Seven export items granted tax exemption


The translation of the notification is as follows:

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Government
Notification No. 32/2011
Nay Pyi Taw
12th Waxing of Wagaung 1373 ME
(11 August 2011)

1. Exercising Section 8 (d) of Trade Law, the Union Government hereby grants tax exemption from export of the following goods as a token of its encouragement to boosting export.
   (a) rice
   (b) beans and pulses
   (c) corn
   (d) sesame
   (e) rubber
   (f) freshwater, saltwater products
   (g) animal products (except prohibited ones)

2. This notification shall be in effect for a period of six months from 15 August 2011 to 14 February 2012.

By Order/
Tin Myo Kyi
Secretary
Union Government

Chance to exchange views on human rights issues in different fields

Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions designed to preserve, promote cultural heritage
**PERSPECTIVES**

Tuesday, 16 August, 2011

**Disseminate scientific agricultural methods**

Now, tasks for rural development and poverty alleviation are picking up momentum. Farmers are to be provided with scientific methods for development of the agricultural sector that lies at the core of the drive.

The Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation are providing agricultural inputs for boosting agricultural production such as seeds of crops with high yield strains, advanced agricultural methods, irrigation water, organic and inorganic fertilizers and pesticides.

Acreage per acre yield of rice can be over 100 baskets if scientific methods: growing crops on earth banks, caring for nurseries, planting saplings as soon as they are pulled off from the nurseries, ensuring equal spaces between one sapling and another, and irrigation system to boost propagation of plants are used.

Of the monsoon rice sown acreage of 3 million in Bago Region, over 3000 acres are put under rice with scientific methods. It is to organize all the farmers in the region to use the methods. Bago Region is one of the paddies largest producers in the nation. Recent torrential rains caused floods in some parts of the region. So, new plants propagated by over 30-day rice plants and rice saplings in unaffected fields are to be planted in the flooded plots.

Moreover, seeds of 90-day rice should be sown with the earth bank system to plant 14-day rice saplings in the ravaged fields. Agricultural production will be boosted if scientific methods are popular among farmers, and responsible persons from related departments make field trips down to the paddies for demonstrations.

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**Union A&I Minister meets Vietnamese guests**

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing received delegation led by Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chu Cong Phung and Chairman General Director Mr Nguyen Tuan Khai from International Dairy Joint Stock Company at the minister’s office here this morning.

Development of rice and agriculture sectors, technology exchanges in paddy, sugarcane and rubber production, and construction of sugar mills were discussed.

MNA

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**Special Refresher Course No. 76 for Basic Education Teachers launched**

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug—Special Refresher Course No. 76 for Basic Education Teachers was opened on this morning.

In his speech, Chairman of Union Civil Service Board U Kyaw Thu said that national education will be promoted to meet the international level, and tasks for human resources development will be carried out in all seriousness. He called on the trainees to shoulder education duties with true patriotic spirit and Union Spirit.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint, Union Civil Service Board Member Dr Kyaw Kyaw Htay, and 1501 teacher trainees.—MNA

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**People’s Desire**

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

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**MMITEE course to be launched**

YANGON, 15 Aug—Myanmar Computer Federation and the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) have arranged to launch the Training Programme on Instructors for ITEE in Myanmar (MMITEE) course at the e-learning Center of MCF in Myanmar Info-Tech, Hline Township.

The two-week course, only for 30 seats, starts from 26 September, 2011. Those interested, who are familiar with IT field at least three years’ experience, and who have ever worked as a computer lecturer fluent in programming language, may register not later than 26 August. For further information, dial 652307 at the office of MCF.

MNA

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**9th Int’l Wood & Wood Products Expo in Beijing on 27-29 September**

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug—The 9th International Wood & Wood Products Expo will be held at Beijing Exhibition Centre in Beijing from 27 to 29 September. The expo has been organized for eight times in cities in China including Beijing. It is the largest wood and wood products expo in China. On exhibition at the expo will be wood and wood products from China and international community.

The expo will create economic opportunities. Ten world’s top companies are invited to the expo. Interested wood and wood products entrepreneurs may contact the International Trade Promotion Division under the Directorate of Trade of the Ministry of Commerce or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.—MNA

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‘Made In Myanmar’ special sale on 19-28 August

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug—The special sales “Made In Myanmar” will take place at the Capital Hypermarket in Yangon and the Hypermarket in Nay Pyi Taw from 19 to 28 August.

On display at the hypermarkets will be Myanmar traditional musical instruments, traditional costumes (Myanmar, Kachin, Kayin, Shan and Chin), silk wares, a wide range of cotton clothes, domestic slippers, cotton handbags, consumer goods, Myanmar paintings, sculptures, stone paintings, a broad range of jade items, wickerwork, publications and local foods.

The sales will be shopper’s paradises.—MNA
Six dead, one arrested in knife attack on British isle

LONDON, 15 Aug—A man was arrested Sunday on suspicion of stabbing six people to death, including three children, on the British island of Jersey in what was the deadliest crime in the community’s living memory, police said.

Neighbours said the victims were members of the same family. The dead, all Jersey residents, were a man, two women and three children, police said.

Some were stabbed inside their home, others outside the property, which is located on a relatively secluded side street. The 30-year-old suspect, who was not identified, also sustained unspecified injuries that were not life-threatening. Police said they were questioning him at his hospital bed.

Neighbours said they thought at least some of the victims were Polish. One witness, Andre Thorpe, said he saw police running around the property trying to gain access, then paramedics carrying a bloodied child from the scene.

Hotel bomb kills 12 people in Pakistan

QUETTA, 15 Aug—A bomb ripped through a two-storey hotel in Pakistan’s southwestern Baluchistan Province Sunday, reducing the building to rubble and killing 12 people, police said.

The attack in the town of Dera Allah Yar also wounded 23 people, said Jawed Iqbal Gharshin, the police chief in surrounding Jaffargarh District. Police have taken two people into custody who had tea in the hotel’s restaurant and left just before the bomb went off, he said. Dera Allah Yar is some 220 miles (350 kilometres) north of Quetta.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack. But Baluchistan has experienced a decades-long militancy by nationalists who want a greater share of the region’s natural resources. —Internet

Bombs, attacks hit Iraqi cities, at least 60 dead

BAGHDAD, 15 Aug—Suicide attackers and car bombs hit cities across Iraq on Monday, killing at least 60 people in apparently coordinated assaults authorities blamed on al Qaeda affiliates intent on destabilizing the government.

In the worst assault, a roadside bomb followed by a car bomb targeting police killed at least 37 people in Kut, a relatively secluded side street. The 30-year-old suspect, who was not identified, also sustained unspecified injuries that were not life-threatening. Police said they were questioning him at his hospital bed.

Neighbours said they thought at least some of the victims were Polish. One witness, Andre Thorpe, said he saw police running around the property trying to gain access, then paramedics carrying a bloodied child from the scene.

British forensic police attend the scene after six people were killed in a knife attack, on 14 Aug, 2011, in St Helier, Jersey, England.—Internet

Two dead, four injured in small plane crash in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, 15 Aug—Two people were killed and four others injured in a small plane crash near Alaska’s Lower Yukon Valley that had rescuers searching for more than 14 hours, authorities said on Sunday.

The four survivors were rescued from the wreckage of the Cesna 207 aircraft on Sunday morning on a mountainous area about 150 miles west of Anchorage, said Beth Ipsen, a spokeswoman for the Alaska State Troopers.

“The survivors were transported to a hospital in Anchorage where they are receiving treatment for their injuries. I don’t have information in their injuries or conditions. Hopefully they’ll be okay,” Ipsen told Reuters.

Authorities did not release the identities of the victims pending notification of their families, and Ipsen said she did not know if the pilot was among the survivors.

The passengers included all three teachers assigned to the school in the Athabascan village of Anvik, including one married couple and their two children, ages 8 and 10, Karen Ladegard, superintendent for the Iditarod School District that includes Anvik, told the Anchorage Daily News.

“Troopers got an emergency call from Inland Aviation, the private company that owns the plane, on Saturday night, she said.

But rescuers could not reach the crash site until Sunday morning due to bad weather, Ipsen said.

Reuters

Rescuers transfer an injured man to hospital from the blast site in Peshawar, northwest Pakistan, on 15 Aug, 2011. At least one person was injured in a blast at a shop in Peshawar. XinHua

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Reuters

Provincial health department, said more than 68 people were wounded in the Kut blasts and doctors in the city’s main hospital said they were struggling to treat casualties, many with severe burns.

“These attacks... are trying to influence the security situation and undermine confidence in the security forces,” said Major General Qassim al-Moussawi, a spokesman for Baghdad security operations, blaming al Qaeda-linked mainly Shi’ite Muslim groups.

At least eight people were killed and 14 wounded when a suicide car bomber attacked a municipality building in Khan Bani Saad, about 30 km (20 miles) northeast of Baghdad, in the province of Diyala, two police sources said on Monday.

Two suicide bombers attacked an Iraqi counter-terrorism unit in Tikrit, 150 km
Autism risks for siblings are higher than thought

Chicago, 15 Aug—A new study suggests nearly one in five children with an autistic older sibling will develop the disorder too—a rate much higher than previously thought.

Researchers followed 664 infants who had at least one older brother or sister with autism. Overall, 132 infants or about 19 percent ended up with autism diagnosed, too, by their third birthdays. Previous smaller or less diverse studies reported a prevalence of between 3 percent and 14 percent.

“We were all a bit surprised and taken aback about how high it is,” said lead author Sally Ozonoff, a psychiatry and behavioral sciences professor with the Mind Institute at the University of California at Davis. The highest rates were in infants who had at least two older siblings with autism—32 percent of them also developed autism.

Also, among boys with autistic siblings—26 percent developed autism versus 9 percent of girls. Autism is already known to be more common in boys.

Ozonoff said parents of autistic

Hackers post names of transit site subscribers

San Francisco, 15 Aug—Bay Area Rapid Transit district officials said they were attempting Sunday to shut down a hacker’s group website that lists the names of thousands of San Francisco Bay area residents who are email subscribers of a legitimate BART website.

The Mercury News reports that the site, run by an external vendor, contains more than 50,000 names of people who receive news alerts and other information from the transit agency.

Besides the names of the subscribers, the group known as Anonymous, also posted the names, street addresses, email addresses and phone numbers.

“We are Anonymous, we are your citizens, we are the people, we do not tolerate oppression from any government agency,” the hackers wrote in an online posting. “BART has proved multiple times that they have no problem exploiting and abusing the people.” The posting comes in response to BART officials on Thursday cutting off underground cellphone service for a few hours at several stations to thwart a planned protest over the recent fatal shooting of a 15-year-old man by police.—Internet

Some worry girls’ concussions are being ignored

Toronto, 15 Aug—Much of the concern about young athletes and concussions centres around the obvious heavy-hitters: football, hockey, basketball.

But an expert who studies brain injuries in youth sports warns that female-dominated sports like gymnastics and cheerleading are being overlooked and the number of concussions affecting teen girls is on the rise at her clinic.

Hamilton dancer Carly Stanhope, 18, also sustained a brain injury when she was knocked out by a fellow dancer last December. “I was at dance class and two of us were doing handstands beside each other and the girl beside me happened to fall out of hers, and kicked me in the head and I hit my head off of the floor,” she says.

Stanhope knew right away something wasn’t right.

Although she rested afterward and took six weeks off dancing, her symptoms lingered. The headaches and dizziness continued and she had trouble learning new dances. The symptoms also began causing problems in her regular life. “I was really tired all the time, had trouble focusing in school. I noticed changes in my work habits and test-taking skills. Memorizing information was just not possible,” she says.

Her marks in biology went from around 90 to the high 60s. Leaders and players in sports like hockey and football are beginning to pay attention to the seriousness of concussions, ensuring that injured players are pulled out of the game and allowed to fully recover before returning to play.

But that same level of awareness may not yet be there in female-dominated sports.—Internet

Samsung and Apple battle in Europe at Dutch court

The Hague, 15 Aug—A Dutch court will next month decide whether to grant computer giant Apple an injunction in the Netherlands to halt the sale of various smart phones and tablet devices made by South Korean rival Samsung. US-based Apple’s lawyers opened yet another front this week in a world-wide battle involving design rights, by asking for a ban on the sales of three different types of Samsung smart phones as well as three different types of tablets including the Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1.

“It’s a difficult decision that could deeply affect Samsung if its products are pulled off the market,” Judge Edger Brinkman told lawyers for the two technology giants Thursday after a two-day summary hearing.

He said he would give

Samsung and Apple tablet devices.—Internet
**Health**

**Gilead’s HIV pill shows positive results in trial**

**BANGALORE, 15 Aug—**Gilead Sciences Inc said its four-medicine HIV pill, known as the Quad, worked as well as the company’s widely used Atripla three-drug tablet in a late-stage trial.

In the trial, 88 percent of patients taking the Quad achieved reductions in levels of HIV in the blood, known as viral load, compared with 84 percent of those who received Atripla.

The HIV drug maker’s shares fell 3 percent to $36.26 in early trade on Monday on Nasdaq.

“Seems like the market is reacting because the company did not release enough data on the trial so it can have something to announce when it presents the data at a scientific conference,” BWS Financial analyst Hamed Khorsand said. The company said discontinuation rates due to adverse events were comparable in both arms of the study. “There are definitely questions as to why there are discontinuations, but they are not providing anymore reasons,” Khorsand added.

The Quad — a combination of elvitegravir, an investigational integrase inhibitor, cabozitant or “boosting” agent and Truvada — is a complete investigational integrase inhibitor, cobicistat or comparable in both arms of the study. Gilead said it plans to seek approval for the Quad in the first quarter of 2012.

The late-stage trial for the drug includes two studies which are evaluating it versus a standard of care among HIV-1 infected adults, the company said.—Reuters

**National Beef recalls 60,424 lbs ground beef for E.coli**

**CHICAGO, 15 Aug—**The US Department of Agriculture said National Beef Packing Co has recalled about 60,424 pounds of ground beef products after inspection at an Ohio processing plant produced suspicions of contamination by E.coli O157:H7 bacteria.

USDA and the company, which is based in Dodge City, Kansas, have received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of these products. The beef was shipped to distributors nationwide for further processing and distribution, USDA said in a statement.

Winn-Dixie Stores, of Jacksonville, Florida, said it issued its own recall to customers tied to the National Beef recall, saying some of the beef affected was sold in its stores in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. The beef had “sell by” dates of 31 July to 12 Aug, it said. Colorado Sam’s Club stores have also been contacting members who may have recently purchased beef included in the recall, Chrisin Davis Gallagher, a spokesperson for Sam’s Club, told the Colorado Springs Gazette.

The problem was discovered as a result of routine microbial testing conducted by the Ohio Department of Agriculture at a state-inspected facility that had purchased these products for further processing, USDA said.

E.coli O157:H7 is a potentially deadly bacterium that can cause diarrhea, dehydration and, in the most severe cases, kidney failure. Food experts advise consumers to only consume ground beef cooked to a temperature of 160 degrees, which is high enough to kill any harmful bacteria.—Reuters

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**Business**

**Dollar trades in upper 76 yen range in Tokyo**

**TOKYO, 15 Aug—**The US dollar remained in the upper 76 yen range early Monday in Tokyo, a tad higher than its levels in New York on Friday.

At 9 am, the dollar fetched 76.86-89 yen against 76.76-77 yen in New York and 76.64-66 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm Friday. The euro traded at 1.4284-4285 dollars and 109.81-82 yen versus 1.4245-4255 dollars and 109.27-37 yen in New York and 1.4201-4203 dollars and 108.84-88 yen in Tokyo late Friday afternoon.—Xinhua

**Japan economy contracts for third straight quarter**

**TOKYO, 15 Aug—**Japan’s economy contracted for a third straight quarter as consumer spending and factory production continued to suffer in the aftermath of the March earthquake and tsunami.

Real gross domestic product — a measure of the value of all goods and services produced domestically — contracted at an annualized rate of 1.3 percent in the April-June quarter, the Cabinet Office said Monday.

The figures did provide a glimmer of optimism as a much bigger contraction was expected. A Kyodo News agency survey of analysts had forecast the economy to shrink 2.6 percent. The Cabinet office said GDP fell 0.3 percent on quarter. Consumer spending, which accounts for some 60 percent of the economy, dipped 0.1 percent. Capital investment by companies was up just 0.2 percent from the previous quarter.

The figures showed that the nation’s economy slumped in wide range of areas and still needs close attention, Finance Minister Yoshihiko Noda said. —Reuters

**US stock futures rise despite concerns still loom ahead**

**NEW YORK, 15 Aug—**The US stocks future rose on late Sunday despite investors still felt worried about economic situation.

The Dow Jones industrial average futures gain 7.00 points. The Standard & Poor’s 500 was up 2.40 points. The Nasdaq Composite Index rose 2.50 points.

Last week, the Dow was off 1.5 percent, the S&P fell 1.7 percent and the Nasdaq dropped 1 percent.

Investors still concerned about the risk of economic recession. They thought there was enough evidence suggesting a significant slowdown, but whether it will be another recession or not is still unclear.

That’s why the market fear hit a record high these days. The CBOE Volatility Index, known as a key gauge of market fear, rose to 36.36 last week. The average reading of this index was around 20.

Also reflecting the fears, gold futures surged 5.5 percent last week. Gold and silver sales on eBay have already been rising steadily over the past several years.—Xinhua

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**Health**

**Brain, physical training lowers risk for dementia, Alzheimer**

**STOCKHOLM, 15 Aug—**Keeping up both mental and physical and social activities even after retirement can lower the risk for dementia and Alzheimer, the Swedish Daily reported on Saturday.

“We know that people with higher education have lower risk for dementia. Man simply trained their brain so that they get more cognitive reserve,” said Laura Fraigtiglone, Professor in epidemiology department of Swedish Medical University Karolinska Institute.

“About 80 percent of people who are over weight at middle age tend to develop dementia later in life, thus the earlier the mental and physical training is carried out, the better, people should continue with their intellectual work even they have retired,” Fraigtiglone suggested. Fraigtiglone said the training not only refers to reading books or doing crossword, but also physical and social activities.—Xinhua

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**Business**

**A group of enthusiasts practises yoga at the Bobrovy Log resort, with the “Stoofy” nature reserve in the background, near Russia’s Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk 14 August, 2011. —INTERNET**
The quality of rice will decline in milling paddy, and the price of products will be reduced. That is why weeds and grass are to be removed from the soil at a time when soil preparation was carried out at the paddy field. After completion of cultivation, the surface of paddy fields is to be covered with water not to appear more weeds. More weeds are to be wiped out. After the main paddy plants have increased 10 to 12 new paddy saplings, the surface of paddy field is to be covered with water to prevent the increase of more paddy saplings.

For the 13th point, at a time when ears of paddy are ripened, water is to be drained out from the paddy field. Draining out the water from the paddy field contributes to equal ripening of ears of paddy and makes the soil hard. Therefore, farmers can use farming machinery to easily harvest paddy. That is why draining out of water from the paddy is very important.

For the 14th point, arrangements must be made for harvesting paddy at ripening time when 80 per cent of ears of paddy are covered with yellowish colour. After harvesting, paddy is to be threshed and winnowed with the use of machine immediately. Farmers are to take care of minimizing loss and wastage in harvesting and threshing paddy. If the paddy ripening time is over, top of ears of paddy will drop off. These paddy seeds will be lost. To minimize loss and wastage in harvest time, farmers are to make arrangements for harvesting of paddy with the use of manpower and machinery by calculating cultivation and harvest times of owned paddy fields.

Photo shows use of inputs into the farmlands in systematic ratio.

Water and nutrition being supplied to paddy fields.

Water being drained out from paddy field so as to use manpower and farming machinery when ears of paddy are ripened.
National Committee on Rights of Child meets

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — The National Committee on the Rights of Child held its meeting (1/2011) at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement here this morning.

Vice-Chairman of the committee Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe in his speech said that Myanmar is taking measures for ensuring children’s major rights of survival, development, protection and participation which are stipulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The committee has formed the committees at the Region/State, district and township levels to implement the Myanmar National Programme on the Rights of Child (2006-2015) covering four sectors: health, nutrition, safe water and hygienic surrounding areas, education and child development, and protection, he said, adding that the committee will form work committees, subcommittees and Region/State, district and township level committees to expedite the tasks.

Secretary of the committee Director-General of the Social Welfare Department U Soe Kyae reported on formation of the work committee and subcommittees, duties and power of the committees, and progress in implementing the national programme. The chairmen and secretaries of District and State committees held talks. Resident Representative of UNICEF Mr. Ramesh M. Shrestha presented ongoing tasks of the international organization.

Vice-Chairman of the committee Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Kyi reported on formation of the work committee and subcommittees, duties and power of the committees, and progress in implementing the national programme. The chairmen and secretaries of District and State committees held discussions.

Deputy Minister U Phone Swe gave concluding remarks. MNA

Myanmar Senior PGA Golf Qualifying Test (Mandalay) held

YANGON, 15 Aug — Myanmar Senior PGA Golf qualifying test (Mandalay), sponsored by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar Senior PGA, was held at the Shwemantaung Golf Club in Mandalay from 10 to 11 August.

Altogether 48 participants took part in the qualifying test. After the qualifying test U Aung Htut, U Than Tun, U Kyi Han, U Soe Nyunt, U Khin Maung Tun, U Aung Win, U Zaw Hsan, U Sai Kyaw Hnin, U Nyunt Han, U Too Hlawn, U Maung Maung Tint, U Sai Tun Nay Win, U Myo Khant Kyu, U Ye Lin, U Win Maung, U Maung Soe, U Hay Aung, and U Moe Tin have qualified and grabbed the chance to take part in the senior PGA tournament.

The qualifying test (Yangon) has been postponed for the bad weather condition. The competition date of Yangon qualifying test is due to announce soon. MNA

From special yield model paddy farm...

(From page 6)

If paddy is harvested in the rainy season, it is necessary to arrange cheap dry system for paddy seeds.

Q: May I know benefits through good agriculture method.

A: Farmers can systematically use paddy seeds. Developed paddy plants can thrive with high increase rate of new saplings. The increased plants will have good ears of paddy. Each ear of paddy can bear many successful seeds with lack of loss and wastage. So, the paddy field can produce the target per-acre yield.

Q: How can farmers enjoy fruits of paddy cultivation through this technique?

A: In the past, farmers used two baskets of quality paddy seeds per acre for cultivation. In applying the good agriculture method, farmers can use only six pyis of sprout paddy seeds per acre. As the new system can save the expense and contribute to be higher per-acre yield, farmers can earn the increased income and enjoy the higher living standard. Moreover, nurturing of paddy saplings through systematic soil nursery block can create the job opportunities for the rural farmers.

Q: How will good agriculture method be shared to farmers for their practical works?

A: Theoretical and practical trainings on production technology for high yield hybrid paddy strains can be provided to the farmers at University of Agriculture. Moreover, they are allowed to observe thriving paddy plantations to have better agricultural knowledge. Furthermore, agricultural technology will be shared to the farmers. In addition, agricultural staff will join hands with the farmers in applying the modern technology in cultivation of paddy.

Myanma Agriculture Service is producing seeds of special yield hybrid paddy strains, which are suitable for local weather and marketable with higher per-acre yield, together with skillful technicians trained by foreign experts. Such paddy seeds have been distributed to the farmers, and such paddy strains are cultivated in model paddy farms in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Encouragement is being given to establishment of paddy seed production companies for extension of quality paddy strains and distribution of high yield paddy strains while the market will be extended by growing high yield quality hybrid paddy strains.

On my way back home after the interview, I was thoughtfully that when 14-point good agriculture method is being applied across the farmlands of future nation, above 100 baskets of paddy per acre on average will be produced in the entire nation.

Upholding the motto “if there is soil, job can be generated; if there is water, job can be generated”, the nation strives for effectively utilizing the human resources, land resources and water resources without leaving vacant and virgin lands, Myanmar must regain its glittering era when the largest volume of paddy was exported in the past.

Translation: TTA
Chance to exchange views on human rights ...  

(From page 1)  


The Union Minister added that Human Rights Committee was formed in Myanmar on 26-4-2000 and according to the guidance of the Heads of State, the committee was reformed with four patrons and 21 members following the Notification No. 53/2007 of the State Peace and Development Council dated 14-11-2007; that it was divided into nine working sections with specific responsibilities to ensure the success of works; that today’s course would be attended by governmental staff as well as staff of non-governmental organizations, providing chance to exchange views on human rights issues in different fields in Myanmar; that Myanmar Society would be built as a society flourishing with democratic practices through increasing knowledge about human rights and correct practice of freedom and responsibility and also freedom and discipline.  

He then called for practice of knowledge gained from the course in real life in accordance with rules and regulations, and cultural traditions of Myanmar without deviating international norms.  

A total of 100 trainees are attending the two-week course on human rights promotion and protection.—MNA

Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts...  

(From page 1)  

Heads of departments, artistes and officials.  

In his speech, the Union Minister said that the competitions are designed to preserve and promote national cultural heritage, so the President has called for improving the competitions both in appearance and in essence.  

To organize the competitions is a national level task, and arrangements, coordination of work and cooperation are of great importance, he said, urging subcommittees to support the leading committee and the work committee by carrying out the tasks in all seriousness.  

He also called on the subcommittees to try their best in the tasks, work together as holding the competitions is a huge task, and take innovative measures in carrying out tasks.  

He said that in order to attract attention from the entire nation, necessary measures will be taken in a systematic way such as issuing songs, plays, talks and articles through TV, radio and newspapers, presenting consolation prizes and honorary prizes in addition to first, second and third prizes to encourage contestants from States; arranging excursion tours for national races from States as previous years; and giving accommodation, meals and health and transport to the best of their ability for the convenience of the managers and contestants from Regions and States.  

Moreover, he said, steps will be taken for improving the competitions such as sending arts teams to Regions and States for their contestants, forming supporting teams to issue demonstrations and educative programmes of respective genres on TV and radio and in newspapers, and distributing CDs and VCDs of those programmes at initial prices.  

Secretary of the work committee Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sandra Khin reported on formation of 16-committee/subcommittees for the competition, reconstituent of the leading committee and work committee, dates, times, ceremonies, venues for the competitions, divisions and events of the competitions, and financial situations.  

Those responsible from the committee and subcommittees for the competitions: Security and Disciplines Enforcement Subcommittee, Subcommittee for Organizing the Competition, Contestants Scrutiny Subcommittee, Invitation, Accommodation and Transport Subcommittee, Catering, Welcoming and Honorary Dinner Holding Subcommittees, Information and Organizing Subcommittees, Decoration Subcommittee, Health Care Subcommittee, Work Scrutiny Subcommittee, Greetings and Ceremonies Opening Subcommittees, Lodging Accommodation, Hostels Administration and Welfare Subcommittee, and Assessment, Judging Supervision and Dialogues Censor Subcommittee reported on arrangements to be made, and work progress.  


Attendees reported on general matters.  

In response, the Union Minister attended to the needs, and gave concluding remarks, urging work committees to try for successful completion of the competitions as planned at the meeting.  

After the meeting, the minister cordially greeted the doyen artistes.  

Union Mines Minister visits low-grade utility jade sale  

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — Organized by Central Committee for holding Myanmar Gems Enterprise, low-grade utility jade sale 2011 continued at Mani Jadana Jade Hall near Myanmar Gems Museum here today. Patron of the central committee Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik visited the sales and encouraged gem merchants of local gems companies bidding for low-grade utility jade lots through tender system.  

Secretary of the central committee Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and officials supervised the sales as the gem merchants submitted price proposals for utility jade lots. A total of 64 utility jade lots were sold out today.  

The sale winds up on 16 August.—MNA

Cash and kind provided to Bago flood victims  

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint visited 100 ton rice mill of Pinle Koethwe Company in Thanyin of Yangon Region yesterday.  

Union Minister U Win Myint and Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win attended donation ceremony to flood victims in Bago Region.  

The Union minister comforted the victims, the well-wishers made donations, and the chief minister expressed thanks on behalf of the victims.—MNA

Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik views gem merchants bidding for jade lots.—MNA

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint addresses donation ceremony to flood victims.—MNA
Preparedness measures against floods to be taken more effectively to protect 3 million acres of monsoon rice in Bago Region and 1.2 million acres of monsoon rice in Yangon Region

Union Minister tours Ngamoeyeik Dam, agricultural zones in Dagon Myothit (East) Township

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing made an inspection tour of Ngamoeyeik Dam Project near Sitintaung Village in Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon, yesterday.

Director of Construction (6) of the Irrigation Department U Phone Tin reported on the purposes of the dam: to store water spilled from the dam and water from the branch of the Ngamoeyeik Creek to grow 10,000 acres of rice yearly, to protect farmlands against seawater and silt by closing the sluice gate in summer, and to prevent the tide in the rainy water and let the water in the irrigated areas flow away as soon as the tide is out.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing inspects construction of Ngamoeyeik Sluice Gate.—MNA

Director-General of the Irrigation Department U Kyaw Myint Hlaing reported on construction of Kodugwe, Salu and Shwelaung dams to prevent floods in Bago Region, noting that the programme will be more effective if Abyar-Shangaung, Mnywa-Kukko, Mnywa-Pyaykyon and Mnywa-Kayan outlet canals are built.

Manager of Yangon Region Myamna Agriculture Service U Tin Aung Win reported on 95% completion of growing over 1.2 million acres of monsoon rice, over 2,200 acres of which were grown with scientific methods.

In his address, the Union Minister said that preparedness measures against floods are to be taken more effectively in Yangon and Bago regions that are populous and are economic hubs of the nation; that to protect 3 million acres of monsoon rice in Bago Region and 1.2 million acres of monsoon rice in Yangon Region and to ensure summer rice is successful are of important tasks; that construction of small dams, sluice gates and canals to get rid of silt is to be completed by the dry season; and that as a special program, data and figures are to be collected in detail to report to the State for funds.

The Union minister inspected the construction site and viewed the 500-acre rice plot of U Soe Win in Mechanized Farming Special Zone (1).

On arrival at the briefing hall of the 500-acre monsoon rice farm of Dagon International Co in Special Zone (1), the Union minister heard reports by President U Win Aung of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on success of mechanized farming plots, and 80-day rice plot, and Yangon Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Soe Min, on cent per cent completion of growing monsoon rice in 10,000-acre special zone Nos 1 and 2 and requirements for building outlet canals in the inundated areas. The Union minister attended to the needs for the zone to become a model one, and called for building dryers and cylo.

He visited the 500-acre monsoon rice farm of Green Asia Co in the 10,000-acre special zone. Official in charge reported on the processes of growing 500 acres of monsoon rice.

The Union minister praised the entrepreneurs for their role in running model farms of the nation. He noted that mechanized farming process is to be carried out with added momentum not only in Yangon Region but also across the nation to gain more shares in the international market.

Union Mines Minister receives guests

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug—Union Minister for Mines U Thein Hlaik received Country Manager Mr Sugi Handoko of Gold Petrol JOC INC and party at the ministry this morning and discussed matters related to coal mining. Also present at the call were directors-general of Mining Department and Geological Survey and Minerals Exploration Department, the managing directors of No (2) Mining Enterprise and the Myanmar Gems Enterprise, and the acting managing directors of Nos (1) and (3) Mining Enterprises.

Union Minister for Mines U Thein Hlaik receives Country Manager Mr Sugi Handoko of Gold Petrol JOC INC.—MNA

Microcredit associations in Sagaing Region opened

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug—Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint met staff of special construction groups, district/township/sub-township Public Works at Shwebo District Public Works Office yesterday and called for quality control of buildings, airports, roads and bridges through cooperation, effective administration and anti-corruption. The Union Minister then attended the opening of Zeya Yadana microcredit association in Myinmu Township.

He raised the fund of K 10 million for it. He then visited Engineer’s Office of Myaung Township.

Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint presents K 10 million fund to Zeya Yadana microcredit association.—MNA

Microcredit associations in Sagaing Region opened

MNA

The Union minster praised the entrepreneurs for their role in running model farms of the nation. He noted that mechanized farming process is to be carried out with added momentum not only in Yangon Region but also across the nation to gain more shares in the international market.
Myanmar, Thai police chiefs meet

**Chief of Royal Thai Police Force Mr Wichian Potephosree calls on Chief of Myanmar Police Force Kyaw Kyaw Tun at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.** — MNA

**NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug—** Six-member Thai delegation led by Chief of Royal Thai Police Force Mr Wichian Potephosree called on Myanmar side led by Chief of Myanmar Police Force Kyaw Kyaw Tun at Myanmar International Convention Centre here yesterday and discussed matters related to cooperation of the police forces and transborder crimes. The Thai delegation paid homage to Uppatasanti Pagoda before their departure to Thailand.—MNA

Medical care teams provided medical treatment to flood victims at relief camps in Taungoo on 15 August. — MNA

Export of seven goods granted tax exemption

**NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug—** The Ministry of Finance and Revenue issued Notification No. 108/2011 to reduce tax on any of the goods manifested in Appendix Table Nos from 1 to 6 of Trade Law from 8% to 5% as with effect from 1 July and Notification No. 142/2011 to reduce tax on any of the same goods, if exported in kyat, by border trade between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the People’s Republic of China or the Republic of India or Thailand from 8% to 5% with effect from 15 August.

Notification No. 32/2011 of the Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been issued to grant tax exemption from seven types of goods: rice, beans and pulses, corn, sesame, rubber, freshwater and saltwater products, and animal products (except prohibited ones) for a period of six months from 15 August 2011 to 14 February 2012.

Now, foreign exchange rates are not stable in the nation and the export of goods is falling into decline. Due to export decline, local demand is on the decrease and that has negative impact on productivity and the nation’s economy to a certain degree, as well as on the businesses of national entrepreneurs. Accordingly, the Union government has granted tax exemption from the abovementioned seven goods with the aim of boosting productivity and export of goods at the national level and encouraging competition in terms of prices in the international market.

The tax exemption will bring great benefits to national entrepreneurs including rubber plant farm owners, fishery entrepreneurs and livestock breeders, as well as help strengthen the nation’s economy. The government keeps its eyes on the objective conditions of the nation in the interest of the nation and the people. The tax exemption from the seven types of goods is a welcoming news for the public.—MNA

Indonesia ups alert for Mt Soputan, lowers alert on Mt Papandayan

**JAKARTA, 15 Aug—** Indonesian volcanologists have raised the alert level for Mount Soputan in Minahasa, North Sulawesi, while reporting that the threat posed by Mount Papandayan in West Java had decreased, local media reported here on Monday.

“We have issued an ‘alert’ status as of 3 pm local time on Sunday,” Sandy Manengkey, head of the Volcanology and Geology Disaster Mitigation Centre (PVMG) monitoring post for Mt Soputan said on Sunday.

Sandy said that observers recorded that Mt Soputan had experienced several tremors, noting that the volcano spewed blazing material into the air several times and disgorged a flow of lava about 500-750 metres to the west of the crater. “Based on our examination, the Volcanic and Geological Disaster Mitigation Centre has increased the status of Mount Soputan to ‘alert’,” Sandy said. The PVMG has established an exclusion zone to protect local residents from the lava. — Xinhua

35 Chinese universities rank among world’s top 500

**BEIJING, 15 Aug—** A total of 35 Chinese universities rank among the world’s 500 best in a ranking released by China’s Shanghai Jiao Tong University on Monday.

Among the 35 universities, 23 are based on the Chinese mainland, almost triple the number when the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) was first compiled and released in 2003. The ranking puts Harvard University on the top of the list, followed by Stanford, MIT, Berkeley, Cambridge, Caltech, Princeton, Columbia, Chicago and Oxford.

National Taipei University, Chinese University of Hong Kong and Tsinghua University are the top three Chinese universities and also entered the Top 200 worldwide. Six other Chinese mainland universities rank among the Top 300. Shanghai Jiao Tong University itself ranks in the top five of mainland universities after Tsinghua University and Peking University.

Paris Hilton loses cellphones on plane to Manila

**MANILA, 15 Aug—** Paris Hilton is suffering a new bout of cellphone drama. The heiress-turned-TV star reportedly lost two mobile devices on a flight to the Philippines for a visit to promote a hotel resort.

Television footage showed Hilton combing through a bag looking upset while she was surrounded by airline staff at the Manila airport late Sunday after arriving from Dubai. Manila radio station DZBB reported that airport and airline authorities are investigating. In 2005, hackers gained access to Hilton’s Sidekick cellphone and famously splashed the private mobile numbers of her celebrity friends on line. The latest loss apparently didn’t leave Hilton completely cut off — she greeted fans with a tweet “I love you” in the local Tagalog language.

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Xinhua
China’s railway passengers reach 238 m during summer travel season

BEIJING, 15 Aug—China’s railway traffic remained busy during the summer travel season this year, with about 238 million passengers travelling by train between 1 July and 10 Aug, up 27.12 million from the same period last year, the Ministry of Railways (MOR) said Sunday.

The country’s railways transported 5.67 million passengers during the first 10 days of August, up 10.8 percent year-on-year, said the ministry in a statement on its website.

The ministry expects another travel peak later this summer, driven by increasing numbers of vacationers and students returning from summer trips, as well as cotton farmers returning to west China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in late August.

The ministry has vowed to improve the management of its train schedules and avoid delays caused by bad weather and construction. —Xinhua

Vietnam lifts eight-year ban on Canada cattle

WENNEPEG, 15 Aug—Vietnam has lifted its eight-year-old ban on Canadian live breeding cattle, sheep and goats, becoming the first Asian country to do so since a 2003 discovery of mad cow disease, Canada’s trade and agriculture ministers said on Sunday.

The move, which takes effect immediately, gives Canada a share in a market worth $50 million, International Trade Minister Ed Fast said in a statement, Praising the economic impact of closer ties with Southeast Asia.

Vietnam reopened to Canadian beef last year. Nearly all countries that had banned Canadian beef since 2003 have agreed to resume imports. China agreed last year partly to reopen Canadian access but commercial shipments have not yet restarted. The last major holdout, South Korea, said in June that it would partly resume imports of Canadian beef by the end of the year. —Reuters

 AMC, Sony reach deal for ‘Breaking Bad’ finale

NEW YORK, 15 Aug—The AMC network and producers of its popular “Breaking Bad” series about a chemistry teacher gone bad have agreed on making a fifth and final season of the show.

Production on the final, 16-episode run will begin early next year and hasn’t been scheduled for air.

Negotiations with series maker Sony Televison had reportedly been tense, with Sony even contacting other networks to see if they’d be interested in picking up the show if AMC bowed out. The cable network, with another costly and popular series in “Mad Men,” was looking to keep expenses down and had been seeking a shorter run of episodes.

Producers may have gained leverage with the strong performance of the series in its fourth season this summer. —Internet

Dogs saved from dinner tables

BANGKOK, 15 Aug—Thai authorities have rescued more than a thousand dogs, which were found stuffed into tiny cages and being smuggled out of the country to be cooked and eaten in Vietnam, officials said on Saturday.

Police intercepted four trucks stacked high with crates packed with the animals in an operation on Thursday evening in Nakhon Phomphrakoon Province in northeastern Thailand near the border with Laos.

A Nakhon Phomphran livestock development official said 1,011 dogs were being held in a government shelter after two separate raids in Nakhon and Si Songkhram Districts.

She said an additional 119 had died either through suffocation in the cramped cages or when they were thrown from the back of the trucks as the alleged traffickers sped away from arresting officers.

Two Thai men and a Vietnamese man have been charged with trafficking and the illegal transportation of animals, police case officer Captain Pratwat Pholsowan told AFP.

“The maximum punishment is a one year jail term and a fine of up to 20,000 baht (US$670),” he said. —Xinhua

Tsingtao Brewery Co first-half profits jump 22 pct

BEIJING, 15 Aug—Tsingtao Brewery Co, China’s second-largest brewer by volume, said on Sunday its first-half profits rose 21.62 percent year-on-year due to higher sales volume and expanded production capacity. Net profits rose to $989.9 million yuan (155 million US dollars), or 0.73 yuan a share, from 813.9 million yuan, or 0.6 yuan, one year earlier, the brewer said in a statement filed to the Shanghai Stock Exchange. Sales climbed 21.1 percent to 11.87 billion yuan. The company sold 3.75 million kiloliters of beer during the first half, a rise of 20.6 percent year-on-year.

The brewer increased its production capacity and introduced diversified products to cater to growing demand in the world’s most populous country. —Xinhua

Singapore universities to cap enrollment of foreign students

SINGAPORE, 15 Aug—Singapore universities will add 2,000 more places for local students by 2015, while the foreign enrollment will be capped at present levels, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced on Sunday evening. Delivering his National Day Rally Speech, Lee said the measures aim to allay the concerns of the increasing competition from foreigners felt by local residents.

“One unhappiness is the feeling that, maybe, foreign students have taken the place of locals in universities because our universities do take in a proportion of foreign students,” he said. Lee’s speech has been widely expected to address the concerns of the local population following the recent general election. —Xinhua

BANGKOK, 15 Aug—Pholsuwan told AFP that the illegal transportation of animals, police case officer Captain Pratwat Pholsowan told AFP.

“The maximum punishment is a one year jail term and a fine of up to 20,000 baht (US$670),” he said. —Xinhua

A girl and a gorilla look at each other at the Los Angeles Zoo in Los Angeles, California on 12 August, 2011. —Xinhua
Bull kills its third man in 10 years
during festival in eastern Spain

VALENCIA, 15 Aug—An inquiry was launched on Sunday after a 29-year-old man was gored to death by a bull during a festival in eastern Spain. The bull, whose name was not released, died at a hospital in the town of Xativa on Saturday. A regional government official said an investigation into the goring had been opened. The 500-kilogram bull—named Raton—has killed two other members of the public during festivals over 10 years.

Because of the animal's reputation, its owners reportedly earned $10,000 (£7,500) each time it appears at a festival. "He's the one that gets the highest prices," owner Gregorio de Jesus said of Raton. "But still he works out the cheapest because wherever he goes organizers double the ticket price." Television images showed the man being tossed in the air and then hit along the ground in Xativa's bullring. In Spain, many summer festivals feature bull runs in streets or bullrings, where revelers can come close to the beasts.

Detectives believe that this weekend's festival was planned and executed in a posh hotel in the northern suburb of Wellington, capital of New Zealand, on 14 Aug. A heavy snowfall hit Wellington on Sunday.—Xinhua

Rembrandt masterpiece lost amid well-planned theft in Southern California

LOS ANGELES, 15 Aug—A famous painting which is believed to be drawn by 17th century Dutch master Rembrandt was stolen in a well-planned and — executed theft in a posh hotel in the northern suburb of Wellington, capital of New Zealand, on 14 Aug. A heavy snowfall hit Wellington on Sunday. —Xinhua

Many summer festivals, such as that of San Fermin in Pamplona, feature events in streets or bullrings where revelers can come close to the beasts.—Internet

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A citizen watches a model of Airbus 330 displayed at a shopping mall in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 14 Aug, 2011. The 6-metre long and 5.8-metre wide Airbus 330 model was made of 2,800 waste cans to advocate the concept of low-carbon flight.

Raising chickens popular in Chicago

Chicago resident Anna Osterbur Petersen says her five chickens have become the talk of the neighbourhood, especially among children. “Can I pet the chickens? Can I feed the chickens?” Petersen said. She’s met many of our neighbours this way. People have endless questions and misconceptions about chickens and chicken raising. Petersen’s neighbour.

Hens are more popular because they don’t crow, Peterson said, adding you don’t need roosters for eggs. More than 300 chicken enthusiasts signed up for an online chicken raising group and more than 200 people have taken chicken raising classes at the Chicago Urban Initiative of Angelic Organics since 2008, the report said. “Those are people who are speaking English, using the computer to communicate and interested in networking around this stuff,” said Martha Boyd, programme director at the Chicago office of Angelic Organics.

“There are an awful lot of people in addition to them who keep backyard chickens because they’ve always done it and don’t care if there’s a movement,” Boyd said.

Man, 87, earns doctorate degree in Florida

At 87, a former World War II pilot has become the oldest person to earn a doctorate degree from Florida International University, the school said.

Richard Smith of Boca Raton picked up his doctorate in American history Saturday, a decade after receiving his master’s degree from Florida Atlantic University, The Miami Herald reported Sunday. “It’s a good way to stay young,” Smith said. “I like the idea of research. I will probably find another topic and research it.”

Originally from the Boston area, Smith was called to fight in WW II following his freshman year at the University of Pennsylvania.

Smith received the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal for his service in Europe, part of a unit that dropped bombs on Germany. “At the time, our interest was ‘fly at night, get down, go to the nearest pub, and wait to get called for the next mission,’” Smith said.

After the war Smith returned to school, earning an undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Business.

Canadian Wongs come together for reunion

More than 1,200 people named Wong gathered in Toronto this weekend for a family reunion, organizers say.

Wongs came from as far away as Hong Kong for the Wong’s National Convention, which lasted through Sunday, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp reported.

Canadian Wongs have been meeting every few years since the 1950s. This year’s reunion was touted as the largest yet. “I think everybody shares, that if you’re Wong, you’re family,” says Greg Wong, a convention organizer. “I think it’s special because a lot of the people came a long way, to see family, old friends.”

Westlife coming to Singapore in October

SINGAPORE, 15 Aug—Irish boy band Westlife will perform in Singapore on 3 October at the Singapore Indoor Stadium, as part of their Westlife Gravity Tour in support of their 11th album “Gravity”.

The group’s upcoming concert will be their fourth here since it was formed way back in 1998 as a quartet consisting of Nicky Byrne, Kian Egan, Mark Feehily, Shane Filan and Brian McFadden.

Originally put together by caustic UK music producer Simon Cowell and co-managed by Boyzone leader Ronan Keating, Westlife has been performing as a quartet since McFadden quit in 2004.

Westlife is one of the longest lived boy bands in the UK, with a career spanning 12 years and 11 albums. The band is best known for their hits like “Uptown Girl” and “World of Our Own”. Tickets are on sale now.—Internet

Cheryl Cole and ex-husband Ashley Cole to try again

LONDON, 15 Aug—Cheryl Cole and ex-husband Ashley Cole are planning a “clear-the-air” dinner for their families.

The former couple - who divorced last year following revelations the soccer player had cheated on his pop star wife with a string of women - are set to give their relationship another go and want their relatives to give them their blessing. So they have arranged a get together at a restaurant in Essex, South East England, in the hope everyone can sort out their differences - especially Cheryl’s mother Joan, who is said to disapprove of the reconciliation.

A source told The Sun newspaper: “Cheryl and Ashley are a sealed deal but they need this dinner to clear the air between the families. There’s still bad feeling, particularly on Cheryl’s side.”

As well as getting her love life back on track, it seems Cheryl’s career is going from strength to strength, following her humiliating sacking from the US version of ‘The X Factor’ in May.—Internet

‘Apes’ rises to second weekend box office win

LOS ANGELES, 15 Aug—Sci-fi movie “Rise of the Planet of the Apes” hung on to the top spot at the weekend box office for the second week in a row, according to studio estimates released on Sunday.

The revival of the “Planet of the Apes” franchise pulled in an estimated $27.5 million at US and Canadian theaters over three days, distributor 20th Century Fox, a unit of News Corp said.

Civil Rights-era drama “The Help” finished a strong second with $25.5 million in domestic ticket sales over three days. Horror flick “Final Destination 5” landed in third place with $18.4 million.

Cast members James Franco and Freida Pinto pose at the premiere of “Rise of the Planet of the Apes” at the Grauman’s Chinese theatre in Hollywood, California on 28 July, 2011.—Internet

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South Korean pop group f(x) perform at the “Incheon Korean Music Wave 2011” concert at the Incheon Munhak Olympic Stadium in Incheon City, Gyeonggi Province of South Korea, on 13 Aug, 2011.—Xinhua

A child poses for photos as sitting on a huge pumpkin during an international agricultural and food fair in Changchun, capital of northeast China’s Jilin Province, on 14 Aug, 2011.
BRAZIL edges Spain in ‘real final’ of U-20

Medellin, 15 Aug — Brazil beat Spain in a penalty shootout on Sunday in a quarterfinal game viewed as the ‘real final’ between the two best teams in the Under-20 World Cup. In the end it came down to chance with Brazil winning penalties after a 1-1 draw through 90 minutes and a 2-2 stalemate after 30 minutes of extra time.

In the other quarterfinal on Sunday, France edged Nigeria 3-2 in extra time. In the semifinals on Wednesday, Brazil will face Mexico, and France will play Portugal.

The final is on Saturday in Bogota. Brazil has won the title four times and Portugal twice. Mexico and France will be trying to break through for their first.

Ajax keep perfect start in Dutch league

The Hague, 15 Aug — Ajax won its second consecutive match of the Dutch season by beating sc Heerenveen 5-1 on Sunday. Two other clubs also stayed perfect after the first two Eredivisie match rounds, Feyenoord and FC Twente. Reigning champions Ajax, which beat De Graafschap 4-1 last week in Doetinchem, dominated Heerenveen in the Amsterdam Arena.

New signing Kolbeinn Sigthorsson handed the home team the lead with his first goal for the club. Bas Dost equalized and before halftime defender Toby Alderweireld gave Ajax the lead again with a long-distance strike.

Hunter-Reay wins rain-shortened IndyCar race


The crash occurred seconds after a decision to resume the race on a wet track that had proven treacherous. Power even flashed an obscene gesture at race officials after being involved in the wreck. That brought out the caution flag and, a short time later, the race was declared over 10 miles short of its scheduled 225-mile distance on the mile oval.

Family resemblance puts Bradley in winner’s circle

Johns Creek, 15 Aug — Saying newly crowned PGA champion Keegan Bradley was practically born to play golf is like saying Barry Bonds got a headstart by being Bobby’s son. His father, Mark, is currently the head pro at Jackson Hole Golf & Tennis Club in Wyoming after stints in Boston and Vermont. Bradley got plenty of lessons and all the time he needed at the practice range, free of charge. Turns out he was schooled, as well, by one of his aunts, who knew plenty about the game and even more about the tenacity it takes to play golf at the highest levels.

That would be LPGA Hall of Famer Pat Bradley, whom renowned sports psychologist Bob Rotella once called the toughest player he ever saw. “I grew up going to Pat’s tournaments, totally idolizing her and wanting to be like her out there,” he said, with the Wanamaker Trophy perched nearby. “I remember as a kid going out to her tournaments and literally staring her in the face, and I’m her nephew, but she was so into it, she wouldn’t even recognize me. And I thought that was cool,” said Bradley, now 25. — Internet

Aguero scores twice in Manchester City debut

Manchester, 16 Aug — Sergio Aguero scored two goals and set up another in his English debut to help Manchester City beat newcomer Swansea 4-0 Monday night and give the Welsh club a harsh welcome to the Premier League.

Goalkeeper Michel Vorm had made a string of good saves to help Swansea withstand nearly an hour of relentless pressure from City before Edin Dzeko finally put the host ahead in the 57th. The striker capitalized on Vorm’s first inaccuracy, slotting a rebound into the empty net after the goalkeeper failed control Adam Johnson’s shot from the right side of the area.

Aguero, Diego Maradona’s son-in-law, then came on as a substitute and made it 2-0 in the 67th, meeting Micah Richards’ cross at the far post for an easy tap-in. The Argentine forward set up David Silva for the third just three minutes later and scored from long range in injury time.
Chinese state councilor stresses improving quality of higher education

DONGGUN, 15 Aug—State Councilor Liu Yandong has called for overall efforts to boost the quality of higher education being offered in the country.

High quality higher education is a must for a strong nation, Liu said while addressing a national meeting on higher education Sunday.

Liu said lifting quality is the most important and urgent task facing the tertiary education sector.

To cultivate talents should be the core mission of higher education while scientific research should also be an important focus, Liu said.

She urged colleges and universities to explore new teaching methods and improve the innovation system through enhanced coordination with research institutes and enterprises.

In addition, Liu stressed efforts to expand the decision-making right of colleges and universities in an active and steady manner and improve the quality standard and evaluation system concerning services offered in higher education institutions.

Xinhua

A cog train heads for the Jungfraujoch the highest railway station in Europe, in the Valais Alps, Switzerland on 13 Aug, 2011. Taking the cog train up across mountains and finally getting to its last stop the Jungfraujoch is Switzerland’s most popular mountain railway excursion. XINHUA
Republic of the Union of Myanmar is in the democratization process
Build mutual trust while preserving and keeping in fore fine traditions

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — A letter under the title of presentation for durable and meaningful peace signed by Chairman U Lalmal Yaw Han (representing Lisa ethnic race), Vice-Chairman U Deinya Aphon (representing Rawun ethnic race), Secretary U Labaung Songnu (representing La Chik ethnic race), and Members U Phyu Yum Baukhaung (representing Zatwa ethnic race), U Ingan Jarnaw (representing Jinghpaw ethnic race) and U Banbi Hong Daung (representing Laung Waw ethnic race) of Ethnic Kachin Races Traditional Culture Central Committee in Myitkyina, Kachin State, was sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein on 28 July 2011. The translation of the letter is as follows:

Dear Mr. President,

We of the Ethnic Kachin Races Traditional Culture Central Committee would like to submit a letter to Mr. President asking Your Excellency to restore a durable and meaningful peace.

1. We of the Ethnic Kachin Races Traditional Culture Central Committee are totally desirous of a durable and meaningful peace in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

2. Truly, the entire mankind is against the sufferings caused by war. And war brings only failure to national development dragging people into a whirlpool of mysteries and bitterness. Unfortunately, people are now in this kind of eddy. In fact, peace is the aspiration of the entire mankind.

3. In history, all the nationalities worked in cohesion in their struggle to regain independence. In this regard, we honestly hope that as the Head of State, Mr. President would kindly take the helm in holding talks with all the ethnic armed groups showing much magnanimity as our parent, and eventually building a long-lasting peace. Solving the problem through guns is not an option for us.

4. Right now, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is in the democratization process. Truthfully, we are in favor of making peace with ethnic armed groups and building mutual trust while preserving and keeping in fore our fine traditions.

Mr. President, we write this letter having absolute confidence in Your Excellency’s ability to build a democratic nation blessed with peace, prosperity and progress, while saving us all from the current abject sufferings of war.—MNA

Union Energy Minister visits Myanma Corbonox Factory

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — Myanma Corbonox Factory is a carbon dioxide and dry ice manufacturer jointly run by Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise under Ministry of Energy and NUR Investment Trading of Singapore on a profit-sharing basis. The factory uses flue gas by-product of the boiler of steam generator of No. 1 Refinery (Thanlyin) as its input.

Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay visited the factory in the compound of the refinery in Thanlyin, Yangon Region yesterday and heard reports on capital, production, distribution and profits of the factory. The Union Minister called for market penetration and looked round the factory. He then inspected WPP bag weaving workshop in the oil refinery compound.

The Union Minister, in meeting with liquefied petroleum gas importers at the briefing hall of the refinery, said that private companies had been permitted to import and sell LPG; that 1200 tons of LPG imported had arrived July and called for increased distribution of LPG across the nation. He then inspected storage and distribution of LPG by Universal Energy Co and Green Luck Trading Co.—MNA

Novak Djokovic wins Rogers Cup

MONTREAL, 15 Aug — Top-ranked Novak Djokovic won the Rogers Cup on Sunday for his ninth tournament victory of the year and record fifth in a season in an ATP Masters 1,000 event, beating Mardy Fish 6-2, 3-6, 6-4. The 24-year-old Serb, the Australian Open and Wimbledon champion, is 29-0 this year on hard courts and 53-1 overall. He also won the Rogers Cup in 2007.

“I am human — I can definitely assure you of that,” Djokovic said. “I guess it’s just all about having a positive attitude on the court every day, waking up every day wanting to improve, wanting to win, being determined, being professional. It’s that desire and motivation that keeps me going. Every match I play, I try to win, regardless which match is it or whoever is across the net.” —Internet

Serena Williams beats Stosur, wins Rogers Cup

TORONTO, 15 Aug — Eight weeks into her comeback, Serena Williams not only believes she can be as good as she once was. She can be better. The 29-year-old American star made a pretty good point by capturing the Rogers Cup in commanding fashion Sunday, dispatching 10th-seed Samantha Stosur of Australia 6-4, 6-2 for her first Canadian crown since 2001.

The victory was just the latest step in a remarkable comeback from injury and illness that has seen her win two of the four tournaments she's completed once Fabregas signs a contract and undergoes a medical exam on Monday, the clubs said. Spanish media reports put the price of the transfer at around $57 million. Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said the club did not want to lose Fabregas. “However, we understand Cesc’s desire to move to his home town club and have now accepted an offer from Barcelona,” the Frenchman said in a statement on Arsenal’s website.

Fabregas will return to the club that nurtured him before he joined Arsenal in 2003. He went on to become Arsenal’s youngest ever starter a month later at 16 and was made club captain in November 2008. The 24-year-old star could make his debut Wednesday at the Camp Nou as the Spanish champions welcome Real Madrid for the return leg of their Spanish Supercup series, which is 2-2 after Sunday’s first leg. — Internet

Fabregas finally joins Barcelona from Arsenal

MADRID, 15 Aug — Cesc Fabregas is finally returning to boyhood club Barcelona. The Spaniard’s long-awaited transfer from Arsenal finally materialized on Sunday when the two clubs announced they reached a preliminary agreement for the 24-year-old midfielder. The deal will be

Cesc Fabregas

MNA

Serena, Williams, of the United States, reacts moments after defeating Samantha Stosur, of Australia. — Internet

Novak Djokovic, from Serbia, raises the trophy after defeating Mardy Fish from the United States. Internet