Celebration of ASEAN Day Flag-Raising Ceremony in ASEAN Member States with own political, economic and social systems fully reflects this year’s theme “Unity in Diversity”

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug—The following is the congratulatory message from U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 44th Anniversary of ASEAN Day.

On the auspicious occasion of the 44th Anniversary of the Founding of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), it gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to ASEAN for its successful achievements which contributed to the peace and stability, economic development and well-being of the people in the region.

Inspired by One Vision, One Identity, and One Caring and Sharing Community, we are committed to intensify our work towards a people-oriented, people-centred and rules-based ASEAN in the community building process on the basis of the three pillars, namely ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) for the benefit of all ASEAN Member States by the year 2015.

The 44th anniversary marks the unique opportunity to display ASEAN’s Unity by celebrating the ASEAN Day Flag-Raising Ceremony in ASEAN Member States which have their own political, economic and social systems, fully reflecting this year’s theme “Unity in Diversity”.

Taking this opportunity, we would like to reiterate our efforts for the maintenance of peace and stability in the region and for the economic development, prosperity and well-being of all the people of ASEAN in the future. Furthermore, we extend our warmest wishes for the success of building a united and prosperous ASEAN Community.

Government keeps welcoming armed groups that have yet to make peace to work together with government

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug – Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo met the Mon State Chief Minister and ministers at the State Hall yesterday morning and gave instructions on development tasks.

Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint reported on economic and social affairs of the state, land reclamation in Beyan village-tract in Mudon Township, upgrading of Strand Road in Mawlamyine, construction of a new bridge at the entrance to Kawtparan village-tract, progress in building a road around Kangyi Lake and floating rest house, upgrading of schools to improve their image, handing over of the newly-built village road and new school buildings, formation of committees at various levels for rural development and poverty alleviation, arrangements for getting loans from Central Cooperative Union, implementation of tasks for progress of border areas and national races in 2010-2011 and condition of jetties at Mawlamyine Port.

Chairman of the Subcommittee for Rural Socio-economic Development Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan explained public cooperation in implementing the tasks for rural socio-economic development and State peace and stability.

(See page 8)
**PERSPECTIVES**

Monday, 8 August, 2011

Take preparedness measures against natural disasters

Today, the world has been facing natural disasters triggered by climate changes. Accordingly, we have to take precautionary measures against issues in agriculture, health and social affairs that take place aftermath of natural disasters such as torrential rains, floods and strong winds.

If compared with previous years, Myanmar gets higher rainfall and more rainy days this year. In consequence, some rivers were swollen, thus flooding riverside and creek-side areas in Bago Region, Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State.

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thih Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo started his inspection tour of Mon State and Kayin State on 5 August to view flooded areas and provide relief supplies.

Now, tasks are being carried out promptly to rehabilitate the affected areas in the states, covering basic needs, education, social affairs and livelihoods of the victims.

Preparedness measures are to be taken against such natural disasters as heavy rain, drought and untimely rain that cause strong impact on growing, harvesting and winnowing crops. Myanmar has a great deal of experiences about natural disasters, so preparedness against catastrophes must be on the list of priorities.

Natural disasters are not preventable. Therefore, we should seek better ways and means to address in concert the issues triggered by natural disasters.

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UNION MINISTER VISITS YEYWA HYDROPOWER PLANT

**Union Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min visits Yeywa RCC Dam and Hydropower Plant.**

**NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug—Yeywa Hydropower Plant installed with four 197.5-megawatt generators can supply 3550 million kilowatt hours to the power network of the State yearly.**

Union Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min on 5 August visited Yeywa RCC Dam and Hydropower Plant, 31 miles southeast of Mandalay and gave instructions to officials that the ministry has built 16 power stations, one coal-fired power station and small and large dams. Emphasis is to be placed on maintenance of dams and power plants, preventive measures against natural disasters, environmental conservation and security. Although four turbines came into operations at the power plant, the finishing works are to be carried out for timely completion.

Later, he viewed RCC embankment, power station, spillway, operating of turbine Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, dam instruments, inflow of water at the dam and overflow of water from the spillway at the dam.

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MP-4 player explosion harms one man, two children in YeU

**Union EP-1 Minister visits Yeywa Hydropower Plant**

**NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug—**Yeywa Hydropower Plant.

**NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug—**An explosion on 4 August occurred in YeU, Sagaing Region, leaving one man and two children injured (not serious).

The blast took place at the time when father U Khin Maung Htwe opened a MP-4 player due to its low battery, which was picked up by Mg Zin Min Htwe aged eight, a Grade-3 student and son of U Myo, and his neighbour Ma Aye Aye Win aged 11, a Grade-4 student of that day.

U Khin Maung Htwe had bruises and cuts on his left first finger, Mg Zin Min Htwe, around his belly, Ma Aye Aye Win, on her left arm, due to the explosion. They are being under medical care.

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Shan State seeks ways for micro-credit schemes development

**Shan State Manager U Khin Maung Aye** discussed matters on micro-credit schemes.

The chairman of the self-administered areas and Shan State Manager of Myanma Economic Bank took part in the discussion and the meeting ended with concluding remarks by the chairman.

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Chairman U Myint Thein Pe accepted K 40 million donated by SKF NET Co, K 10 million by MDG Co (Gold Roast CoffeeMix) and K 5 million by AA Medical Product Co. The concert continues tonight, beginning 7 pm.

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**Shan State for rural development and poverty alleviation in progress.**

**NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug—**Shan State seeks ways for micro-credit schemes development.

**Yangon Region Chief Minister attends Concert of Myanma Motion Picture Organization**

**YANGON, 7 Aug—**The Concert of Myanma Motion Picture Organization took place at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyang Street in Dagon Township here yesterday evening.

Chief Minister U Myint Swe and ministers of Yangon Region, Chairman of the organization U Myint Thein Pe and officials attended the concert.

Chairman U Myint Thein Pe accepted K 40 million donated by SKY NET Co, K 10 million by MDG Co (Gold Roast CoffeeMix) and K 5 million by AA Medical Product Co.

The concert continues tonight, beginning 7 pm.
**Deadliest military crashes in Afghanistan**

**KABUL, 7 Aug—** Some of the deadliest military air crashes in Afghanistan since the US invasion on 7 Oct, 2001:

— 6 Aug, 2011: A CH-47 Chinook helicopter crashes in eastern Wardak Province, killing 31 US special operation troops, a translator, and seven Afghan commandos.

— 21 Sept, 2010: US Army Blackhawk crashes in southern Zabul Province, killing nine troops on board, including four Navy SEALs.

— 30 May, 2007: US Chinook crashes while under fire in southern Helmand, killing one British, one Canadian and five American troops.


— 2 Sept, 2006: British Nimrod aircraft crashes near Kandahar in the south, killing 14 crew members.

— 5 May, 2006: US Chinook helicopter crashes while attempting a night landing on a small mountaintop in eastern Kunar Province, killing 10 US soldiers.

— 16 Aug, 2005: Spanish helicopter crashes near the western City of Herat, killing 17 Spanish soldiers.

— 28 June, 2005: US helicopter is shot down in eastern Kunar Province during a rescue operation, killing 16 special operations troops.

— 6 April, 2005: US Chinook helicopter crashes in a sandstorm near eastern Kandahar, killing 15 American troops and three civilian contractors.

— 21 Dec, 2002: German army helicopter crashes in Kabul, killing seven German soldiers.

— 4 March, 2002: US Chinook helicopter is shot down in eastern Afghanistan, killing seven American troops.—**Internet**

**Four NATO soldiers killed in Afghanistan**

**KABUL, 7 Aug—** Four soldiers with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) were killed in separate incidents in Afghanistan on Sunday, bringing the fatalities of the alliance to 34 since Saturday, a statement released by the military alliance here said.

**Six family members killed in bomb attacks in south of Baghdad**

**BAGHHDAD, 7 Aug—** Six family members were killed and 14 people wounded by explosions of bombs planted in their house in a town in south of Baghdad on Sunday, a local police source said.

The incident took place in the early hours of the day when unidentified gunmen planted bombs in a house at the edge of the town of Iskandiyah, some 50 km south of Baghdad, the source told **Xinhua** on condition of anonymity.

Women and children were among the family deaths by the blasts that destroyed their house and caused damages to several nearby houses, the source said. Some of the 14 wounded were from the family members and the others were from the nearby damaged houses, the source added.

**Bomb destroys 16 NATO tankers in Pakistan**

**PESHAWAR, 7 Aug—** A bomb destroyed at least 16 tankers on Saturday carrying fuel for NATO troops in neighbouring Afghanistan, Pakistan police said, the latest in a string of attempts to disrupt supplies.

A total of 28 NATO oil tankers were parked at a terminal on the outskirts of Peshawar, the main city in Pakistan’s northwest, at the time of the explosion, which triggered a fire that engulfed 16 of the vehicles. “We are trying to move away other oil tankers. We are not clear whether the bomb was planted in the terminal or with a tanker,” police official Khurshid Khan told **AFP** from the site. “Sixteen tankers were completely destroyed.”

There were no reports of any casualties, he added. Mohammad Ijaz Khan, another senior police officer in Peshawar, said fire fighters were frantically trying to control the blaze.

**Sudan accuses US of distorting and damaging image**

**Khartoum, 7 Aug—** Sudan on Saturday strongly criticised the United States for intentionally distorting and damaging the country’s image, and urged the US State Department not to be a “tool of war.”—**INTERNET**

Troops mostly from US have been serving in eastern and southern parts of Afghanistan within the framework of NATO-led ISAF force.

An injured boy receives medical treatment at a hospital in southwest Pakistan’s Quetta on 6 Aug, 2011. At least one person was killed and three others were injured in a gas cylinder blast near Quetta on Saturday. **Xinhua**

Investigative police officers work next to a bullet-riddled police car at a crime scene on the border between Mexico and the US, in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on 6 Aug, 2011. Police commander Victor Nazario Moreno Ramirez was shot dead in his vehicle by unknown gunmen, according to local media.—**Xinhua**

3 policemen killed by gunmen in Quetta, Pakistan

**ISLAMABAD, 7 Aug—** At least three policemen were shot dead Sunday evening when unknown gunmen opened fire at a police vehicle patrolling on the street in Quetta, capital city of Balochistan province in southwest Pakistan, reported local Urdu TV channel Dunya.

According to the report, the attack took place at about 6:30 pm local time when unidentified gunmen ambushed a police van patrolling on the street in the New Saryab area of Quetta.

Three policemen including a Station House Officer died on the spot, said police sources, adding that the gunmen escaped after the firing.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. Balochistan has seen a series of targeted and sectarian—motivated attacks in recent days. Around 18 Shia Muslims were killed in two attacks in two days last week.

**INTERNET**

A Sudanese man reads a newspaper at a kiosk in the capital Khartoum in July 2011. Sudan on Saturday strongly criticised the United States for intentionally distorting and damaging the country’s image, and urged the US State Department not to be a “tool of war.”—**INTERNET**

**Xinhua**
NASA wants gas stations in space

WASHINGTON, 7 Aug—If humans are ever to live and explore in deep space for extended periods, space gas stations may prove a vital necessity. Toward that end, NASA has awarded contracts to four companies with plans to study how to store and transfer fuel in space.

It’s not simply a matter of building a Shell station in orbit. Rocket fuel is cryogenic, meaning super-cold substances like liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen. If not kept extremely chilled and protected, some of those liquids tend to boil off into gases.

“Storing cryogenic propellants such as liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen in space for long periods of time with minimal boil-off is critical for deep space human exploration,” according to a NASA statement.

NASA’s Exploration Technology Development Programme awarded a total of $2.4 million to Analytical Mechanics Associates Inc of Hampton, Va, Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation of Boulder, Colo, The Boeing Company of Huntington Beach, Calif, and Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company in Littleton, Colo, for the project.

“Each company will provide a final report to help define a mission concept to demonstrate the cryogenic fluid management technologies, capabilities and infrastructure required for sustainable, affordable human presence in space,” said the NASA statement.—Internet

Power companies prepare as solar storms set to hit Earth

Washington, 7 Aug—Three large explosions from the Sun over the past few days have prompted US government scientists to caution users of satellite, telecommunications and electric equipment to prepare for possible disruptions over the next few days.

“The magnetic storm that is soon to develop probably will be in the moderate to strong level,” said Joseph Kunches, a space weather scientist at the Space Weather Prediction Centre, a division of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

He said solar storms this week could affect communications and global positioning system (GPS) satellites and might even produce an aurora visible as far south as Minnesota and Wisconsin.

An aurora, called aurora borealis or the northern lights in northern latitudes, is a natural light display in the sky in the Arctic and Antarctic regions caused by the collision of energetic charged particles with atoms in the high altitude atmosphere.

Major disruptions from solar activity are rare but have had serious impacts in the past. In 1989, a solar storm took down the power grid in Quebec, Canada, leaving about six million people without power for several hours.

The largest solar storm ever recorded was in 1859 when communications infrastructure was limited to telegraphs.—Reuters

ISP's secretly hijacking search traffic to profit off customers

Washington, 7 Aug—In a study released by a UC Berkeley research group, a group of Internet service providers in the United States are watching the keywords that a user types into a search engine and redirecting those users to the brand page to rack up affiliate revenue. While Charter claims to have stopped this behavior, companies involved include Frontier, Hughes, Insight Broadband, XO Communication, Cincinnati Bell, Megapath, Cablevision, the controller's guide button (the one with a green Xbox logo).—Internet

Lolcats get Xbox Live Security through the day

New York, 7 Aug—Websites that specialize in photos of overbearingly cute animals are “frequently called upon” by members of the Xbox Live security team to help maintain a sense of perspective.

That’s according to the mohawked, tattoo-wearing Boris Erickson, who was free to choose his own job title and, as a result, is now known as the Xbox Live Enforcement Unicorn Ninja.

“You sort of need that disconnection from the offensive content sometimes,” he says, citing I Can Has Cheezburger and The Daily Squee as escapist examples. The team’s job is to make sure the Xbox 360’s online community is safe and non-offensive by cracking down on instances of racism, homophobia, sexism and account hacking.

The creation of bad apples we deal with every day is small — typically less than one percent of the overall population,” explains team director Stephen Toulouse.

Team members work in shifts, responding to any complaints filed by Xbox Live users and playing with community members.

User reports can be filed via the Dashboard menu, accessed by pressing the controller’s guide button (the one with a green Xbox logo).—Internet

Hackers have shown how to turn the mobile payment service Square into a convenient tool for criminals to pump cash from stolen credit card numbers.—Internet
Health

Household mold during infancy may trigger asthma

WASHINGTON, 7 Aug—Exposure to household mold in infancy greatly increases a child’s risk of developing asthma, a new study says. Researchers analyzed seven years of data collected from 176 children who were follow-ed from infancy as part of the Cincinnati Childhood Allergy and Air Pollution Study. The children were considered at high risk of developing asthma because of family medical history. By age 7, 18 percent of the children developed asthma. Children who lived in homes with mold during infancy were three times more likely to develop asthma by age 7 than those who weren’t exposed to mold when they were infants.

“Early life exposure to mold seems to play a critical role in childhood asthma development,” lead author Tiina Reponen, a professor of environmental health at the University of Cincinnati, said in a university news release. “Genetic factors are also important to consider in asthma risk, since infants whose parents have an allergy or asthma are at the greatest risk of developing asthma.” “This study should motivate expectant parents, especia-lly if they have a family history of allergy or asthma, to correct water damage and reduce the mold burden in their homes to protect the respiratory health of their children,” Reponen added.

INTERNET

Garden designer Jon Tilley and AVERT fundraising officer Natasha Vartoukian stand in front of the HIV cell garden design named ‘Do Not Step Over The Fence.’ The garden won Gold at RHS Tatton Park Flower Show.—INTERNET

Weight loss may boost sex life of obese, diabetic men

NEW YORK, 7 Aug—Weight loss improves the sexual health of obese men with type 2 diabetes, a new study finds. Australian researchers placed 31 obese men with type 2 diabetes on either a meal replacement-based low-calorie diet or a low-fat, high-protein, reduced-carbohydrate diet meant to decrease calorie intake by 600 calories a day. A modest weight loss of 5 percent led to an easing of erectile dysfunction and improved sexual desire within eight weeks, and these improvements continued for 12 months, according to the study published 5 Aug in The Journal of Sexual Medicine. Problems with urinary tract function also improved, the team added.

“Our findings are consistent with the evidence that not only erectile function, but also lower urinary tract symptoms are a marker of cardiometabolic risk,” noted Gary Wittert, of the University of Adelaide, in a journal news release. The findings support previous research showing that lifestyle changes can have a positive effect on sexual function, according to journal editor-in-chief Irwin Goldstein.

“At a time when oral drugs are very popular, it can now be shown that weight loss is an important non-pharmacologic therapeutic inter-vention in restoring erectile and urinary function and cardiovascular health,” he said in the news release.

INTERNET

Business

Nissan to cut loss-making exports, boost Japan sales

YOKOHAMA, 7 Aug—Nissan Motor Co said on December 6 it aimed to boost its sales in Japan in a move that would also help reduce exports by as much as a third and reduce the impact of the yen’s crippling strength.

The dollar’s plunge below 80 yen to near record lows has hit profits at Japanese automakers such as Nissan, which exported 610,000, or 57 percent, of its domestically produced vehicles last year.

Despite the head-winds from tough exchange rates, high labour costs and risks of disruption from earthquakes, Nissan has vowed to keep production of at least 1 million vehicles a year in Japan to protect jobs and hone its manufacturing expertise.

Nissan is Japan’s No 2 brand with 13 percent of the world’s third-biggest auto market dominated by Toyota Motor Corp. In the business year to end-March 2011, Nissan sold 600,202 vehicles in Japan, of which 24 percent were Nissan-badged 660cc microvehicles built by other Suzuki Motor Corp and Mitsubishi Motors Corp. Despite being Japan’s No 2 brand, Nissan had just two models in the list of the 10 best-selling vehicles last year excluding 660cc microcars, trailing Toyota with five and Honda Motor Co with three.

Reuters

Nissan’s cars are seen at a dealer shop in Tokyo 27 July, 2011.—INTERNET

The first Boeing 787 Dreamliner to be delivered to launch customer All Nippon Airways (ANA) leaves the paint hangar at Boeing’s Everett factory 6 August, 2011. INTERNET

Boeing unveils first Dreamliner for delivery to ANA

SEATTLE, 7 Aug—Boeing Co on Saturday afternoon rolled out the first 787 Dreamliner to be delivered to launch customer All Nippon Airways decked out with the blue and white colours of the Japanese airline.

Boeing presented the plane to ANA executives and crew under clear skies at its Everett factory north of Seattle. The first domestic flights are set to start in Japan in September.

“The plane is being certified to the highest FAA standards,” said Scott Fancher, vice president and general manager, 787 programme. “But the real focus of the travelling public will likely be on customer satisfaction and the elegance of the flight.”

The 787 Dreamliner is a lightweight airplane that promises 20 percent greater fuel efficiency to operators than similarly sized planes. Boeing says as much as 50 percent of the primary structure will be made of composite materials instead of aluminum.

Aviation experts expect Boeing to apply the technology to future airplanes.

The interior of the first aircraft includes 264 seats — 12 business and 252 economy — with personal television sets, roomier seats, an automatic toilet with a wash function, more storage, an arched entry way with a beverage bar, dimmable windows and larger lavatories.

Reuters
Moving Forward ASEAN

November 2007. The Blueprint serves as a master plan towards achieving an AEC by 2015 by indentifying economic integration measures, and targets and timelines for their implementation. To ensure that the targets can be achieved by 2015, a scoreboard system to track progress and an AEC communication plan to engage all stakeholders have been put in place.

ASEAN Socio-cultural Community (ASCC)

The ASC aims to contribute to realizing an people-centered ASEAN Community with a view to achieving enduring solidarity and unity among the peoples and Member States of ASEAN. It seeks to forge a common identity and build a caring and sharing society which is inclusive and where the well-being, livelihood, and welfare of the peoples are enhanced.

Important Treaties and Agreements

Bangkok Declaration

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967 with ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) in Bangkok by the five original Member countries, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

Bali Concord –I

Bali Concord is the agreement laid down by the ASEAN leaders on 24 February 1976 in Bali, Indonesia. At first, it has been noted as Declaration of ASEAN Concord or Bali Concord. However, when Bali Concord II was signed in 2003, the previous agreement was called Bali Concord I.

This agreement sets the frame work for ASEAN cooperation which included politics, economic, social and culture, information, security in strengthening ASEAN mechanism.

Bali Concord II

ASEAN has been cooperating since last 40 years, and the year 2003 was the turning point for ASEAN when ASEAN aimed for ASEAN Community. With this community in mind, Declaration of Bali Concord II was made at 9th ASEAN Summit held in Bali, Indonesia on 7 October 2003. The declaration mentioned ASEAN Community comprising the ASEAN Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia

When we look back the SEAN activities, we may find the significant steps and progresses of ASEAN. As an association of Southeast Asia Nations, ASEAN was established on 8 August 1967 with ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) in Bangkok by the five original Member countries, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Subsequently Brunei joined on 8 January 1984, Vietnam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999.

ASEAN Charter

On 20th November 2007, the ASEAN Charter was signed by leaders including Myanmar at the 13th ASEAN Summit which was held in Singapore. Myanmar ratified ASEAN Charter as a Seventh State on 21st July 2008. The ASEAN Charter entered into force on 15th December 2008 after ratification of all ASEAN Member States. ASEAN became a rules-based organization.

In accordance with the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN Member States are endeavouring the building of an ASEAN Community by 2015 with three pillars of ASEAN Political Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC).

ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC)

The APSC aims to ensure that the peace and Member States of ASEAN live in peace with one another and with the world at large creating a just, democratic and harmonious environment.

To achieve this, the APSC will promote political development in adherence to the principles of democracy, the rule of law and good governance, promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as inscribed in the ASEAN Charter. It also, upholds the comprehensive approach to security. At the same time, the APSC seeks to strengthen the mutually beneficial relations between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners and friends.

ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)

The ASEAN Leaders signed the Declaration on the AEC Blueprint at the 13th ASEAN Summit which was held in Singapore on (18-22)
Yangon Region marks World Breastfeeding Week

YANGON, 7 Aug—Yangon Region held the opening of World Breastfeeding Week and Nutrition Promotion Month at the Institute of Nutrition Promotion in the afternoon.

The Committee of Permanent Representatives—Chairmanship shall chair:
(a) the ASEAN Summit and related summits;
(b) the ASEAN Coordinating Council;
(c) the three ASEAN Community Councils;
(d) where appropriate, the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial Bodies and senior officials; and
(e) the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Chairmanship of ASEAN shall:
(a) actively promote and enhance the interests and well-being of ASEAN, including efforts to build an ASEAN Community through policy initiatives, coordination, consensus and cooperation; ensure the centrality of ASEAN, ensure an effective and timely response to urgent issues or crisis situations affecting ASEAN, including providing its good offices and such other arrangements to immediately address these concerns;
(b) represent ASEAN in strengthening and promoting closer relations with external partners; and
(c) carry out other tasks and functions as may be mandated.

For the year 2011, Indonesia takes ASEAN Chairmanship.

Myanmar and ASEAN

Myanmar became member of ASEAN on 23 July 1997 after 30 years when ASEAN was founded on August 8, 1967. Myanmar has signed TAC in July 1995 before its full membership. By signing TAC, which is the most important Treaty of ASEAN, Myanmar participated in ASEAN as observer. After its membership, Myanmar actively participated in ASEAN and ASEAN+3, and also signed the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone – SEANWFZ Treaty at the 5th ASEAN Summit held in Bangkok in December 1995 along with other Southeast Asia countries.

After its membership, Myanmar actively participated in ASEAN activities, including political, security, economic, social and cultural areas. Myanmar continues to uphold the independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy. Based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, Myanmar maintains friendly relations with all nations and stands firm as a responsible member of the global community while actively participating in the regional and international organizations including ASEAN. President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended the 18th ASEAN Summit in Jakarta, last May of this year and also paid a State Visit to Indonesia in May 2011.

To exercise the rights and obligations as a responsible Member of ASEAN in accordance with the principles of the Charter, Myanmar has decided to take ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014. There was a consensus by the ASEAN in 2005 to accord Myanmar to assume the ASEAN Chairmanship whenever Myanmar is ready to take the position.

Monsoon season Bowling open contest on 20, 21 August

YANGON, 7 Aug—Jointly organized by Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Bowling Federation, Monsoon season Bowling open contest will take place at Right Track Bowling Hall in Tamway Township from 20 to 21 August.

First prize winner can win K 150,000, the second prize winner K 100,000 and the third prize winner K 50,000 each in the contest.

The contest includes male and female individual categories. Outstanding athletes who emerged from the contest will be selected and trained to participate in the 27th South-East Asian Games to be hosted by Myanmar in 2013. MNA

Volleyball Tournament commences

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Aug—Patron of Leading Committee for Organizing Taunggyi Zone Universities (Men’s) Volleyball Tournament of Shan State 2011 Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat delivered an address at the opening of the Shan State Chief Minister’s Trophy Inter-District Men’s and Women’s Volleyball Tournament at the state gymnasium in Taunggyi.

Monghay District played against Kyaukme District in the opening match. The Chief Minister of Shan State and party watched the match.

The tournament with the participation of 12 districts will last up to 11 August.

MNA
Foundations and well-being of the State, local people, districts and townships and rural areas. The field has 13 action plans.

The action plans must be implemented through development, supply of clean water and development of human resources. Committees have been formed in states/regions, districts and townships and the subcommittee has laid down action plans. Each field has 13 action plans.

The action plans must be implemented through 10 strengths including State, local people, foundations and well-wishers. So, all the people as well as responsible officials are urged to play their respective roles in the tasks. Only then, can the targeted rate of poverty alleviation, one of the Millennium Development Goals for 2015, be reached.

The Union Minister warned against the threat posed to peace and political threats as well as natural disasters. So, while working for regional development, the people are to prevent any threats and dangers to peace and stability. Only then can a peaceful, modern and developed nation be built.

Everybody wants peace and without peace and stability, development tasks cannot be carried out. Thanks to the efforts of the previous Tatmadaw government, 40 national railway lines and bridges returned to the legal fold, and there has prevailed peace and stability that had never been achieved before. Since then, a goal has been set to reach eternal peace from temporary peace. However, five groups failed to reach the agreement. The State wishes to build a nation through peace and wants no war and bloodshed. So, discussions are being made in a persuasive manner so that those groups come to understand and accept the State’s goodwill efforts.

Despite the State’s goodwill and patience, KNU and KIA adhered to their destructive acts, destroying 88 small and large bridges. The State immediately had those bridges repaired. Such destructive acts left 15 innocent people dead and 14 others injured and 98 were arrested.

Moreover, some local and international organizations are criticizing the 2008 constitution and making various accusations. Indeed, a peaceful, modern and developed Union must be built step by step, based on the constitution. And this is the most correct and safest way for the State and the people. So, if the government, the Tatmadaw and the people are to work together to prevent natural disasters as well as threats to peace and political threats and dangers, all difficulties can be overcome and success will be achieved, noted the Union Minister.

Then, administrators of Muu, Chaungzon and Paung townships reported on education and transport requirements. The Vice-President coordinated and fulfilled the needs for regional development.

Next, the Vice-President made a speech saying that he and entourage were there to provide necessary assistance for the flood victims in Mon State and Kayin State and to meet officials and townswelders in order to fulfill the needs for regional development.

According to the report of the State Chief Minister and studying present conditions, Mon State is found to be progressing. Particularly, rubber business in Mon State is thriving. As the previous government encouraged Mon State to grow rubber on a commercial scale as a state of rubber, now rubber has been exported as a new export item and rubber growers have been economically successful. Rubber is in much demand in global market. Ten years ago when the encouragement was given to rubber growing, the price of a ton of rubber was US$ 1000. But now the price has jumped to 5000 US$. Today, Myanmar has seen vast stretches of rubber plantations in many parts.

The Vice-President added that there remained vacant lands in Mon State which were to be allocated to whom wishing to grow rubbers. He said that he went to Kyakkhmi and inspected damages caused by tornado; that he also inspected weather-stricken passage of Kyakkhmi Yaye Pagoda and coordinated essentials for reconstruction of the new passage.

Likewise, he said that he visited basic education high schools and universities to meet teachers and instructors and discussed basic and higher education status of the state; that the progress of basic education sector of Mon State based on pass rate of matriculation exam can be said advancing well.

With regard to economy of the state, he said that 2011-2012 fiscal year was the first year of the five-year short-term plan from 2011-2012 fiscal year to 2015-2016 fiscal year; that targets—

Government keeps welcoming armed...

(from page 1)

He said that the President led the decision-making process of the eight rural development and poverty alleviation tasks which cover rural socio-economic development. Rural socio-economic development task includes various fields such as education, health, communication and rural transport development, supply of clean water and development of human resources. Committees have been formed in states/regions, districts and townships and the subcommittee has laid down action plans. Each field has 13 action plans.

The action plans must be implemented through 10 strengths including State, local people, foundations and well-wishers. So, all the people as well as responsible officials are urged to play their respective roles in the tasks. Only then, can the targeted rate of poverty alleviation, one of the Millennium Development Goals for 2015, be reached.

The Union Minister warned against the threat posed to peace and political threats as well as natural disasters. So, while working for regional development, the people are to prevent any threats and dangers to peace and stability. Only then can a peaceful, modern and developed nation be built.

Everybody wants peace and without peace and stability, development tasks cannot be carried out. Thanks to the efforts of the previous Tatmadaw government, 40 national railway lines and bridges returned to the legal fold, and there has prevailed peace and stability that had never been achieved before. Since then, a goal has been set to reach eternal peace from temporary peace. However, five groups failed to reach the agreement. The State wishes to build a nation through peace and wants no war and bloodshed. So, discussions are being made in a persuasive manner so that those groups come to understand and accept the State’s goodwill efforts.

Despite the State’s goodwill and patience, KNU and KIA adhered to their destructive acts, destroying 88 small and large bridges. The State immediately had those bridges repaired. Such destructive acts left 15 innocent people dead and 14 others injured and 98 were arrested.

Moreover, some local and international organizations are criticizing the 2008 constitution and making various accusations. Indeed, a peaceful, modern and developed Union must be built step by step, based on the constitution. And this is the most correct and safest way for the State and the people. So, if the government, the Tatmadaw and the people are to work together to prevent natural disasters as well as threats to peace and political threats and dangers, all difficulties can be overcome and success will be achieved, noted the Union Minister.

Then, administrators of Muu, Chaungzon and Paung townships reported on education and transport requirements. The Vice-President coordinated and fulfilled the needs for regional development.

Next, the Vice-President made a speech saying that he and entourage were there to provide necessary assistance for the flood victims in Mon State and Kayin State and to meet officials and townswelders in order to fulfill the needs for regional development.

According to the report of the State Chief Minister and studying present conditions, Mon State is found to be progressing. Particularly, rubber business in Mon State is thriving. As the previous government encouraged Mon State to grow rubber on a commercial scale as a state of rubber, now rubber has been exported as a new export item and rubber growers have been economically successful. Rubber is in much demand in global market. Ten years ago when the encouragement was given to rubber growing, the price of a ton of rubber was US$ 1000. But now the price has jumped to 5000 US$. Today, Myanmar has seen vast stretches of rubber plantations in many parts.

The Vice-President added that there remained vacant lands in Mon State which were to be allocated to whom wishing to grow rubbers. He said that he went to Kyakkhmi and inspected damages caused by tornado; that he also inspected weather-stricken passage of Kyakkhmi Yaye Pagoda and coordinated essentials for reconstruction of the new passage.

Likewise, he said that he visited basic education high schools and universities to meet teachers and instructors and discussed basic and higher education status of the state; that the progress of basic education sector of Mon State based on pass rate of matriculation exam can be said advancing well.

With regard to economy of the state, he said that 2011-2012 fiscal year was the first year of the five-year short-term plan from 2011-2012 fiscal year to 2015-2016 fiscal year; that targets—

Government keeps welcoming armed...

(from page 1)
Government keeps welcoming armed groups...

(from page 8)

President delivered a state address covering politics, economy, social affairs and defence of the Union at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30 March, 2011; that the state address was the guidelines of the future plans for the Union Government; that the president had spoke about political, economic, social, defence and nationalities affairs in detail and all were to strictly follow the guidelines in implementing each work.

He then explained peace groups for the public knowledge that national people had faced all kinds of difficulties and hardships due to over-50-year long fight between nationalities resulted from different isms, attachment to par-ties concerned, and racism.

The former Tatmadaw Government could hold successful peace negotiations with 40 groups including 17 armed groups except KNU and SSA from Shan State (South); that the Tatmadaw Government could make peace with nationalities armed groups through building mutual trust and its magnanimity towards them; and that due to cooperative efforts of the government and the peace groups for regional development, border areas had progressed like a modern city and that some of the border town were more developed than inner cities.

Moreover, he noted that the government had tried to solve the problem of cold and distant relations among national brethren through ensuring smooth transportation so that national brethren can meet frequently and can be on intimate terms with each other.

The previous government worked hard for development of border areas including peace groups in various sectors such as education, health, agriculture and transport. Steps were taken with the team spirit to build unity among national brethren living in the Union. In other words, the goal of peace was achieved with the concept based on Union Spirit.

In his inaugural speech at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30 March 2011, the President said that the people had various concepts, but had to work in concert in pursu-ing common goals in the national interest.

He disclosed that the government keeps welcoming the armed groups that have yet to make peace to work to-gether with the government.

At the ceremony, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe presented cash assistance and relief supplies donated by the government to Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint.

Deputy Minister U Phone Swe presented relief aid and cash donations; Deputy Min-ister for Education U Aye Kyu, books and station-ery; Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint, medicines and medical equipment; Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Co U Kyaw Win and entrepreneurs, cash donations; and Shwe Than Lwin Co, one SKY NET TV lines each to Mawlamyine University, Mawlamyine Techno-logical University, and Mawlamyine University of Computer Studies.

After the meeting, the Vice-President and party cordially greeted the departmental officials. The Vice-President, accompanied by Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, Deputy Ministers, Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint left Mawlamyine by car for Kayin State. Along the way, they inspected the conditions of the swollen Thanlwin River.

On arrival at Kayin State Government Office, the Vice-President held a meeting with the Kayin State chief minister, the speaker and the deputy speaker of Kayin State Hluttaw, Kayin State chief justice, ministers and departmen-tal officials.

(See page 10)
Government keeps welcoming armed ... (from page 9)

Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min reported on location and area of Kayin State, the areas it shares with Thailand, formation of Kayin State, and the Kayin State’s annual rainfall of 147.37 inches in 2010, and 119.41 inches up to July 2011, accounting for an increase by 53.39 inches, danger levels of rivers and creeks in the townships in Kayin State; the records showing danger levels of the watercourses, the blueprint showing flooded wards in Hpa-an due to raging Thaungyin River in July 2011, floods that hit Shwegun Village, erosion of the bank of the river near Shwegun, floods between Hminbe and Myawady, opening of relief camps following floods in urban wards due to heavy overflow of water from the Thaungyin River, supply of relief, health care, initial capitals, microfinance, programmes for continuing education, supply of meals, supply of provisions to victims before they go home, and putting fertilizers into the affected farmlands.

The Vice-President fulfilled the requirements, calling for ensuring good health of the victims and prevention of outbreak of related diseases, good relations among the victims, supply of foodstuff for one week’s meals and reasonable cash assistance after they get home, better preparedness measures against floods, and ensuring no effects on the agricultural processes due to untimely rains. On arrival at Mebaung Monastery in Hpa-an, the Vice-President and entourage paid reverence and donated offerings to members of the Sangha led by Chairman of Kayin State Sangha Nayaka Committee.

They visited the relief camp in the precinct of Shwe Yin Hmyaw Pyaydawaye Pagoda in Ward (2). They offered flowers and waters to the Buddha Image in the chamber of the pagoda. The Vice-President spoke words of encouragement to members of the 183 families.

Farmers from Kayin State on study tour in Nay Pyi Taw Council Region

Information plays important factor in combating NCDs

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug — To effectively decrease the deaths of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs), information on major NCDs, death rate of NCDs and risk factors in the public are important factors for the plan for fighting the diseases, Union Minister for Health Dr. Pe Thet Khin said.

In his opening address at the Country level multi-sectoral Meeting on NCDs jointly organized by Ministry of Health and World Health Organization (WHO) at the Ministry of Health here today, Union Minister Dr. Pe Thet Khin said that the ministry has made efforts for fighting the NCDs. The participants of the meeting discussed the draft of “National Policy on Prevention & Control of NCDs in Myanmar” for prevention and control of NCDs presented by Ministry of Health. — MNA

Flood Bulletin

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug—The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology released news today that according to the 12.30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River in Hpa-an has reached 833 cm and has exceeded by 83 cm (about 2.7 ft) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level 750 cm during the next 48 hours commencing this noon. According to the 12.30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Shwegyin River in Shwegyin 712 cm has exceeded by 12 cm (about 0.4 foot) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level 700 cm during the next 24 hours commencing this noon. — MNA

Two students wounded in fire of heavy and small arms of KNU insurgent in Kamamoung

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug—A 30-member group led by Pha Satee, company commander level of Battalion-101 of Brigade-5 of KNU insurgent opened fire with the use of heavy and small arms at Wathokho Village near Kamamoung-Papun Road in Kamamoung Sub-Township of Kayin State at 11.40 am on 5 August.

Of the teachers and students from the primary school in Wathokho Village hiding in the bomb shelter, Maung Pha Khet Khet (a) Chit Aung, 10, first standard student, son of U Tun Myint Lwin was wounded his left thigh (unserious) and Ma Regina (a) Kaloh Htoo, 8, first standard student, daughter of U To To, at her left thigh (unserious) in explosion of launcher shell.

The headmaster of the school rushed the injured students to Kamamoung Hospital. Officials gave necessary treatment to them. — MNA
Malnourished Somali baby thriving as rare success

DADAAB, 7 Aug—Only 10 days ago, Minhaj Gedi Farah was too weak to cry and his skin crumpled liked thin leather under the pressure of his mother’s hands. Now doctors say the severely malnourished 7-month-old appears out of danger of joining the more than 29,000 children who already have died in the famine.

It’s a rare success story amid unimaginable misery for parents at the world’s largest refugee camp — a place where a father must bury two of his daughters one day, and their brother the next. Seven-month-old Minhaj though now weighs more than 8 pounds (3.8 kilograms) — still well below what he should for his age, but a major improvement from 7 pounds (3.2 kilograms) when he first arrived at a field hospital ward here.

“He is in stable condition and he is doing well,” said Dr John Kiogora of the International Rescue Committee, who has been treating the infant since his arrival in late July.

Starting photos of Minhaj’s twig-like arms and hollow cheeks made him the frail face of the worst famine in 60 years. On Saturday, though, the wide-eyed baby looked around the ward inquisitively and became captivated with a journalist who was taking his picture.

“It’s a miracle for his mother, and a testament to just how hard doctors and other health care workers here are trying to save lives as more and more malnourished children arrive each day. “He has no problem compared to the past days,” said his mother Asiah Dagane, who now smiles broadly and frequently plants kisses on the baby’s cheeks. “Now he sleeps the bulk of the night. When he wakes up, he is hungry and wants milk.”—Internet

Israeli bomb technicians inspect the remains of a rocket launched from Gaza Strip near the southern kibbutz of Yad Mordechay on 1 August, injuring one woman. Internet

Hamas seizes suspected rocket firers

GAZA CITY, 7 Aug—Hamas security forces in the Gaza Strip on Saturday detained two members of an Islamist group suspected of firing rockets at Israel, a source close to the Palestinian group said.

The source said the militants, who belonged to a Salafist organization called Al-Tawfird Wal Jihad, were detained in Gaza City by Hamas security forces who suspected them of being behind rocket attacks on the Jewish state.

On Thursday night, a rocket was fired at the southern town of Kiryat Gat without causing any harm, the Israeli army said. In response, an Israeli warplane attacked a group suspected of firing the rocket, a military spokesman said.

Israel retaliated for attacks from Gaza and other projectiles fired at Israel from Gaza after several months of calm following a flare-up in April when an anti-tank missile hit an Israeli school bus, killing a teenager. Internet

Moreno Valley brush fire shuts freeway

MORENO VALLEY, 7 Aug—A fast-moving brush fire in Riverside County that briefly trapped about 50 drivers when it jumped a major freeway has burned about 450 acres.

County Fire Department spokeswoman Cherri Patterson says the fire started burning dry grass and brush around 4 pm Saturday in a rugged hillside area between Moreno Valley and Beaumont.

The fire threatened drivers when it jumped State Route 60 until California Highway Patrol officers escorted them to safety. A 2-mile section of the freeway was shut while firefighters beat back the flames; the lanes slowly reopened by the evening.

The fire was 35 percent contained. Patterson said about 250 firefighters will use bulldozers through the night to clear a containment line around the fire.—Internet

Teen struck by Ohio campus officer’s stun gun dies

CINCINNATI, 7 Aug—Police say an 18-year-old attending summer classes at the University of Cincinnati was struck by a campus officer’s stun gun and died of cardiac arrest.

Officers received a 911 call about an assault at Turner Hall early Saturday. The university’s assistant police chief, Jeff Corcoran, tells The Cincinnati Enquirer that the teenage boy approached officers in the dorm hallway, appearing agitated and angry.

Corcoran says officers ordered the teen to back off, but he refused. He was then hit once by an officer’s stun gun.

Afterward, the teen appeared incoherent. He went into cardiac arrest after paramedics arrived and was pronounced dead at University Hospital.

The department has suspended the use of stun guns until his cause of death is determined. Authorities are also investigating the original 911 call.

Internet

Rat poison mixed in school meals in Brazil

SAO PAULO, 7 Aug—Police say a cook has confessed to placing rat poison in meals served in a public-school cafeteria in southern Brazil.

Police inspector Cleber Santos de Lima tells the Globo television network’s G1 website that 22 students and 16 teachers and employees of the Pacheco Prates school fell ill in the City of Porto Alegre after eating beef stroganoff.

He says all were treated in a local hospital and released. He says police were called when open packages of rat poison were found in the school kitchen.

Police questioned cafeteria employees, and one of the cooks confessed to lacing the stroganoff with rat poison.

Lima said the cook was unable to explain why she poisoned the meals.

Internet

6.1-magnitude quake hits Santa Cruz Islands

HONG KONG, 7 Aug—An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale jolted Santa Cruz Islands at 0623GMT on Sunday, the Hong Kong Observatory said.

The epicenter was determined to be 11.70 degrees south latitude and 168.20 degrees east longitude.

Internet

5.6-magnitude quake hits Santa Cruz Islands

THE  NEW  LIGHT  OF  MYANMAR  Monday, 8 August,  2011

Rescuers and local people work at the site of a residential building collapse in southern Pakistan’s City of Karachi on 6 Aug, 2011. The death toll has risen to 24 following the five-story building collapse on Thursday in Karachi. Xinhua

Internet

Earthquake hits southern Haiti

HABANA, Cuba, 7 Aug—A 5.7 magnitude earthquake jolted southern Haiti at 4:42 pm on Sunday, the Havana branch of the U.S. Geological Survey said.

Habana周刊 8/8/2011 5:54 AM
British honeymooners die in Maldives road accident

MALE, 7 Aug—Two British honeymooners have died in the tourist paradise of the Maldives, after their vehicle crashed into a tree, police said on Sunday. Staff at the northern Kuredu Island Resort discovered the unidentified couple early Saturday, while another foreign national believed to be involved in the accident, was found injured.

“They were riding a four-wheel scooter similar to a quad bike, which met with an accident,” Police spokesman Ahmed Shyam told AFP by telephone from the capital Male.—Internet

Boeing pilots to make space trip

NEW YORK, 7 Aug—Boeing says 12 of its own employees will crew the first manned mission of its new astronaut capsule. The US company has confirmed it will use the Atlas 5 rocket to test its CST-100 ship on three flights in 2015. An unmanned capsule will be used on the first and second launches. On the third, Boeing test pilots will take the vessel to the space station. The plan is dependent on a successful development programme and the availability of sufficient funding.

Boeing is one of a number of companies being encouraged by the US space agency (NASA) to develop a commercially operated crew transport service to and from low-Earth orbit.—Internet

Stem cell sperm study leads to successful mouse births

LONDON, 7 Aug—Fertility experts are hailong a mouse study in which working sperm cells were created from embryonic stem cells in mice as “hugely exciting.” Japanese researchers successfully implanted early sperm cells, made from the stem cells, into infertile mice. The working sperm which they made was then used to successfully fertilise eggs. These eggs were then transplanted into a female mouse and healthy offspring were born who grew into fertile male and female adult mice.

The team, led by Mitinori Saitou, suggest the same procedure could be carried out using stem cells derived from adult skin cells.—Internet

Polar bear kills British boy in Arctic

LONDON, 7 Aug—A polar bear mauled a 17-year-old British boy to death in the Arctic and injured four other UK tourists. Horatio Chapple, from Wiltshire, was with 12 others on a British Schools Exploring Society trip near a glacier on the Norwegian island of Spitsbergen. The four who were hurt —two severely— included two leaders of the trip. They have been flown to Tromsoe, where their condition is stable. BSES chairman Edward Watson described Mr Chapple as a “fine young man”. Mr Watson said the society had been in touch with his family —who live near Salisbury—and had offered “our utmost sympathy”. He said: “Horatio was a fine young man, hoping to go on to read medicine after school. By all accounts he would’ve made an excellent doctor.”—Internet

Baby heart defect test ‘could save lives’

LONDON, 7 Aug—A quick and cheap test could save the lives of babies born with congenital heart defects, doctors say. A study of 20,055 newborns published in The Lancet, showed testing oxygen in the blood was more successful than other checks available. The researchers have called for the oxygen test to be used in hospitals across the UK.

The British Heart Foundation said the test could “make a real difference” as cases go unnoticed. Congenital heart defects —such as holes between chambers in the heart and valve defects— affect around one in every 145 babies. They are detected by ultrasound during pregnancy or by listening to the heart after birth, however, the success rate is low.

Doctors at six maternity hospitals in the UK used pulse oximeters —a piece of technology which has been around for 20 years— to detect levels of oxygen in the blood.—Internet
**NYC woman charged with stalking Marion Cotillard**

**NEW YORK, 7 Aug—**French actress Marion Cotillard received threatening emails and videos from a New York City woman through a fan website, law enforcement officials said.

FBI agents said in a court filing that Teresa Yuan sent a series of spooky messages in July to the Oscar winner that included ramblings about wanting to play Russian Roulette with her.

“Would you be willing to play Russian Roulette?” the woman said, according to a complaint that was unsealed Thursday in federal court in the Eastern District of New York.

“If you weren’t willing and you had no choice, I’d say ‘yeah, that’s pretty unfair.’ But would you still like it that at least there’s only one bullet in this pistol?”

Yuan faces a charge of interstate stalking. Her lawyer, Michael Schneider, told The New York Daily News he wouldn’t comment on the case.

Yuan was arraigned Thursday and released on $50,000 bail. She was ordered to stay away from Cotillard and her fan website, and barred from using Internet access outside her home or on any mobile device. All other Internet use will be monitored.

**Canadian rock band Alexisonfire breaks up**

**TORONTO, 7 Aug—**The Canadian rock band Alexisonfire said Saturday it is splitting up after two members decided to leave the group in a break up that frontman George Pettit said is “not really” amicable.

The band announced its decision in a lengthy note posted to its website. The note was written by Pettit.

“There is no good way to put it so I’m just going to say it,” he wrote. “After 10 years, Alexisonfire has decided to part ways. … Was the break up amicable? Not really. Was it necessary? Probably.”

The band issued its self-titled debut album in 2002 and followed up with 2004’s platinum-selling breakthrough “Watch Out.” A moody fusion of emo, metal and hardcore, “Watch Out” won the group a mass audience that identified with its searching, angst-ridden lyrics. In 2005, they won a Juno — Canada’s version of the Grammy’s — for Best New Group of the Year.
Redknapp concern over Pienaar groin injury

LONDON, 7 Aug—Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp fears South Africa midfielder Steven Pienaar may have suffered a groin tear during his side’s 2-1 friendly win over Athletic Bilbao on Saturday. Pienaar came off in the 24th minute at White Hart Lane after pulling up sharply and Redknapp confirmed after the match that he will go to a specialist to check the extent of the injury. That could mean Pienaar misses the start of Tottenham’s Premier League campaign against his former club Everton next weekend. “Steven Pienaar picked up an injury today,” Redknapp told ITV4. “He might have torn his groin. I think we’re going to have to take him to a specialist and have a look at him. We’ll see how it goes.” —Internet

Barcelona tops Club America 2-0 in US exhibition

ARLINGTON, 7 Aug—David Villa scored on a header midway through the first half and Barcelona lived up to its reputation as the top club team in the world, beating Mexico’s Club America 2-0 Saturday in the final game of the Spanish team’s American tour.

The win at Cowboys Stadium was the first for Barcelona in three tries in the World Football Challenge, an exhibition tournament featuring top club teams from European leagues, Major League Soccer and Mexico’s first division. Barcelona lost 2-1 last week to Manchester United and 4-1 Wednesday to Chivas of Guadalajara.—Internet

FC Barcelona’s David Villa, left, controls the ball while defended by Club America’s Jorge Reyes.—Internet

Big-spending PSG fall in season opener

PARIS, 7 Aug—Paris Saint-Germain fell in its French L1 football opener at home to Lorient after an unusually long layoff stretched so long, as ever. Evans delivered a crushing knee to Tito Ortiz’s chest, then ended the fight with a series of blows to the head to shake off an unusually long lay-off and win the main event of UFC 133 on Saturday night. “I knew what I had to come in and do,” Evans said. Evans hardly looked rusty — just spectacular, in front of a Philly crowd that showered him with boos.—Internet

South Africa midfielder Steven Pienaar

Evans beats Ortiz in main event of UFC in Round 2

PHILADELPHIA, 7 Aug—In the 14 minutes Rashad Evans stayed out of the octagon, he stowed as he watched fight after fight go on without him. His layoff stretched so long, Evans even stopped thinking like a fighter. With each vicious barrage, Evans showed in his return he’s still as dangerous as ever.

Evans delivered a crushing knee to Tito Ortiz’s chest, then ended the fight with a series of blows to the head to shake off an unusually long lay-off and win the main event of UFC 133 on Saturday night. “I knew what I had to come in and do,” Evans said. Evans hardly looked rusty — just spectacular, in front of a Philly crowd that showered him with boos.—Internet

Chelsea agree fee for Belgian starlet Lukaku

LONDON, 7 Aug—Chelsea are set to sign Belgian wonderkid Romelu Lukaku from Anderlecht after agreeing a fee for the striker on Saturday.

Blues boss Andre Villas-Boas has spoken of his admiration for Lukaku following Chelsea’s friendly win over Rangers and just hours later the Premier League club moved closer to sealing a deal for the 18-year-old. Lukaku, who has been capped 10 times by Belgium, has been on Chelsea’s wanted list for several months after he scored 16 league goals in 37 appearances for Anderlecht last season. He already has two goals in two games this season but looks set to complete his move to west London for a fee worth over £18 million (past Tjanjin keeper Song Zhenyu, who was rattled by the onslaught of shots he faced against the Spanish giants.

Di Maria, who also scored against Guangzhou Evergrande on Wednesday, added another minutes later on a rebound after Song failed to hold his shot.

With the score 2-0 at half time Los Blancos asserted their authority in the second half as striker Gonzalo Higuain made it 3-0 with some nifty dribbling in the box, sending it low and extinguishing any hope Tianjin had of revenge.

It took second-half substitute Cristiano Ronaldo less than 10 minutes to get on the board by crashing in a left footed effort from 12 yards. Frenchman Karim Benzema swiftly added a double to make it 6-0.—Internet

Real Madrid destroy Tianjin Teda

LOS BLANCOS, 7 Aug—Real Madrid thrashed Tianjin Teda 6-0 in a pre-season friendly on Saturday as Los Blancos wrapped up their China tour with a display of the skills they will be deploying against Barcelona next week.

Kaka opened the scoring with a penalty eight minutes in, with the Brazilian star slotting low past Tianjin keeper Song Zhenyu, who was rattled by the onslaught of shots he faced against the Spanish giants.

Di Maria, who also scored against Guangzhou Evergrande on Wednesday, added another minutes later on a rebound after Song failed to hold his shot.

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Anderlecht striker Romelu Lukaku

Rashad Evans (L) and Tito Ortiz chat after Evans’ second-round TKO victory in Saturday’s UFC 133 main event.—Internet

Rockies pitcher Nicasio has neck surgery after hit

DENVER, 7 Aug—Rockies pitcher Juan Nicasio underwent neck surgery Saturday to stabilize a fracture after he was struck in the head by a line drive.

The team said in a statement he was “resting comfortably” at a Denver hospital after surgery on the C-1 vertebrae in his neck.

The rookie right-hander was injured in the second inning Friday night on a liner by Washington’s Ian Desmond. The ball slammed into the right side of Nicasio’s head and bounced back into foul territory.

Nicasio went down and lay on the mound for several minutes as he was treated by the training staff. He was moved onto a cart by four medical personnel workers. Teammate Todd Helton and manager Jim Tracy assisted. Rockies head athletic trainer Kevin Dugger planned to give an update on Nicasio on Saturday afternoon.

Answers to yesterday’s Crosswords Puzzle

BLAZER WEIGHT
OBS POS DUS
LEAST POSSUM
EN KR LL U
RADIATE MERE
GO ON RANT

SNUG DVID
DE E V M
APSE SLEEPER
MC T SMLO
STAMINA BLOOM
ERS YER P
LEECH PRIEST

Colorado Rockies starting pitcher Juan Nicasio (44) lies on the mound with trainer Keith Dugger attending to him after being beaned by a come-backer from Washington Nationals’ Ian Desmond (6) during the second inning of a baseball game on 5 Aug, 2011 in Denver.—Internet

Woods endures another erratic day at Firestone

AKRON, 7 Aug—Tiger Woods again mixed the good with the bad on his PGA Tour return as he toiled to a two-over-par 72 at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational on Saturday in only his third tournament round in three months. Shaking his head in disgust with each missed putt or wayward tee shot, the former world number one battled to a one-over total of 211 as most of his rivals gorged themselves on birdies at Firestone Country Club.

Woods, whose previous tour event was the Players Championship in May, recorded four bogeys and two birdies to end the third round 13 strokes off the lead, a day of frustration summed up by a missed three-foot putt at the last.—Internet

Tiger Woods lies on the mound with trainer Keith Dugger attending to him after being beaned by a come-backer from Washington Nationals’ Ian Desmond (6) during the second inning of a baseball game on 5 Aug, 2011 in Denver.—Internet
Man United beats City in Shield with comeback win

WEMBLEY, 7 Aug—New players, same old spirit. Six Alex handed four players competitive debuts at Wembley in the Reds’ injury-time Community Shield victory on Sunday, but despite the fresh faces United displayed the same never-say-die attitude that has become the hallmark of the manager’s modern teams.

In the space of six second-half minutes, goals from Chris Smalling and Nani turned around a two-goal deficit and seized back the momentum Manchester City had stolen at the end of the first period. Then, with the match in the fourth minute of injury time and seemingly poised for penalties, Nani charged down a Vincent Kompany clearance on the halfway line, sprinted clear, rounded Joe Hart in the City goal and slid the ball home to clinch the season’s first piece of silverware.

Many had written United off by half-time after goals from Joleon Lescott and Edin Dzeko—albeit against the run of play—had given the Blues what looked to be an unsellable lead. But changes at the break, including the introduction of debutants Phil Jones and Tom Cleverley, prompted a United fightback that epitomised the strength of character Sir Alex so often speaks of. The Reds began brightly at Wembley, barely allowing City a kick for the first five minutes and going close when Smalling

Nemanja Vidic of Man U holds the Community Shield after victory in the FA Community Shield match.

Nani scored in injury time Sunday at Wembley to give Manchester United a 3-2 win over Manchester City in English football’s season-opening Community Shield, completing his team’s comeback from 2-0 down.

Many had written United off by half-time after goals from Joleon Lescott and Edin Dzeko—albeit against the run of play—had given the Blues what looked to be an unsellable lead. But changes at the break, including the introduction of debutants Phil Jones and Tom Cleverley, prompted a United fightback that epitomised the strength of character Sir Alex so often speaks of. The Reds began brightly at Wembley, barely allowing City a kick for the first five minutes and going close when Smalling

Man United beats City in Shield with comeback win

Nemanja Vidic of Man U holds the Community Shield after victory in the FA Community Shield match.
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

Flood warning
NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug—According to the 12.30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River in Toungoo is 573 cm. It may reach its danger level 600 cm during the next 24 hours commencing this noon, said the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug—Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint inspected roadworks on Hlinethaya-Twantay Road being carried out by Zay Kaba Company with B.O.T system yesterday.

The Union Minister inspected condition of roads and bridges along Twantay-Maubin Road and called for earliest completion of tarring Twantay-Maubin Road in meeting with Superintending Engineer of Yangon Region U Thein Hsaing, Superintending Engineer of Ayeyawady Region U Kyaw Kyaw and Managing Director U Kyaw Lin of Public Works at the briefing hall.

He then inspected laying of gravels and asphalt between mile post No. 15/1 and 17/2 on the road. While inspecting roadworks along Maletto-Mezali Road being carried out by Maubin District Public Works, the Union Minister called for stockpiling of gravels in monsoon and proper flow of drainage.—MNA

Farmers from Kayin State on study tour in Nay Pyi Taw Council Region

Man United beats City in Shield with comeback win