‘never-before-seen’ inside of 1,500-yr-old Mayan tomb

LONDON, 25 June—An apparently intact funeral chamber with offerings and red-painted wall murals has been discovered inside a 1,500-year-old Mayan tomb in southern Mexico - thanks to a small, remote-controlled camera, which was lowered into the tomb.

The footage of the tomb at the Palenque archaeological site showed a series of nine figures depicted in black on a vivid, blood-red background, reports the Telegraph.

Archaeologists say the never-before-seen images from one of the earliest ruler’s tombs found at Palenque will shed new light on the early years of the once-great city state.

The National Institute of Anthropology and History said archaeologists have known about the tomb since 1999, but have been unable to enter it because the pyramid standing above it is unstable and breaking into the chamber could damage the murals.

It said the floor appears to be covered with detritus and it is not immediately evident in the footage if the tomb contains recognizable remains.

But archaeologist Martha Cuervas said the jade and shell fragments seen on the video are “part of a funerary costume.”

The chamber was found in a heavily deteriorated pyramid complex known as the Southern Acropolis, in a jungle-covered area of Palenque not far from the Temple of Inscriptions, where the tomb of a later ruler, Pakal, was found in the 1950s.
Thanks to concerted efforts of government and local people, drug eradication tasks are picking up

In 2010, opium, heroin, opium oil, low-grade opium, marijuana, stimulant pills and various kinds of chemicals were confiscated and legal action was taken against 3465 culprits in 2630 cases

As today is International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, nations across the world will be holding commemorative ceremonies extensively. Moreover, Myitkyina, Kengtung, Taunggyi and Lashio are holding ceremonies to incinerate narcotic drugs, including stimulant tablets, chemicals and accessories that were seized nationwide.

Narcotics can not only cause economic and social losses for direct users and their related communities but also tarnish their image. So, effective preventive measures are being taken against self-seeking traffickers, who traffic in illicit drugs in the nation as well as in the neighbouring and regional countries and in the international market.

Particularly, narcotic drugs in various forms are most common among the youth, posing a grave threat to new generations. Narcotics create a big problem between the direct users, producers and traffickers.

Myanmar is teaming up with the people in carrying out drug elimination tasks. A 15-year drug elimination plan has been adopted and is being carried out in the period from 1999 to 2014. Now, it has reached the second year of the third-five year plan.

Thanks to the concerted efforts of the government and local people, drug eradication tasks are picking up. Measures are being taken with added momentum to destroy poppy plantations and prevent drug trafficking. In 2010, opium, heroin, opium oil, low-grade opium, marijuana, stimulant pills and various kinds of chemicals were confiscated and legal action was taken against 3465 culprits in 2630 cases.

A total of 1427 people from all states and regions were registered in 2010 for treatment. Youth rehabilitation centres under CCDAC rehabilitated 128 drug addicts.

This year’s motto of Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is “Think health, not drugs”. The motto indicates that the danger of narcotics is to be thwarted through public strength as it can not only undermine health, education, social and mental developments of the whole human society but also spark dire poverty.

Amid the drug eradication efforts across the world, various kinds of narcotic drugs and stimulant pills still pose a threat to humanity. So, with the active participation of the State and the people in drug eradication measures, a drug-free society can be created.

In conclusion, all are urged to combat narcotics that pose an obstacle to the uplift of morale and morality of the entire nation, one of the social objectives of the State.
State has provided quake-hit Tahlay...

(from page 1)

It is necessary to continue reconstruction tasks and to provide social assistance to survivors, rebuilding their hopes and healing their mental wounds. Therefore, the victims are to be provided with counseling services and festivities.

In conclusion, the Vice-President promised that the government would carry on remaining rehabilitation tasks hand in hand with the wellwishers.

At Tahlay Station Hospital, the Vice-President comforted the patients and gave assistance.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint presented medical equipment donated by the Ministry of Health to Tahlay Hospital through Head of District Health Department Dr Saw Lwin and Dr Kan Oo Aung of Tahlay Station Hospital.

The Vice-President inspected construction of hospital in the place of old one and reconstruction of houses in Ma-an-khan and Phakan villages of Monglin Village-tract in Tahlay and spoke words of encouragement to local people.

In Lanttawng Village of Monglin Village-tract, the Vice-President paid homage to the Buddha Image at Lanttawng Pagoda.

He donated cash for the pagoda and cordially greeted the pilgrims. The Vice-President visited the Basic Education Primary School built under the programme of India-Myanmar friendship programme in Phakan Village.

At Ma-an-khan Monastery in Ma-an-khan Village, the Vice-President paid homage to the abbot and donated alms.

The Vice-President visited the Ma-an-khan Monastery in Ma-an-khan Village. He viewed learning of students at Tahlay BEHS after inspecting progress of school buildings.

At Naga Hnakaung Monastery in Tachilek, the Vice-President and wife donated alms to Abbot of the monastery Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Dhammasiri.

The Union Ministers and the State Chief Minister made donations at the monastery.

The Vice-President and party left for Taunggyi via Heho by air.

In the evening, they paid homage to Çulamani Lawkachantha Pagoda in Taunggyi and made cash donations.—MNA

Auknatchaung Bridge in Bogale Tsp commissioned into service

YANGON, 25 June—Auknatchaung Bridge constructed by Bridge Special Construction Group No. 3 of Public Works under Ministry of Construction on Bogale-Sathsan-Htaw-paing-Ahmar Road in Bogale Township, Pyapon District, Ayeyawady Region was inaugurated this morning.

Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint in his speech said that upon completion of all the 16 bridges on the road, one will be able to travel from Boglae to Ahmar directly, shortening the distance by 32 miles and five furlongs.

The Union Minister added that Auknatchaung Bridge will contribute to transportation of locals residing along the road, spanning Auknat Creek. Ministry of Construction has constructed 9,843 miles and six furlongs of different kinds of roads after 1988. Currently, there are inter-township roads among 25 out of 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region and on completion of 21 miles long Ngapudaw Road, road transportation will be available in the whole Ayeyawady Region.

In conclusion, he urged the locals to maintain the roads and bridges erected by the State in Ayeyawady Region and to abide by traffic rules. Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung said that uncompleted projects in the time of Tatmadaw Government will be finished within two to three years for the benefits of the people.

Auknatchaung Bridge is of RC type foundation and bailey truss structure with wooden floor. The bridge is 466 feet in length with 13.5 feet wide motorway and can bear 13 tons load. The bridge is the third commissioned bridge in the time of incumbent government. It will contribute to swift flow of commodities from Ayeyawady Region to other regions and states.—MNA

Government Book-keeping course No. 1 launched

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—A ceremony to open the Government Book-keeping course No. 1 took place at the Auditor- General’s Office here yesterday morning.

Union Auditor-General U Lun Maung gave an opening speech at the ceremony.

It was attended by Deputy Auditor-General U Myo Myint, the Director-General of Auditor-General’s Office, and officials concerned.

The eight-day course is being taken by a total of 25 trainees of the office. There will be another similar course in July, 2011. MNA
Nation is to be managed... (from page 16)

constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Likewise, Amyotha Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw, and Region/State Hluttaws have come into existence and also the three powers — legislative power, executive power and judiciary power. The nation is to be developed with these three powers as three-legged stool.

Region/State Governments are vested with overall administrative power in their own region/state in line with the constitution. They are in fact administrative institutions that have to closely monitor their own region/state and thus Shan State Government will be able to more effectively manage administrative matters and development undertakings of Shan State.

The Shan State Government is needed to manage overall administrative matters of Shan State on their own and to report its progress to the Union Government in real time. It has to handle the cases beyond its capability in coordination with the Union Government. Likewise, if measures of the Union Government are concerned with Shan State, the state government will be informed in time.

According to Article 254, Shan State Government is allowed to collect taxes for its required fund as prescribed in Schedule (5) so as to can use the fund in compliance with prescribed laws.

In case of budget deficit, the needed amount will be provided or loaned from the fund of the Union.

According to Article 188 of the Constitution, Shan State Hluttaw taking responsibility of legislative power can amend, submit and cancel the laws in 14 sectors under region/state legislative lists in coordination with the state government for the public interest of Shan State. Shan State Hluttaw is formed with 143 representatives in accord with its constitution, and the legislative tasks can be carried out in line with the desires of the majority of Hluttaw representatives, Shan State Chief Justice and the Judges can perform judgments under laws.

Nearly 60 million of population of the nation or 70 per cent of the people is residing in the rural areas. Only when their living standard improves, will the social economic life of the nation develop. To enhance living standard of 70 per cent of the population in rural areas, the plan is to be implemented.

Depending on favourable weather and geographical conditions and culture, the plan is to be implemented.

The state government and ministries are to join hands with the people with the contributions of technology and money through bottom-up system under the law and not the top-down system so as to achieve success in the development of rural regions and poverty alleviation for promoting interest of the majority of the people.

The State government and service personnel are to harmoniously carry out all development tasks of the nation. If service personnel do not participate in the tasks, accomplishments will not be achieved; and if there is no government, the service personnel cannot stand tall. The personnel are to be loyal to the State.

Upholding Our Three Main National Causes, the service personnel are to keep themselves away from political affairs. The government focuses on uplifting proficiency of staff. The personnel are to be loyal to the State, to abide by the code of conduct for the staff and to be free from corruption.

Discharging duties conscientiously, the State

Rail/Transportation Ministry plants 1466 saplings

YANGON, 25 June — Ministry of Rail Transportation planted 1466 saplings at its monsoon tree-planting ceremony held in the compound of Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station this morning.

Union Minister U Aung Min planted a teak sapling, and then Deputy Ministers Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Thant Shin also participated in the tree-growing.

The union minister and deputy ministers viewed staff member participating in tree-planting activity.

MNA

Tobacco Kills
Etihad, Czech Airlines sign codeshare agreement

ABU DHABI, 25 June—UAE’s Etihad Airways and the Czech Airlines have signed a codeshare agreement that will give their customers access to more destinations. The Czech Airlines will launch new direct flights between Abu Dhabi and Prague, and offer onward global connections through Etihad’s network as part of the agreement.

The agreement will allow Etihad passengers to book flights to Prague and other destinations covered by Etihad’s network as part of the agreement. Peter Baumgartner of the Etihad Airways said: "As the world’s leading airline, this new strategic relationship which includes but is not limited to just a codeshare agreement, illustrates Etihad’s growing ambitions in the Central and Eastern European region.

“It opens up the beautiful City of Prague that we have been eager to offer our customers for such a long time, and we are certain these new connections and the seamless flight experience offered jointly by Etihad and Czech Airlines, will appeal to both business and leisure travellers alike.”

Eight killed in mine collapse in China

BEIJING, 25 June—Eight people were killed and seven injured after an iron ore mine collapsed in China’s Fujian Province Friday, said authorities Saturday.

The cave-in was triggered by a nearby landslide at around 1.30 pm Friday in Peifeng township, Yongding County, Xinhua reported.

The police were hunting down the mine’s three owners who fled after the accident.

The mine was being illegally operated, a county government statement said.

Parents can transmit stress to children

LONDON, 25 June—Believe it or not — our parents could have transmitted to us some of the stress we experience.

“There has been a big discussion about whether the stress effect can be transmitted to the next generation without DNA sequence change,” said Shunsuke Ishii of RIKEN Tsukuba Institute, Tokyo, Japan.

“Our finding has now demonstrated that such phenomena really can occur,” added Ishii, which means parents can transmit stress to offspring, reports the journal Cell.

Our genes encode proteins but whether and how those genetic instructions are ultimately read and expressed depends on how those genes are chemically modified and "packaged" into a more complex structure known as chromatin.

Some portions of the genome are more tightly wound into what’s known as heterochromatin, which is maintained from one generation to the next and typically doesn’t contain active genes, Ishii explains, according to a RIKEN statement.

In particular, Ishii suggests that epigenetic causes may play a role in lifestyle diseases, including heart disease and diabetes, and in psychological diseases, such as schizophrenia.

A Chinese couple breaks up with flowers

BEIJING, 25 June—A Chinese couple held a unique ceremony to mark their breakup, complete with the man kneeling and holding a bouquet of flowers and the woman accepting it to mark an end to their relationship.

Xu Minyu threw the breakup ceremony upon graduation in Hebei Province to commemorate an end to his four-year-long relationship with his girlfriend Xiao Ying, the China Daily cited Wuhan Evening News as reporting. Xu was surrounded by heart-shaped candles as he held flowers and kneel before Xiao.

Outlookers shouted: “Say yes, say yes.” Xiao accepted Xu’s flowers and the breakup after about two minutes.

The couple had graduated this summer and Xu will be a civil servant in Zhejiang Province, while Xiao will work for a Beijing-based company. So, they decided to end the relationship.

Girl beats fainting condition after 14 years

LONDON, 25 June—A British girl who suffers from a rare condition that made her faint every time she stood up was finally able to stand on her feet after 14 years, a media report said Friday.

Lizzie Rees’ heart rate speeds up when she stands, causing her to pass out up to five times a day.

The 22-year-old student suffers from postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome that affects the body’s ability to adjust to gravity’s pull, The Sun reported.

She often had to crawl or use a wheelchair to avoid fainting and risk banging her head.

But she is finally enjoying a normal life after a heart specialist used drug octreotide to control her blood flow, the report said.

Lizzie, of Bristol, has signed up for a college course — and fulfilled a long-held dream of going to the Glastonbury festival, it said.

“It is great to know that this is treatable. I still pass out occasionally but going to college shows how far I have come,” The Sun quoted her as saying.

A Ferrari sports car is seen during an auto show in Kunming, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 24 June, 2011. The 12th Kunming Pan-Asia International Auto Exhibition kicked off here Friday, with the participation of more than 50 carmakers from China and abroad, and will last for five days. XINHUA
US crime boss Bulger arrested after 16 years on run

Los Angeles, 25 June—Notorious Boston crime boss James “Whitey” Bulger, who had been on the run for 16 years, was arrested Wednesday night in southern California, authorities said.

Bulger, 81, and his longtime companion, 60-year-old Catherine Greig, were arrested without incident in Santa Monica, California, after FBI agents located them thanks to a tip provided by the public, according to Richard Deslauriers in charge of the FBI Boston office, and Steven Martinez in charge of the FBI Los Angeles office.

A public service announcement began airing Tuesday on television stations to raise public awareness of Bulger’s arrest, the largest reward in US dollars in reward for information stations to raise public awareness of the FBI Los Angeles office.

The FBI office, and Steven Martinez in charge of the pubic, according to Richard Deslauriers in charge of the FBI Boston office, and Steven Martinez in charge of the FBI Los Angeles office.

The pair are scheduled to appear in a district court in downtown Los Angeles Thursday. Bulger, the ringleader of the Winter Hill Gang, an Irish-American crime family based in Boston, Massachusetts, had been wanted for his role in 19 killings, along with extortion, racketeering, money laundering and other crimes since 1995, according to the FBI.

In October 2007, Interpol released a “red notice” for Bulger.

Green was wanted for harboring a fugitive and other federal charges in 1997. Authorities have offered a 100,000 dollar reward leading to her arrest.

Bulger was last spotted in London in 1994, according to the FBI.

The 2006 Academy Award-winning movie, “The Departed,” starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon and Jack Nicholson, was based on his experience.

Drug use linked with 25 percent of traffic deaths in US

Los Angeles, 25 June—Drug use may be responsible for about 25 percent of all traffic deaths in the United States, a new study says.

One quarter of the more than 44,000 drivers killed in traffic accidents between 1998 and 2009, tested positive for drugs, said the study by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation in Calverton, Md.

Marijuana and stimulants, including cocaine and methamphetamine, were the most commonly used, the study said.

The findings, released Wednesday, were based on a federal government reporting system that collects data on all US traffic deaths.

Despite the drug use, alcohol still appears to be the biggest driving hazard, the study said.

Four Russian sailors die after drinking Borneo brew

Jakarta, 25 June—Police say four crew members of a Russian ship anchored off Borneo island are dead and three more are seriously ill after drinking homemade Indonesian alcohol.

Central Kalimantan police spokesman Edi Ciptianto said Friday that authorities are searching for a local man they believe sold liquor mixed with a homemade brew.

Three men were found dead on the ship, the Captain Kurbatskiy, on Thursday.

Four officers suffered from breathing problems, dizziness and vomiting after drinking the liquor and were rushed to a hospital. One, a woman, died shortly after arriving at the hospital.

Workers assemble an Audi A1 car during a visit by Belgium’s King Albert II (not pictured) celebrating the 100,000th Audi A1 car assembled and the first anniversary of its production at the Brussels’ assembly plant on 23 June, 2011.—INTERNET

Two killed in Russian fighter jet crash

Moscow, 25 June—Two pilots were killed Thursday when a MiG-29 fighter jet crashed in Russia’s Astrakhan Region, an official said.

“At 4.43 pm the aircraft went off the radar screens around 43 km from the town of Akhtubinsk in Astrakhan Region,” the official added.

Akhtubinsk is home to the Russian Air Force’s test and tactical evaluation centre.

China continues to offer rewards to enterprises for using energy efficient technologies

Beijing, 25 June—China will continue to allocate funds to offer rewards for enterprises that refit their production techniques and facilities with energy-efficient technologies, the Ministry of Finance said on Friday.

The move aims to promote green technologies and increase energy efficiency in the world’s second largest economy, which has vowed to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide produced per unit of gross domestic product by 40 to 45 percent by the end of 2020, the ministry said in a statement on its website.

The prerequisite for getting the rewards is that companies must have consumed more than 20,000 tonnes of coal equivalent (TCE) per year before adopting energy-efficient technologies, and save 5,000 tonnes of coal equivalent (TCE) after their tech-transformation.

Companies in eastern regions will be rewarded with 240 yuan (36.92 US dollars) per TCE saved while those in central and western regions will be given 300 yuan per TCE saved, the statement said.

INTERNET

Plane crash-landed in mid-western Nepal

Kathmandu, 25 June—A Tara Air cargo plane has crash-landed at the Simikot Airport in Humla district in mid-western Nepal on Friday morning.

According to myrepublica.com report, the Tara Air Dornier 228 from Nepalgunj skidded off the runway while landing.

There were three crew members in the cargo plane which was carrying rice to Humla. All the crew members are unharmed.

A poorly maintained runway condition of the airport is said to be the cause of the mishap that has caused minor damage to the wings of the aircraft.

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INTERNET
Laura Saunders was diagnosed with cancer in 2009, when she was 18 years old. — Internet

Egypt starts to unearth Pharaoh Khufu’s second solar boat
CAIRO, 25 June — An Egyptian-Japanese archaeological team began to uncover ancient Egyptian King Khufu’s second solar boat on Thursday beside the great pyramids at Giza. The restoration project is to lift the 41 stone blocks with an average weight of 16 tons and move the solar boat, buried for 4, 500 years, from its underground pit.

The project has been the focus of a research by the Egyptian Ministry of State for Antiquities, a delegation from Japan’s Waseda University and the Japanese Institute of the Solar Boat. They have been working on the project since 2007. — Internet

Silicone breast implants relatively safe

New York, 25 June — Breast implants are relatively safe despite frequent complications and a small increased risk of the disease lymphoma, US drug regulators have said. In a new report, the Food and Drug Administration said the risks were well enough understood that prospective patients could make informed decisions.

But it found as many as one in five breast augmentation patients had the implants removed within 10 years. The US approved the implants in 2006 after a long absence from the market.

Market removal On Wednesday, the FDA released a 63-page report on the safety of the silicone gel-filled implants that compiled studies performed by the two companies approved to manufacture the products. Approximately five to 10 million women across the world have breast implants, the FDA said.

In 2006, the FDA approved two brands of silicone gel implants for women over 22. Allergan’s Nattelle implants and MemoryGel implants from manufacturer Johnson and Johnson’s Mentor division. — Internet

The findings will be published in the journal Animal Cognition. "Considering it as a plague in many cities, pigeons in urban areas live close to human activities and exploit this proximity to find food - which is often delivered by people," the team of French scientists wrote.

Urban feral pigeons are direct descendants from wild rock doves/pigeons (Columbia livia), which are distinguished by black bars on their wings. However, feral pigeons vary in colour and patterns. — Internet

Type 2 diabetes in newly diagnosed ‘can be reversed’

London, 25 June — An extreme eight-week diet of 600 calories a day can reverse Type 2 diabetes in people newly diagnosed with the disease, says a Diabetologia study. New Castle University researchers found the low-calorie diet reduced fat levels in the pancreas and liver, which helped muscle production return to normal. Seven out of 11 people studied were free of diabetes three months later, say findings published in the journal.

More research is needed to see whether the reversal is permanent, say experts. Type 2 diabetes affects 2.5m people in the UK and is caused by too much glucose in the blood, as a result of insufficient insulin being produced by the pancreas.

The 11 participants in the study were all diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes within the previous four years. They cut their food intake drastically for two months, eating only liquid diet drinks and non-starchy vegetables. — Internet

Pigeons quickly learn the difference between friendly feeder and hostile foe.

New York, 25 June — Urban pigeons have the ability to learn the difference between people who will feed them and those who will chase them away, a French study has indicated. Researchers suggested that this allowed birds to limit the time spent searching for food, and maximise the time eating.

The team said they provided the first experimental evidence of feral pigeons using the ability to maximise benefits provided by urban areas.

The findings will be published in the journal Animal Cognition. "Considering it as a plague in many cities, pigeons in urban areas live close to human activities and exploit this proximity to find food - which is often delivered by people," the team of French scientists wrote.

Urban feral pigeons are direct descendants from wild rock doves/pigeons (Columbia livia), which are distinguished by two black bars on their wings. However, feral pigeons vary in colour and patterns. — Internet

Teen Cancer Trust warns doctors to take responsibility for patients

London, 25 June — Campaigners are warning doctors not to rule out cancer when diagnosing younger patients. A Teenage Cancer Trust survey suggested that many young sufferers believe they could have been diagnosed earlier. One in four cancer patients told a Trust survey they had to visit their GP at least four times before their symptoms were taken seriously. Every year in the UK, 2,100 people aged between 13 and 24 are told they have cancer. It’s the number one cause of non-accidental death.

Even though younger victims make up only 0.6% of the overall number of cancer sufferers in Britain, campaigners said they shouldn’t be neglected. Laura Saunders, from Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire, was diagnosed with cancer in 2009 when she was just 18 years old. She told Newsbeat that for more than a year doctors kept dismissing her symptoms.

“I didn’t have a period for a year, I was constantly bloated, constantly tired. “My stomacht stretched so far that I have stretch marks but they said I was just stressed,” she said. Laura eventually started vomiting and was taken to the accident and emergency department at her local hospital. She was so dehydrated that she needed two blood transfusions. A day later, she was told that she had cancer and that specialists found a germ cell tumour on her ovary. — Internet

Two men charged in plot to attack Seattle military recruiting station

San Francisco, 25 June — The US Department of Justice announced on Thursday that two men have been arrested late Wednesday in a plot to attack a military recruiting station in Seattle with machine guns and grenades.

According to a statement released by the Department of Justice, Seattle resident Abu Khalid Abdul-Latif, also known as Frederick Domingue, Jr. 32, of Los Angeles, took possession of machine guns that they purchased and planned to use in an attack on the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) located on East Marginal Way, Seattle.

The two were scheduled to make initial court appearances on Thursdays and they are charged by criminal complaint with terrorism and firearms violations. — Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV XIANG XIU VOY NO (1136)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG XIU VOY NO (1136) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.6.2011 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.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MOROTAI VOY NO (158)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (158) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.6.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (093)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (093) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.6.2011 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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No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MOROTAI VOY NO (158)
Brit grandmum ‘comes back to life after being dead for 25min’

In a miraculous incident, a British woman came back to life after she had stopped breathing for 25 minutes.

The family members of Jean McDonald, 64, of Chapel Hill, Braintree, Essex, had bid goodbyes after she suffered a deadly cardiac arrest. They even had locks of her hair snipped off as mementos.

But surprising everyone, the grandmother of 16 children yet again started breathing despite having serious brain impairment.

“It is incredible. But it’s scary as well because she is making such progress so quickly that I worry what a bad day may do,” the Daily Mail quoted Jean’s husband Dave McDonald as saying.

The doctors at Broomfield Hospital, in Chelmsford, Essex, marked her 4.5 out of 5 on the brain damage scale and expected her to die.

But now, after the incredible recovery, she is able to talk, eat, walk and shower, and her family hopes she will be able to return home soon.

New York man marries his ‘right woman’ at 99!

A New York man, who never got married because he never met the ‘right woman’ until he turned 98, has finally tied the knot at the age of 99.

Gilbert Herrick, the World War II veteran, married 86-year-old widow Virginia Hartman in a touching ceremony at their nursing home in Rochester, New York. And the long wait was nothing to do with commitment. “I never met the right woman until I met Virginia,” the Daily Mail quoted him as saying.

After the ceremony, county executive Maggie Brooks officially declared 4 June, 2011 as Gilbert and Virginia Herrick Day throughout Monroe County.

The couple, who are confined to wheelchairs, met last year, when they bumped into each other in the hallway soon after Hartman arrived at the hospital. They became friends over a mutual love of art - Hartman paints china and Herrick loves oil painting.

Lady Gaga designs T-shirt for Japan victims

LONDON, 25 June—Pop star Lady Gaga is stepping up her efforts to help the survivors of the Tsunami and earthquake victims by designing a T-shirt for charity.

In March this year, Gaga created a special prayer wristband, which she sold to fans to arrange funds for relief efforts. Her initiative raised $1.5 million. She is now selling off a special T-shirt in association with Japan’s Vogue magazine editor, reports contactmusic.com. Priced at $19.90 each, it will be available online from 25 June.

“The Japanese Birkin T-shirt I designed for Vogue Japan on sale 6/25 at Uniqlo worldwide... money goes to Tsunami Relief,” she posted on micro-blogging site twitter.

A red-eyed tree frog (Agalychnis callidryas) is seen at the Montebello wildlife reserve, about 21 km (18 miles) south of Managua, on 22 June, 2011.

Lady Gaga

Tornado carries dental gear 100 miles

A Massachusetts orthodontist said invisible dental aligners belonging to a patient whose home was destroyed by a tornado turned up nearly 100 miles away.

Dr Scott Smith of Springfield said a man from the Island of Tuckernuck called his office and said he found the aligners in a plastic bag on a beach and Smith traced the equipment to a patient whose Brimfield home was destroyed by a 1 June tornado, WWLP-TV, Springfield, reported Thursday.

“The fact that this can be picked up in the atmosphere and thrown in the atmosphere that far away, it shows you the raw power of nature, just unbelievable, incredible,” Smith said.

I’d love to open my hotel: Paris Hilton

LONDON, 25 June—Socialite Paris Hilton, the great-granddaughter of hotelier Conrad Hilton, wants to launch her own range of hotels and beach clubs.

It was at age 25 that Conrad founded the Hilton hotel chain. The 30-year-old Paris has been involved in a range of business adventures, including her own perfumes, footwear, and clothing lines.

She also endorses a nightclub chain. Now she is keen to branch out into real estate, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

“The next step for me is to be more involved with real estate. I’d love to open my own hotel and beach clubs. I’m actually in the process right now of doing that, so I’m excited,” she said. —Internet

Emma Stone romancing Andrew Garfield?

LONDON, 25 June—Actress Emma Stone is reportedly dating “Spider-Man” co-star Andrew Garfield.

Garfield split from his longtime girlfriend Shannon Woodward this May.

“They got close during filming and have been hooking up... They haven’t gone public, but he’s told his friends,” dailystar.co.uk quoted a source as saying.

Judge tells Lindsay Lohan to stop partying

LONDON, 25 June—After failing a drug test, actress Lindsay Lohan, now under house arrest, has been ordered to stop partying. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Stephanie Sauntner lashed out at the actress for hosting a rooftop barbecue at her home and said: “You are guilty of extremely poor judgment. House arrest is akin to jail.

“Don’t give people a reason to hate you. Don’t do stupid things,” people.com quoted the judge as saying. Lohan was sentenced to four months in jail in May after pleading no contest in a jewellery theft case. Due to overcrowding in the cell, she got a 35-day house arrest.

Rosario Dawson thrilled after mom’s failed marriage

Rosario Dawson, seen in films like “Sin City” and “Unstoppable”, is happy after learning that her mother’s latest marriage is over. “Luckily they’re divorced now...” dailystar.co.uk quoted Dawson, 32, as saying. “She’s back in New York now, so it’s really, really wonderful. We missed her,” she added.

Dawson also appeared on the “Tonight Show” Tuesday night and when host Jay Leno asked her opinion on her stepfather, she responded, “Next question.”

An Indochinese tiger cub sits next to its mother, Mi, at the Hanoi Zoo on 22 June, 2011. Mi gave birth to four cubs in the morning of 2 April, 2011, becoming the first tiger at the Hanot zoo to be born and bred in captivity. Mi was born on the same day eight years earlier, on 2 April, 2003, to Lam Nhi (which mean “Child of Forest”), a tiger that was confiscated from wildlife traffickers in Vietnam’s central Province of Thua Thien Hue.

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Rosario Dawson thrilled after mom’s failed marriage

Emma Stone romancing Andrew Garfield?
Inter Milan name Gasperini as Leonardo’s successor

ROME, 25 June—Inter Milan have appointed Gian Piero Gasperini to succeed Paris Saint-Germain-bound Leonardo as coach, the Serie A side announced on Friday. The 53-year-old Gasperini takes over the Inter hotseat on a two-year contract. "The official announcement will be made once all the final administrative formalities have been completed," Inter confirmed on their website.

Leonardo’s departure paved the way for the Brazilian to take over at PSG, the French side now under the control of Qatar Sports Investments (QSI). Inter president Massimo Moratti expressed his "complete satisfaction" at Gasperini’s arrival and wished the new manager well. Gasperini has been out of work since getting the sack from Genoa in December 2010 after four years at the club. He gets the San Siro post ahead of a list of candidates fronted by Chile’s former Argentine manager Marcelo Bielsa. —INTERNET

Zvonareva out as Pironkova takes revenge at Wimbledon

LONDON, 25 June—The second seed Vera Zvonareva of Russia was ousted from the women’s singles third round on Friday as Bulgarian Dinara Safina overcame her straight-sets win over Germany’s Angelique Kerber, and didn’t give the world No 3 chances to turn the table with a 6-3 win in the second set.

Pironkova will challenge five-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams next round as the American veteran thrashed Spaniard Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez 6-0, 6-2.—Xinhua

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Sacrificial table
2 Inherent
9 Need
10 Score
11 Entreat
12 Apparel
13 Snake
14 Footwear
16 Piece of news
18 Part of a curve
20 Sports arena
21 Punder
24 Fire-raising crime
25 Rebel archangel
26 Strata
27 Soil

DOWN
1 Brusque
2 Close-fitting
3 Downfall
5 Coasting (anag.)
6 Enter uninvited
7 Reverberates
8 Place of pilgrimage
10 Learner
15 Rumour
17 Attack
18 Sufficient
19 Stiffener
20 Bid
23 Highest point

Murray ousts Ljubicic to reach Wimbledon last 16

WIMBLEDON, 25 June—Fourth seed Andy Murray advanced into the last 16 at Wimbledon on Friday at the cost of Croatian Ivan Ljubicic in 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7/4). The British top player will face French 17th seed Richard Gasquet on Monday for a place in the quarterfinals. The 24-year-old, looking to become the first British men’s champion since Fred Perry in 1936, was broken first at the first set, trailing 3-4, but he took the next three games to claim the opener. The Croatian biding to reach the last 16 for the first time, was comfortably on top in the second before Murray enjoyed a double break in a one-sided third set.

Basso leads Liquigas assault on Tour de France

Italian veteran Ivan Basso

PARIS, 25 June—Italian veteran Ivan Basso, 33, will lead the Liquigas team in this year’s Tour de France, which begins on July 2, his team confirmed on Friday. "Having a leader like Ivan Basso allows you to look towards the podium and the yellow jersey," said team manager Roberto Amadio.

"Until now, he’s not been able to express himself fully because of physical problems and words — Joao Saldana, predecessor of Mario Zagalo — handler of the great Pele-inspired 1970 ensemble — opining that “every team needs someone to carry the piano” — that is, to do the donkey work. That may be so but fans of Brazil in particular demand that a healthy proportion of the squad can play in approaching maestro fashion and Argentine supporters are no fans of a pedestrian version of the game.—INTERNET

Amateur Cantlay shoots 60 to take Travellers lead

CROMWELL, 25 June—Patrick Cantlay showed up at the Travellers Championships with no intentions of turning pro until he finishes his last three years at UCLA. A record round Friday on the PGA Tour — just one week after he was low amateur at the US Open — makes that a tougher decision. In what already has been a month to remember, the 19-year-old Cantlay turned in his most inspiring moment yet by breaking the course record at TPC River Highlands with a 10-under 60 for the lowest round ever on tour by an amateur. Last week, the sophomore-to-be at UCLA said the earliest he would turn pro would be “after I get my degree.” But after two strong rounds put him atop the leaderboard in the rain-postponed second round, he was starting to soften.—INTERNET
Nadal into Wimbledon last 16

LONDON, 25 June—Defending champion Rafael Nadal reached the Wimbledon last 16 on Saturday with a 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (7/5), 6-0 win over Gilles Muller of Luxembourg.

Nadal will face either Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina or Gilles Simon of France for a place in the quarter-finals. It was a satisfying win for Nadal, who had lost to Muller in the second round at Wimbledon in 2005, the last time the two had faced each other.

“I was a difficult match,” Nadal said. “I didn’t have a chance to break him. But I’m happy about how I played the tie breaks, especially my serve. I’m very happy with my performance.”

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, rain have been scattered in Kachin and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagraig, Magway and Bago Regions and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Mandalay and Ayeyawady Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagraig, Magway and Bago Regions, Shan State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Gwa (13.16) inches, Maungtaw (7.09) inches, Ngaythain (6.30) inches, Hpa-an (5.59) inches, Inle (5.40) inches, Zalon (4.09) inches, Manau and Kyai (4.02) inches each, Bago (3.90) inches, Kawkay, Taton and Mudon (3.66) inches each and Loolien (3.54) inches.

Nay Pyi Taw

Maximum temperature on 24-6-2011 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 25-6-2011 was 75°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 25-6-2011 was (100%). Rainfall on 25-6-2011 was (0.04) inches.

Nay Pyi Taw (Airport)

Maximum temperature on 24-6-2011 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 25-6-2011 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 25-6-2011 was (84%). Rainfall on 25-6-2011 was (2.60) inches. Rainfall on 25-6-2011 was (3.04) inches at Nay Pyi Taw (1.97) inches at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) and (1.89) inches at Mandalay. Total rainfall since 1-1-2011 was (20.87) inches. Rainfall on 25-6-2011 was (3.04) inches at Nay Pyi Taw, (46.85) inches at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) and (15.28) inches at Mandalay. Maximum wind speed at Nay Pyi Taw was (16) mph from North at (18:30) hours MST on 25-6-2011.

Bay Inference: Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Special Feature: According to the observations at (09:30) hrs M.S.T today, yesterday’s ‘Tropical storm ‘HAIMA’ over South China sea (Gulf of Tonkin) has crossed Northern Vietnam coast.

Forecast valid until evening of the 26th June 2011: Rain will be scattered in Magway Region and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kachin, Shan and Chin States and scattered in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%). State of the Sea: Occasionally Squalls with rough seas will be experience 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 26th June 2011: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26th June 2011: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26th June 2011: One or two rain. 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 killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Nation is to be managed with three interrelated powers
Shan State Government needs to manage its overall administrative matters on its own and to report its progress to Union Government in real time

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham speaks to members of Shan State Government and departmental personnel in Taunggyi.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham while visiting Taunggyi of Shan State spoke to members of Shan State Government and state-level departmental personnel at Shan State General Administration Department in Taunggyi yesterday.

Also present on the occasion were Union Ministers, the Shan State chief minister and deputy ministers, Shan State ministers. Secretary of Shan State Government Shan State Commissioner U Khin Maung Than explained progress in education, health and rural development works and requirements of the state.

Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat made a supplementary report on response of the Shan State Government to the Vice-President’s instructions on rehabilitation of earthquake-hit regions on his visit to Tahlay on 3 April, 2011 and development undertakings for the state.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that from 30 March, 2011 onwards, the Union Government, the Region Government and the State Government have emerged according to

(See page 9)