True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.

* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

President U Thein Sein receives United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and party

NAY PYI TAW, 11 July—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Mr Antonio Guterres at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 11 am today.

Also present at the call were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and departmental heads.

At the call, they cordially discussed matters related to work programmes being jointly undertaken by Myanmar and UNHCR.—MNA

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Ambassador of the United States of America

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of newly-accredited Ambassador of USA to Myanmar Mr. Derek James Mitchell.

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (11-7-2012)

Hkamti (7.28) inches
Sittway (4.69) inches
An (2.59) inches
Magway (2.56) inches

Babies race across mat in New York

Serena happy to defend title where comeback started

AMR to advance with merger review, source says five airlines eyed

Kuwaiti businessman buys Nottingham Forest
Diehard old habits

More than a year after Myanmar’s reformist government took office, the country has witnessed many unprecedented changes. Policymakers from on high have shown their passionate commitment to change and initiated reforms. Should we still stand amazed and gazing?

One year is enough time to get accustomed to the new system. And it is sufficient period to address issues that are inevitable in walking up to the new era. New challenges will surely wait ahead. It is the time we must bear testimony to the success of our reform processes.

An old saying goes, “Old habits die hard.” Many people still cannot change the behaviours and attitudes they have been displaying for decades. There are still bribery and corruption issues with most of them buried unknown. Despite significant progress, some government’s service providers are still hostile to the public. Some “for-show” events still occur.

We should together seek solutions to the problems that entrench deeply in our society. We should start to review our old behaviours and alter the unacceptable ones. And we should no more sit aside silent.

The President said in his recent address that the government must satisfy the desire of the people which he defined is the change from the old system to new one. The government alone will not be able to reform the country. The cooperation of the people and government mechanism at various levels is needed to achieve goals of development while the country is in the period of catch-up.

The cooperation of the people and government mechanism at various levels is needed to achieve goals of development while the country is in the period of catch-up.
Obama expands lead on Romney, US voters more optimistic

WASHINGTON, 11 July—President Barack Obama expanded his lead over Republican challenger Mitt Romney to 6 percentage points in the White House race this month as voters became slightly more optimistic about the economy, a Reuters/Ipsos poll showed on Tuesday.

Four months before the 6 November election, Obama leads Romney among registered voters 49 percent to 43 percent. In June, Obama held a slim 1-point lead over the former Massachusetts governor.

Obama’s improved standing was fuelled in part by a slight rise in optimism about the future, with the number of Americans who think the country is on the wrong track dropping 5 percentage points to 58 percent.

Obama’s approval ratings ticked up 1 point to 48 percent and the number of Americans who disapprove of his job performance dropped 3 percentage points to 47 percent. The shift follows a low point for Obama in June as economic worries deepened and Romney consolidated Republican support after clinching the party’s nomination to challenge him in November. Obama had led Romney by 7 points in May’s poll.

“Last month was a particularly bad time for Obama but now the race seems to have returned to its normal position, which has Obama up a few points,” pollster Chris Jackson said.

The poll of 1,154 adults, including 885 registered voters, was taken between Thursday and Monday. During the period, a weak labour report was issued on Friday that showed sluggish job gains and an unchanged unemployment rate of 8.2 percent in June. It also followed a long-anticipated Supreme Court decision late last month upholding Obama’s landmark healthcare overhaul.

World’s first nuclear cruiser up for auction as scrap

SEATTLE, 11 July—The world’s first nuclear-powered surface warship, the USS Long Beach, was put up for auction on Tuesday to be dismantled and recycled, after spending the past 17 years mothballed in a naval shipyard in Washington state.

The 720 foot (219-metre) vessel, the first American cruiser since the end of World War Two to be built new from the keel up, boasted the world’s highest bridge and was the last such US vessel with teakwood decks, according to Navy history.

Long Beach, commissioned in 1961, is not the first warship to be recycled. But the defence contractor that exclusively handles such auctions, Government Liquidation, said it would be the first time in its 11-year history that a nuclear powered guided missile cruiser has been sold for scrap.

Other decommissioned US military vessels have been sold to other countries or more rarely turned into museums open to the public, as was the fate of the storied battleship USS Iowa, which opened in Los Angeles as a museum to much fanfare on Saturday.

“I’m sure that Long Beach was always designated for scrapping. We don’t make a lot of ships into museums,” said Pat Dolan, spokesperson at the US Naval Sea Systems Command.

All US Navy nuclear cruisers were ordered decommissioned since the end of the Cold War during the early 1990s.

Long Beach, which served in Vietnam and provided support during the Gulf War, was decommissioned in 1995 and its two nuclear reactors were deactivated.

Captured of wrecked Italian cruiser liner says sorry

ROME, 11 July—The captain of the wrecked cruise liner Costa Concordia apologized on Tuesday to the families of those killed in the accident in which as many as 32 people died and said he had been distracted when the vast ship struck the rock which held it.

The Costa Concordia, having been caught by a television interview since the accident on 13 January, Francesco Schettino acknowledged his interview since the accident in which as many as 144,500 people were believed to have been killed or injured. She told Italy’s Canal 5 television, speaking calmly but with a pronounced tic in one eye. “The captain is identified and so it’s normal that I should apologise as a representative of this system,” he said.

Schettino, who was charged with multiple manslaughter, causing the accident and abandoning his ship, was speaking after being freed from house arrest in Italy.

The Naples-born captain admitted to failing to act decisively enough once it became clear the 144,500 tonne vessel had come too close to the island of Giglio off the Tuscan coast where it ran aground.

“This was a banal accident in which there was a breakdown in the interaction between human beings and it created misunderstandings and it’s for this that there’s so much rage,” he said. “It was as though there was a blackout in everyone’s brains and the actual sailing of the ship was under the command of another officer at the time.”

Man surrenders after French school hostage siege

PARIS, 11 July—An armed man briefly took an adult hostage at a nursery school south of Paris on Tuesday.

The intruder, who entered the school in the Vitré-sur-Seine on the southern edge of the capital shortly before opening time, freed the hostage after a few hours and later surrendered to police, said Ludovic Monier, a policeman at the scene.

“At 12.10 (1010GMT) the hostage-taker was taken out of the building calmly without any shots fired,” Monier told reporters.

The man, a 26-year-old man with a record of psychological problems, was shot dead by the police in the southern city of Toulouse after taking several hostages at a bank and claiming to be a member of al Qaeda.

According to the police, the man was in charge of sailing the ship, the Costa Concordia, which hit a rock off the Tuscan coast on 13 January causing the accident in which 32 people are believed to have been killed.

Guilty plea in plan to attack US with model-plane bombs

BOSTON, 11 July—A Massachusetts man charged with plotting to attack the Pentagon and the US Capitol with large, remote-controlled model airplanes packed with explosives has agreed to plead guilty, authorities said on Tuesday.

Prosecutors and defence attorneys have agreed to request a 17-year sentence for Rezwan Ferdaus on charges that he attempted to damage and destroy a federal building, and attempted to provide material support to terrorists.

Authorities said the public was not in danger from the explosives and weapons, which they said were always under the control of federal officials during the sting operation.

The visit will mark Castro’s second trip to Russia since took office in 2008. The first was in 2009.

Global warming tied to risk of weather extremes

NEW YORK, 11 July — Last year brought a record heat wave to Texas, massive floods in Bangkok and an unusually warm November in England. How much has global warming boosted the chances of events like that? Quite a lot in Texas and England, but apparently not at all in Bangkok, say new analyses released on Tuesday.

Scientists can’t blame any single weather event on global warming, but they can assess how climate change has altered the odds of such events happening, Tom Peterson of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration told reporters in a briefing. He’s an editor of a report that includes the analyses published by the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society.

In the Texas analysis, researchers at Oregon State University and in England noted that the state suffered through record heat last year. It happened during a La Nina weather pattern, the flip side of El Nino. Caused by the cooling of the central Pacific Ocean, La Nina generally cools global temperatures but would be expected to make the southern United States warmer and drier than usual. But beyond that, the scientists wondered, would global warming affect the chances of such an event happening?

To find out, they studied computer climate simulations for La Nina years, focusing on Texas. They compared the outcome of three such years in the 1960s with that of 2008. They used 2008 because their deadline for the study didn’t allow enough time to generate thousands of new simulations with fresh data from 2011. Their work was similar in having a La Nina and in amounts of greenhouse gases in the air. The idea of the study, they said, was to check the likelihood of such a heat wave both before and after there was a lot of man-made climate change, which is primarily from burning fossil fuels like coal and oil. Their conclusion: Global warming has made such a Texas heat wave about 20 times more likely to happen during a La Nina year.

Analysis: Tech Inc’s invincible aura fades

NEW YORK, 11 July — Hopes are evaporating that leading technology company’s will offer a safe harbor this year from the economic storms swirling across Europe, Asia and the United States. Investors should brace for the market volatility that has made climate change, which is primarily from burning fossil fuels like coal and oil. Their conclusion: Global warming has made such a Texas heat wave about 20 times more likely to happen during a La Nina year.

Hormone curbs depressive-like symptoms in stressed mice

WASHINGTON, 11 July — A hormone with anti-diabetic properties also reduces depression-like symptoms in mice, according to a report published on Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Mice lacking the protein, adiponectin, were more likely to display symptoms of depression such as social aversion and helplessness. Injecting the hormone into their brains appeared to have an anti-depressant effect.

All types of current antidepressants increase the risk for type 2 diabetes. “The finding offers a novel target for treating depression, and would be especially beneficial for those depressed individuals who have type 2 diabetes or who are at high risk for developing it,” said the study’s senior author, Xiu-Yan Lu, associate professor from the University of Texas.

Adiponectin is a metabolic hormone secreted by the adipocytes, the fat cells that cause bulging waistlines. In humans it helps regulate blood sugar and the breakdown of fats. Despite being generated by fat cells, lean people have more of the hormone in their blood than obese individuals.

In this 3 Aug, 2011 file photo, Texas State Park police officer Thomas Bigham walks across the cracked lake bed of O C Fisher Lake in San Antonio, Texas.—INTERNET

Former Mozilla developer: Firefox ‘ruined’ by frequent updates

New York, 11 July — Firefox fans who are turned off by frequent browser updates aren’t alone, as a former Mozilla developer says he shares their pain. Via Newsin, former Mozilla developer Jono DiCarlo said on his own personal blog goes into detail about why he thinks Firefox’s developer strategies of pushing out rapid updates to the Firefox browser has been a major mistake.

Initially, DiCarlo says he approved of pushing out updates every six weeks so because it showed users that Mozilla developers were always working to improve the browser and were being diligent about fixing bugs. But at some point he says Mozilla began simply pushing out updates for the sake of having updates, which started to really grate on the browser’s core user base. “Ironically, by doing rapid releases poorly, we just made Firefox productivity and help save them costs over the long term. But investors may have misjudged the depth of the European crisis, and with once-reliable-as-clockwork Chinese growth waning, demand in other emerging markets has not picked up enough of the slack. The profit warnings could signal a broader pullback in orders, which means that Wall Street’s earnings projections now appear over-optimistic to some outside experts.

“I don’t think the companies or the market anticipated the kind of slowdown like the one we are going to see in the second half,” said Fred Hickey, editor of the High-Tech Strategist Newsletter for investors.

Former Mozilla developer: Firefox ‘ruined’ by frequent updates — Reuters

Research in Motion (RIM) President and CEO Thorsten Heins speaks during the annual general meeting of shareholders in Waterloo on 10 July, 2011.—Reuters

New iPad to arrive in China on 20 July

S AN FRANCISCO, 11 July Apple announced on Tuesday that the new iPad, the third generation of its tablet, will arrive in China on 20 July. According to Apple’s press release, the new iPad will be available through Apple’s online store, select Apple authorized resellers and by reservation from Apple retail stores in China.

Reservation requests will be accepted daily beginning on 19 July for pick up the following day, the company said, adding that the previous generation of iPad 2 will also be available in China with a reduced price.

Apple introduced the new iPad on 2 March, which features Retina display, HD camera and faster processing. The sale in China has so far been available in nearly 50 countries and regions. The launch of the new iPad in the Chinese mainland came after Apple reached settlement with a local technology company on the use of the iPad trademark.

On 2 July, the Higher People’s Court of China’s Guangdong Province said Apple has paid 60 million US dollars to Proview International Holdings Limited, registered the iPad trademark in a number of countries and regions as early as 2000.

Former Mozilla developer: Firefox ‘ruined’ by frequent updates — Xinhua

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**More profit warnings hit Wall Street**

New York, 11 July — Stocks fell for a fourth day on Tuesday as more pessimism from companies compounded worries the sluggish world economy is taking a heavier toll on profit growth. A sales warning from engine maker Cummins Inc(CMI) came on top of another weak forecasts from chipmakers Applied Materials Inc (AMAT) and Advanced Micro Devices (AMD), causing the market to extend losses into the morning trading. The news sent the S&P 500 down for a fourth consecutive day, the index’s longest downward streak since May when it fell for six straight days.

Shares of industrials GGP fell the most at 6.5 percent. Cummins was among the biggest losers, declining 4.9 percent to $86.91. “The stock really started with Cummins,” said Ryan Detrick, technical analyst at S&P Capitaliq’s Investment Research, in Cincinnati. It was “basically reiterating the concerns that we’ve had going into earnings, like how the European issues are really starting to have an impact on the U.S. Recent data showing slower growth in Europe, China and the United States has weighed on the stock market, while US companies have worried about overseas weaknesses and a stronger dollar hurting companies that rely heavily on exports.

Alcoa Inc (AA,N), which kicked off the earnings period, fell 4.1 percent to $8.40, a day after it reported a quarterly loss and lowered sales. The S&P 500 ended at technical support, which is seen in 1,340-1,345 range, according to Robert Shiller, analyst at RBC Capital Markets in New York. The S&P 500 moving average at 1,337 is also eyed as support where clusters of buying and selling interest are expected. Dow Jones industrial average (DJI) was down 83.17 points, or 0.65 percent, at 12,653.12.

The Standard & Poor’s 500 Index (GSPC) was down 10.99 points, or 0.81 percent, at 1,341.47. The Nasdaq Composite Index (IXIC) was down 29.44 points, or 1.00 percent, at 2,902.33.

Bash stocks also declined, with the euro hitting a two-year low against the dollar amid uncertainty in tackling the euro zone crisis. The KBW Bank index (BKX) fell 0.9 percent. Cummins cut its full-year sales forecast, citing weakness overseas and a stronger dollar. Advanced Micro Devices cut 11.2 percent to $9.99 after the chipmaker slashed second-quarter revenue following disappointing sales in China and Europe. Applied Materials Inc lost 2.7 percent to $10.71 after the chip-equipment maker said it expects to miss its full-year estimates and its third-quarter results will be at the low end of its outlook. The PHXL semiconductor index (SOXX) fell 2.7 percent.

**Barrels of artemisinin await processing into drugs in a warehouse in China in 2004.**

**AMR to advance with merger review, source says five airlines eyed**

New York, 11 July — The bankrupt parent of American Airlines said on Tuesday it will press ahead with evaluating potential mergers and will reach out to interested parties, a move set to satisfy some creditors less than impressed with its standalone restructuring plan. A source familiar with the situation said AMR sees itself as an acquirer in potential mergers and at least five airlines — US Airways Group Inc JetBlue Airways Corp Alaska Air Group Republic Airways’ Frontier Airlines, and Virgin America — will be considered.

Any merger proposals would be weighed against the standalone restructuring plan being developed, the source added. American has faced mounting pressure from vocal members of its creditors committee, led by its largest labour unions, who have argued that a merger with US Airways would give the combined carrier a strong network to compete with rival beefed up by their own mergers.

US Airways has expressed interest in a merger and has been courting AMR’s creditors.

Executive at American, the No 3 US airline, mentioned the company’s interest in potential merger candidates at a meeting with its unsecured creditors committee on Tuesday and discussed the merits and challenges of each combination, said the source, who asked not to be identified because the matter is not public. Chief Executive Tom Horton said in a letter to employees that greater clarity on revenue and the company’s cost structure was allowing a review of potential mergers. “It now makes sense to carefully evaluate a range of strategic options, including potential mergers, which could make the new American even stronger,” he wrote. **— Reuters**

**Some WHO-approved malaria drugs fall short**

Geneva, 11 July — Up to eight percent of malaria drugs approved by the World Health Organization or other regulators do not contain the right dose and may fuel resistance, researchers said on Tuesday. Two studies in published in Research and Reports in Tropical Medicine suggested manufacturing problems, rather than counterfeiting, may be to blame for these substandard drugs in low and middle income countries around the world.

Poorly made or fake medications are a major problem worldwide, particularly as signs emerge of growing resistance to artemisinin, the frontline treatment for malaria, a disease the UN’s World Health Organization (WHO) says killed 655,000 people in 2010. One study sampled 104 artemisinin-based medicines in 47 countries and Nigeria that were offered under the Affordable Medicines Facility by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, designed to boost access to the best treatments.

Eight were found to be significantly under-dosed in six African and Asian countries. The second study, which looked at artemisinin-based therapies in 25 countries, found that 27 percent were under-dosed in its sample.

Drugs were found to be under-dosed because of issues such as the drug not being included in the manufacturing mix, or the wrong substance being added, researchers said. The studies of artemisinin, or had less than 75 percent of the main component of the drug, the study authors said. “Why am I pretty sure that these are not fake?” asked Roger Bate, lead author and resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. “The reason is they have well over 50 percent of the active ingredient but under 75 percent,” he said, adding that most counterfeiters have very little or no active ingredient in them. **— Internet**

**Facebook depression fears unfounded: US study**

New York, 11 July — Worries about a link between depression and the amount of time spent on Facebook or other social media sites are probably unfounded, a US study said this week. The University of Wisconsin School study found no basis to support the theory outlined in a study last year by the American Academy of Pediatrics that suggested exposure to Facebook could lead to depression among adolescents.

“The study is the first to present scientific evidence on the suggested link between social-media use and risk of depression,” said Lauren Jelenchick, a researcher at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. “The findings have important implications for clinicians who may prematurely alarm parents about social-media use and depression risks. “Jelenchick said that researchers surveyed 190 students at the university between the ages of 18 and 23. The survey participants were on Facebook for over half of the total time online.

They found no significant links between social media use and the probability of depression. The results were published Monday in the Journal of Adolescent Health. “Our findings are similar to those from studies of other communication applications, such as e-mail and chat, which also found no association with depression,” the researchers wrote. **— Internet**

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Monsoon paddy seeds broadcast in Ingapu Township

KYAIKLAT, 11 July—A ceremony to broadcast seeds of monsoon Palathwe hybrid paddy and Hinshukha paddy strains was held at the paddy field of farmer U Maung Win in Akuyawgyi Village of Ingapu Township in Hinthada District of Ayeyawady Region on 3 July morning.

The demonstration on paddy broadcasting was supervised by Head of Ayeyawady Region Agriculture Department U Myint Thein, Township Administrator U Htaw Naing Mo Han, Head of Township Agriculture Department U Than Toe and staff of Agricultural Promotion Committee.

The ceremony was attended by 165 farmers from Akuyawgyi and Magyigos village-tracts. Township Agriculture

Flood hits urban wards in Lashio due to heavy rains

LASHIO, 11 July—Torrent water violently flowed into urban wards of Lashio in Shan State (North), causing floods and overflows. Heavy rain and strong winds hit wards of Lashio from midnight to 6 am on 6 July. Moreover, the heavy rains continued there on 7 and 8 July. Thus, water from hilly regions in southern and southeast areas of the township violently flowed into the town.

The water flowed to Nampakchee Lake of Ward 11 passing Namakawk. Extended Ward 7 and Ward 1/10 at the entrance of Lashio. The road in Ward 11 to Golf Course was inundated with two feet deep water. Some houses were hit by flood. Up to 4 pm on 9 July, some houses were inundated but there was no one casualty of human and animals.

Likewise, flood hit the Union highway from junction to airport to Lashiohgyi traffic light, outside Ward 12 Kaungshin Village and Ward 8 Hmunon Village of Lashio. On 9 July afternoon, the flood subsided from the Union Highway and passenger buses and trucks roll on the highway safely.

Ma Ma (Lashio)

Preventive measures against DHF carried out in Kyimyindine Township

YANGON, 11 July—As mosquitoes are abundant naturally in the rainy season, the local people of wards and townships are taking preventive measures against dengue hemorrhagic fever.

The Yangon Region Government is continuously coordinating with departments concerning the Ministry of Health, social organizations and local people.

On 7 July, the local people participated in the dredging of drains in the ward, clearing of bushes and spraying and chlorinating water tanks and barrels as part of efforts for prevention against DHF in Thada Ward of Kyimyindine Township.

U Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein, Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Than Myint, Kyimyindine Township Region Hluttaw representatives U Myint Lwin and Daw Kyi Kyi Mar, Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Thu Zaw of District General Administration, Chairperson of District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Myint Kyi and Township Administrator U Kyaw Ye Thway.

The region ministers and officials attended the talks on health knowledge at the Dhammayon of the ward and attended to the needs of local people.

Myanma Alin

Bank loans issued to farmers in Kyaiklat

KYAIKLAT, 11 July—A ceremony to disburse bank loans to farmers for cultivation of monsoon crops in 2012 was held at Shewwah Latt Hall of Township General Administration Department in Kyaiklat of Pyapon Township.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Aung Naing made a speech. At present, bank loans were disbursed K 50,000 per acres to villages of Kyaiklat Township. Branch manager of Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank Daw Soe Soe presented K 20 million for 300 acres of farmlands of 106 farmers from two village-tracts.

The bank branch of Kyaiklat Township will present K 3175 million to 89 village-tracts for cultivation of monsoon crops in 2012.

Daw Soe Soe presented K 100,000 to U Hla Tun of No. 459 on Inwa 5th Street in Ward 6 of South Mawlamyine, 11 July—A ceremony to broadcast seeds of monsoon Palathwe hybrid paddy and Hinshukha paddy strains was held at the paddy field of farmer U Maung Win in Akuyawgyi Village of Ingapu Township in Hinthada District of Ayeyawady Region on 3 July morning.

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Myanma Alin
A world where every pregnancy is wanted

Tin Maung Than

Knowledge about traffic rules disseminated in Ahlon

AHLON, 11 July—Head of No. 3 Traffic Police Region Police Captain Myint Aung of Yangon Region Wireless and Traffic Police Force gave talks on traffic rules and pedestrian rules to the students at No. 4 Basic Education High School on 5 July. He gave lectures on knowledge about traffic rules to the students.—Myama Ahlo

 Talks on durability of village libraries held

OXO, 11 July—A talk on durability of village libraries was held at Thuta Bank Library in Kyetheritaw Village of Okpo Township, Thyawady District, Bago Region, at 9 am on 6 July.

Staff Officer Daw San San Kyaw of Thwayady District Information and Public Relations Department gave talks on durability of village libraries.

She then donated 50 books to the library and Head of Township IPRD Daw Nyunt Nyunt Sein 30 books.

Township IPRD

Bank loans disbursed to farmers in Wakema Township

WAKEMA, 11 July—Wakema Township Agricultural Development Bureau of Ayeayarwady Region held a ceremony to disburse loans for cultivation of monsoon crops at Shwehe Thiri Gymnasium of the township on 4 July morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Tin Maung Than, and Manager U Kyaw Swe of the bank branch explained the purpose of bank disbursement.

Later, officials presented K 50,000 each to 821 farmers.—Myama Ahlo

Corrigendum

Please note: On 7 July, he went to Yangon and left on 8 July instead of “7 June” in the news entitled “UNICEF goodwill ambassador Jackie Chan concludes visit” on page 6 of this newspaper issued on 11-7-2012.—Ed.

Globaly, the problems originating from the reproductive health are still the leading causes of ill health and death among women of childbearing age. The world also sees roundabout 215 million women entering their reproductive years, often without the knowledge, skills and services they need to protect themselves.

Productivity losses

Maternal and newborn deaths hurt families, slow economic growth and lead to global productivity losses of about $15 billion each year. On the contrary, investing in improved health for women and babies has far-reaching benefits for nations. For example, between one third and one half of Asia’s economic growth from 1965 to 1990 has been attributed to improvements in reproductive health and reductions in infant/child deaths and fertility rates.

Despite ongoing campaigns, few people totally understand that reproductive health covers a wide range of issues covering family planning, maternal health, adolescent reproductive health and sexually-transmitted infections, including the HIV/AIDS.

Providing the poor and traditionally under-served groups, such as young people, adequate access to sexual and reproductive health services will be critical to protect them against health-related illness and death.

In our country, the Ministry of Health is cooperating with international organizations like the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Health Organization (WHO) and foreign and domestic non-governmental organizations in carrying out a wide range of RH services all over the country covering skilled care during pregnancy, delivery, new born and postnatal; sexual and reproductive health information, education and services for young people; birth spacing and contraceptive services, and reproductive tract infections/sexually transmitted infections information and services; post abortion care; post menopausal care and screening and treatment of cervical and breast cancer; promotion of men’s role in support of reproductive health; and implementation of gender and women’s health programmes.

Key issues

This coordinated mission of the ministry also includes the promotion of community awareness on the knowledge about: pregnancy, childbirth and newborn care, danger sign, role of family and community in birth preparation and referral, transportation in case of emergency.

Key issues such as reproductive health commodity security, investing in reproductive health, information services, youth-friendly information and health services, comprehensive condom programming, HIV/AIDS and reproductive health services, rural women and access to RH services, human rights and reproductive health services and emergencies and reproductive health services are also on the agenda of the ministry and its domestic and global partners.

The Maternal and Child Health Section of the Department of Health is responsible for the capacity building of the health staff and for promoting quality antenatal care coverage, skilled birth attendance rate, post-abortion care, birth-spacing services and emergency obstetric care in order to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity as well as neonatal mortality. The Health Information Division of the Department of Health Planning is responsible for the management information system for reproductive health in all project townships.

UNFPA is a key partner, along with WHO and UNICEF, of the National Reproductive Health Working Committee led by the Ministry of Health. The Reproductive Health Strategic Plans (2004-2008) and (2009-2013) were developed collaboratively in order to implement coordinated programmes by the various actors.

UNFPA Country Office procured and distributed essential reproductive health commodities, including contraceptives, clean delivery kits, medicines, supplies and equipment for maternal and newborn as well as for emergency obstetric care, to the public sector service providers, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Social Welfare. The international organization’s reproductive health programme covers almost half the entire population of Myanmar.

7 billion earthlings

The RH programme addresses the task of strengthening quality reproductive health services through the provision of reproductive health commodities, supporting capacity building of health care providers, and operating the reproductive health management information system, and creating a demand for reproductive health services and encouraging people to make healthy and responsible reproductive choices, decisions and practices through community mobilization and innovative IEC/BCC interventions.

In addition to the activities of the various departments under the Ministry of Health, a number of effective interventions are implemented by NGO partners. The Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association operates maternity waiting homes for high-risk pregnant mothers in order to assure timely emergency obstetric care. Moreover, MCMWA disseminates RH information to communities through its extensive network of volunteers throughout the country. Myanmar Medical Association has been providing RH training for general practitioners since 2003, and is now expanding its activities through mobile RH services for the poorest communities. Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association is conducting awareness-raising on RH and MISP (minimum initial service package for RH in emergencies) through its networks of local authorities, and is also supporting community mobilization activities. A number of international NGOs are also important stakeholders in expanding access to quality affordable reproductive health services in Myanmar.

This year seven billion earthlings celebrated the World Population Day under its theme “Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services”. The World Population Day is an annual event that marks the date when global population hit five billion (11 July 1987). Here, the vital role of reproductive health grows greater together with the ever increasing earthling population as our planet Earth will be a family of eight billion peoples by the year 2030.

In fact, reproductive health is at the very heart of development and crucial in ensuring a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.
Reproductive health problems…

(from page 16)

A number of children traditionally regarding them as the jewels. Myanmar is striving to achieve development goals in the area of International Conference on Population and Development, providing multi-speciality universal reproductive healthcare which prioritizes mortality rate of infants and children under five and expectant mothers.

Five-year reproductive health strategic plan to achieve Millennium Development Goals related to the reproductive health by 2015 have been adopted. The plan, being implemented by the Health Ministry and UN agencies, is fulfilling the needs in reproductive healthcare for the public.

According to statistics, Myanmar’s mortality rate of mothers has been reduced to 20 per 100,000 infants in 2010 from 15 in 2005. Though, about 2000 mothers lose lives each year by pregnancy-related problems.

We need to put great emphasis on healthcare and educational measures for mothers and infants to reduce death and ill health of mothers and infants. As we have noticed such sufferings, we understand the need of quality universal reproductive healthcare.

According to nationwide birth and reproductive health surveys, the ratio of the unmarried has increased and the marrying age becomes gradually higher. Unmarried youths and most adults in the reproductive years may act in harmful manners. We need to pay more attention to prevent death and ill health caused by unplanned pregnancy and unsafe abortion.

He stressed the need for dissemination of knowledge on family planning among the people. He also called on governmental departments concerned and NGOs to raise awareness about reproductive health as an education for young people as the government has also included the reproductive health in the curriculum for students.

NGOs such as Myanmar Medical Association (MMA) and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association are actively participating in the drive for educative activities for reproductive health and sexually transmitted diseases and also providing counselling services.

Couples have understood that their decision on the number of children and birth spacing plays a key role in reducing mortality rate of women in pregnancy and illness and this acceptance would help to achieve the future tasks of the International Population and Development Conference and the reproductive health service for every one, one goal of the MDGs of the UN, he added.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham also said that Myanmar has been cooperating with the nations of the world to achieve the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and MDGs with emphasis on universal access to reproductive health.

He acknowledged and thanked UNFPA, WHO, UNDP, UNICEF and WFP, international and national NGOs for their important role in achieving universal access to reproductive health in the country.

He also commended on doctors, nurses, midwives, contraceptive service providers, youth-friendly services and those who provide services to the poor, the displaced, and the disabled, among others.

Afterwards, Mr Ashok Nigan, UNDP Representative and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, read the UN Secretary-General’s message on World Population Day for 2012.

Mr Mohamed Abdel Ahad, UNFPA Representative clarified the activities of the UNFPA.

Winners of the photo contest on the World Population Day were awarded by Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi; five outstanding mid-wives by Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin and winners of the article contest by Mr Mohamed Abdel Ahad.

Afterwards, Dr Sai Mauk Kham, the Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, union ministers and representatives of UN agencies posed for documentary photos together with the winners and visited the photo exhibition on activities of the Ministry of Immigration and Population.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No. 35/2012
8th Waning of First Waso, 1374 ME
(11th July, 2012)

Two Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Representatives substituted

According to the request made in accord with Section 33 of the Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law to substitute two Defence Services Personnel Region or State Hluttaw representatives nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in first multiparty democracy general election held on 7 November 2010, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted two Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw representatives stated hereunder in Notification No.3/ 2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011 with personnel shown against them.

Kachin State
(a) BC 31186
Major Kyaw Swa Myint
(b) BC 38580
Captain Lin Lin Kyaw

Yangon Region
(a) BC 28714
Major Aung Zin
(b) BC 13932
Lt-Gen Wai Lwin

By order,
Win Ko
Secretary
Union Election Commission
proper water flow of creeks used for irrigation and sand banks at Gulf of Martaban for hydroelectric power. Analysis and ask expenditure from the Union government. Based on the findings of the study, survey teams would be dispatched to the site. When the funds are allocated in the fiscal year, the works would be implemented.

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 July—Pyithu Hluttaw session continues for sixth day.

Eight questions answered, one proposal discussed, two proposals tabled, one bill passed.

Regarding the question of U Kyaw Myint (A) Pho Toke of Moesem Constituency about if there is any plan to supply electricity from Mogok power station to Mogok township, the Union minister replied that as the first step, it has been decided to upgrade Lethpanha power station, construct 52 miles long 66 KV Lethpanha-Mogok power cable, and upgrade current 33 KV Mogok power cable to 66 KV one in 2013-2014 fiscal year to supply electricity to Mogok from the national grid. Works would be implemented depending on fund allocation of the government. After the completion of the first phase, it would be required to construct 28 miles long 66 KV Mogok power cable, and to upgrade current 33 KV Mogok power cable from Mogok to Moemeik and 66 KV Lethpanha-Mogok power cable to accommodate future demand.

Regarding the question of U Kyaw Myint (A) Pho Toke of Moesem Constituency about if there is any plan to supply electricity from Mogok power station to Mogok township, the Union minister replied that there is no plan to supply electricity from Mogok power station. There is no plan to build national grids in the township. So, township revenue offices would be re-opened at an opportune time for under- and post-graduates at universities.

Regarding the question of U Kyaw Myint (A) Pho Toke of Moesem Constituency about if there is any plan to supply electricity from Mogok power station to Mogok township, the Union minister replied that there is no plan to build national grids in the township. So, township revenue offices would be re-opened at an opportune time for under- and post-graduates at universities.

Regarding the question of U Tha Win of Thar Yaw Constituency about if there is any plan to build national grids in the township, the Union minister replied that there is no plan to build national grids in the township. So, township revenue offices would be re-opened at an opportune time for under- and post-graduates at universities.

Regarding the question of U Aung Maung about nationwide planning for certain infrastructural development for towns within set period, six MPs discussed that smooth transportation and access to electricity speeds up the transportation and enhances the productivity, promoting economic performance, contributing to health, education and social areas. Studying the places with high number of human resources, it can be found that those areas are developed with economic growth and access to electricity and smooth transportation. It can be concluded that living standards in regions with access to electricity is relatively higher than regions without access to electricity. So, the government in office which is building the new nation should give priority to transportation and adequate supply of electricity rather than other sectors for equitable development of the entire nation, adopting related policies.

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Amyotha Hluttaw session continues for sixth day

Five questions answered, one new proposal submitted

Photo shows representatives at sixth day session of Amyotha Hluttaw.—MNA

Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein of Amyotha Hluttaw receives a delegation led by Parliamentary Development Policy Advisor of UNDP (Myanmar). Mr Kevin Deveaux at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall is attended by Union Education Minister U Aye Kyu. Deputy Minister for Defence Commodore U Aung Thaw replied that No.31 Infantry Regiment was moved to Khawzar of Ye Township, and 217.13 acres of land was systematically handed over to No.4 Advanced Military Training Depot. To avoid the damages of vacant local military-owned land and buildings, No.4 Advanced Military Training Depot also handed over to it No.62 Infantry Regiment systemically. But, as there were no enough spaces and buildings at a time when the courses were conducted there, No.31 Infantry Regiment was being used to conduct the course. So, there was no any plan to establish new town and ward there. Regarding the question of U Hla Swe of Magway Region Constituency No.12 on "there is a plan to upgrade Basic Education Middle School (branch) in Larpo village of Gangaw Township and affiliated BEMS in Kyatyo village to BEHS", Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu replied that to create more learning opportunities of the students, Ministry of Education started carrying out upgrade of schools and opening of new schools, starting from 2012-2013 academic year after drawing the four-year plan (from 2012-2013 to 2015-2016). It was found that there were 222 middle-level students in BEMS (branch) in Larpo village of Gangaw Township and 84 middle-level students, in BEMS (affiliated) of Kyatyo village. So, there was no plan to upgrade them to BEHS. Priority would be given to them in the coming academic year.

At the proposal-submitting session, Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No.8 submitted the proposal on "urge the Union Government to draw and start implementing development plan for least-development national races". Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss it are to submit their names after the meeting. The meeting came to an end at 11.5 am, and it will go on at 10 am tomorrow.—MNA

F&R Ministry holds monsoon tree planting ceremony

NAV PYI TAW, 10 July—Monsoon tree planting ceremony-2012 was held for the second time at the Ministry of Finance and Revenue this morning, attended by Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun. At first, the Union Minister planted a Seintalon mango sapling. After that, the Deputy Minister, the Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar, directors-general, managing directors and staff of the ministry, would be implemented within 2012-2013 with the approval of President Office and Union Government Office.

Regarding the question of U Naing Tun Ohn on "there is a plan to continue implementing Upper Kengtawng hydropower project in Shan State (south)" Deputy Minister for Electric Power No.1 U Myo Zaw replied that in calculating estimated investment expenditures for 2012-2013, K 9997.271 million of funds had been earmarked for Upper Kengtawng hydropower project. Works would be implemented in accord with the drafted work schedule. Plans were under way to continue importing machineries, industrial and electrical machineries and equipments in conformity with the delivery schedule agreed by both sides. So, construction of Upper Kengtawng hydropower project would be implemented by Construction No.7 of Hydro Power Implementation Department, would continue according to yearly project implementation programme and project implementation

Upgrading of Nay Pyi Taw-Kyewshin-Pantin Road Section inspected

NAV PYI TAW, 11 July—Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint yesterday morning inspected upgrading of Nay Pyi Taw-Kyewshin-Pantin Road Section and the expressway from mile post No. 221/0. The deputy minister viewed site chosen for construction of Sagaing University, buildings and lecture halls.

Pension Department and Budget Department planted Seintalon mango saplings. The Union Minister looked into thriving shade trees and windbreak, vegetables and perennial crops. At today’s ceremony, a total of 1,200 Seintalon mango saplings were planted at the ministry. The cultivation of plants will be carried out in line with the monsoon tree planting plan.—MNA

Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein of Amyotha Hluttaw meets Parliamentary Development Policy Advisor of UNDP (Myanmar)

NAV PYI TAW, 11 July—Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein of Amyotha Hluttaw met a delegation led by Parliamentary Development Policy Advisor of UNDP (Myanmar) Mr Kevin Deveaux at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 3 pm today.

Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw receives a delegation led by Parliamentary Development Policy Advisor of UNDP (Myanmar) Mr Kevin Deveaux at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall. Deputy Minister for Education Mr Aye Kyu looked into site chosen for construction of the university in Sagaing, Sagaing Basic Education High School (Branch) in Aungmyethazan Township and No.3 Basic Education High School on 9 July.

The Union Minister delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the Inter-University/College Men’s Volleyball Tournament (Mandalay Zone) of Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) yesterday. After that, the Union Minister inspected No.24 BEHS in Mahaungmyaung Township, No.26 BEHS in Channayathazi Township and No.3 Basic Education Middle School in Aungmyethazan Township and gave instructions to school heads and teachers.

Union Education Minister visits University, BESs in Sagaing, Mandalay

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London raises bar on greening the Games

LONDON, 11 July—A need for warbler songs from her nest, well hidden along the banks of a river that winds through any urban refuge is the Olympic Park, in a once dericet and contaminated area of east London populated by industrial buildings and neglected waterways.

And in just a few weeks’ time, millions will watch the greatest Games on Earth in the warbler’s backyard.

More than 200 hectares of land have been razed and redeveloped for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and 45 of those have been given over to creating new wildlife habitats for a variety of fauna—including kingfishers, bats, otters and grass snakes - while much of the rest has been left as parkland.

The urban park project is one of Europe’s biggest in 150 years, according to the Olympic Development Authority (ODA) and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG), and is part of ODA’s efforts to keep its promise to make the Games the greenest to date.

Thousands of semi-mature trees were planted—a Aspen, crack willow, holm oak and silver birch—as were hundreds of thousands of wetland plants and other species, and more than 10 hectares of annual and perennial meadows.

An independent commission appointed to review the results, the first commission of its kind, says the outcome has been impressive when compared to previous hosts Beijing, Athens and Sydney, though not everything has worked out as planned.

“You only win a gold medal by being better than everyone else,” said Shaun McCarthy, chair of the Commission for a Sustainable London 2012, but added, “It can very confidently say that this is the new high-water mark.”

Simon Lewis, a campaigner at environmental group WWF UK, agreed London would provide a sustainability blueprint for Olympic Games for years to come. But he also said progress on putting concern for the environment at the heart of the Olympic movement has been slow.

“A revolutionary hard growing as well as revolutionary,” Lewis told Reuters.—Reuters


Boeing fights back under dark skies

FARNBOROUGH, 11 July—Airbus has won a potential $4.2 billion order for 100 next-generation narrow-body jets from a US-based airline holding company, Airbus executives announced on Tuesday, as Boeing battles to keep a dent in its hold of the lucrative corner of the market.

Both deals, however, were well flagged in advance of the show, where there have so far been no major surprises.

The event “really has been a pretty quiet,” said Scott Donnelly, chairman and chief executive officer of Textron Inc, the US manufacturer of Bell and Cessna aircraft. He told Reuters: “It’s certainly one of the quieter displays that we’ve ever had.”

Boeing itself announced a provisional deal to sell 100 next-generation narrow-body jets to airliners to leasing firm GECAS. They are worth around $9.3 billion at list prices.

That was the US group’s second big deal for the revamped plane in as many days, bolstering its fightback for the airspace industry’s segment of the market.

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BRICS urged to develop small, medium enterprises for economy growth

JOHANNESBURG, 11 July—South Africa and other BRICS members should prioritize the development of small and medium enterprises as a way of quick job creation to benefit communities and people, an Indian diplomat said here on Tuesday. “There is nothing more effective than the smaller and medium enterprises when it comes to job creation. Small businesses generate effective and real economic empowerment,” said the Indian High Commissioner to South Africa Virendra Gupta.

“At one time particular industries could only be made by medium and smaller enterprises with large industries prohibited from entering certain sectors. The government nursed these businesses by giving them support in marketing, funding as well as aiding their technological needs,” Gupta said.

The Indian diplomat said his country has been able to reap massively from the resources spent on developing small and medium businesses. “Small and medium enterprises today contribute close to 50 percent of our industrial output and between 50 and 60 percent of our exports. They also contribute a great deal to our gross domestic product as well as to the industrial and manufacturing activities,” he said.—Xinhua

Indonesia, Germany to boost trade, seek cooperation on infrastructure, defence

JAKARTA, 11 July—Indonesia and Germany will work together to increase bilateral trade volume, seek the possibility to cooperate in infrastructure development and defence, leaders of the countries said here on Tuesday.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and German Chancellor Angela Merkel made the remarks at a joint press conference after their meeting at the State Palace.

Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Economy Hatta Rajasa said that both countries aimed at boosting their trade volume from 7 billion US dollars in 2011 to 12 billion US dollars in 2012. Of the one ways to achieve the goal was that the governments of the two countries would ease regulations, he said.

During the meeting, President Yudhoyono said that in the next 15 years, Indonesia would speed up building a massive infrastructure to spur economic growth and hoped Germany could take part in the projects. Merkel said that Germany has many advantages in infrastructure construction and could offer a lot in the cooperation in the sector.—Xinhua

China reshapes role in rare earths, could be importer by 2014

BEIJING, 11 July—China, the world’s biggest producer of rare earth metals, is likely to turn an importer of the vital ingredients by as early as 2014 as it boosts consumption in domestic high-tech industries rather than just shipping raw materials overseas.

China says it is curtaining exports to redress the environmental damage done by decades of mining, but has also made clear it would prefer to be the biggest consumer of rare earths rather than the biggest producer.

China’s appetite is growing fast as it seeks to maintain its stranglehold over the group of 17 elements used in new technologies like smartphones and hybrid cars. A concerted effort to build an entire industrial chain means that China, which produces more than 90 percent of world supplies of rare earths, is now consuming 65 percent of output versus 25 percent a decade ago.

“By 2014 or 2015, China will probably be in a net import situation for certain rare earths,” said Mark Smith, chief executive of Colorado-based miner Molycorp, which this year acquired China-based Neo Materials Technologies to boost its processing know-how and its presence in China.

“When the demand is there, that’s where the supply has to go. Over 80 percent of the magnets produced in the world come from China and that is growing just tremendously every year,” ‘Smith told Reuters in an interview.

While its tight export controls have sparked disputes with the United States, Japan and Europe, Beijing’s priorities extend beyond controlling supplies and prices. It aims to dominate downstream products like magnets, which can be made smaller and more powerful with rare earths.

China’s coking coal sector offers a lesson, analysts say. Determined to feed its own steel mills instead of shipping the material abroad, China changed itself from the world’s biggest exporter into one of the biggest importers.

Unemployment to remain high on persistent flagging growth

PARIS, 11 July—The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on Tuesday said unemployment rate of its member states would remain high until at least the end of 2013 due to weak global economic recovery. In its latest Employment Outlook 2012 report, the Paris-based organization said the regional unemployment rate of the OECD would remain high at 7.7 percent next year. That means around 48 million people would be out of work across the region in 2013.

A total of 14 million jobs would have to be created for young and low-skilled people in the OECD area in order to bring the unemployment rate to pre-crisis levels, the report said. “The recent deterioration in the economic outlook is very bad news for the labor market,” said OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría.

“It is imperative that governments use every possible means to redress their disposal to job creation and investing in their education and skills,” he added. “The young are at most risk of long-term damage to their careers and livelihoods. Targeting the most cost-effective policies is essential,” Gurría said.

In the 17-member euro area, the unemployment rate hit a record high of 11.1 percent in May. Spain was still the country with the highest unemployment rate of 24.6 percent, compared to the United States which reported a rather stable figure of 8.25 percent.—Xinhua


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S.Korea’s jobless rate falls to 3.2 pct in June

SEOUL, 11 July—South Korea’s jobless rate fell to 3.2 percent last month from a year earlier’s job creation in service sector kept its solid growth, a government report showed on Wednesday. The unemployment rate stood at 3.2 percent in June, down 0.1 percentage points from the same month of last year, according to Statistics Korea. From a month before, the rate was up 0.1 percentage point. The jobless rate declined for 13 straight months in June on an on-year basis due to continued job creation in the service sector, the statistical agency said. The country’s unemployment rate gauges the percent of people unemployed who actively sought jobs over the four weeks to the economically active population, or the sum of people employed and those unemployed. The number unemployed, who failed to land work despite job-hunting efforts, reached 822,000 last month, down 17,000 from a year earlier.

Boeing says Kuwait lessee to buy 20 of its 737 MAX planes

Farnborough, 11 July—Boeing on Tuesday said Kuwait aircraft leasing company ALAFCO had committed to buy 20 of the US planemaker’s future single-aisle 737 MAX planes worth about $1 billion. The announcement, which made the first commitment from a Middle Eastern company to buy the plane. “Boeing and Kuwait aircraft leasing company ALAFCO today announced a commitment at the 2017 Farnborough Airshow for 20 Boeing 737 MAX 8s valued at $1.9 billion at current list prices,” the pair said.

Mexico arrests two alleged Sinaloa drug cartel members

Ciudad Juarez, 11 July—Two alleged senior members of the powerful Sinaloa Cartel who are wanted by the US Drug Enforcement Agency have been arrested in Mexico’s capital Ciudad Juarez, officials said. The two suspects, identified as Fernando Arellano Romero and Daniel Franco Lopez, were arrested by a special Chihuahua state police unit late Monday along with a woman who “attempted to hide several firearms,” the state prosecutor’s office said. She was identified as Lopez’s wife and Arellano Romero’s niece.

The two men also wanted by US officials however escaped during the operation, state officials said, identifying them only by their nicknames. Lopez and Arellano Romero “appear on a list of more than 20 members of that organization published by the DEA,” the state prosecutor’s office said.

Moctezuma bus crashes kill 27, including two tourists

RAJASTHAN, 11 July—Two bus crashes in separate locations in Morocco have claimed 27 lives, including those of a German and a Dutch tourist, reported the state news agency on Tuesday. One bus flipped over on the highway Monday evening as it travelled between the Atlantic coast tourist destinations of Essaouira and Agadir in the south of the country, killing 17 people. The Dutch and German foreign ministries confirmed their citizens were among the dead. The two dead tourists were both women.

Morocco is a popular tourist destination among Europeans, especially its coastal resorts on the Atlantic. Earlier on Monday, a bus speeding on mountainous roads along the Mediterranean crashed outside the city of Nador, killing 10 people and injuring 33 others. The dead included three women and a young girl.

According to the US State Department website, traffic accidents are a “significant hazard” in Morocco. Although there are modern highways between the main cities, the rest of the country is served by two land roads, often in poor condition and reckless driving habits, such as overtaking on curves, are quite common.

According to the World Health Organization, some 5,217 people died in 2010 from road accidents. —Internet

Businessmen walk across the tarmac in front of the single-aisle jets on display during the second day of the Farnborough International Airshow in Hampshire, southern England. —AFP

File picture shows a policeman on duty in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. —AFP

Mexican tourism

The country’s unemployment rate, which gauges the percent of people employed and those unemployed who actively sought jobs over the four weeks to the economically active population, or the sum of people employed and those unemployed, stood at 60.4 percent in June.

By industry, the health service sector, the statistical agency said. The country’s unem-

employment rate gauges the percent of people unemployed who actively sought jobs over the four weeks to the economically active population, or the sum of people employed and those unemployed. The number unemployed, who failed to land work despite job-hunting efforts, reached 822,000 last month, down 17,000 from a year earlier.

The jobless rate among those aged between 15 and 29 came in at 7.7 percent in June, up 0.1 percentage point from a year before, but the rate was down 3.4 percentage points from the previous month. The total number of people employed grew 365,000-on-year to reach 25.12 million in June. The figure topped the 25 million mark for the first time in May after breaching the 24 million mark in May 2010. The hiring rate, which gauges the percent of the number of working people to working-age population, increased 1.4 percentage points from a year earlier, which is quite common.

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File picture shows a policeman on duty in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. —AFP

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Babies race across mat in New York

Organizers of the Aquaphor Diaper Derby in New York said more than 30 babies are racing on 6 July across a 12-foot mat. The organizers said the event, part of the Aquaphor New York City Triathlon Expo, involves infants crawling across a large mat as their parents coach them from the sidelines.

The infant race is part of celebrations surrounding the 12th annual Aquaphor New York City Triathlon, which is scheduled for Sunday.

News Album

‘Hunger Games’ finales set for 2014, 2015 release

“The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1” will be released 21 Nov, 2014, and “The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2” will follow on 20 Nov, 2015. The filmmakers are following the lead of two other teen-based literary franchises, “Harry Potter” and “Twilight,” whose final books were broken into two parts for film.


Starring Jennifer Lawrence, “The Hunger Games” debuted last March and has taken in $404 million domestically and $678 million worldwide.

Alicia Keys’ nonprofit to honor Oprah Winfrey

NEW YORK, 11 July—Oprah Winfrey is getting a tribute from Alicia Keys.

Keys announced Tuesday that her organization, Keep a Child Alive, will honor Winfrey at its Black Ball event on 1 Nov.

Keys says in a statement that the media mogul is “a personal inspiration to me because her philanthropic work truly comes from the heart.”

Keep a Child Alive was founded in 2003. It assists schools in South Africa. Keys announced Tuesday that her organization Keep a Child Alive will pay “special tribute to the empowerment of women — the heartbeat, soul, and backbone of the AIDS movement.”

The ninth annual event will take place at New York’s Hammerstein Ballroom. Past honorees include former President Bill Clinton, Sir Richard Branson and Bono.

Spike Lee works on Michael Jackson documentary

NEW YORK, 11 July—Spike Lee worked with Michael Jackson and considered him a friend, but the director says even he learned a lot combing through footage of the icon for a planned documentary about the singer’s “Bad” album.

Lee calls it a “treasure chest of findings.”

“We have footage in this documentary that no one’s ever seen, stuff that Michael shot himself, behind-the-scenes stuff,” he said in an interview Monday. “We had complete access to the vaults of Michael Jackson. … He wrote 60 demos for the ‘Bad’ record. Only 11 made it. So we got to hear a lot of that stuff, too, so it was just a great experience.”

He added: “You don’t have to be a Michael Jackson fan to enjoy this.”

Lee’s documentary, which does not yet have an official title, will be part of a flood of material to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the “Bad” album. Jackson’s follow-up to “Thriller” that included hits like the title track, “Smooth Criminal,” “The Way You Make Me Feel” and more. The album is being re-released 18 Sept with additional tracks, a DVD and other bonus material; Lee’s film is due to come out later this year, but no date has been set.

Cranston to direct a final ‘Breaking Bad’ episode

San Diego, 1 July—Bryan Cranston will sit in the director’s chair one last time for his AMC drama “Breaking Bad.”

In an interview Tuesday, Cranston said he will direct the ninth episode of the show’s fifth and final season, which begins 15 July and will air split over two summers. That breakthrough in filming gives the actor time to put on his directing hat before the second half airs in 2013.

Cranston said he was inspired to direct the episode after working closely with director Vincenzo Natali on last year’s pilot for the series “Malcolm in the Middle.”

On a New York island, firefighters set homes ablaze

Firefighters will spend the next two weeks setting homes ablaze on a small island in New York Harbour for one purpose: Saving lives.

Eighteen abandoned townhouses on New York City’s Governors Island, formerly housing for members of the Coast Guard, have been turned into a setting for roaring fires in experiments aimed to develop new strategies firefighters can use to save lives.

In one on Tuesday, a match was lit in a newspaper in the basement of a fully-furnished home. Within five minutes thick black smoke began to billow from the rear door; before ten minutes had passed, dark red flames licked around the basement windows.

Firefighters gradually broke open the windows to change air flow, seeing how the flames reacted to different ventilation. Under real-life circumstances, air is stirred as soon as possible from immediately opening roofs, windows and doors.

“They are bringing the lab out to the firefighters,” said Dan Madryzkowsky, a fire protection engineer from the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which conducted the tests with the FDNY and Underwriters Laboratories, a nonprofit group.

The idea behind this and other experiments taking place on Governors Island is to find flaws in fire-fighting techniques that, in many cases, haven’t changed in decades.

At the same time, modern households have undergone dramatic shifts, with organic materials, such as cotton and feathers, largely replaced by more affordable materials introduced in the 1970s.

With the change came a disturbing trend, said Fire Department deputy assistant chief Robert Maynes.

On a New York island, firefighters set homes ablaze

Firefighters put out a live fire during an experiment on Governors Island, in New York, on 3 July, 2012

Car hits, kills Comic-Con fan in San Diego street

SAN DIEGO, 11 July—A Comic-Con fan was fatally injured on Tuesday when she was hit by a car on her way to wait in line for a “Twilight” panel at the San Diego Convention Centre.

The 53-year-old woman ran into the middle of Harbor Drive and tried to stop in her tracks but it was too late,” said San Diego Police Lt. Andrea Brown. The 67-year-old driver who hit her cooperated with investigators and will not be cited, Brown said.

More than 100,000 pop-culture aficionados are expected to flood the San Diego Convention Center from Thursday to Sunday. Many fans have already arrived.

Fans told U-T San Diego the woman had been in line since last Sunday for a Thursday panel on “The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2,” the last film in the hugely popular “Twilight” series, set for release 16 Nov.

Key this image released by AMC shows Bryan Cranston as Walter White, left, and Aaron Paul as Jesse Pinkman in a scene from the season 5 premiere of “Breaking Bad,” airing on 15 July, at 10 pm EST on AMC.
Isinbayeva warms up for Olympic threepeat with win

MOSCOW, 11 July—Russia’s pole vaulting legend Yelena Isinbayeva won on her first appearance at an open air athletics meeting this season here on Tuesday just under a month ahead of her bid for a third successive Olympic title.—INTERNET

Moscow, 11 July—A two-match ban given to Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho for poking Barcelona assistant Tito Vilanova in the eye has been lifted as part of a general amnesty, the Spanish soccer federation (RFEF) said on Tuesday. The decision, announced at the RFEF’s general assembly in Madrid, raises the prospect of a clash between the federation and Barca, whose president Sandro Rosell said last month he would not allow Mourinho’s aggregation to go unpunished.

The volatile Portuguese was sanctioned after attacking Vilanova, who has since taken over as first-team coach from Pep Guardiola from behind during a Super Cup match last season. The ban, applicable only in the Super Cup, was rescinded by the RFEF president Angel Maria Villar, who traditionally exonerates some players and coaches after sealing re-election. He was voted in unopposed for a seventh term in office today (Tuesday), to a meeting on Tuesday. The ruling meant Vilanova’s one-match ban for reacting to Mourinho’s aggression was also lifted.

Mourinho’s Super Cup ban for eye poke lifted

Both can take their place on the bench when La Liga champions Real and King’s Cup winners Barca meet next month in the 2012 Super Cup, the two-legged curtain-raiser to the season. Rosell suggested last month the club would challenge any decision to exonerate Mourinho.

“We do not accept that an excommunication from our coach is not punished,” Rosell said. “If this happens, we will speak to the appropriate party, we will not let it go unpunished.”

INTERNET

Maradona sacked as Al Wasl coach

ARGENTINA, 11 July—Argentinian football legend Diego Maradona was sacked as coach of United Arab Emirates side Al Wasl just over a year after he was appointed to the job, the club announced on Tuesday.

The 51-year-old—who was appointed in May 2011 after he had lost his job the previous year at Argentina national coach—had looked to be in a precarious position after failing to win a trophy last season. His cause had been helped when the board of directors that had hired him resigned following the previous campaign and their replacements took the decision to fire him after a meeting on Tuesday.

“Following a meeting held by the board of directors of Al Wasl Football Company held today (Tuesday), to evaluate the technical staff of Al Wasl Football Team under the leadership of coach Diego Maradona, it was decided to terminate the services of coach Diego Maradona and his technical staff in a statement from the club said.

Maradona—who as a player almost singlehandedly guided Argentina to the 1986 World Cup trophy and then the 1990 final—had another year left on his contract.

INTERNET

Serena happy to defend title where comeback started

STANFORD, 11 July—Fatigue and a busy schedule was not going to get in the way of Serena Williams returning to the place she says launched her comeback and gave her the confidence to believe she could win another grand slam. Fresh off her fifth Wimbledon triumph, Williams is eager to defend the Stanford Classic title she won in 2011 that signaled her return after missing nearly a year recovering from serious health problems. The triumph, which came on the heels of a last-16 loss at that year’s Wimbledon, was part of an 18-match win streak that lasted until the US Open final, where she fell to Australian Samantha Stosur.

“This is the place that spurred me on last year,” Williams, who missed nearly a year of competition after dealing with a cut foot and blood clot in her lung, told Reuters on Tuesday. “I had a great summer, and that propelled me with getting a lot of confidence and so that really helped, I definitely wanted to come back and try to do that, but maybe do it straight (wins) this time.” Williams not only picked up her 14th grand slam singles title at Wimbledon last Saturday, but she also won her 13th grand slam doubles title with her older sister, Venus. She then flew to California on Monday but was so jet lagged that she woke up at 3:30am PDT (1030GMT) on Tuesday and began tweeting.

Williams said her current schedule, which includes competing in the July 27-August 12 London Olympics, is among the most hectic that she has had during her glittering career. “My goal is to do well here first, and then go from there,” said Williams. “I have the Olympics, go, I keep forgetting about that, so gotta do, and then I have the US Open, so it’s a busy summer and it’s halfway through, but it’s going so fast.”

Williams, 30, became the first woman in her 30s to win Wimbledon since Martina Navratilova won in 1990 at age 33. She admittedly did not go into 2012 Wimbledon with a lot of confidence as she had been beaten in the first round of the French Open by Virginie Razzano, the only time she had lost in the first round of a major in 47 attempts.—INTERNET

INTERNET

Kuwait businessman buys Nottingham Forest

KUWAIT CITY, 11 July—Kuwait businessmen Fawaz Al Hasawi announced on Tuesday he had bought two-time European Cup winners Nottingham Forest after failing to win a trophy last season. He had been on the market since the sudden death of owner Nigel Doughty in February. Al Hasawi confirmed that in a tweet on Tuesday “I can officially announce that the acquisition of Nottingham forest is complete.”

“We have become the official owners. I thank my brothers Abdullah and Omar for their efforts,” he added without providing any financial details on the value of the deal. The Hassaws have been negotiating the takeover for several weeks with the Estate of Doughty. In a 29 June statement, the Hassaws said “the future on-field and off-field success of Nottingham Forest is at the heart of our plans. "News of the deal was greeted with delight by the playing staff."Great news," said striker Dexter Blackstock in a tweet of his own.

INTERNET

Ferrero loses in opening round at Croatia Open

UMAG, 11 July—Croatian wildcard Mate Pavic upset sixth-seeded Juan Carlos Ferrero in the first round of the Croatia Open on Tuesday, but former champion Edouard Roger-Vasselin was defeated at the Rijeka Open by Virginie Razzano, the only time she had lost in the first round of a major in 47 attempts.—INTERNET

INTERNET

International Sports

Kuwait businessman Fawaz Al Hasawi announced on Tuesday he had bought two-time European Cup winners Nottingham Forest. News of the deal was greeted with delight by the playing staff. "Great news," said striker Dexter Blackstock, pictured in 2008, in a tweet of his own.—INTERNET

INTERNET

Serena Williams of the US holds her trophy after defeating Agniezka Radwanska of Poland in their women’s final tennis match at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London on 7 July, 2012.—REUTERS

INTERNET
Five taken to hospital from Rome-bound plane diverted to Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, 11 July — Fire department officials say five people were taken to a hospital from a plane diverted to Philadelphia International Airport after crew members reported feeling ill due to an odor on board.

Airport spokeswoman Victoria Lupica said US Airways flight 720 had taken off from Charlotte, NC for Rome, but diverted to Philadelphia shortly before 10 pm Tuesday after crew members became nauseous.

US Airways spokesman Todd Lehmacher said the pilot decided to divert the aircraft "out of an abundance of caution" and five crew members were seen by a paramedic.

They were then taken to a hospital for observation. Lehmacher said no illnesses were reported among any of the 176 passengers. He said the plane will continue to Rome with a new crew early today.—Internet

 donor of pagoda, ordination hall and monastery, and sponsor of monk

U Aung Naing (a) Eric Law (a) Law Pin Sin
Second son of U Law Sit Han and Daw Kyan Phu Shin of Yangon, son-in-law of (U Chi Chan) and Daw Kyan Phu Shin of Yangon, younger brother of U Than Naing and Daw Nan Khan Hlaung, and Daw Kyi (Kyi) Hlaung, husband of (Daw No Tha, a daughter of U Than Naing and Daw Kha) Phyo Phyo Myint, U Than Myint Naing and Daw Si Si Lyi, U Min Din and Daw Phyu Phyu Han, U M Tin Taw, and Daw Thida Han; U Aung Cho, Daw Soe Han, and U Aung Kyaw Naing and Daw Aine, and father of U Thit and Daw Thit. His wife lived at No (17), Has/Ka ward, Yadana Thiri street, Thingangyun Township, Yangon, son-in-law of (U Chi Chan) and Daw Aye Kyin of Taunggyi, U Aung Naing (a) Eric Law (a) Law Pin Sin

Death toll from southern Russian floods reaches 172

MOSCOW, 11 July — The death toll from recent rains and floods in southern Russia’s Krasnodar territory has climbed to 172, the Interior Ministry said on Tuesday.

"According to the Interior Ministry’s crisis center, the disaster has killed 172 people, including 159 in Krymsk, 11 in Gelendzhik, and two in Novorossiisk," the ministry said.

According to the regional administration of Krasnodar, some 30,000 people have been affected by the floods.

Two dead, seven missing after ship capsizes

NANJING, 11 July — Two children died while seven others remain missing after a cargo ship capsize and sank early Wednesday in a port in east China’s Jiangsu Province, maritime authorities said.

The accident, involving a cargo ship docked at the port of Zhenjiang, happened at 2:25 am, according to Zhenjiang Municipal Maritime Safety Bureau. All 24 people on board were fluent into the water, with 17 rescued, the bureau said, adding that two children died after medical treatment failed. The bureau said the ship was carrying more than 10,000 tonnes of iron ore and reported no collision. The cause of the accident is being investigated.—Xinhua

Declaration of income submitted in Kalay Township

KALAY, 11 July — A ceremony to submit declaration of income from cooperative societies for 2012-2013 fiscal year was held at the hall of Kalay Township Cooperative Department in Kalay District of Sagaing Region on 29 June morning.

On behalf of the cooperative societies, Chairman of Township Cooperative Syndicate U Bo Tin presented income declaration and K 1,275,000 in advance to the head of Township Internal Revenue Department.—DANNA IPRD

Death toll from Honduras tainted liquor tragedy rises to 24

TEGUCIGALPA, 11 July — At least 24 people have died from drinking adulterated liquor in the central Honduran city of Siguatepeque, a Health Ministry official said on Tuesday. Tomas Guevara, chief epidemiologist in the Public Health Ministry, said of 48 known alcohol-poisoning cases last week, 24 have proved fatal and the remainder lost their sight or suffered other physical damage. Most of those affected were from the town of Siguatepeque, 130km north of the capital Tegucigalpa. Survivors were receiving treatment at Santa Teresa hospital in nearby Comayagua city.

The Honduran health authorities and the public prosecutor’s office have been investigating the incident since last Thursday in order to find out the cause. They suspected that the local firewater had been mixed with methanol, a highly toxic chemical that can cause blindness and even death.

"From the symptoms they have, we suspect ethanol, or pure alcohol, was mixed with methanol," Guevara said last Thursday.—Xinhua
Reproductive health problems remain leading cause of ill health and death among childbearing-age women worldwide

Vice-President Dr Sai Maok Kham delivers an address at ceremony to mark World Population Day.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Maok Kham said, World Population Day is an annual event, observed on July 11, which seeks to raise awareness of interrelations between global population issues and development. Myanmar has been observing the Day annually and this year’s event is the 23rd. The UN theme for this year’s World Population Day is “Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services”. He said, since 40 years ago, UN member states have approved that members of any household have the right to fix the population of their own family. International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994 raised the global awareness of fulfilling the reproductive health needs of every citizen and ensuring universal access to reproductive health services as a sector. They also stated every couple’s freedom of choosing the number of children and the birth-spacing period. As the global population exceeds seven billion, availability of reproductive health services for every one has become a little difficult matter. This year’s theme is to raise global awareness of the importance and urgency of reproductive health and to acknowledge the providers of health information, services and equipment, he said. Reproductive health problems remain the leading cause of ill health and death for women of childbearing age worldwide. Unintended pregnancy, maternal deaths, disability and infection of sexually transmitted diseases are high particularly among the poor and women of developing counties. In developing countries, some 215 million women who want to delay or cease childbearing lack birth control methods. So, thousands of women are facing unintended pregnancy, health problems and also death. About 1.8 billion young people are entering their reproductive years from 18 to 24, are in dire need of reproductive health information and services. Nearly 358,000 women die every year in the process of giving life. Developing countries annually see about 19 million back-street abortions that claim lives of 47,000 women every year. There are about 16 million women of reproductive age in about 60 million population of the country. The 2008 constitution grants rights for mothers, children and expectant mothers and the national health policies promise universal health services and healthcare. There is no prescription for the number of children in a family. It depends on individual choice. Urbanites with reproductive health knowledge conceive one or two children. Rural population have unlimited

(See page 8)