Nagapauk Bridge commissioned into service

**Our Three Main National Causes**
- Non-disintegration of the Union
- Non-disintegration of National solidarity
- Perpetuation of Sovereignty

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—Nagapauk Bridge on DaikU-Sittoung Road in Waw Township, Bago District, Bago Region was commissioned into service as the fifth bridge inaugurated in the time of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar this morning.

The bridge was constructed by the Bridge Construction Special Group No. 6 of the Public Works under the Ministry of Construction. Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint explained construction procedures of the bridge and Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win expressed thanks for emergence of the bridge on behalf of the local people.

Nagapauk Bridge at mile post No. 7/4 on DaikU-Sittoung Road is of RC type facility. The bridge is 240 feet long with 24-ft wide two-lane motorway flanked by 3-ft wide pedestrian walks. It can withstand 60 tons of loads inclusive of the vehicle. The bridge lies on the short cut linking DaikU on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway and Sittoung on Yangon-Bago-Mawlamyine Road. The previous route was 46 miles in length and the short cut on which Nagapauk is located has lessened the distance between DaikU and Sittoung to 21 miles and 6 furlongs. The bridge will contribute swift commodity flow, economy, social affairs, education health and administration of the region.

In the time of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, five above-180-ft bridges have been opened in Regions and States including Nagapauk Bridge commissioned today.

The Union Minister and the chief minister then visited the construction site of Bridge No. 1/6 which will link the Bago-Sittoung Canal, being constructed by Bridge Construction Special Group No. 2 on DaikU-Sittoung Road. The Union Minister called for early completion of the bridge in accord with the set standards and parallel completion of the approach roads and looked into progress of the bridge.—MNA

Sufficient electricity plays a key role in the drive for progress of State economy and socio-economic life of the people. Thus, the government on its part is implementing the hydropower projects to be able to supply more volume of electricity to the people across the nation.

These projects are being implemented at the rivers, creeks and basins as locations of water resources.

In Bago region, construction of dams and generating of hydropower are being undertaken with momentum by effectively utilizing rivers and creeks that originate at Bago mountain ranges. At present, the local people can sufficiently use water for agricultural purpose as well as effectively use electricity.

Likewise, a total of 13 projects to generate hydropower are located at the basin of Sittoung River by utilizing the water resources. These projects comprise four completed hydropower projects generating 355 megawatts, six implementing projects to generate 475 megawatts and three projects under way to generate 410 megawatts.

(See page 8)
Emphasize timely completion of projects meeting standards

Electric power is playing an important role in development of economy, production, service and social sectors of the State. Based on natural power of rivers, creeks and other water resources, hydropower projects are being implemented with momentum so as to ensure supply of larger volume of electricity.

Especially, hydropower plants are built at the basins of larger water resources, namely Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung, Thanlwin rivers and other rivers. At present, concerted efforts are being made for timely completion of Thaukyaykhat (2) Hydropower Project on Thaukyaykhat Creek, about 14 miles east of Toungoo in Bago Region.

The project installed with three generators will generate 120 megawatts. After erecting Toungoo power grid, electricity will be supplied to Nay Pyi Taw and Bago Region along regional power lines through the main power station.

Thaukyaykhat (2) Hydropower Project is the first-ever project for which permission is granted to the private entrepreneurs through BOT system in the electric power sector. Region and State governments will carry out generating and supply of electricity in the respective regions on a manageable scale.

Being a pilot project for the private sector, Thaukyaykhat (2) Hydropower Project is to be implemented through multifaceted approach to make sure that every level of the project meets set standard. It is necessary to set sights on reducing charge of electricity by controlling the cost of implementation.

At present, progress of modern industries reflects improvement of socio-economy of the people. As the opportunities have been created for the private sector, the private entrepreneurs are to join hands with the government in implementing more and more hydropower projects and generating electricity so as to develop not only the industrial sector but also the socio-economic life of the people.

Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of Naval Staff of India and party concludes visit

Navytaw, 27 Aug—A goodwill delegation led by Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of Naval Staff of India Admiral Nirmal Verma, PVSM, AVSM, ADC of the Republic of India arrived in PyinOoLwin from Nay Pyi Taw by special aircraft yesterday morning. They visited the Defence Services Academy. Next, they went to Mandalay by car and paid homage to Hsutuанг-pyae Pagoda on Mandalay Hill.

This morning, the Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of Naval Staff of India Admiral Nirmal Verma, PVSM, AVSM, ADC and party left Mandalay by special flight. They were seen off at Mandalay International Airport by Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Ye Aung and officials.

Monywa Zone Inter-University/Degree College Football Tournament kicks off

Navytaw, 27 Aug—The Monywa Zone Inter-University/Degree College Men’s and Women’s Football Tournament of Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) under the Ministry of Education kicked off at the people’s sports ground in Sagaing Region on 24 August, with an address by Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe.

In the men’s event, Monywa Institute of Economics beat Shwebo University 3-0. A total of 10 men’s and women’s teams from Monywa University, Monywa Institute of Economics, Shwebo University, Sagaing Institute of Education and Kalay University are participating in the tournament that will last up to 1 September.—MNA

National treasure at Mount Victoria

Yangon, 27 Aug—Namtataung National Gardens or Mount Victoria in Kanpetlet Township of Chin State is keeping rare species of flowers, birds and endangered species of wildlife in natural way. The 10400-ft-high mountain is an unique place for tourists, researchers, and environmentalists and worth a visit.

Photo shows Blyth’s Tragopan and (White Browed Nuthatch) Sitta victoria.—MNA

(Kogyi Tha)
16 injured in suicide car bomb in Kandahar city, Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, 27 Aug—At least 16 people were injured on Saturday when a suicide car bomb went off in Kandahar city, capital of Kandahar Province, 450 km south of capital city of Kabul, police said. “A suicide bomber, with intention of attacking police, rammed his explosive-laden car to the wall of third sub-district police station in Kandahar City at around 01:00 pm local time Saturday, injuring 16 people,” General Abdul Raziq, provincial police chief told Xinhua.

A health official in Kandahar hospital on condition of anonymity told Xinhua that 20 injured people including 13 children were admitted to hospital from the incident with most of them in stable conditions.

Explosion rocks Afghan town Lashkar Gah, four killed, 21 injured

LASHKAR GAH, 27 Aug—An explosion rocked Lashkar Gah, the capital of southern Helmand Province 555 km south of capital city Kabul on Saturday, killing four people and wounding 21 others, spokesman for provincial administration said. “A suicide car bomb went off at around 11:45 am local time. As a result four civilians were killed and 21 others including six civilians, 10 Afghan soldiers and five Afghan police sustained injuries,” Daud Ahmad told Xinhua.

He also added the blast happened next to a local bank branch when a number of Afghan soldiers were receiving their salaries. The officials also blamed the attack on “the enemies of peace,” a term used by Afghan officials against Taliban militants. But the outfit fighting Afghan and NATO-led troops have yet to make comment.

Men stand around the wreckage of a car bomb

Afghan men stand around the wreckage of an Afghan National Army car which was hit by a roadside bomb in Khijinan district of Baghlan Province on 26 Aug, 2011. Xinhua

Gunmen abduct, kill retired colonel in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, 27 Aug—A police official says gunmen kidnapped and killed a retired army colonel in northwestern Pakistan, and a police officer died trying to rescue him.

Umer Hayat says the gunmen seized Col Shakesel Ahmad on Saturday as he was on his way home from morning prayers in the garrison city of Kohat.

Hayat says police intercepted the gunman’s car at a checkpoint and engaged them in a firefight. One police officer was killed and two others were wounded. The gunmen escaped and later shot dead Ahmad and abandoned his body alongside a road.

Militants from Afghanistan kill 26 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 27 Aug—Hundreds of militants crossed the Afghan border Saturday and attacked three security checkpoints in northwestern Pakistan, killing 26 paramilitary soldiers and police, officials said.

It was the latest of a series of attacks that Pakistani officials say have been launched from an area of eastern Afghanistan where the US has largely pulled out its troops. The raids have increased tension between Pakistan, Afghanistan and the US. Armed with heavy weapons, the militants seized control of a local village after attacking the security checkpoints in Chitral district, said local police official Nizam Khan.

Pakistani forces responded to the raid and killed nine insurgents, he said.

But fighting was still ongoing Saturday afternoon, and Pakistani troops have called in helicopter gunships to drive the militants back across the border, said Maj Ghulam Rassool, a member of the paramilitary forces.

Chitral is located across the border from the Afghan districts of Nuristan and Kunar, both of which house significant numbers of Afghan and Pakistani Taliban fighters. The US largely pulled out of the area about a year ago but has recently added additional troops.
Tiffany’s second-quarter sparks

WASHINGTON, 27 Aug—The May-July period was a real gem for luxury retailer Tiffany, with the jewelry chain recording much shinier profits than Wall Street anticipated. Net earnings were up 33% to 69 cents per share, or 58% to 86 cents per share when excluding nonrecurring charges, on a 30% jump in sales to $872.7 million.

Tiffany is clearly firing on all cylinders, at a time when the retail industry looks like a barbell. Based on the latest batch of earnings reports higher-end stores like Tiffany are cleaning up, as are lower-end names like Dollar General and Target (with the notable exception of Wal-Mart’s weaker sales), while mid-tier chains and restaurants are getting squeezed on both ends: high-income shoppers don’t frequent those stores and other households either can’t afford them or have traded down.

According to Friday morning’s report, Tiffany doesn’t see any signs of its earnings growth slowing down. The company hiked its full-year earnings forecast by 20 cents to $3.65-$3.75 per share—analysts expect $3.56 — and projects revenue to grow in the high teens on a percentage basis. On the company’s conference call, Tiffany executives said third-quarter sales are trending above expectations and that the company is having success passing on higher costs for precious metals and gems to customers.

A weaker dollar is also clearly benefiting the company, which said about half of its US sales improvement in the second quarter came from tourist traffic, according to TradeTheNews.com. Shares of Tiffany rallied 6.6% Friday morning.

Health Tip: Recovering from adenoid and tonsil removal

It’s common for people who have just had their tonsils and adenoids removed — usually children — to suffer post-surgical symptoms including a sore throat, low-grade fever and ear pain. Maintaining a proper diet during recovery can help ease symptoms. The US National Library of Medicine offers these suggestions:

* Skip highly acidic drinks, such as grapefruit juice or orange juice.
* Avoid foods that are very hot or spicy.
* Restrict foods that can irritate a sore throat, including crunchy, raw vegetables and cold cereals.
* Avoid high-fat dairy products that can thicken mucus and make swallowing more difficult.

Recovering from adenoid and tonsil removal

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke speaks with Professor of International Economics at Catholic University of Buenos Aires Martin Redrado as they exit the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City Economic Policy Symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Health Tip: Recovering from adenoid and tonsil removal

Markets close higher on Bernanke speech

NEW YORK, 27 Aug—US markets posted solid gains Friday after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said the central bank was in a wait-and-see mode concerning economic policy. Bernanke declined to announce a third round of quantitative easing, a programme of buying securities that is also known as printing money, but did say the next Fed meeting would be two days instead of one to discuss options.

Markets opened lower but turned higher. By close of trading, the Dow Jones industrial average added 134.72 points, 1.21 percent, to 11,284.54. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index added 17.53 points or 1.51 percent to 1,176.80. The Nasdaq composite index of tech-dominated stock surged, adding 60.22 points or 2.49 percent to 2,479.85.

On the New York Stock Exchange, 2,545 stocks advanced and 508 declined on a volume of 4 billion shares traded. The benchmark 10-year treasury note rose 11/32 to yield 2.197 percent.

The euro rose to $1.4493 from Thursday’s $1.4379. Against the yen, the dollar fell to 76.63 yen from Thursday’s 77.46 yen. Across Asia and Europe, stocks were mostly lower, down 0.12 percent in China and 1.84 percent in India.—Internet

Asthma involves chronic inflammation, swelling, and narrowing of the bronchial tubes (airways). The result is difficulty breathing. The bronchial narrowing is usually totally reversible with treatments.

Tip: Health Tip: Recovering from adenoid and tonsil removal

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Scoring system may tell the dying how long they have to live

LONDON, 27 Aug—A new scoring system might be able to tell patients in the final stages of cancer how much time they have left so they can prepare for their passing, British researchers report.

Called the Prognosis in Palliative Care Study (PiPS) predictor model, the scoring system plugs 11 variables into a computer to see how many days, weeks or months a person with advanced cancer most likely has to live. These variables include symptoms, general health status and blood results.

“The PiPS score is still in development, [and] it is certainly not fail-safe,” stressed study author Dr Patrick C Stone, of St George’s University of London. “It is, however, slightly more reliable than a doctor’s or a nurse’s estimate of survival.”

Many people with incurable cancer want this type of information, Stone added. “At this stage of a patient’s illness, information about prognosis can allow patients sufficient time to prepare for their impending death and to make decisions about where they wish to be cared for,” he said. “We would expect the PiPS score to complement the doctor’s own intuitive estimate of survival, rather than replace their clinical judgment.” One expert in end-of-life care agreed that more accurate estimates would be valuable.—Internet

Uncommon types of skin cancer include Kaposi’s sarcoma, mainly seen in people with weakened immune systems; Merkel cell carcinoma, which is usually found on sun-exposed areas on the head, neck, arms and legs but often spreads to other parts of the body; and sebaceous gland carcinoma, an aggressive cancer originating in the oil glands in the skin.—Internet

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Lost Russian satellite a threat in space?

 Moscow, 27 Aug—A Russian satellite that was lost in space may pose a threat to other space vehicles or satellites, an official said.

 Heavy satellite Express-AM4 was lost 18 Aug, Xinhua reported quoting a source from the Russian space industry. The source told the Interfax news agency that the Express-AM4 "will stay on its orbit for years or even for decades".

 It may even collide with other telecommunication satellites from Glonass as well as with the Globalstar and Iridium satellites, the source said.

 However, the lost satellite’s position before further launches of new space vehicles is working with the US United Space Operations Centre to locate the Express-AM4’s position before further vehicles.

 Russian Space Forces has little hope of regaining control of the batteries as discharges soon after it separated from its booster.

 JailBreakMe creator lands internship at Apple

 NEW YORK, 27 Aug—A 19-year-old New York man who created a programme that allows iPhone users to "jailbreak" the device to run unauthorized applications claims to have landed an internship at Apple.

 Nicholas Allegra, creator of the site JailBreakMe, announced on his Twitter feed on 27 Aug that he would be starting an internship with Apple.

 "The week after next I will be starting an internship with Apple," Allegra said.

 He said his internship was working with the US United Space Operations Centre to locate launches of new space vehicles.

 JailBreakMe creator Nicholas Allegra has found a flaw in Apple’s software, the company has been forced to rush out a security patch, Cluley said.

 Commenting on an internship for Apple’s nemesis, he said: "From Apple’s point of view it’s a case of: If you can’t beat them, get them to join you."

 Amazon expedition discovers new monkey

 PARA, 27 Aug—A possible new species of monkey has been discovered during an expedition in an unexplored part of the Amazon in mid-western Brazil.

 A specimen, which scientists know is a type of Callithrix, or titi, monkey has been turned over to researchers in Brazil. The area explored faces a litany of environmental and social problems, including illegal logging and fishing, pollution, the expansion of agriculture, violent conflicts over land, a lack of health or education services and electricity, plus a lack of oversight by state and federal authorities, according to the WWF.

 Facebook gets rid of Deals

 NEW YORK, 27 Aug—Facebook announced late Friday that it would be bowing out of the daily deal business. The Groupon-inspired Facebook Deals was discontinued after only four months of testing.

 In a statement received by Reuters and other outlets, a Facebook spokesperson wrote:

 "After testing Deals for four months, we’ve decided to end our Deals product in the coming weeks. We think there is a lot of power in a social approach to driving people into local business. We’ve learned a lot from our test and we’ll continue to evaluate how to best serve local businesses."

 The end of Deals seems like a logical follow after the mixed Facebook Places app, though the company insists that it will still maintain the Check-in feature as well as Ads, Pages, and Sponsored stories; local business aren’t being completely shuffled aside.

 Facebook Deals began its short-lived existence in April this year, sparking anticipation of heated and frenzied competition with Google Offers, Living Social Groupon and the other sites packed into the cramped pool of local-discount services. Deals had already put down roots in five major cities, set up deals with merchants in the area and set up offers with other daily deal companies such as ReachLocal, OpenTable, Tippr, aDealio and more.

 Co-founder of Yipit.com Vinicus Vacanti weighed in on the topic, telling Reuters, “I don’t believe this means daily deals are not a viable business. It more suggests that large media and tech companies can’t just ‘turn on’ daily deals and expect them to work. It has to be more thoughtfully integrated into their existing product.”

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**Hurricane Irene rages up US east coast**

WILMINGTON, 27 Aug—Hurricane Irene lashed North Carolina with heavy winds, rain and surf Saturday as it neared land on a path threatening the densely populated US east coast with flooding and power outages.

New York City ordered unprecedented evacuations and transit shutdowns as states from the Carolinas to Maine declared emergencies due to Irene, whose nearly 600 mile width guaranteed a stormy weekend for tens of millions of people.

With winds of 90 miles per hour, Irene weakened slightly to a Category 1 hurricane on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale by early Saturday but forecasters warned that it remained a large and dangerous storm. At 5 am EDT (0900 GMT), the centre of Irene was about 35 miles south of Cape Lookout, North Carolina, the US National Hurricane Centre said.

“Some weakening is expected after Irene reaches the coast of North Carolina but Irene is forecast to remain a hurricane as it moves near or over the mid-Atlantic states and New England,” it said.

In summer weather, hundreds of thousands of residents and vacationers had evacuated from Irene’s path. Supermarkets and hardware stores were inundated with people stocking up on food, water, flashlights, batteries, generators and other supplies.

Airlines canceled nearly 7,000 flights over the weekend and all three New York area airports were due to close to incoming flights at noon Saturday.

Losses are expected along the US east coast from high winds, heavy seas, flooding and fallen trees. Irene is the first hurricane to hit the US mainland since Ike pounded Texas in 2008.

**Australian police say key drug ring figure held**

SYDNEY, 27 Aug—Australian police said they had arrested an alleged key player in a drug ring trafficking heroin and crystal methamphetamine into and around the country. Asian Crime Squad detectives arrested 38-year-old Brendan Phuong Tran, along with 49-year-old woman Ngoc Lan Ly, in Sydney on Friday as they drove to the airport. “Police allege the man is a main figure in the alleged syndicate,” New South Wales police said in a statement. “During a search of the vehicle, police located and seized one kilogram (2.2 pounds) of ice (crystal methamphetamine) and a quantity of cash.” Police also searched an apartment in central Sydney, uncovering a sawn-off shotgun, a revolver, 258 grams of “ice” and drug manufacturing equipment, they said. Cash, drugs and a stun gun were also found in a raid in Western Australia. Authorities said they established an operation four months ago to investigate the alleged large commercial supply and interstate trafficking of illegal drugs such as heroin and “ice”. The two arrested have both been charged with supplying a large commercial supply of prohibited drugs.

**Russian submarine successfully tests intercontinental Bulava missile**

MOSCOW, 27 Aug—The Russian nuclear submarine Yuri Dolgoruky successfully tested a second Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile early Saturday, the Defence Ministry said.

A defence ministry spokesman said the test marked the first time the Bulava missile had been launched at the maximum distance from the White Sea to the Pacific Ocean, where the weapon successfully reached its target.

The Bulava, expected to become Russia’s main naval strategic missile, is capable of carrying 10 warheads with a range of 8,000 km.

Only eight of its previous 15 launches were officially declared successful.

The first test launch of the Bulava from the Yuri Dolgoruky was conducted on 28 June.

The missiles previously were launched from the Typhoon class submarine Dmitry Donskoy.

**Chinese plans to attract more overseas Chinese scholars in next 5 years**

BEIJING, 27 Aug—The Chinese government has set the goal to attract at least 500,000 overseas Chinese scholars from 2011 to 2015 as the country is in large demand of high level talents to boost its development. Scientists, team leaders and other talents in innovative science and technology who can “achieve technological breakthroughs and boost the country’s hi-tech and emerging industries” are the country’s main targets, according to the 2011-2015 blueprint on human resources and social security.

The country also aims to attract talents in fields including equipment and manufacturing, information and biotechnology, new material, aviation, environmental protection, energy resources and modern agriculture.

“China will further improve policies regarding returned overseas Chinese in the next five years in accordance with the country’s economic and social development and create a favorable environment for them to exert their talents,” said the document.

In addition, the country plans to have 200 business start-up incubators by 2015, which are expected to house 15,000 enterprises run or participated in by returned Chinese who have studied abroad. Figures show that the current 150 incubators are providing business start-up services for more than 8,000 enterprises and over 20,000 returning students. —Xinhua

**5.7-magnitude quake hits Mongolia**

BEIJING, 27 Aug—An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale hit Mongolia at 6:29 pm. Beijing time Saturday, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre.

The epicenter, with a depth of 9 km, was initially determined to be at 44.0 degrees north latitude and 104.6 degrees east longitude. —Xinhua

**5.4-magnitude quake hits Hindu Kush region, Afghanistan**

HONG KONG, 27 Aug—An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale jolted Hindu Kush region, Afghanistan at 2011-08-26 20:32 GMT on Friday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 199.10 km, was initially determined to be at 36.4463 degrees north latitude and 70.6950 degrees east longitude. —Xinhua

**In this 30 June, 2011 photograph, laborers pluck tea leaves at a tea plantation in Jorhat, east of Guwahati, Assam state, India. The area in northeastern India is the source of some of the finest black and British-style teas. —Bloomberg**

**In this file photo, released by Australian Federal Police, shows shows confiscated methamphetamine, or ice, in Sydney, earlier this year. Australian police say they have arrested an alleged key player in a drug ring trafficking heroin and crystal methamphetamine into and around the country.**
Arizona shooting suspect’s condition worsens

SAN DIEGO, 27 Aug—The man accused in the Arizona shooting rampage kept himself awake for 50 hours straight after an appeals court stopped forced medication. He walked in circles until he developed sores and then declined antibiotics to treat an infected foot. Already thin, he stopped eating and shed nine pounds.

US District Judge Larry Burns described Jared Lee Loughner’s behavior to explain his refusal to overrule prison doctors who decided to resume forced medication July 18. The drugging, he said, “seems entirely appropriate and reasonable to me.”

Loughner’s attorneys argued unsuccessfully that a court should review whether the forcible medications could resume.

The ruling came in a three-hour pretrial hearing Friday that offered insights into Loughner’s fragile condition at federal prison in Springfield, Mo., where he is on suicide watch.

Christina Pietz, a psychologist who is treating him at the prison, testified by phone that Loughner is “less psychotic” than in the past and that she is now more concerned about depression.

She worried that videotaping her sessions with him — as Loughner’s lawyers requested — would only exacerbate his ills. She said he turned “almost defeated” and withdrawn when she broached the idea on Wednesday.

Loughner has pleaded not guilty to 49 charges related to Hurricane Irene.—INTERNET

Five killed in chemical explosion in South Korea

SEOUL, 27 Aug—Authorities say five people were killed in an explosion during an experiment at a chemical company in southeastern South Korea.

An official at Gyongbuk provincial fire service headquarters said Saturday that the explosion took place at TK Chemical company in the city of Gumi. He declined to be named because investigators were still trying to determine details of the blast.

Hospital and company officials confirmed that five people were killed while two others were being treated for serious burns.

The company’s Web site says TK Chemical mainly produces synthetic resins like polyester.

Indonesian police foil train hijack

JAKARTA, 27 Aug—Indonesian police in Jakarta foiled a hijack on a train carrying hundreds of passengers during the peak of people exodus to home towns for celebrating the Islamic festivity on Saturday, spokesman of Transport Ministry Bambang Ervan said here. Three hijackers had hijacked the train from a station in West Java and forced the locomotive engineer to direct the train out of its route, which may have caused a crash during the rush hours as over three million people are forecast traveling by train during the exodus, the spokesman told Xinhua by phone.

“This was very dangerous, the train could have a collision at any time,” he said.

The hijackers were paralyzed by policemen when the train stopped at the Senen train station in Jakarta.—Xinhua

E China’s Fujian orders ships to return to harbor as Typhoon Nanmadol approaches

FUZHOU, 27 Aug—Southeast China’s coastal province of Fujian has ordered local ships to seek harbor as approaching Typhoon Nanmadol could cause huge waves, according to the provincial flood control headquarters on Saturday.

The typhoon was 1,000 km southeast of Fujian with a wind speed of 180 km per hour at its center at 8 a.m. Saturday, said the headquarters.

It is moving towards southern Taiwan at a speed of 8 km per hour, the headquarters said, predicting high tides in Fujian’s coastal regions.

The headquarters ordered all ships from Taqian fish farm to return to the harbor before 8 p.m. Saturday and those of Minman fish farm before Sunday midday as the two farms are closest to Taipei.

US passenger train derails in Nebraska, 22 lightly injured

WASHINGTON, 27 Aug—Twenty-two passengers were lightly injured on Friday after a train derailed in the central US state of Nebraska, local media reports said.

The derailment of the Amtrak train, with 175 passengers and 17 crew members on board, was caused when it struck a demolition crane in southwest Nebraska. Two locomotives and three passenger cars were off the rails but no major injuries were caused, local officials were quoted as saying.

The train was running on the route from Emeryville, California to Chicago, when the accident occurred at about 8 a.m. local time near Benkelman, near Nebraska’s border with the states of Kansas and Colorado.

The injured passengers, 20 of whom were on the train, were sent to local hospitals for treatment. Most of them suffered minor injuries in the back, shoulder and neck, and were released by Friday evening. Dundy County emergency director Elaine Frasier told reporters.

Amtrak later rented private buses for the passengers who were not hurt to resume their journey, the reports said.—Xinhua

US President Barack Obama (1st R) and his family arrive at the South Lawn of the White House in Washington DC, the United States, 26 Aug, 2011. Obama cut short his vacation in Martha’s Vineyard off the coast of Massachusetts on Friday to return to Washington a day ahead of schedule, to deal with the emergency situation related to Hurricane Irene.—Xinhua

Judy Clarke, he lawyer representing shooting suspect Jared Lee Loughner, makes her way towards a federal courthouse Friday, 26 Aug, 2011, in San Diego.—INTERNET

Giffords, at a meet-and-greet event held by the congresswoman outside a Tucson grocery store.

Loughner has been at the Missouri prison since late May after mental health experts determined he suffers from schizophrenia. Burns ruled him mentally unfit to stand trial.

The female giant panda Yuanyuan eats a special birthday cake made of fruits at the zoo in Taipei, southeast China’s Taiwan, 27 Aug, 2011. A party was held on Saturday to celebrate the upcoming 7th birthdays of Yuanyuan and a male panda Tuantuan, both as gifts sent to Taiwan from the mainland in 2008.—Xinhua

Internet

Three hijackers had hijacked the train from a station in West Java and forced the locomotive engineer to direct the train out of its route, which may have caused a crash during the rush hours as over three million people are forecast traveling by train during the exodus, the spokesman told Xinhua by phone.

“This was very dangerous, the train could have a collision at any time,” he said.

The hijackers were paralyzed by policemen when the train stopped at the Senen train station in Jakarta.—Xinhua

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Five killed in chemical explosion in South Korea

SEOUL, 27 Aug—Authorities say five people were killed in an explosion during an experiment at a chemical company in southeastern South Korea.

An official at Gyongbuk provincial fire service headquarters said Saturday that the explosion took place at TK Chemical company in the city of Gumi. He declined to be named because investigators were still trying to determine details of the blast.

Hospital and company officials confirmed that five people were killed while two others were being treated for serious burns.

The company’s Web site says TK Chemical mainly produces synthetic resins like polyester.

Indonesian police foil train hijack

JAKARTA, 27 Aug—Indonesian police in Jakarta foiled a hijack on a train carrying hundreds of passengers during the peak of people exodus to home towns for celebrating the Islamic festivity on Saturday, spokesman of Transport Ministry Bambang Ervan said here. Three hijackers had hijacked the train from a station in West Java and forced the locomotive engineer to direct the train out of its route, which may have caused a crash during the rush hours as over three million people are forecast traveling by train during the exodus, the spokesman told Xinhua by phone.

“This was very dangerous, the train could have a collision at any time,” he said.

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The female giant panda Yuanyuan eats a special birthday cake made of fruits at the zoo in Taipei, southeast China’s Taiwan, 27 Aug, 2011. A party was held on Saturday to celebrate the upcoming 7th birthdays of Yuanyuan and a male panda Tuantuan, both as gifts sent to Taiwan from the mainland in 2008.—Xinhua
Thaukyaykhat (2) Hydropower Project...

1240 megawatts in total. We had an opportunity to visit Thaukyaykhat (2) Hydropower Project recently. The project is located on Thaukyaykhat Creek, 14 miles east of Toungoo. It is being implemented by Shwe Swan-in Company Limited through BOT system.

With regard to implementation of the project, a responsible person of the company explained that it was a project to generate 120 megawatts. The project was aimed at supplying electricity to be generated from the project to the national power grid, preventing floods at Sittoung River basin and enabling the private company to generating electricity in the market-oriented economic system. Then, he conducted us round the project site.

Thaukyaykhat Creek has 840 square miles of watercatchment area and it has 3,390,000 acre-feet of inflow water annually. The dam of the project can store 360,000 acre-feet of water at full brim. The project comprises construction of main hydropower structures such as main embankment, saddle dyke, spillway, water diversion tunnel, water tunnel, power intake structure, penstock steel pipes, power station and switch yard.

The main embankment of concrete faced rock filled dam. It will be 1253 feet long and 308 feet high. The construction of the main embankment has completed by 38.5 per cent. Two of three saddle dykes have completed by cent per cent. The remaining one has also completed by 40 per cent. Five spillways will be installed with sluice gates. Current rate is 238,800 cubic-feet per sec. The water diversion tunnel, 34.5 feet diameter and 1742 feet long, has been built. So, the facility came into operation on 10 October 2010. The water tunnel is under construction, and it has completed by 50 per cent. So far, construction to complete the project in 2012.

The Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 will take responsibility for supply of hydropower to be generated from the project. The 12.36 miles long Thaukyaykhat (2)-Toungoo 230-KV power grid will be constructed to link the project and Toungoo Main Power Station. Electricity will be supplied to power grid through Toungoo Main Power Station. After that, electricity will be supplied to Nay Pyi Taw and Townships in Bago Region through local power lines. The 120-megawatt project will feed 74 megawatts to Nay Pyi Taw, 21.9 megawatts to Toungoo District and 29 megawatts to Bago District. To do so, a switch bay will be installed at Toungoo Main Power Station in addition to Thaukyaykhat (2)-Toungoo 230-KV power grid.

Indeed, the Thaukyaykhat (2) Hydropower Project is first project of its kind to allow the private sector through BOT system in the electric power sector. In the future, private entrepreneurs will be allowed to generate and supply electricity. According to the Constitution, region and state governments will have the opportunity to generate, supply and sell electricity to their respective regions on a manageable scale.

Therefore, Thaukyaykhat (2) Hydropower Project will be a pilot project of the private sector in the electric power sector. As implementation cost of the project will increase the charge of electric meter bills, emphasis is being placed on reducing the charge of electric meter bills by controlling production cost and on minimizing loss of electricity in supply routes. In the future, the private sector will enjoy the opportunity to carry out the tasks in electric power sector. As such, tasks of the Thaukyaykhat (2) Hydropower Project are systematically being carried out as a model project.

Translation: TTA
2nd work coord meeting of Myanmar National Disaster Preparedness Committee held

The second work coordination meeting of Myanmar Natural Disaster Preparedness Committee was held at Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement here today. Chairman of the committee Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi and Deputy Minister of SWRR U Phone Swe made speeches.

The attendees reported on preparatory measures against natural disaster, issue of warning in time, and relief works.

MNA

Commerce Ministry to work for stability of commodity prices, smooth trading

UNION MINISTER FOR COMMERCE U Win Myint discussed with officials concerned stability of commodity prices and smooth flow of trading at the meeting of Mandalay City Development Committee in Mandalay today.

The meeting was participated by officials of Directorate of Trade, Border Trade Department, Myanmar Agriculture Produce Trading, Myanmar Citizens Bank and Myanmar Commodities Inspection and Test.

Yesterday morning, the Union Minister visited “Mya-sein-yaung” agriculture and livestock breeding farm of Myanmar Agriculture Produce Trading and the Post-harvest Technology Application Centre in Hlegu Township.

MNA

Work coordination meeting on conveyance of the Buddha Sacred Tooth held in Mandalay

A second work coordination meeting on conveyance of the Buddha Sacred Tooth from People’s Republic of China to Mandalay of Mandalay Region took place at the office of Mandalay City Development Committee on 26 August.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint made a speech on opportunity to convey the Buddha Sacred Tooth to Mandalay which is the fourth time to come to Myanmar, and needs to be arranged for conveyance on a grand scale taking lessons of previous times for enabling all the people including monks to pay tribute to the Buddha Sacred Tooth. He urged officials concerned to take necessary measures. The chairmen of related sub-committees, region ministers and officials also took part in the meeting.

MNA

Development of ports accelerated

The work coordination meeting on conveyance of the Buddha Sacred Tooth held in Mandalay

Development of ports accelerated

YANGON, 27 Aug—Development tasks of Yangon Port area and Thilawa Port area have picked up the momentum. Yangon Port with 17 international jetties and Thilawa Port with 6 international jetties could handle 23 ships at the same time and 20 million tons of commodities a year. Upgrading of jetties and clearing waterway have been planned. There will be 41 jetties in the ports soon and will be able to handle 43 ships at once and 100 million tons of commodities a year.

(Ko Chit)

Environmental and Economic Research Institute established

The second work coordination meeting of Myanmar Natural Disaster Preparedness Committee.

YANGON, 27 Aug—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe this morning was present in the ceremony of establishing Environmental and Economic Research Institute, held at Park Royal Hotel in Dagon Township. On the occasion, Chairman of MCC Group, EERI establisher and Chairman U Tin Win Aung gave an opening speech. Then, Professor Hikaru Kobayashi of Ministry of Environment, Government of Japan and Asia Institute of Technology Professor Dr. Weerakorn Ongsakul explained matters relating to environmental and economic research to those present. The Region Chief Minister accepted donations, aids for the research laboratory of the newly-established institute, presented by Dr Lynn Thiesmeyer of Japan Keio University.

The Region Chief Minister enjoyed the final event of Yangon Region Chief Minister’s Shield Championship Swimming Contest, and presented Championship Trophies to Women’s team of South Okkalapa Township and Men’s team of Mayangon Township, after Region Ministers awarded the second and third teams and the best swimmers.

MNA

Japanese National Team led by Coach Mr Jakura Taniyama of Japanese Karatedo Association arrived in Yangon on 22 August to participate in joint exercise with Myanmar selected Karatedo team from 23 to 25 August. Photo shows Myanmar and Japanese Karatedo athletes in joint exercise.—KVEMON

Flood Bulletin

According to the (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ngawun River at Ngathainggyaung (1158) cm has exceeded by (28) cm (about 1-foot) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level (1130) cm during the next (72) hours commencing noon today, announced by Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA
UK’s atomic clock is ‘world’s most accurate long-term timekeeper’

WASHINGTON, 27 Aug—A caesium fountain clock that keeps the United Kingdom’s atomic time is now the most accurate long-term timekeeper in the world.

It was confirmed after the evaluation of the clock by a team of physicists at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) in the United Kingdom and Penn State University in the United States.

The clock is one of an elite group of caesium fountain clocks that have been built by the timing labs in Europe, the United States, and Japan as their national “primary frequency standard” for the measurement of time. These national standards are averaged to produce International Atomic Time and Universal Coordinated Time, which are used as time scales worldwide for such critical processes as global communications, satellite navigation and surveying, and time stamping for the computerized transactions of financial and stock markets.

The methods used to improve the UK clock also can be used to evaluate the caesium fountain clocks of other countries, substantially improving the world’s most accurate methods of keeping time.

“The improvements that we report in our paper have reduced significantly the caesium fountain clock’s two largest sources of measurement uncertainties — Doppler shifts and the microwave-lensing frequency shift,” said NPL Project Leader Krzysztof Szymańcik.

The physicists evaluated the recently upgraded caesium fountain clock with physical measurements at NPL and mathematical models developed at Penn State.—Internet

Top US guitarist accused of illegal Indian wood imports

WASHINGTON, 27 Aug— Legendary US guitarist maker Gibson has halted production amid a federal investigation alleging its instruments are being made from illegally imported wood from endangered plants from India.

But Henry Juszkiewicz, CEO of Gibson Guitar, which has made some of the world’s most famous guitars for over a century, vowed to “aggressively fight” allegations of illegally using wood from India, after investigators raided its facilities in Nashville and Memphis Wednesday.

Juszkiewicz said the company has worked with environmental groups such as the Rainforest Alliance to ensure its wood imports are from sustainable sources and asserted: “Gibson has complied with foreign laws and believes it is innocent of any wrong doing.”

“The government has suggested that the use of wood from India is illegal, not because of US law, but because it is the Justice Department’s interpretation of a law in India.”

Xinhua

Two British military men injured skydiving in California

LOS ANGELES, 27 Aug—Two members of the British military conducting skydiving training in southern California collided in mid-air on Friday and were hospitalized with serious injuries, authorities said.

It was not immediately clear if the two men’s parachutes opened before they hit the ground in Lake Elsinore, about 60 miles southeast of Los Angeles, said Cheri Patterson, a spokesperson for the Riverside County Fire Department. One of the skydivers was in cardiac arrest when he was taken to the hospital after the mid-air collision and the other was in critical condition, Patterson said.

Both were members of the British military training at the Skydive Elsinore facility, said Riverside County Sheriff-Coroner spokesperson Corporal Courtney Donowho. Authorities did not release the identities of the skydivers, but Patterson said both men were in their 20s.

A spokeswoman for the British Consulate in Los Angeles could not be reached for comment.—Reuters

Rare artifacts on display at Golden Temple exhibition in London

LONDON, 26 Aug— Rare artifacts are on display at the world’s first exhibition on Amritsar’s famous Golden temple in central London.

Over 80 artifacts, including the earliest known paintings and photographs of the temple, along with film footage and eye witness accounts from western travellers. The 10-week show has been organized by the UK Punjab Heritage Association. The show has already attracted thousands of visitors from across the world. The exhibition traces the temple’s history, from the 1800’s up until the middle of the 20th Century. The BBC reports.

“The Sikhs at one point were important players on a world stage. We want people to be able to experience that with real objects,” Parmjit Singh, the museum’s curator was quoted, as saying. Most of the artifacts being showcased have been borrowed from private collectors and have never been seen by the public anywhere in the world.—Internet

7-year-old Asian girl in UK dies after rubber ball bounces down her throat

LONDON, 27 Aug— A seven-year-old girl in Britain was choked to death after a small rubber ball she was playing with bounced into her mouth. Kiran Mir was playing with the bouncy ball at home when it became lodged in her throat, the Daily Mail reports.

Her father, Shahid, 45, said that his wife Shakeela, who was in the same room when the incident took place, noticed Kiran was unable to breathe, and tried to reach for the ball in her mouth.

“She tried to reach the ball in her mouth, and started slapping on her back. But the ball wouldn’t budge,” the paper quoted him, as saying. In a statement read out to the inquest, Shakeela said the day before she had bought two small rubber balls for Kiran and one for her other children.

Speaking at the family’s “home in Saltley, Birmingham, Shahid said his daughter’s death had ‘killed all his happiness, and has left everyone devastated’. Kiran, one of four children, died on March 1 after suffering a heart attack and severe brain damage.—Internet

The choral tradition in Tianjin-based Nankai University singing during an opening ceremony of a cross-strait music week in Tainjin, north China, on 24 Aug, 2011. All participants to this music event come from colleges and universities of Tianjin and southeast China’s Taipei.—Xinhua

This September 1938 photo provided by the Boston Public Library shows a damaged ferry boat sitting in shallow water in Providence, RI, following the deadly hurricane of 1938 that hit the Northeast. It’s been nearly 73 years since the Great New England Hurricane of 1938—a one of the most powerful, destructive storms ever to hit southern New England, as another massive storm bears down.—Internet

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The Rolls Royce engine of a 787 Dreamliner is pictured as the aircraft sits on the tarmac at Boeing Commercial Airplanes manufacturing facilities at Paine Field, Everett, Washington during the jetliner’s certification event on 26 Aug, 2011.—Internet
Indonesia’s ferry sinking toll climbs to 10, scores missing

JAKARTA, 27 Aug—The number of fatalities of ferry sinking in Kolaka waters of Southeast Sulawesi in eastern part of Indonesia earlier Saturday rose to ten and scores of people still went missing, rescue said.

Ferry Winda Karsa sank at 00:30 local time Saturday (1530 GMT Friday) after leaving Bajo town of South Sulawesi, according to rescue at Search and Rescue Office at Southeast Sulawesi named only Surajad.

The rescue for the victims had been carried out since after midnight as the authorities predicted there are a number of people still went missing, he told Xinhua by phone.

“We forecast that there are scores of people still going missing and the rescue will keep continuing,” he said.

According to the manifest, the number of people on board is 96 and 93 of whom have been secured safely, a rescuer at the National Search and rescue Office told Xinhua.

“But, the actual number of people on board is normally much higher than that stipulated in the manifest,” said Surajad.

Xinhua

Super-typhoon Nanmadol lashes Philippines

MANILA, 27 Aug—Super-typhoon Nanmadol battered the northern tip of the Philippines on Saturday, bringing heavy rains and causing landslides that left at least four people dead or missing, civil defense officials said.

Nanmadol, the strongest storm to hit the country this year, was hovering over the northern province of Cagayan, raising fears of more devastation to come the longer it remains in the area, officials said.

Two children were killed in a landslide in a hilly area north of the Philippine capital while two fishermen went missing in rough waters in separate incidents as the storm battered the country, regional officials reported.

More landslides are expected as heavy rains fall on mountainous areas, warned Major Rey Balido of the government monitoring centre.

“There will be more floods also because the typhoon has been almost stationary so the rains just keep falling. It will take a longer time to traverse the area and will cause more devastation,” he warned.—Internet

20 endangered Siamese crocodiles hatch in Laos

VIENTIANE, 27 Aug—One of the world’s rarest crocodile species has moved a little bit further from extinction with the hatching of 20 wild eggs plucked from a nest found in southern Laos.

Experts believe there could be as few as 300 Siamese crocodiles remaining in the world’s swamps, forests and rivers, so the discovery of the nest — the first found in the mountainous, jungle-clad country since 2008 — is a significant step in the rehabilitation of a species that was declared extinct in the wild in 1992.

Since then, tiny populations have been discovered in remote corners of its range, which used to include most of Southeast Asia. Still, the crocs remain critically endangered, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List, the acknowledged authority on the status of global biodiversity.

Under the soft red light of an incubator, the 20 baby crocodiles tapped and cracked their way into the world last week. Their nest was found in the southern province of Savannakhet in June by a team of villagers trained by the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society, which is working to save the species in landlocked Laos.—Internet

Large sperm whale beaches and dies in Spain

MADRID, 27 Aug—A 50-foot (15-metre) sperm whale died Friday after washing up on a beach in a resort in northern Spain, and it was so big that a tug boat unable to pull it back out to sea.

The whale was still alive when it was discovered early in the morning stranded on the sands of Zarautz town, but it soon died, said marine scientist Enrique Franco.

The cause of the whale’s demise was not known, but Franco said: “It almost certainly came here to die. It’s not uncommon for such animals to beach when they are very ill.” Despite its large size, the whale had not yet reached maturity, said Franco, vice president of the Society for the Study and Conservation of Marine Fauna in Spain’s Bay of Biscay.

“It was a 5-year-old male, and mature specimens can live as long as humans, to 60 or 70 years of age,” he said.—Internet
Four of 26 trapped miners rescued after northeast China colliery flood

QITAIHE, 27 Aug—Four of the 26 miners who were trapped for more than 100 hours in a flooded pit in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province were rescued on Saturday, the rescue command center said.

It said three of the survivors had been sent to hospital, and rescuers were still helping the fourth one back to the ground as of 7:20 p.m. 

Rescuers had drained 56,150 cubic meters of water as of 2 p.m. Saturday and the water level dropped by 10.44 meters.

The flooding occurred on Aug. 23, when 45 miners were working in a pit of the Hengtai Coal Mining Co in Boli County of Qitaihe City. Nineteen miners managed to escape.

The provincial government ordered the mine to stop production in 2007. But the owner restarted production without permission on Aug. 16, according to the local safety bureau. 

The accident happened after workers mistakenly drilled into a neighboring mine.

Profits of China’s industrial businesses up 28.3 pct in Jan-July

BEIJING, 27 Aug—China’s industrial enterprises reported a year-on-year increase of 28.3 percent in profit in the first seven months, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Saturday.

The growth rate was slightly down from the 28.7 percent in from January to June.

Profits of the enterprises in the seven months amounted to 2.8 trillion yuan (430.77 billion US dollars). The data was collected from the a pool of industrial businesses with at least 20 million yuan of annual sales revenue.

Profits of private businesses rose 46.6 percent to 760.8 billion yuan, the fastest growth compared with a 20.4 percent rise for state-owned enterprises and 14.4 percent for foreign-invested companies.

Among 39 industries surveyed, 37 sectors reported profit growth while the communications equipment, computer and other electronic products manufacturing saw profits shrink.

Non-ferrous metal mining industry posted the biggest profit gain of 58.7 percent. It is followed by a 56.6 percent rise for other electronic products manufacturing, the NBS said.

With the anti-microbial secretions the beetle’s young fail to gain weight and die—INTERNET

TUEBINGEN, 27 Aug—Scientists have confirmed that so-called burying beetles coat their young’s food with an antibacterial substance to guarantee their survival.

Burying beetles lay their eggs on the carcasses of small animals, such as birds and rodents. The researchers say that without the anti-microbial secretions the young fail to gain weight and die.

The results were presented at the 13th Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology. Most animals try to do the best for their young, but burying beetles, in the genus Nicrophorus, which are found in temperate regions in Europe and North America, are truly doting parents.

As a prospective parent, burying beetles find a dead animal, such as a mouse or bird, and roll the carcass into a ball.
Kate Winslet will never forget house fire

LONDON, 27 Aug—Actress Kate Winslet says she will “never forget” escaping the fire that destroyed Sir Richard Branson’s Caribbean home.

The incidence took place in Necker Island 22 Aug. Winslet was glad that none of the 20 guests, including her boyfriend Louis Dowler and two children Mia, 10, and Joe, 7, were hurt.

“I’m just so glad that everyone is safe. And this very easily could not have been the case,” contacmusic.com quoted the 35-year-old as saying. Internet

Zoe Saldana upset over Vartan’s kissing objection

LONDON, 27 Aug—Actress Zoe Saldana was offended when actor Michael Vartan refused to kiss her for one of the scenes in Olivier Megaton’s “Colombiana” Saldana, Vartan plays lovers in the new action film.

“I was offended... I’m a girl and no matter how you think about it, if a guy doesn’t want to kiss you... It’s because of me’. He’s very professional, such a sweetheart, a gentleman, but he was sweating profusely,” dailystar.co.uk quoted the 33-year-old as saying.

“I kind of thought, ‘You must’ve been nervous... I guess love scenes are not scenes that he likes to do,” dailystar.co.uk quoted the 33-year-old as saying,” she added. Internet

Kelly Brook wants to marry boyfriend

LONDON, 27 Aug—Model-actress Kelly Brook says she would “love” to marry her boyfriend Thom Evans and start a family in the future.

Brook, who experienced a miscarriage in March, this year, would like to walk down the aisle with her rugby player boyfriend. However she is not in a rush and is focusing on being a “good girlfriend.”

That’s my priority. When the time’s right and if it happens, it happens,” femalefirst.co.uk quoted the 31-year-old as saying.

“I won’t be proposing to anyone anytime soon, put it that way,” she added.—Internet

Gilbert files for divorce from Boxleitner

LOS ANGELES, 27 Aug—Former “Little House on the Prairie” star Melissa Gilbert has filed for divorce in Los Angeles from actor Bruce Boxleitner after 16 years of marriage.

Gilbert, 47, who played Laura Ingalls, also known as “Half Pump,” during the entire run of the show from 1974-83, married Boxleitner in 1995.

Although California is a no-fault state, she cited irreconcilable differences as her reason for wanting the divorce, the Monday filing stated, aceshowbiz.com reported Friday. It also stated Gilbert is seeking joint custody of their 15-year-old son, Michael, named after her mentor on “Little House,” Michael Landon.

The couple also has three grown sons from previous marriages. Internet

Dog break-in scares 600 rabbits to death

Three dogs broke into a rabbit farm in a village in Zhejiang Province and scared 600 rabbits to death.

Yan Fugen, owner of the farm in Haixing village, found about 1,000 rabbits had died after three dogs broke into the farm on 7 Aug. He was surprised when he saw the nearly 600 rabbits that had died had no injuries on their bodies.

Chen Dongxiang, an expert with the local animal husbandry bureau, said the deaths were the result of the animals’ stress response. When rabbits or other animals are scared by a severe noise or sudden surprise, their bodies secrete large amounts of adrenaline. Their sympathetic nervous system also enter into a state of excitation, causing their hearts to beat fast and their organs to function improperly. That can lead to death.

Chen said pheasants, like rabbits, can also be scared to death.

Man returns to crime scene every year to repent

Mei Chunhui, 27, a resident of Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province, goes to the crime scene and also to places near the victim’s home to repent and pay homage to the victim.

On the night of 24 Nov, 2001, Mei robbed a woman with his friends, Tan Jinming and Liu Shuai. After getting money and other property from the woman, the three men raped and killed her. The police later caught Tan and Liu, but Mei managed to escape.

On 9 Aug, the police received information that Mei had returned to Wuhan and caught him that afternoon. Mei told the police that he had fled to Anhui province and Beijing. From the woman’s ID card, Mei learned the victim’s address. He later began to go to places near the victim’s home, as well as the scene of the crime, to repent and pay homage to her on 24 Nov every year.

Jogger struck by hawk

A Missouri man who felt something hit the back of his head while he was jogging in the early morning said he believes he was attacked by a hawk.

Brian Foster, 29, an employee of KMBC-TV in Kansas City, said he was jogging at the corner of 147th Street and Metcalf Avenue about 5 a.m. Thursday when he felt something strike the back of his head, KMBC-TV reported.

Foster, who was not seriously injured, said he quickly turned around and spotted a bird he believes to be a hawk flying away.

KMBC said there have been several hawk sightings in the area and officials have warned residents of aggressive hawks attacking small pets.

A Pueblan Milk Snake (Lampropeltis triangulum) is checked over at London Zoo in London, on 25 Aug, 2011. The zoo is carrying out it’s annual check on over 750 species, recording weights and heights. The information is recorded into the International Species Information System which can be shared with zoos across the world.

This photo taken on 25 Aug, 2011 shows a wall with graffiti art near Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The streets of Rio de Janeiro are marked by hundreds of graffiti art which has apparently become part of the everyday life. Graffiti artists spare no effort to have their works shown beneath overpasses, along walls, and even on outdoor terminal cases in Rio.
City can win the title, says new recruit Nasri

Manchester City’s new signing, French midfielder Samir Nasri

LONDON, 27 Aug—Samir Nasri has said Manchester City will be the main challengers for Manchester United’s Premier League title this season—and will prove he made the right decision to join them. The Frenchman dismissed suggestions a more lucrative contract was the reason behind his £24 million move ($39 million, 27 million euro) move from Arsenal to City.

Nasri was also linked with United as he entered the final year of his contract, but said: “I can let people think what they want. Me, I know my choice and my choice is about football. “We will see at the end of the season what we will lift a trophy, we will talk about my choice again and we will show that everyone who was thinking about money that they were wrong.” I think City can win the title. It is the biggest challenge to Manchester United. — Internet

Pole vaulter Steve Hooker out of worlds

DAEGU, 27 Aug—Defending pole vault champion Steve Hooker is out of the world championships after failing to clear a height in qualifying on Saturday.

The Australian was long out with a left knee injury this season and missed his three attempts at his opening height of 5.50 metres. Hooker also was injured two years ago at the world championships in Berlin but, in pain, he still won with a vault of 5.90. — Internet

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Middle
4 Ascertain weight
8 Race meeting
9 Betting advisor
10 Smaller lower
11 Encourage
12 Flat-nosed dog
14 Continent
15 Thoroughfare
21 Long garment
23 Made the sound of a sheep
25 Norsemen
26 Rudimentary seed
27 Big
28 Interfere

DOWN
1 Large tie
2 Atomic centre
3 Sane
4 Clean with cloth
5 Busy
6 Pay heed
7 Precipitous
13 Grisly
16 Amaze
17 Go on journey
19 Overweight
20 Stick fast
22 Bread maker
24 Poker stake

Wigan can win the title, says new recruit Nasri

Lionel Messi and substitute Cesc Fabregas. 

Messi, Fabregas lift Barcelona to Super Cup win

Monaco, 27 Aug—Barcelona beat nine-man FC Porto 2-0 on Friday to win the European Super Cup behind goals by Lionel Messi and substitute Cesc Fabregas.

Messi, honoured on Thursday as the Best Player in Europe, struck in the 39th minute after collecting a misfired backpass from Porto’s Frederic Guarin.

Porto defender Rolando drew a second yellow card for tripping Messi minutes before Fabregas scored on a volley in the 88th minute. Guarin was then shown a straight card for a challenge on Javier Mascherano. Pep Guardiola became Barcelona’s captain Xavi Hernandez holds the trophy as they celebrate their victory against Porto in their European Super Cup soccer match at Louis II stadium in Monaco, on 26 Aug, 2011.—INTERNET

Captain Fletcher makes Scotland Euro squad

LONDON, 27 Aug—Manchester United midfielder Darren Fletcher captains Scotland in their two Euro 2012 qualifiers next week, his first international appearance this year after he was sidelined by illness. Manager Craig Levein named Fletcher in his 25-man squad to face the Czech Republic on September 3 and Lithuania on September 6 in their bid to make the finals of the European tournament in Poland and Ukraine next year. Levein said Fletcher is “100 per cent fit and ready to play both matches.

“I’m thrilled,” he said. “He’s arguably our best player and a perfect role model and example to the rest of the guys in the squad.” Scotland are fighting to win second place behind the Group I leaders, world and European champions Spain. Levein hailed Scotland’s 2-1 friendly win over Denmark earlier this month as a sign of progress.

Edna Kiplagat wins women’s marathon at worlds

Daegu, 27 Aug—Edna Kiplagat recovered from a half fall in the race on Saturday to lead a Kenyan sweep in the women’s marathon on the opening day of the athletics world championships. The New York Marathon champion won the race in 2 hours, 28 minutes, 43 seconds to claim the first gold medal of the competition.

As she entered the sector, Kenya’s Edna Ngeringwony Kiplagat crosses the finish line to win gold in the women’s Marathon at the World Athletics Championships in Daegu, South Korea, on 27 Aug, 2011. — INTERNET

Edna Kiplagat won the title at the world championships in Berlin but, in pain, she still won with a vault of 5.90. — Internet

Aston Villa 0-0 Wolverhampton Wanderers

London, 27 Aug—Wolverhampton Wanderers survived a second-half battering from Aston Villa to remain unbeaten in the Barclays Premier League in a hard-fought derby at Villa Park. Mick McCarthy’s side have now taken seven points from their opening three matches, although they were second best during the second 45 minutes. — Internet

Barcelona’s Spanish midfielder Cesc Fabregas (L) is congratulated by Lionel Messi during the UEFA Super Cup football match against FC Porto.

Veteran Steve Hooker, 35, is out of worlds after failing to clear a height in qualifying on Saturday. — Internet

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Singapore’s presidential candidate Tan Kin Lian concedes defeat

SINGAPORE, 27 Aug — Tan Kin Lian, one of the four presidential candidates, has conceded defeat in the election on Saturday. Tan Kin Lian conceded defeat after visiting three vote counting centers.

It will be a tough fight between the top two candidates, he said, declining to reveal who they were. The other three candidates are former deputy prime minister Tony Tan, former lawmaker Tan Cheng Bock and former senior civil servant Tan See Say. Tony Tan has been tipped to be the forerunner. Most of the 2.27 million voters have cast their votes when the more than 780 polling stations were open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Saturday. Vote counting is currently underway at 162 vote counting centers. Tan Kin Lian said he might not be able to get his deposit back, meaning that his share of the votes might be less than 12.5 percent of the total.

Sofia Coppola to wed in ancestral Italian town

ROME, 27 Aug—Filmmaker Sofia Coppola is going back to her roots, getting married Saturday in the remote, southern Italian town where her great-grandfather was born. Coppola is marrying Thomas Mars, lead singer of the French rock band Phoenix and the father of their two young daughters, in Bernina, near the Gulf of Taranto in Italy’s Basilicata region.

The ceremony will take place in the garden of a historic palazzo that her famous father, Francis Ford Coppola, has renovated in Bernina’s historic center, according to mayor Leonardo Chiruzzi. The Coppolas plan to turn it into a luxury boutique hotel.

Chiruzzi, who is due to perform the civil ceremony, said the wedding would be simple but beautiful.

Weather forecast for 28th August, 2011

Bay Inference

Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Outlook for

Weather forecast for 28th August, 2011

Summary of subsequent two days

Decrease of rain are likely in the Northern Myanmar areas.

20 Neighbouring Mandalay

28/8 24/75

One or two rain or thundershowers

100%

19 Neighbouring Yangon

32/90 23/73

One or two rain or thundershowers

100%

17 Ayeyawady

33/91 25/77

Widespread rain or thundershowers

100%

15 Northern Shan

29/84 19/66

Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers

100%

14 Southern Shan

22/72 18/64

Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers

100%

13 Rakhine

32/90 24/75

Widespread rain or thundershowers

100%

12 Yangon

32/90 23/73

Widespread rain or thundershowers

100%

9 Magway

31/88 26/79

7 Taninthayi

31/88 25/77

Widespread rain or thundershowers

100%

6 Lower Sagaing

28/82 23/73

Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers

100%

5 Upper Sagaing

30/86 22/72

Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers

100%

4 Chin

19/66 13/55

Widespread rain or thundershowers

100%

3 Kayin

31/88 23/73

Widespread rain or thundershowers

100%

1 Kachin

33/91 24/75

Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers

100%

Internet
Contracts signed for extended installation of GSM

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—The government is joining hands with the private sector in implementing GSM mobile phone extended installation project on a wider scale with the aim of developing socioeconomic life of the people, ensuring rural development and poverty alleviation and giving smooth communication services to the people, said Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun at the ceremony to sign contracts for extended installation of GSM mobile phone lines at the ministry, here, yesterday.

The Union Minister noted that private entrepreneurs are to make utmost efforts for timely completion of the project to be able to give GSM mobile communication services to the people with goodwill.

General Manager U Thein Oo of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, private entrepreneurs of local companies and officials signed the contracts.

MPT and private companies will cooperate in implementing the GSM mobile phone extended installation project through mutual interest in giving mobile telephone services to the people across the nation at fair charges. They will strive for achieving success in their works within rules and frameworks adopted by the State. As such, the project is sure to contribute much to development of economic and social sectors of the State. Efficient use of telephone service will improve socioeconomic life of the people. Moreover, development of communication sector will reflect all-round development of the nation.—MNA

MPT and private companies will cooperate in implementing the GSM mobile phone extended installation project through mutual interest in giving mobile telephone services to the people across the nation at fair charges.

Gunners triumph in table tennis

London, 27 Aug—Arsenal in the Community Table Tennis Club at St Aloysius College together each week for training at the new Arsenal Internet

Nadal keeps to put brakes on streamrolling Djokovic in US Open final

New York, 27 Aug—Although Rafael Nadal of Spain arrives at the US Open as the defending champion, he knows he won’t be the favorite for this year’s men’s singles title.

Since losing his No 1 ranking and the Wimbledon final to Djokovic, Nadal, now second, has been resting and preparing himself mentally and physically to avenge five straight defeats to the big-hitting Serb.

His uncle and coach, Toni Nadal, acknowledged it won’t be easy.

"It’s a big challenge. It’s a big problem,” Nadal said.—

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

Mata scores on debut as Chelsea beats Norwich

London, 27 Aug—Juan Mata scored on his Chelsea debut to complete a 3-1 victory over Norwich in the Premier League on Saturday after teammate Didier Drogba was stretchered off.

The new recruit from Valencia netted in the 11th minute of stoppage time, which resulted from Drogba requiring treatment on the pitch after being accidentally punched by Norwich goalkeeper John Ruddy.

Jose Bosingwa had put the Blues ahead after six minutes and Frank Lampard restored their lead from the penalty spot after Grant Holt’s Norwich equalizer.

Also Saturday, Franco Di Santo scored twice as Wigan beat Queens Park Rangers 2-0, while Aston Villa and Wolverhampton Wanderers drew 0-0. Mikel Arteta’s penalty gave Everton a 1-0 win at Blackburn, which failed to score from two penalties.—Internet

For some of the youngsters involved, it was their first-ever table tennis tournament, while for other more experienced players, it offered a chance to test themselves against their peers from other clubs. The 10 Arsenal players combined youngsters with more experienced players, it offered a chance to test themselves against their peers from other clubs. For some of the youngsters involved, it was their first-ever table tennis tournament, while for other more experienced players, it offered a chance to test themselves against their peers from other clubs. The 10 Arsenal players combined youngsters with more experienced players, it offered a chance to test themselves against their peers from other clubs. The 10 Arsenal players combined youngsters with more experienced players, it offered a chance to test themselves against their peers from other clubs. For some of the youngsters involved, it was their first-ever table tennis tournament, while for other more experienced players, it offered a chance to test themselves against their peers from other clubs. The 10 Arsenal players combined youngsters with more experienced players, it offered a chance to test themselves against their peers from other clubs. The 10 Arsenal players combined youngsters with more experienced players, it offered a chance to test themselves against their peers from other clubs. The 10 Arsenal players combined youngsters with more experienced players, it offered a chance to test themselves against their peers from other clubs. The 10 Arsenal players combined youngsters with more experienced players, it offered a chance to test themselves against their peers from other clubs. The 10 Arsenal players combined youngsters with more experienced players, it offered a chance to test themselves against their peers from other clubs. The 10 Arsenal players combined youngsters with more experienced players, it offered a chance to test themselves against their peers from other clubs. The 10 Arsenal players combined youngsters with more experienced players, it offered a chance to test themselves against their peers from other clubs. The 10 Arsenal players combined youngsters with more experienced players, it offered a chance to test themselves against their peers from other clubs. The 10 Arsenal players combined youngster...