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Friday, 17 August, 2012

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 sends message of felicitations to Indonesian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Suuilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, on the occasion of the 67th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2012.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham felicitates Indonesian Vice-President

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug—Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Prof. Dr Boediono, M.Ec, Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia, on the occasion of the 67th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2012.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves to fund establishment of ASEAN Humanitarian Aid Center

President to appoint Director-General U Win Ko of Union Election Commission who is discharging secretary duty of the commission as member of the Union Election Commission.

The Hluttaw representative wishing to oppose the appointment with evidences that the candidate is not qualified may enlist after today’s session and the appointment of the UEC member will be discussed on the 10th day session.

At approval-seeking session, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe read the matter related to funding of ASEAN member countries for establishment of ASEAN Humanitarian Aid Center (AHA-Center). The Hluttaw approved it.

At Proposal-submitting session, U Soe Tha of Twantay Constituency submitted a proposal, calling for the Union government to submit the reports on income and expenditure under capital and ordinary budgets of central organizations, organizations under ministries and projects from appendix tables (1) to (10) of the Union Budget Law 2012.

The Hluttaw representatives wishing to take part in the discussions may enlist not later than 4 pm on 17 August.

At report-submitting session, U Tin Htut of Zalun Constituency submitted the proposal calling for fairly solving the loss of farmers after investigating the confiscated farmlands on the fourth day of the fourth regular session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. U Hla Swe of Magway Region Constituency No 2 submitted that the discussion of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representative U J Yaw Wu over the above-mentioned proposal was not in line with the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw rule. Thus, the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw assigned duty to the Joint Bill Committee to study and assess the discussions. Secretary of the Joint Bill Committee U Saw Hla Tun read the findings of the committee over the discussions.

According to the report of the Joint Bill Committee, although the discussions of U J Yaw Wu were set with good aim to protect the interests of the farmer and the State, the subjects of the discussion and usage of term were not in conformity with the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rule-63, Sub-rule (f). That is why the discussion of U J Yaw Wu on paragraphs 5 and 12 will not be put in the Hluttaw Record, and the Hluttaw decided to warn him not to use the terms not in line with the law.

(See page 9)

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (16-8-2012)

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Waverider hypersonic jet targets Mach 6

The aircraft was due to break into pieces at the end of its flight.

Tough Capital One Cup ties for Wigan and Fulham

Last season’s winners Liverpool will begin their trophy defence in the third round.

Astronomers find record-breaking galaxy cluster

The Chandra X-Ray Observatory is shown in an artist’s rendering.
QUIT BAD HABITS

“Time and tide wait for no man”, as the saying goes. Life span of our human beings is very short. We have to spend our valuable times on education and earning of our livings etc. We should manage our valuable time effectively. We should have the detailed plan. It is very important of us not to waste such precious times. When we take a look at the events of the successful people, they are so industrious. And they have the vast knowledge of their work, exact timetables and plans. We should follow in the steps of them.

In building up a developed country, human resources development plays an important part. Youths are the main source of human resource development. Our country has lagged behind the world countries, even Asian countries. Natural resources alone are not enough for the development of country. To build a developed country, we need qualified human resources, technology, natural resources etc. Our country needs to have qualified youths.

These days, we can see, especially youths, a flood of people wasting their times by doing the good-for-nothing. Some people are wasting their times by chatting at tea shops while some are making gambling (three or two digits lottery). It is not a good sign not only for their family but also for their future. They spent their money on gambling. These bad habits can cause damages to their family as well as to our country. How can a developed country be built if majority of people do like so? Authority concerned should take action against those people and try to educate them to quit their bad habits.

UNION FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER FELICITATES INDONESIAN COUNTERPART

Myanmar Thabin Professionals Association: Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan

A ceremony to meet Myanmar Thabin professionals was held at Assembly Hall of the Ministry of Culture, here, at 10 am today, with an address by Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin, departmental heads and maestros from regions and states.

In his speech, the Union Minister said that today’s meeting aimed at making suggestions for reformation of Myanmar Thabin Professionals Association in line with democratic practices. It needed to reform according to current system, Thabin Association’s organizational rules and Thabin Professionals’ wills. Those present were urged to give suggestions for systematic formation of it. Ministry would not get involved in practical implementation. Thabin Professionals themselves were to do their own democratically.

He elaborated on formation and election. The Minister continued to say that Thabin professionals were urged to review those suggestions and continue to implement it with the majority vote. The Ministry would provide assistances only when the association asked for help.

At the meeting, those present made suggestions. After reviewing those suggestions, the Minister cordially greeted those present. In the afternoon, the maestros held discussion on drawing the principles for Thabin Association.—MNA

FIRST AYEYAWADY REGION HLUWTAW SPECIAL SESSION HELD

First Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw special session held

The first day session of Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw Special meeting 1/2012 in progress.—MNA

FLOOD WARNING FOR SITTOUNG RIVER

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Aug—According to the 12.30 hr M.S.T observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk 1208 cm has exceeded by 138 cm (about 4.5 feet) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level 1070 cm during the next three days, announced by the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA
Indonesia president says corruption threatens economic growth

Jakarta, 16 Aug—Indonesia’s President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said on Thursday corruption is on the rise, even in parliament, in his most explicit comments yet on a scourge that he warned threatened economic growth in Southeast Asia’s largest economy.

Corruption is widely seen as holding back the economy and Yudhoyono has been criticized for letting the fight against it slow as he comes into his second five-year term.

A series of corruption scandals have rocked the president’s Democrat Party, weakening it in advance of elections in 2014 when Yudhoyono will step down.

Indonesia’s President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono talks during a news conference at Australia’s Prime Minister Julia Gillard (not pictured) at the Northern Territory Parliament House in Darwin on 3 July, 2012. — Reuters

“T he drum of war on corruption should not dissipate. Corruption should be completely eradicated,” Yudhoyono said in a speech to parliament ahead of the country’s Independence Day anniversary.

“I have to admit there are still many perpetrators of corruption even in the government, parliament, regional representatives and among law enforcers,” Yudhoyono said.

There are few estimates of how much corruption costs Indonesia but watchdog groups say it is prevalent in the civil service, police and judicial system and it adds to business costs in part by weakening confidence in the rule of law.

Despite rampant graft, resource-rich Indonesia has become a favourite of emerging markets because of how much corruption costs the country’s independence.

Yudhoyono’s wide-ranging speech ahead of Independence Day was the latest in a series to touch on corruption. He said cooperation between the anti-corruption body the KPK, the Supreme Court, police and the Attorney General’s office was paramount in fighting corruption.— Reuters

Wildfires blaze across US West, threaten Idaho towns

Salmon, 16 Aug—Wildfires raced out of control across the scorched US West on Wednesday and threatened to engulf two small towns in Idaho as firefighters managed to partially dampen a monster blaze that has destroyed more than 6,000 acres raged just miles from the two towns.

All told, the fires have blackened more than half a million acres across Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California, destroying homes and outbuildings, forcing hundreds of people to evacuate ahead of the flames and killing a young firefighter.

In Idaho, authorities told some 1,000 residents around the south-central communities of Featherville and Pine to prepare for evacuation as a blaze that has consumed more than 63,000 acres raged just miles from the two towns.

“We’re adopting a posture that it’s not if it’s going to hit Featherville and Pine, but when,” Elmore County Sheriff’s Office spokesman Gary Walker said, adding that the early warning was designed to prevent “a big, mass confusion once we have to get people out of there.”

The Trinity Ridge fire that menaces Featherville and Pine erupted after a Utah terrain vehicle caught fire on 3 August. Strong gusts sent flames racing across grasslands and sagebrush and into timber-dry pine forests, federal fire information officer Brandon Hampton said.

A helicopter drops Thermo-Gel on the Barry Point wildfire near Lakeside, Oregon, in this USDA Forest Service handout photo dated on 14 Aug, 2012. — Reuters

Paramilitary soldiers guard near the main entrance of the Minhas in the town of Kpk Province on 16 Aug, 2012. — Reuters

Wildfires blaze across US West, threatening Idaho towns

KIRKUK, Iraq, 16 Aug—At least eight people were killed and 34 others injured on Thursday in separate bomb attacks including a suicide car bombing in Iraq’s northern province of Kirkuk, a provincial police source said.

A suicide bomber drove and detonated his explosive laden car into a security center belonging to Kurdish security members, also known as Peshmerga, in the town of Dqahqat, just south of the provincial capital city of Kirkuk, some 250 km north of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Minutes later, a roadside bomb went off near the first scene, targeting the building of anti-crime office, the source said.

In total, five people, including four security members, were killed and 11 others injured in the two blasts, the source added.

On Thursday morning, four car bombs detonated in Almas and Arfa districts, both in northern Kirkuk, including a successive attack near a police station, he said.

“Our latest report said that a total of three people were killed and 20 others wounded, including policemen, by the four blasts,” he added.

Early in the day, the police source reportedly put the casualties at three people killed and 10 others injured by the four blasts.

In a separate incident, gunmen blew up two roadside bombs in the house of an army officer in the town of Dilbas, some 45 km northwest of Kirkuk, wounding him and his daughter, he said.

KAMRA, 16 Aug—Islamicist militants armed with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons fought their way into one of Pakistan’s largest air bases on Thursday, the air force said, in a brazen challenge to the nuclear-armed country’s powerful military.

The attack was repelled and only one aircraft was damaged, said an air force spokesman, adding that the Minhas air base at Kamra, in central Punjab Province, did not house nuclear weapons.

“No air base is a nuclear air base in Pakistan,” he said.

The gunbattle raged for hours, and eight militants and one soldier were killed, the spokesman said. Commandos were called in to reinforce and police armored personnel carriers could be seen heading into the base.

The attackers moved through a nearby village under cover of darkness and then climbed a nine foot (2.7 meter) wall covered with barbed wire.

The assault cast doubts on military operations which had severely weakened militants waging a violent campaign to topple the US-backed government and impose strict Islamic rule.

Security forces opened fire when militants strapped with suicide bombing vests approached aircraft hangars, prompting other militants to fire rocket-propelled grenades from outside the base’s walls, said the air force spokesman.

Base commander Air Commodore Muhammad Azam, who led the operation against the attackers, was shot in the shoulder, but is in stable condition, said spokesman Captain Tarig Mahmood.

Search operations for any other militants who may have been hiding in the complex after the attack had ended, he said.— Reuters

Paramilitary soldiers guard near the main entrance of the Minhas in the town of Kpk Province on 16 Aug, 2012. — Reuters

11 killed as NATO helicopter crashes in southern Afghanistan

KABUL, 16 Aug—A total of 11 people including four NATO and three US soldiers were killed Thursday when a NATO military helicopter crashed in restive southern Afghanistan, the NATO said in a statement.

“An ISAF helicopter crashed in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday and threatened to partially dampen a monster wildfire near Lakeview, Oregon, in this USDA Forest Service handout photo dated on 14 Aug, 2012. — Reuters

“A ISAF helicopter crashed in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday night and killed a young firefighter. The helicopter went down in Chintoo area of Wah WAfot district in Kandahar province during a military operation,” a provincial official said.

Without giving the exact time of the incident.

People examine a blast site in southwest Pakistan’s Quetta on 15 Aug, 2012. At least one person was killed and seven others were injured in the blast at a hotel in Quetta late Wednesday night. — Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

Wildfires blaze across US West, threatening Idaho towns

Paramilitary soldiers guard near the main entrance of the Minhas in the town of Kpk Province on 16 Aug, 2012. — Reuters

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MNA/Xinhua
SEATTLE, 16 Aug—These aren’t your typical loo. One uses microwave energy to transform human waste into electricity. Another captures urine and uses it for flushing. And still another turns excrement into charcoal.

They are part of a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation competition to reinvent the toilet for the 2.5 billion people around the world who don’t have access to modern sanitation.

Scientists from around the world have taken up the challenge, and the foundation announced some projects on Tuesday that will be getting more money to take their ideas from the lab to cities.

There, local entrepreneurs will use the new technology to turn pollution into cash. “We couldn’t be happier with the response that we’ve gotten,” Bill Gates said.

To pass the foundation’s threshold for the world’s next toilet, it must operate without running water, electricity or a septic system, not discharge pollutants, preferably capture energy or other resources, and operate at a cost of 5 cents a day.

The United Nations estimates disease caused by unsafe sanitation results in about half the hospitalizations in the developing world. About 1.5 million children die each year from diarrheal disease.

Scientists believe most of these deaths could be prevented with proper sanitation, along with safe drinking water and improved hygiene. The foundation expects to field test its first prototypes within the next three years.

Most of the prototypes on display this week in the open courtyard of the foundation’s Seattle headquarters turn solid waste into energy. This is both a practical and pragmatic solution to the solid waste puzzle, said Carl Hensman, programme officer for the foundation’s water, sanitation and hygiene team. Many recycle waste into other usable substances such as animal feed, water for irrigation, or even just energy, and water to run their own systems. Some, like the winning project from Caltech, use chemistry and engineering to completely transform the waste.

Apple patent could lead to thinner iPhone and iPad screens

New York, 16 Aug—Apple on Tuesday was granted a patent from the United States Patent and Trademark Office for a new screen technology that could potentially make the next-generation iPhone thinner and lighter. Current touchscreen technology places the touch sensitive elements of the screen over the liquid crystal display. The Cupertino-based company’s patent, however, describes a variety of ways in which a touchscreen’s touch sensitive technology could be integrated within the actual LCD screen.

The principal investigator and touch sensor, a variety of benefits can be achieved,” Apple explained in the filings. “This integration can include combining or combining the two layered structures. The integration can further include eliminating redundant structures and/or finding dual purposes (eg, one purpose for the touch function and another for the display function) for particular layers or structures. This can permit some layers to be eliminated, which can reduce cost and thickness of the touch screen LCD, as well as simplify manufacturing.”

New toilet technology after 150 years of waste

The aircraft was due to break into pieces at the end of its flight.—INTERNET

LONDON, 16 Aug—The US military has conducted a test flight of its hypersonic jet Waverider, aiming to reach Mach 6 (4,300mph; 6,900km/h) above the Pacific Ocean. At that speed it could travel from London to New York in under an hour. Results from the test flight have not yet been released. Pentagon and NASA hope to use the project to develop faster missiles.

During a test in June 2011, Waverider travelled at Mach 5, but failed to reach the target speed. It is one of several projects currently under way to create a hypersonic aircraft. The research could also be used to build a commercial plane, capable of reaching cities.

In 2011, EADS presented its own concept of flights are likely to appear in the near future.

NASA’s Curiosity Mars rover seen in new satellite image

SAN FRANCISCO — NASA has used its high-resolution imaging satellite at the Red Planet to look down on the Curiosity rover and acquire a new picture of the recently landed six-wheeled robot. The vehicle appears as a double dot. The view from the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) has been colour enhanced to emphasise certain ground features. These include the disturbance in the soil made by the rocket powered crane that lowered Curiosity into Gale Crater a week ago.

“We can clearly see Curiosity—it’s like a way to help engineers understand what’s happening on the surface and to make sure that we’re seeing the right thing,” said Alfred McEwen, the principal investigator on MRO’s High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE)

Internet

“Cyber egg” used to record Abbotsbury Swannery swans

LONDON, 16 Aug—Scientists have a computerised egg among a group of swans in Dorset. The silicon-filled “cyber egg” will allow for more accurate measurements of the birds at Abbotsbury Swannery. Experts hope they can learn more about the behaviour of the swans during the hatching of their cygnets. Prof Chris Perrins, of the Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology at the University of Oxford, said: “It’s puzzling us for a long time.”

A swan lays four to 10 eggs at two-day intervals, but cygnets hatch together. Prof Perrins added: “Birds don’t normally waste energy and yet, some preliminary observations during the laying period indicate that a female swan does keep her eggs at least partly warm some of the time. “But since the eggs hatch together, they are not apparently kept warm enough for development to take place. So why use energy doing it all it? It seems odd.”

The “cyber egg” was made by Dr Stephen Ellwood, of the university’s wildlife conservation research unit, by cutting off the top of a dud swan’s egg with a diamond saw. He then cleaned it out and placed a miniaturised computer inside. He said: “These kinds of devices make observations that were impossible, possible. People just can’t go into the places that swans are and take samples. These kinds of devices make observations that were impossible, possible.”

The Filon Concorde was the last of the fleet to fly when the jet was withdrawn from service.—INTERNET

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LONDON, 16 Aug—The US military has conducted a test flight of its hypersonic jet Waverider, aiming to reach Mach 6 (4,300mph; 6,900km/h) above the Pacific Ocean. At that speed it could travel from London to New York in just over three hours. The Waverider test flight was expected to last for about five minutes before the craft falls into the Pacific. The test is essentially a repeat of last summer’s attempt, when the hypersonic aircraft reached Mach 5, but the engine failed to attain full power. Military officials said the results would be available later on Wednesday.

European aerospace and defence giant EADS believes that hypersonic passenger flights are likely to appear in the near future. In 2011, EADS presented its own concept of a commercial high-speed aircraft designed to fly at Mach 4.

Internet

‘Cyber egg’ used to record Abbotsbury Swannery swans

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**Google buys Frommer’s travel guide business**

**NEW YORK, 16 Aug** Google has agreed to buy Frommer’s travel guides from US publishing firm Wiley & Sons for an undisclosed sum. Google said it would be “a great addition” to the restaurant guide business, which it bought last year for $151m (€96m).

The search giant will publish reviews online under the Frommer’s brand. It has not said whether it will continue to produce printed books. Its aim is to provide a review for “every relevant place in the world.”

Wiley & Sons said it would put the money it made from the sale into the core areas of its business—scientific, medical and education titles. The two hundred-year-old publisher said in March that it wanted to sell a number of its assets, including the Frommer’s travel guide business, CliffsNotes education guides and Webster’s New World dictionaries.

**Cosmetic surgery views sought after breast implant scare**

**LONDON, 16 Aug** People are being asked for their views on the cosmetic surgery industry after the recent PIP scandal, where thousands of women were given breast implants containing substandard material. The review, requested by the health secretary, will look at whether tighter regulation is needed in England. And it will ask if people are given enough information about surgeries.

About 7,000 women in England are having checks for faulty breast implants and hundreds have now had them removed. Although the unauthorised silicone filler used in the PIP breast implants is not thought to be toxic or cancer-causing, there were safety concerns. They were found to have double the rupture rate of other implants.

Around 47,000 women in the UK have PIP breast implants, mostly done privately rather than on the NHS. The problem came to light at the end of 2011, shortly after the French government recommended all women with PIP implants have them removed as a precaution. But there were warnings made by surgeons to UK authorities about adverse effects for many years before this. Prof Sir Bruce Keogh, who is leading the English review, which will report in early 2013, said: “The recent problems with PIP breast implants have new finance minister and support growth, or stick to the tougher line,” said Dariusz Kowalczyk at Credit Agricole CIB in Hong Kong.

“Weak industrial output and very poor exports suggest that there is rate cut scope, but we need to see how the monsoon develops and what the outlook will be for food prices by then.” Until now, persistently high inflation has stopped the central bank lowering its main interest rate. The Reserve Bank of India cited inflation risks for its decision to keep the interest rate at 8% last month, despite a slowdown in India’s economic growth. The country expanded at its lowest rate in nine years in the quarter to March. Food prices rose just over 10% in 10% in the year to July, down from the 10.8% in the year to June. Fuel inflation slowed to 6% in July from 10.5% in June.

The key factor determining food prices remains the amount of rainfall. If the monsoon season, which runs from June to September, is insufficient, India will be forced to import more, pushing the price of food higher again. A weaker rupee, which hit a record low of 57.32 to the dollar in June, puts further pressure on India’s economy by lowering its purchasing power.

**Exercising in midlife protects heart, says research**

**LONDON, 16 Aug** —Making sure you get enough exercise in midlife will help protect your heart, according to research. Even those who make the switch in their late 40s and 50s can still benefit, the study of over 4,000 people suggests. And it need not be hard toil in a gym — gardening and brisk walks count towards the required 2.5 hours of moderate activity per week, say experts. But more work is needed since the study, which was published in the journal Circulation, people who did the recommended 2.5 hours of exercise a week had the lower levels of inflammatory markers in their blood. Inflammatory markers are important, say experts, because high levels have been linked to increased heart risk.

People who said they consistently stuck to the recommended amount of exercise for the entire 10-year study had the lowest inflammatory levels overall. Even when those who said they only started doing the recommended amount of exercise when they were well into their 40s saw an improvement and had lower levels of inflammation than people who said they never did enough exercise.

The findings were unchanged when the researchers took into consideration other factors, such as obesity and smoking, that could have influenced the results. A group of UK civil servants who were included in the study. Dr Mark Hamer, of University College London, who led the research, said: “We should be encouraging more people to get active — for example, walking instead of taking the bus. You can gain health benefits from moderate activity at any time in your life.”

Maureen Talbot of the British Heart Foundation, which funded the work, said: “Donning your gardening gloves or sticking up a paint brush can still go a long way to help look after your heart health, as exercise can have a big impact on how well your heart ages.”

This research highlights the positive impact changing your exercise habits can have on the future of your heart health, and that it’s never too late to re-energise your life. “However it’s important not to wait until you retire to get out there,” he said. “For many, being active for life is a great way to keep your heart healthy.”
Asian economies most at risk from natural disasters.

LONDON, 16 Aug.—Asian countries dominate a league table of economies most at risk from natural disasters, storms and other natural hazards, according to a report published on Wednesday.

In an assessment of 197 countries, British risk consultancy Maplecroft said six Asian countries were among the 10 countries whose economies were most vulnerable to catastrophes. The list is headed by Bangladesh and the Philippines, which along with Myanmar are considered to be in “extreme” risk.

Only one other country, the Caribbean state of Saint Lucia, was in the highest risk category.

Drought causes 1-bln-euro damage to Italian farm industry.

Rome, 16 Aug.—Italian farmers suffered this year a one billion euro ($1.2 billion US dollars) crop damage from drought, which was exacerbated by Italy’s worst heat wave in decades, the country’s farmers association Coldiretti said on Tuesday.

According to a report of the Rome-based association, soybeans losses were some 50 percent of the total production, while corn and tomato losses were respectively up to 30 and 20 percent.

Italy’s wine production was also expected to fall 10 percent below the five-year average because of heat, Coldiretti said noting the 2012 drought was the most serious in the last 10 years. The crop losses in the US that have caused a global alarm over the potential for a food crisis may also affect the Mediterranean country which “heavily depends on foreign imports of raw materials,” the association warned.

To be especially hit by the drought is the northern island of Sardinia in Italy. In some parts of Piedmont, a fertile agricultural region, water for irrigation was supplied with tankers of fossil fuels and civil protection.

The heat has also affected farmed animals across the country, with dairy cows producing up to 20 percent less milk compared to average production, and pigs consuming 40 percent less of their daily rations.

“With the heat, it’s almost impossible to intervene with both financial resources and structural measures to deal with the emergency, especially in water preservation,” said Coldiretti president Sergio Marini. He called on the government to quickly implement measures to deal with both the emergency and its inherent natural hazard.

Foreign regulators to examine cracks at Belgian nuclear plant.

BRUSSELS, 16 Aug.—Nuclear regulators from across Europe will examine cracks at a Belgian nuclear power station on Thursday to establish what further action may be needed in reactors constructed by the same company - now defunct - in other countries. Belgium’s nuclear watchdog FANC said it would hold the meeting to share information about the suspected cracks found in the core tank of Belgian reactor Doel 3.

The regulator said last week it had halted production at the 1,060 megawatt reactor - one of Belgium’s nuclear power stations operated by GDF Suez unit Electrabel - until at least the end of August to carry out further tests.

The core tank at the 15-year-old Doel 3 was built by Dutch company Rotterdam-Duitsche Droogdok Maatschappij. It also constructed the tank at Belgian reactor Tihange 2 and reactors in other countries, including Sweden.

“Regulators will be able to see the failure indications we have encountered on the reactor tank of Doel 3,” the regulator said in a statement.

Because of high levels of radiation, replacing the core tank is difficult and has never been done anywhere before. Spurred by the disaster at Japan’s Fukushima plant after an earthquake and subsequent tsunami last year, Germany has pledged to abandon nuclear power generation completely by 2022 in favour of other renewable power sources. —Reuters

RWE to start UK Pembroke gas plant in September.

LONDON, 16 Aug.—Britain’s RWE npower will start commercial operations of its 2,000 megawatt (MW) gas-fired power station at Pembroke in September, the utility said on Tuesday.

The company said that the 1 billion pound combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power station would become operational during the third quarter of 2012 but not cited a specific month.

“With the full commercial operation of our new 1 billion pound gas power station in Pembroke next month ... RWE npower now has the largest and most efficient fleet of flexible gas-fired power stations in the country,” Volker Beckers, group CEO RWE npower said at the presentation of its second-quarter results.

RWE npower said total UK investments had amounted to 3.42 billion pounds during the past three years. —Reuters

Lethal snake viruses identified.

SAN FRANCISCO, 16 Aug.—The cause of a fatal illness that affects captive snakes has been identified, a study has shown. The condition — named Inclusion Body Disease (IBD) — affects constrictor snakes including boa constrictors, pythons and boa tigers. There is no treatment and symptoms include “stargazing” — a fixed upward stare — as well as breathing problems and general muscular paralysis. It was long suspected the disease was caused by a virus, but until recently its identity remained elusive.

The research is published in the open access journal mBio. In this breakthrough study, researchers from the University of California San Francisco analysed samples obtained from snakes diagnosed with IBD, using sensitive DNA sequencing techniques to find some of the snake DNA was foreign genetic material — nucleic acid — that closely resembled that present in viruses belonging to a family called arenaviruses. This family includes Lassa Fever virus, which is associated with haemorrhagic fever in humans. However, there is no evidence that the newly discovered virus can cause disease to snakes.

The scientists were also able to grow the virus from samples taken from one of the snakes. Dr. Mark Stenglein, who co-led the current study, “said ‘we don’t yet have formal evidence that these viruses cause the disease... although there is a good correlation” between disease and the presence of virus”.

There was a good correlation between the arenaviruses and the presence of disease. —Internet

Senior German climber rescued alive after trapped for one week in glacier

VIENNA, 16 Aug.—A 70-year-old German alpinist was trapped in an ice crevasse for a week out at the Tyrolean Schrankkogel in southeastern Austria before being rescued by emergency services personnel on Tuesday.

The man was only slightly injured in the accident, though suffered from hypothermia and exhaustion, an Alpine police officer told the APA. He was then airlifted to the hospital.

By his own account the German set off on his trek a week ago from the Westfalenhaus in the Stubai Alps, where at an altitude of about 3,000 meters he fell into the 20-meter deep crevasse.

He tried to cross a bridge made of snow, which then gave way. His cries for help were eventually heard by other alpinists, and emergency services were contacted shortly after midnight on Tuesday.

Alpine police officer said "luckily to survive," the Alpine police officer said—Xinhua

Woman found alive three days after Iran’s earthquake

Tehran, 16 Aug.—A woman was found alive on Tuesday after being trapped for three days under the rubble following Iran’s twin strong earthquakes on Saturday, the semi-official Mehr news agency reported.

A mother of four was rescued alive by the Iranian relief workers three days after she was buried under a destroyed building in a village in suburban Varazan town of Iran’s East Azerbaijan province, said Mehr. According to the report, the woman was in good health condition and has been taken to a field hospital for further care. Iran has stepped up relief efforts in the wake of the deadly earthquakes that shook its northwestern region over the weekend.

Iranian Health Minister Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi told a press conference on Monday that the death toll from Saturday’s earthquakes had risen to 306, with more than 3,000 people injured and over 20 villages damaged or destroyed—Xinhua

There was a good correlation between the arenaviruses and the presence of disease. —Internet

Bosi - one of the snakes affected by the new virus. —Internet
Three countries need to enhance networking between the development of rural and urban communities across the He also added that the Forum will enhance investments in strengthening the East Asia Cooperation, and in moving forward the East Asia Community Building in the long term. Maung Lwin stated that Myanmar takes honour to host the East Asia Forum. The East Asia Forum has contributed in ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation and 10th Anniversary of the Forum in 2012, as this year marks the 15th Anniversary of the East Asia Forum. The leaders of the delegation from ASEAN and three dialogue partner countries China, Japan and Korea, the Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN Political and Security Community and representatives from ASEAN Secretariat, experts, eminent persons and representatives from business and academic circles, officials from the Ministries and invited guests.

At the opening ceremony, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin stated that Myanmar takes honour to host the Forum in 2012, as this year marks the 15th Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation and 10th Anniversary of the East Asia Forum. The East Asia Forum has contributed in strengthening the East Asia Cooperation, and in moving forward the East Asia Community Building in the long term. He also added that the Forum will enhance investments in the development of rural and urban communities across the region. Furthermore, he stressed that ASEAN and Plus Three countries need to enhance networking between government authorities and agricultural and food-related research institutions, to promote cooperation in rural financial institutions and agricultural and micro-financing arrangements. The Union Minister apprised the Forum about the national development strategy on rural development and poverty eradication. The Union Minister concludes by encouraging the participants to find new practical ways and ideas for “Narrowing the development gap in rural and urban communities”.

Statements were made by the representatives of China, Japan, Korea and ASEAN Secretariat following Union Minister opening speech. The two plenary sessions were held and three group sessions were held simultaneously afterward. The leaders of the delegation from ASEAN and three dialogue partner countries paid courtesy call on the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs before the opening session of the 10th EAF at Myanmar International Convention Centre.

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Constitution and pillars’ duties

Preamble

Myanmar has to face more and more challenges at a time when Myanmar’s spring is in one and a half year. It can be seen that American’s attitudes towards Myanmar become more positive. Although I live in US far away from my mother land, I have made up my mind to serve the interests of our people and country as much as I can. First of all, I would like to say here that I have tried to give fair suggestions and advices and made up my mind to write articles only if necessary. Overcoming a threat to fledging democracy

Recent Rakhine violence was a threat to Myanmar’s democracy and the rule of at a time when Myanmar gets a lot of supports in international arena. That incident is related to complex historical background, which could result in national, religious and racial violence. Myanmar government led by President U Thein Sein could deal with it systematically in accord with the constitution and existing laws. So Myanmar lawyers, experts and interested person from US were so amazed by it. Even officials from the US State Department have praised Myanmar government’s gentle handling of the crisis.

Nobody expected Myanmar government’s democratic handling of the crisis. Meanwhile, President U Thein Sein’s request to the people, many professionals that responsible on the crisis. Human Rights representative and international diplomats, letting the Turkish Foreign Minister to visit Rakhine State and invitation to the OIC delegation could symbolize a democratic leader’s image vividly. But, it can be seen that the issue has yet to finish and could symbolize a democratic leader’s image vividly. The rule of law is a long-term process and there still are a flood of long-term challenges. Special emphasis to be placed on reviewing citizenship law and respective persons’ lack of qualifications in law, lack of experience in it, having no clear-cut rights and duties of the Constitutional Tribunal which is vested with constitutional rights to carry out the constitution and to deal with the constitution only. Although other laws have provisions that are not in accord with, decisions have to be made, based on the provisions of the constitution. These are Constitution Tribunal’s procedures and nature. It is deeply regrettable to see that among many ways, selection of such way by those responsible for legislature is not a normal clash and has a great impact on the future of the State and people. The effort of Pyithu Hluttaw -

(1) has neglected the rights and duties of the Constitutional Tribunal prescribed in the constitution and has spelled the end of the role of the Constitutional Tribunal.
(2) has led to the collapse of the essence of the democracy and independency of the judiciary pillar and has caused the Constitutional Tribunal, the highest constitutional court, to be seen as a rubber stamp.
(3) has disturbed the balance of the constitution, which is equal to the check and balance mechanism and essence of the constitution.
(4) has become a historic act, leaving the wrong legacy and setting an lesson to learn by the future generation.
(5) has put the future of Myanmar’s democracy in danger, exceeding the threat level and has destroyed the new chapter of the democratic transition in Myanmar or the Myanmar’s Spring which has won respects and trusts from the international community.

Even Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has no rights to make decision over constitutional disputes nor to define the provisions prescribed in the constitution, let alone Pyithu Hluttaw. Similarly, nor have the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, the Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee and Pyithu Hluttaw representatives. That is what they all sworn on oath to obey and the essence of the constitution. There is only one body which is vested with constitutional rights to carry out such duties is the Constitutional Tribunal. Hluttaw representatives now should have awareness of the problem that can turn the State Constitution into a ragged book and can directly make impact on the future of the country and the people. What my special urge is to find an appropriate way in accordance with the constitution instead of arguing with each other about right and wrong which is unconstitutional. No option at all!

It is learnt that 301 representatives which accounts for over two third of the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives have signed the proposal to impeach the Chairman and members of the Constitutional Tribunal following Pyithu Hluttaw’s decision on resolution of the tribunal made on 28-3-2012 that “Definition of committee, commission and organizations formed by respective Hluttaws as Union-Level organizations is not in accord with the provisions of the Constitution”. When I heard the news that the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker sent a message with two demands to the President, I was amazed and felt sorry. The question of the Hluttaw representatives are not taking notice of Constitution Tribunal’s natures, duties and purpose of formation becomes a resounding one. Constitution Tribunal has to govern the constitution and to deal with the constitution only. Although other laws have provisions that are not in accord with, decisions have to be made, based on the provisions of the constitution. These are Constitution Tribunal’s procedures and nature.

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Maung Aye Chan (Harvard)
NGOs are playing a flexible and a monitoring mechanism is needed as well.

A multiparty representative, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw explained matters related to the Bill Amending the Government Housing (Expelling) Act 1955 and the Social Security Bill resent by the President with his remarks in line with Section 106, subsection of the Constitution. Members of Joint Bill Committee U Khin Maung Shwe and U Myint Tun submitted the findings of the committee with regard to the bills.

The Hluttaw representatives wishing to take part in the discussions may enlist their nominations, not later than 4 pm on 20 August. Today’s session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw came to an end at 11:55 pm and date and time of the 10th day session will be informed.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves to fund proposal submitted by U Htay Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency No 12 asking whether there is a plan to maintain two valves of Yonsu Dam in Nyangmo Village of Wundwin Township of Mekitka District. The deputy minister replied that Yonsu Diversion Weir is located 3.5 miles downstream of Alaungsithu Lake, west of Yonsu Village of Wundwin Township, and it was built by local farmers on a self-reliant basis. The dam was built on Kanpetle Creek, downstream of the spillway of Alaungsithu Lake to supply water to the small lakes. Due to grinding Alaungsithu Lake cannot control a large volume of its water that flows into Yonsu Diversion Weir.

The watershed area of the proposal on “Requesting the consideration of the Ministry of Home Affairs to protect Yonsu Dam, which is located upstream of Alaungsithu Lake, as the water support lake of the later. Alaungsithu Lake gets being dredged. Only when the dredging would have been finished, would a construction of diversion weir be started with the computation of amount of water that flows to Yonsu diversion weir from Chaungzon Dam and Alaungsithu lake, and amount of water in the water-flowing area of the weir. If the Yonsu diversion weir was under repairing before the works were incomplete, it would keep damaging for the sake of the heavy flow of water. Therefore, the plan to repair the weir would be temporarily suspended. Afterword, members of the bill committee of Amyotha Hluttaw U Thein Win read out the position of the State’s service personnel bill sent by the bill committee.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Representative U Win Naung from No. 5 Constituency of Yangon Region, U Khin Maung Yi from No. 6 Constituency of Ayeyarwady Region, Daw Khin Kyi of No. 1 Constituency of Yangon Region participated in the discussions about the bill by presenting amendments, revoking and reviewing on the paragraphs and subparagraphs including chapters of the bill.

Concerning the discussions made by the three representatives, the Hluttaw urged the bill committee to hear the bill again. Afterwards, U Aung Nyunt from No. 2 Constituency of Magway Region submitted the proposal on “Requesting those at student level from monywa/Yangon must have same opportunities for learning, that must be a national duty,” to the Hluttaw. With an agreement on making discussion about the proposal, those representatives wishing to participate in the discussion about the proposal representatives and the respective ministry. A new legislation should be drafted, taking time, if that measure is not assumed to be enough. Rules are lack of practicality and flexibility. The commission, the bill committee and the Hluttaw representatives are tasked to revamp the law and rules and regulations drafted by the Ministry of Home Affairs. As the Hluttaw agreed on the assignment, the decision of the speaker was approved. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker urged the commission and the committees to submit the report as soon as possible assuming it as a special case. The regular session concluded at 12.10 pm and continues for 29th day tomorrow.—MNA

Rules lack of practicality…

The waterfront area of the proposal submitted by U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency asking directives and rules and regulations issued. Central supervisory committee tabled the applications for registration of the associations at regular meetings and gave right to the qualified associations. Delays are derived from failure of some associations to stick to the law, rules and regulations, and orders and directives in registering. The government is doing its bits for emergence of associations which will serve the interest of the country. Associations formed under this law are making contributions to the social works with added momentum. The central supervisory committee under the Ministry of Home Affairs is monitoring them under the law and issuing orders and directives commensurate with the age occasionally. There is no need to draft new legislation, but rather the amendment is recommended. The proposal should be put on record.

U Thein Nyunt requested the proper decision of the Speaker in the interest of the country in response to the clarification of the ministry on the bill. The interest of consideration of the age the existing law was prescribed, consequences that could emerge from deterring NGOs from registration, support of multirapy representatives, and legibility. The law in action for registration of associations is a still trendy one. The registration of associations is scrutinized with necessary directives and rules and regulations issued. Central supervisory committee tabled the applications for registration of the associations at regular meetings and gave right to the qualified associations. Delays are derived from failure of some associations to stick to the law, rules and regulations, and orders and directives in registering.

Constitution and pillars’ duties…

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Reconstruction...

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Daw Su Sa Lwin of Thongwa Constituency asking questions. MNA

Pillars’ duties…

Constitution and pillars’ duties...
Priority given to self-administered zone/division, state/region for development tasks

NAYPYITAW, 16 Aug—Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay met chairmen of Leading Bodies of Naga, Danu, Pa-O and Palaung Self-Administered Zones and “Wa” Self-Administered Division and discussed regional development tasks at his ministry, here, yesterday.

Director of Military Engineers of the Ministry of Defence Maj-Gen Nyan Tun reported on upgrading of Payoe-Thangyakhte Road, Phapok-Mobineluk Road, Lahe-Dontee Road, Nanyam-Dontee Road, Leshi-Sumara Road being undertaken by Directorate of Military Engineers, construction of earthen road and gravel road, distribution of heavy machinery and plan to complete the works in respective fiscal years.

Next, the chairman of Leading Bodies of Naga, Danu, Pa-O and Palaung Self-Administered Zones and “Wa” Self-Administered Division submitted reports on requirements of regions in transport, education and health infrastructures and requirement of service personnel in the regions.

In his clarifications, the Union minister stressed the need to have better management for rapid improvement of the regions. The ministry gives priority to development tasks depending on self-administered zone/division, states and regions. He said that arrangement has been made to open border region development youth training schools in self-administered zone/division so as to conduct the training courses to contribute to the manageable scale businesses in the regions. It is necessary to nurture the educated youths to become service personnel in the border areas, he said.

Coordination will be made for seeking assistance from international community for the regional development tasks and cooperation will be undertaken with other ministries to fulfill the requirements of the self-administered zone/division. The meeting was attended by directors-general and officials of departments under the ministry.

Information for anti-human trafficking

Nowadays, the government is accelerating its tasks in taking preventive measures against trafficking in person.

In so doing, telephone numbers are announced as the connections with authorities concerned for enabling the people to actively participate in taking the anti-human trafficking measures. These telephone numbers are 067-412666 and 067-412666 in Naypyidaw, 09-49555666 in Muse, 09-49555777 in Mandalay and 09-49555888 and 09-49555999 in Yangon.

DHF preventive measures taken in Thegon Township

THEGON, 16 Aug—The preventive measures against dengue hemorrhagic fever was taken in Padegan and Ohhteingon villages of Thegon Township in Pyay District of Bago Region on 1 August afternoon.

The local authorities and staff checked larvae at the water pots, containers and tanked and chlorinated these tanks.

They also carried out sanitation tasks at the drains and sprayed there.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Myo Kyi, Head of Township Health Department Dr Naing Lin Bo, Executive Officer U Maung Maung Thwin of Township Development Affairs Committee, health staff, members of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, village administrators and members of social organizations participated in the DHF preventive measures. The building of the settlement and land records building is 25 feet long, 16 feet wide and 10 feet high.

Various subjects of books, publications donated to village library

MYINTYAN, 16 Aug—A ceremony to donate books and publications to Sein Mya Kyi Library in Tayinbo Village of Myintyin Township in Mandalay Region on 30 July morning.

At the ceremony, Librarian Administrator U Shwe Moung donated books to librarian well-wisher U Mya Aung. Next, Staff Officer of District Information and Public Relations Department Daw Mya Win Kyi donated various subjects of books to Village Administrator U Than Aye.

The building of the library was constructed at a cost of K 5 million by U Mya Maung-Daw Aye (Sein Mya Kyi Jewellery Co). The building is 25 feet long, 16 feet wide and 10 feet high.
Prince Philip, 91, back in hospital

London, 16 Aug—Prince Philip, the 91-year-old husband of the Queen, was taken to hospital in Scotland on Wednesday after a recurrence of a bladder infection, Buckingham Palace said, the third time he has been hospitalised in less than a year.

Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, fell ill while the couple were staying at Balmoral, their Scottish royal residence, and he was driven the 40 miles (60 km) from there to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, suggesting the problem was not too serious.

“The Duke of Edinburgh has had a recurrence of the bladder infection that he had earlier in the summer and has been admitted to hospital for investigation and treatment,” a Palace spokesman said.

“The prince is likely to remain there for the next few days.”

Despite recent illnesses, the sprightly Duke has continued to make public appearances, notably at events held to mark the queen’s 60th year on the throne this year.

The BBC said its last public engagement had been at Cowes in the Isle of Wight off southern England earlier this week.

During the London Olympics, he accompanied the queen to the opening ceremony and also joined other members of the royal family to watch granddaughter Zara Phillips compete in an equestrian event at the Games.

He was hospitalised two months ago when he first received treatment for a bladder infection, overshadowing four days of public celebrations for his 86-year-old wife’s Diamond Jubilee.—Reuters

Dallas mayor declares emergency over West Nile virus

Dallas, 16 Aug—The mayor of Dallas declared a state of emergency in the city’s ninth largest natural disaster area due to damage and losses caused by drought and excessive heat.

During the 2012 crop year, USDA had designated 1,792 counties in total as disaster areas, including 1,670 counties hit by drought, said Agricultural Secretary Tom Vilsack in a statement, adding that the designation made them eligible for disaster assistance such as getting low interest emergency loans.

Texas and other states this year.

There have been more cases of West-Nile virus reported so far this year than any year since the disease was first detected in the United States in 1999, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).—Reuters

US adds 172 more counties as drought disaster areas

Washington, 16 Aug—The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on Wednesday designated 172 additional counties in 15 states as primary natural disaster areas due to damage and losses caused by drought and excessive heat.

During the 2012 crop year, USDA had designated 1,792 counties in total as disaster areas, including 1,670 counties hit by drought, said Agricultural Secretary Tom Vilsack in a statement, adding that the designation made them eligible for disaster assistance such as getting low interest emergency loans.

This severe drought disaster sweeping from the US state of California on the west coast to update New York on the east coast have caused significant damage to many crops including corn, soybeans, as well as pastures and rangeland, which is threatening the agricultural harvest in the world’s largest producer of grains and meat.

On 10 Aug, the USDA reduced the estimate for the 2012 US corn crop to 123.4 bushels per acre, down 23.8 bushels from that of 2011. According to the US Drought Monitor, as of Wednesday, 63 percent of the nation’s hay acreage and 73 percent of the cattle acreage are in an area experiencing drought, while about 87 percent of the country’s corno-producing farmland are stricken by drought, down from a peak of 89 percent on 14 June.

The USDA has taken a host of measures to help crop and livestock producers deal with the adverse impacts of the unprecedented drought. The measures included a plan announced earlier this week by the department to purchase up to 170 million dollars of pork, lamb, chicken and catfish to help relieve pressure on American livestock producers, and a grant of 30 million dollars authorized by the department last month to help rehabilitate farmland and implement emergency water conservation programmes.—Xinhua

Chile, Thailand expected to sign FTA soon

Santiago, 16 Aug—Chile and Thailand signed on Wednesday in Bangkok two documents to boost agriculture and phytosanitary cooperation, a prelude to a bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Chilean media reported.

This is a great step toward stimulating trade between the two countries. We expect to announce the FTA with Thailand in the short term, “said Chilean Agriculture Minister Luis Mayol as he attended the signing ceremony with Thai counterpart Thewaongsam.—Reuters

Hospitality, trade drive Middle East job market recovery

Dubai, 16 Aug—Job prospects found online this summer exceed year-ago levels for most sectors, despite a slowdown in recruitment activity in recent months, global online employment tracking firm Monster Worldwide said on Wednesday. According to Monster Worldwide, the Monster Employment Index, which is a month-by-month review of online job posting activity in the Middle East based on a real-time review of tens of thousands of job opportunities, the Job prospects found online this summer exceed year-ago levels for most sectors, led by hospitality, said Sanjay Modi, managing director of Monster.com for India, the Middle East and Africa, in an e-mail statement.

As in the first half of 2012, hospitality and trade continued to lead all industry sectors in July with an annual growth of 56 percent, while retail, trade and logistics continued to rise a growth of more than 40 percent. At the same time, oil and gas sector was the only one to register negative annual growth, falling down by nine percent. Despite the green shoots in employment, it is also too early to speak of job market boom due to the slight decline in the Monster Employment Index in recent months.—Xinhua

Powerful punch comes from brain : study

London, 16 Aug—Karate expert’s ability to punch powerfully is associated with distinctive features in their brain structure, according a latest British study published here on Wednesday.

Imperial College London said in a statement that its researchers have looked for differences in brain structure between 12 karate practitioners with a black belt and an average of 13.8 years karate experience, and 12 others of similar age who were less experienced but did not have any martial arts experience. The researchers tested how powerfully the subjects, who wore infrared markers on their arms and torso, could capture the speed of their movements, could punch from a short distance of five centimetres.

The karate group was found to be able to punch harder as expected, and the force they generated correlated with how well the movement of their wrists and shoulders were synchronized.

Brain scans showed difference in brain structure between the two groups in the white matter of the brain regions called cerebellum and the primary motor cortex, which are known to be involved in controlling movement.

White matter in the brain is mainly made up of bundles of fibers that carry signals from one region to another.

The difference correlated with the synchro-nicity of the subjects’ wrist and shoulder movements when punching. The findings suggest that structural differences in the brain are related to the karate experts’ punching ability.—Xinhua

Xinhua

The Sparks aerobatic team from Poland performs during a flight show in Zhukovsky, outside Moscow, Russia, 10 Aug, 2012, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Russia’s air force.—Xinhua

Xinhua

Visit the wetland of Dulu River nature reserve in Laosigarom sea, northeast of Heilongjiang Province, on 15 Aug, 2012.—Xinhua

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Child dies as blast levels house in NY suburb

BRENTWOOD, 16 Aug—An apparent gas-related explosion destroyed a house in a Long Island suburb of New York City on Tuesday, killing a toddler and sending 17 other people to hospitals.

Surrounding houses in the middle class neighbourhood also were damaged by the blast, which occurred just before noon. The structure of the house — situated on a block of well-kept, modest homes near a public golf course in this ethnically diverse middle class suburb — was reduced to small shards of wood, plywood, drywall, insulation and other building materials. The air conditioners in one neighbour’s home were blown out and a window was knocked out of its casing.

Sitting atop the pile of rubble was a child’s bunk bed. Clothing from the house could be seen on the other side of a neighbour’s house hanging 30 feet in the air from a tree.

“Clearly, this was a powerful explosion,” said Suffolk County Police Department Deputy Chief John Meehan. He added that it didn’t seem like the gas explosion “could be gas-related.” A police official said there were two, 200-pound propane gas tanks on the premises, but that no natural gas lines were present on the block.

“Everything shook,” said Dave Grant, who heard everything from seven blocks to the scene.

When he arrived, he smelled gas and heard a police officer yelling, “We need help! We need help!”

BRENTWOOD Fire Department Inspector Robert Kuehn said the initial investigation indicated the explosion “could be gas-related.” A police official said there were two, 200-pound propane gas tanks on the premises, but that no natural gas lines were present on the block.

$500,000 for New Jersey school kids forced to eat on floor

WASHINGTON, 16 Aug—Seven students at a Camden, New Jersey, school forced to eat lunch on a gymnasium floor for two weeks as punishment won a $500,000 legal settlement, their lawyer said on Tuesday.

The 2008 incident involved fifth-grade students at the Charles Sumner Elementary School who were disciplined after one child spilled water as he tried to lift a jug onto a cooler, said the lawyer, Alan Schorr.

The students filed a federal lawsuit against the Camden Board of Education, which agreed to settle the settlement, the attorney said.

He said the incident took place against a backdrop of discord between the black and Hispanic populations in the impoverished southern New Jersey city. The children were Hispanic. Schorr said the vice principal, who was black, punished all 15 students in a bilingual class by making them eat off paper liners normally used on lunch trays. (While there were 15 students in the class, only seven sued.)

“The African American kids were eating at tables, with trays, taunting these Hispanic kids who were forced to eat on the floor,” Schorr said.

The vice principal has since transferred.—Reuters

A combination photo shows illustrations obtained by Reuters of some of the proposed models of cigarette packs in this 7 April, 2011 file photo. REUTERS

Australian court OKs logo ban on cigarette packs

CANBERRA, 16 Aug—Australia’s highest court upheld the world’s toughest law on cigarette promotion on Wednesday despite protests from tobacco companies that argued the value of their trademarks will be destroyed under new rules that will strip all logos from cigarette packs.

The decision by the High Court means that, starting in December, tobacco companies will no longer be able to display their distinctive colours, brand designs and logos on cigarette packs. The packs will instead come in a uniformly drab shade of olive and feature graphic health warnings and images of cancer-riddled mouths, blinded eyeballs and sickly children.

The government hopes the new packs will make smoking as unglamorous as possible.

“This is a victory for all those families who have lost someone to a tobacco-related illness. For anyone who has ever lost someone, this is for you,” Attorney General Nicola Roxon and Health Minister Tanya Plibersek said in a joint statement. “No longer when a smoker pulls out a packet of cigarettes will that packet be a mobile billboard.”

British American Tobacco, Philip Morris International, Imperial Tobacco and Japan Tobacco International are worried that the law will set a global precedent that could slash billions of dollars from the values of their brands. They challenged the new rules on the grounds that they violate intellectual property rights and devalue their trademarks.

The cigarette makers argued that the government would unfairly benefit from the law by using cigarette packs as a platform to promote its own message, without compensating the tobacco companies. Australia’s constitution says the government can only acquire the property of others “on just terms.”

British American Tobacco spokesman Scott McIntyre said the company was disappointed in the court’s decision, but would comply with the law.

“Although the (law) passed the constitutional test, it’s still a bad law that will only benefit organized crime groups which sell illegal tobacco on our streets,” McIntyre said in a statement. “...The illegal cigarette black market will grow further when all packs look the same and are easier to copy.”

33 die in Nigeria floods, thousands homeless

JOS (NIGERIA), 16 Aug—Authorities say floods in central Nigeria have killed at least 33 people and displaced thousands.

National Emergency Management Agency spokesman Yushau Shuaib, who confirmed the death toll, said on Tuesday that the weekend floods affected six districts in Plateau state.

A 37-year-old Hong Kong man was arrested and the private car was seized.

HONG KONG Customs seizes 32,873 USD illicit cigarettes

HONG KONG, 16 Aug—Hong Kong Customs said on Wednesday that 102,400 sticks of duty-not-paid cigarettes valued about 255,000 HK dollars (about 32,873 US dollars) were seized at Lok Ma Chau Control Point on Tuesday.

The cigarettes with a duty potential of about 175,000 million HK dollars were found by Customs officers in an inbound private car at Lok Ma Chau on Tuesday evening. A 37-year-old Hong Kong man was arrested and the private car was seized.

Under Durable Com-modities Ordinance, anyone involved in dealing with, possession of, selling and buying illicit cigarettes commits an offence. The maximum penalty is a fine of 1 million HK dollars and an imprisonment for two years. —Xinhua
**Jersey Boys' Frankie Valli aims for Broadway**

New York, 16 Aug.—The Broadway smash “Jersey Boys” is about to get some tough competition — from an original Jersey Boy. Frankie Valli, whose falsetto fuels The Four Seasons’ music, on Wednesday announced plans to make his Broadway debut with seven concerts at the Broadway Theatre from 19-27 Oct. Tickets go on sale 23 Aug.—INTERNET

**Man accidentally shoots self in Nevada theater**

Police in Sparks, Nev, say the 56-year-old man’s injuries are not life-threatening and no others were hurt. Authorities say the man had a permit to carry a concealed firearm. The man told officers the gun fell from his pocket Tuesday night as he was adjusting himself in the seat and that it discharged when it dropped to the floor. Authorities say the case will be sent to the city attorney for possible charges. The incident occurs less than a month after a shooting at a suburban Denver theater that left 12 dead and 58 injured.

**Stewart’s role uncertain in ‘Snow White’ plans**

New York, 16 Aug.—Universal Pictures is continuing to pursue a sequel to “Snow White and the Huntsman” in the wake of Kristen Stewart’s affair with the film’s director. Universal co-chairman Donna Langley said in a statement Wednesday that the studio is “currently exploring all options to continue the franchise” and that reports of Stewart’s exit “are false.”

Since Stewart, who played Snow White in the film, and Rupert Sanders, the married, 41-year-old director of the film last month publicly apologized for a tryst caught on photographs, the future of “Snow White” has been uncertain.

**Utility refunds woman for street lights**

A Connecticut woman sued her utility company after she was hit by a $10,491 refund check after discovering she had been paying for two street lights for 25 years. Grace Edwards of Cheshire said officials with Connecticut Light & Power told her when her bills sharply increased years ago it was likely due to a computer, an extra refrigerator or television. The Hartford Courant reported.

However, Edwards said she has now received a $10,491 check and an apology from the utility company after it was discovered she was paying for the underground electricity used to power a pair of street lights. “Mrs Edwards received service that is below our standards and we have apologized to her for the error and the inconvenience,” CL&P spokesman Mitch Gross said.

**‘Busy’ Toronto mayor reads while driving**

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford says he probably was reading while driving along a city expressway as a Twitter photo indicates, and chalks it up to being a “busier” man. Twitter user @RyanGHaughton posted the photo of Ford holding some papers in his right hand while behind the wheel of his black Cadillac Escalade on the Gardiner Expressway, and tweeted later traffic was moving about 70 kph (43.5 mph) at the time.

Asked about the photo by a reporter at a news conference Ford held to promote an upcoming trade mission to Chicago, the mayor said he “probably” was reading while driving.

**‘Busy’ Toronto mayor reads while driving**

“I'm busy,” Ford said. “I'm trying to catch up on my work and you know, keep my eyes on the road, but I’m a busy man.” Asked if he saw a problem with reading while driving, Ford repeated that he is a busy person. “... I don’t know what that has to do with a trade mission, but anyways, ridiculous questions sometimes, seriously,” the mayor said. Toronto police Sgt. Tim Burrows posted on the department’s official Facebook page Tuesday afternoon that reading a piece of paper while driving is not a violation of the distracted driving law, but a driver could be charged if “the driving behavior constituted a specific offense.”

**Michael Jackson’s dad drops wrongful death lawsuit**

Los Angeles, 16 Aug.—Michael Jackson’s father has dropped a wrongful death lawsuit filed against the former doctor who was convicted of causing the singer’s death. Court records show Joe Jackson’s request for a dismissal was granted Monday. The filings do not elaborate on a reason for dropping pursuit of the case, but two attorneys handling the case were recently ruled ineligible to practice law in California.

The Jackson family patriarch initially filed the lawsuit against Conrad Murray on June 10, 2010, on the occasion of the one-year anniversary of his son’s death. A federal judge refused to hear it and it had to be re-filed in state court in Los Angeles.

“It’s good finally that this case is dismissed and gone,” Murray’s attorney Charles Peckham said on Wednesday. “It’s pretty clear that Joe Jackson intelligently and smartly dismissed this case so he, his wife and children can focus on Michael Jackson’s life instead of the circumstances of his death.”

He said Murray, who remains jailed and appealing his involuntary manslaughter conviction, remains pained by Jackson’s death and feels sorry for his family. “His heart goes out to them,” Peckham said.

**Actress Mayim Bialik injured in LA car accident**

Los Angeles, 16 Aug.—Actress Mayim Bialik is telling fans on Twitter that she’ll keep all her fingers after a car accident in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles sent her to the hospital.

Los Angeles police spokesman Richard French says the 36-year-old actress’ left hand and thumb were cut severely. Bialik’s husband typed for her that she’s in pain but her hand will remain intact. Police say another car made a left turn and crashed into Bialik’s vehicle shortly before noon Wednesday.

The three occupants of the other car suffered minor injuries and left the scene on their own. French says no citations were issued. “Blossom” star Bialik has been acting in Los Angeles for 25 years.

**‘Jersey Boys’ Frankie Valli aims for Broadway**

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**News Album**

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‘Devastated’ Muamba retires from football

Bolton Wanderers midfielder Fabrice Muamba has announced his retirement from professional football. The 24-year-old midfielder suffered a cardiac arrest during the FA Cup quarter-final tie against Tottenham Hotspur in March, with doctors revealing that his heart stopped for 78 minutes. He spent a month in the London Chest Hospital and made a remarkable recovery, being discharged on 16th April and making an emotional appearance on the pitch at the Reebok Stadium for the League match against Tottenham on 2nd May.

Muamba had hoped to continue playing at some point in the future but has decided to retire after taking medical advice. “Since suffering my heart attack and being discharged from hospital, I have remained utterly positive in the belief I could one day resume my playing career and play for Bolton Wanderers once again,” Muamba said on Bolton’s official website. “As part of my ongoing recovery, last week I travelled to Belgium to seek further medical advice from a leading cardiologist.

But the news I received was obviously not what I had hoped it would be and it means I am now announcing my retirement from professional football.”

Muamba started his career at Arsenal before joining Birmingham City on loan in 2006, making the deal permanent in 2007. He made a total of 37 Barclays Premier League appearances for the Blues, scoring two goals. He signed for Bolton in 2008, making a total of 128 Barclays Premier League appearances for the club, scoring the Blues, scoring two goals. He signed for Bolton in 2008, helping the club to promotion from the Football League. Of the five who face away trips to the best fitness draws in the world on 2nd May, Fulham and Wigan Athletic look to have the toughest ties.

Martin Jol must take his Fulham side to a resurgent Sheffield on Wednesday, as they are desperate to win the npower Championship last season. Wigan also face Championship opposition taking on a Nottingham Forest side at the City Ground who have a new manager in Owen Dickson in charge.

Venus fights back again, Radwanska cruises

Manchesr, 16 Aug—Venus Williams fought back from a set down to beat South Africa’s Chanelle Scheepers 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 as the top seeds advanced with little trouble at the Cincinnati Open on Wednesday. Williams will now meet Italian Sara Errani for a quarter-final berth following the seventh seed’s 6-4, 6-4 win over Slovakian Daniela Hantuchova. For the second successive week Williams needed three sets but she was glad with the way she recovered from a rocky opening.

“I made so many errors. She’s one of those players that puts a lot of balls with her the court, makes you play a lot of shots and I wasn’t getting them in the court. It was good to turn it around,” said Williams. Top seed Agnieszka Radwanska defeated Spain’s Sofia Arvidsson 6-4, 6-3 to book her place in the third round.

Venus Williams of the US serves to Novak Djokovic of Serbia during their men’s championship round match at the US Open tennis tournament in Flushing Meadows, New York, 15 Aug, 2012. Reuters

Rafael Nadal pulls out of US Open with knee injury

New York, 16 Aug—Rafael Nadal’s Grand Slam count will stay stuck at 11 for now, sidetracked by another knee problem. The third-ranked Spaniard withdrew from the US Open on Wednesday. Tendinitis has kept him out of action since his stunning loss at Wimbledon in late June.

The injury already forced him out of the London Olympics, where he was supposed to defend his title and carry Spain’s flag in the opening ceremony. “I am very sad to announce that I am not ready to play the US Open in New York. Thanks for your support and specially, the new fans,” Nadal wrote on his Twitter account.

United States end drought on Mexican soil

Mexico City, 16 Aug—Michael Orozco scored a late winner as the United States upset Mexico 1-0 in a stirring soccer friendly on Wednesday to register their first win away from home on Mexican soil.

“That came after a superb performance,” US manager Jurgen Klinsmann told reporters. “Getting that win here, it’s quite enjoyable. I think it’s huge for all American fans and for Jurgen Klinsmann told reporters. “Getting that win here, it’s quite enjoyable. I think it’s huge for all American fans and for

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“Manchester United is pleased to announce it has

United agree deal for Arsenal’s Van Persie

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A journalist uses the ‘S Pen’ with a Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1 at an unveiling event in New York on 15 August, 2012.  

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 17 August, 2012  15

Stylus, split-screen stand new Samsung tablet apart  

SEUL, 16 Aug—With the launch of its new tablet, unveiled in the United States, Samsung Electronics (005930.KS) is looking to build on the popularity of its iPad - leaving analysts doubting its impact.  

For graphic on Samsung, click r.reuters.com/ be59a.  
For graphic on Samsung earnings click r.reuters.com/ few9s.  

Astronomers find record-breaking galaxy cluster  

Now You, 16 Aug—A masssive-called galaxy cluster, one of the largest structures in the universe, has been discovered about 5.7 billion light years from Earth and credited with setting several important new cosmic records, US-based researchers said on Wednesday.  

The Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics said in a news release that observations of the cluster, which has a prodigious rate of star formation, may force astronomers to rethink how such colossal structures and galaxies that inhabit them evolve over time. Known officially by an alphabet soup of numbers and letters as SPT- CLJ2344-4243, the cluster has been nicknamed “Phoenix,” after the mythological bird that rose from the dead.  

That’s partly due to the constellation in which it lies. But Michael McDonald, a Hubble fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said the Phoenix was also a great way of thinking about the latest astronomical marvel.  

While galaxies at the center of most clusters may have been dormant for billions of years, the central galaxy in this cluster seemed to have come back to life with a new burst of star formation,“ said McDonald, the lead author of the paper on Phoenix, appearing in the 16 August issue of Nature.  

Based on observations from NASA’s Chandra X-ray Observatory, the US National Science Foundation’s South Pole Telescope and eight other observatories, researchers said the center of the Phoenix cluster had been linked to the creation of about “740 solar masses” or stars a year.  

By comparison, the Perseus cluster forms stars at a rate about 20 times slower than Phoenix.  

“This is just an enormous rate,” said Marie Machacek, an astrophysicist at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. She said huge clusters like Phoenix are thought to host thousands of galaxies and there was still a lot to learn about what goes on within them.  

Supermassive black holes in the central galaxy of a cluster have long been associated with low observed star formation rates, as they pump energy into the system and prevent the cooling of gases needed for the creation of stars. But researchers said the “massive starburst” seen in Phoenix, as it gave birth to about two stars per day, suggested that its central galaxy’s black hole had failed to interfere with an extremely strong cooling flow.  

“Stars are forming in the Phoenix cluster at the highest rate ever observed for the middle of a galaxy cluster,” the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics said in its press release.  

“The object also is the most powerful producer of X-rays of any known cluster and among the most massive. The data also suggest the rate of hot gas cooling in the central regions of the cluster are the largest ever observed,” it said.—Reuters  

Focus Myanmar TV Programme  

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL  
(17-8-12 09:30 am – 18-8-12 09:30 am) MST  
• News  
• BOT System Precise & Speedy For The People Cooperative  
• Shal We... (Mandalay-Lashio-Muse) Road  
• Section  
• News  
• Myanmar DV D Impact “Wiles of Mild”  
• News  
• INTO Myanmar Agri Trade, Investment & Infrastructure Global Summit 2012  
• Maha Wai Yan Amidon Temple  
• News  
• Daily Life of a Today-speech-Christian  
• Privatization & Foreign Aid Effectiveness  
• Management  
• News  
• Myanmar Mining  
• News  
• A Day in Bagan  
• News  
• Song for you  
• Mr.Taw Win & Miss Taw Win  
• Myanmar Movie  
• “One Precept-2”  

Weather forecast for 17th August, 2012  

WAKEMA, 16 Aug—The fertilizer was broadcast at 15-acre Palethwe hybrid plantation of farmer U Shwe Pww in Thogon Village tract of Wakema Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 1 August morning.  

At the ceremony, Ayeyawady Region ministers, township level departmental personnel local farmers observed broadcasting of fertilizer.  

Head of Ayeyawady Region Agriculture Department U Myint Thein discussed agricultural techniques. Head of Township Agriculture Department U Than Aung and staff conducted them round iriving Palethwe paddy plantations.  

R/489  Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information
NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—The Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the 28th day at Amyotha Hluttaw Building of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 10 am today, attended by 211 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives including Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw replied to questions on irrigation sector raised by three Hluttaw representatives.

U Soe Aung of Mandalay Region Constituency No 11 asked whether there is a plan to repair Omatway Dam of Mwe Village-tract in Meiktila Township.

The deputy minister replied that Irrigation Department damaged the Irrigation Department in 2012-2013 fiscal year. To be able to repair the dam, the fund is to be demanded from these townships, depending on number of telephone users, power supply and regional stability and according to the priority list proposed by the respective state manager under the directive of the state government.

(See page 9)

Reconstruction and maintenance of irrigation facilities, equal learning opportunities discussed

The 28th day session of Amyotha Hluttaw in progress.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—Pyithu Hluttaw regular session continued for 28th day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this morning, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 402 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

Two questions were raised and answered, and one proposal discussed.

U Ko Gyi of Amyuntharath Constituency asked about the government’s long-term plans to address consequences of permission for export of edible oil crops, groundnut, and sesame stemmed from rocketing prices of groundnuts leading to the suspension of local oil mills. Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Han answered that edible oil crops red sesame, brown sesame and groundnut which give higher oil output are not allowed to export to reduce oil imports. White sesame and black sesame with lesser oil output are allowed to export. It is intended to cut cost of foreign exchange and oil import.

While sesame and groundnut oil are allowed to export, the local oil mills are still struggling to produce quality oil. The oil mills must be upgraded. Farmers, specialized companies, associations and government departments will have to make cooperative efforts to increase production of groundnut and sesame, and increasing sown acreage, using quality seeds, applying post-harvest technologies for minimizing wastage.

Myanmar Oil Millers’ Association will soon be formed in association with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation, Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Myanmar Oil Merchants and Oil Entrepreneurs Association. The association will coordinate the upgrading of rice mills for exporting quality groundnut and sesame oil. The oil mill development must be initiated by the government, associations and private entrepreneurs in public-private partnership.

U Ye Htut Tin of Hphashan Constituency asked of prompt measure for better telephone communications system in Kayah State. Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Win Than answered that the ministry is planning to replace Plesiochronous Digital Hierarchy (PDH) microwave network in Kalaw-Loikaw with Gigabit Ethernet IP network. Auto exchanges will be installed in Prasho, Bawlake, Passawng and Hluttaw where semi auto exchanges have already been installed, depending on power supply, transmission and budget.

Auto exchanges will be established in Myothit sub-township, Mawchee station, Loilemlay station, Hseebu station, apart from these townships, depending on number of telephone users, power supply and regional stability and according to the priority list proposed by the respective state manager under the directive of the state government.

(See page 9)

Warning for precautionary measures against flood

94. In September 2011, the embankment of the dam was damaged by the heavy rains. However, the local people were unaffordable to repair the dam. Moreover, the dam is being maintained by the village, so the maintenance work is not included in the plans of the Irrigation Department in 2012-2013 fiscal year.

To be able to repair the dam, the fund is to be demanded in coordination with the Mandalay Region Government, and if the approval is received, the dam will be repaired.

Dr Khin Maung Lay of Bago Region Constituency No 8 asked whether there is a plan to reconstruct Hmanbinkan Dam near Panipin Village of Pyay Township. The deputy minister replied that Irrigation Department dammed the Joyon Creek to build Hmanbinkan Dam near Panipin Village-tract of Pyay Township in 1994-95 and handed it over to Pyay Township Peace and Development Council for assigning duty to the village to maintain the dam. The dam can irrigate over 1,500 acres of farmlands in Wethtigan, Hnawkan, Panibin, Myoma and Labavillages. However, the dam has been damaging its facilities gradually before 2008, and the local farmers maintained it as necessary.

(See page 9)