Agreement between Medical Research Dept (Lower Myanmar) and KOICA inked

**NAV PYI TAW, 20 Aug**— Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin received Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr Kim Hae-Yong at Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) on Ziwaka Road in Dagon Township, Yangon yesterday.

Later, the Union Minister attended the agreement signing ceremony for cooperation in researches under the programme of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) held at Ziwaka Medical Library of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar).

It was also attended by the ROK ambassador, directors-general of Health Department, Resident Representative Ms Kim Tae Eun of KOICA and responsible persons.

Acting Director-General Dr Myo Khin of MRD (Lower Myanmar) and Ms Kim Tae Eun signed agreement on establishment of laboratory for research on communicable diseases project funded by KOICA with US$ three million.

The Union Minister visited 400-bed Specialist Orthopedic Hospital in Kyimyinda Township and left necessary instructions.

**MNA**
**PERSPECTIVES**

Sunday, 21 August, 2011

**Businesses towards right track of goal**

The National Workshop on Reforms for National Economic Development was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 August, attended by economists, representatives of government departments and banking associations, entrepreneurs of private sector and responsible persons of other organizations.

In his address at the workshop, President U Thein Sein pointed out, “In making macroeconomic reforms, management and procedures must be transparent. To ensure that economic enterprises will not be diverted away from their courses, and to set up an enabling business environment, we should use all possible ways and means as well as cut the bureaucratic red-tapism.”

Economic development of a country somewhat means improvement of the macroeconomic infrastructure. Measurement on economic development of a country is based on its Gross Domestic Products (GDP) and changes, job opportunities for people and changes in values of exports. Every country has to enhance macroeconomic performance to achieve the goals of boosting production, creating more job opportunities, free trade and stability of price, and ensuring smooth foreign trade. Every country has made macroeconomic reforms in a period or another for economic and social development.

The government is in pursuit of the goal of building a modern and developed nation in order to catch up with other countries. Economic growth lies at the centre of the drive. In order to improve the whole economic infrastructure of the nation, the government has to review basically the monetary policy, fiscal policy, trade policy and investment policy to amend the laws, rules and procedures.

As macroeconomics has a wide field, there can emerge suggestions from different aspects. Each expert’s point of view may prove their own case, however all the participants are to make coordination for better status at policy making level. All the attendees can adopt work programmes through such discussions and assessments towards the right track of businesses by giving give hand in promoting macroeconomic policy.

**Myanmar, China to cooperate in electric power sector**

**NAY PYI TAW,** 20 Aug—Union Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Soe received a delegation led by Additional General Manager (International Business) Mr Anil Mehra of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, and another delegation headed by Director of International Department Mr Yu Nai Chun of China Electric Power Equipment and Technology Company Limited (CET) and Vice President Mr Duan Dai of Central China Power Grid International Economic and Trade Limited (CCPG), at the ministry here today respectively.

The discussion with India delegation was about implementation project with the assistance of loan of India, and with Chinese guests, about cooperation with Ministry of Electric Power No.2 in electric power sector.

Deputy Minister U Aung Than Oo, Director-General U Khin Maung Zaw of Electric Power Department and officials were also present at the calls.—MNA

**Bago Region Chief Minister attends concluding of monsoon paddy cultivation and transplanting-skills competition**

**YANGON,** 20 Aug—U Nyan Win, Chief Minister of Bago Region, attended the concluding of monsoon paddy cultivation and transplanting-skills competition at model farm of Myanma Agriculture Service in Kamanat Village of Bago Township yesterday.

Companies engaged in agricultural materials and farming equipment distribution donated K 6.7 million to farmers on the occasion.

The chief minister attended the work coordination meeting at Bago Region Government Office in the afternoon and called officials to ensure distribution of paddy seeds to famers whose farms were damaged in floods.

**Myanmar and Indonesia stage Joint Cultural Show**

**YANGON,** 20 Aug—To mark the 66th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, the Ministries of Culture of Myanmar and Indonesia jointly staged the Joint Cultural Show at the National Theatre in Dagon Township this afternoon. It was attended by Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin, Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe, Indonesian Ambassador Mr. Sebastians Sumarsono and wife, embassy staff and guests. The Indonesian Ambassador extended greetings and presented Angklung to Rector in-charge U Kyaw Oo of National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon) and Daw Ni Ni Shwe of Malikha Girl Training School.

Traditional dance troupes of Indonesia and students of the NCFAU (Yangon) presented traditional dances and songs.

**BEHS-1 Sangyoung stages prize-awarding ceremony**

**YANGON,** 20 Aug—The No. 1 Basic Education High School held its annual meeting for parents and teachers association along with prize-awarding ceremony for 2011-2012 academic year at the school in Sangyoung Township here today. The occasion started with the song “BEHS-1 Sangyoung” by students in unison.

Township Assistant Education Officer U Zaw Zaw Ei, Headmistress Dr Sandy Nyein and officials made speeches and awarded outstanding students and assiduous teachers.—MNA

**Joint Cultural Show to mark 66th Anniversary Independence Day of Indonesia in progress.**

—MNA
NATO oil tankers attacked in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 20 Aug—At least one NATO oil tanker was destroyed Friday night following a huge blast at a NATO oil tankers terminal near a market in Torham, a city in northwest Pakistan, which borders Afghanistan, reported local Urdu TV channel Geo.

This is the second attack on NATO oil tankers in Pakistan on Friday. Prior to this, four NATO oil tankers were torched Friday afternoon by unknown people near Quetta, capital of Balochistan Province in southwest Pakistan. Currently about 70 percent of the NATO supplies are shipped into Afghanistan through two border ports in Pakistan, namely the Chaman port in Balochistan and the Torham port in Khyber Agency in northwest Pakistan. —MNA/Xinhua

Venezuela rejects US criticism in terrorism report

CARACAS, 20 Aug—Venezuela condemned a US State Department report Friday for saying the South American country’s government is not fully cooperating in anti-terrorism efforts. Venezuela’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the US report is plagued with false information and “veiled threats.” The report, which was released Thursday, expresses concern about Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez’s close ties with Iran. It also accuses his government of taking no action against Venezuela reiterated its criticisms of US authorities for not turning over former CIA operative Luis Posada Carriles, who is wanted in Venezuela on charges of planning the 1976 bombing of a Cuban airliner that killed 73 people. It said the US has provided “refuge and protection” to Posada.

Internet

50 killed, over 100 injured in attack on mosque in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 20 Aug—At least 50 people were killed and over 100 others were injured when a suicide bomb attack hit a mosque packed with hundreds of prayers in northwest Pakistan Friday afternoon, reported local Urdu TV channel Geo Express.

According to the TV, the blast took place at about 02:00 pm local time Friday when a teenager suicide bomber aged about 16 blew himself up in a mosque at the Ghondi area of Jamrud, a District in Pakistan’s northwest tribal area of Khyber Agency which borders Afghanistan.

Hundreds of people were offering Friday prayers inside the mosque when the attack took place, said local media reports. Some reports said that over 100 people were inside the mosque hit by the blast while others put the number at 400 to 700. Local TV footage showed that the mosque partially collapsed following the huge blast and many people were feared buried under the debris of the collapsed building.

An estimated 40 people injured in the blast were rushed to nearby hospitals while some 50 critically injured people have been shifted to the Lady Reading Hospital and other hospitals in Peshawar, a city which is about 50 kilometres away from the blast site.

Internet

35 killed, 24 injured as bus turns over in Kandahar, Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, 20 Aug—At least 34 people were killed and 24 others injured on Saturday morning when a passenger bus turned turtle in Afghanistan’s southern Kandahar Province, a spokesman for local government said.

“A passenger bus was travelling from Kandahar province for capital city of Kabul, but the ill-fated bus turned turtle as it lost control on the highway in Daman district of Kandahar Province in the wee hours Saturday. As a result some 34 people were killed and 24 others sustained injuries,” Zalmai Ayubi told Xinhua.

Reckless driving on congested roads and highways is the main cause of road accidents in Afghanistan. Ayubi also blamed the reckless driving for the incident, saying carelessness of the driver might led to the bloody accident and claimed the lives of innocent commuters.—Xinhua

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Flash flooding kills at least three in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH, 20 Aug—Flash flooding killed at least three people in Pittsburgh on Friday when heavy rains submerged cars in flood water that was nine feet deep in places, authorities said.

The three victims, identified as a woman and two children, died after their vehicle was pinned against a tree on Washington Boulevard and they were unable to escape, Michael Huss, the city’s public safety director, said in a press conference broadcast in part on local KDRA-TV.

“We have crews that are continuing to search,” he said.

Huss said the water was more than nine feet deep in some areas along the road, which is near the banks of the Allegheny River. An elderly woman remains unaccounted for, he said.

Some 18 cars were stranded in the flooding and 11 people had to be rescued, according to local media reports.

Accuweather.com said rescue crews had used inflatable rafts to reach stranded drivers. Power was out to 8,400 customers.

Earlier, the National Weather Service had issued a flash flood watch for Allegheny County as storms pounded the area.

Reuters

Pittsburgh emergency responders throw a life vest to Robert Bailey, 80, who climbed onto the roof of his car after being caught in a flash flood, 19 Aug, 2011, in Pittsburgh.—INTERNET

50 killed, over 100 injured in attack on mosque in Pakistan

Photo taken on 18 Aug, 2011 shows damaged road in Huixian County, northwest China’s Gansu Province. A flood hit the county Wednesday night, leaving 120 houses collapsed and 842 houses damaged.

Xinhua

Injured people receive medical treatment at a hospital in northwest Pakistan’s Peshawar on 19 Aug, 2011. Xinhua

35 killed, 24 injured as bus turns over in Kandahar, Afghanistan

Internet

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Gold sets yet another record at $1,852.20

NEW YORK, 20 Aug—Gold prices climbed to another record Friday on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange, adding $30.20 to settle at $1,852.20 an ounce. It traded as high as $1,881.40 an ounce, setting an intraday record for the precious metal. “We could hit $2,000 as early as next week sometime, at this rate, certainly in the next weeks,” Matt Zeman, head trader and strategist at Kingsview Financial in Chicago, told MarketWatch.com. Silver added $1.74 to settle at $42.43 an ounce.

The euro gained strength, climbing to $1.4388 Friday from Thursday’s $1.43.33. Against the yen, the dollar was 76.4000 yen Friday, from Thursday’s 76.58 yen. The British pound was $1.6479 Friday from $1.6526 Thursday. Against the Hong Kong dollar, the US dollar was 7.7995 Hong Kong dollars from 7.7944 Hong Kong dollars Thursday.—INTERNET

GM launches Cadillac Ciel convertible

PEBBLE BEACH, 20 Aug—General Motors provided a glimpse in California of the new Cadillac Ciel — a car it says combines luxury and hybrid technology. The unveiling at Pebble Beach revealed a convertible with sleek lines and "French style" doors that open in opposite directions, The Detroit Free Press reported Friday. The passenger doors swing back, the front doors swing forward, allowing the convertible to look wide open — no pillar between the doors. “Large, expressive luxury is innate to Cadillac and the Ciel recalls that heritage while suggesting where the brand can go in the future,” said Clay Dean, design director for the Ciel, which means "sky" in French.

The Ciel, which seats four, features a 3.6-liter direct-injection V6 engine and a lithium-ion battery. GM has plans for a larger XTS Cadillac sedan and a compact sedan in 2012. In 2013, GM will bring out the Cadillac ELR, which will use the same power technology as the Chevrolet Volt.

In this 14 June, 2011 photo, the asthma drug Singulair is displayed at Medco Health Solutions Inc, in Willingboro, NJ. The cost of prescription medicines used by millions of people every day is about to plummet. Internet

TSX slides on nagging recession fears

TORONTO, 20 Aug—Toronto’s main stock index dropped sharply for a second day on Friday as financial and energy issues were hit by fears of a new US recession and by a Bank of Canada warning on risks to the global economy. The index reversed an earlier rally on the back of safe-haven golds, as US markets also slipped further into the red after Hewlett-Packard’s weaker outlook and corporate shakeup added to investor uncertainty. Banks were the heaviest decliners on the TSX, down more than 3 percent. Toronto-Dominion Bank tumbled nearly 4 percent to C$71.10, Bank of Nova Scotia sank 4.3 percent to C$50.25, and Royal Bank of Canada lost 3 percent to C$84.97.

Ron Meisels, a technical analyst and president of Phases & Cycles in Montreal said some financials were showing “serious negative signals,” after turning to near 8 August lows, a day characterized by panic selling spurred by the United States’ loss of its triple-A credit rating. “Given that we expect better days next week or so I would suggest taking that strength to sell into rallies the weak stocks and at the same time accumulate the gold and silver stocks because they might have a correction,” added Meisels. The Toronto Stock Exchange’s S&P/TSX composite index ended down 179.24 points, or 1.47 percent, at 12,007.47, with eight of its 10 main sectors lower.—Reuters

Health tip: Are turned toes trouble?

In-toeing or out-toeing occur when a child’s toes point inward or outward as they walk. Many children who begin walking this way outgrow the abnormal gait.

The Nemours Foundation mentions these signs that a child may need medical evaluation:

• Continuing — past the age of 3 — to toe-in or toe-out while walking.
• Limping or having pain while walking.
• Turning one foot inward or outward more than the other foot.
• Showing developmental delays in other areas, including delayed speech.
• Having walking abnormalities that worsen over time.

Moms’ depression affects kids’ brain structure, scans show

MONTREAL, 20 Aug—Children of mothers with depression have an enlarged amygdala, the part of the brain associated with emotional responses, Canadian researchers have found. The team used MRI scans to examine the brains of 10-year-old children of mothers who’ve had symptoms of depression throughout their lives.

The results suggest that children’s brains are sensitive to the quality of care they receive, the University of Montreal researchers said. The study authors noted that previous studies found similar changes in the brains of children who were adopted by families after being initially raised in orphanages.

The amygdala assigns emotional significance to information and events and plays a role in how we respond to potential risks, according to background information provided in a university news release.

“We do not know if the enlargement that we have observed is the result of long-term exposure to lower quality care. But we show that growing up with a depressed mother is associated with enlarged amygdala,” Dr Sonia Lupien and colleagues said in the news release. The findings, published online 15 Aug in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, strongly suggest “that the brain may be highly responsive to the environment during early development and confirms the importance of early intervention to help children facing adversity,” Lupien said.—INTERNET

Metabolic Syndrome Linked to Kidney Disease

NEW YORK, 20 Aug—People with metabolic syndrome are at increased risk for kidney disease, a new study suggests. Metabolic syndrome refers to the presence of three or more of the following health threats: high blood pressure, high blood sugar, low good cholesterol, excess fat in the waist/abdomen, and elevated levels of fatty acids. It was known that people with metabolic syndrome are at increased risk for diabetes, heart disease, stroke and premature death. This study adds kidney disease to that list.

Researchers analyzed data from more than 30,000 people in 11 studies that examined the relationship between metabolic syndrome and kidney disease. The review revealed that people with metabolic syndrome have a 55 percent increased risk of kidney problems, especially reduced kidney function, which is indicative of kidney disease.

The researchers also found that individual characteristics of metabolic syndrome are associated with kidney disease, and that a person’s risk of kidney disease rises as the number of those characteristics increases.—INTERNET

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Mauna Kea telescope back up after lightning strike

HONOLULU, 20 Aug—A Mauna Kea telescope that was knocked out by lightning more than two months ago is fully operational again after undergoing repairs, the telescope’s director said Friday.

The final problem was a faulty electronics card that helped synchronize the movement of the 2.2-metre telescope dome and the telescope itself. The telescope, which belongs to the University of Hawaii, became fully usable on Wednesday evening once that was fixed.

Operators “are confident that we have repaired the telescope and its sub-systems and we can continue with full night-time observing with remote operation from Hilo, Manoa, the US mainland, and Europe,” Colin Aspin, the director, said in an email.

The telescope went offline during the weekend of 4-5 June, when tens of thousands of lightning flashes were recorded around the state. It wasn’t clear if a direct lightning strike knocked out the telescope or if the problem was caused by a lightning strike on Saddle Road that affected power going to the mountain.

The 41-year-old telescope is the first large telescope ever built on Hawaii’s Mauna Kea volcano. It’s smaller than its more famous neighbours — including the twin Keck telescopes that have mirrors measuring 10 metres, or about 32 feet, in diameter. But the machine was the first to show Mauna Kea has some of the world’s best conditions for observing the skies.

In the early 1990s, astronomers used it to discover the existence of the Kuiper Belt, a region beyond Neptune home to large numbers of asteroid-sized bodies. Today, Pluto is commonly regarded as the largest known Kuiper Belt Object, not as the ninth planet. Other telescopes at the volcano summit have also had problems this year. The Subaru telescope was shut down last month after coolant leaked around the telescope, including on the mirrors and camera.

New method can predict sunspots

PALO ALTO, 20 Aug—Researchers in California say they’ve developed a method to catch sunspots in the early stage of development and give as much as two days’ warning.

Sunspots give rise to solar storms that disrupt communication systems, air travel, power grids and satellites, so a way to predict them would allow protective measures to be taken, a Stanford University release said Friday.

University researchers have developed a method that allows them to peer deep into the sun’s interior using acoustic waves generated inside by the turbulent motion of plasma and gases in constant motion. The method allows detection of sunspots in the early stages of formation as deep as 40,000 miles inside the sun, between one and two days before they would appear on the sun’s surface.

Sunspots that ultimately become large rise up to the surface more quickly than ones that stay small, the researchers said, and for the larger sunspots ones that spawn the biggest disruptions warning time is roughly a day.

The smaller ones can be found up to two days before they reach the surface, they said.

BlackBerry’s music service costs $5 a month, 50 song limit with library sharing

WASHINGTON, 20 Aug—Details on RIM’s BlackBerry music app leaked out today from CrackBerry. According to their report, the music service is priced at $5 a month. However, BlackBerry owners will be able to activate a free trial of the application after downloading the BlackBerry music app. After activation, the user can download up to 50 songs at a time onto the phone. While the amount is extremely minuscule compared to Spotify’s offline caching of up to 3,333 tracks per mobile device, users will be able to listen to the song library of anyone using the app on the contact list. The amount of allowed connections is currently unknown at this time, but potentially offers access to thousands of songs for users with many connections.

It’s rumored that RIM recently signed a deal with one of the four leading music labels and is in the process of setting up deals with two other labels. The major music labels include Sony Music Entertainment, Warner Music Group, EMI Music and Universal Music Group.

The BlackBerry music app likely represents RIM’s attempt at broadening the appeal of the BlackBerry smartphone line beyond the business user.

iPhone 3GS free with contract at Best Buy on 22 August

NEW YORK, 20 Aug—On Monday 22 August, Best Buy will be giving away the iPhone 3GS with a two-year activation contract from AT&T according to a leaked snapshot of an in-store advertisement published at Techbuffalo. The iPhone 3GS sells for $49.99 with activation normally, but this promotion is likely a tactic to clear out stock for the upcoming announcements of the iPhone 5 as well as a potential announcement of a less expensive iPhone 4. It’s likely that Apple will discontinue the iPhone 3GS during the announcement as well. This is the second time that Best Buy has rolled out a single day promotion for the iPhone 3GS. The first time was in early December 2010 and the cost was also free with activation. Apple is still continuing to build the iPhone 3GS though.

Apple recently ordered about 36 million iPhones, half of which are the new iPhone 5 and half of which are made up with iPhone 4 models as well as the iPhone 3GS. Based off an increase of 14 million iPhone 5 handsets to 20 million in the order, Apple expects demand of the iPhone 5 to be astronomical in the fourth quarter of 2011. It’s rumored that the new phone will utilize the dual-core A5 processor found in the iPad 2, a larger display screen size and a 8-megapixel camera built by Sony. Other rumors include a possibility or two versions of the phone as well as 4G compatibility.
Five dead after storm strikes Belgian pop festival

Six trapped in flooded coal mine in north China

Forest fire in southeast Spain under control

Sunflowers melt Fukushima’s nuclear “snow”
Helicopter carrying four people missing off Rio’s coast

RIO DE JANEIRO, 20 Aug—A helicopter carrying four people disappeared during a trip between a Petrobras offshore platform and an airport in southeast Brazil, local media reported late Friday.

The helicopter belongs to charter company Senior and was at Petrobras’ service. The aircraft had taken off from Petrobras’ P-12 platform, in the Enchova field, in the Campos Basin, off the coast of Rio de Janeiro state. Petrobras said the helicopter’s pilot contacted air traffic control late in the afternoon, requesting authorization for an emergency landing at the Macae airport.

When the helicopter did not show up, the company activated an emergency plan and sent boats to the region to start searches.

According to Petrobras, the Brazilian Air Force and Navy are also helping in the search efforts. The names of the helicopter’s occupants have yet to be disclosed.—Xinhua

Toxic substance in Hatshepsut flask

BERLIN, 20 Aug—A German university said Friday that researchers have discovered a carcinogenic substance in a flask of lotion believed to have belonged to Queen Hatshepsut, who ruled Egypt 3,500 years ago—raising a possibility she may have accidentally poisoned herself.

The University of Bonn said it spent two years researching the dried-out contents of the flask, which is part of its Egyptian Museum’s collection and bears an inscription saying it belonged to Hat shepsut. It said the flask contains what appears to have been a lotion or medicine used to tackle skin disorders such as eczema. The contents included palm and nutmeg oil, along with fatty acids of the kind that can relieve such disorders. There are known to have been cases of skin diseases in Hatshepsut’s family, the university said.

Researchers also found benzopyrene, an aromatic and highly carcinogenic hydrocarbon. “If one imagines that the queen had a chronic skin disease and the ointment gave her short-term relief, then she may have exposed herself to a major risk over the course of a few years,” Helmut Wiedenfeld of the university’s pharmaceutical institute said in a statement.

Egyptian officials have said that the mummy of Hatshepsut suggests the woman was obese, probably suffered from diabetes, had liver cancer and died in her 50s. Hatshepsut is believed to have stolen the throne from her young stepson, Thutmose III, who scratched her name from stone records in revenge after her death.—Xinhua

Sailing exhibition held in Qingdao

QINGDAO, 20 Aug—An exhibition featuring 515 sailing-related items opened in the eastern Chinese City of Qingdao on Saturday. The exhibition, which displays posters, pictures, brochures and souvenirs from three Olympic museums, five national sailing associations and 13 cities, is part of 3rd Qingdao International Sailing Week which runs from 20 Aug to 4 Sept.

The Olympic Museum in Lausanne, the Barcelona Olympic Museum and the Kiel Sailing Week of Germany all sent their collections to Qingdao, the host to the 2008 Olympic sailing.

Goran Petersson, President of the International Sailing Federation (ISAF), and other five experts on sailing and arts were invited to select top 10 out of the exhibition. The top prize went to the Kiel Sailing Week of Germany.—Xinhua

A scientist at the university of Bonn displays a flask in Bonn, Germany, on 19 Aug, 2011. The university says researchers have discovered a carcinogenic substance in the flask believed to have belonged to Queen Hatshepsut, who ruled Egypt 3,500 years ago. The scientists spent two years researching the dried-out contents of the flask, which is part of its Egyptian Museum’s collection and bears an inscription saying it belonged to Hatshepsut.—INTERNET

A graffiti artist works on what is set to be the UK’s largest street art project on 19 August, 2011 in Bristol, England. The See No Evil art project on Nelson Street in Bristol will see several multi story buildings in the street covered with art over the coming days.—INTERNET

Iran to hold air maneuver in Sep

TEHERAN, 20 Aug—An Iranian air force commander said Friday that the country will hold an air maneuver in September, the official IRNA news agency reported. Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh told IRNA that the maneuver will be likely held in September with the participation of all the fighters of Iranian air force.

Asked about the probability of participation of the fighters from other countries in the maneuver, Nasirzadeh said that “the maneuver is annually held exclusively by Iranian air force and as the previous war games no other country is to participate.” Earlier in July, Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) conducted a 10-day missile maneuver which IRGC described as successful.—Xinhua

Food bank an important part of Vancouver anti-poverty fight

VANCOUVER, 20 Aug—Surveying the scene around the Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society’s 3,000-square-meter warehouse, with canned goods and boxes of fruits and vegetable stacked high throughout the building, Cheryl Carline frets there should be more. With most of its donations coming in December during the Christmas period when the public and corporations are at their most generous, food bank chief executive officer Carline points out that those in need are equally as hungry in the summer months.

“Right now we’re getting a lot of farm donations. Our biggest challenge in summer is keeping the message strong. People aren’t thinking about the food bank when the weather is nice. They are on vacation, having holidays,” she said. “When the weather is poor you certainly see who’s homeless and who needs food. Our biggest challenge now, even though it is bountiful in terms of food, is keeping the message strong and we attempt to do that by letting our partners know how much we need them.”

Started in 1982 as a “temporary social service provider” by a contingent of small organizations, church groups and concerned citizens, assisting about 200 people at the time, today the GVFBS has becoming a growing concern, reflecting the increasing number of those in need. —Xinhua

A graffiti artist works on what is set to be the UK’s largest street art project on 19 August, 2011 in Bristol, England. The See No Evil art project on Nelson Street in Bristol will see several multi story buildings in the street covered with art over the coming days.—INTERNET

IRGC described as successful.—IRNA

An aircraft of the Latvian aerobatic group runs off the runway during its landing at the 10th Moscow International Air Show (MAKS) at the Zhukovsky airfield outside Moscow, Russia, on 18 Aug, 2011. No injury was caused to the pilot and no damage was done to the plane.

MAKS 2011 air show entered the third day on Tuesday, attracting 793 companies from 40 countries and regions to participate in.

INTERNET

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2nd day workshop produces 16 more views...

(from page 1)

Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration on investment opportunities, and Deputy Director U Kyi Thin Oo of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism upgraded policy for development of hotels and tourism sector in the future.

In the session-V on undertakings of finance and monetary policy, Director-General Dr Lin Aung of Budget Department on assessment on accomplishment of financial policies adopted by the State, and Director U Aung Moe Kyi of Internal Revenue Department on studies on levying various taxes in Myanmar and tax management.

The resource persons replied to queries raised by those present. And the workshop came to an end at 7.50 pm.

Based on discussions from Various angles today’s workshop, it is necessary to strive for achieving continuous development. As such, the poor and rich gap among all walks of life will be narrowed. And, everybody can get easy access to fruits of development.

Also present at the workshop were Union Ministers, deputy ministers, guests, planning and economic ministers of regions and states, Hluttaw representatives, departmental heads, persons of political parties, economists and resource persons, responsible persons of NGOs and media persons.

A total of 16 resource persons submitted 16 papers in the second day session of the workshop. The third day session of the workshop continues tomorrow noon.

Second-day National Workshop on Reforms for National Economic Development in progress.

MNA

Rakhine State in pursuit of rural development and poverty alleviation project

Chairman of Myanmar Oriental Bank U Mya Than presided over the workshop. Vice-Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Nay Aye read the paper on development of capital market in Myanmar, Director U Thein Zaw of CBM on progress of Myanmar banking sector, Deputy Chairman of Myanmar Oriental Bank U Mya Than presides over National Workshop on Reforms for National Economic Development. MNA

departmental personnel who are assuming responsibilities as chairmen and secretaries of respective sub-committees submitted reports on progress in implementation of eight tasks for rural development and poverty reduction. The state chief minister assessed the reports and gave instructions on needs and follow-up tasks.—MNA

Myanmar yachtspersons go for yachting in Thailand

YANGON, 20 Aug—Selected Myanmar athletes from Myanmar Sailing Federation, to take part in Hua Hin Regatta-2011 to be held at Hua Hin beach in Thailand from 20 to 28 August, left Yangon for the host country this morning.

Myanmar squad headed by Vice-President of the federation U Maung Win comprises Thaha Aung and Zeya Hlaing for International 470 (M) class, Aung Thura Phyo and Kyaw Ko Ko Hlaing for International 420 (M), Hlaing Wah and Wai Pwint Wahr Boe for International 420 (W) and Kaung Htet Myat for Laser Class. All sportspersons have taken training for over two years in Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung beaches.

A total of 13 participants trained by U Sai Pyae Sone Hein (International 420/470), U Aung Myin Thu (Optimist) and U Yan Myo Aung (Laser) will join U-15 Optimist Class.

MNA

Sports Ministry meets to prepare for 27th SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug—Secretary of Leading Committee for Preparation for 27th SEA Games Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu met members of security subcommittee, accommodat- ing and catering subcommittee, communication subcommittee, fund-raising and prize-presenting subcommittee at Ministry of Sports here yesterday.

The secretary of the leading committee first gave instructions. The deputy director-general of Sports and Physical Education Department submitted reports on works of respective subcommittees and the deputy minister assessed the reports, calling for data-mining and necessary responses.

MNA
Union Religious Affairs Minister meets ROK venerable monk

Union Religious Affairs Minister Thura U Myint Maung received Ven Moktak of the Republic of Korea at the ministry (Yangon branch) here yesterday.

It was also attended by Director-General U Khaing Aung of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana and officials concerned.

MNA

Monsoon ICT Fair-2011 opens in Yangon

YANGON, 20 Aug—With a view to creating a direct touch between buyers and sellers in the market and helping entrepreneurs get feedback of their products in a competitive way so that they can promote products’ quality, Monsoon ICT Fair-2011 was opened at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township here yesterday. Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe graced with his presence at the fair.

Fair Observance Committee Chairman U Thaung Tin explained the purpose of holding the fair. Region Development Affairs Minister U Hla Myint and Chairman U Ye Yint Win of Myanmar Computer Professional Association and President U Min Zeya Hlaing of Myanmar Computer Federation opened the fair.

The Region chief minister and party viewed the booths displayed at the fair at which 140 booths from 49 companies were set out.

Monsoon ICT Fair-2011 organized by Myanmar Computer Federation and jointly arranged by Myanmar Computer Professional Association and Myanmar Computer Entrepreneur Association will be put on view from 19 to 21 August.—MNA

Hinthada District gathers momentum of development

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug—Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung on 14 August viewed flooded farmlands at the junction of Betye-Hinthada Road in Kyangin Township after inspecting Polan Jetty in Ward 7 of Pathein.

He looked into newly-installed 11KV Switch Gear Panel at 66/11 KV power station in Ingapu. On 15 August, the Chief Minister attended the concluding cultivation of monsoon paddy for 2011-2012 at the entrance to Ingapu.

In Aukywakyi Village of Ingapu Township, he viewed use of paddy dryer at Myint Yadana Rice mill.

In the evening, he met school heads of basic education schools and village administrators at the hall of Basic Education High School in Ward 1 of Ingapu.—MNA

Agenda of Seminar on Quality Rice Seed for Better Future held

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug—The Agricultural Research Department of the Myanmar Agriculture Service under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) jointly organized the Agenda of Seminar on Quality Rice Seed for Better Future at the Department of Agricultural Research in Yezin, Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, yesterday morning.

Deputy Director-General Dr Aung Kyi of the department, Resident Representative of JICA to Myanmar Mr Hideo Miyamoto and Advisor to JICA Rice Seed Project Mr Tomoyuki Fujii made speeches.

Deputy General Manager of the Seed Division of the Myanmar Agriculture Service Dr Ye Tint Tun, Dr Ryoichi Ikeda and Prof Dr Keiko Natsukuri from Tokyo University of Agriculture, Dr Kenji Irike, Mr Hideo Okada, and Senior Research Officer Daw Tin Tin Myint from the Department of Agricultural Research (Yezin) read papers.

MNA

Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung views transplanting-skills competition.—MNA

Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat addressed the meeting of companies which had received BOT permits at the state government office on 18 August.—MNA
Workers unload containers from trucks at the Oui port in Tokyo, capital of Japan, on 18 Aug, 2011. Japan’s exports declined 3.3 percent in July from a year earlier as a strong yen and flagging overseas demand adversely affected trade, the Ministry of Finance said in a preliminary report Thursday.—Xinhua

**Walruses gather on Alaska’s northwest shore**

ANCHORAGE, 20 Aug—Large herds of Pacific walruses have begun gathering on the northwest coast of Alaska, again foraging sea ice for sand in what has become a symbol of climate warming in the Region. A contractor taking part in federal marine mammal aerial surveys over the Chukchi Sea spotted about 5,000 walrus walruses Wednesday on a beach north of Point Lay. A second herd of 3,000 walruses rested a short distance away. In winter, Pacific walruses are found at the edge of sea ice in the Bering Sea. Older males remain in the Bering Sea of Anchorage.

In this 17 Aug, 2011 photo provided by National Marine Mammal Laboratory, herds of walruses line the shore off Point Lay Alaska. In winter, Pacific walruses are found at the edge of sea ice in the Bering Sea.—INTERNET

**Two Australian teenagers charged for using toy gun in fake robberies for YouTube**

SYDNEY, 20 Aug—Two Australian juveniles have been charged for allegedly using a toy gun to fake a series of armed robberies in Western Australia’s capital of Perth and filming the incidents to later post on YouTube, police said on Friday.

Police said the two teenagers, aged 13 and 16, faked the armed robberies at three separate stores — a fastfood restaurant, a pharmacy and a supermarket — in Perth’s southern suburbs of Warnbro, on Thursday afternoon. In each store, one of the teens used a toy firearm to make demands to staff while the second

recorded the incidents on a mobile phone, police said. They left each store before staff could comply with any demands. Police believed that the youths intended to post the recordings on You Tube. Inspector Paul McMurtie said the behavior from the teenagers was “totally unacceptable” and was a serious criminal offense. “The victims are unaware that they are the brunt of a prank and may experience the same levels of anxiety and stress as in a real event,” he said. The youngsters will appear in the Rockingham Children’s Court in Perth on 31 Aug, police said.—Xinhua

**Masked men steal $2 million in diamonds in LA heist**

LOS ANGELES, 20 Aug—Los Angeles police said on Friday they were looking for a group of masked thieves who stole an estimated $2 million in diamonds in a backpack from a man whose car they intentionally struck.

The victim told detectives he had left a friend’s home in the Los Angeles neighbourhood of North Hollywood on Thursday night when his car was hit from behind, Los Angeles Police Department spokesman Richard French said.

According to the man, who was not identified by authorities, another car then blocked his and five or six men jumped out, smashing the driver’s side window and trying to grab the backpack, French said.

The victim told police that he struggled with the men, who were wearing dark clothes and ski masks, before losing the backpack when he was struck in the face and head, French said.

French said it was not yet clear why the man was driving around late at night with $2 million in diamonds in a backpack.

“The detectives thought it was unusual,” French said.

The thieves then fled and are still at large.

Police said there were no suspects in the case, which is being investigated by the LAPD’s commercial crimes division and by detectives from the North Hollywood station.

The crime is being investigated as possible work of an organized network, police said.

French said detectives were not releasing any information about the victim while detectives worked the case.

There may be more interest in stealing gold and jewels, French said, “because stocks and other investments don’t seem to be doing well” in the sluggish US economy.

**Singapore wins int’l award for road safety and design**

SINGAPORE, 20 Aug—Singapore’s Land Transport Authority won the Edmund R Ricker Transportation Safety Council Award for having the best road network in both design and safety, the authority said on Thursday. The annual award comprises the individual and organization categories. Past winners include the World Bank, and city administrations in the United States and Australia. It was presented at an annual ceremony of the Institute of Transportation Engineers in St Louis, Missouri, the United States on Monday, the authority said. “Keeping our roads safe is a key tenet in ensuring a smooth travelling experience for our road users,” said Chin Kian Keong, Land Transport Authority Group Director for Road Operations and Community Partnership. The authority has conducted engineering design review before a road is built and adopted safety measures after a road is put in operation for years. It also installed Your-Speed-Signs, traffic calming measures, crash cushions, curve alignment markers, bus stop billiards and advance warning lights.

It also conducted regular studies on road systems of foreign countries to learn the latest road safety technology. Established in 1939, the Institute of Transportation Engineers has members from more than 90 countries and regions.—Xinhua
Scientists to research on noise impact to marine life

PARIS, 20 Aug—Marine scientists and representatives from the private sector and military establishments would meet at UNESCO at the end of this month to measure noise’s impact on marine life, the Paris-based UN scientific branch UNESCO said Friday.

The main agenda of the meeting, which is due from 30 Aug to 1 Sep, was to discuss the programme of the International Quiet Ocean Experiment (IQOE). “This decade-long project aims to fill the considerable knowledge gaps in this area, so that management of ocean noise can be more informed and effective,” UNESCO said in a statement.

The Quiet Ocean Experiments was initiated against the background that human activities on the high seas have increased significantly in recent decades, and resulted in impact upon many marine species relying mainly on sound to communicate. However, some sounds are suspected to alter the behavior of marine animals. For example, several whale species have raised the volume of the squeaks, clicks and moans by which they communicate with each other. The experiment is organized by the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) and the Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO), of which UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) is a member.—Xinhua

Indonesia to boost oil production to reach target

JAKARTA, 20 Aug—A senior official at Indonesia’s Upstream oil and gas regulator (BPMigas) was optimistic that the country’s oil production will reach the government’s target of 945,000 barrels per day (bpd), despite the current low production level, local media reported here on Saturday.

The agency’s head, R Priyono, said production on 19 Aug alone hit 920,000 bpd, while the average from January to 19 Aug was only around 905,000 bpd. However, he said the agency would take all necessary measures to achieve the target set by the government.

“Next month, we hope daily production will increase to 930,000 bpd and be even higher at the end of the year,” he said on Friday.—Xinhua

Russian gas supply to Europe increases 20% in 2011

MOSCOW, 20 Aug—Gazprom shipments from Russia to the European Union rose by 20 percent in the first half of this year, Russian Energy Minister Sergei Shmatko said on Friday.

“Volume of Russian gas consumption in Europe rises. We feel the growing need from Europe,” Shmatko told the Russia Today television channel.

He added that the Northern Stream pipeline, which is currently under construction, would minimize the Ukrainian transit risks.

First stage of the underwater Northern Stream pipeline is scheduled to become fully operational in the end of 2011. Its second line to be put in service in 2012.

The capacity of the pipeline could reach 55 billion cubic meters annually, occupying one third of Russia’s total gas exports to Europe. —Xinhua

Information tech needed in African agriculture

BEIJING, 20 Aug—In many parts of the Horn of Africa, the drought has quickly led to food shortages as a result of poor planning, and weak support systems for the region’s agricultural sector. Okwi Okoh tells us how technology might help against food crises in the future. “One of the main threats to food security in East Africa is the lack of information systems for farmers, which affects their ability to deal with changes in weather and market prices for their crops.” These Kenyan entrepreneurs have set out to solve that problem. Jamila Abbas and Linda Ontwenga are two of the three young women that got together last year to form M-Farm, a software solutions and agribusiness firm that has developed a mobile phone application that farmers all over the country can use to get regular updates and discounts.

Linda Ontwenga, Co-founder, M-FARM, said, “Basically it’s just solving the cries that the farmers had and they were very specific. First of all they were lacking information on how much their products are worth, secondly they had a problem with access to direct market.” —Xinhua

240,000 Chilean residents in quake, tsunami drill

SANTIAGO, 20 Aug—Some 240,000 residents have mobilized in Chile’s northern coast to test responses to a simulated earthquake and tsunami.

It’s the biggest such exercise ever conducted in the South American nation.

Friday’s drill of more than an hour involved police and volunteer organizations who practiced spreading the alarm, helping people take protective measures and overseeing evacuations.

The exercise is part of the Chilean government’s efforts to prevent a repeat of the tragedy accompanying the 8.8-magnitude earthquake of February 2010. The quake and tsunami it set off killed 524 people.

Experts from Japan’s security agency monitored the drill to offer advice.—Internet

Over 30 arrested in drug raids in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 20 Aug—More than 30 people have been arrested in drug busts in New Zealand’s Northland and Waikato regions this week during police raids targeting dealing houses, according to local media Saturday.

Cannabis, methamphetamine, cash and stolen property was seized as about 40 search warrants were executed, Ray’s New Zealand reported. The police in Northland searched 17 Whangarei addresses and made 20 arrests, the Radio New Zealand said.

Meanwhile, Waikato police said a week-long operation cracking down on drug dealing houses and organized crime in that region resulted in 12 arrests.—Xinhua

Police arrest three in drug raid in NW Turkey

ISTANBUL, 20 Aug—Turkish police arrested three people and confiscated 61 kg of methamphetamines in a raid in the northwestern province of Edirne, the state-run Anatolia news agency reported Friday. The operation was carried out by the narcotics unit of the Edirne Gendarmerie Command after it received intelligence of a drug shipment to Turkey from neighbouring Bulgaria. One of the arrested suspects is a Lebanese national while the other two are Turkish citizens. The street value of the confiscated drugs is believed to amount to six million US dollars. The final destination for the shipment was Turkey’s largest city of Istanbul, according to the report.—Xinhua

Crashed Venezuelan copter found; five dead, four missing

CARACAS, 20 Aug—Venezuela’s navy has found the wreckage of a military helicopter that crashed into the Caribbean Sea this week, and search teams have recovered the bodies of five victims. Gen Henry Rangel Silva says on state television that four others who were aboard the Bell 412 helicopter remain missing. One sergeant was rescued after Wednesday’s accident.

A Twitter message from Friday from Information Minister Andres Izarra says the wreckage was found off the coast of eastern Anzoategui state. It is unclear what caused the crash.—Xinhua

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A rider performs during the opening ceremony of a horse race festival held in Damxung, southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, 19 Aug, 2011. The seven-day horse race festival, with the history of more than 300 years, is held in Damxung in August each year. —Xinhua
Superca maker Ferrari says no to making electric cars

London, 20 Aug — The chairman of Ferrari says he does not believe in electric cars and that his company will never make one. Luca di Montezemolo’s comments will anger many who say electric cars offer the only environmentally-friendly future for the industry.

He said: “I don’t feel they represent an important step forward for [lighting] pollution, CO2 and the environment.” He said instead that the company was working on other alternatives. “We are working very, very hard on the hybrid Ferrari,” he said. “This should be the future and I hope in a couple of years you’ll see it.”

Despite a slow take up of electric motor technology the car industry has over recent years begun to invest heavily in it.

Ferrari’s glamorous cars have millions of fans around the world.—Internet

Two swimmers seriously hurt in shark attacks

Moscow, 20 Aug — Two people have been seriously wounded in separate shark attacks while swimming in the Sea of Japan off Russia’s Far East coast. In incidents that local experts said had no historical precedent in the area, a 25-year-old man was attacked by a shark on Wednesday, while a 16-year-old boy was mauled on Thursday and suffered serious injuries to his thigh and knee.

Doctors have said they hope to save his legs. He was wearing a wetsuit and flippers, which saved him from more serious injuries.—Internet

Norway killer called police twice, hung up

Oslo, 20 Aug — The man behind the Norway attacks that killed 77 people last month hung up twice on authorities after calling to surrender during the shooting at a youth camp on Utøya island, police said on Thursday.

The first phone call came 26 minutes before officers arrested Anders Behring Breivik, who identified himself as the commander in an anti-communist resistance movement, police said. “I am at Utoya at the moment. I want to surrender,” he said, according to a transcript distributed at a news conference.

Local police chief Sissel Hammer said “the operator took the conversation seriously and called back. No one answered.” Breivik called again one minute before being captured and asked to be transferred to the commander of the anti-terror police unit. “I am a commander in the Norwegian resistance movement,” the shooter said. “I have fulfilled my operation, so I want to surrender.” Once again, Breivik hung up, but he surrendered to police one minute later. Anders Behring Breivik’s lawyer Reidar Lillopestad told Norwegian daily Verdens Gang, that the self-confessed killer said he shot at two groups of young people at Utøya and also fired over the lake in between two phone calls.—Internet

An aerial view of Utøya Island, Norway. — Internet

Nutrition experts hit out at new diet book for six-year-olds

Washington, 20 Aug — A diet book for six-year-olds with a cover that features a plump child holding a skinny frock in front of the mirror has been attacked by nutrition experts. Maggie Goes on a Diet by Paul Kramer is due for publication in the US in October but is already listed on many booksellers’ websites.

The book tells the story of 14-year-old Maggie, who is transformed from being extremely overweight and insecure to a normal-sized girl who becomes the school football star”. It adds: “Through time, exercise and hard work, Maggie becomes more and more confident and develops a positive self-image.” The age range of Maggie’s intended audience is six to 12, a prime time for the development of eating disorders.
Police: Woman threw basil plant at hubby

NEW YORK, 20 Aug—Actress Lindsay Lohan is suing rappers Pitbull, Ne-Yo and Afrojack for mentioning her in their song “Give Me Everything.” New York court records show.

The filing Thursday by attorneys for Dr Conrad Murray said information leaks on social media. Prosecutors would only respond to the internet.

“Hustlers move aside, so I’m tipptoe’in, to keep flowin’; I got it locked up like Lindsay Lohan.” TMZ quoted Lohan as saying in her lawsuit.

The husband told police he was walking away from Antoine-Pierre when she threw the basil plant, which struck his left shoulder. He said she tried to throw rocks at him outside but did not make contact.

Some passengers were bruised and tableware was broken in the incident. The coastguard is investigating whether the captain’s actions amounted to criminal endangerment.

“He was stuck in the toilet. As soon as the staff got the door open, it was too late,” said Jan Sundell, head of investigation.

Jury sequestered in Murray’s case

LOS ANGELES Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor has decided to gently pull the ladder off the cow’s head.

The husband told police he was walking away from Antoine-Pierre when she threw the basil plant, which struck his left shoulder. He said she tried to throw rocks at him outside but did not make contact.

“The farmer’s family rounded up the whole herd into a holding pen and we managed to gently pull the ladder off the cow’s head.

Jurors will be prohibited from accessing those media reports, but the defence fears the coverage will be so pervasive that exposure to some of that information is unavoidable.

“Suprisingly calm” Scottish SPCA Inspector Kerry Kirkpatrick contacted the farmer after hearing the animal’s plight.

The coastguard is investigating whether the captain’s actions amounted to criminal endangerment.

“She is taking action against the hip-hop artists because they exploited her name for commercial purposes.”

The captain got stuck in the bathroom because of a jammed lock and yelled for help, the coastguard said.

The Florida Supreme Court released, was preparing food in the kitchen. TCPalm.com reported Friday. “They then began to argue about what type of meat was supposed to be cooked,” the police report states.

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There is sincere danger that a well-meaning juror will be more impressed by the defendants about the plaintiff are destined to do irreparable harm to the plaintiff,” the Web site reported the lawsuit said.

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**Kewell signs with A-League’s Melbourne Victory**

**Melbourne, 20 Aug** — Former Leeds and Liverpool winger Harry Kewell will play topflight football in Australia for the first time, agreeing to a deal with the A-League’s Melbourne Victory. The signing, terms of which were not immediately released, was made official Saturday on the team’s website ahead of an expected media conference.

It ends two months of prolonged negotiations with the Victory and A-League side Sydney after Kewell’s contract expired with Turkish club Galatasaray. Kewell had never before played in Australia’s national league, leaving his hometown of Sydney in 1995 as a teenager to play in England with Leeds then Liverpool. He has played 54 games for Australia since 1996, scoring 16 goals.

**Leyva beats Horton to win 1st US gymnastics title**

**St Paul, 20 Aug** — Danell Leyva smacked his hands together and let out a triumphant scream. Yeah, he can get a little emotional, too. Leyva, known as much for stepfather and coach Yin Alvarez’s theatrics during competitions as for his own considerable skills, won his first title at the US gymnastics championships on Friday night. Beat two-time defending champ and world bronze medallist Jonathan Horton in the process, too. “Awesome. It’s an amazing feeling.”

**Leyva** said. “One of my biggest goals has just been accomplished.”

**Ireland’s Keane joins Beckham’s MLS-leading Gala**

**Carson, 20 Aug** — If Robbie Keane has any questions about being a European soccer star in Hollywood, he can simply ask his new midfield partner with all the tattoos. David Beckham is pretty sure the Irish superstar will figure it out on his own while they chase an MLS title with the Los Angeles Galaxy.

With an Irish flag flying above the pitch at Home Depot Center, Keane went through his first training session Friday with his new club. He was welcomed by Beckham and Landon Donovan, who both believe Keane can fix the MLS-leading Galaxy’s only serious deficiency — goal-scoring from their forwards.

“I’ve never been more excited about a signing. I’m just the right guy,” Keane said before receiving his new No. 14 jersey in front of dozens of cheering Galaxy supporters and young players.

**Vidic out for up to five weeks**

**Manchester, 20 Aug** — Manchester United captain Nemanja Vidic is facing up to five weeks on the sidelines due to a calf injury.

Central defender Vidic limped out of the 2-1 win at West Bromwich Albion last Sunday, although it was initially anticipated a nerve issue would keep him out for just two weeks.

However, however, manager Sir Alex Ferguson said: “The situation has reversed and Vidic has a calf muscle injury, which means he’ll maybe be four to five weeks.”

There was some good news for Ferguson, though, with Vidic’s regular defensive partner Rio Ferdinand seemingly set to return quicker than anticipated from a hamstring injury also sustained at The Hawthorns.

However, following a visit to a specialist in Munich during the week, the injury is not as bad as first feared.

Although the centre back has not been definitely ruled out of Monday’s match with Spurs at Old Trafford, it is more likely he will be ready to face Arsenal at home six days later.

“Rio is not as bad as we thought and he could be ready for our game with Arsenal,” said the Scot.

“I don’t think he’ll be ready for Monday, but it’s amazing how assessments can change in the space of a few days.”

**Real Madrid and FC Barcelona players argue during their Super Cup final second leg soccer match at the Camp Nou Stadium in Barcelona, Spain, on 17 Aug, 2011.** — **INTERNET**

**Mourinho takes abrasive tactics to new level**

**Barcelona, 20 Aug** — Grabbing an opposing coach by the face and placing a finger near his eye, making inappropriate gestures to rival players and attacking ball boys for time-wasting — Jose Mourinho has taken his abrasive tactics to a new level.

The Real Madrid coach’s antics during a mass brawl near the end of the Spanish Super Cup against Barcelona on Wednesday is threatening to taint his club’s image and detract from the才能 of soccer two of the world’s best teams are capable of producing. Mourinho strode through a cluster of fighting players and brutally flicked a finger near Barcelona assistant coach Tito Vilanova’s eye. Vilanova, who had his back to Mourinho, turned and reciprocated with a punch.

**Nadal, Federer bounced in Cincy quarterfinals**

**Mason, 20 Aug** — A weary Rafael Nadal and an off-target Roger Federer got knocked out of the quarterfinals of the Western & Southern Open on Friday. No 1 Novak Djokovic had to rally to avoid an upset, too. Play a day after he spent five hours on court, Nadal faded in a 6-3, 6-4 loss to American Mardy Fish, who had never beaten the second-ranked Spaniard.

Later, the third-seeded Federer struggled with his groundstrokes during a 6-2, 7-6 (3) loss to a sore-shouldered Tomas Berdych, who has won three of their last four matchups. Djokovic survived a match of long rallies and electrifying shots, beating Gael Monfils 7-5, 6-4, 6-3. In the wide-open women’s bracket, second-seeded Vera Zvonareva, No 4 Maria Sharapova and No 9 Andrea Petkovic advanced in straight sets.

Jelena Jankovic moved into the semifinals when Peng Shuai withdrew with a sore left hip.
Bizarre Ramsey own goal, late Luis Suarez strike and sending off for Frimpong add to Wenger’s woes

LONDON, 20 Aug—Liverpool recorded its first victory at the Emirates Stadium with a 2-0 victory over a weakened Arsenal side on Saturday.

An unfortunate Aaron Ramsey own goal and a late Luis Suarez strike gave the visitors their first victory of the new season.

Chances were few and far between for both sides in a game that turned into something of a midfield battle. Andy Carroll had Liverpool’s best chance in the first half and Robin van Persie had a great opportunity in the second half before the bizarre own goal.

The deadlock was broken with 11 minutes to play and it was Liverpool’s substitutes who combined but it was an unfortunate deflection that gifted the Reds the lead. Raul Meireles and Suarez linked up inside the area, but as Ignasi Miquel tried to clear the ball it struck Ramsey and looped over Wojciech Szczesny into the back of the net. Arsenal brought Nicklas Bendtner on for Theo Walcott as the club went in search of an equalizer but the Dane struggled to get involved in the game and it was the Reds who looked more likely to score as Meireles went close in the closing minutes to doubling their lead. And substitute Suarez did double the lead in the final minute with a tap in from seven yards. Lucas found Meireles unmarked on the right of the Arsenal penalty area, he rolled the ball past Szczesny to the Uruguayan who fired the ball into the unguarded net and seal the points for the visitors.
Insurgents blow off Namting Creek bridge in Chinshwehaw Sub-Township

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug — Insurgents in Shan State (North) blasted Namting Creek-crossing Bridge in Chinshwehaw Sub-Township this morning.

The blast at 2 am destroyed a 75-foot-long section of the 330-foot-long Nyinong RC bridge on Chinshwehaw-Namtit motor on Namtit bank.

It was a blast mine. But it automatically went off due to natural factors such as rain and thunder.

The bridge is specifically designed to bridge Kokang and "Wa" regions. Despite the explosion, there is no transportation cut-off as there is another Namting bridge on Kunlong (Namthu)-Hopan road constructed by Public Works.—MNA

Two civilians killed in SSA (Ywet Sit) attacks in Kali

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug — Two innocent civilians were shot dead in two separate gun attacks by SSA (Ywet Sit) in Kali Sub-Township of Loilim District in Shan State (South).

SSA (Ywet Sit) group with small weapons stormed the Office of General Administration Department in the sub-township at about 7.30 pm yesterday and launched attacks, destroying the door and wall of the office, but causing no casualties.

However, two civilians U Kyaw Khain, 42, son of U Aung Thaan and Maung Tun Hlaing, 21, son of U Agga, were killed in the similar incident occurred at a house in Ward 6 of Kali Sub-Township at 8 pm.

Despite SSA (Ywet Sit)’s claims to bring about the prosperity of Shan State, local people, desiring peace and stability, always have to face threats, extortion and robbery committed by the insurgent group.—MNA

Flood Bulletin

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug — According to the 12.30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River in Hinthada (1358) cm has exceeded by (16) cm (about 0.5 foot) above its danger level (1342) cm during the next (36) hours commencing this noon.

The water level of Ayeyawady River in Zalan (1171) cm has exceeded by (11) cm (about 0.4 foot) above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level (1160) cm during the next (24) hours commencing this noon.

Flood Warning

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug — According to the 12.30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River in Toungoo is 595 cm. It may reach its danger level 600 cm during the next 24 hours commencing this noon, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

International Sports

Sharapova breezes into semifinals at Cincinnati

MAZON, 20 Aug—Fourth-seeded Maria Sharapova of Russia advanced easily into the semifinals of the Western & Southern Open with a 6-3, 6-2 win over 10th-seeded Samantha Stosur on Friday.

The seventh-ranked Sharapova, who lost in last year’s finals to Kim Clijsters, won a challenge on match point to improve to 3-0 this year and 9-0 in her career against Stosur.

"I did many good things today that caused her a lot of trouble," Sharapova said. "I didn’t give her much time to do the things she likes to do."

Stosur is confident that she’ll eventually beat Sharapova.

"It’s possible to win," she said. "I’ve got to believe that, but I guess it’s back to the drawing board."

The 10th-ranked Stosur was making her first appearance at this US Open tuneup after losing in the final last week at Toronto.

Sharapova will play the winner of the match between unseeded Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia and No 2-seeded Vera Zvonareva of Russia, the highest seed remaining in the tournament.

Fourth-seeded Andy Murray, the 2008 champion, advanced to the men’s semifinals with a 6-3, 6-3 win over 10th-seeded Gilles Simon of France. The Scot, who has beaten Simon in seven consecutive matches, will play the winner of the match between second-seeded Rafael Nadal of Spain and No. 7-seeded Mardy Fish of the United States.

Choi leads LPGA Safeway Classic after 1st round

NORTH PLAINS, 20 Aug—Na Yeon Choi would like to have the 18th hole at Pumpkin Ridge back. Choi double-bogeyed the par-4 final hole, but her 6-under 65 held up for the first-round lead at the LPGA Safeway Classic on Friday.

Choi was a runner-up when Ai Miyazato of Japan won last year’s Safeway Classic, besting Cristie Kerr and Choi by two shots on the Ghost Creek course nestled in farmland west of Portland, Oregon.