**Four political objectives**

- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
- Strengthening of national solidarity
- Building and strengthening of discipline-flourishing democracy system
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the Constitution

**Four economic objectives**

- Building of modern industrialized nation through the agricultural development, and all-round development of other sectors of the economy
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investment from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

**Four social objectives**

- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Flourishing of Union Spirit, the true patriotism
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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**NAY PYI TAW, 15 July—Today is Fullmoon Day of Waso, 1373 Myanmar Era, the 26th centennial of Buddhism. Buddhist monks started to go into retreat on the Fullmoon Day of Waso while people offered Waso robes and flowers and performed meritorious deeds.**

Nay Pyi Taw Council and Uppatasanti Pagoda Board of Trustees jointly organized the third Waso robe offering ceremony in conjunction with the Maha Pathana recitation ceremony at the pagoda this morning. Members of the Panel of Patrons of the Pagoda Board of Trustees Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Mayor U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung and party attended the ceremonies.

The Union Ministers and party offered Waso robes to Buddha images in the cave of Uppatasanti Pagoda.

Members of the Sangha recited Parittas. The Union Ministers and congregation offered Waso robes and alms to the Sayadaws. Religious associations of ministries, regiments and units of Office of the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Mayor U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung and party attended the ceremonies.

(See page 8)

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**Uppatasanti Pagoda is being packed with pilgrims on Fullmoon Day of Waso.**—MNA

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**Maha Lawkatharaphu Pagoda renovated**

**NAY PYI TAW, 15 July — The ceremony to shrine religious objects, to hoist sacred umbrella, to offer emerald alms bowl and Shwekyar robe and to consecrate the Maha Lawkatharaphu Pagoda was held at the compound of the pagoda in Hsinkyon ward in Meethwaytaik in Innwa of TadaU Township of Kyaukse District in Mandalay Region this morning.**

It was attended by members of the Sangha led by Chairman of Mandalay Region Sangha Nayaka Committee Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Viçittabhivamsa of Masoeyein Monastery in Mandalay, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Ye Aung, the Mandalay Region ministers, wellwishers, guests and local people.

The UEC chairman, the commander, the ministers and wellwishers presented Seinbudaw (Diamond Orb), Shwehtidaw (Golden Umbrella), tiers and offertories.

Next, the Mandalay Region SNC Chairman Sayadaw delivered a sermon and those present shared the merits gained.

Then the UEC chairman, the commander, wellwishers and officials hoisted Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw (Pennant) and Shwehtidaw atop the pagoda.

(See page 8)
Emphasize all-round development of youths

The population of the world is going to hit 7,000 million in the near future. The global countries need to make correct decisions for prosperity of the future world. At present, many countries focus on poverty alleviation. They strive for uplifting health standards. In line with the Millennium Development Goals, concerted efforts are being made for reducing mortality rate of children under five and better health care for expectant mothers.

While undertaking nation-building tasks and development tasks, the government is striving for dissemination of reproductive health and pregnancy knowledge, reduction of mortality rate and expectant mother death rate and combats of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases.

The youths, the one-fourth of the population, is the strength of the nation. The government place special emphasis on all-round development of youths, extending the health knowledge programme for the youth. Likewise, the government is nurturing the youth equipped with good morality to be able to overcome the challenges and problems of life.

A number of the aged is increasing in Myanmar like the global countries. While preserving the Myanmar traditions on care of the aged, arrangements are being made for raising the tasks on the aged care and services. All-out efforts are being made for mobilizing the departmental organizations, private organizations, NGOs and the people to actively take part in the care of older persons.

Economic opportunities have been created for uplifting the standard of rural people. Economic growth of the rural region contributes much to socio-economic life of individuals and families for building the healthy and happy life.

Victorious Myanmar athletes arrive back

YANGON, 15 July—Myanmar athletes secured two gold, three silver and three bronze medals and stood third in the 3rd SEA Pancek Siat Attack Contest in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia from 10 to 15 July.

Ye Kyaw Thu (Defence) won one gold medal in the 50-55 kilo class, SIP Thein Soe (Home Affairs) one gold in the 50-60 kilo class, Ye Thittha (Defence) one silver in the 85-90 kilo class, Kyaw Naing Tun (Commerce) one silver in the 60-65 kilo class, Hnin Thida (Industry-1) one silver in 55-60 kilo class, San Htoo (A&I) one bronze in 45-50 kilo class, Wai Wai Lwin (Industry-1) one bronze in 50-55 kilo class and Thin Myat Aye (A&I) one bronze in 70-75 kilo class.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport this morning by officials of Sports and Physical Education Department, President of Myanmar Martial Arts Sports Federation Police Brig-Gen Thuha Bo Ni, Secretary Police Lt-Col Soe Lin Aung and officials.—MNA

Solar package and equipment donated to Yangon Region Government

The Chief Minister and party viewed booths of solar energy demonstration to be used in rural regions displayed by OK Myanmar Co Ltd.—MNA

Kachin State personnel for better transportation

Work coordination meeting between Kachin State Road and Inland Water Transport and Transport Coordination Committee in progress.—MNA

Naypyidaw

Naypyidaw, 15 July—A ceremony to hand over newly-built affiliated basic education school in Naypyidaw Region. Deputy Education Officer Daw Khin Saw Myint officially opened the new school building.

Ba Maung Tun officially opened the new school building.

Member of MBE U Hlut Aung Kyi handed over relevant documents to Township Education Officer Daw Khin Saw Myint.

The fully furnished school is two-story RC type building measuring 90x30 feet and is resistant to storm and earthquake. MNA

Donate Blood
Five killed, one injured in roadside bomb blast in Afghan Helmand Province

LASHKAR G AH, 15 July— Five civilians were killed and another seriously injured on Friday when their mini-bus ran over a roadside bomb in Sangle District of Helmand Province with Lashkar Gah as its capital 555 km south of the capital City of Kabul, District chief of Sangin said.

“The bloody incident occurred at around 08:30 am local time when a civilian mini-bus touched off a roadside bomb near Sangin District bazaar triggering a powerful blast that killed five civilians on the spot and injured another,” Mohammad Sharif told Xinhua.

The District official also said all the victims were adult men, adding one more passenger was seriously injured in the blast.

Notorious for growing poppy and militancy, the Helmand Province has been regarded as Taliban hotbed in southern part of country.

The number of civilian casualties has been soaring in the militancy-plagued Afghanistan as a total of 1,462 Afghan civilians have been killed in the first half of 2011 which indicates a 15 percent rise in non-combatants’ deaths compared with the same period in 2010. The United Nations said in its mid-year report released in Kabul on Thursday.

Taliban militants have often attacked Afghan and NATO-led forces with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and roadside bombs but the lethal weapons also inflict casualties on civilians.

Three Pakistani kids die as explosives go off at home

ISLAMABAD, 15 July—Explosives stored at a home in Balochistan Province went off, killing three children and a man.

The incident took place in Chaman town Thursday. Ten people, mostly children, were injured in the deafening blast, the daily Dawn reported.

A police official said that an Afghan national lived in the house and he used it to store detonators, land mines, rockets, mortar shells and weapons of different calibre. Mohammad Asghar, a local, said that an explosion took place in the house around 3.30 am. It was followed by a series of blasts that caused a fire in the house.

Three nearby houses were also destroyed.

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French soldiers killed in Afghanistan totals 70

PARIS, 15 July—French government confirmed that one more of its soldiers was killed in east Afghanistan, bringing the total French fatalities in the country to 70 since 2001.

“It is with deep emotion that the President knew the death this morning of a marine commando in the valley of Alasay during a clash,” the Elysee said in a statement. The soldier participated in an operation of zone control with Afghan police when his group was shot by insurgents, according to the statement. The new fatality came a day after five French soldiers were killed as a suicide bomber attacked their military convoy northeast to Kabul, capital of Afghanistan.

Last month, France announced a progressive withdrawal of French troops from Afghanistan starting this summer.

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Security forces kill PKK rebel in eastern Turkey

ANKARA, 15 July—The Turkish security forces killed one militant of the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) in the eastern Province of Bingol on Friday, Bingol Governor’s Office said in a statement.

A group of PKK militants opened fire when the security forces warned them to stop in Karliova Town of Bingol early Friday, the statement said.

One militant was killed in the clash and the military operations are under way in the region, it added.

Some PKK members killed 13 soldiers Thursday in an ambush in a remote area in Silvan town of Diyarbakir Province. Another seven soldiers were wounded and seven PKK militants were killed in the clash.

Listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union, the banned PKK took up arms in 1984 to create an ethnic homeland in southeastern Turkey. Some 40,000 people have been killed in conflicts involving the PKK for the past over two decades.
Global Warming: study finds natural shields being weakened

NEW YORK, 15 July—The soil and the ocean are being weakened as buffers against global warming, in a vicious circle with long-term implications for the climate system, say two new investigations.

If the seas and the land are less able to soak up or store greenhouse gases, more of these carbon emissions will enter the atmosphere, holding in even more heat from the sun.

A study published in Nature on Thursday says a gradual increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) over the last half-century has accelerated the release of methane and nitrous oxide in the soil.

When van Groenigen and colleagues reviewed 49 such studies, however, two patterns emerged.

More CO2 increased nitrous oxide in all soils, but soils in rice paddies and wetlands released more methane in particular.

The culprits in both cases are microscopic soil organisms that breathe in CO2 and “exhale” methane. The more carbon dioxide in the air, the more these single-cell greenhouse-gas factories thrive.

If the calculations are right, the carbon “credit” that is attributed to faster plant growth driven by extra CO2 in the air must be revised, say the researchers. This “credit” helps to offset the negative impact of greenhouse gases — but the new data suggests it should be written down by a fifth.

Scientists measure gulf ‘dead zone’

COLLEGE STATION (Texas), 15 July—Researchers measuring the “dead zone” in the Gulf of Mexico say it is currently about 3,300 square miles but some scientists say it could become much larger.

The so-called “dead zone,” caused by nitrogen levels in the gulf related to human activities such as agricultural runoff, occurs when oxygen levels in seawater drop to dangerously low levels, causing severe hypoxia that can potentially result in fish kills and harm marine life.

Researchers from Texas A&M University say the size of the dead zone off coastal Louisiana has been routinely monitored for about 25 years while nitrogen levels in the gulf resulting from human activities have tripled over the past 50 years.

Some researchers predict the dead zone could exceed 9,400 square miles this year, which would make it one of the largest ever recorded. “This was the first-ever research cruise conducted to specifically target the size of hypoxia in the month of June,” oceanography professor Steve DiMarco said.

“The largest areas of hypoxia are still around the Louisiana coast, where you would expect them because of the huge amounts of fresh water still coming down from the Mississippi River.” The Mississippi is the largest river US river, draining 40 percent of the land area of the country and accounting for almost 90 percent of the freshwater runoff into the Gulf of Mexico.—INTERNET

Passwords are made obsolete with Mozilla’s BrowserID

WASHINGTON, 15 July—Mozilla released information today about a project designed to put an end to the password. BrowserID requires a user to verify that they are the owner of an email address a single time. Once the email account is verified, users can simply click the sign-in button at a site using BrowserID and log into the site with the email address.

This eliminates the step of creating a password as well as clicking a confirmation email link from each site. At this point, the user can make comments or use other site functions that require an account. Mozilla is hosting a BrowserID server for developers, but sites can implement the protocol without the need for Mozilla’s server. The technology uses a public key cryptography to verify a user’s email between the browser and the site. This technology is known as “Verified Email Protocol”. There are plenty of alternatives such as OpenID and Facebook Connect, but these present privacy and data concerns according to Mozilla.

The advantage of BrowserID is the lack of information traded between the user and the site as well as securing user data from being leaked to other servers.

Despite the somewhat misleading name, BrowserID isn’t tied to Mozilla’s Firefox browser. It works with Microsoft’s Internet Explorer, Google Chrome and Apple’s Safari. It doesn’t require direct support from email providers, but they gain greater control if they do support BrowserID. BrowserID also uses Gravatar to pull an avatar image that can be displayed on the site similar to Facebook Connect.

Mozilla hopes to standardize the protocol by working with other identity providers such as Twitter, Google and Facebook. Developers and site owners that want to experiment with this new technology can visit browserid.org. A demonstration of the log-in procedure can be seen at myfavoritebeer.org as well.

Chinese man makes iPad look-a-like from scratch

BEIJING, 15 July—An enterprising Chinese man has come up with a solution for gadget-crazy people who desperately want Apple’s popular iPad tablet computer but cannot afford it.

In a 20-minute video posted on Youku — the Chinese YouTube equivalent — Liu Xinying demonstrates how to assemble an iPad look-a-like using computer parts, a touch screen and a case with a keypad, to the sound of metal music. At the end of the video dubbed “DIY iPad 3”, the IT whiz shows off the finished version — an apparently functional tablet computer that looks like a thick iPad but runs on Windows, an operating system made by rival Microsoft.

News of Liu’s apparent feat spread on several foreign and Chinese technology websites, as well as on the nation’s Twitter-like Weibo service.

When contacted by AFP, the 21-year-old from the eastern province of Shandong said that since he posted the video online a month ago, he has knocked back requests from a dozen people wanting him to make them a DIY iPad. “I did this for fun,” said Liu, who works at a computer store in Jinan city. “It cost me 2,000 yuan ($300) to make it, so I guess that’s how much it’s worth.” By comparison, the cheapest 32-gigabyte model costs $299.

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A new drug, nilotinib, can add powerfully to the combination of medications used to control HIV for first-time patients, researchers conclude in Friday’s issue of The Lancet.

Nilotinib, marketed by pharmaceutical firm Novartis, is both safe and effective and its side effects are fewer and less severe compared with the widely-used efavirenz, or Sustiva, they say.

Combination therapy for new HIV patients commonly entails giving either efavirenz or nevirapine in conjunction with drugs of a separate class in order to attack the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) from different angles.

Efavirenz and nevirapine are equally effective at suppressing HIV but can cause severe side effects, which is why there has been a search for a substitute drug in their class.

The two studies report on data from two trials carried out among nearly 1,400 patients in 21 countries.

BHP Billiton buys Petrohawk for $12.1 billion

SYDNEY, 15 July—BHP Billiton Ltd said Friday it will buy US-based oil company Petrohawk Energy for $12.1 billion in cash, giving the world’s largest miner greater access to US shale gas assets.

BHP said it would pay $38.75 for each Petrohawk share in an all-cash tender offer. The total value of the deal is $15.1 billion, including Petrohawk’s debt.

The acquisition will give BHP assets covering about one million acres (400,000 hectares) in Texas and Louisiana, with an estimated 2011 production of about 950 million cubic feet (26.9 million cubic metres) equivalent per day, or 158,000 barrels of oil equivalent each day.

The deal comes just months after BHP bought a $4.75 billion stake in a shale gas field in Arkansas, which marked the first move by the company into the rapidly growing US shale gas business.

Innovations in technology and higher energy prices over the past few years have seen drillers tapping the vast amounts of natural gas in shale deposits, which were once considered uneconomic. More recently, drillers have learned to adapt the new technology to also produce oil.

‘With over a decade of significant investment and volume growth ahead, this transaction would build on our recent acquisition of the Fayetteville shale in Arkansas and provides the potential to more than double our existing resource base,’’ BHP’s petroleum CEO Michael Yeager said in a statement.

ConocoPhillips announces plans to separate

HOUSTON, 15 July—ConocoPhillips, the largest oil refiner in the United States, announced Thursday it will reorganize into two publicly traded companies.

After the proposed separation is complete, ConocoPhillips said in a release it would be a large, geographically diverse exploration and production company. The second, as-yet-unnamed company will be a refining and marketing business.

ConocoPhillips’ board of directors approved the pursuit of separating the company’s refining and marketing operations from the exploration and production business, the Houston-based company said.

As a separate entity, the refining and marketing company will be a leading pure-play independent refiner, said ConocoPhillips, the third-largest US integrated energy company.

‘Consistent with our strategy to create industry-leading shareholder value, we have concluded that two independent companies focused on their respective industries will be better positioned to pursue their individually focused business strategies,’’ said Jim Mulva, ConocoPhillips’ chairman and chief executive officer.

‘Both companies will continue to benefit from the size and scale of their significant high-quality asset bases and free cash flow generation, allowing them to invest and create shareholder value in a changing environment.’’

MUNICH, 15 July—An international team of researchers has identified two genetic regions that seem to be implicated in restless legs syndrome.

Restless legs syndrome is a condition in which people experience a tinging or ‘creepy crawly’ feeling in the legs, relieved only by movement. One of the most common neurological diseases, the syndrome can lead to chronic sleep loss, daytime fatigue and even depression.

In the new study, scientists from Europe, Canada and the United States analyzed genetic sequence variants in nearly 5,000 people suffering from restless legs syndrome along with more than 7,000 people who did not have the condition.

The researchers found two new genetic regions that play a role in the syndrome. One of the regions is within a gene involved in regulating brain activity, known as TOX3, according to the report published online 14 July in PLoS Genetics.

Although the exact connection between TOX3 and restless legs syndrome remains unclear, it’s known that the TOX3 protein protects neuronal cells from death, according to Juliane Winkelmann, of the Institute of Human Genetics at the University of Technology in Munich, and colleagues noted in a news release from the journal’s publisher.

A Conoco Phillips gas station in Boulder.

Internet

Genes linked to Restless legs syndrome identified

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Internet
Two planes collide on taxiway at Boston airport

WASHINGTON, 15 July
— Two US planes collided Thursday on the taxiway at Boston airport, but did not cause any casualties, local media reported.

The wing of a Delta Boeing 767 clipped the tail of an aircraft providing regional air service, while both were on the taxiway and preparing to leave Boston on Thursday evening.

One female passenger complained of neck pain after the crash and was taken to Massachusetts General Hospital as a precaution. The remaining passengers were examined by a medical team, and there were no other injuries, said a spokesman of the Boston Logan International Airport.

Delta Flight 266 bound for Amsterdam hit the vertical stabilizer of Atlantic Southeast Airlines Flight 4904, which was leaving for Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, according to media reports.

Two planes on taxiway at Boston airport

Monsoon rains kill 17 more in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 15 July—At least 17 people were killed in Nepal as monsoon rains lashed villages, triggering landslides and causing rivers to flood their surroundings.

In the worst incident, 10 members of a family died in western Rukum District, once the bastion of Maoist militancy, as their hut was buried under a landslide and the remoteness of the village made rescue work impossible.

A 53-year-old man, his wife, son, daughter-in-law, daughter, son-in-law and four grandchildren died in the landslide that occurred around 10.30 pm Thursday, police said.

In Nuwakot District in central Nepal, a man, his wife and their one-year-old daughter died when swirling river waters carried away their hut while a young girl drowned in Parbat village.

Nearly 50 people have died so far as monsoon started early in Nepal and rains were plentiful. In southern Nepal, after a welcome respite, the Saptakosi river, known as the sorrow of Nepal’s neighbouring Bihar state due to the flood havocs it has caused in the past, was once again posing major concern.

The barrage built to control the river waters reported flow of over 161,800 cusecs, and 22 of the 56 gates have been opened to release the water. In 2008, a breach in the embankment of the river in Nepal caused nearly three million people in Bihar to be rendered homeless.

This year, north Bihar is already reeling under floods and a report agency Xinhua said, Kosi would magnify the disaster.

Bomb scare closes part of Brazilian Airport

RIO DE JANEIRO, 15 July—The parking lot of Brazilian Rio’s local Airport Santos Dumont was closed on Thursday after an anonymous tip that a bomb was hidden in a car in the area.

Rio police’s bomb squad officers swept the parking lot for hours, with the aid of sniffer dogs, but did not find any explosives.

According to airport administration agency Infraero, the investigation was necessary because the tip did not specify any details of the car in which the bomb might be.

The airport remained open during the search, but the traffic in the streets surrounding the parking lot was blocked for several hours.

It was the second bomb threat in Rio on Thursday. Earlier in the day, the bomb squad detonated an explosive device which has been left in the vicinities of a technical school in the Tijuca neighbourhood.

The police said that the device was a homemade bomb, with an aluminum body, and could have caused injuries to people in a 15-metre radius. “It was a crude simulation of a grenade, but could cause a grave injury or even death,” said bomb squad inspector Edson Brito.—Xinhua

Bomb scare at Brazil

A man walks in heavy monsoon rain in eastern Pakistan’s Lahore, on 14 July, 2011. Heavy rains hit Lahore, Sialkot, Rawalpindi and Islamabad due to monsoon and a strong current of moisture from the Arabian Sea. Xinhua

Bomb scare closes part of Brazilian Airport

Lightning strikes over the northeast Italy village of Predazzo on 13 July, 2011. Thunderstorms are common during the summer in northern Italy while temperatures reached a peak of 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) due to African winds in the south and central Italy.

INTERNET
The government has allowed retired State service personnel to draw increased pensions and political pensions as from July 2011. Now, the Head Office and branches of the Pensions Department are contacting related departments with the forms they have filled in for increased pension rates.

The following is a collection of the questions raised recently by pensioners and answers by the Pensions Department presented for public knowledge.

Q: Whether or not applications can be submitted with Special Power for increased pensions for retired State service personnel living abroad; whether or not retired State service personnel living abroad have to submit written testimonies to prove that they are not naturalized for citizenship of those nations.
A: They have to submit application forms by themselves. At the first time, they will be scrutinized. It is mentioned pensioners living in Myanmar, so those retired State service personnel who have migrated to foreign countries for good are not entitled. Those pensioners who are currently abroad can apply when they arrive back home.

Q: What should a family pensioner from a foreign country do if he or she cannot present the national scrutiny card of the initial pensioner.
A: They can apply, leaving blank the space for the number of the national scrutiny card of the initial pensioner.

Q: What will be done for a pensioner who has been dissolved and service personnel under the control of the General Administration Department of the Ministry concerned. If he is not in good health, he may send a representative. If he is not able to go to the bank to draw his pension by himself, he may send a representative with a message for the bank manager that he is not in good health. The bank manager will scrutinize the case as necessary and give permission to draw the pension.
A: No. It is because everyone entitled to draw increased pensions can apply at any day.

Q: Is there a deadline for applications for increased pensions?
A: Procedures are the same as that in No. 6.

Q: What about a lump sum (pension trade) pension?
A: If a pensioner wants to exchange part of his pension and is to draw pension at the rate of not more than 50 kyats, paperwork will be carried out right away.

Q: If the lump sum pension system is to be revoked, why? And it will be kept in force, why?
A: The lump sum pension system is never revoked.

Q: What will be done for a pensioner who has exchanged for a lump sum (pension trade) pension and is to draw pension at the new rate?
A: Procedures are the same as that in No. 6.

Q: What will be done for a pensioner who has not been able to go to the bank to draw his pension. The pensioner can draw the leftover pension. From instance, old pension - 55 kyats Lump sum pension - 30 kyats Exchange percent - 54.5% Increased pension rate - 19,000 kyats 54.5 % is equal to 10,355 kyats Therefore, he receives - 8645 kyats
A: If a pensioner applies for a lump sum (pension trade) pension?

Q: The Trade and Agriculture Department has been dissolved and service personnel under the department are drawing their compensation pensions from the affiliated divisions under the control of the General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs. To what department can they apply for increased pensions?
A: They can apply to nearest Township/Region General Administration Departments.

Q: A pensioner has not been able to go to the bank for about three years due to poor health. He draws his pensions through the bank account system, so he has no pension book. What should he do?
A: The Myanma Economic Bank (Branch-5) undertakes pension processes of the Myanma Economic Bank (Branch-3). The pension book might be kept in the bank. So, he has to draw a form from the bank, fill in it and submit it to the Township/Region Department concerned. If he is not in good health, he may send a representative. If he is not able to go to the bank to draw his pension by himself, he may send a representative with a message for the bank manager that he is not in good health. The bank manager will scrutinize the case as necessary and give permission to draw the pension.

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The following is a collection of the questions raised recently by pensioners and answers by the Pensions Department presented for public knowledge.

Q: Whether or not applications can be submitted with Special Power for increased pensions for retired State service personnel living abroad; whether or not retired State service personnel living abroad have to submit written testimonies to prove that they are not naturalized for citizenship of those nations.
A: They have to submit application forms by themselves. At the first time, they will be scrutinized. It is mentioned pensioners living in Myanmar, so those retired State service personnel who have migrated to foreign countries for good are not entitled. Those pensioners who are currently abroad can apply when they arrive back home.

Q: What should a family pensioner from a foreign country do if he or she cannot present the national scrutiny card of the initial pensioner.
A: They can apply, leaving blank the space for the number of the national scrutiny card of the initial pensioner.

Q: What will be done for a pensioner who has been dissolved and service personnel under the control of the General Administration Department of the Ministry concerned. If he is not in good health, he may send a representative. If he is not able to go to the bank to draw his pension by himself, he may send a representative with a message for the bank manager that he is not in good health. The bank manager will scrutinize the case as necessary and give permission to draw the pension.
A: No. It is because everyone entitled to draw increased pensions can apply at any day.

Q: Is there a deadline for applications for increased pensions?
A: Procedures are the same as that in No. 6.

Q: What about a lump sum (pension trade) pension?
A: If a pensioner wants to exchange part of his pension and is to draw pension at the rate of not more than 50 kyats, paperwork will be carried out right away.

Q: If the lump sum pension system is to be revoked, why? And it will be kept in force, why?
A: The lump sum pension system is never revoked.

Q: What will be done for a pensioner who has exchanged for a lump sum (pension trade) pension and is to draw pension at the new rate?
A: Procedures are the same as that in No. 6.

Q: What will be done for a pensioner who has not been able to go to the bank to draw his pension. The pensioner can draw the leftover pension. From instance, old pension - 55 kyats Lump sum pension - 30 kyats Exchange percent - 54.5% Increased pension rate - 19,000 kyats 54.5 % is equal to 10,355 kyats Therefore, he receives - 8645 kyats
A: If a pensioner applies for a lump sum (pension trade) pension?

Q: The Trade and Agriculture Department has been dissolved and service personnel under the department are drawing their compensation pensions from the affiliated divisions under the control of the General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs. To what department can they apply for increased pensions?
A: They can apply to nearest Township/Region General Administration Departments.

Q: A pensioner has not been able to go to the bank for about three years due to poor health. He draws his pensions through the bank account system, so he has no pension book. What should he do?
A: The Myanma Economic Bank (Branch-5) undertakes pension processes of the Myanma Economic Bank (Branch-3). The pension book might be kept in the bank. So, he has to draw a form from the bank, fill in it and submit it to the Township/Region Department concerned. If he is not in good health, he may send a representative. If he is not able to go to the bank to draw his pension by himself, he may send a representative with a message for the bank manager that he is not in good health. The bank manager will scrutinize the case as necessary and give permission to draw the pension.

Q: The lump sum pension system is to be revoked, why? And it will be kept in force, why?
A: The lump sum pension system is never revoked.

Q: What will be done for a pensioner who has exchanged for a lump sum (pension trade) pension and is to draw pension at the new rate?
A: Procedures are the same as that in No. 6.

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Hong Kong detects plasticisers in health product imported from US

HONG KONG, 15 July—Hong Kong’s Centre for Food Safety on Thursday urged people to stop consuming a batch of Doctor’s Choice Evening Primrose Oil softgels, which was found to contain plasticisers, di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate and di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate. The Centre has instructed the trade to immediately stop selling the affected product.—Xinhua

A sample of the product was found to contain plasticisers, di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate and di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate. The Centre has instructed the trade to immediately stop selling the affected product.—Xinhua

California City authorized to ban plastic bags

LOS ANGELES, 15 July—Manhattan Beach, a small City in California, was given the green light on Thursday to ban single-use plastic bags, opening the door for other cities to follow suit. Under a ruling by the California Supreme Court, the seaside City was not required to prepare an environmental impact report before implementing the ban. The decision makes it clear that other cities seeking a ban on plastic bags will not have to conduct environmental impact studies beforehand. Manhattan Beach has been fighting for years against a coalition of plastic bag manufacturers that attempted to overturn the city’s ban on plastic bags. The Save the Plastic Bag Coalition sued the City of Manhattan Beach in 2010, two years after the City passed its ban, prompting several communities to suspended their efforts to ban plastic bags. Thursday’s ruling drew praise from environmentalists who said Manhattan Beach would serve as a good example for other cities. “Plastic grocery bags become plastic ocean pollution,” said California Assemblywoman Julia Browneley, who authored a bill last year that sought a statewide single-use bag ban.—Xinhua
Dhammaçakka Akhadaw Day observed at pagodas...  (from page 1)

Nay Pyi Taw Command and townships of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area recited Dhammaçakka Pavattana Sutta.

Likewise, Datusaya Datpaungsu Pagoda, Phayakoehsu, Koekhangyi and Lawkamarazein Pagodas in Pymñana Township of Nay Pyi Taw were packed with devotees and pilgrims who took Sabbath and performed meritorious deeds.

This morning, the Waso robe offering and the Dhammaçakka Akhadaw Day to mark the 2600th anniversary ceremony were observed at Shwedagon Pagoda. Religious associations donated Waso robes to Buddha images. Dhammaçakka Akhadaw Day was observed at Chanthagyi Prayer Hall on the platform of the pagoda.

The congregation took the Sabbath from Uppatasanti Pagoda, Maha Lawkatharaphu Pagoda, Botahtaung Pagoda, Maha Wizaya Pagoda, Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda, Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon), Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image and Shwephonepwint Pagoda.

Moreover, Dhammaçakka Akhadaw Day was observed at Kyaikkasan, Kyaikkaloh and Kyaikkale, Kyaikwate, Ngapitatyi, Chaikhatatyi, Koectatgyi, Mogaung, South Okkalapa, Meilamu, Zina Manauang, Kyaihmawun Yaye, Kyaihkhaun, Shwehsandaw and Thunpahayagi pagodas in townships of Yangon Region today.

In Mandalay this morning, Yaydaw Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ukkatha and party cleansed the face of Maha Muni Buddha Image and offered Waso robes, meals and water.

Buddhist people offered Waso robes, meal, water, flowers and oil lamps to the Buddha image. They participated in releasing fingerlings at the lake, took Sabbath and performed meritorious deeds.

Maha Lawkatharaphu Pagoda...  (from page 1)

Afterwards, the consecration ceremony followed. After the ceremony, wellwishers donated alms and provisions to members of the Sangha.

Waso-robe offering ceremony at Shwephonepwint Pagoda in progress.  MNA

Region/State Men’s and Women’s Basketball Competitions conclude

YANGON, 15 July — The prize-giving ceremony of 42nd Region/State Men’s and Women’s Basketball Competitions took place at the gymnasium in Aung San Stadium here this afternoon.

Patron of Shwe Thanbin Co., Daw Ni and Deputy Director-General U Ohn Myint Oo of Sports and Physical Education Department presented fair play awards to Yangon Region men’s basketball team and first-prize winning Shan State men’s basketball team and Sagaing Region women’s basketball team.

On behalf of the Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports, Deputy Director-General U New Taung of Sports and Physical Education Department presented the championship shields and duplicate shields to first-prize winning Shan State men’s basketball team and Sagaing Region women’s basketball team.— MNA

The all-round renovation of the pagoda took place with the contributions of Maj-Gen Myint Soe of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Mya Oo and family, U Thein Aung and Daw Thin Thin Hla and family (Thone Pan Hla religious missionary), U Thein Tan (Shwepyitha) and family and wellwishers.  MNA
Rural region development
and poverty alleviation coord meeting held

NAV PHTAW, 15 July — A coordination meeting of work committee for rural region development and poverty alleviation was held at the meeting hall of Sagaing Region Government Office on 12 July, with an opening address by Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye. Sagaing Region ministers and officials reported on sector-wise works to be done. Next, entrepreneurs and companies chairmen presented reports and In-charge Rector U Aung Myint of Institute of Economics (Monywa) made suggestions. The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the Chief Minister.—MNA

Inter-Township Volleyball Tournament commences in Taninthayi Region

NAV PHTAW, 15 July—The Taninthayi Region Chief Minister’s Trophy Inter-Township Volleyball Tournament kicked off at the region sports ground on 13 July afternoon. Among the spectators were Chief Minister U Khin Zaw, Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Htin Aung Kyaw, region ministers and departmental officials. After speaking an address, the Chief Minister enjoyed the match between Launglon and Myeik township teams. Altogether 10 men’s and six women’s volleyball teams are taking part in the tournament.—MNA

Engineering Proficiency Course No (1/2011) concludes

YANGON, 15 July—Engineering Proficiency Course No. 1/2011 of Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 concluded at Central Training School (Hinethaya) here yesterday, with a concluding speech by Chairman U Aung Khaing of Yangon City Electric Supply Board. The deputy chief engineer of Electric Power Enterprise presented completion certificates to the trainees and the chairman awarded outstanding trainees. A total of 30 trainees attended the four-week course.—MNA

Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Khin Zaw making speech at the opening of Inter-Township Volleyball Tournament.—MNA

Myanmar, Thai entrepreneurs to meet on 23 July

YANGON, 15 July—Commercial Counsellor of Thai Embassy Mr Prajuab Supinee called on General Secretary Dr Myo Thein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the federation here on 8 July. The two sides discussed matters on holding meeting between businessmen of the two nations at the federation on 23 July. Those wishing to participate in the discussion may register at Ph: 214344~49 Ext-121,122.—MNA

Myanmar Sepak Takraw athletes …

(from page 16)

three coaches and three assistant coaches are supervising the training of athletes.”

He continued, “We set two training sessions daily—the first session from 7 am to 10 am and the second session from 3 pm to 6 pm. The athletes are under training in line with the modern methods of physical strength and techniques.”

The Secretary further explained, “We have planned to choose five men and five women players to take part in the Sepak Takraw World Cup to be held in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia from 21 to 24 July so as to seek experiences from international tournaments.”

On my visit at the gymnasium, I saw selected Myanmar Sepak Takraw athletes are actively participating the training session to be able to secure gold medals in the XXVI SEA Games. *****

Translation: TTA

Myanmar Alin:
7-7-2011

“We set training sessions for athletes.”
U Kyaw Zin Moe,
Secretary of MSTF.
Military plane crashes in western Turkey

ANKARA, 15 July— A T-37 type military training plane crashed into the sea near Guzelbahce town of Turkey’s western Izmir Province on Thursday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency quoted Izmir Governor Cahit Kirac as saying.

Two pilots onboard, probably one trainer and one student, were missing after the training plane crashed into the Aegean Sea at about 12:10 pm local time (0910 GMT), according to the report.

However, private Dogan news agency quoted witnesses as saying the plane crashed shortly after it took off and the two pilots did not leave the plane by ejection seat.

The Turkish Coast Guard divers and the police divers are searching at the crash site for the wreckage and the pilots, Anatolia reported.

Over 50 fall ill after eating at Russia cafe

MOSCOW, 15 July— At least 52 people fell ill Thursday after eating at a cafe in western Russia. The cafe was previously in the news for serving unhealthy food, officials said.

The incident took place in the Tatarstan republic, Xinhua reported. A health ministry spokeswoman said the victims were all hospitalized with acute abdominal discomfort after eating in the cafe in Kukmor. At least 30 people were hospitalized with salmonellosis in June after eating at the same cafe.

Authorities temporarily suspended the cafe’s licence after the June incident.

On Thursday, the cafe has been closed for the second time.

Japanese shares rise on relatively stable yen

TOKYO, 15 July—Japanese stocks rose Friday as the yen took a pause in rising against the US dollar, giving some support to exporters. The benchmark Nikkei-225 index rose 38.35 points, or 0.39 percent, from Thursday to 9,974.47.

The broader Topix index of all First Section issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange rose 38.35 points, or 0.39 percent, from Thursday to 9,974.47.

Institute, the steel arch bridge is 301 metres long and 18 metres wide. It is a vital traffic hinge linking the Wuyishan Mountain Resort and the 101 Provincial Highway.

With a total investment of 17 million yuan (2.6 million US dollars), the bridge’s construction by the provincial forest engineering company started in November of 1996. It opened to traffic on 20 Nov, 1999.

The cause of the accident is under investigation.—Xinhua

Bridge collapse leaves one dead, over 20 injured in SE China’s Fujian

FUZHOU, 15 July— One person was killed and 22 others were injured after a bridge collapsed Thursday in east Fujian Province, according to local authorities.

The accident happened at around 8:50 am when a section of the Wuyishan Gongguan Bridge collapsed in the city of Wuyishan, said a spokesman with the city’s committee of the Communist Party of China. A tourist bus, carrying 23 people, fell off the bridge, the spokesman, and the injured were rushed to the hospital.

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The cause of the accident is under investigation.—Xinhua

Truck driver injured in east China bridge cave-in

HANGZHOU, 15 July— An early Friday cave-in in east China’s Hangzhou City left at least a truck driver injured and closed down a pivotal road bridge, police and witnesses said.

The cave-in happened at around 2 am, leaving a 20-metre long, 1-metre wide pit on the right lane of the No 3 Qiantang River Bridge, said a traffic police officer at the scene.

A passing heavy truck loaded with steel plates toppled down the bridge but its driver jumped out before it crashed onto the ground. The injured driver was sent to a nearby hospital. Police said his condition was not critical. Investigators said the truck was overloaded, as more than 100 tonnes of steel plates were collected from the scene, though the wreck of the vehicle weighed only 32 tonnes.

A resident who lives near the bridge said he heard two bangs and felt his home was shaking. “I thought it was an earthquake,” he said on condition of anonymity. The cave-in site is only a few hundred meters from the Qiantang River, a major waterway in east China.

A temporary traffic ban has been imposed on the bridge and several other roads linking to the bridge. Altogether 13 bus routes have been diverted.—Xinhua

Kuwait youths prepare to depart from the Kuwait Sea Club, on 14 July, 2011, for this year’s ten-day traditional pearl diving festival. Some 180 middle school students attend the traditional pearl diving in 16 wooden boats on Thursday. After the ten-day activity, students will present their harvest. Kuwaiti government organizes seafaring summer camp each year to offer opportunities for middle school students to learn how to make wooden boats and experience the traditional pearl diving.—Xinhua

A bus dropped at the collapsed Wuyishan Gongguan Bridge in Wuyishan, Fujian Province on 14 July, 2011. Xinhua

Over 50 fall ill after eating at Russia cafe

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Stampede for housing vouchers

DALLAS, 15 July—Thousands of people seeking housing assistance gathered at a field house in Dallas Thursday morning and stampeded when the gates opened, rescue workers said. Officials said at least five people were injured, KXAS-TV, Dallas-Fort Worth, reported. One of the injured was a pregnant woman who fell down and was trampled. Dallas County Health and Human Services were taking applications for the federal Section Eight programme for the first time in two years. They asked applicants to come to the field house at the Jesse Owens Memorial Complex, a school athletic facility. Officials said they expected 15,000 people to apply by the end of the day. A huge crowd had gathered by 5:30 am.

Under the Section Eight programme, aid recipients live in private rental housing with the government paying a percentage of their rent based on their income. Most agencies have years-long waiting lists. Applicants who filed Thursday could wait as long as two years for acceptance.

\[\text{Internet}\]

Teen charged with deadly firebombing

OKLAHOMA CITY, 15 July—An Oklahoma City teenager has been charged with firebombing the house of two elderly neighbours, starting a fire that killed the couple.

Firefighters found the bodies of Boyd Haynes, 87, and his wife, Doris, 86, in the ruins of their home early Wednesday, The Oklahoman reported. Tristan Ryan Owen, 15, was arrested later in the day. A spokeswoman for the medical examiner said Thursday the cause of death was determined to be smoke inhalation. Keven Davis, who also lives in the neighbourhood, told the newspaper he saw someone walking away from the Haynes’ house just before the fire began around 4 am. He tried to get to the house but was driven back by smoke and flames.

Neighbours said Boyd and Doris Haynes lived in the area for decades and had been married for more than 60 years. Thad Yount, 80, said Doris Haynes was known for her chocolate chip cookies. He said she sent cookies to neighbourhood association meetings. Keven Davis, who also lives in the neighbourhood, told the newspaper he saw someone walking away from the Haynes’ house just before the fire began around 4 am. He tried to get to the house but was driven back by smoke and flames.

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Puerto Rican charged with pimping teen girls

SAN JUAN, 15 July—A Puerto Rican man has been arrested on charges of acting as a pimp for teenage girls, authorities said. Rommel Cintron Pons, alias “Pelujain”, was arrested when he was preparing to transport five girls, three of them under 15, to a residence where several male customers had made appointments intending to pay $1,500 for the sexual services of each girl. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) spokesman Ivan Ortiz said Thursday in a communiqué that Cintron Pons paid $100 to each girl, and he did not rule out new arrests of members of a possible prostitution and child pornography network on the island.

In addition, he said that authorities would investigate the girls’ parents. Cintron Pons, according to ICE, ran his business out of a restaurant in downtown San Juan and made his services known using Internet advertisements. If found guilty, Cintron Pons could face a minimum of 10 years in prison.—Internet

Baby found in rubble after home explodes

NEW YORK, 15 July—A baby was found in the rubble of a house that was destroyed by a suspected gas explosion in which four people died and seven were injured.

The blast occurred around Wednesday noon and obliterated the two-storey house in Salem. It scattered remnants of wood, cinder blocks, insulation, clothes and furniture and other rubble as far as 100 yards away, the New York Daily News reported.

Eleven people were in the house when the explosion took place, neighbours said. Authorities said a woman who lived at the house, a young man whose uncle lived there and an 18-year-old woman from Hudson Falls, New York, were killed at the scene. Another person died at the hospital later.

State police said they were still investigating the cause of the explosion, but they suspected a leaking propane tank was involved.

Residents of the rural community, 40 miles northeast of capital Albany, said the blast could be heard for miles. A neighbour, Joseph Brandmeyer, told WNYT television that he ran to the scene after hearing the blast and began pulling survivors from the rubble, including a baby.

“I pulled the baby out and got her there on the grass and she started to breathe,” Brandmeyer told the station.—Internet

\[\text{Internet}\]
The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Energy

Dated: 8th July, 2011

Invitation for bids to conduct Petroleum Operations in Myanmar Onshore Areas (2011)

1. The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby announces Invitation of Sealed Bids for Petroleum Operations to be conducted in Myanmar Onshore Areas on production sharing basis.

2. The following Onshore blocks are available for bidding in this bidding round:-

   (1) PSC E (Myinjau)
   (2) PSC G (Taungdwingyi)
   (3) PSC II (Taung-Pyinmana)
   (4) PSC I (Hinbada)
   (5) PSC J (Mawlamyine)
   (6) PSC K (Yamethin)
   (7) EP I (Kyanuki-Mindon)
   (8) EP III (Aunglan)
   (9) EP V (Ibatin-Tegyigon)
   (10) RSF 2 (Tuyintaan (Myaung South))
   (11) RSF 3 (Ogywgyo-Ngasuadung)
   (12) RSF 9 (Pyalo-Paukkaung)
   (13) RSF 10 (Kamana-Nattauung)
   (14) MOGE 4 (Myinta)
   (15) PSC S (Lashio-Hsorswe)
   (16) PSC T (Lashio East)
   (17) PSC U (Kalaw)
   (18) PSC V (Loikaw)

3. All interested parties are cordially invited to submit “the Letter of Expression of Interest,” together with Company’s Article of Association (AOA), Memorandum of Association (MOA), Certificate of Incorporation, latest Annual Report and latest Financial Statement (or) Financial Report, which are to be endorsed for authenticity by the respective Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the place of Company’s registration (or) establishment or nearest, in sealed envelopes superscribed “Confidential” (Myanmar Onshore Blocks Bidding Round - 2011) to the following addresses not later than 23rd August 2011:-

   Director General
   Energy Planning Department
   Ministry of Energy
   Building No.6, Nay Pyi Taw
   The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
   Fax: 95 67 411 113
   Email: myanmoe@mptmail.net.mm

4. The petroleum operation shall be conducted on production sharing basis and the party(s), who desired to enter into the Production Sharing Contract with the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) shall have technical competency, financial capability, experience, expertise and technical knowledge how to conduct petroleum exploration and development works and must have good track record.

5. The potential bidders will then be selected and presented with General Geology of each Block and at the request will be shown with representative data and information of the Company’s interested block(s) free of charge by Geological/Geophysical Team of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise.

6. The Potential bidders will then be provided with Standard Terms and Conditions in order to submit proposals.

7. The potential bidders are allowed to submit up to three (3) proposals for three (3) onshore blocks together with proposed Terms and Conditions. The proposal submitted shall be on a block by block basis.

8. The potential bidders’ proposed Terms and Conditions will be assessed and the best offered Terms and Conditions will be selected for awarding.

   Director General
   Energy Planning Department
   Ministry of Energy
   Building No.6, Nay Pyi Taw.
   The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
   Tel: 95-067 411 099/411 057
   Fax: 95-067 411 113
   e-mail: myanmoe@mptmail.net.mm

Note: For further inquiry (and/or) information, please contact the followings:-

(1) Director General
   Energy Planning Department
   Ministry of Energy,
   The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
   Tel: 95-067 411 099/411 057
   Fax: 95-067 411 113
   e-mail: myanmoe@mptmail.net.mm

(2) Managing Director
   Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
   Ministry of Energy,
   The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
   Tel: 95-067 411 059/411 209
   Fax: 95 67 411 125
   e-mail: mdmoge@mptmail.net.mm

(3) Myanmar Embassies in respective Countries.

Claims Day Notice
MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (587)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (587) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.7.2011 and cargo will be discharged from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now.

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Full-page newspaper ad mourns cat

An Italian woman who took out a full-page newspaper ad to mourn the death of her beloved cat said her “profound feelings are beyond financial measure.”

Luciana Matalon, 77, a Milan artist, said she took out the ad in Wednesday’s edition of Corriere della Sera because of the connection she had with Sky, her recently deceased 15-year-old cat, ANSA reported Thursday.

“My profound feelings are beyond financial measure,” Matalon said.

She said Sky helped her get past the pain of losing her husband several years ago.

“I don’t even know how I continued to work after his death,” she said.

She said Sky helped her wake up in the morning and find an artwork completed that I didn’t even remember doing.”

Matalon said Sky filled her with “catitude,” the cat version of attitude.

“I will soon be with you,” the newspaper ad reads. “And we’ll never leave each other ever again.”

Hooked turtle returns to ocean

Officials at the Miami Seaquarium said a turtle found with a hook wedged in its mouth in May has been released back into the ocean.

Caretakers at the facility said Cinco, a 12-pound green sea turtle found off Dania Beach with a hook stuck in his mouth in May, was released into the ocean Wednesday at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, The Miami Herald reported Thursday.

The Seaquarium said Cinco underwent numerous tests to ensure he could still dive, float and eat without assistance.

Judy Tazinski, an animal care supervisor at the Seaquarium, said Cinco was seen off by cammers in the facility’s summer programme.

Aerialist: Bridge stunt not dangerous

An aerialist charged with reckless endangerment following an unauthorized performance atop New York’s Williamsburg Bridge says she was never in danger.

Seanna Sharpe, 24, who performed during Monday evening’s rush hour, said she planned the stunt for three months and performed her routine above the subway tracks to ensure no one would be injured if she fell, the New York Post reported Thursday.

“I’m a professional. The cars on the ground were more of a danger than I was,” Sharpe said before posting bail Wednesday. “Statistically, I am less likely to die on my apparatus than you are in a taxi.”

Sharpe, who is facing up to seven years in jail for the felony charge, said she does not believe she should have been charged with criminal trespass in addition to the felony reckless endangerment charge.

“It’s a public bridge. I Googled it,” she said.

Justin Bieber now has 11 m Twitter followers

LONDON, 15 July—Teen pop sensation Justin Bieber has crossed 11 million followers on micro-blogging site Twitter. He took to his page to thank his loyal “Beliebers”.

“THAAAAATTT!! 11MillionBeliebers! I LOVE YOU ALL!! THANK YOU ... tonight was already a fun great night and now it is even better. THANK U THANK U THANK U THANK U (sic)” Bieber posted on Twitter. The 17-year-old singer is the second most popular celebrity on Twitter.

Lady Gaga enjoys the first position with over 11.5 million people reading her tweets, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Other well-known faces in the top 10 include US President Barack Obama, socialite Kim Kardashian and singer Britney Spears, reports internet.

Steve Spielberg to debut in Comic-Con event

LONDON, 15 July—Hollywood mogul Steven Spielberg will make his debut appearance at the legendary Comic-Con event in California later this month.

Spielberg never participated in the San Diego-based comic book and movie convention, which has been held annually since 1970.

The 64-year-old filmmaker will be part of a panel at the 22 July event where he will discuss his new project “The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn” in front of 6,000 attendees, reports contactmusic.com.

Black Swan role should have been mine: Lindsay Lohan

LONDON, 15 July—Actress Lindsay Lohan reportedly told a writer that she should have played the lead role in “Black Swan” because she had years of ballet training.

Actress Natalie Portman, who played the role of ballet dancer Nina Reynolds shows support for homeless youth

LONDON, 15 July—Actor Ryan Reynolds recently visited a centre for the homeless youth in his native Vancouver and interacted with the residents.

Reynolds paid a surprise trip to the Covenant House shelter, which provides helpless young people with food, clothing and a place to sleep, reports contactmusic.com.

The 34-year-old interacted with several of the youngsters and happily posed for photographs with the staff, this Monday.—Internet

Sharon Stone ordered to pay USD 232K to man injured on her property

WASHINGTON, 14 July—“Basic Instinct” star Sharon Stone has been ordered to pay 232,000 dollars to a man who was injured on her property in 2006.

Peter Krause sued Stone, 53, in 2008, two years after he sustained a knee injury by falling through latticework and into a neighbour’s yard while working on her house.

Stone took to the stand this week to testify there was a fence in the spot where the plaintiff alleged the accident happened.

But a jury ruled the actress was negligent for failing to have a fence sturdy enough to prevent Krause’s fall.

“We’re disappointed they did not take her testimony at face value,” Contactmusic quoted Stone’s lawyer as saying.

According to Eonline.com, her attorney is considering an appeal.
**SPORTS**

**Roberto Carlos targets Anzhi president’s post**

Former Brazil international Roberto Carlos

SAO PAULO, 15 July—Former Brazil international Roberto Carlos has his sights set on becoming president of Russian Premier League side Anzhi Makhachkala after hanging up his boots in 2013, local press reported on Thursday.

"I’m set to play for Anzhi two more years until the end of my contract. After that I will resign and take the post of the club president," the 2002 World Cup winning defender said. "I’m going to stay in Russia for a long time. And I’m set to transform Anzhi into a truly strong side, where plenty of my compatriots will play," Carlos added.

The 38-year-old veteran said he has already reached an agreement with powerful oil and metals magnate Suleiman Kerimov, the ambitious owner of Anzhi, about taking the top post.

**Falcao extends Porto deal until 2015**

PORTO, 15 July — Colombian international striker Radamel Falcao has shunned the chance to join one of Europe's superpowers by extending his contract with Porto to 2015. The Porto president on Thursday. The 25-year-old, who scored 38 goals for Porto last season as they won the domestic league and cup double, as well as the Europa League, had been widely tipped to follow former coach Andre Villas-Boas to Chelsea.

This week he also emerged as a target for Real Madrid who were reported to be willing to meet the 30 million euro release clause in his contract. The new deal provides for a release clause that has been raised to 45 million euros, the club informed the Portuguese stock exchange. Falcao joined Porto in 2009 from Argentina’s River Plate and has scored 73 goals in 85 games in his two seasons with the Porto club. He is due to line up for Colombia against Peru on Saturday in the quarter-finals of the Copa America.—Internet

**City’s Boateng joins Bayern Munich**

MUNICH, 15 July — German defender Jerome Boateng will leave Manchester City to sign a four-year deal worth 13.5 million euros with German league giants Bayern Munich, reported SID, an AFP subsidiary, on Thursday.

The 22-year-old is currently training in Los Angeles with the City squad and is expected to arrive in Munich in the next few days for the medical. Boateng’s arrival will be Bayern’s fifth summer signing along with German goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, Brazil defender Rafinha, striker Nils Petersen and Japan’s rising star Takashi Usami.

Having won the last of his 13 caps in the friendly draw with Italy in February, Boateng’s arrival would help solve Bayern’s defensive problems last season which saw them finish the 2010/11 campaign without any silverware. —Internet

**Bjorn roars in return to site of 2003 meltdown**

SANDWICH, 15 July — Enough about 2003. Thomas Bjorn is trying to create some new memories at Royal St George’s. Bjorn opened with a 5 under 65 to claim the lead in the British Open, the major title he was denied the last time it came to this course on the English seaside. Not that he’s dwelling on what happened eight years ago.

"I’m 40 years old," the Dane said, "and there might just be a little bit more in me." Bjorn ripped off three straight birdies coming down the stretch. Even with a stumble at the final hole, he was in the clubhouse with a one-stroke lead over Miguel Angel Jimenez and Lucas Glover. US Open champion Rory McIlroy got off to a sluggish start but was still in the mix, six strokes behind the leader. 

**Sanchez wins 12th Tour stage in Pyrenees**

LUZ-ARIDIDEN, 15 July — Spain’s Samuel Sanchez thrilled fans of his Basque-based team with the stage win Thursday and France’s Thomas Voeckler surprised himself by keeping the yellow jersey on Bastille Day as the Tour de France finally hit the mountains. Defending champion Alberto Contador ran into more, if modest, trouble in the 12th stage by losing ground to other race favourites on the day’s final climb in the Pyrenees.

The 131-mile run from Cugnaux to the Luz-Ardiden ski station featured three tough ascents — including two that are among the hardest in pro cycling. After 11 stages on wind-swept flats and hills that favored sprinters and breakaway riders, Thursday’s mountains began to separate the overall race contenders from the rest of the pack. The day’s toughest climbs — the Col du Tourmalet and the uphill finish in Luz-Ardiden — gave the favorites a chance to gauge each other’s stamina and look for signs of weakness.—Internet

**Amateur Lewis caps dream day by sharing Open lead**

SANDWICH, 15 July — As if partnering Tom Watson, the man he was named after, was not a romantic enough way to make his British Open debut, 20-year-old amateur Tom Lewis gilded an unforgettable day by shooting five-under par for a share of the lead on Thursday. Five times British Open champion Watson was the hero of Lewis’s father Brian, a former European Tour golfer who also named his second son Jack in homage to 18-times major champion Jack Nicklaus.

Together in name but divided by a 41-year age gap, the two Toms strolled round the gusty links of St George’s like old friends - Lewis remarkably composed in the presence of one of the game’s all-time greats and Watson purring with admiration at the burgeoning talent he was witnessing.—Internet

**No nerves for Young on Man United debut in US**

LONDON, 15 July—Ashley Young said he already felt at home in a Manchester United jersey after making his debut in his new club’s 4-1 friendly win against New England Revolution.

The reigning English champions kicked off their pre-season tour of the United States with a straightforward win at Gillette Stadium on Wednesday. Young, who arrived from Aston Villa last month for a fee of around £17 million ($27.4m), saw his new employers finish the 2010/11 campaign which saw them defensive problems last season which would help solve Bavaria’s.
Sony Ericsson reports 71 mln USD loss in 2nd quarter

STOCKHOLM, 15 July—Cell phone maker Sony Ericsson said Friday it suffered a loss of 71 million dollars in the second quarter, largely due to the massive earthquake in Japan. Units shipped in the quarter were only 7.6 million, a 31 percent decrease year-on-year and a six percent decrease sequentially, while sales for the quarter dropped 32 percent year-on-year and four percent sequentially to 1.193 billion euros (about 1.695 billion US dollars), the Japan-Sweden joint venture said in a statement.

As a result, the company posted a net loss of 50 million euros (about 71 million dollars) in the quarter, compared to a net profit of 12 million euros (about 17 million dollars) for the corresponding period in 2010 and a net profit of 11 million euros (about 15.6 US dollars) for the first quarter in 2011. “The second quarter profitability was affected by the 11 March earthquake in Japan. We estimate that the impact of earthquake-related supply chain constraints on our portfolio was close to 1.5 million units, with most of the effect in the early part of the quarter,” Bert Nordberg, President and CEO of Sony Ericsson, said in the statement.

Sony Ericsson was established jointly by Sony Corporation and Ericsson 10 years ago to pursue its global corporate functions in London.

Xinhua

Internet

A visitor shows his pet dogs during a pet products exhibition held in Taipei, southeast China’s Taiwan, 15 July, 2011. Xinhua

Weather forecast for 16th July, 2011

Temperature (°C/F) For Tomorrow

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Summary of all forecasts for today

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Xinhua

Internet

A visitor shows his pet dogs during a pet products exhibition held in Taipei, southeast China’s Taiwan, 15 July, 2011. Xinhua
★ 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

Myanmar Sepak Takraw athletes undergoing training for XXVI SEA Games

Recently, I visited the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation in the compound of Thuwunna Sports Ground in Yangon where selected Myanmar Sepak Takraw athletes are undergoing training to be able to vigorously take part in the XXVI SEA Games.

As soon as I entered the gymnasium, I saw coaches were providing intensive training to the athletes systematically.

I had an interview with Secretary of Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation U Kyaw Zin Moe with regard to training for the athletes.

He said, “We commenced training periods phase by phase beginning January 2010. The training periods were designated to first, second and third phase. The athletes were under training with 75 per cent of physical strength and 25 per cent of skills in the first phase. They were trained in the second phase with 50 per cent each of physical strength and skills in the second phase. In the third, the players were under training with 75 per cent of skills and 25 per cent of physical strength. Since the start of training, altogether 50 athletes are participating in the exercises. One manager, (See page 9)

Medical breakthroughs set to AIDS war

Paris, 15 July—The biggest medical forum on AIDS kicks off on Sunday to a buzz of excitement about potential strategies for curbing a pandemic that has now claimed 30 million lives in its three-decade history.

A four-day conference in Rome will mull dramatic evidence that drugs designed to treat patients with HIV can be used to shield uninfected people from the AIDS virus.

This could be the best news in 15 years, when antiretrovirals drugs started to transform the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) from a death sentence to a manageable disease.

It opens up dazzling options for rolling back a pandemic for which there is still no cure or vaccine, say some experts.

“Over the past 18 months, there has been a string of good results from trials, and this has generated a fair bit of optimism,” Jean-Francois Delfraissy, director of the French Agency for AIDS Research (ANRS), told AFP.

“Until recently, no one had found a medical way to prevent HIV—all there was, essentially, was the condom and the message of safe sex.”

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (15-7-2011)

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