President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Ukrainian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Viktor Yanukovych, President of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine, which falls on 24 August 2012.—MNA

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Ukrainian Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mykhola Azarov, Prime Minister of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine which falls on 24 August 2012.—MNA

Only some ministries’ proposed funds reduced

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for its 10th day session, at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 1 pm today, attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 622 MPs.

At the session, Hluttaw announced that for the appointment of the member of the Union Election Commission, representatives who want to object the person nominated by the President are to send their names, describing that he or she is disqualified for the post along with the firm evidence. But, there was no any objection to it. Hluttaw announced that Hluttaw approved to appoint U Win Ko nominated by the President as member of the Union Election Commission, under the Union Election Commission Bylaw 28.

After that, Hluttaw approved para and sub-para of the bill amending the Government Façade Act (eviction) (1955) as per Joint Bill committee’s report.

Hluttaw approved the para and sub-para of Social Security Bill sent back along with President’s comments as per Joint Bill Committee’s reports.

Secretary of Joint Public Accounts Committee U Maung Toe clarified the report No.1/2012 on findings of Joint Public Account Committee regarding the additional funding requests, and Hluttaw approved it. After that, U Aye Mauk of Mahtlaing Constituency, Dr Banyar Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency No.7, U Kyi Tha of Gwa Constituency and U Maung Toe of Minhla Constituency discussed the proposal of U Soe Tha of Twantay Constituency on “Union Government is to present incomes and expenditures of Central Organizations and each ministries disclosed in appendices 1 to 10 of Union Budget Law (2012) under the headings of capital and revenue account of central organization, respective organizations under the ministries, projects and works, to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

(See page 8)

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Transport, Communications and Construction Committee meets CSIS’s Senior Advisor and Director

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Necessary measures to be taken in advance to give protection to migrant workers

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17th South East Asian Junior Men’s Volleyball Championship 2012

YANGON, 23 Aug—Organized by Myanmar Volleyball Federation, 17th South East Asian Junior Men’s Volleyball Championship 2012 continued at Thuwunna National Sports Gymnasium (1) in Yangon at 12:30 today. It was enjoyed by officials from Sports and Physical Education Department and Asian Volleyball Federation, vice-president and executives of Myanmar Volleyball Federation, invited guests and volleyball enthusiasts.

In the first match of second day, Myanmar (A) beat New Zealand 3-0. In the second match, Thailand won Myanmar (B) 3-0. In the first match of opening day on 22 August, Myanmar (A) defeated Indonesia 3-1 and Thailand beat Vietnam 3-0 in second match.

On 24 August at 12 am, Thailand will play against New Zealand as first match while Myanmar (A) plays Vietnam as second match and Myanmar (B) with Indonesia as third match at the same venue.—MNA

Water Level of the Thanlwin exceeds danger level in Hpa-an

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced today that, the water level of the Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded its danger level starting at 4.30 pm on 22 August 2012. According to the 12.30 hr MST observation today, the water level of the Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded by 20 cm (about 8-in) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next 48 hours commencing noon today.—MNA
Role of ethics

All scholars absolutely accept that a country needs rule of law for its development and the emergence of clean government and good governance. But we all forget the role of ethics. One who breaks the laws prescribed by the government would have to face the sentence. But, the ethics are valuable things derived from culture and traditions. There is no clear-cut sentence for those who fail to follow it. As a consequence, they would have to get out of human society. The higher the standard of ethic is, the more the trust prevails. The democracy can flourish only when there is a great trust between citizens. There will be no cooperation in low-trust society. So, the ethic that kick-starts the trust is a driving force for democracy.

We need to have the high standards of professional, medical and business ethics etc. So, the ethic is the lifeblood for a democratic country. We can build country’s basic infrastructures in a short period of time. But, we need to take too much times to instill good moral ethics into our generations since young. Don’t forget the role of ethic.

Flood victims in Pathein provided with bags of rice

At the ceremony, Region Minister U Soe Myint, Region Hlutaw Representative U Aung Kyaw Sein, Region Head of Cooperatives Department U Cho Tun, chairman of regional cooperatives association and members of directors donated the bags of rice to the families. A total of 220 bags of rice donated by the deputy minister and wife 160 bags of rice, region cooperatives department and region cooperatives association 60 bags of rice were presented to flood victims through officials.

Union Construction Minister calls for improvement of transport facilities ahead of AFTA

Union Minister U Khin Maung Myint spoke on the occasion, stressed the need for public-private partnership calling for improving quality of roads and transportation vehicles especially ahead of the emergence of ASEAN Free Trade Area in 2015. Next, officials read papers on improvement of transport facilities, followed by discussions of the attendees. 

Rakhine State Chief Minister meets townsenders in Sittway Tsp

At the meeting, the State Chief Minister said that the cooperation was to be made with the State government so as to avoid such incidents; State-level meetings were being held for all-round development of the country; works that will be beneficial in the long-run were to be discussed at National-level meetings through State-level meetings for the all-round development of the State; and it needed to make cooperation. Afterwards, Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko Naing discussed security and peace and stability of the region. Later, those from political parties and townsenders reported on stability and regional development.

ROK Embassy donates books to MLF

Korean Ambassador Mr Kim Hae-yong presents books to Chairman of Myanmar Libraries Foundation U Maung Maung.

Sky Net’s Cup 2012 Hockey Tournament on 25 August

The director-general met athletes training at sports training camp in Aung San Stadium. He then went to Judo training camp at National Poool on U Wirasa Road.
Storm Isaac threatens Caribbean, Republican Convention

The centre of the hurricane moved through the Louisiana and Florida islands and hurricane watches were in effect across parts of the Caribbean, including Puerto Rico, Haiti and the US and British Virgin Islands. Isaac could also threaten US energy interests in the Gulf of Mexico, weather experts said.

It was centred about 65 miles southwest of the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe on Wednesday evening, the US National Hurricane Centre said. Isaac had top sustained winds of 65 miles per hour and could strengthen into a hurricane on Thursday night, as it neared the coast of Hispaniola, the island shared by the Dominican Republic and the newly independent Haiti.

Computer forecast models showed the storm moving west-northwest across the island on Friday, posing a severe risk of mudslides on Haiti’s denuded hillsides. Isaac was projected to weaken to a tropical storm as it moves over Cuba on Saturday and Sunday but it was uncertain exactly where it would go after that. Some computer models showed it returning to hurricane strength and making landfall somewhere in South Florida by late Sunday or early Monday. Others forecast it tracking through the Gulf of Mexico and moving parallel to Florida’s west coast.

At the Guantanamo Bay US Naval Base in southeast Cuba on Wednesday, authorities said Isaac forced the postponement of hearings that were to begin on Thursday for five prisoners accused of plotting the 11 September attacks.

California declares emergency as wildfire advances on town

Red Bluff, 23 Aug — California Governor Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency in three Northern California counties on Wednesday after a wildfire that has already destroyed 64 homes advanced with 75-foot flames on a tiny community at the doorstep of a national park.

Firefighters scrambled to head off the so-called Ponderosa Fire, which had consumed 6,000 acres, before it reached the outskirts of Mineral, a community of less than 200 people just south of Lassen National Volcanic Park.

Authorities issued an evacuation warning for Mineral as flames roared 75 feet high on the side of Highway 36, the main route into town, and burned through a rocky canyon where firefighters struggled to make a stand. Crews also bulldozed a trench to serve as a last line of defense between the town and a thick smoke and ash choked the air.

Smoke billows from a burning warehouse of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Quetta, Pakistan on 22 Aug, 2012. A UNHCR warehouse burst into flames here on Wednesday after an explosion, leaving most of the relief materials burnt away.

Ex-Pakistan envoy says US, Pakistan must “divorce” as allies

Washington, 23 Aug — The United States and Pakistan should stop pretending they are allies and amicably “divorce,” Pakistan’s former ambassador to Washington said on Wednesday, citing unrealistic expectations in both countries that include US hopes Islamabad will sever its links to extremism. “If in 65 years, you haven’t been able to find sufficient common ground to live together, and you have three separations and four re-affirmations of marriage, then maybe the better way is to find friendship outside of marriage,” Husain Haqqani said, addressing the Centre for the National Interest, a Washington think tank.

Haqqani’s recommendation that the United States and Pakistan essentially downgrade their status was based on the premise that it may be the only way to break from what has been a dysfunctional relationship. A post-alliance future would allow both countries to hold realistic expectations of each other, cooperating where possible but perhaps without the sense of betrayal, which has become acute in Pakistan.

He cited a survey by the Pew Research Centre released in June showing roughly three-in-four Pakistanis consider the United States an enemy, even though the United States pours billions of dollars of aid into Pakistan.

“As an election campaign…you would advise the senator with these kinds of favourable ratings to pull out of the race, instead of spending more money,” said Haqqani, who plans to publish a book entitled “Magnificent Delusions” next year about the US-Pakistan relationship.

His candid remarks represented Haqqani’s first address in Washington since he resigned as Pakistan’s envoy last year, he said, being framed for drafting a memo that accused the Pakistani army of plotting a coup — allegations he denied himself against before Pakistan’s Supreme Court.

Many of Haqqani’s comments underscored the friction between Pakistan’s civilian government and military, which have bedeviled the nuclear-armed South Asian nation for almost its entire existence.

Haqqani, who served as an adviser to Pakistan’s prime ministers, identified himself among a small minority who support good relations with the United States and Mexico and who “who do not have the ability to influence the course of policy at home.”

US military chief wraps up Iraq visit

Baghdad, 23 Aug — Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki’s media adviser confirmed on Wednesday that the Chairman of US Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen Martin Dempsey paid a quick visit to Baghdad on Tuesday and had “positive” meetings with Iraqi officials.

Ali al-Masawi, the adviser, told reporters during a meeting the stressed the need to accelerate the arming of Iraqi forces in order to “secure Iraq’s sovereignty,” to which “Dempsey expressed US’s readiness to arm all the three Iraqi forces: the army, the navy and the air force.”

Dempsey completed his whirlwind visit on the same day and left Baghdad on Tuesday night. He is the highest-ranking US official to visit Iraq since the last American combat troops departed from Iraq.

Mexico’s new rulers win one more Congress seat in final result

Mexico City, 23 Aug — Mexico’s Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and its Green Party allies will have 241 of 500 seats in the lower house of Congress, one more than originally projected after the 1 July election, final results obtained by Reuters on Wednesday showed. The PRI, the party of incoming President Enrique Pena Nieto, will still be short of an absolute majority, but the extra seat will make it marginally easier for the next administration to form alliances in support of its reforms agenda.

PRI and the Greens were to team up with the New Alliance Party (PANAL), which will have 10 seats in the PRI, in a move that could garner a simple majority of 251 votes. PANAL had briefly sided with the PRI before the election campaign, but it is not certain how much support the party will give the new administration. The seat was awarded by the electoral tribunal following disputes in regional ballots in a decision due to be announced publicly on Thursday, according to an electoral official who declined to be identified. In awarding the seat to the PRI, the tribunal took it away from an alliance of leftist parties.

The new Congress will assemble on 1 September, while Pena Nieto is due to take office in December, replacing President Felipe Calderon. Pena Nieto, who returned the PRI to power after 12 years in the wilderness when he won 38 percent of the vote in the July election, has promised to reform Mexico’s fiscal, energy and labor laws. Calderon’s National Action Party, or PAN, will have 114 deputies in the new Congress and may also support reforms aimed at allowing more foreign investment in the oil industry and making it easier for employers to hire and fire workers.

Three leftist parties, who want to keep existing labor protections and national control of the oil industry, have the remaining 135 seats in the lower house.

Smoke billows from a burning warehouse of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Quetta, Pakistan on 22 Aug, 2012. A UNHCR warehouse burst into flames here on Wednesday after an explosion, leaving most of the relief materials burnt away.

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Nikon’s latest camera runs Android

Tokyo, 23 Aug.—The gulf between smartphones and cameras is getting smaller, thanks to a new point-and-shoot camera from Nikon that’s powered by the Android operating system.

The S800c is equipped with an 16-megapixel CMOS sensor, a 28mm wide-angle lens, and a 3-inch touch-screen display. It weighs 11.6 ounces and is 2.3 inches thick. Users can use it to take photos or videos, and then upload them to the Internet. The camera can also capture 1080p video and use a Wi-Fi network to upload images to social networking websites.

“With the S800c, we’re giving users more control over how they use their cameras,” said Makoto Akita, general manager of Nikon’s imaging product group.

T-Mobile brings back unlimited data plan

New York, 23 Aug.—Unlimited wireless data is back. After sliding off the menu of cellphone plans, data plans with no caps are making a comeback at smaller wireless companies trying to compete with AT&T and Verizon.

T-Mobile USA, the nation’s fourth-largest cellphone company, said Wednesday that it will start selling an unlimited-data plan again on 5 September, after stopping sales of such plans early last year. A day earlier, No 5 carrier MetroPCS, which is trying to compete with AT&T and Verizon, launched a rival unlimited-data plan.

Both companies are in a better position to combine the two markets: T-Mobile is launching a smartphone with Android, and MetroPCS has an unlimited-data plan and credits that with helping it attract customers for its smartphones.

AT&T, the nation’s second-largest carrier, stopped signing up customers for unlimited data plans two years ago, while No 6 carrier Verizon Wireless stopped last year.

Both have shifted toward lifting all limits on calls and texting, but limiting data usage. From a network management perspective, that makes sense, as calls and texts use very little network capacity, while video downloads and other data use can clog the network and slow the service for everyone. The iPhone and the data use it encouraged this kind of an unlimited-data plan and credits that with helping it attract customers for its smartphones.

In 2011, the iPhone was not the first smartphone to have a camera, but it made sharing images online, over its cellular connection, a snap. In 2011, more than a quarter of photos and videos were captured using a smartphone, according to a study from research company NPD Group. That number is only getting larger.

This camera is bringing some of what has made those smartphones so popular to a camera. It doesn’t have a cellular connection, but it does have Wi-Fi. Wireless connections have been around for a while on a camera, but the addition of Android means the camera can tether to a smartphone or tablet running Android when there’s no Wi-Fi network handy.

The 3.5-inch touch-screen display gives users access to the Google Play store, where photos can go to download more apps for their camera, including editing tools and social networks, such as Twitter, Facebook, and of course, Instagram. The camera can also run all the regular smartphone apps, allowing users to send email, browse the Internet, listen to music, and play games. Like Apple’s iPhone, it draws the line at making phone calls, however. It’s easier to figure out how many minutes of calling you need in a month, than it is to figure out how many gigabytes you’ll use.

T-mobile is launching the plan because it’s what customers want, said Kevin McLaughlin, vice president of marketing at the Bellevue, Wash., company. He said the company is confident it can keep its network “fast and dependable” even with unlimited-data users on it.

In this undated file photo, an iPhone is displayed next to a T-Mobile sign, in Berlin. —INTERNET

FTC clears Facebook’s acquisition of Instagram

San Francisco, 23 Aug.—The US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is scheduled to complete Facebook Inc’s acquisition of Instagram, voting unanimously to close its antitrust investigation into the deal without taking any action.

The move frees Facebook to complete its purchase of the mobile photo application maker, the biggest acquisition in its history.

Facebook announced plans to buy Instagram in a cash and stock deal for $1 billion in April.

Under the terms of the deal, Facebook will acquire Instagram for $30 billion in cash and roughly 23 million shares of Facebook common stock.

The deal is currently valued at $747 billion, based on the closing price of Facebook’s shares on Wednesday.

Shares of the world’s No 1 online social network have declined roughly 50 percent since the company’s highly-anticipated initial public offering in May. Slowing revenue growth and a flood of hidden shares that could hit the market in the coming months are among investors’ key concerns.

The Instagram acquisition application, which allows users to add filters and effects to pictures taken on their smartphones, could bolster Facebook’s mobile efforts in an area that is considered something of a weak spot for the company.

Facebook did not provide a further update on the timing of the deal on Wednesday, but said it was pleased the FTC had cleared the transaction.

Facebook had initially said it expected the deal to close in the second quarter.

In this photo illustration, shows the applications and Facebook on the screen of an iPad in Zagreb on 9 April, 2012. —REUTERS

A photo illustration shows the applications and Facebook on the screen of an iPad in Zagreb on 9 April, 2012. —REUTERS

The new $686 million twin spacecraft will collect samples from the Van Allen radiation belts that surround the Earth. —INTERNET

Science & Technology

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug.—A pair of armoured NASA spacecraft will soon head into one of the most treacherous regions of outer space to understand how radioactive particles that surround the Earth affect our satellites and astronauts.

The two will journey into the Van Allen radiation belts, doughnut-shaped rings of radioactive particles that encircle Earth. The particles, which are expelled from the sun, are pulled into the belts by Earth’s magnetic field — the same force that swings a compass needle toward the North Pole.

“We are trying to go to a place that everyone else tries to avoid,” said Rick FitzGerald, the project manager of the Radiation Belt Storm Probes mission at the Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University.

The spacecraft are scheduled to be launched together early Thursday from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and fly for two years. The Van Allen radiation belts are America’s earliest Space Age discoveries, found in 1958 by the nation’s first satellite, Explorer 1. Yet the belts largely remain a mystery, their environment too harsh to mission to understand how radioactive particles that surround the Earth affect our satellites and astronauts.

These $686 million twin storm probes are different. The octagonal spacecraft — about 6 feet across, 3 feet tall and 1,475 pounds each — are shielded in aluminum as thick as a slice of bread. Each storm probe holds five instruments to measure radioactive particles — mostly protons and electrons — as the spacecraft plow through the belts and endure harsh storms of radiation from the sun, which scientists call “space weather.”

The particles the spacecraft will capture are expelled from the sun and hurtle 93 million miles toward Earth in million-mile-per-hour waves called solar storms. The data from these probes will help scientists build models that explain how different solar disturbances blowing through the cosmos could change belt size and shape.

This spacecraft will collect samples from the Van Allen radiation belts that surround the Earth. —INTERNET

Internet

for a so-called “fairness hearing” before the California Department of Corporations on 29 August. —Reuters
Chinese stocks open mixed on Thursday

BEIJING, 23 Aug—Chinese stocks opened mixed on Thursday, with the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index slightly down 0.04 percent to open at 2,106.96. The Shanghai Component Index opened 0.15 percent higher at 8,739.2—Xinhua

Dollar trades in mid-78-yen level in early Tokyo market

TOKYO, 23 Aug—The US dollar traded in the mid-78-yen level on early Tuesday in Tokyo. At 9 am, the dollar fetched 78.54-59 yen compared with 78.53-63 yen in New York and 79.29-30 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm on Wednesday. The euro was quoted at 1,253-254 dollars and 92.48-45 yen against 1,253-253 dollars and 98.38-48 yen in New York and 1,249.2-250.6 dollars and 98.79-83 yen in Tokyo late on Wednesday afternoon.—Xinhua

Gold ends modestly lower

CHICAGO, 23 Aug—Gold futures on the COMEX division of the New York Mercantile Exchange ended modestly lower on Wednesday ahead of the release of minutes of the latest US monetary policy meeting. The most active gold contract for December delivery retraced 2.4 dollars, or 0.15 percent, to settle at 1,640.6 dollars per ounce. Market analysts said that gold fluctuated in the day, as traders waited for the Federal Open Market Committee’s meeting minutes for further hints about the US monetary policy. It was widely believed that the US Federal Reserve was close to a new round of quantitative easing, which would trigger fears of currency debase and thus push up the gold price. Silver for September delivery gained 12.8 cents, or 0.6 percent, to close at 29.556 dollars per ounce. Platinum for October delivery added 18.7 dollars, or 1.2 percent, to close at 1,526.5 dollars per ounce.—Xinhua

US Fed minutes show more urgency for monetary easing

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug—The US Federal Reserve would lean more toward new stimulus actions unless incoming information signals a substantial strengthening in the economic recovery, the central bank’s policy meeting minutes showed on Wednesday. “Many members judged that additional monetary accommodation would likely be warranted fairly soon, unless incoming information pointed to a substantial and sustainable strengthening in the pace of the economic recovery,” the Fed noted in minutes released on Wednesday for a Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting held from 31 July to 1 August. FOMC members said that the benefits of gathering additional information and more timely data outweighed the risks. In their discussion for future policy action, a number of Fed policy officials indicated that additional accommodation could help foster a more rapid improvement in labor market conditions when inflation pressures were likely to be subdued. Several FOMC members said the benefits of gathering further information could help clarify the economic outlook and inflation as well as the need for further policy action, according to the minutes. The Fed officials agreed that they would closely monitor economic and financial developments and carefully weigh the potential benefits and costs of various tools in assessing whether additional policy action would be warranted. At its last meeting, the Fed did not pull the trigger to save the economy, but left the door open for additional measures.—Xinhua

Children of older men have more gene abnormalities

The rate doubles every 16 years, meaning that the baby of a 36-year-old father would have twice as many new mutations than that of a 20-year-old. Though de novo mutations are not necessarily harmful, it can take only one change in a key gene to cause a new, severe genetic disorder. Therefore, the more mutations the higher the risk. The results from what is claimed to be the biggest-ever study of its kind suggest that disproportionate attention has been paid to the age at which women give birth. Maternal age is linked to Down’s syndrome and other chromosomal disorders that develop through a process that is different to the type of genetic mutation described in this study. The mutations in the Nature paper are caused by cell division processes like sperm production. Internet

Tattoo infections traced to tainted ink

ATLANTA, 23 Aug—An outbreak of infected tattoo cases was traced to an unlikely source: the ink. With the growing popularity of tattoos, health officials say they are seeing more cases of a nasty skin infection caused by aerobic bacteria traced to the ink. In the largest outbreak, 19 people in Rochester, NY, ended up with bubbly rashes on their arms, which were tied to their tattoos. The New York Times reported on Wednesday. Infections from tattooing are nothing new. Hepatitis A, staph infections and even the superbug known as MRSA (staph infections) have been tied to needles and unsanitary conditions are often to blame. But all the New York cases were linked to an unidentified artist who used disposable gloves and sterilized his instruments. The problem, investigators concluded, was in the ink. “Even if you get a tattoo from a facility that does everything right, it’s not risk-free,” said Dr. Byron Kennedy, deputy director of the health department in New York’s Monroe County. He is lead author of a report on last fall’s Rochester cases released by the New England Journal of Medicine on Wednesday. In the past year, there have been 2 confirmed cases and more than 30 suspected cases of the skin infection in Colorado, Iowa, New York and Washington state, health officials said. The infections were tied to ink or water used to dilute the ink. Tattoo artists and ink makers should use only sterile water to dilute ink, health officials advise. Internet

New AIDS-like disease in Asians, not contagious

BOSTON, 23 Aug—Researchers have identified a mysterious new disease that has left scores of people in Asia and some in the United States with AIDS-like symptoms even though they are not infected with HIV. The patients’ immune systems become damaged, leaving them unable to fight off germs as healthy people do. What triggers this isn’t known, but the disease does not seem to be contagious. This is another kind of acquired immune deficiency that is not inherited and occurs in adults, but doesn’t spread the way AIDS does through a virus, said Dr. Sarah Browne, a scientist at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. She helped lead the study with researchers in Thailand and Taipei where most of the cases have been found since 2004. Their report is in Thursday’s New England Journal of Medicine. The disease develops around age 50 and does not run in families, which makes it unlikely that a single gene is responsible, Browne said. Some patients have died of overwhelming infections, including some Asians now living in the US, although Browne could not estimate how many. Internet

New study says older men produce more genetic mutations in the children they sire, boosting risk of schizophrenia and autism and possibly other diseases. Internet

Children of older men have more gene abnormalities

The rate doubles every 16 years, meaning that the baby of a 36-year-old father would have twice as many new mutations than that of a 20-year-old. Though de novo mutations are not necessarily harmful, it can take only one change in a key gene to cause a new, severe genetic disorder. Therefore, the more mutations the higher the risk. The results from what is claimed to be the biggest-ever study of its kind suggest that disproportionate attention has been paid to the age at which women give birth. Maternal age is linked to Down’s syndrome and other chromosomal disorders that develop through a process that is different to the type of genetic mutation described in this study. The mutations in the Nature paper are caused by cell division processes like sperm production. Internet

The age of new fathers in the Western world has been climbing in recent decades and the number of first-time dads over 40 is growing. Official statistics show that in Iceland, the average age of fathers at conception rose from 27.9 in 1950 to 33.1 in 2011. Contrary to de novo mutations which occur during cell division, inherited gene mutations are transferred at an equal rate by the father and mother, are more common and thus more commonly responsible for disease. Scientists believe that both inherited and new mutations are responsible for diseases like autism and schizophrenia, but have not worked out the ratio of blame. On the positive side, de novo gene mutations are a necessary element of human evolution, allowing us to adapt to our changing environment. Internet

In this undated photo provided by the University of Washington, the arm of a Washington State woman is shown after developing an infection earlier this year after receiving a tattoo. Internet

Infection with Ms. Brown’s tattoo ink used in New York was “gray wash,” used for shaded areas of tattoos. The ink was placed in an area that has not returned to the market. Health officials say tattoo customers should ask what kind of ink is being used and what measures are in place to prevent infections. Internet
Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras, speaks next to Jean Claude Juncker, unseen, prime minister, of Luxembourg and President of Eurogroup during a joint news conference after their meeting in Athens, on 22 Aug, 2012.  

Samaras: Greece needs ‘air to breathe’ 

BERLIN, 23 Aug — Greece’s Prime Minister struck a conciliatory tone on Wednesday before a closely watched visit to Germany, insisting in interviews with two influential German newspapers that his country doesn’t want more money, just more time to deliver on promised economic reforms and government spending cuts.

Antonis Samaras heads to Berlin on Friday for talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose country is the largest single contributor to Greece’s €240 billion ($300 billion) bailout packages. German officials and some lawmakers in Merkel’s coalition government have made clear they are in no mood to grant significant concessions.

“Let me be very clear: we are not asking for more money,” Samaras told Germany’s top-selling Bild newspaper in an interview published on Wednesday. “We stand by our commitments and the implementation of all requirements. But we must encourage growth, because that reduces the financing gaps. All we want is a ‘little air to breathe’ to get the economy going and increase state income,” Samaras added, without specifying any timeframe. “More time does not automatically mean more money.”

Some German politicians have talked openly in recent weeks about the possibility of Greece leaving the euro, and the vice chancellor, Economy Minister Philipp Roesler, has said the idea of a Greek exit has “lost its horror.” But Athens insists the country must remain in the 17-country currency zone — something which opinion polls have shown the vast majority of Greeks want.  

President of European Parliament, José Manuel Barroso, unseen, attends the meeting of the leaders of the European countries, in Brussels.

Kabul blames ‘foreign spy agencies’ for insider attacks 

KABUL, 23 Aug — Afghan officials on Wednesday blamed “infiltration by foreign spy agencies” into the ranks of its security forces for a rise in attacks by Afghan soldiers on US-led NATO forces. — Internet

Man partly to blame for Antarctic ice shelf collapse

WELLINGTON, 23 Aug — An ice core extracted from an Antarctic ice shelf has yielded further evidence of the impact of man-made warming on the frozen continent, fuelling concern for the future of ice shelves, a report said on Wednesday. The 364-metre (1,183-foot) ice core drilled from James Ross Island on the Antarctic peninsula has been studied in laboratories in Europe for the past four years, for its 15,000-year record of snowfalls holds clues about climate shift. The peninsula — the tentacle of Antarctica that projects into the Southern Ocean — is a key area of interest for climatologists, given that it has warmed faster than almost anywhere else in the world. The core shows that after several centuries of cooling, temperatures in the region began climbing slowly around 600 years ago, rising at a rate of about 0.2 degrees Celsius (0.36 degrees Fahrenheit) per century. The warming increased exponentially, reaching an unusually high, though not unprecedented, rate during the last 100 years of about 1.5°C (2.7°F), the report published in Nature said. The results “are consistent with a more rapid human-induced warming on top of a slower natural warming,” Robert Mulvaney, a researcher with the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), told AFP. "It shows the past 50 years of warming has been at a rate unprecedented in the past 1700 years." — Internet

ISS orbit adjusted for upcoming Soyuz docking

MOSCOW, 23 Aug — After a failed earlier attempt, the European cargo spacecraft has adjusted the orbit of the International Space Station (ISS) to create best conditions for the upcoming docking of Russia’s manned spaceship Soyuz, the Russian Mission Control Centre said on Wednesday.

The ATV-3 engines have worked as planned. Correction of the ISS orbit is over,” the Mission Control Centre said. The orbit has been adjusted twice during the day, elevated by 7.7 km to the average of 420 km. Last Wednesday, the European Space Agency’s Automated Transfer Vehicle Three, ATV-3, failed to raise the ISS to the prescribed orbit due to its booster’s early switch-off.

The adjustment of the orbit was for the landing and next docking of Russia’s manned spaceship Soyuz. the landing of the outbound Soyuz TMA-06M spacecraft, with two astronauts on board, is scheduled for 17September. The docking of the Soyuz TMA-06M spacecraft with the ISS is set for 15 October. ISS orbit adjustments are conducted periodically before launches of the Russian spacecrafts, to compensate for the Earth’s gravity and ensure successful docking. The next correction of the ISS orbit has been scheduled for 12 Sept.

Soyuz TMA-06M spacecraft, with two astronauts onboard.

Kabul, 23 Aug — At least 30 children have been injured, some of them seriously, as a bus they were traveling in appeared to have lost control on a turned over on a southern highway.

A Pakistani international spokesmen (PIA) plane takes off in Islamabad in 2009. A Frenchwoman endured an 18-hour journey from Lahore to Paris back again after sleeping through her plane’s stop in the French capital, officials said on Wednesday. Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) are investigating how ground crew failed to notice a woman during the plane’s two-hour stopover at Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris. The woman, named as Patrice Christine Ahmed, who is married to a Pakistani, left Lahore on Tuesday to fly to Paris via Milan, but did not wake up to get off the plane, airline spokesman Sultan Haan told AFP. The woman did not mention her mistake to cabin crew and the matter only came to light when she was stopped by immigration officials on arrival back in Lahore on Wednesday morning after a 12,000-kilometre (7,000-mile) round trip.

Haan said PIA were investigating the incident and the French subcontractor responsible for passenger handling in Paris. "We have put questions to this French firm also about the incident but it is also the responsibility of the passenger to disembark at the destination," he said. "It is a passenger’s responsibility to check about the destination and disembark when the plane arrives at the particular airport." PIA later arranged to send the woman back to Paris with another airline because none of its own flights were available, but said that the party responsible for the negligence will pay for the extra ticket. — Internet

A firefighter walks past a bus on the highway near Freising, southern Germany, on 22 Aug, 2012. — Internet

30 children in Germany injured in bus crash

A Frenchwoman endured an 18-hour journey from Lahore to Paris back again after sleeping through her plane’s stop in the French capital, officials said on Wednesday. — Internet

A handout photograph provided by the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) in 2011 shows the Russian fishing boat Sparta, near the Antarctic ice shelf.

Man partly to blame for Antarctic ice shelf collapse

CIRCA 300 BCE — The tentacle of Antarctica that projects into the Southern Ocean has been studied in laboratories in Europe for the past four years, for its 15,000-year record of snowfalls holds clues about climate shift. The peninsula — the tentacle of Antarctica that projects into the Southern Ocean — is a key area of interest for climatologists, given that it has warmed faster than almost anywhere else in the world. The core shows that after several centuries of cooling, temperatures in the region began climbing slowly around 600 years ago, rising at a rate of about 0.2 degrees Celsius (0.36 degrees Fahrenheit) per century. The warming increased exponentially, reaching an unusually high, though not unprecedented, rate during the last 100 years of about 1.5°C (2.7°F), the report published in Nature said. The results “are consistent with a more rapid human-induced warming on top of a slower natural warming,” Robert Mulvaney, a researcher with the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), told AFP. "It shows the past 50 years of warming has been at a rate unprecedented in the past 1700 years." — Internet

The ATV-3 engines have worked as planned. Correction of the ISS orbit is over,” the Mission Control Centre said. The orbit has been adjusted twice during the day, elevated by 7.7 km to the average of 420 km. Last Wednesday, the European Space Agency’s Automated Transfer Vehicle Three, ATV-3, failed to raise the ISS to the prescribed orbit due to its booster’s early switch-off.

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He opened a file at the Athoke Township, on 5 August. The ceremony to release fingershings into rice field is held at the model farm at the Village of Seikphun in the township, officials from Pathein District and Kyaunggon Township Fishery Departments put the fingershings into the field. During the ceremony, the officials handed over fingershings to local farmers to breed them at their fields. Over 100,000 fingershings will be released into 201 acres owned by 32 farmers in Kyaunggon Township.

Over 100,000 fingershings released into rice field in Kyaunggon

Kyaunggon, 23 Aug— Apart of efforts for regional development and poverty reduction in rural areas, 100,500 fingershings were released into rice fields in Kyaunggon Township, Pathein District, on 5 August. The ceremony to release fingershings into rice field is held at the model farm at the Village of Seikphun in the township, officials from Pathein District and Kyaunggon Township Fishery Departments put the fingershings into the field. During the ceremony, the officials handed over fingershings to local farmers to breed them at their fields. Over 100,000 fingershings will be released into 201 acres owned by 32 farmers in Kyaunggon Township.

Flood’s victim property stolen

Ye Kyi, 23 Aug— Jewels worth about K2.1 million and K800,000 were stolen from a flood victim in Athoke, Ye Kyi Township, on 15 August. Daw Khin Win Yi, 47, an owner of the fish brokerage, placed the jewellery box and the cash on her sides when he went to bed made on a temporary floor in her home as the house was submerged by the flood on 15 August. She found that her property were stolen when he woke at early morning and he opened a file at the Athoke Police Station.

Flood victims in Ayeyawady Region get aids

Pathin, 23 Aug— Flood victims in 24 townships of Ayeyawady Region have been given rice and medicines at the relief camps on 18 and 19 August. Out of 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region, 24 have been submerged, destroying over 300,000 acres of rice field. The bus service on the Pathin-Yangon Road was disrupted from 8pm to 5am on 19 August as the Daka-Kankalay road section on the road was flooded. Rescue teams are on alert on the submerged section. Speaker of Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw U Hsan Hsint and representatives and local authority reached out 13 relief camps in Thabaung Township on 18 August and presented aids to the victims. They went to Kyaunggon, Athoke, Ye Kyi, Ngathayng-gyoong and Kyonpyaw the next day and also attended a ceremony to donate aids to the flood victims. They handed over aids to flood victims during their visits to the relief camps.

Fingershings released into rice field in Wakema

Wakema, 23 Aug— Wakema Township Fishery Department released fingershings into the rice fields in the township on 19 August. U Ohn Win, Head of Wakema Township Fishery Department, and employees of the departments and villagers put 76,500 fish into 153 acres of rice field.

District News

Flood damages roads, bridges in Nyaunglebin

Nyaunglebin, 23 Aug— Some roads and bridges in Nyaunglebin were damaged by recent flood cause by torrential rain and overflow water from the Sittoung River. An approach road to a wooden bridge in the Village of Yephyukan in Nyaunglebin Township was eroded by the flood and local authority an people have maintained the erosion before the road is totally destroyed by the flood. The bridge is 33 ft long and 12 ft wide. Local people in most villages in Nyaunglebin Township experienced floods caused by torrential and the overflow from the Sittoung River recently.

Three arrested for gambling in Bago Region

Bago, 23 Aug— Police arrested two men and a woman for illegal three-digit gambling recently. Acting on a tip-off, a local police unit searched the home of Kyaw Hsan Oo, 42, in Kyawkakaw East Village in Daik U Township and discovered documents used for the gambling and seized K185,700. Action is being taken against Kyaw Hsan Oo, 42, the chief of the gambling business, Tin Aye, 57, and Ma Khin Than, 53, under section 15/16 of the Gambling Act.

Drinking water supplied to flood victims in Ingapu

Ingapu, 23 Aug— A local authority in Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Region, has supplied drinking water to 312 people from 73 households who are facing lack of drinking water due to flood on 19 August. A total 800 gallons of drinking water have been supplied to the victims in Ayezedi Village in Ingapu Township. The flood inundated grounds of their homes, causing water shortages in the village.

Fingerlings released into rice field in Kyaunggon

Kyaunggon, 23 Aug— Health workers and volunteers have taken anti-dengue measures in Ward-5 in Shwepyitha Township, Yangon North District, on 18 August. They carried out fumigation, disposing solid waste and removing man-made habitats by covering, emptying, and cleaning water containers and clearing the surroundings of stagnant water and damp areas in the ward. The anti-dengue campaign was participated by health workers, members of Shwepyitha Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Shwepyitha Township Women’s Affairs Organization and local people.

Anti-dengue campaign conducted in Shwepyitha Township

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Yekyi FFSA donates provisions to flood victims in villages

Yekyi, 23 Aug— Yeki Free Funeral Service Association has donated provisions to flooded villages in the township. The association has reached to Daegon Village in Taungla Village-tract, Kyogon, Thabyaytaw, Akyawtaing and Kontan villages in Kyogon Village-tract yesterday and distributed rice and dry noodles to 321 flood victims.

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Only some ministries’ proposed...

Wundwin Township on 17 near Hpayaphyu Village in Yangon-Mandalay Road near the mile post No. 367/3

22-wheeled truck collided

people were injured when a

projects and works and sent it back to Budget Department. The books that compile the income and expenditures of central organizations and organizations under the ministries described in the appendices 1-10 of the Union Budget Law (2012), under the headings of capital and revenue account of central organizations, organizations under the ministries, projects and works, will be distributed to Pyithu Hluttaw Planning and Financial Development Committee and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Public Account Committee through the Union government at the current session. So, the proposal is to be reviewed. Hluttaw decided to approve it.

After that, U Myint Soe of Pyaywbye Constituency submitted an important proposal on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw urge the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union to issue a statement that the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union mistakenly gave verdict as the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union passed the resolution that “defining committee, commission and organizations which are formed by respective hluttaw as the Union-level organizations is not in conformity with the Constitution” without having the right under the Constitution and Constitutional Tribunal Law and mistakenly gave verdict against the provisions of the existing laws.

A representative approved it. Hluttaw took votes to discuss it by mean of machine voting system. Hluttaw decided to approve it as there are more than one third of eligible voters. Those who want to discuss are to register their names. The meeting came to an end at 3.25 pm.

At today’s session, two bills approved, Public Account Committee’s clarification of Committee’s findings report on additional funding request, made and approved, one important proposal submitted.—MNA

Necessary measures to be taken in advance to give protection to migrant workers

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and for Labour U Aung Kyi addresses at the coordination meeting No. 3/2012 of Overseas Jobs Supervisory Committee.—MNA

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister on inspection tour of Pathein

On behalf of Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Transport, Communication and Construction Committee U Thein Swe received a goodwill delegation led by Senior Advisor and Director Mr Ernest Z. Bower of Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) of the US in Washington and party, at Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Hall in Hluttaw Building, here, yesterday evening.

At the call, they discussed the CSIS’s research, promoting the bilateral relations between two countries, Myanmar’s democratization process, local peace-making process and the role of Hluttaw.

It was also attended by Chairman of International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, Chairman of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery Development Committee U Soe Naing and commission members U Win Myint, U Nay Win and U Khin Maung Soe.

— MNA

Ayeyawady Bank, the Asia Green Development Bank, the Kanbawza Bank. — MNA

Two injured when 22-wheeled truck collides light truck

MITEA, 23 Aug.—Two people were injured when a 22-wheeled truck collided with back end of a light truck near the mile post No. 367/3 on Yangon-Mandalay Road near Hpyaphyu Village in Wundwin Township on 17 August.

Nyunt Lwin, 41, driver of 22-wheeled truck was driving when his car struck with the back end of the light truck driven by Zaw Min Tun.

Both of Ma Htway Myint, 40, and Daw Hmat Tin, 56, of the light truck were injured and sent to Wundwin Hospital.

Actions are being taken against the two drivers by Shwedagon Police Station.

— MNA

Two injured when 22-wheeled truck collides light truck

Myanmar (A) team plays against New Zealand team as first match at 17th South East Asian Junior Men’s Volleyball Championship 2012.

(New on page 1) — MNA
Delegation of Patheingyi Institute of Agriculture makes excursion to educational farms in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug — Students and faculty members from Patheingyi Institute of Agriculture visited the educational farm in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to study plantation of quality strains of crops and modern farming methods. At the 500-acre education farm at the catchment area of Ngaleik Dam, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing called on them for establishing educational farm as part of efforts for encouraging farmers to grow quality strains of crops and practicing modern methods. The 39-member study group was led by the principal of the institute and four faculty members. The Union Minister also urged them to grow quality strains of sunflower and groundnuts to support the edible oil sufficiency in the country and to grow kitchen crops to earn extra income.

During the visit, the director-general of Agricultural Department presented 70 kilos of Palethwe hybrid rice seeds to grow in the farm of the institute. They also visited the 10-acre educational farm of groundnut and the 100-acre educational farm of Palethwe (Basmati) hybrid rice irrigated by Ngaleik Dam.

Workshop on development of hotels and tourism sectors in Mandalay and Bagan-NyaungU Regions held

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug — A workshop on development of hotel and tourism sectors in Mandalay and NyaungU Regions took place at the meeting hall of Bagan Hotel in NyaungU yesterday morning. The workshop was attended by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Deputy Minister U Htay Aung, chairman and officials from Myanmar Tourism Service, entrepreneurs and departmental officials from Bagan-NyaungU Township.

At the workshop, Union Minister U Tint Hsan said that as foreigners are keen to visit Myanmar than in the past, nearly 50 percent of tourists arrival developed, it is necessary for emerging sustainable development, Hotels and Tourism Ministry is carrying out the service for creating job opportunities, development of infrastructures, alleviation of poverty for the interest of the State and the people. He went on to say that the ministry adopted four tasks for systematic transportation for tourists, promotion of hotels and restaurants, systematic development of hotels and tourism and conservation of sustainable development for destinations.

Hotel tourism is more important than past, the ministry is arranging to conduct hotel services course, it should consider to reduce negative impacts as development of hotels and tourism, said the Union Minister.

The Union Minister noted that Mandalay is regarded as cultural city which possesses historical cultural heritages, Bagan Region is a destination which historical edifices 3112 were seen within 19miles and an interesting place for tourists.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint urged the attendees to implement the plans from all points of view for development of Mandalay and Bagan-NyaungU Regions.

Those attendees participated in discussions and the union minister and deputy minister made clarifications.
Russia joins WTO after 18 years of talks

MOSCOW, 23 Aug — Russia has joined the World Trade Organization, a body which restricts import duties and subsidies to make international trade fair, after 18 years of negotiations.

Consumers in Russia are expected to benefit from the lower cost of imported goods, while some industrial sectors, like agriculture or carmaking, will lose state subsidies, exposing them to foreign competition. The World Bank estimates WTO membership could increase Russia’s GDP by 3.3 percent a year in the next three years. Russia was formally admitted to membership could increase Russia’s GDP by 3.3 percent a year in the next three years. Russia was formally admitted to the WTO on Wednesday.

The talks took so long because of Russia’s reluctance to drop industry subsidies and because the US has refused to recognize Russia’s accession to the WTO. Negotiations ended earlier this month in the Parkinson and Related Disorders medical journal.

The findings determined a link between nicotine and a genetic mechanism which prevents the development of the disease.

The current study was conducted by a team of Israeli scientists from the Hadassah University Hospital. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Belinson Hospital and Tel Aviv University, as well as an Italian research institute. Out of 677 Parkinson patients that were tested, 438 never smoked, while 239 did smoke. According to the study, the CHRNA5, CHRNA4 and CHRNB3 genes become dependent on nicotine and at the same time are responsible for preventing the progress of the illness.

The discovery helped researchers understand exactly how nicotine prevents the damage to the brain chemical dopamine, which researchers believe to be connected to the development of the illness. The study found that each of these genes is identified as important as it allows us to better understand the mechanism by which smoking reduces the likelihood of Parkinson’s. "We believe that these genes are key to understanding the disease," the team director Prof Benjamin Lerer, director of the Psychiatric Biology Laboratory in Hadassah Ein Karem hospital, told the Ha’aretz daily.

However, he stressed that smoking-related illnesses outweigh the benefits, and that they are looking for a new treatment aimed at the genes they have discovered—which does not include the hazardous habit. The link between smoking and Parkinson’s disease prevention was first established in a 2001 report published in the medical journal Epidemiology.

It then found that people who smoked (or used to smoke in the past) are 60 percent less likely to develop the disease. This means that the damages the central nervous system, than non-smokers.

Additionally, past research found other positive influences of nicotine, among them, in bettering concentration and memory, as well as helping schizophrenia patients control their symptoms. Xinhua

Israel scientists: smoking may slow Parkinson’s disease

JERUSALEM, 23 Aug — Israeli researchers are one step closer to discovering a treatment for Parkinson’s disease, after finding a genetic mechanism connected to cigarette smoking that keeps the degenerative disease from progressing.

The team of Israeli researchers, who have been engaged in the study since 2000, announced its results earlier this month in the Parkinson and Related Disorders medical journal.

The findings determined a link between nicotine and a genetic mechanism which prevents the development of the disease.

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Four flames lit on UK’s highest peaks

LONDON, 23 Aug — Four Paralympic flames were lit on the highest peaks of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland ahead of next week’s Games in London.

Disabled and able-bodied scouts scaled Scafell Pike in the Lake District in England, Snowden in Wales, Scotland’s Ben Nevis and Sliod Done in Northern Ireland.

The four flames will be brought together on Tuesday at Stoke Mandeville, the hospital in southern England which is the spiritual home of the Paralympics.

The teams used a ferrocerum rod which they struck against a rough steel surface to make sparks that created the flame.

Sebastian Coe, the organizer of the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, joined the trek up Snowden. "Great effort by the scouts this morning, starting at 6.15am to get to top of Snowden. Well done boys and girls," he tweeted. Elaine Paert, who has bipolar disorder, was the first person to carry the flame on Snowden.

"I only found out on Tuesday that I would be the first person to carry it which was quite an incredible piece of information and I didn’t take it in," she told the BBC. "I was chosen as a representative of my group as a member of other people are not physically able to take part.

It was absolutely incredible and amazing. “I hope it will help people realise that people do have more to offer and that a disability needn’t set you back. I am looking forward to the Games even more now and I feel I have contributed a tiny atom towards it.

The Paralympics are a near sellout, with spectators attracted by high-profile competitors including "Blade Runner" Oscar Pistorius, the South African double amputee sprinter who competed in the Olympics.

A record 4,204 athletes from 166 countries will take part and the Games will be watched by an estimated global television audience of four billion. — Internet

Hundredsevacuated as Typhoon Tembin heads for Taipei

TAIPEI, 23 Aug — Taiwan authorities said on Thursday nearly 2,000 people had been evacuated as the island braced for Typhoon Tembin, which is set to bring powerful winds and torrential rains.

Residents along the mountainous east coast are on alert with Tembin forecast to affect the area from the afternoon, while Taipei as a whole will feel the impact on Friday, said the Central Weather Bureau.

Tembin could make landfall in Taitung in eastern Taipei on Friday although its path would be affected by Bolaven, another typhoon around 1,600 kilometres (990 miles) east of Taipei, the bureau said.

The bureau listed Tembin as a mid-level typhoon and warned that it will bring torrential rains and damaging winds to the island. "We will bring powerful winds and torrential rains. Residents along the mountainous east coast are on alert with Tembin forecast to affect the area from the afternoon, while Taipei as a whole will feel the impact on Friday," said the Central Weather Bureau.

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California town settles dispute that prompted bankruptcy

**SAN FRANCISCO, 23 Aug —** Mammoth Lakes, one of three communities in California to recently declare bankruptcy, said on Wednesday it reached a tentative agreement to settle the lawsuit that threatened to swamp the town’s finances. The town of about 8,000 residents in California’s Sierra Nevada Mountains said on its website that it settled a $43 million court judgment awarded to a developer over a property dispute. The terms of the agreement will remain confidential and not be documented and executed, according to the town’s statement.

The town has been in a legal fight since 2006 with Mammoth Lakes Land Acquisition LLC Developer Terrence Ballas, who holds commercial development rights to the property in the largest, also is part of the disputed US Forest Service land that an Elizabeth Perris with guiding the mediation that produced the settlement, adding that a term sheet with its key points has been signed. The town also said litigation between the parties in its bankruptcy case will be put on hold, although some key deadlines will remain. The case is in 1 US Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of California. Settlement documentation is expected to be filed for court approval within weeks, Mammoth Lakes said, adding that it will hold public meetings to discuss how to finance the settlement.

Thousands being moved from China’s Three Gorges

**HUANGTUPO, 23 Aug —** China relocated 1.3 million people during the 17 years it took to complete the Three Gorges dam. Even after finishing the $59 billion project last month, the threat of landslides along the dam’s banks will force tens of thousands of residents to move again. It’s a reminder of the social and environmental challenges that have dogged the world’s largest hydroelectric project.

While there has been little protest among residents who will bereaved family members over the environmental fallout other big investments in China has become a hot button issue.

US surprised by Navy SEAL’s book on bin Laden raid

**WASHINGTON, 23 Aug —** The US government was surprised by the news that a former Navy SEAL who participated in the raid on Osama bin Laden’s compound in Pakistan has written a book about the operation in which the al-Qaeda leader was killed, US officials said on Wednesday.

“No Easy Day: The Firsthand Account of the Mission That Killed Osama Bin Laden” was written by a Navy SEAL under the pseudonym Mark Owen with co-author Kevin Maurer and is to be released next month on the anniversary of the 11 September attacks. It was not vetted by government agencies, including the CIA, no secrets were revealed.

“The book was vetted by a former special operations attorney. He vetted it for tactical, technical, and procedural information as well as information that could be considered classified by compilation and found it to be without risk to national security,” Christine Ball, a spokesperson for the publisher, Dutton, told Reuters.

The book will be published at a time when Washington has been rolled by controversy over national security leaks ahead of the 6 November presidential election. Republicans have charged that President Barack Obama’s administration has engaged in selective leaks to bolster the Democrat’s national security credentials. The White House denies those accusations and says it takes steps to guard classified information seriously.

In the wake of Congressional criticism, the administration assigned federal prosecutors in Baltimore and Washington to conduct criminal investigations into leaks related to an undercover counter-terrorism investigation in Yemen and alleged US and Israeli cyber warfare against Iran’s nuclear programme. But the coming book on the bin Laden raid has appeared to catch officials off guard.

Angola’s $17 billion energy drive will help poor: Dos Santos

**HAMBURG, 23 Aug —** Angola’s plans to invest more than $17 billion in electricity generation and distribution by 2016 are designed to increase social justice by giving low-income classes better access to power, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said on Wednesday. Increased supply of electricity is a factor of social justice which consider of great importance, because it is the most needy in society, those who do not have resources to buy a generator, that are most harmed,” he added.

US dollar (USD) vs RMB Futures will require delivery of USD by the seller and payment of the final settlement Value in RMB by the buyer at maturity. The futures will be quoted in RMB per USD and margined in RMB, with the trading and settlement fees charged in RMB. So far, more than 1,000 market practitioners and investment professionals have attended a seminar or briefing on the new futures and more events are planned.

The US Department of Treasury has imposed sanctions on the Iranian central bank, the Central Bank of Iran, which is accused by US authorities of engaging in a variety of illicit activities.

The US Treasury has sanctioned the Central Bank of Iran, which is accused by US authorities of engaging in a variety of illicit activities.

้อ€™s Energy Ministry has approved plans for a new power plant in Angola, the second-largest city, which is expected to be completed by 2016.

**WASHINGTON, 23 Aug —** The US Department of Treasury on Tuesday temporarily allowed non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to transfer donations to help quake relief and reconstruction efforts in Iran. According to a general license the Treasury just issued, US-based tax-exempt NGOs can collect and transfer donations for 45 days to support northwestern Iran, which was hit by two powerful earthquakes on 11 August that killed more than 300 people and injured over 3,000.

The Treasury allows each NGO to transfer up to $100,000 dollars until 5 October, but the transactions must go through a third-country financial institution to an Iranian counterpart not subjected to US sanctions. The US has a number of sanctions against Iran, which is accused by Washington of seeking to build nuclear weapons.

Following the deadly earthquakes, Washington expressed its readiness to help Iran, but Tehran has not accepted the offer, the Treasury said. To transfer more than $300,000 dollars, NGOs will need to apply for a special license, the Treasury added.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (010)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (010) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.8.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

S Korean aquarium apologizes for whale shark’s death

Stoke, 23 Aug — A South Korean aquarium publicly apologized on Wednesday for the death of a captive whale shark, and said it would release a second such shark following protests from conservationists. “We admit a lack of proper preparations for sustaining whale sharks in captivity and we regret causing concern among the people,” Aqua Planet, which opened last month in the southern island of Jeju, said in a statement.

Whale sharks, the world’s largest fish, are protected under the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species. The aquarium said they were caught by chance in a fisherman’s net off the southern island of Jeju, said in a statement.

Facebook

Photo illustration of a whale shark.
14-foot gator pulled from Florida lake

A Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission trapper said a 14-foot alligator he caught in Lake Talquin was the fourth to exceed 11 feet in recent months.

Lance Stephens, a contracted alligator trapper with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, said the most recent mammoth gator he pulled from Lake Talquin was a 14-foot behemoth that nearly pulled from Lake Talquin was reported. “I didn’t know it was as large as it was,” Stephens said. “I knew it was an extremely large gator because the complainant had told me it was an extremely large alligator (that had come onto her property). I didn’t know exactly how big until we got him back to the boat landing and started trying to load him in my truck.”

“Nobody is going to load a gator that size into their boat.”

Alicia Silverstone in Broadway’s ‘The Performers’

New York, 23 Aug—Alicia Silverstone is coming back to Broadway—in a romantic comedy set in the porn industry. Producers of David West Read’s comedy “The Performers” said on Wednesday the actress will join Henry Winkler and “30 Rock” star Cheyenne Jackson in the play, which begins previews on 23 October at the Longacre Theatre.

It’s about two high school friends who reconnect at the Adult Film Awards in Las Vegas. Silverstone will play the girlfriend of one of the friends. The rest of the cast includes Daniel Breaker, Ari Graynor and Jenni Barber. Evan Cabnet, director of Read’s “The Dream of the Buming Boy,” will direct.

Silverstone made her Broadway debut in 2002 in “The Graduate” and was last on Broadway in 2010 opposite Lauren Linnym in “Time Stands Still.”

Justin Bieber gets in ‘toon with “The Simpsons”

Los Angeles, 23 Aug—Justin Bieber is about to get even more two-dimensional than some people already consider him to be. “Baby” and “Boyfriend” singer Bieber will appear in a cameo in the upcoming season of “The Simpsons,” Fox told TheWrap.

Bieber broke the news on Tuesday in a tweet, since deleted, that revealed, “just did a voice over for the “Simpsons” #awesome.”

“Simpsons” executive producer Al Jean told EW.com that Bieber will be The Voice of a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle from “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” who runs up against Jessica Lange, who’ll play the head of the east coast mental institution where the second season is set. “Portlandia” returns for its third season in January.

“Portlandia” casting.

The comedy, about a diverse group of police detectives in New York City, has received a put-pilot commitment, meaning the network is subject to financial penalties if it doesn’t air the project.

The as-yet-untitled project comes from Universal Television and 3 Arts Entertainment.

WME signs Jane Levy, star of ABC’s “Suburgatory”

New York, 23 Aug—WME has signed “Suburgatory” star Jane Levy, an individual with knowledge of the deal told TheWrap.

On “Suburgatory,” the 22-year-old actress plays Tess Altman, the daughter of Jeremy Sisto’s character.

Josef von Schirach’s adaptation of the 2008 novel of the same name by Emmanuel Royer-Sardou, about a young schoolgirl on trial for murder, became a hit theatre piece in Europe. The ABC sitcom will begin its second season this fall, airing after “Modern Family.”

Levy first got her break on the Showtime series “Shameless,” which led to her being cast on “Suburgatory.”

The California native also has a pair of film projects that will soon debut in theaters.

One is “Fun Size,” Josh Schwartz’s teen comedy that Paramount will release on 26 October. The second is “Evil Dead,” a remake of the Sam Raimi 1981 horror film. Levy will star as Mia in the Federico Alvarez-directed project, which will open in theaters in 2013.

Levy is also represented by James Suskin of Suskin Management.

13
Corinthians.

Brazilian Serie A club accident. The cause of death was an disease. Prescription drugs from hypertensive heart disease. The autopsy report found Tapia died of heart disease due to injury.

Champion Johnny Tapia of former AC Milan forward Alexandre Pato is very likely to miss Sunday’s Serie A opener against Sampdoria due to injury.

The eldest son of former Brazil international Rivaldo Senior has sold Antonio Cassano for £32 million from Atletico Madrid to AC Milan on the final day of last summer’s transfer window.

Rivaldo’s acolyte, son of Rivaldo doesn’t put pressure on the kid.” Corinthians’ boss Marquinhos explains how he expects Pato to assess the extent of the injury.

AC Milan confirms Cassano-Pazzini swap completed.

Rome, 23 Aug—AC Milan club have confirmed on Wednesday that the swap deal involving Antonio Cassano and Giampaolo Pazzini had been completed. A statement on the AC Milan official website read:

“AC Milan announces that it has acquired outright from FC Internazionale Giampaolo Pazzini and simultaneously sold Antonio Cassano outright to FC Internazionale. It is believed that Milan have paid Inter a fee of some 7 million euros as part of the deal, which came to pass after Cassano had been discontented with the club after seeing the likes of Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Thiago Silva depart.

Inter welcomed their new signing with a brief message on their own site. It read: “Today is the first day of Antonio Cassano’s adventure at Inter. This morning he underwent tests on the Centro Sportivo Angelo Moratti, where Andrea Stramaccioni and captain Javier Zanetti were waiting to welcome him.”

Manchester City striker Aguero ruled out for a month.

London, 23 Aug—Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero will be out of action for just one month due to a knee injury during the Premier League champions’ 3-2 win over Southampton. Aguero was stretchered off inside the opening 10 minutes at Eastlands on Sunday after twisting his knee on a challenge with Southampton defender Nathaniel Clyne and it was initially feared the 24-year-old Argentine could be sidelined for most of the season.

But, following a scan and a period of assessment, City manager Roberto Mancini says Aguero’s injury is not as serious as was first feared, with the striker expected to be out for only four weeks.

“I don’t think Sergio will be out for long and we are hoping he will be back after the international break which is obviously fantastic news for him and for us,” Mancini said Tom City’s website.

“We were very worried a couple of days ago because we feared he could be out for six months or maybe even more which would have been very bad news. It looked like a very strange injury at the time but because it was his knee, we were obviously very concerned so this news is a real relief for everybody.”

Late Chelsea flurry earns victory over Reading

London, 23 Aug—A late goal from Fernando Torres drove Chelsea to their second successive victory of the new season when they came from behind to beat promoted Reading 4-2 on Wednesday.

Reading appeared set for their first league victory over the European champions for 82 years when they led 2-1 with 20 minutes left of a thrilling match.

But England centre half Gary Cahill put Chelsea level with a long-range effort before Torres scored from close in. Branislav Ivanovic added a fourth in injury time to put Chelsea on top of the Premier League after two games.

“We expected them to be tough and they made it very hard for us,” Chelsea manager Roberto Di Matteo said. “In the second half we had to take a bit of a risk. We were good for a goal and I thought it was just a matter of time.”

Chelsea dominated possession for the first 25 minutes at Stamford Bridge and Reading were forced into desperate defensive keep out a series of counter-attacks.

Juan Mata and Eden Hazard, the close-season signings from Lille, were linking up superbly and the Belgian earned his second penalty in two games after 18 minutes when Chris Gunter took his legs away in the area.

AC Milan forward Alexandre Pato is very likely to miss Sunday’s Serie A opener against Sampdoria due to injury.

Boxing champ Johnny Tapia died of heart disease.

SANTA Fe, (New Mexico), 23 Aug — Five-time World Boxing Champion Johnny Tapia died of heart disease exacerbated by prescription drugs, an autopsy report released on Wednesday concluded. The 45-year-old boxer, who was found dead at his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico on 27 May, died as a result of complications from hypertensive heart disease. Prescription drugs were a contributing factor, the autopsy report said. The cause of death was an accident.

Five-time World Boxing Champion Johnny Tapia

The eldest son of former Brazil international Rivaldo has followed in the footsteps of his father by joining Corinthians.

Pato injured during training.

Rome, 23 Aug—AC Milan striker Alexandre Pato suffered an injury during work-out on Wednesday, the Italian soccer club revealed in a statement.

The Brazilian, 22, will now require a scan to assess the extent of the injury.
**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

**MYANMAR TV**

(24-8-12 to 25-8-12) (Friday)

7.00 am: 1. Parrita By Venerable Mingun Sayadow

7.25 am: 2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7.50 am: 3. Nice & Sweet Song

8.10 am: 4. The Mirror Images Of The Musical Oldies

8.25 am: 5. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

8.35 am: 6. Documentary


4.05 pm: 8. Dance of National Races

4.35 pm: 9. Songs Of Yester Years

4.45 pm: 10. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Physics)

5.00 pm: 11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5.05 pm: 12. Myanmar Language

5.20 pm: 13. Teleplay (Health)

5.50 pm: 14. Sports Highlight

7.00 pm: 15. "Road to 27th SEA GAMES" (Gymnastics)

8.00 pm: 16. News

17. Just For Laughs

18. TV Drama Series

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**Secret service arrests armed man for alleged Obama threat**


Caloeri came to door with a shotgun, but was taken into custody without injury, Leary added, though Caloeri made references to explosives, prompting a call to the bomb squad.

Secret Service Assistant Special Agent in Charge Bob Kierstead told local ABC News affiliate KOMO that suspicious items found in the man’s apartment—potential explosive devices—prompted a sweep of the entire complex by a bomb squad. No bombs were found.

Obama, who was campaigning in Ohio at the time, did not appear to be in immediate danger. "A threat against the president was delivered via email to a general FBI inbox," said

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**Stuttgart defeats Dinamo Moskva 2-0 at Europa League play offs**

**Madrid, 23 Aug.** — Spanish side Malaga defeated experienced European campaigners Panathinaikos 2-0 on Wednesday to edge closer to a much-needed, lucrative first appearance in the Champions League group stages. Malaga, who spent nearly 60 million euros ($74 million) on new players last year, have put the brakes on spending this summer and badly need the financial impetus the tournament provides.

Panathinaikos, coached by former Malaga boss Jessualdo Ferreira, were undone by first-half goals from Argentine defender Martin Demichelis and Portuguese midfielder Eliseu.

Malaga fans greeted the players’ entry to the pitch with a giant banner that read, “What our grandparents never witnessed, our children are about to see.” That desire will become stronger next week if Malaga get the job done in the second leg of the play-off tie in Greece.

Elsewhere on Wednesday, Ismaily cancelled out Hassania’s first-half opener as Sporting Braga drew 1-1 at home to Udinese.

AEL Limassol edged Andelfeet 2-1 with Gosta Junior and Rui Miguel’s goals sandwiching a DisalomeMbokani’s second-half equaliser for the Belgians.

Dynamo Zagreb skipper Milan Badelj scored the winner in the 2-1 victory over Maribor of Slovenia, having earlier put through his own goal. The 23-year-old will join Hamburg in the German Bundesliga once next week’s second leg is completed.

Borriossen beat Israeli debutants Hapoel Kiryat Shmona 2-0 in the night’s other home game.

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**Weather forecast for 24th August, 2012**

- **Central Region:**
  - 1. Parrita: Venerable Mingun Sayadow
  - 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
  - 3. Nice & Sweet Song
  - 4. The Mirror Images Of The Musical Oldies
  - 5. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
  - 6. Documentary

- **International Region:**
  - 8. Dance of National Races
  - 9. Songs Of Yester Years
  - 10. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Physics)
  - 11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
  - 12. Myanmar Language
  - 13. Teleplay (Health)
  - 14. Sports Highlight
  - 15. “Road to 27th SEA GAMES” (Gymnastics)
  - 16. News
  - 17. Just For Laughs
  - 18. TV Drama Series

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New teaching method to be introduced into technological universities in Myanmar as of 2012-2013 academic year

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint on 19 August morning visited Technological University (Yangon) to be promoted as Centre of Excellence.

He inspected classrooms, practical rooms and buildings. After that, he attended the work coordination meeting on a new teaching method to be introduced in technological universities, colleges under the ministry as from 2012-2013 academic year, held at the assembly hall of the University.

Directors-General of the ministry, Rectors, senior faculty members, the retired professors who served in the ministry U Nyi Hla Ngae, Dr Kyaw Win and U Ba Myint participated in the discussions.

During the meeting, the Union Minister stressed that technological development plays a vital role in building an industrialized country, and so do technological universities, colleges, technical training schools and universities of computer studies in Myanmar to produce skilled technicians and get fruits of that sector.

The retired professors gave their opinions on improving engineering education system of Myanmar. Retired Professor U Nyi Hla Ngae made discussion on their opinion.

The Union Minister, after reviewing those reports, left necessary instructions.

MNA

Opening ceremony parade and torch relay for SEA Games discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—A coordination meeting on organizing opening and concluding ceremonies of the XXVII SEA Games was held at the Ministry of Sports here yesterday, attended by Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu, Director-General of Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture U Yan Naing Oo and officials.

State Flag-lowering ceremonies will be held in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon in the SEA Games. Torch relay will be made from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw on 11 December 2013. With the help of LED displays and animation features, theme of the XXVII SEA Games—Green, Clean and friendship will be conveyed with performances depicting Myanmar traditional cultures, national unity and amity of the country and environmental conservation consciousness.

Media team of the SEA Games Organizing Committee of the Ministry of Sports announced that over 6400 will take part in the opening ceremony of XXVII to be hosted by Myanmar.—MNA