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Shan State Minister for Planning and Economy resigns

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—The President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued Order No. (44/2011) dated 1 August 2011. The order is as follows:

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Order No. (44/2011)
2nd Waxing of Wagaung 1373 ME
(1 August 2011)

Resignation as Shan State Minister approved

Minister for Planning and Economy of Shan State Government U Thaung Shwe appointed in accord with Section 262, Subsection (c) and (f) of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 8, Subsection (g) of Region or State Government Law is permitted to resign as Shan State Minister of his own volition in accord with Section 264, Subsection (a) of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 52, Subsection (b) of Region or State Government Law.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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

Government will not only focus on protection of trees and forests for environmental conservation but also give all-round encouragement for reduction in air and water pollution, control of industrial waste and protection of wildlife

Myanmar delegation attends 3rd Environment Ministerial Meeting of GMS

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—The 3rd Environment Ministerial Meeting of the Greater Mekong Sub-region was held in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia, on 28 July. It was attended by a Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of the Environmental Conservation Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Minister for Forestry U Win Tun, Environment Ministers of GMS member countries Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, deputy ministers and high-ranking officers, representatives from Asia Development Bank, Mekong Sub-region Environmental Conservation Department, development partner countries/organizations and guests.

The opening ceremony of the meeting was held at Peace Palace Building in Phnom Penh at 8 am and Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen delivered an opening speech.

Next, the meeting was held. In explaining Myanmar’s environmental conservation policy, work programmes and efforts, Union Minister U Win Tun said that Myanmar’s national sustainable development strategy is aimed at opening up opportunities for eco-friendly green economic policy and investments. The government will not only focus on protection of trees and forests for environmental conservation but also give all-round encouragement for reduction in air and water pollution, control of industrial waste and protection of wildlife.

The government is striving for national economic development in parallel with environmental conservation. The environmental conservation committee has been formed. Moreover, for improvement of the socioeconomic of the rural people and poverty reduction, the Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Central Committee has been formed with the President himself as Chairman.

(See page 8)
**PERSPECTIVES**

Tuesday, 2 August, 2011

**Extensive research, innovations for national industrialization**

Today, the world sees rapid advancements in science and technology which have great influence over all sectors. Some countries have been developed as a result of technological advancements.

To become a developed country, Myanmar needs enough experts, researchers and engineers capable of harnessing its rich aquatic and terrestrial resources on a commercial scale. Now, technological universities are producing such human resources to help meet the requirement.

Myanmar, an agro-based country, is trying to boost agricultural production to strengthen its agrarian economy. Now, it has been on the list of large rice and peas producing countries. In its drive for national industrialization, the nation is improving infrastructures with agricultural development.

The country has seen many industrial zones, in each of which there are high-tech factories with high productivity. It is needed to do extensive research on computer science, communications, engineering and biotechnology.

We should bear in mind that national industrialization calls for constant innovations according to national economic strength. Technological universities have produced large numbers of diploma holders, undergraduate and postgraduate and doctoral engineers, computer professionals and applied scientists.

Industrial development leads to national development and helps scale up regional development and relieve poverty. Therefore, national human resources are urged to participate in the building of a modern nation with the knowledge and experiences they have gained from their educational institutions.

**Qualifying competitions for PGA Senior to be held**

NAV P'TAW, 1 Aug—The qualifying test for Myanmar PGA Golf Competition, sponsored by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar Senior PGA, will be held at Shwe Man Taung Golf Club in Mandalay from 10 to 11 August and at Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) from 17 to 18 August.

Male participants whose skills—amateur level (H’ Cap 0-14)—from the whole Myanmar wishing to participate in the contest must be at the age of 50 on the day of competition. Those who are qualified have a chance to partake in the PGA Tournament.

Golfers may register at respective golf clubs in Mandalay not later than 2 pm on 8 August and in Yangon not later than 2 pm on 15 August. Dial 09-5177956, 09-2037670 and 01-651374.

**RUMFCCI “Making Democracy Work”**

YANGON, 1 Aug—The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry organizes monthly talks at its hall on Myint Swe Win Road in Mandalay Township on 6 August. Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing, Associate Professor of City University of Hong Kong, will give talks on “Making Democracy Work.”

**Outstanding students given seats of honour in Mon State**

Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint awards outstanding student who passed last matriculation exam with flying colours. MNA

**A & I Ministry to cooperate with Chinese company on modern agricultural comprehensive development program**

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing receives Vice-President Ms. Lu Hua of China Electric Technology Group Corporation (CETC). MNA

**Referees of MBF to sit for international referee exam**

YANGON, 1 Aug—Two referees, Daw Soe Soe Lwin and U Win Naing Phyo of Myanmar Basketball Federation will have to sit for international basketball referee exam to be held from 11 to 12 August in Hanoi of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
Gunmen torch 10 NATO oil tankers in south Pakistan

KARACHI, 1 Aug—Unknown gunmen early Monday attacked NATO oil supply tankers in southern Pakistan, wounding three people and destroying 10 vehicles, police said.

The attack took place in the town of Khairpur, some 350 kilometres (220 miles) northeast of the Arabian Sea port City of Karachi from where supplies for NATO forces stationed in Afghanistan are carried by road.

The tankers were attacked when the drivers and crew were having tea at a roadside restaurant.

“Two drivers and a member of the restaurant staff were wounded and 10 NATO oil tankers were burnt when about two dozen armed gunmen opened fire at them,” local police official Mohammad Hashim said.

Hashim said that it was too early to say who could be behind the attack, but Taleban and al-Qaeda-linked militants frequently launch such attacks across Pakistan and the lawless tribal belt on the Afghan border.---------

Uganda’s largest market gutted in fire

KAMPALA, 1 Aug—A huge fire on Sunday gutted Uganda’s largest market in central Kampala destroying merchandise worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, traders and police said.

Everest Kayondo, chairman of the Kampala City Traders’ Association, told AFP that the blaze tore through Kampala’s Owino market during the early hours of Sunday morning destroying thousands of stalls containing mainly clothing and household goods.

“It is so bad, every thing has been gutted and there is nothing that has been saved,” Kayondo said.

Kayondo said that no one had been hurt in the inferno but that around 10,000 traders had been affected and that the total value of the property lost was in the “billions of Uganda shillings”. The cause of the blaze was still unknown, as the market was empty at the time, Kayondo said.— INTERNET

Three killed, 50 others injured in train collision in eastern India

NEW DELHI, 1 Aug—The death toll in the train collision Sunday evening in the eastern Indian state West Bengal has risen to three while 50 others were injured, said railway officials on Monday. The number of casualties is likely to rise as two coaches are said to have landed in a pond after the collision at Bhakarpur, about 10 km from the state’s Malda District. The mishap happened when the Azimganj-Malda passenger train hit the engine of the Guwahati-Bangalore Express which had derailed earlier between Malda and Jamirghata stations.

While one was killed on the spot, two others succumbed to their injuries later while the injured have been admitted to a local hospital where the condition of some are said to be serious.

“Whatever is the position, we will try such accidents do not happen again. An inquiry has been ordered and no one found responsible will be spared. Accountability and responsibility will be fixed,” Indian Railways Minister Dinesh Trivedi told the media.— Xinhua

Iraqi official, his son shot dead in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 1 Aug—An Iraqi official and his son were killed in a gunmen attack in western Baghdad, while a provincial council head in northern Iraq survived a roadside bomb explosion, the police said on Sunday.

Dawood Salman Rahim, head of management department in the Iraqi Higher Education Ministry, and his son were shot dead by gunmen using silenced weapons in Baghdad’s western district of Ghatzaliyah, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The attack took place in the morning when Rahim and his son were leaving home by their car in the district, the source said.

In northern Iraq, Jabur al-Abed-Rabu, head of the Nineveh’s provincial council, escaped unharmed a roadside bombing near his convoy late on Saturday night, a provincial police source told Xinhua anonymously because he is not authorized to speak to the media. Rabu was heading to his office at the provincial capital city of Mosul when the blast hit one of his convoy’s vehicles, slightly wounding three of his bodyguards, the source said.— Xinhua

NATO casualties total 330 in Afghanistan since beginning 2011

KABUL, 1 Aug—Since the beginning of this year, a total of 330 soldiers had been killed in the militancy-hit Afghanistan as of 31 Sunday July, according to iCasualties, a website tracking the casualties of NATO-led forces in war on terror in Afghanistan.

The fatalities of NATO-led troops, registered so far this year, fell in comparison with the same period in the previous year in Afghanistan as 411 NATO service members lost their lives from 1 January to 31 July in 2010.

Forty nine soldiers with the military alliance, according to iCasualties, were killed in July this year against 88 during the same period in 2010.

In June this year, 65 NATO service members were killed in Taleban attacks and Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blasts throughout the country against 103 casualties in June 2010, the deadliest month for foreign troops since the war against the Taleban began in Afghanistan in late 2001.

The latest wave of attacks against NATO-led troops was an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack earlier Sunday in eastern Afghanistan which left one soldier dead.— Xinhua

Two in three New Zealanders want special forces out of Afghanistan

WELLINGTON, 1 Aug—Nearly two thirds of New Zealanders want the country’s special forces to come home after they finish their current tour of duty in Afghanistan, a poll revealed Monday.

The New Zealand Herald-DigiPoll survey found 63.3 percent of respondents wanted the country’s Special Air Service forces out of Afghanistan, while 23.1 percent thought they should remain beyond March next year, while the rest said they did not know.

The 38 SAS troops are based in Kabul and have been training and mentoring the Afghan Crisis Response Unit, which responds to incidents including terrorist attacks.

Last month the New Zealand SAS intervened in a three-hour gunfight with Taleban fighters who attacked the home of Jan Mohammed Khan, a close adviser to President Hamid Karzai, and in June, they helped fight off an attack at the Inter-Continental Hotel in Kabul.

Xinhua

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Strange insect insect may spell the end for males

WASHINGTON, 1 Aug—A bizarre bug that looks like a rolled-up gym sock with a red, cartoonish face has an equally unusual sex life. Scientists recently discovered that the insect called the cottomy cushion scale isn’t hermaphroditic – it’s incestuous.

Entomologists previously believed that the cottomy cushion scale (Icerya purchasi) was able to fertilize its eggs without a male mate because it was a hermaphrodite, an organism that possesses the reproductive organs of both sexes. However, researchers from Oxford University have found that the species’ females fertilize their own eggs in a completely different and strange way.

“It turns out that females are not really fertilizing their eggs themselves, but instead are having this done by a parasitic tissue that infects them at birth,” study researcher Laura Ross said. “It seems that this infectious tissue derives from the sperm of the female’s maternal father.”

Researchers developed a mathematical model showing that this odd reproductive tactic could eventually eliminate the need for males in the species altogether. Once the parasitic sperm infection became widespread among the insect’s population, the females would be more inclined to reproduce with these “parasitic fathers” than with living males. —Internet

Apple expected to launch line of HDTVs in 2012

NEW YORK, 1 Aug—Analysts are the soothsayers of the business world, so take this news with the appropriate helping of salt grains. Trip Chowdhry of Global Equities Research informed investors today that he believes Apple will launch a line of HDTVs starting next year, Apple Insider reports. The belief is based on “details culled from a number of developer events he attended,” the site writes.

Chowdhry believes that the new TVs will launch in March 2012, with training sessions to follow that summer at Apple’s Worldwide Developer’s Conference. The product being prepped apparently compares the closest with the Bose VideoWave, a 46-inch set with built-in stereo surround speaker. That’s the only model Bose sells, with an attached cost of $5,200. Chowdhry’s prediction accounts for three Apple televisions, with multiple sizes and price points.

The analyst makes a number of other predictions about the TV, claiming that it will be one-third the thickness of the six-inch VideoWave remote control opens up intriguing.

Data contradict climate model predictions

HUNTSVILLE, 1 Aug—Satellite data suggest climate models are overestimating the warming of Earth’s atmosphere by not taking into account some phenomena, US scientists say.

Researchers at the University of Alabama Huntsville say data from NASA’s Terra satellite show that when the climate warms, Earth’s atmosphere is apparently more efficient at releasing energy into space than current climate models have been programmed to consider. A university release reported Friday.

Resulting climate forecasts predict substantially faster warming than is actually occurring, Roy Spencer of the university’s Earth System Science Centre says. “The satellite observations suggest there is much more energy lost to space during and after warming than the climate models show,” Spencer said. “There is a huge discrepancy between the data and the forecasts that is especially big over the oceans.”

Not only does the atmosphere release more energy than previously thought, it starts releasing it earlier in a warming cycle, in contrast to models that forecast the climate should continue to absorb solar energy until a warming event peaks. “At the peak, satellites show energy being lost while climate models show energy still being gained,” Spencer said.—Internet

PlayStation Vita UK release date possibly outed by leaked Blockbuster flyer

TOKYO, 1 Aug—Sony has already stated clearly that the plan is to launch the PlayStation Vita this year. Two big questions remain though: where and when? Popular opinion puts the initial launch in Japan, since the hardware maker’s country of origin is also where the PlayStation Portable kicked off the previous generation of handheld gaming devices. Other rumors have pointed to the United States, Europe and even a day-and-date worldwide launch for one and all.

The flyer pegs 28 October as the release date for both the Wi-Fi-only and 3G+Wi-Fi versions of the PS Vita. The authenticity of the document has yet to be confirmed by Blockbuster nor has the post been updated with any official comment from Sony. There’s a good chance this document is either fake or very old, since some of the other dates listed don’t quite match up with reality. Uncharted 3, for example, is listed for a 4 November release, though the game actually hits the UK and Europe on 2 November. Same goes for Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3, a 8 November release listed on the flyer as 11 November. Also, and this is more speculative, it seems highly unlikely that Sony would release the new platform on the same day as Battlefield 3, which should be one of the holiday season’s bigger titles.

Given all of that, PS Vita fans might not want to put too much stock in that 28 October date. While the Vita is almost definitely coming before the end of this year, only Sony can clear up where you’ll be able to buy it and when it will be available. Hopefully the company will do that soon.—Internet

For over 15 years, bee colonies have been plagued by a strange disease that causes the disappearance of thousands of colonies every year and is poorly understood by beekeepers and scientists. —Internet
Health

Antibody discovered to fight A types of flu

BEIJING, 1 Aug—The first antibody which can fight all types of the influenza A virus has been discovered, according to American researchers. Experiments on flu-infected mice, published in Science Express, showed the antibody could be used as an “emergency treatment.” It has already been suggested that some people who swine flu may develop ‘super immunity’ to other infections. As a result, scientists from the Medical Research Council’s National Institute for Medical Research looked at more than 100,000 samples of immune cells from patients who had the flu or the flu vaccines. From this sample, the researchers isolated the F16 antibody, which targeted a protein found on the surface of all influenza A viruses called haemagglutinin. In the mouse model, scientists found that injections of the antibody protected the mice against lethal doses of the H1N1 virus, indicating “full protection.” Additionally, mice that were injected with the antibody up to two days after being exposed to the virus recovered and survived the flu.—Xinhua

Lab-on-a-chip may be game-changer in disease detection

KIGALI, 1 Aug—A cheap, highly portable blood test has proven as accurate as expensive hospital-based analyses in detecting HIV, syphilis and other infectious diseases, according to a study released Sunday. Researchers tested prototypes of the credit-card-sized lab-on-a-chip with hundreds of patients in Rwanda, reporting nearly 100 percent accuracy.

The so-called “m-Chip,” they said, could help knock down three barriers to effective delivery of health care into the world’s poorest regions: difficult access, high costs and long delays for results. The mChip, by contrast, allows for measurement using a hundred-dollar handheld instrument no more complicated to use than a cell phone, according to the researchers. Finally, the device produces results in minutes rather than days or weeks, a time saving that can make a big difference in treatment outcome.

The device contains a microchip housed inside an injection-moulded plastic casing, explained Vincent Linder, Chief Technological Officer at Claros Diagnostics, which owns or has licensed relevant patents. A nano-scale gold “reagent” which detects a substance via a chemical reaction — is injected, followed by a silver one that interacts with the gold to produce an ultra-thin film. “The darkness of the film is proportional to the concentration of biomarker in the sample,” said Linder, comparing the steps to the development process in non-digital photography.

Honda Q1 net profit plunges, but lifts forecasts

TOKYO, 1 Aug—Japan’s third-largest automaker Honda Motor on Monday said its net profit for the April-June quarter fell nearly 90 percent on the strong yen and the impact of the March disasters on production and sales.

However, it raised its forecasts for the full year from earlier estimates in reflection of a faster-than-expected recovery of parts supplies that were heavily disrupted by the 11 March earthquake and tsunami.

The maker of the Civic and Accord said net profit for the fiscal first quarter ended 30 June plunged 88.3 percent to 31.7 billion yen ($394 million). Net sales fell 27.4 percent to 1.7 trillion yen compared to the same period last year, while operating profit tumbled 90.4 percent on-year to 22.5 billion yen.

The slump “mainly caused by the impact of the Great East Japan Earthquake... and the unfavourable foreign currency translation effects,” Honda said in a statement.

Honda profits have been hit by a loss in production, decreased sales and restoration costs, effects that have

China manufacturing slows further in July

BEIJING, 1 Aug—China’s manufacturing slowed further in July as Beijing cooled an US growth, two surveys showed Monday. China has been a bright spot amid global economic gloom and a slowdown could have repercussions for other countries that are looking to its giant manufacturing industries to drive demand for iron ore, factory machinery and other goods. HSBC said its PMI fell to 49.3 from June’s 50.1 on a 100-point scale on which numbers below 50 show activity contracting. It was the lowest level since March 2009. New export orders, one component of the index, fell for a third month. “This has confirm- ed the slowing growth momentum of the manufac- turing sector against the backdrop of sustained tightening and lackluster external demand,” said HSBC economist Qu Hongbin in a statement.

In this photo taken on 11 July, 2011, female employees work in a factory making bamboo-fabric clothes in Zouping county in east China’s Shandong Province.—INTERNET
Australian sues over forgotten surgical sponge

SYDNEY, 1 Aug—An Australian woman who lived for more than 15 years with a grapefruit-sized surgical sponge sewn inside her after abdominal surgery was to sue her doctor for negligence, a report said Monday.

Helen O’Hagan claims the sponge was left in her abdominal cavity by surgeon Samuel Sakker during a 1992 colectomy, according to the Sydney Morning Herald.

She suffered cramps, fevers and loss of bowel control but attributed it to the long-running health issues that landed her in hospital to begin with, and did not discover the sponge until an October 2007 x-ray.

During that time the sponge “became encapsulated in dense fibrous adhesions within a sac of fluid”, the Herald said. It was removed by a different surgeon on the same day that it was found. O’Hagan won the right to sue Sakker for negligence or breach of contract over the incident, despite the now-retired doctor calling for the case to be dismissed because she had taken so long to start legal action.—INTERNET

Photo illustration shows surgeons at work in an operating theatre. An Australian woman who lived for more than 15 years with a grapefruit-sized surgical sponge sewn inside her after abdominal surgery was to sue her doctor for negligence, a report said Monday.—INTERNET

Mexico says a top Juarez cartel figure captured

MEXICO CITY, 1 Aug—A former police officer who allegedly admits ordering 1,500 killings during a campaign of terror as a drug gang chieftain along the US border has been captured in northern Mexico, federal officials said Sunday.

Jose Antonio Acosta Hernandez also is a suspect in last year’s slaying of a US consulate employee near a border crossing in Ciudad Juarez.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon said through his Twitter account that Acosta’s capture is “the biggest blow” to organized crime in Ciudad Juarez since he sent about 5,000 federal police to the city in April 2010 to try to curb violence in one of the world’s most dangerous cities.

Acosta, 33, was caught Friday in the northern city of Chihuahua along with his bodyguard, said Ramon Pequeno, head of the federal police anti-drug unit. Without offering details on the capture, he said the US Drug Enforcement Administration helped by providing information. Acosta’s arrest was not confirmed until Sunday, just before officials displayed him to journalists in Mexico City.

S Africa re-opens probe of arms bribes

PRETORIA, 1 Aug—South African police have re-opened their investigation into a controversial arms deal after Swedish defence group Saab admitted bribes had been paid to clinch a contract, a report said on Sunday.

Officials will approach authorities in Sweden and Britain to find out what their investigations have uncovered about allegations of corruption in the 1999 deal for 26 JAS Gripen fighter jets, South Africa’s Sunday Times reported.

Saab last month admitted that 24 million rand ($3.6 million, 2.5 million euros) in bribes had been paid to secure the deal, but blamed its former British partner BAE Systems for making the payoffs. The Sunday Times said the head of South Africa’s elite investigative squad, the Hawks, had sent a letter to parliament’s Standing Committee on Public Accounts indicating the investigation will be re-opened, 10 months after the Hawks were sharply criticised for dropping the politically-sensitive probe.—INTERNET

Vietnam War-era shell explodes, killing three farmers

HANOI, 1 Aug—A Vietnam War-era artillery shell has exploded, killing three farmers who were cutting it up for scrap metal in central Vietnam.

Police say two of the men died at the scene and another died on the way to a hospital following the incident Saturday.

Tieu Viet Thanh, police chief in Binh Chau village in Quang Ngai Province, said Monday that the men, who were aged 52 to 55, had collected the 105-millimetre shell near a beach in the village. The village, a former stronghold of North Vietnamese communist forces, suffered bombardment and artillery fire from American and South Vietnamese forces during the war.

Vietnamese government figures show unexploded ordnance has killed more than 42,000 people and wounded some 62,000 since the war ended in 1975.

Commodities market fire reported in SW China

CHENGDU, 1 Aug—Fire engulfed a small commodities market in southwest China’s Sichuan Province Sunday afternoon, local fire fighting authorities said.

The fire in the Haoyixin commodities trade market in the City of Dazhou, 400 km from Sichuan’s provincial capital of Chengdu, was still raging Sunday night, the provincial fire-fighting brigade said in a Press release.

Local fire fighters were still trying to extinguish the fire and fire fighters from the neighbouring city of Guang’an were rushing to aid the efforts.

Currently, there were no reports of deaths or injuries.—Xinhua

Photo taken on 31 July, 2011 shows the market building on fire in Dazhou, southwest China’s Sichuan Province. Fire engulfed the Haoyixin commodities trade market in the city of Dazhou on Sunday afternoon. Xinhua

China’s defence ministry website kicks off full operation

BEIJING, 1 Aug—The official website of China’s Ministry of National Defence, www.mud.gov.cn, kicked off its full operation on Monday after two years of trial operation.

The website, authorized by the Central Military Commission, features authoritative and up-to-date defence information, including defence expenditures, national defence white papers, and the ministry’s routine Press conferences, according to a notice posted on the website. The site features simplified and traditional Chinese characters, as well as English. The website is also available in mobile-phone edition. Over the two-year trial operation, it averaged more than 10 million daily clicks.

Also unveiled to the public is the revamped China military net, www.chinamil.com.cn, a website that has been run by the PLA Daily for 12 years. The revamped Chinamil changed from a 4-screened frontpage to an 8-screened frontpage, from 13 channels to 85, 325 columns to 1,233.—Xinhua
6.8-magnitude quake hits near the north coast of New Guinea, Papua New Guinea

HONG KONG, 1 Aug—An earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale jolted near the north coast of New Guinea, Papua New Guinea at 23:38:55 GMT on Sunday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 10.00 km, was initially determined to be at 3.4160 degrees south latitude and 144.8370 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua

Tropical Storm Eugene swirls in Pacific Ocean

MIAMI, 1 Aug—Tropical Storm Eugene is moving over open water in the Pacific Ocean and remains far from the coast of Mexico.

US forecasters at the National Hurricane Centre in Miami said Sunday evening that the storm’s centre was 420 miles (675 kilometres) off the coast of Acapulco. It was moving west-northwest at 10 mph (17 kph). It is projected to become a hurricane but remain far from land.

Maximum sustained winds were at 45 mph (73 kph).

Internet

Hot weather persists in central United States

SAN ANTONIO, 1 Aug—Sticky heat was expected to smother much of the country’s midsection in the coming days as hotter-than-usual temperatures continued to roast parts of the Midwest and South, forecasters said on Sunday.

Areas of Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma were under excessive heat warnings with heat advisories issued for a large swath of the central United States, according to the National Weather Service.

The unrelenting heat in central and eastern states has led to a slew of “Heat Superlatives” in 2011, according to weather.com meteorologist Chris Dolce.

More than a dozen US cities from Tallahassee to Minneapolis have seen all-time highs exceeding any temperature on record for any month, Dolce reported Sunday.

High heat put Reading, Pennsylvania, on the map for 106 degrees Fahrenheit — its hottest day since at least 1869 — and Childress in thirsty Texas hit the highest mark at 117, a temperature not seen since 1893.

Heat and humidity were forecast to continue with air temperatures and heat index readings climbing well into the triple digits for parts of the central United States at least through midweek.

Reuters

Rains add misery to Somalia’s famine refugees

MOGADISHU, 1 Aug—Tens of thousands of famine-stricken Somali refugees were cold and drenched after torrential rains poured down their makeshift structures in the capital, as the UN raised concerns Sunday that renewed conflict in the country may jeopardize relief work.

Rains are needed to plant crops and alleviate the drought that has lead to famine in Somalia, but added to the misery of many refugees who live in structures made of sticks, flattened milk cans and pieces of cloth.

Disgruntled refugees in several camps in Mogadishu said that more aid is needed.

“We are living in plight, we left our homes, lost our animals and farms so we ask everyone to help us to survive,” Abdi Muse Abshir said.

Lul Hussein, a mother of five, said her family had a sleepless night after their makeshift home crumbled.

“We are starved and we don’t have enough help,” she said. “Who’s helping us? No one! So we are already between death and bad life.”

Aid agencies have limited reach in Somalia where militants are waging an militia against the country’s weak UN-backed government.

The most dangerous group among the militants—the al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabab—has barred major relief organizations from operating in the territories it controls.—Internet

INTERNET

A boy cools off at the Crown Fountain at Millennium Park in Chicago, on 21 July, 2011. —INTERNET

A Somali child from southern Somalia walks in rain water at a refugee camp in Mogadishu, Somalia, on 31 July, 2011. Tens of thousands of famine-stricken Somali refugees were cold and drenched after torrential rains overnight pounded their makeshift structures in the capital, Mogadishu.

INTERNET

Heavy rain, heat wave hits S Korea

BEIJING, 1 Aug—Central parts of South Korea are still suffering rainfall and a new storm is expected to bring up to 120 millimetres of rain on Monday.

Meanwhile, the heat-wave in southern parts of the country is hampering relief efforts after some of the most devastating floods in history.

Torrential rainfall has hit central parts of South Korea, including the capital, Seoul.

It is forecast that the central parts of the country will receive 30 to 120 millimetres, with southern parts seeing 10 to 60 millimetres.

Xinhua

A fishing vessel goes fishing on the sea in Sanya, south China’s Hainan Province, on 1 Aug, 2011. Fishing vessels started operations after the South China Sea fishing ban, which started on 16 May, ended on Monday. —Xinhua
Government will not only focus on protection…

As the committee will implement the eight national action plans based on the results from the national level workshop on poverty alleviation, a work plan for environmental conservation has also been adopted. Environmental conservation plays a part in rural development, poverty alleviation and reduction in reliance on natural resources. This is why for the environmental conservation, Myanmar has adopted and is implementing a 30-year national forest project including establishment of forest reserves, sanctuaries, natural habitats and forest plantations and reforestation in tropical and coastal areas. Up to date, more than 500,000 hectares of forest plantations have been established nationwide.

Thirty-six environmental conservation regions have been established and six of which are included on the list of ASEAN Heritage Parks. National greening campaign was launched this year to grow 79 million of various species of plants as mass activity of all strata of life. Besides this programme, Myanmar will organize yearly establishment of community-owned forests, take preparatory measures for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation REDD. As for energy policy, measures are being taken for wide use of alternative energy and renewable energy, energy utilization, and people are being encouraged increasingly to use other substitute fuel for household. Myanmar also is taking part in low carbon emission activities regarding transport sector. It has already adopted national cleaner fuel energy to replace gasoline and diesel with natural gas in the short-run and with bio-diesel in the long-run.

According to the statement in national report to climate change convention, amount of greenhouse gas emission in 2010 was equivalent to 74 million tons of carbon dioxide and the amount of carbon absorption of the forestry sector was 142 million tons and that Myanmar’s carbon absorption exceeds carbon emission. Regional cooperation is of vital importance in promoting long-term management of environment of Mekong Region environment and long-existence of natural resources for conservation of natural resources and environmental conservation.

So, Myanmar will make more cooperated efforts in “Work Programme for Greater Mekong Sub-region Environmental Conservation and Biodiversity Protection Region”, a plan important for biodiversity protection, and conservation of forests and natural regions, he added. Representatives from Greater Mekong Sub-region discussed matters related to environmental conservation and biodiversity protection region establishment work programme. The Myanmar delegate read out “Sustainable Land Management in Greater Mekong Sub-region”.

The representatives from Greater Mekong Sub-region development partner countries/organizations continued to discuss about the work plan in the evening.

The 3rd Environmental Ministerial Meeting concluded in the afternoon after making joint statement.—MNA

Talks held for rural development, poverty alleviation

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—Talks held for rural development, poverty alleviation and odd-job men in need of initial supply of funds for industrial zones at 3 pm. The meeting participants included officials, and entrepreneurs from Ministry of Electric Power and Industry U Sai Tun Yin explained the purpose of the power station with managing–director U Myint Aung of Electricity Supply Enterprise under Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 construction of the power station.

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—The second work coordination meeting for rural development and poverty alleviation took place at Yangon South District General Administration Department in Thanlyin Township on 30 July.

Deputy Commissioner of Yangon South District GAD U Sai Thaw Win and township administrators dealt with supply of initial capitals for rural development and poverty alleviation tasks and progress in vetting farmers and odd-job people who had applied for microfinance. Yangon Region Minister for Electric Power and Industry U Nyan Tun Oo gave a supplementary report.

Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htayk addresses second work coordination meeting for rural development and poverty alleviation.——MNA

Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat and officials formally open 66/11 KV 5 MVA sub power station.——MNA

State Minister for Industry U Sai Tun Yin explained the purpose of the power station and Managing–Director U Myint Aung of Electricity Supply Enterprise under Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 construction of the power station.——MNA

Khaungtaing Village-Tract in Shan State gets power station

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—Khaungtaing Village–tract in Nyaungshwe Township of Shan State got a 66/11 KV 5 MVA sub power station yesterday. Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat addressed the opening of the power station.

The 3rd Environmental Ministerial Meeting concluded in the afternoon after making joint statement.—MNA

Union Minister U Win Tun speaking at 3rd GMS Environment Ministers’ meeting.—MNA

National Level Sport Managers Course (2/2011) commences

YANGON, 1 Aug — Jointly organized by International Olympic Committee and Myanmar Olympic Committee under Olympic Unity Programme, National level Sport Managers Course (2/2011) was opened at the hall of Sports and Physical Education Department in Yangon Region this morning, with an opening address by Director-General of the department U Thaung Htaik.

A total of 31 trainees are attending the course which concludes on 5 August.—MNA
Family registration certificates, citizenship scrutiny cards issued in Bago Region

Union Minister U Khin Yi responds to queries raised by local people of Phayagyi Village in Bago Township.

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Maung Kyaw inspected the process of issuing census and citizenship scrutiny cards with the more flexible system to local people at the monastery of Hna-hsaungpyaing Village in Toungoo Township, Bago Region, on 30 July. Head of Toungoo District Immigration and Population Department U Win Lwin presented citizenship scrutiny cards to locals.

In meeting with service personnel at the guesthouse of Bago, the Union Minister said that from 1 July to date, the issuance of census jumped two times and citizenship scrutiny cards six times, called for fulfilling people’s wishes and keeping off bribery.—MNA

Union Transport Minister oversees tasks for rural development, poverty alleviation

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung addressed the meeting on rural development and poverty alleviation, locals in Natogyi need to prepare for overcoming any issue blocking development tasks presented by officials concerned.

Then, the Union Minister was present at stake-driving ceremony of new two-storey building of Basic Education Middle School, which was donated by Asia World Co Ltd, in Lonetaw-Thamtaw village. The Union Minister visited Natogyi People’s Region Government where he left instructions on supplying medical aids to the hospital, and comforted patients receiving medical treatment with making donation for medical fund.—MNA

Armed groups exchange arms for peace

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—Realizing genuine goodwill of the State and Tatmadaw and losing faith in their activities which are then seen as inappropriate ones, insurgent group members are exchanging arms for peace while the State is moving towards modern developed new democratic nation and the Tatmadaw is joining hands with national races for upholding the eternal principles namely justice, liberty and equality, upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

In May, June and July of 2011, private Yan Naung Soe, and private Sai Lin and Cpl Hmaei Hsinram of KIA (Kachin) in Northern Command Region; private Aik Palaik (a) Aikskan of UWSA (Wa) insurgent group in North-East Command Region; private Bawrel of SSA (Ywai Sit) in Triangle Region Command Region with one M-22 automatic rifle, 117 bullets, and four magazines; private Kyaw Khu of KNPP insurgent group in Eastern Command Region with one BA-63 automatic rifle, five bullets, and one magazine; company commander Moe Kyaw and private Moe Zaw of armed group (Thurein); L-Cpl Saw Pho Hse of KNU insurgent group in South-East Command Region with one M-16 automatic rifle, eight bullets and one magazine; Lt Moe Thee of the same group in similar region with one 9-mm pistol, 16 bullets, one magazine, two grenades and one walkie-talkie; Cpl Saw Phatani (a) of KNU insurgent group in Coastal Region Command Region with one 0.45 pistol, eight bullets and one magazine; 2nd Lt Saw Ta Seik Seik of KNU in the same region with one M-16 automatic rifle, 10 bullets and one magazine; private Maw Lamal Hsi of KIA (Kachin) in Northwest Command Region; private Sai Bayda (a) Zaw Lin Maung of KNU insurgent group in Southern Command Region with one 0.30 carbine, 132 bullets and five magazines exchanged arms for peace. Seventeen who returned to legal fold in that period were extended warm welcome by officials at respective stations and provided with necessary assistance. Other insurgents are reportedly willing to exchange arms for peace as well.—MNA

Seminar on Construction Materials held

YANGON, 1 Aug—Members of Yangon Region Government Region Minister for Development Affairs U Hla Myint and Region Minister for Electricity and Industry U Nyan Tun Oo attended seminar on construction materials of Shine & Viglacera at Park Shine Construction Materials, which was donated by Asia World Co Ltd, in Lonetaw-Thamtaw Village. The Union Minister visited Natogyi People’s Region Government where he left instructions on supplying medical aids to the hospital, and comforted patients receiving medical treatment with making donation for medical fund.—MNA
One dies, three wounded in shooting near George Clinton concert

CLEVELAND, 1 Aug—A fistfight that began near a family unity festival headlined by funk musician George Clinton ended in gunfire, killing one and injuring three, Cleveland police said on Sunday.

During the fight in a parking lot near the concert venue on Saturday, one teenager produced a handgun and shot four people. One victim, a 16-year-old male, died from a wound to the head Sunday morning. Cleveland police spokesman Sammy Morris said.

A 20-year-old female wounded in the neck was reported as stable on Sunday, while two males who received gunshot wounds in the leg are expected to be released shortly from hospital.

Morris said the names of the victims have not yet been released, he said. The shooting occurred about three quarters of a mile from the Luke Easter Park locale where the annual “Family Unity In the Park” festival headlined by George Clinton & the Parliament Funkadelic was held. Authorities believe the incident is unrelated to the event.

“George Clinton and the other bands are basically from back in the 80s, that’s when they were at the height of their popularity,” said Morris, saying that over 75 percent of the crowd was likely over 40. “It’s not like it was a Little Wayne concert or something when you have a bunch of 16-, 17-, 18-year-olds.” —Reuters

Zimbabwe bus accident kills 19

HARARE, 1 Aug—Nineteen people were killed when the commuter bus they were travelling in lost a wheel and veered off the road in northern Zimbabwe, state radio said Sunday.

Eighteen people died at the scene of the accident in the town of Muvuru and 17 others were injured, the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation reported. A 19th victim died on admission to Parirenyatwa Hospital in Harare, the broadcaster said.

Police said the bus plunged into the bush when one of its rear wheels came off. The bus was carrying 29 members of an apostolic sect to their annual pilgrimage in the town of Concession, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of where the accident occurred. Accident investigators combed the site.

Police said the road was in bad state and the bus was over-loaded, according to Radio ZBC. At least 120 Cambodians have been killed by lightning since early this year, Keo Vy, chief of the Cabinet for Disaster Management, said Monday.

He said the number of deaths is higher than the whole year in 2010 which recorded at 114. He said the number of deaths is higher than the whole year in 2010 which recorded at 114. He said the number of deaths is higher than the whole year in 2010 which recorded at 114.

In addition to the loss in human lives, 91 others were injured, while 48 heads of cows and buffaloes were also killed, according to him.

Lightning occurs every year in Cambodia, especially, in rainy season which begins from May through October. Most of the victims were living in rural areas. —MNA/Xinhua

US drone strike kills four militiants in NW Pakistan

WAZIRISTAN, 1 Aug—A US drone strike targeting a militant vehicle in Pakistan’s northwestern tribal belt near the Afghan border killed at least four militants on Monday, local security officials said. —INTERNET

Two rockets fired from Gaza ‘hit Israel’

JERUSALEM, 1 Aug—Two rockets fired from the Gaza Strip landed in southern Israel on Sunday, without causing any damage or injuries, the Israeli military said.

The rockets fell in the southern regional councils of Pitchat Shalom and Shaar HaNegev, areas both bordering the Palestinian territory.

The attack brought to 26 the number of rockets fired from Gaza into Israel since 1 July, the military said. July has seen an uptick in the number of rockets and other projectiles fired at Israel from Gaza after several months of calm following a flare-up of violence in April, when an anti-tank missile fired from Gaza hit an Israeli school bus, killing a teenager.

Israel responded to that attack with a series of air strikes that killed at least 19 Palestinians in the deadliest violence since Israel’s devastating 22-day assault on Gaza in 2008-2009. —Internet

Two rockets fired from the Gaza Strip landed in southern Israel on Sunday, without causing any damage or injuries, the Israeli military said. —INTERNET

Lightning kills 120 Cambodians since early 2011

PHNOM PENH, 1 Aug—At least 120 Cambodians have been killed by lightning since early this year, Keo Vy, chief of the Cabinet for Disaster Management, said Monday.

He said the number of deaths is higher than the whole year in 2010 which recorded at 114. Keo Vy also said that lightning normally will stop by October, the end of the rainy season.

In addition to the loss in human lives, 91 others were injured, while 48 heads of cows and buffaloes were also killed, according to him.

Lightning occurs every year in Cambodia, especially, in rainy season which begins from May through October. Most of the victims were living in rural areas. —MNA/Xinhua

Two rockets fired from the Gaza Strip landed in southern Israel on Sunday, without causing any damage or injuries, the Israeli military said. —INTERNET
S Korea’s trade surplus posts record high in July

SEOUL, 1 Aug—South Korea’s trade surplus posted a record high of 7.2 billion US dollars in July despite the local currency’s appreciation against the greenback and economic slowdown in advanced nations, a government report showed Monday.

Trade surplus reached 7.2 billion dollars in July, sharply up from 2.8 billion dollars the previous month, according to the Ministry of Knowledge Economy. The July figure was the largest monthly trade surplus, and marked the 18th straight month of surplus since February 2010.

The record surplus was mainly attributable to solid demand from emerging nations despite the South Korean won’s appreciation and slowing economic growth in advanced countries, according to the ministry.

Exports grew 27.3 percent on-year to reach a fresh record high of 51.4 billion dollars in July, and imports expanded 24.8 percent to 44.2 billion dollars last month.

The export-driven economy showed robust exports in July due to strong demand for the local-made products from emerging economies.

Exports to developing countries rose 34.5 percent in July from a year earlier, with outbound shipments to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Japan and China jumping 47.7 percent, 37.7 percent and 19.4 percent respectively.

Shipments to advanced nations inched up 4 percent on-year last month, with exports to the US edging up 1.9 percent in July. Exports to the European Union (EU) contracted 8.7 percent in July from the previous year due to the implementation of the Korea-EU free trade agreement starting last month.—Xinhua

Number of vehicles in Macao exceeds 200,000

MACAO, 1 Aug—Macao’s licensed motor vehicle numbers reached 200,169 by the end of June, a year-on-year increase of four percent, the Macao Post Daily reported on Monday.

The newspaper quoted the latest figures by the city’s Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) as saying that the number of motor vehicles stood at 6,785 per square km at the end of June, based on Macao’s land area of just 29.5 square km. It was the first time that the city’s number of licensed motor vehicles exceeded the 200,000 threshold, in which 108,178 were motor-cycles and 78,301 were light private cars, the figures said. The number of new registrations of motor vehicles increased 11 percent year-on-year to 8,392 in the first half of this year, with motorcycles and light private cars accounting for 56 percent and 40 percent respectively, according to the DSEC figures.—Xinhua

HSBC to ‘announce more than 10,000 job cuts’

LONDON, 1 Aug—Global banking giant HSBC will announce plans on Monday to axe between 10,000 and 15,000 jobs in the coming year as part of a drastic cost-cutting drive, a report said.

The bank, headquartered in London but with a major focus on Asia, will unveil the job cuts on Monday as it posts its half-year results, Britain’s Sky News television reported, without citing its sources.

An HSBC spokesman declined to comment on the report.

The bank’s results are expected to be disappointing, and rivals Barclays, Lloyds Banking Group and Royal Bank of Scotland are also likely to reveal a drop in their profits next week.

In May, HSBC said it would slash costs by up to $3.5 billion by 2013, with its new chief executive Stuart Gulliver saying the savings would be ploughed back into fast-growing markets around the world, especially in Asia.—Internet

Travellers flying between Australia, NZ to face single passport check

WELLINGTON, 1 Aug—Travellers between Australia and New Zealand will face only one set of border controls through the integration of an automated passport check, which began trialing on Monday.

The trial allows some travellers to complete the Australian arrivals process in New Zealand if they use the SmartGate system, which uses data stored in a microchip in passport and face recognition technology to do the checks normally carried out by Customs officers. The trial, which runs until July next year, will be available to Australian and New Zealand citizens aged 18 years and over, who hold an “e-passport” with the microchip travelling from Auckland International Airport to the Gold Coast Airport, in Queensland.

For the first time travellers will be able to bypass the SmartGate kiosk at the Gold Coast and go straight to the gate if they used SmartGate when departing from Auckland.

New Zealand Customs Minister Maurice Williamson and Australian Home Affairs Minister Brendan O’Connor welcomed the launch of the SmartGate trans-Tasman trial.

Williamson said that the two governments shared the view that trans-Tasman travel should be “as much like a domestic (travel) experience as possible.”—Xinhua
Asthma gene found in African Americans

BEIJING, 1 Aug—US researchers have discovered a genetic mutation unique to African Americans that links to heightened asthma risk, according to reports published on Sunday in the journal Nature Genetics. Researchers of University of Chicago found a gene, PYHIN1, and its variations may account for asthma risk in people of African descent.

In their study, they examined data from nine previous genome-wide association studies, totaling more than 1.7 million patient-parent groups. 335 family-based cases, and 468 family-based controls.

In the study, the researchers found that between 26 percent and 29 percent of people of African descent carried at least one copy of the gene. In particular, one polymorphism of the gene was 34 percent more likely found in African-American and Afro-Caribbean people with asthma. More interestingly, this variant of the gene is rarely found in Caucasian people and in Latino population, it was found in less than 5 percent.

This new variant is part of a family of genes linked with the body's response to viral infections.

Sydney Airport trials full-body scanners

SYDNEY, 1 Aug — A trial of full-body scanners that produce an outline of the body and detect non-metal items under clothing will start at Sydney Airport’s international terminal from Tuesday, Australian Federal Transport Minister Anthony Albanese announced on Monday.

The full-body scanners will not portray a naked image of passengers, Albanese assured the public.

“We know from experience, when we have offered people the option of seeing a new technology more people want to use it than can possibly go through it,” he told reporters at the airport in Sydney.

“We expect there will be a great deal of interest and that people will volunteer to go through the scanners during these trial periods,” Albanese said before trialing the scanner himself.

Unlike controversial airport scanners used in the United States, the scanners will only show a basic outline.

“A male outline shown on the scanner’s screen looks like any other male outline and any female outline looks like any other female outline,” Albanese said.

He also assured passengers that the scanners are perfectly safe and a person would have to go through a scanner 10,000 times to be exposed to the same amount of radio frequency energy as during an average mobile phone call.—Xinhua
Home invasion robbers posed as FBI agents

Police in Southern California said they were searching for three men who robbed a family of $20,000 by posing as FBI agents.

Burbank Police said the men forced their way into a home just after midnight Wednesday while a couple and their teenage son were inside, The Burbank Leader reported Friday.

The invaders identified themselves as FBI agents.

Sgt Robert Quezada said the men, who were armed, forced the family onto the floor and demanded cash.

Quezada said the robbers fled with $20,000 in a briefcase and drove off in a dark-colored sedan.

The sergeant said the family members sustained only minor bumps and bruises and they were treated at the scene by paramedics.

Two masked teens mistaken for robbers

Police in St Cloud, Fla, say McDonald’s customers mistook two dressed-up teenagers for robbers.

City police said the boys’ appearance — dressed in black from head to toe, including black masks — scared patrons at the fast-food restaurant into calling 911, Orlando’s WFTV-TV reported Friday.

“We saw two masked men walking into the McDonald’s; their faces were completely covered with black masks,” one person told a 911 operator. Police surrounded the restaurant while the boys were still ordering their food and at least eight officers waited with guns drawn for the boys to come out.

“They had all types of guns out; AK-47[s] and stuff, it was crazy,” said a witness. Police did not expect to see two teenagers coming out of the restaurant, with food in hand.

“They said they just wanted to have fun. These kids came out of the restaurant into calling 911, Orlando’s WFTV-TV reported Friday.

“A multi-Oscar nominee who won best actor for “Scent of a Woman,” rushed a multi-Oscar nominee who won best actor for “Scent of a Woman,” rushed

Al Pacino’s daughter arrested for drunken driving

NEW YORK, 1 Aug—The 21-year-old daughter of actor Al Pacino was arrested in Manhattan for driving while intoxicated, police said on Sunday.

Julie Pacino was arrested shortly around 1:30 am at a DUI (driving under the influence of alcohol) checkpoint on the border of the Soho and West Village neighborhoods.

She was later arraigned and released on her own recognizance, New York Police Department spokesman James Duffy said.

Her exact blood-alcohol level was not immediately available, but People magazine quoted Duffy as saying “She had bloodshot, watery eyes, slurred speech and the strong smell of alcohol on her breath,” and admitted to drinking three beers and smoking marijuana prior to entering the checkpoint.

After learning of the arrest, Al Pacino, a multi-Oscar nominee who won best actor for “Scent of a Woman,” rushed back from Los Angeles where he has been filming a biopic on music producer Phil Spector.—Reuters

Brooklyn’s Bushwick becomes world-class arts mecca

NEW YORK, 1 Aug—Brooklyn’s Bushwick neighbourhood has become a new world-class arts mecca — with music, dance, sculpture and theater bustling from defunct warehouses and desolate streets where gangs still roam.

That hasn’t kept artists away from the affordable, industrial spaces — ever more rare in a pricey city.

“This was a ghost town, with tumbleweeds blowing down the street five years ago,” says Jay Leritz, co-owner of Yummus Hummus, a Middle Eastern-style café on a street filled with musician rehearsal and recording spaces.

“The streets were empty,” says Leritz, “and that was the big attraction the lack of rules, like your parents went away for the weekend and it’s a free-for-all.”—Internet

Two-year-old chimpanzee “Do Do” feeds milk to “Aorn”, a 60-day-old tiger cub, at Samut Prakan Crocodile Farm and Zoo in Samut Prakan province on the outskirts of Bangkok on 30 July, 2011. The crocodile farm, used as a tourist attraction, houses some 80,000 crocodiles and is the largest in Thailand.

Crews find time capsule in old school

Construction crews found a decades-old time capsule in a wall of a Toronto, Ohio, elementary school that is being torn down, a school district official says.

The workers discovered the time capsule recently while removing the cornerstone at SC Dennis Elementary School, Steubenville’s WTOV-TV reported Friday. The old elementary school has been gutted, and is to be torn down soon to make way for the new Toronto High School. Superintendent Fred Burns says he doesn’t know who placed the time capsule or what is inside, but he wants to find out.

While the construction is under way, Burns is inviting former SC Dennis attendees to come to Karafa Elementary School to open the capsule.
**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

**Tuesday, 2 August, 2011**

**Sneijder keeps door open on United move**

**Milan, 1 Aug**— Wesley Sneijder on Sunday kept the door open to a possible £35 million switch to Manchester United. The Inter Milan midfielder has been strongly linked with a move to the Premier League champions, and speculation continued this weekend despite recent comments from United boss Sir Alex Ferguson that the club would make no further signings this summer.

The Dutch international played 75 minutes in Sunday’s 3-0 defeat to Manchester City in the Dublin Super Cup, and then refused to dismiss the speculation that he may end up on the other side of Manchester this season. “There is always a chance something will happen but we will see,” said the former Real Madrid star.

**Browne makes few mistakes to win US Senior Open**

**Toledo, 1 Aug**— Back when he was just another kid with big dreams and not so much game, Olin Browne and his then-girlfriend used to go to a hardscrabble par-3 course nearby and imagine what it would be like to win a national championship. Now Browne and his wife, Pam, know. The 52-year-old journeyman captured the biggest victory of his life Sunday, holding off Mark O’Meara down the stretch to win the US Senior Open by three strokes.

“This goes back a long way for us,” Browne said of the aspirations he and Pam had first considered some 30 years ago. Avoiding major mistakes, Browne had pars on the first seven holes. After a bogey dropped him into a tie with O’Meara, he played the last 10 holes in 1 under, while O’Meara made two costly bogeys.

**Woods to play in Australian Open**

SYDNEY, 1 Aug— Tiger Woods will play the Australian Open in November one week before the Presidents Cup, his first appearance in Sydney since his first year as a pro. Golf Australia announced Monday that Woods would compete at The Lakes in Sydney on 10-13 Nov against a field that already includes defending champion Geoff Ogilvy, Dustin Johnson, Bubba Watson and Presidents Cup captains Fred Couples and Greg Norman.

The Presidents Cup is the following week at Royal Melbourne.

**Holders Schalke cruise to German Cup victory**

**MUNICH, 1 Aug**— Holders Schalke thrashed tiny FC Tenenning 11-1 on Sunday to take their place in the second round of the German Cup. Tenenning played their trade in the seventh tier of the German game, and they were no match for Ralf Rangnick’s side, for whom Klaas-Jan Huntelaar scored four times.

Raul, Lewis Holby, and Mario Gavranovic all added doubles, with the Greek Kyriakos Papadopoulos completing the scoring.

**Granollers wins Swiss Open tennis**

**GSTAAD, 1 Aug**— Marcel Granollers beat fellow Spaniard Fernando Verdasco in three sets to win the ATP tournament here on Sunday.

Eighth-seeded Granollers, 25, saw off fourth seed Verdasco 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in the Swiss alpine resort to claim his second career title after Houston in 2008.

**Spain, Nigeria confirm role as early favorites**

**MEDELLIN, 1 Aug**— Two of the early favorites in the Under-20 World Cup came through as expected with Spain and Nigeria picking up victories on Sunday as the first round of group play wrapped up. Spain defeated Costa Rica 4-1 in Group C, and Australia trounced Guatemala 5-0 in Group D. Edafe Egbedi scored twice with goals from Abdul Ajagun, Olaenrwa Kayode and Ahmed Musa. This is Nigeria’s eighth appearance in the tournament and the west Africans are still searching for their first title. On Wednesday, Nigeria faces Croatia and Guatemala is up against Saudi Arabia.

**Marseille’s Hilton to check in at Montpellier**

**PARIS, 1 Aug**— Marseille defender Vitorino Hilton, who has wanted out of the club since being attacked in his own home earlier this month, is set to join Montpellier, a source told AFP on Sunday. Hilton, 33, is expected to sign a one-year deal with the option of a further 12 months on Monday.

The Brazilian, who joined from Lens in 2008 and has one year remaining on his contract, made just eight Ligue 1 appearances last season, and the signing of Nicolas Nkoulou from Monaco this summer has pushed him even further down the pecking order at the Stade Velodrome.

Hilton was at home with ten members of his family on 12 July when a six-strong gang of armed men broke in shortly before midnight. The masked intruders regained those inside the house and escaped with cash and valuables. Hilton was slightly injured during the attack after being struck with a gun butt, although he did not require hospital treatment.

**Serena lays down US Open marker with Stanford title**

**STANFORD, 1 Aug**— Serena Williams sounded an ominous warning to her rivals that she will be a genuine contender at the US Open after winning the Stanford Classic on Sunday in her third tournament back from injury.

Williams overpowered third seed Marion Bartoli of France 7-5, 6-1 in Sunday’s final and her opponent, who triumphed when they last met in the fourth round at Wimbledon this year, applauded the American’s performance.

“She has really improved her level from Wimbledon,” the ninth-ranked Bartoli told reporters.

“She beat (Maria) Sharapova and (Sabine) Lisicki easily, and everything is just better — her serve, her movement. I would pick Serena (as the US Open favourite) considering how many times she won there.”

Six weeks from now, she’ll be more than 10 per cent better.” In winning five matches on her way to the Stanford title, Williams experienced only one hiccup when she dropped a set to Russian Maria Kirilenko in the second round.

Serena Williams celebrated a point against Marion Bartoli of France during the final of the Bank of the West Classic at the Taube Family Tennis Stadium in Stanford, California. — Xinhua

Lionel Messi (R) and Hernan Cristante (L) celebrate the annocation during a charity soccer match at Azul stadium, in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 30 July, 2011. Messi played the charity soccer match to raise money for an institution for children with cancer in Mexico. — Xinhua

Tiger Woods of the United States (L) and Spain's Marcel Granollers during a charity soccer match to commemorate the year of the World Cup in Manizales, Colombia, on Sunday. — Xinhua

Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates a point against France's Gael Monfils during their quarterfinal of the French Open at Roland Garros. — Xinhua

Serena Williams celebrates a point against Marion Bartoli of France during the final of the Bank of the West Classic at the Taube Family Tennis Stadium in Stanford, California. — Xinhua

Spain's Marcel Granollers returns the ball to Spain's Fernando Verdasco during their final match at the Swiss Open ATP tennis tournament in Gstaad, on 31 July. — Internet

Internet

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Internet
Man Utd’s Valencia signs new contract

MANCHESTER, 1 Aug—Manchester United winger Antonio Valencia has announced a new four-year contract with the Premier League champions on Monday. Valencia has emerged as a key figure in Sir Alex Ferguson’s team since his move from Wigan in 2009 and the Ecuadorian international has been rewarded with an extended and improved deal.

The 25-year-old, who missed six months of last season with a broken ankle, is now contracted to United until the end of the 2014-15 season. Ferguson was delighted to ensure Valencia’s future remains at Old Trafford.

CONDOLENCES Phyu Nwe Oo [1955-2011]
Upon hearing of the demise of Daw Phyu Nwe Oo, wife of U Myint Soe @ George Mya Thein, Mother of Mr. Yan Naing Hein, Ma Lynn Lynn Myint Soe and Mg Kaung Myint Soe, passed away peacefully at her residence 40th Street, Yangon at 2:05 pm on 30-6-2011, we extend our condolences to the bereaved family. Our thoughts are with the family at this difficult time.

Alumni of 1972-77 Batch of RASU

Weather forecast for 2nd August, 2011

CONDOLENCES Phyu Nwe Oo [1955-2011]

Manchester United’s winger Antonio Valencia has signed a new four-year contract with the Premier League champions.—INTERNET

Weather forecast for 2nd August, 2011

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Myanmar TV

Tuesday, 2 August
View on today

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadow

7:10 am
2. Morning News

8:00 am
3. Joint Performace by State Orchestra and State Television (TV Lectures)
4. Kyae Pwint Myaye

8:00 am
13. Just For Laughs

8:30 am
14. Sing A Song

9:00 am
15. TV Drama Series

10:00 am
16. News

11:00 am
17. International News

12:00 am
18. Weather Report

1:00 pm
19. Just For Laughs

2:00 pm
20. TV Drama Series

Man Utd's Valencia signs new contract

Man United’s winger Antonio Valencia has signed a new four-year contract with the Premier League champions. — INTERNET
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

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

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

Union Minister inspects Post-Harvest Technology Department (Hlegu), Yangon Region

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint inspected the Post-Harvest Technology Department (Hlegu) of the Myanma Agriculture Service in Hlegu, Yangon Region, on 29 July.

He called for conducting courses on rice million and repairing rice mills, making sure that rice does not contain fungus, and development of cottage industries for poverty alleviation. He said that the ministry and the country will achieve greater success only if staff work hard in concert.

Union Minister U Win Myint and Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win attended the ceremony to provide farm subsidies, rice seeds and agricultural inputs for 2011 monsoon rice season, assistance for boosting agricultural production in Pyay District, and donations for improving socioeconomic services at Thiri Khitaya Hall in Pyay yesterday.

In his speech, the Union Minister said that Bago Region is blessed with favourable conditions along with water sources for growing rice on a commercial scale for domestic and international trade, and is one of the granaries in Myanmar. He called on associations, private companies and social organizations to join hands with the government in the eight tasks for rural development and poverty alleviation, which is on its list of top priorities.

The chief minister said that private companies are providing microfinance for buying farm machinery and tools. Farmers who cannot afford farm equipment should buy farm machinery units with collective contributions and share them. There is a great gap of profit between farming with manual labour and heavy machinery. So, farmers should be convinced of strong points and should use farm machinery effectively for minimizing loss and wastage. The managing director and members of the board of directors of Khitaya Hintha Co provided loans and cash assistance amounting to K 3 billion including loans of K 2378.2 million for 11,623 farmers and 49,285 acres of farmlands in six townships in Pyay District; K 352.5 million for buying rice driers; K 450 million for 10 50-ton rice mills; K 273.7 million for purchasing farm machinery and tools.

Water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an above its danger level

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—According to (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, the water level at Thanlwin River at Hpa-an (761) cm has exceeded by (1) cm above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level (750) cm during the next (48) hours commencing noon today.—MNA