### 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 characters
- Flourishing of Union Spirit, the true patriotism
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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#### Union Minister Reshuffled

**NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug**—The President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar today issued Order No. 45/2011 dated 10 August 2011. The following is the translation of the order—

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

**President Office**

**Order No. 45/2011**

**11th Waxing of Wagaung 1373 ME**

**Committee of the Ministry of Mines**

In accord with Section 232 of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 12 of Union Government Law, Union Minister for Industry-1 U Kyaw Swa Khaing is reshuffled as Union Minister at the President Office with effect from today.

_Sd/_ Thein Sein  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

#### Spokespersons and Information Team formed

**NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug**—The President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued Notification No.75/2011 today. The translation of the notification is as follows:-

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

**President Office**

**Notification No.75/2011**

**11th Waxing of Wagaung 1373 ME**

**Formation of Spokespersons and Information Team**

In accord with Section 24, Subsection (a) of the Union Government Law, Spokespersons and Information Team has been formed with the following persons in order that it can assume the duties of releasing news and information and holding press conferences occasionally regarding the political, economic, security, military and natural disaster affairs of the State.

(a) U Kyaw Hsan  
Union Minister  
Ministry of Information

(b) Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Home Affairs

(c) U Maung Myint  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

(d) U Soe Win  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Labour

(e) U Myint Thein  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Labour

(f) U Tun Tun Oo  
Deputy Attorney-General  
Union Attorney-General’s Office

(g) MPF Chief Kyaw Kyaw Tun  
Chief  
Myanmar Police Force

(h) Col Lu Aye  
Brig-Gen General Staff  
Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army)

(i) U Tin Myo Kyi  
Director-General  
Union Government Office

(j) U Ye Min  
Deputy Director-General  
President Staff Office

(k) U Zaw Min Oo  
Managing Director  
News and Periodicals Enterprise

_Sd/_ Thein Sein  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

#### Union Minister appointed concurrently as Union Minister for Industry-1

**NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug**—The President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar today issued Order No. 46/2011 dated 10 August 2011. The following is the translation of the order—

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

**President Office**

**Order No. 46/2011**

**11th Waxing of Wagaung 1373 ME**

**Committee of the Ministry of Mines**

In accord with Section 232 of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 12 of Union Government Law, Union Minister for Industry-1 U Soe Thein is appointed concurrently as Union Minister for Industry-1 with effect from today.

_Sd/_ Thein Sein  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

#### Coordination meeting on holding of low-grade utility jade exhibition held

**NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug**—The coordination meeting on holding of low-grade utility jade exhibition to be organized by Myanmar Gems Exhibition Central Committee of the Ministry of Mines in August 2011 was held at Mani Yadana Jade Hall here this morning, attended by Patron of the committee Union Minister for Mines U Thein Huik. It was also attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, officials of respective work committees, and responsible persons.

The Union Minister in his address said that the low-grade utility jade exhibition will be held from 12 to 16 August in Nay Pyi Taw for the first time, that the State aims that national gem merchants can purchase low-grade utility jades Myanmar currency in order to resell them as value-added jewelries, that in the past, (See page 8)
**PERSPECTIVES**

Thursday, 11 August, 2011

**Provide full port services**

Yangon Port, the key maritime trade of Myanmar, sees rapid flows of commodities. With the developing global maritime transport today, the number of ocean vessels entering Yangon Port has been on the increase.

A work coordination meeting on development of Yangon Port took place at the office of Myanma Port Authority under the Ministry of Transport on 9 August, and it was attended by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thida Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo.

There are a total of 23 international jetties—seventeen at Yangon Port and six at Thilawa Port—and 23 large vessels can be moored to those jetties simultaneously. In 2010-2011, 476 container vessels and 1143 general cargo vessels totalling 1619 arrived at Yangon Port.

As for the cargo handling, about 20 million tons of cargos can be handled a year. So, measures will have to be taken to handle up to 100 million tons in the long run. In addition to the extension of the port, measures are also being taken to dig watercourse in order that 30000- to 35000-ton vessels can enter.

On completion of the project, there will be 41 jetties and 43 vessels can enter spontaneously. As it is the project that can handle about 100 million tons of cargos a year, systematic measures are being taken to ensure a modern port capable of providing services of international standard.

Likewise, upgrading tasks for Thilawa Port are being carried out. By making efforts for the soonest completion of the project so that Yangon Port can provide its full services, there should be 476 container vessels and 1143 general cargo vessels—seventeen at Yangon Port and six at Thilawa Port—twenty at Thilawa Port and twenty at Yangon Port can be moored to those jetties simultaneously. In 2010-2011, 476 container vessels and 1143 general cargo vessels totalling 1619 arrived at Yangon Port.

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Likewise, upgrading tasks for Thilawa Port are being carried out. By making efforts for the soonest completion of the project so that Yangon Port can provide its full services, all the ports will be able to operate at full capacity, thereby contributing to the national economy.

**Grade-II, III Course No. 88 opens**

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug—The opening of Union Auditor-General’s Office Grade-II, Grade-III Course No. 88 was held at the office here today. Deputy Auditor-General U Myo Myint urged that the trainees are to try hard in work atmosphere by taking lessons of the course. It was also attended by the director-general, deputy director-general, directors, trainers and 179 trainees.—MNA

**Union Energy Minister receives foreign guests**

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug—Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay received Asia and Pacific In-charge Director Mr Walt Bradbury of Caterpillar Inc and party from the United States of America, and another delegation led by Executive Vice President Mr Yuji Fukuda of ITOCHU Corporation from Japan at the ministry today separately. They discussed matters relating to offshore and inland natural gas exploration tasks, pipeline laying, construction of petrochemical based factories, cooperation in repair works and technology rendering. Also present at the calls were Deputy Minister for Energy U Soe Aung, the acting director-general of Department managing directors and officials.—MNA

**Prospects for trade and economic cooperation discussed**

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received Executive Vice President Mr Yuji Fukuda of ITOCHU Company and senior executive officials of Mitsubishi from Japan at the ministry here today. The discussion focused on trade and economic cooperation. It was also attended by Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan, directors-general and officials concerned.—MNA

**Application for Democratic Alliance Party submitted**

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug—Applications are being put in to the Union Election Commission for formation of political parties. Seventeen people including Dr Soe Lin today applied for setting up Democratic Alliance Party.

Regarding the application, the Union Election Commission has requested related ministries to vet the applicants to find out whether or not they meet the provisions of Section 4 and Section 6 of Political Parties Registration Law.—MNA

**MCF President’s Cup Chess Tourney commences**

YANGON, 10 Aug—The Myanmar Chess Federation President’s Cup Myanmar Traditional Chess Individual Tournament kicked off at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this afternoon. Chairman of the Myanmar Traditional Chess Committee MD of Future Engineering Group U Win Aung donated K 1 million to the funds of the federation. The tourney will last up to 16 August.—MNA
Military killed Taleban who downed US helicopter

WASHINGTON, 10 Aug—The top commander in Afghanistan says international forces killed the Taleban insurgents responsible for downing a US helicopter and killing 38 US and Afghan forces over the weekend.

Marine Corps Gen John Allen told a Pentagon news conference Wednesday that forces learned where the insurgents had fled to and killed them in an early Monday morning air strike.

A separate statement to the media from Afghanistan said the strike killed Taleban leader Mullah Mohribullah and the insurgent who fired the rocket-propelled grenade that downed the Chinook helicopter.—Internet

Two killed, 15 wounded in Iraq’s bomb attacks

BAGHDAD, 10 Aug—Two people were killed and 15 wounded in separate bomb attacks in central and eastern Iraq on Wednesday, while the police arrested 52 suspects during the day, the police said.

Two gunmen were killed when a roadside bomb detonated while they were trying to plant it in northern the city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, a local police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In a separate incident, a booby-trapped car went off in al-Taji area, some 20 km north of Baghdad, wounding six civilians, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua anonymously because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

In Baghdad, eight people were wounded, including two policemen and two soldiers, when a roadside bomb exploded late on Tuesday near a joint police and Iraqi army patrol in Jelshin district in northern the capital.

US drone strike kills 21 in northwest Pakistan

PESHAWAR, 10 Aug—A US drone fired two missiles into Pakistan’s North Waziristan tribal region on the Afghan border on Wednesday, killing at least 21 suspected militants, including foreigners, local officials said, in one of the biggest attacks in weeks.

The drone targeted a house 3 km (2 miles) east of Miranshah, the main town of the region, known to be a hotbed of Taleban and al Qaeda militants.

“The dead included local Taleban as well as some Arabs and Uzbek nationals,” one intelligence official in North Waziristan said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

It was not immediately known if any high-profile militants were among the dead. Militants often dispute official account of such strikes.

Initial reports said five militants were killed in the attack but officials said the toll had gone up to 21 after more bodies were found from the rubble of the house.—Reuters

Explosion rocks Herat city in west Afghanistan

HERAT, 10 Aug—An explosion rocked Herat city, 640 km west of capital City Kabul on Wednesday, an official said.

“The vehicle was damaged in the blast,” he said. He blamed the enemies of peace, a term used against Taleban militants by Afghan officials for organizing the attack, adding the enemies planted a mine under a bridge but caused no loss of life.

Casualties of Afghan people in invasion of NATO troops led by US

KABUL, 10 Aug—The NATO troops led by the US have invaded Afghanistan and they are there for a long time.

A number of Afghan people are killed and injured due to invasion of the NATO troops led by the US.

Casualties of Afghan people

According to the Internet news, a total of 34172 Afghan people were killed and 41848 injured seriously as from the day when the NATO troops led by the US invaded Afghanistan to 10 Aug.

No. | Subject                  | Number  
--- | ------------------------ | ------- 
1.  | Number of Afghan people killed | 34172  
2.  | Seriously injured Afghan people | 41848
Peru researchers make rare ancient insect find

LIMA, 10 Aug—Researchers in Peru said Tuesday they have discovered the remains of ancient insects and sunflower seeds trapped inside amber dating from the Miocene epoch, some 23 million years ago. The rare find was made in the remote mountainous jungle region near Peru’s northern border with Ecuador, paleontologist Klaus Honninger told AFP.

“The new discoveries are very important, because the insects and sunflower seeds confirm the type of climate that existed during the Miocene period,” Honninger said in a telephone interview from the northern City of Chiclayo.

The paleontologists discovered hundreds of pieces of amber up to 12 centimetres (five inches) large containing several types of insects,” Honninger said. The insects trapped in the amber — fossilized tree resin — are extremely well preserved and include ancient beetles, barklice, flies and spiders.

Honninger, director of the Chiclayo-based Meyer-Honninger Paleontology Museum, said that the experts discovered “an unknown species of arachnid” with a head like a dog and legs four times longer than the body. The discovery was made in April in the Santiago River area of northern Peru.

Extreme climate change from the Miocene epoch (23 to 5.3 million years ago) was likely the reason the insects became extinct, Honninger said. —Internet

A combo image made available by the European Space Agency (ESA) from March 2011 shows newly formed icebergs in Antarctica. The tsunami that struck Japan in March propagated waves that hit the Sülberger ice shelf in Antarctica 13,000 kilometres (8,100 miles) away, smashing parts of it into huge icebergs.—INTERNET

Tsunami caused Manhattan-sized iceberg in Antarctica

PARIS, 10 Aug—The tsunami that struck Japan on 11 March propagated waves that hit an ice shelf in Antarctica. The tsunami, 13,000 kilometres (8,100 miles) away, smashing parts of it into huge icebergs, the European Space Agency (ESA) said on Tuesday.

On 12 March, ESA’s Envisat Earth-monitoring satellite spotted icebergs that had broken from the Sülberger ice shelf, and on March 16, the pieces were seen floating into the Ross Sea, it said.

The largest berg measured about 9.5 kms (5.9 miles) by 6.5 kms (four miles), making it slightly bigger in surface area than Manhattan, and had a likely depth of about 80 metres (260 feet). The tsunami was at least 23 metres (76 feet) high after it had been generated by an underwater quake of 9.0 magnitude, according to Japanese estimates published a week after the event.

Analysis of Envisat’s radar pictures by experts in the United States suggests that the waves were probably only about 30 centimetres (18 inches) high by the time they had crossed 13,000 kilometres (8,100 miles) of ocean.

Even so, the rhythmic up-and-down movement was enough to stress the ice shelf’s rigid structure, causing chunks to break off at its edge, ESA said in a Press release. —Internet

Nokia to focus on Windows Phones in US

SAN FRANCISCO, 10 Aug—Nokia is planning to stop selling its low-end phones and smartphones in the United States, instead focusing on products using Microsoft’s Windows Phone platform, US media reported on Tuesday. The Finnish handset maker will end sales of its low-end Series 40 phones and smartphones based on the Symbian mobile maker will end sales of its low-end Series 40 phones and smartphones based on the Symbian mobile operating system in the United States and Canada, as it needs to put all of its efforts into the Windows Phone products which are due out later this year, Chris Weber, head of Nokia’s US subsidiary, told technology news site All Things Digital.

“When we launch Windows Phones we will essentially be out of the Symbian business, the $40 billion business, etc.,” Weber said. In February, Nokia and Microsoft announced plans to form a broad strategic partnership, under which Nokia agrees to adopt Windows Phone as its principal smartphone strategy.

North America is a priority for Nokia, Weber noted, in part because it is a key market for Microsoft and also because Nokia sees it as a key to winning in the smartphone battle globally.

“We’ll develop for North America and make the phones globally available and applicable,” Weber said.—Xinhua

A picture released in Lima by the Peruvian Paleontological Meyer-Höningen Museum of Chiclayo in northern Peru, shows detailed fossilized insect remains preserved in amber for over 23 million years, found in an excavation in the Santiago river basin, in the Amazon Region.—INTERNET

Apple blocks Samsung from selling Galaxy tablet in EU

SEOUL, 10 Aug—Apple Inc scored a big victory in its patent infringement battle against Samsung Electronics after a German court barred the Korean firm from temporarily selling its flagship Galaxy tablet in the European Union except the Netherlands. The court order comes a week after Samsung was forced to delay the Australian launch of its latest Galaxy tablet because of similar lawsuits. Apple has said Samsung’s Galaxy line of mobile phones and tablets “slavishly” copied the iPhone and iPad. It has sued in the United States, Australia and elsewhere. Samsung has countersued Apple.

“There’s no doubt the court decision will have an adverse effect on Samsung,” said Lee Seung-woo, analyst at Shinyong Securities in Seoul. "Samsung’s Galaxy Tab tablet during a press conference in Seoul on 18 January, 2011.—INTERNET

An employee of Samsung Electronics demonstrates Samsung’s Galaxy Tab tablet during a photo opportunity at a showroom of the company in Seoul on 18 January, 2011. —INTERNET

iOS 5 beta version issued to developers

SEOUL, 10 Aug—iOS 5, the latest iteration of Apple’s mobile operating system, has been dished out in beta version to developers, according to media reports on Tuesday.

Judging by the early reports, the upgrade over iOS 4 won’t be particularly enormous. There are bunch of bug fixes and full compatibility with iCloud. Also some sort of text-to-speech function is on the docket. Ian Paul, a technology-focused freelance writer for PC World, noted that much of iOS 5 feels familiar. In fact, iOS 5, Paul says, gets a lot of its best features from Android.

Paul has compiled a list of the “ripped-off” functionalities, which include greater social media integration and over-the-air updates (as opposed to Apple updates now, which require the user to plug his or her device into a computer). Paul said, “You might even call these new features magical or revolutionary, unless you’re an Android user, then you’d call them ‘stuff I’ve been using for years.’ The latest additions to Apple’s mobile OS are probably a welcome relief for iPhone and iPad fans.”—Xinhua

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Even so, the rhythmic up-and-down movement was enough to stress the ice shelf’s rigid structure, causing chunks to break off at its edge, ESA said in a Press release. —Internet
EU offers 2.1 m euros for E coli research

BRUSSELS, 10 Aug—The EU is to invest 2.2 million euros in research on the new killer E coli strain which infected almost 4,000 people and left 51 dead across Europe and caused massive losses to vegetable farmers. The European Commission’s decision Tuesday “to get as full a scientific picture as possible” of virulent Escherichia coli came as Russia lifted a costly ban slapped on EU vegetables over the row.

Russia, which imports a total 600 million euros ($859 million) of European Union vegetables a year, introduced the ban 2 June after initial reports blamed European produce. The culprit was eventually found to be Egyptian fenugreek seeds. Producers of cucumbers, tomatoes, lettuce, co-urgettes and bell peppers, withdrawn from the market between late May and the end of June, have been promised 227 million euros in compensation.

Funds to put the new killer strain under the microscope are part of a 12-million-euro project to reinforce Europe’s capacity for tackling pathogens.

“The research will focus on ways to prevent future epidemics and deal with new outbreaks,” the commission said.—Internet

Disney third quarter beats Street but caution prevails

LOS ANGELES, 10 Aug—Walt Disney Co’s quarterly results surpassed cautious Wall Street expectations, but the media and entertainment giant now has to grapple with an uncertain outlook for consumer spending.

Investors had expected a strong performance after rivals like Time Warner Inc outperformed, and Disney delivered with growth at its ESPN sports network and other cable channels. But worries about the economy and a global markets selloff are spurring fears that consumers will curb trips to movie theaters and theme parks, or that advertisers will pull back after a recent spending binge as corporate budgets tighten.

“If there was any economic weakness, the parks business would be the most vulnerable to that. As of now, they haven’t seen any weakness,” said Morningstar analyst Michael Corty. Disney shares were down 1.7 percent at $34.10 in after-hours trade, giving up part of a 5 percent gain during the regular session where it closed at $34.70.

Studio entertainment operating income plummeted 60 percent to $49 million.—Reuters

Singapore cuts growth forecasts on EU, US downside risks

SINGAPORE, 10 Aug— Singapore’s Ministry of Trade and Industry and trade promotion body International Enterprise (IE) Singapore cut their growth forecasts for the country’s economy and exports, respectively, on Wednesday, highlighting increased downside risks in the second half.

The stock market does not seem to be faring well, either. The benchmark Straits Times Index reversed early gains by noon at 2,859.86, down 24.04 points, or 0.83 percent. The Ministry of Trade and Industry released its final growth statistics for the second quarter, which represented an upward revision to 0.9 percent from its previously released flash estimate of 0.5 percent. The full-year growth forecast, however, was revised from 5.7 percent to 5.6 percent.

The downside risks for the Singapore economy have increased, though the impact of high oil prices and supply chain disruptions from the Japan earthquake have subsided, it said.

Xinhua
Technical failure might cause cargo plane incident in Far East

VLADIVOSTOK, 10 Aug—Technical failure or pilot errors are blamed for the incident of An-12 cargo plane which disappeared in Russia’s Far East on Tuesday, most likely crashed, local authorities said.

The cargo plane, with 11 people aboard, flew from Magadan to Kepervem and requested an emergency landing at the Magadan Airport due to the engine malfunction before it disappeared from radar screens, RIA Novosti news agency quoted Russia’s Far East Regional Emergency Centre as saying.

The 11 people aboard the plane included crew members and local residents. So far, the plane has not been found yet and no information about those people are available. The emergency centre said that more than 140 people and 20 vehicles are involved in the search of the missing aircraft.

It was reported that Russian officials in Far East said that the plane had crashed in a remote forest area and all 11 people aboard might have been killed.—Xinhua

Turbulence forces flight to divert to Charleston

CHARLESTON, 10 Aug—Severe turbulence on Tuesday prompted an American Airlines pilot to divert a Washington-bound flight carrying 152 passengers to Charleston, South Carolina for safety reasons.

The Boeing 737-800 plane from Miami landed without incident at about 4:30 pm local time after encountering turbulence over north Florida, said American Airlines spokesman Ed Martin.

“The turbulence was severe enough that the pilot’s considered opinion was to get the airplane down safely,” Martelle said.

He said one passenger and two flight attendants from Flight 734 were taken to a local hospital. An airport spokesman said two ambulances transported six people to local hospitals.

The plane will be out of service until it is checked out and cleared by mechanics, Martelle said.

The airline was aiming to get passengers back on their way to Washington by 7 pm local time.

Oil leak from sunken cargo ship eases in Mumbai

MUMBAI, 10 Aug—The flow of oil leak from one sunken cargo ship in offshore Mumbai has reduced to eight to 10 tons per day from 35 to 40 tons per day in earlier days, said a statement later Tuesday by Indian Ministry of Shipping.

“The continuous trail of the oil leak from the vessel is observed up to five to eight nautical miles as compared to 12 nautical miles earlier,” added the statement.

Besides the oil patches in Juha beach, deposits of tar balls were noticed in the mouth of an estuary closed to Alibaug and three or four silvery patches were also noticed close to Dadar beach and Bandra Bandstand, according to the statement.—Xinhua

Truck crashes into Mexican nursery school, kills six

MONTERREY, 10 Aug—A tractor trailer loaded with cement crashed into a day-care centre in northern Mexico on Tuesday, killing three small girls and three adults.

Nuevo Leon state officials said the truck might have had a brake failure before it crashed into the small building, which was made of mud bricks and is run by a social service agency of the Mexican government.

The girls were aged 2, 4 and 6, State Civil Defence Director Jorge Camacho Rincón said. The adults included a man whose car was hit by the truck near the building and two inside.

Anti-technology group sent college bomb

MEXICO CITY, 10 Aug—An anti-technology group calling itself “Individuals Tending to Savagery” was responsible for a package bomb that injured two university professors just outside Mexico City, a state prosecutor said Tuesday.

Mexico’s Attorney General’s Office announced that a suspicious envelope presumably containing explosives was found at Mexico’s National Polytechnic Institute on Tuesday, though it didn’t detonate.

The office has opened investigations into both incidents, it said in a statement late Tuesday.

The explosion Monday at the Monterrey Technological Institute’s campus in the State of Mexico on the outskirts of the capital Monday injured two professors, one of whom was involved in robotics research. Neither suffered life-threatening injuries.

Mexico State Attorney General Alfredo Castillo said at a news conference that the group’s involvement was identified from a partially destroyed note found at the scene. Castillo said the group opposes experiments with nanotechnology and has staged attacks on academics before.—Internet

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VLADIVOSTOK, 10 Aug—Technical failure or pilot errors are blamed for the incident of An-12 cargo plane which disappeared in Russia’s Far East on Tuesday, most likely crashed, local authorities said.

The cargo plane, with 11 people aboard, flew from Magadan to Kepervem and requested an emergency landing at the Magadan Airport due to the engine malfunction before it disappeared from radar screens, RIA Novosti news agency quoted Russia’s Far East Regional Emergency Centre as saying.

The 11 people aboard the plane included crew members and local residents. So far, the plane has not been found yet and no information about those people are available. The emergency centre said that more than 140 people and 20 vehicles are involved in the search of the missing aircraft.

It was reported that Russian officials in Far East said that the plane had crashed in a remote forest area and all 11 people aboard might have been killed.—Xinhua

Turbulence forces flight to divert to Charleston

CHARLESTON, 10 Aug—Severe turbulence on Tuesday prompted an American Airlines pilot to divert a Washington-bound flight carrying 152 passengers to Charleston, South Carolina for safety reasons.

The Boeing 737-800 plane from Miami landed without incident at about 4:30 pm local time after encountering turbulence over north Florida, said American Airlines spokesman Ed Martin.

“The turbulence was severe enough that the pilot’s considered opinion was to get the airplane down safely,” Martelle said.

He said one passenger and two flight attendants from Flight 734 were taken to a local hospital. An airport spokesman said two ambulances transported six people to local hospitals.

The plane will be out of service until it is checked out and cleared by mechanics, Martelle said.

The airline was aiming to get passengers back on their way to Washington by 7 pm local time.

Oil leak from sunken cargo ship eases in Mumbai

MUMBAI, 10 Aug—The flow of oil leak from one sunken cargo ship in offshore Mumbai has reduced to eight to 10 tons per day from 35 to 40 tons per day in earlier days, said a statement later Tuesday by Indian Ministry of Shipping.

“The continuous trail of the oil leak from the vessel is observed up to five to eight nautical miles as compared to 12 nautical miles earlier,” added the statement.

Besides the oil patches in Juha beach, deposits of tar balls were noticed in the mouth of an estuary closed to Alibaug and three or four silvery patches were also noticed close to Dadar beach and Bandra Bandstand, according to the statement.—Xinhua

Truck crashes into Mexican nursery school, kills six

MONTERREY, 10 Aug—A tractor trailer loaded with cement crashed into a day-care centre in northern Mexico on Tuesday, killing three small girls and three adults.

Nuevo Leon state officials said the truck might have had a brake failure before it crashed into the small building, which was made of mud bricks and is run by a social service agency of the Mexican government.

The girls were aged 2, 4 and 6, State Civil Defence Director Jorge Camacho Rincón said. The adults included a man whose car was hit by the truck near the building and two inside.

Anti-technology group sent college bomb

MEXICO CITY, 10 Aug—An anti-technology group calling itself “Individuals Tending to Savagery” was responsible for a package bomb that injured two university professors just outside Mexico City, a state prosecutor said Tuesday.

Mexico’s Attorney General’s Office announced that a suspicious envelope presumably containing explosives was found at Mexico’s National Polytechnic Institute on Tuesday, though it didn’t detonate.

The office has opened investigations into both incidents, it said in a statement late Tuesday.

The explosion Monday at the Monterrey Technological Institute’s campus in the State of Mexico on the outskirts of the capital Monday injured two professors, one of whom was involved in robotics research. Neither suffered life-threatening injuries.

Mexico State Attorney General Alfredo Castillo said at a news conference that the group’s involvement was identified from a partially destroyed note found at the scene. Castillo said the group opposes experiments with nanotechnology and has staged attacks on academics before.—Internet
Japan used embryonic stem cells from sperm produced from stem cells. Internet

New Zealand's baby mice born from sperm

Experts grow mouse sperm to help with human infertility

Two critically injured in explosion near Los Angeles

MEXICO CITY, 10 Aug.—An accused drug trafficker can’t be extradited to the US on a charge for which she was acquitted in Mexico, a Mexican federal court panel has ruled, dealing a blow to efforts in both countries to prosecute alleged narco criminals.

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**Coordinator meeting…**

(Myanmar Jade, Gem and Pearl Exhibition was held three times a financial year, that the low-grade quality jade exhibition will be held two times during Myanmar Jade, Gem and Pearl Exhibitions starting from this year, that measures are being taken to hold not only the exhibitions taken part by both local and foreign gem merchants foreign exchange but also the such exhibitions partaken by local merchants Myanmar currency. He then called for preparatory arrangements for successful holding of the exhibition.

The attendees took part in the meeting.—MNA

**Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik addresses coordination meeting on sales of low-grade utility jade.—MNA**

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**Union Education Minister encourages school health week activities**

_Yangon, 10 Aug—Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye visited No. 1 Basic Education High Schools in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe this morning to encourage school health week activities._

The Union Minister viewed the educational booth, educational talks and students having medical checks-up. He called students for personal hygiene and dissemination of one’s own knowledge. Likewise, Education Planning and Training Department Director-general U Bo Win and Myanmar Education Research Bureau U Ohn Myint encouraged school health activities at No. 2 BEHS in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe.—MNA

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**Flood victims cared in Toungoo, Bago**

_YANGON, 10 Aug—Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win on 8 August met flood victim people at the relief camp in the precinct of Chaungmashisaw Pagoda in Toungoo._

_The Chief Minister gave instructions on supply of adequate foods and taking care of health for victims._

At Shwegugyi Pagoda, he met flood victims and then inspected Yodayaupak Bridge. On 9 August, he met flood victim people at Shwenatha relief camp in Bago. He inspected inundation on Yangon-Mandalay Highway. After visiting the relief camps in Bago, the Chief Minister comforted them.—MNA

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**Torrential rain cause floods in some Regions and States**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Aug—Torrential rains persisted from 7 until 9 August across the nation, causing floods in some Regions and States. People in the flooded areas were evacuated and provided accommodation at temporary relief camps in schools, monastic education schools and prayer halls. Responsible persons and well-wishers are providing meals, rice, edible oil, cash assistance and water, and medical staff, health care to the evacuees._

In Yangon Region on 8 August, heavy rains destroyed two wooden bridges and one inter-district wooden bridge in Okkan, and two wooden bridges in Taikkyi Township. Altogether 176 families are accommodated in seven temporary relief camps.

It rained heavily in Thandwe, Rakhine State, on 7 and 8 August, flooding Wards (1), (2), (4) and (6) in coastal area, and Maga Street on urban area. About 60 families are now staying in the relief camps. The heavy rain in Taungup on 9 August destroyed a wooden bridge at mile post No. 172 on Taungup-Thandwe Road. Taungup in Sagaing Region saw pouring rain on 7 August, and Zaydan Ward and Sawdwar-inn Ward came under tides as tall as about two feet. Over 500 families were evacuated to safe places. They are being provided with meals and drinking water. The District Department of Health has opened a health centre at the township Red Cross Society in Zaydan Ward (4) to give health care to the victims.

Floods due to torrential rains on 8 August destroyed the retaining wall of Hseikhmyaingku concrete bridge on Bogyoke Street in Phaugyipyn, the wooden bridge over the Natdagar Creek between Nyanuglon and Myitha villages of Pyindawl Village-tract in Kalay Township, and the approach structure to the self-reliant wooden bridge between Kyuangduik and Heedaw U villages. Ninety-eight victims of 28 families are now at the temporary relief camp. And 427 victims of 97 families were evacuated to Aungmingalar Theatre on Aungmyeman Ward. They were provided with rice. The nationwide rain did not spare Kalewa. On 8 August, the heavy rain caused landslide from a mountain, blocking Kalewa-Kale Road between mile post Nos 1/3 and 1/4 and between 2/6 and 2/7. The overflow water from the Chindwin River has caused floods on Bogyoke Street in Kale. The swollen river also provoked floods in Ward (3), and two families were moved to the temporary relief camp.

The Bailey bridge with a wooden floor on Tiddim-Thaingngin Road due to landslides. Hunzun wooden bridge on the earth road leading to Htatzwe Village and Hunzun Village, and the wooden bridge over Hanzhangwe Creek on the earth work leading to Htatzwe Village and Teinzig Village were ravaged by the raging creek. Those responsible are now making repairs to the destroyed roads and bridges. Local authorities and well-wishers are providing relief supplies, and health care to the victims at the relief camps.—MNA
Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye inspects maintenance of bridge across Namma Creek. —MNA

**Union Defence Minister receives Singaporean Ambassador**

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug—Union Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Hla Min received Singaporean Ambassador Mr. Chua Hian Kong Robert at the ministry, here, this afternoon. Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt and Captain Aung Thaw and officials.—MNA

**Farmers, fishermen of Taninthayi Region benefit from micro-credit scheme**

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug — As part of poverty alleviation drive, Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Khin Zaw handed over loans to farmers in Launglon Township yesterday. During the visit to Waiyi Village in the township, the Chief Minister and businessmen who contributed cash to the micro-credit schemes presented cash as capital, agricultural machinery and fertilizers to farmers as part of the micro-credit scheme for poverty alleviation. Similarly, the Chief Minister also went to Kyaukbin Village-tract and handed over cash and fishing equipment to local fishermen. At night, the Chief Minister met with vendors at Strand Market in Dawei and presented K 60,000 each to 100 vendors. During the visits, the Chief Minister also donated books to village libraries. —MNA

**Relief camps opened in Toungoo to care for flood victims**

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug—As torrential rain inundated Ward Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10 and 21, Moegoung Ward, Thaphazin Ward and Shanpyay Ward in Toungoo yesterday, 3122 persons from 621 households were evacuated to 11 relief camps.

Officials and well-wishers are providing food, drinking water and cash assistance for the flood victims at the temporary relief camps opened at schools, monasteries and Dhammayons. Health staff are also rendering the victims.—MNA

**Sagaw Region Chief Minister supervises development undertakings**

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug—Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye attended the opening of Panthazin Library in Panku Village of Pinlebu Township and furnished the library with publications.

The chief minister met with township-level departmental personnel, town elders, members of social organizations and locals at Pinlebu Gym and provided uniforms to social organizations and publications to libraries. He also inspected Namma Creek wooden bridge.

He then visited Pinlebu Township People’s Hospital and comforted the patients. On 7 August, the chief minister inspected construction of new school building of Kyaukant Village Basic Education Primary School and attended the opening of Tanugpon Village Basic Education Primary School.—MNA

**Amendment to note of Election Objection No. 4/2011 heard**

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug—Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye and all members heard Amendment to note of Election Objection No. 4/2011 at the office of the Union Election Commission, here, at 10 am today.—MNA

**Heavy rain floods Bago Region**

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug—Many parts of Bago Region were flooded due to heavy rain from 6 to 9 August. Temporary rescue camps are being opened for flood-hit households at schools, monasteries and Dhammayons. Well-wishers are providing packets of cooked rice, rice, edible oil, cash and drinking water for the victims and health staff members are providing health care.

Due to heavy rain on 9 August, 1506 households with 6924 people were evacuated to 18 rescue camps.

The swelling of Shwekyin River on 9 August caused floods in Mawalakmya (2) Tarpang Ward in Nayunglaybin Township and 17 households with 100 people were evacuated to temporary rescue camps.

Moreover, torrential rain from 6 to 8 August destroyed Bogyikon Bridge between Mile Post Nos. 53/2 and 53/3 on Inter-district Road No. 1 and parts of the iron beam of Thonese creek bridge between Mile Post Nos. 54/0 and 54/1 and parts of Thabyu creek bridge at Mile Post No. 62/2. Mayan Village primary school had its roofs destroyed and the students are learning temporarily at a monastery.

Similarly, heavy rain on 8 August flooded 20 households with 77 people, forcing them to stay in temporary rescue camps. Authorities concerned are planning to repair the damaged bridges and roads. Responsible people and well-wishers are providing necessary assistance and health care for the flood victims.—MNA

**Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Khin Zaw speaks at meet with farmers at Waidi Village in Launglon Township.**

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**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR** Thursday, 11 August, 2011 9
Tropical storm causes losses of $480 million

China said tropical storm Muifa has caused losses of about 3.1 billion yuan ($480 million), destroying hundreds of homes as it battered the country’s east coast.

BEIJING, 10 Aug—China said a tropical storm caused losses of about 3.1 billion yuan ($480 million), destroying hundreds of homes as it battered the country’s east coast before slamming into North Korea early Tuesday, avoiding a feared direct hit on China’s densely populated commercial capital Shanghai further south.

The National Disaster Reduction Committee said 1.35 million people were evacuated, 600 houses destroyed and another 4,800 damaged as Muifa skirted China’s eastern coast.

There were no confirmed deaths in China, but one person was missing after a boat sank, and four people were killed in neighbouring South Korea.

In Shanghai, hundreds of flights had to be cancelled and thousands of fishing boats were called back to port after a boat sank, and four people were killed in neighbouring South Korea.

Groups ask appeals court to restore wolf protections

PHOENIX, 10 Aug—Three African refugees were arrested after one tried to board a flight at a Phoenix airport with a fake bomb, in what may have been a test of security, police said on Tuesday.

Luwiza Daman, 51, was taken into custody at Sky Harbor Airport on Friday after security screeners noticed what appeared to be an improvised explosive device inside her carry-on bag as it passed through an X-ray machine, said Phoenix police spokesman Sergeant Steve Martos.

The device, which contained organic material in a container with a cell phone attached, turned out to be a fake explosive, Martos said. Police said they still do not know the nature of the organic material.

Police said that after speaking to Daman, who is from Ethiopia, they traced the object back to Shull Gorado, 25, and Shani Asa, 34, who are both from Eritrea. Gorado and Asa have since been arrested.

All three are charged with one count each of having a hoax device and conspiracy.

“It could be an innocuous incident, but we wanted to make sure it wasn’t a test of security,” Martos said. “We have to take everything seriously.”

Martos said terrorism has not been ruled out and that the investigation continues. Police said they are still trying to determine the motive behind the incident.

Photo taken on 6 Aug, 2011 shows the Oriental Pearl TV Tower without landscape lighting in east China’s Shanghai Municipality. The landscape lighting system have been turned off as a precaution for the approaching Typhoon Muifa.

PHOTO XINHUA

Bus fire in China caused by flammable chemicals

BEIJING, 10 Aug—A Chinese state media report says a fire on a double-decker bus that killed 41 people last month was caused by flammable chemicals that were being illegally transported on board.

Xinhua News Agency says investigators found that the chemicals directly caused the fire, which also injured six people. It did not say what the chemicals were. Wednesday’s Xinhua report cites investigators as saying passenger vehicles are prohibited from transporting flammable or explosive chemicals. It says nine suspects are in police custody.

The overloaded bus burst into flames on a central China highway on 22 July. The sleeper coach had a 35-passenger limit but was carrying 47 people.

INTERNET

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Industrial output stagnates in June

London, 10 Aug—Industrial output stagnated in June and the trade-in-goods deficit worsened, official data showed on Tuesday, further clouding the economic outlook amid plunging stock markets.

Industrial production was unchanged in June from the previous month, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement. However it sank by 0.3 percent in June on a 12-month comparison.

Expectations had been for a monthly increase of 0.4 percent and a slight annual gain of 0.2 percent, according to analysts polled by Dow Jones Newswires.

China launches sea trials of its first carrier

BEIJING, 10 Aug—China’s first aircraft carrier swept through fog-shrouded waters Wednesday to open sea trials that underline the country’s big naval ambitions and fuel concerns about its growing military strength amid regional territorial disputes. The ship is former Soviet craft that China acknowledged a month ago it was rebuilding for research and training, in a strong indication that it plans to start building aircraft carriers of its own.

China has been investing heavily in modernizing its military for at least the last decade, and having its own carrier will add prestige to that expansion, which has accompanied a rise in nationalism in the country. The carrier left Dalian port in northeast Liaoning Province early Wednesday, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

In this photo taken on 6 Aug, 2011, a Chinese aircraft carrier, which had been under refurbishment, is docked at Dalian port in northeast Liaoning Province.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 11 August, 2011

Sea defeats body, not spirit, of swimmer, 61

Key West, (Florida) 10 Aug—An asthma attack, a painful shoulder and battering wind and waves forced 61-year-old swimmer Diana Nyad to abandon her bid to become the first person to swim from Cuba to Florida without a shark cage.

The American, who tried and failed the 103-mile swim more than three decades ago when she was 28, gave up on the second try after enduring nearly 30 hours of a crossing expected to last 60, exhausted by her body’s limits and the force of the elements.

“I thought this was my time. We set out, thinking the conditions were favourable. They were not. The winds were stronger and the waves were bigger than what I’d expected,” she told Reuters after her escort boat Bellisimo brought her to the Key West Yacht Club on Stock Island.

N Zealand ‘runaway millionaire’ charges downgraded

Wellington, 10 Aug—Prosecutors on Wednesday downgraded charges against a woman who allegedly fled New Zealand with her partner after a bank mistakenly deposited millions of dollars into his account.

Police accuse Kara Hurring of departing for China with partner Hui (Leo) Gao when Westpac bank accidentally placed NZ$10 million (US$8.4 million) into his account in April 2009 after he requested a NZ$100,000 dollar overdraft.

The error was discovered within days but by then some NZ$6.78 million had allegedly been transferred into other accounts and the pair had left the country. Hurring, 32, who was arrested after voluntarily returning to New Zealand, had allegedly been transferred into NZ$100,000 dollar overdraft. April 2009 after he requested a (US$8.4 million) into his account.

Police accuse Kara Hurring of fleeing New Zealand with her partner after Westpac bank mistakenly deposited millions of New Zealand with her partner after a (US$8.4 million) into his account.

Bags of cocaine with Winehouse’s picture in them are being sold at late British singer Amy Winehouse’s picture in their bags to improve sales, Brazilian police have said.

Brazil pushers use Winehouse pic to sell cocaine

London, 10 Aug—A gang of drug traffickers is inserting pictures of late British singer Amy Winehouse in their bags of cocaine to improve sales, Brazilian police have said.

Prosecutors have downgraded charges against a woman who allegedly fled New Zealand with her partner after Westpac bank mistakenly deposited millions of dollars into her account.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 11 August, 2011

“The late singer Amy Winehouse is pictured in London. A gang of drug traffickers is inserting pictures of late British singer Amy Winehouse in their bags of cocaine to improve sales, Brazilian police have said.”

Rehab,” details the singer’s troubles and reluctance to undergo rehabilitation treatment. During the raid, police also found bags of marijuana and crack cocaine, some of which had pictures of slain al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

Police confiscated automatic weapons and grenades along with the drugs. Local media reported that a shootout took place when police raided the site, located in the northern area of Rio.
Korea's Navy returned three warning shots one hour in the day, the DPRK fired three shells, and the South local time with three warning shots, the JCS added. It Chiefs of Staff (JCS) was quoted as saying.

To have fallen near the disputed sea border, the Joint Northern Limit Line (NLL) in the Yellow Sea at around media late Wednesday quoted military source as saying.

Near disputed maritime border in the western sea, local rounds of shots after one shell fired by the Democratic

Space junk could be tackled by housekeeping spacecraft

LONDON, 10 Aug—Scientists have proposed a viable solution to the growing problem of space junk.

The idea involves launching a satellite to rendezvous with the largest space debris, such as spent rocket bodies. The satellite would then affix a propellant kit, driving the debris to its doom in the Earth’s atmosphere. The authors claim the scheme, in the journal Acta Astronautica, could inexpensively remove five to 10 such objects per year of operation.

The scope of the problem is enormous; more than 17,000 objects of a size greater than 10cm reside in low-Earth orbit. But the greater problem on the horizon is that each of the largest of these represents the potential to create thousands more. “In our opinion the problem is very challenging and it’s quite urgent as well,” said Marco Castromovio, the Italian Space Agency researcher who authored the paper.

Grimes residents told to boil drinking water

BEIJING, 10 Aug—Grimes, Iowa, residents are being told to boil water after E coli was found in the city’s supply, according to media reports on Monday. The problem is expected to be resolved by Tuesday, the city officials said.

E coli can indicate the presence of human or animal waste and can lead to diarrhea, cramps, nausea and other problems. Young children, old people, and people with compromised immune systems are at more risk, they warned.

Honey ant queens share a throne

LONDON, 10 Aug—Footage of two ant queens working together has been captured by a BBC film crew. As the sole producer in a colony, ant queens are traditionally considered lone figures. However, in certain species unrelated queens will sometimes co-operate to kick-start a new colony. The team filming for BBC Two series Natural World believe this is the first footage to show honey ant queens co-operating in the wild.

Filmmakers spent 150 days in the deserts of Arizona, US to capture the behaviour of the ants Myrmecocystus mimicus. Filming the foundation of a new colony was a considerable challenge because the insects rarely ventured above ground.

China releases bees to curb American moth plague

SHENZHZHUANG, 10 Aug—Forestry authorities in north China’s city of Baoding released 600 million bees this month to kill off American white moths, which have plagued large areas of crops and forests.

White moth infestations have been detected on 20,000 hectares of farmland and forests in the city so far this year, said Duuo Jiangao, head of the Baoding forest epidemic prevention station on Monday.

He said that this year marks the fifth year in a row that authorities have used bees to kill the moths, as they are an effective and environmentally friendly form of pest control. The bees use their stingers to bore into white moths’ pupa and kill their larvae. The bees have been previously used to eliminate moth infestations in the provinces of Hebei and Shandong.

Known as the “forest locust,” the moths can destroy more than 300 plants and consume the leaves of two hectares’ worth of poplar trees within two days.

US teen smoking decreases

BEIJING, 10 Aug—American teenagers are becoming casual smokers, instead of heavy/regular ones, according to reports Monday quoting a study in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine. Heavy smoking is defined by finishing more than 11 cigarettes per day, moderate between six and 10, and light between one and five.

Between 1991 and 2009, heavy smoking among teenagers had decreased by 10 percent, down to 8 percent, while casual smoking increased from 67 percent to 79 percent, said the study. No significant changes in smoking trends for African American teenagers was observed during the period, but for Hispanic teenagers, the heavy smoking rate increased from 3.1 percent to 6.4 percent. Though smoking has different risks, smokers all have an increased risk for heart disease, heart attack, lung cancer and other types of cancer.

Spent rockets represent some of the largest, most dangerous space junk.—INTERNET

A visitor views paintings in an exhibition of Chinese ink-and-wash paintings, in Berlin, Germany, on 9 Aug, 2011. The exhibition displayed 38 contemporary ink-and-wash paintings created by 13 Chinese artists.—XINHUA

A model displays a creation designed by college students during a fashion show in Shenzhen, south China’s Guangdong Province, on 8 Aug, 2011. More than 180 clothing design works from 71 domestic and foreign colleges and universities were presented on Monday.—XINHUA

Honey ant queens share a throne—INTERNET

The honeypot can reach the size of a cherry, despite the ants only measuring at most 2.6mm.—INTERNET

A visitation to the end of my being—INTERNET

The American Diabetes Association, or ADA, now says a treatment is worthwhile for people with type 2 diabetes who are at risk for heart disease. The association said Monday it endorses a drug called the free fatty acid receptor-1 inhibitor known as fibrates.
The latest in designs from one Japanese designer is feather-light, see-through and comes with an unusual warning: watch out for needles. It’s a dress made from balloons — 200 of them, to be exact.

The crystal-clear creation is the latest in balloon couture from balloon artist Rei Hosokai, who has won international prizes at Belgium’s annual “The New Million Jam.”

balloon festival for her skill at twisting and weaving the light, latex toys into dresses. “There are latitude and longitude balloons to be woven together, so it’s quite similar to fabric,” said the 35-year-old Hosokai recently, as she deftly manipulated balloons into a transparent mini-dress.

All the work is done by hand, and Hosokai said it can be hard to account for the amount of air when adjusting the size and volume of the dress.

News Album
Woman sees Jesus in tie-dye shirt

An Indianapolis woman said she was “shocked at what I saw” when an image resembling Jesus Christ appeared on a shirt she tie-dyed.

Carylin Landers, who said she has been tie-dying as a hobby for about three years, said after her discovery she accidentally dropped the part of the shirt with the Jesus image in a dark navy dye while colouring another part of the shirt and feared she’d covered the image, WRTV, Indianapolis, reported Monday.

“I rinsed it when it was done, only to see that the second colour didn’t touch the face. It only outlined it more,” she said.

Landers said many people have agreed with her that the image looks like Jesus. “I’m not even a religious person,” Landers said. “I was shocked at what I saw.”

Needles are the enemy for balloon dress

The garment, worn with white underwear and co-designed by Hosokai’s husband Takashi Kawada, was modeled for photographers with the warning, “Watch out for needles.”

Usher has seen ‘Phantom’ 9,000 times

An usher at New York City’s Majestic Theatre says she has seen “The Phantom of the Opera” 9,000 times since it opened on 26 Jan. 1988.

Usher Sylvia Bailey, 86, began working at the theater two years before the play premiered, the New York Post reported Sunday. She will turn 87 the week before “Phantom” plays its 10,000th performance in February.

Bailey watches the show five nights a week from an empty seat in the back or a folding chair she keeps by the orchestra if there is an empty house.

She still enjoys the play despite seeing it thousands of times, particularly the song “All I Ask of You.”

“I love that song,” she says. “That sticks in my brain. When I lug my bag onto the bus, I’ll be humming that song.”

Occasionally she is asked by theatergoers if the production ever changes.

“It’s been the same since Day 1,” she tells them. “No changes. Just different people.”

Mystery woman in iconic Elvis photo identified

A US magazine has identified the mystery woman seen kissing singer Elvis Presley in a backstage theater stairwell in an iconic 1956 photograph.

Barbara Gray, now 75 and living in Charleston, SC, told Vanity Fair magazine that she didn’t reveal her identity for the money or fame. “I just wanted to get my name on the damn picture,” she said.

Gray admitted that she became fed up with being known only as the “unknown woman in the wings” with a young Elvis in a stairwell at the Mosque Theater in Richmond, Virginia.

Photographer Alfred Wertheimer said he never asked for the woman’s name when he took the photograph and she never told it to him.

After newspaper coverage of Wertheimer’s photography exhibit at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC in early 2010 showed him standing in front of the photograph called “The Kiss,” Gray tracked Wertheimer on Facebook and sent him a message.

Hong Kong film to conclude Venice film festival

Hong Kong, 10 Aug—Hong Kong action film director Johnnie To’s new movie “Life Without Principle” about financial greed will wrap up the official selection for this year’s Venice film festival, organizers said on Tuesday. The movie tells the story of three characters — a bank teller, a thug and a police inspector — who are in dire need of money and whose stories interlink when a bag of stolen money worth $5,000 million (3.5 million euros) pops up. “It is a turbulent world. In order to survive, people have no choice but play the game. No matter how hard you try to follow the rules, sooner or later, a part of you will be lost,” To was quoted as saying about his new film. —Internet

Keanu Reeves in financing talks for directorial debut

Los Angeles, 10 Aug—Keanu Reeves is in negotiations with China Film Group and Village Roadshow Pictures to get funding for “Man of Tai Chi,” a Mandarin-and-English-language movie that Reeves will star in and direct, based on the film, John Romano, of a chauffeur-driven criminal defence lawyer of the British Empire in 2007 for services to drama. He won a Tony Award for his work in the 1976 Broadway production of Tom Stoppard’s “Travesties.” The BBC said Wood is survived by his wife and four children.

‘Lincoln Lawyer’ TV series in the works

Los Angeles, 10 Aug—US author Michael Connelly is writing a script for a small-screen version of his blockbuster novel “The Lincoln Lawyer,” Variety reported Tuesday.

The book was the basis of a hit spring movie starring Matthew McConaughey as Michael “Mickey” Haller, the titular criminal defence attorney who conducts business from the back of a chauffeur-driven Lincoln Town Car.

The screenwriter of the film, John Romano, is working with Connelly on a pilot script for ABC, Variety said.

US actor Keanu Reeves poses during a photocall in Marrakesh on 4 December, 2010. Reeves stars in British director Malcolm Venville’s film “Henry’s Crime” —Internet
West Brom sign Irish star Long

LONDON, 10 Aug—Republic of Ireland international striker Shane Long became Premier League side West Brom’s sixth signing of the summer on Tuesday when he joined from Championship outfit Reading. The 24-year-old scorer of six goals in 21 international appearances signed a three-year contract bringing to an end a successful six-year spell at Bristol City.

West Brom manager Roy Hodgson said that despite his relative youth Long had enough experience already to go straight into the first team.

“Is a goalscorer and a hard-working player who has a very good attitude to the game,” said Hodgson, who enjoyed an up and down season last term being sacked by Liverpool after a miserable short spell there before being hired by West Brom and saving them from relegation.

 Republic of Ireland international striker Shane Long

Darren Clarke says major title won’t change him

JOHNS CREEK, 10 Aug—Darren Clarke struggled through a miserable nine holes of practice Tuesday. Hmmm, maybe he’s ready to shine again at the PGA Championship.

Coming off the first major title of his career, Clarke arrived in the swelling suburbs north of Atlanta looking to redeem some of that British Open magic but insisting he’s still the same guy—claret jug and all. “I would like to think it hasn’t changed me,” the native of Northern Ireland said. “Hope it won’t and don’t think it will.”

His schedule has certainly changed, though. After an all-night celebration at Royal St. George’s, he’s had to deal with a rush of media and sponsor commitments, in addition playing the Irish Open and the World Golf Championship at Firestone.

Darren Clarke, of Northern Ireland, smiles as he answers a question during a news conference for the PGA Championship golf tournament on 9 Aug.—INTERNET

Veteran Giuly returns to Monaco

PARIS, 10 Aug—Veteran winger Ludovic Giuly rejoined former club Monaco, now in Ligue 2, on a two-year deal, it was confirmed on Tuesday.

The 35-year-old had been a free agent after being released by Paris Saint-Germain at the end of last season, but has been training with the principality club since 21 July.

Monaco had been told by the National Director of Management Control (DNCG), who monitors the accounts of all professional clubs in France, that they would have to offload a player before they could sign Giuly.

However, with Deuxmieres Mbohani leaving for Belgian giants Anderlecht, Monaco were able to make their move.

Veteran winger Ludovic Giuly

Colombia coach resigns after assaulting woman

BOGOTA, 10 Aug—Colombia coach Hernan Dario Gomez has resigned after attacking a woman outside a bar last Saturday, the Colombian Football Federation said on Tuesday. The Federation announced in an official statement that an extraordinary meeting will be held in the next ten days as they decide where to go from here, and that, “for the moment, the national team will not have a coach.”

On Monday, Gomez publicly apologised after local press reports that he had hit out twice at a woman who had insulted him.

“Following what happened on Saturday evening, which has left me feeling mortified, I would like to say publicly that I am profoundly sorry for having lost control in the way I did,” he said. “It shames me in front of my mother, my wife and every single woman in my family and in my country,” he went on, without discussing the incident itself.

Gomez had been working as an observer for FIFA at the under-20 World Cup, which is currently being held in the South American country.

Young talent on display at U20 World Cup

BARRANQUILLA, 10 Aug—Brazilian striker Oscar knows the soccer world is watching. He knows it’s a chance like no other.

At the Under-20 World Cup, Oscar and other promising young players from around the world have their moment on the stage to show if they’re destined for stardom.

A few, such as Spain’s Sergio Canales and Brazil’s Philippe Coutinho, have already made it big at big European clubs. Most players at the tournament, however, hope a good performance will boost their careers. “Everybody is anxious, trying to show how well they can play,” the 20-year-old Oscar said.

Oscar plays with Brazil’s Internacional and is one of the many players to watch in the Brazilian squad.

Costa Rica’s Joel Campbell, left, reacts after he fails to make a goal during a U-20 World Cup Group C soccer match in Pereira, Colombia, on 6 Aug. 2011.—INTERNET

Prandelli looking to faze Spaniards

Milan, 10 Aug—Italy coach Cesare Prandelli has decided to play without an out-and-out striker in the hope of taking Spain out of their comfort zone in Bari on Wednesday.

The 2006 world champions host the team that succeeded them in South Africa last year in a mouthwatering friendly clash. And Prandelli sprung a surprise by picking a team with two deep-lying forwards but no traditional number nine striker and no wingers.

AC Milan’s Antonio Cassano will partner Villarreal’s Giuseppe Rossi up front. This way, with Cassano next to Rossi we won’t give our opponents a point of reference compared to what we would have done with a centre-forward such as (Giampaolo) Pazzini.

Real Madrid’s 7-year old itch makes financial sense with minimal risk

Madrid, 10 Aug—Real Madrid has shown me the error of my ways. I’m quite disgusted with myself actually. You see, if I was smart, I would have already secured Jaden and Jaz Agassi as clients.

You know, the 10-year old son and 8-year old daughter of tennis Hall of Fame members Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf. That would have been money in the bank. That was my retirement. Damn.

Because of my tardiness, I’m already behind schedule on that investment. On the other hand, Real Madrid certainly is not guilty of dragging their feet after signing 7-year old Argentine prodigy Leonel Angel Coira to a one-year contract in its youth academy.

He will start training with Madrid’s youth team 6 Sept.

England — Netherlands match off due to London riot

LONDON, 10 Aug—England called off a soccer exhibition Wednesday against the Netherlands because of concerns about player safety amid a wave of rioting and looting across London, which also threatens the staging of Premier League matches this weekend.

The Wembley Stadium match was canceled by The Football Association after the Metropolitan Police struggled to contain a third night of lawlessness in the British capital on Monday.

“There were certain concerns about the protection of players on both sides with the travel in coaches,” said FA chairman David Bernstein, who added he believed this is the first time an England match has been canceled because of such circumstances. “We have to put safety and security matters first. I am very sad indeed. This is the only thing we could have done.”

An exhibition was called off Tuesday because of a lack of police for the match between Ghana and Nigeria in Waltham, which is 20 miles northwest of London.

London’s police force has struggled to contain the spiraling violence across the city, but they are preparing to have 16,000 officers on the streets to stop the violence.—INTERNET
Six ‘car thieves’, cop shot dead in Philippines

MANILA, 10 Aug—Six suspected car thieves and a police officer were killed in gun battles in the Philippine capital on Wednesday, authorities said.

Gang members said to specialise in car thefts and bank robberies opened fire after refusing to stop at a police checkpoint in a Manila suburb at dawn, a police statement said. “The suspects refused to pull over when they were flagged down... and instead fired at the marked (police) vehicle,” the statement said.

Five suspects in one vehicle were killed while those in a second van escaped, police said. Meanwhile, a suspected car thief and a policeman were killed and a second police officer wounded in a shootout in Manila’s financial district of Makati, district police said.

Two men in a van allegedly started shooting when they noticed policemen following them, said police spokeswoman Chief Inspector Jenny Tecson. The second suspect escaped but is believed to have been wounded, she added. Armed police later blocked off a road and searched an open sewer in the financial district as they tried to track down the second suspect, local television reports said.

Last Australian soldiers withdraw from Iraq

CANBERRA, 10 Aug—The last Australian soldiers responsible for providing security at the Australian embassy in Baghdad have withdrawn from Iraq, Australian Defence Minister Stephen Smith confirmed on Tuesday.

Smith said it was no secret that the Labour government had opposed Australia’s involvement in Iraq, campaigning on that issue in the 2007 election campaign and then overseeing the withdrawal of the last Australian combat troops from the country’s south in mid-2008.

I have made it crystal clear on any number of occasions that I have seen our involvement and the international community’s involvement in Iraq as a distraction from Afghanistan,” he told reporters in Canberra on Tuesday.

Weather forecast for 11th August, 2011

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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

Union Transport Minister visits Yangon International Airport

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug—Union Transport Minister U Nyan Tun Aung visited Yangon International Airport on 8 August and heard reports on plans for extension of the airport, improvement of services and facilities in extension of the airport, measures for development of air transportation.

There has emerged a surge in number of travelers in Yangon International Airport since last year. Yangon International Airport saw 510,000 travelers from international airlines in the first quarter of this year, 21.65% increase of the same period last year and 360,000 local travelers, 23.47% increase of the same period. It is expected to handle more travelers than last year in which it handled about 2 million local and foreign travelers.

The Union Minister in meeting with staff called for improvements in services, highlighting the importance of customer’s satisfaction. He then inspected structural reform and equipment of Departure Lounge and Arrival Lounge to ensure swift flow of travelers. He then visited Civil Aviation Training Institute and heard reports on current training course and plans to increase the number of training courses from 13 to 55 in this year.

He then visited construction site of 3D Flight Simulator Project which is aimed to be the source of skilled avionic technicians, and aviation communication technicians.

The Union Minister said that the training science had turned out 240 Airline Transport Pilot’s licence (ATPL) holders and Commercial Pilot’s Licence (CPL) holders and its was an honour that of the pilots who got licences from the training, 125 were working in domestic airlines and 30 in international airlines and called for conducting practical lessons in addition to theories.—MNA

Flood Bulletin

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug—According to (12:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River in Monywa (1009) cm has exceeded by (9) cm above its danger level. It may continue to rise about (30) cm (about 1 foot) during the next (48) hours commencing this noon and will remain above its danger level (1000) cm.

The water level of Sittoung River in Toungoo (641) cm has exceeded by (41) cm (about 1.3 ft) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level (600) cm during the next (48) hours commencing this noon, announced Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA