Foreign investment and advanced technologies key to mining sector development

Yangon, 2 Sept—Myanmar Martial Arts Federation of the Ministry of Sports is arranging to organize Myanmar National Martial Arts Federation. Those wishing to know in detail may contact Secretary U Aung Naing Oo, Myanmar Martial Arts Federation, Ph 420076711. The first prize winner will be awarded K 300,000, second K 200,000, third K 100,000 and best prize and individual prize will be awarded.

Heat death with Sri Lankan Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapakse in Colombo.

Fingerlings released into lakes in Shan State

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 Sept—A ceremony to release fingerlings into Inlay Lake and Sankar Lake, by Shan State Fisheries Federation, was held at Phaungdawbyan Guesthouse on 25 August morning.

Spurs boss AVB wanted Man Utd’s Anderson over Dembele

London, 2 Sept—Tottenham Andre Villas-Boas wanted Manchester United midfielder Anderson instead of some of his targets.

China says S Asia ties ‘no threat to third party’

This handout photograph released by the Sri Lankan Army shows visiting Chinese Defence Minister Liang Guanglie (R) shaking hands with Sri Lankan Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapakse in Colombo. (East) yesterday morning, attended by Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htuk.

Jupiter mission makes orbit adjustment

This artist’s concept depicts NASA’s Juno spacecraft during a burn of its main engine.

Open-Federer and Serena march on at US Open

A team parades during the International Military Music Festival at Red Square in Moscow, on 1 Sept, 2012. Military bands from different countries participate in the annual tattoo.

MFF official leaves for Vietnam

Yangon, 2 Sept—U Ko Ko Thein of Myanmar Football Federation left here by air on 31 August to discharge duty in the championship. The local authorities and people released 302,700 fingerlings to the lakes.

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Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (2-9-2012)

Pathein (3.70) inches
Kyaukpyu (3.58) inches
Pyu (3.15) inches
Mudon (3.07) inches
Brilliantly, Phayao's Chaiya Phuanglua defeated Vietnam's Trong Quang Hai to lift the men's singles title, but the main events were dominated by Sampradaya.

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Wholesome food and healthy life

“Eat to live, not live to eat!” It is true that we must know what to eat and how to eat, so we can enjoy healthy and happy life as is also wealth. Fruits and vegetables contain all the necessary vitamins and minerals needed for a healthy body. Wholesome fruits and vegetables are less expensive and much more enjoyable than vitamin supplements and pills. Generally, carrots, sweet potatoes, green beans, peas, onions, garlic, broccoli, yogurt, low-fat dairy products are among the wholesome foods we should choose.

Of course, there are many other nutritious foods other than those we feel are wonderful, health-promoting foods, and if there are other wholesome foods such as fruits, vegetables, nuts/seeds, whole grains, etc that we like, by all means we must enjoy them. Among the thousands of different foods our world provides, the majority contain at least several of the nutrients our bodies need. In fact, the healthiest foods are foods that the majority people can easily find at their local market.

For most of us, moderation or balance means eating less than we do now. More specifically, it means eating far less of the unhealthy stuff (unrefined sugar, saturated fat, for example) and more of the healthy (such as fresh fruit and vegetables). But it doesn’t mean eliminating the foods we love.

During a meal, we must stop eating before we feel full. Because it actually takes a few minutes for our brain to tell our body that it has had enough food, so we should eat slowly. We must listen to our body, and ascertain whether we are really hungry or just feel thirsty.

Having healthy breakfast and eating small, healthy meals throughout the day (rather than the standard three large meals), avoiding eating at night, taking time to chew our food and enjoying mealtimes, and eating with others whenever possible are also important factors for health. So, let’s eat wholesome food and live a healthy life!
Iran says reactor at Bushehr nuclear plant has reached full capacity

The reactor at Iran’s Bushehr nuclear power plant has reached full capacity, a senior official said on Saturday.

The Iranian nuclear chief, Mohammad Ali Najafi, said the reactor at the Bushehr power plant was brought to its “full capacity of 1,004 megawatts” Friday evening.

The reactor went into operation for the first time last year at minimum capacity. The Islamic Republic built the nuclear power plant in the southern Iranian port city with Russian help.

The facility is a cornerstone of Iran’s drive to become a technological leader among Muslim nations, with efforts such as an ambitious space programme and long-range missile development. Iran also runs smaller research reactors and is building another power reactor.

The United States and some of its allies believe the Bushehr plant is part of an Iranian attempt to develop nuclear weapons. Iran denies the accusation, saying its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes. The Bushehr project dates back to 1974, when Iran’s US-backed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi cultivated the German company Siemens to build the reactor.

The company withdrew from the project after the 1979 Islamic Revolution brought hard-line clerics to power. In 1992, Iran signed a $1 billion deal with Russia to complete the reactor, which was completed last year. Iran said the plant began operating last July.

But another prominent CASA-CE member, candidate for the nuclear power plant was brought to full capacity, a senior official said on Saturday.

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Angola’s Dos Santos secures big election win

Luanda, 2 Sept — Angola’s long-serving President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and his MPLA party scored a landslide win on Saturday in an election criticized as one-sided and not credible by opponents and civil society activists, according to provisional results.

The results from Friday’s voting announced by the National Elections Commission showed the governing party won 73 of 124 seats in the unicameral National Assembly.

The MPLA, which has dominated the MPLA-lead loose coalition in power since independence from Portugal in 1975, was widely anticipated. Silver-haired Dos Santos is Africa’s second longest serving leader after Equatorial Guinea’s President Teodoro Obiang Nguema.

The provisional results gave the MPLA’s closest challenger, former rebel group UNITA, nearly 18 percent, while the third-placed CASA-CE party was approaching five percent. UNITA, said the party president Isaias Samakuva be no alternative through the electoral route,” he told "cheating taken to its maximum level". “This is like a declaration results before deciding whether to accept or reject them.

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Tiny gravity changes show magma’s underground movements

WASHINGTON, 2 Sept—The secret movements of magma deep inside a volcano can be detected by tracking the subtle changes in gravity they cause. Surprising readings from a Hawaiian volcano have researchers hoping to better understand volcanic activity through gravity monitoring. Continuous gravity measurements of active volcanoes are relatively rare, but most results coming from Mount Etna in Italy.

“One problem is the expense,” researcher Michael Poland, a geophysicist at the US Geological Survey’s Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, explained. “Gravity measurements have always been a really expensive endeavor. The big users are oil and mining companies.” Now scientists have monitored the gravity at Kilauea, a popular tourist destination on Hawaii’s Big Island, and discovered a regular cycle of fluctuations that suggest magma is churning a kilometre (0.6 miles) below the surface.

The way magma moves in underground chambers below volcanic vents is key to understanding how persistent volcanoes are, and whether or not they might catastrophically erupt in the future. However, what goes on deep under the Earth’s surface is difficult to monitor.

One way to peer underground is by looking at Earth’s gravity, the researchers said. Anything that has mass has a gravity field that pulls objects toward it. The strength of this field depends on the amount of mass. Since the Earth’s mass is not spread out evenly, this means the strength of the planet’s gravitational pull is stronger in some places and weaker in others. As such, the flow of magma from one place to another can be detected from above.

Jupiter mission makes orbit adjustment

PASADENA, 2 Sept—NASA’s Juno mission to Jupiter has successfully changed its orbit in preparation for a 2016 arrival at the giant gas planet, the space agency says. In performing its first deep-space maneuver, the spacecraft initiated the first of two planned firings of its main engine to refine the spacecraft’s trajectory, setting the stage for a gravity assist from a flyby of Earth on 9 Oct 2013, that will send it on its way for arrival at Jupiter.

The engine was fired for 29 minutes, 39 seconds, changing the spacecraft’s velocity by about 770 mph. JPL said, “This first and successful main engine burn is the payoff for a lot of hard work and planning by the operations team.” JPL's Project Manager Rick Nybakken said.

The burn occurred when Juno was more than 300 million miles away from Earth. A second one is planned for 4 Sept. “We still have the Earth flyby and another 1.4 billion miles and four years to go to get to Jupiter,” said Scott Bolton, Juno’s principal investigator at the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio. Juno was launched 5 Aug, 2011.

China to artificially breed rare golden monkeys

WUHAN, 2 Sept—China is expected to set up the country’s first artificial breeding base for the endangered golden monkeys within the year.

The base will be set up in the Shennongjia Nature Reserve in central China’s Hubei Province, which is home to about 1,200 golden monkeys, according to the reserve’s management bureau’s research institute.

This artist’s concept depicts NASA’s Juno spacecraft during a burn of its main engine.—Interscan

Facebook ad targeting to use e-mails, phone numbers

SAN FRANCISCO, 2 Sept—A new tool for advertisers lets them target ads to customers who have already used their services.

Facebook plans to roll out a new advertising tool that will let companies target their ads to existing customers based on their phone numbers and e-mail addresses. The social network is launching the new tool next week and tests it as a way for businesses to reengage with customers who have already used their services, according to a Facebook spokesperson.

For those who may have privacy concerns over this exchange of personal information, the social network said the process is secure.

“Whatever this means is Facebook isn’t giving any of your data away, it’s taking existing numbers and addresses from businesses and letting those businesses use the information to target their ads,” one Facebook employee said.

On the flipside, Facebook won’t be gaining any new data from businesses. When advertisers give Facebook your data, it is hashed — a security technique that scrambles your data—before it is fed into the advertising machine. Once the ads are placed, Facebook dumps the hashed data, so that if an advertiser wants to do another ad, the process starts over again.

The new method was available briefly in the Facebook Power Editor, a virtual toolbox used by advertisers to create ads, according to Inside Facebook.

Facebook continues to figure out how to improve its advertising service amid revenue reports and forecasts that have not been up to par.

Of course, it’s not the only company expanding its targeting advertising efforts. Twitter launched a feature today that puts tweets in the streams of a broader audience than before.

Nokia, Microsoft head for “last chance saloon”

NEW YORK, 2 Sept—Microsoft Corp and Nokia Oyj are loading up for their best—and possibly last—shot at daunting a smartphone market dominated by Apple Inc’s iPhone and Google Inc’s Android mobile software.

If the new Lumia phones do not appeal to consumers when they are unveiled next Wednesday, it could mean the end for Nokia, and a serious blow to Microsoft’s attempts to regain its footing in the mobile market, analysts and investors said. “This is very high stakes,” said Canaccord Genuity analyst Michael Walkley. “Nokia bet everything on Windows, and if this doesn’t succeed the next step might be having to do what’s best for shareholders, and that might include selling off key assets or selling the whole company.”

The Finnish handset maker has logged more than 3 billion euros in operating losses in the last 18 months, forcing it out of 10,000 jobs and pursue asset sales.

In share of the global smartphone market has plunged to less than 10 percent from 50 percent during its heyday before the iPhone was launched in 2007.

For Microsoft, a successful Lumia launch would convince more handset makers and carriers to support its latest phone software, which is based on the same code as the upcoming Windows 8 computing system, and promises faster performance and a customizable start screen.

Windows phones have only captured 3.7 percent of the global smartphone market, according to Strategy Analytics. Android phones have 68 percent, while Apple has 17 percent.

The new Lumia phones will hit the market just as the world of Android reefs from potentially crushing legal blow, and as Research In Motion Ltd’s BlackBerry continues its decline.

The battle for Nokia's fate opens at Los Angeles federal court Thursday. A California jury decided last week that some of Samsung Electronics Co Ltd’s hot-selling Android smartphones copied features of the iPhone, which may result in import bans and drive handset makers to put more resources into making Windows-based phones.

The judgment opens a window for Microsoft to exploit—but it first needs to find favor with consumers. “Windows Phone really is going to have to stand or fall on its own, it’s going to have to appeal to consumers,” said Jack Gold, an independent mobile analyst who runs consultancy J Gold Associates.
How steady job could benefit diabetic

WASHINGTON, 2 Sept—For people who are diabetic or prone to diabetes, having a steady job appears to be good for their health.

And the benefit lies in their adherence to anti-diabetic medications, and not just because of the insurance coverage, according to a new University of Michigan study.

It found that jobless working-age people with diabetes are less likely to adhere to their oral anti-diabetic medications than diabetics who are employed.

Further, people of working age with diabetes are more likely to be unemployed than those who do not have diabetes.

The lack of a clear-cut, cause-and-effect relationship between insurance and medication adherence surprised lead researcher Rajesh Balkrishnan of the U-M College of Pharmacy and School of Public Health.

“Improved use of medications is more than just a facet of having medical insurance. It is linked to bigger issues such as being employed, periods of joblessness or a personal financial strain,” said Balkrishnan, who believes that a healthier, active lifestyle and access to medical care resources through employers that want employees to remain productive play a big role in adherence.

Other factors that account for lack of medication adherence include lack of financial resources, stress due to unemployment and lack of access to health care.

Researchers looked at diabetes because it is one of the most commonly present chronic conditions in working-age adults in the United States, and globally it is the seventh-leading cause of death and the eighth-most costly disease to treat, Balkrishnan said.—Internet

Yoga during pregnancy helps relieve pain, increases endurance

Hollywood’s newest moms like January Jones, Hilary Duff and Pink.

“Yoga during pregnancy helps a woman increase her strength and flexibility, even as her body goes through the dramatic changes of pregnancy,” a news channel quoted Mary Barnes, director and owner at Yoga for Two in New York, as saying.

The posture yoga offers may also prepare women for childbirth and help relieve discomforts, such as back pain and swollen ankles. Apart from building strength and relieving pregnancy discomforts, it also helps increase pain tolerance.

“As yoga focuses on lengthening the breath, this creates endurance, calms the mind and can increase a woman’s pain threshold during labour.” —Internet

Market value of top 8 cos dips Rs 30k cr; ONGC biggest loser

NEW DELHI, 2 Sept—Led by state-owned energy major ONGC, the combined market capitalisation (m-cap) of top eight Sensex companies fell by Rs 30,004 crore last week.

TCS and ITC, however, saw rise in their market value. RIL, ONGC, CIL, HDFC Bank, NTPC, Infosys, SBI and HUL, on the other hand, witnessed losses in a weak market during the week amid damp investor sentiment.

The BSE 30- scrip index, Sensex, fell about 2 percent during the trading week ended on Friday.

ONGC’s market cap slipped Rs 9,309 crore to Rs 26,259 crore. The company’s share price declined 3.81 percent during the week. Coal India was the next big loser as its m-cap plunged Rs 8,938 crore to Rs 22,809 crore.

The market value of Infosys fell by Rs 4,140 crore to Rs 1,36,279 crore, while SBI lost Rs 3,342 crore to Rs 1,23,807 crore and RIL Rs 1,285 crore to Rs 2,40,829 crore.

NTC’s value diminished by Rs 577 crore to Rs 1,38,482 crore, HDFC Bank lost Rs 224 crore to Rs 1,40,197 crore and HUL’s market worth plunged Rs 129 crore to Rs 1,12,022 crore.

In contrast, TCS added Rs 4,776 crore to its m-cap which was Rs 2,63,696 crore, while ITC’s value climbed Rs 1,380 crore to Rs 2,09,573 crore. The top 10 list by m-cap for last week was led by TCS, followed by RIL, ONGC, CIL, ITC, HDFC Bank, NTPC, Infosys, SBI and HUL. —Internet

HSBC may exit Karnataka Bank with sale of 4.46% stake

NEW DELHI, 2 Sept—Global banking major HSBC is looking to offload its entire 4.46 percent stake in private sector lender Karnataka Bank, after having exited from three other Indian lenders — Axis Bank, Yes Bank and Federal Bank.

HSBC had invested in all these banks as part of its investment portfolio and began selling these shares about three months ago.

This was part of a global exercise to shore up its capital by liquidating non-strategic holdings.

HSBC has garnered an estimated Rs 2,800 crore through sale of its shares in Yes Bank, Axis Bank and Federal Bank, while its current holding of 83.99 lakh shares (4.46 percent stake) in Karnataka Bank is worth about Rs 70 crore as per current market valuations.

Investment banking sources said the UK-based global banking giant will soon look at selling its Karnataka Bank shares, which is held through one of its investment arms, HSBC Bank (Mauritius).

The shares are most likely to be sold through open market transaction, similar to the sale of shares in other three Indian banks.

While AxisBank and Yes Bank shares were sold on the same day earlier in June this year, HSBC sold its Federal Bank shares in late-August.

It had sold its holding of nearly five percent stake in Kerala-based private sector lender Federal Bank for a little over Rs 541 crore.

Prior to that, HSBC had sold its 4.75 percent stake in Axis Bank for about Rs 1,380 crore and its 4.76 percent holding in Yes Bank for about Rs 545 crore.

Meanwhile, it may be recalled that HSBC has come under scanner in the recent past for allegations of inadequate control measures in the US against money laundering and terrorist financing related activities.

Certain Indian authorities, including RBI and Financial Intelligence, are also looking into the role of HSBC and another UK-based global banking major Standard Chartered for alleged lapses on their part.

While Standard Chartered has settled a case with banking regulator of New York, which had charged it of secret transactions involving USD 250 billion with Iran, HSBC has also set aside USD 700 million to cover for any possible penalties against it in the US. —Internet

FIIs invest about 11K cr in Aug, highest in 6 mths

NEW DELHI, 2 Sept—Overseas investors pumped in close to Rs 11,000 crore in the Indian stock market in August—highest in six months—amid hopes of government initiatives on policy reforms and easing of monetary policy globally.

Thus, FII investment in the country’s equity market has reached Rs 63,070 crore so far this year, and Rs 24,518 crore in the debt market during the same period.

In August, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were gross buyers of shares worth Rs 48,136 crore, while they sold equities amounting to Rs 37,332 crore—net inflow of Rs 10,803 crore (USD 1.94 billion), according to the data available with the market regulator Sebi.

This was the highest net investment by FIIs in stocks since February, when they had infused Rs 25,212 crore. In July, they had pumped in Rs 10,273 crore.

Market experts said that despite slowing economic growth and a high interest rate regime, foreign investors continued to prefer Indian equities on expectations that government would take fresh policy initiatives.

Besides, they said, investors were anticipating monetary policy easing by the US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank as global economy remains fragile.

Geojit BNP Paribas Research Head Alex Matthews said, “FII inflow continues, as hopes of policy reform announcements are still alive. But if there are no reform announcements, there might be slowdown in inflow or could be a pause as well.”

However, the current political environment may dashed hopes as the monsoon session of Parliament has been stalled many times following the CAG’s report on coal block sanctions.—Internet
**China says S Asia ties ‘no threat to third party’**

**COLOMBO, 2 Sept —** Chinese Defence Minister Liang Guanglie says Beijing’s increasingly close ties with South Asia are aimed at ensuring regional “security and stability” and are not intended to harm any “third party”. Liang, the first Chinese defence minister to visit a South Asian country — India where he heads to Sunday — but officials in New Delhi have repeatedly expressed concerns about Beijing’s influence in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan.

India fears it might be part of a Chinese policy to throw a “string of pearls” — a necklace of influence— around regional rival India. But in a speech released and pointed out by Sri Lanka’s military on Saturday, Liang said that China had only peaceful intentions in South Asia, while stressing that the Indian Ocean was an important supply route for his fast-developing country.

Beijing, seeking to smooth out relations, reiterated its strong belief in traditional friendship. “We consider the development of the international community as we would like to see a world of mutual respect and non-proliferation,” Liang said.

**Navy scans ocean for 36 missing off Guinea coast**

**CONAKRY, (Guinea), 2 Sept — The Guinean navy is scouring the coast off Guinea’s capital, Conakry, looking for around 36 people still missing after their overloaded canoe capsized in inclement weather.

On Friday, officials retrieved eight bodies, including six women and two children. A fisherman who works with the municipal morgue let an Associated Press reporter see the corpses, and said that several had traces of blood coming out of their noses and mouth, and that their lungs had burst.

Raphael Bangoura, commander of the port of Bolbec where the incident happened, said on Saturday that around 65 people were aboard the canoe, and that 21 have been saved. Counting the eight dead, he says that around 65 people were still missing after their canoe sank.

**Arrest after China flight threat: state media**

Beijing, 2 Sept — Police in southern China have arrested a man suspected of threatening to blow up a commercial jet, following a similar incident affecting a flight from Beijing, state Press said on Sunday.

Police arrested Xiong Yi, 29, in Dongguan city on Saturday after tracing an anonymous phone call threatening a flight from Shenzhen airport to Tianjin airport, state media agency said.

Xiong confessed that he warned airport officials that explosives would be detonated on a Shenzhen Airlines flight 45 minutes after take-off, according to the report.

The police determined that no dangerous materials were on that flight, the Air China plane flew to New York, following a delay of several hours. Authorities are still investigating the incident while Beijing airport authorities warned passengers to be prepared for increased security measures, state media said on Sunday.

In June, six members of China’s Uighur minority tried to hijack a Chinese domestic flight departing from a restive city in the far-western Xinjiang region, but crew members and passengers thwarted them, authorities said. The Tianjin Airlines plane, bound for the Xinjiang capital of Urumqi, returned safely to the airport in Hotan city after a struggle between the hijackers and the crew members and passengers.

**Brand-building urged amid overcapacity in car sector**

**TAIPEI, 2 Sept —** Automobile experts on Saturday urged Chinese car companies to set their sights on strong brands in a market that is predominantly taken up by overseas giants such as Volkswagen and General Motors.

Currently, China’s car sector is facing a severe oversupply crisis as joint venture companies producing and selling about three quarters of sedans sold here, said Su Bo, Vice Minister of Industry and Information Technology.

“Joint venture companies, meanwhile, still mainly make products with imported technologies, and China has not become a major player yet in independent innovations,” Su said at an international car forum held in Tianjin in north China.

Chinese car firms have almost no place in the luxury car market, which is dominated by well-established names such as Audi, BMW and Mercedes-Benz. In a recent development, US car maker Ford announced that it will introduce its luxury Lincoln brand to China in the second half of 2014.

Su warned that long-term dependence on overseas technologies and brands may further weaken Chinese companies’ ability to establish their own brands and improve their ability to innovate. China’s auto sales and output both witnessed on average 20 percent annual growth over the past decade, according to a report for the sector.

The World Bank said the sector needed a government plan to support the country’s key homegrown companies.

Xinhua

**Segregated foreign trade brings woes to shipping industry**

**CHANGCHIN, 2 Sept —** Industry insiders warned that China’s shipping industry would face a difficult situation within the year as a result of a slump in import and export growth.

“It would be more difficult for the sector in the second half of the year than in the first half,” said Chang Dechuang, chairman of the board of Qingdao Port (Group) Co, Ltd, on Saturday.

“Port and shipping enterprises need to be well prepared as the global economic downturn would last for around two to three years, and the situation is expected to worsen before getting better in the next two to three years, and the situation is expected to worsen before getting better in the next two to three years,” he added.

Liang said his trip to Colombo was aimed at further strengthening close ties with the South Asian country, including military cooperation.

China is a key supplier of weapons to the Sri Lankan military, which in 2009 crushed the Tamil Tiger rebels and declared an end to 37 years of ethnic conflict that claimed up to 100,000 lives on the island, according to UN estimates.

**British couple discovers Middle Ages well under living room**

**PAYTONBURY, 2 Sept —** A British couple finally figured out why their living room floor wasn’t level when they took up the floorboards and discovered a 33-foot-deep well that historians say dates back to Shakespeare’s day. Colin Steer had long puzzled over why a section of the floor near his couch seemed to give way when someone stepped on it.

But Steer recently dug a foot deep into the shaft. “I was replacing the joists in the floor when I noticed a slight depression — it appeared to be filled in with the soil,” he said.

Xinhua

**Police: Man with slight depression tried to hijack a flight**

**BEIJING, 2 Sept —** China’s Civil Aviation Administration said a man who tried to hijack a domestic flight had a slight depression which drove him to commit the crime.

The suspect Xiong Yi, 29, was found to be suffering from a mental disorder and was under treatment, according to the report.

After police determined that no dangerous materials were on that flight, the Air China plane flew to New York, following a delay of several hours. Authorities are still investigating the incident while Beijing airport authorities warned passengers to be prepared for increased security measures, state media said on Sunday.

In June, six members of China’s Uighur minority tried to hijack a Chinese domestic flight departing from a restive city in the far-western Xinjiang region, but crew members and passengers thwarted them, authorities said.

The Tianjin Airlines plane, bound for the Xinjiang capital of Urumqi, returned safely to the airport in Hotan city after a struggle between the hijackers and the crew members and passengers.

**Police say man whose anonymous phone call was traced is not connected to hijacked flight**

**BEIJING, 2 Sept —** Police confirmed on Saturday that a man named Xiong Yi, whose anonymous phone call was traced, had no connection to a domestic flight hijacking.

The suspect, Xiong Yi, was caught on Saturday afternoon in a hotel in Dongguan city in southern province of Guangdong, police said.

Xiong confessed that he warned airport officials that explosives would be detonated on a Shenzhen Airlines flight 45 minutes after take-off, according to the report.

The police determined that no dangerous materials were on that flight, the Air China plane flew to New York, following a delay of several hours. Authorities are still investigating the incident while Beijing airport authorities warned passengers to be prepared for increased security measures, state media said on Sunday.

In June, six members of China’s Uighur minority tried to hijack a Chinese domestic flight departing from a restive city in the far-western Xinjiang region, but crew members and passengers thwarted them, authorities said. The Tianjin Airlines plane, bound for the Xinjiang capital of Urumqi, returned safely to the airport in Hotan city after a struggle between the hijackers and the crew members and passengers.
US special forces suspend training of Afghans

WASHINGTON, 2 Sept — The commander of US special forces in Afghanistan has suspended training for all new Afghan recruits until Afghan soldiers are re-investigated for ties to insurgents, The Washington Post reported. The newspaper said the re-investigation process will affect more than 27,000 Afghan troops.

The suspension comes in response to the killing of at least 45 US troops this year by their Afghan colleagues. “We have very good vetting process,” the paper quotes an unnamed senior special operations official as saying. “What we learned is that you just can’t take it for granted.”

“We probably should have had a mechanism to follow up with recruits from the beginning.” According to The Post, numerous military guidelines were not followed by either Afghans or Americans because of concerns that they might slow the growth of the Afghan army and police.

NATO has some 130,000 troops in Afghanistan fighting the Taliban’s decades-long insurgency alongside government forces.

Most of the NATO troops are set to withdraw by the end of 2014 in a US-designed transition process that will put Afghan security forces in charge of security for their war-battered country.

The cause of Saturday’s beaching is believed the rough seas and high spells that were running aground three years ago off Cape Town, South Africa.

Oil from a Turkish bulk carrier that ran aground three years ago was spilling onto two beaches on Saturday, officials said.

A bulk carrier sits after running aground in 2009 in front of the Table Bay beach on the outskirts of Cape Town, South Africa. Oil from the Turkish bulk carrier that ran aground three years ago was spilling onto two beaches on Saturday, officials said.

Aerial investigations established “that a thick layer of bunker oil has washed ashore and that large quantities of oil is still in the water in the vicinity of the SELI1 vessel that ran aground on 07 September 2009,” said the Panamanian-registered, and Turkish-operated ship was carrying 30,000 tons of coal and 600 tons of heavy fuel when it developed engine problems in September 2009 while on its way to Gilgalbarat and has since remained there. No South African authorities require 40 million rand ($4.7 million, 4 million euros) to clean the wreck.

Efforts to clean the oil were suspended until Monday due to rough seas.

The US-led NATO coalition said that no American or coalition troops were killed in the blasts. It confirmed that a number of Afghan troops were wounded, but did not say how many, in accordance with coalition policy.

A second bomber driving a fuel tanker detonated his bomb on a road separating the compound from the base. The attack included eight civilians and four Afghan police.

Taliban spokesmen in southwest Pakistan’s Baluchistan claimed responsibility for the attack, which he said was targeting the US base.

Government officials said the first attacker blew himself up to try to eliminate the Afghan security force guarding the compound and cleared the way for the truck to hit the base down from the governor’s complex.

The second bomber then blew up the fuel tanker as he was approaching the base.

One of the town’s main bazaars is also located near the bomb site.

“An explosion happened followed by a big one caused by a truck,” said an unnamed senior special operations official as saying. “It was very powerful explosion. It broke windows all over the area,” said provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Qayum Bakiizada.

“It’s good that the government officials said the first blast was far larger than the first. “It was a very powerful explosion. It broke windows all over the area,” said provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Qayum Bakiizada.

Officials said the second blast was far larger than the first. “It was a very powerful explosion. It broke windows all over the area,” said provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Qayum Bakiizada.

Most of the injuries are from broken glass from the windows of homes and shops. It was so powerful that like many Afghans go by one name.

In these explosions a lot of people were wounded and also a large number of shops were destroyed. I fell down on the ground and everything around me was destroyed.

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Flood victims in Thabaung Tsp provided with relief aids

The deputy minister and party donated 70 bags of rice for 480 households at Thayetaw Village. Speaking on the occasion, the deputy minister called for re-cultivation of rice in Thabaung Township yesterday.

Navytaw, 2 Sept—Deputy Minister for Industry U Thein Aung together with Region Hluttaw Representatives U Win Thein and U Saw Lay Hlaw inspected embarking of rice bags to be donated to flood victims at Thabaung Jetty in Thabaung Township yesterday.

Effective information exchange system needed to prevent price fluctuation: Union Commerce Minister

The Ministry of Transport will listen to the suggestions of departmental heads, scholars and entrepreneurs implementing economic reforms, Union Transport Minister U Nyan Tun Aung yesterday said at the workshop for construction of international ports in Yangon. He also said 77 percent of port business is being operated by private sector with the possibilities of greater participation.

Work coord meeting focuses on successfully holding 19th Performing Arts Competitions

The first phase of the water treatment plant was completed in 2005 and it supplies 45 million gallons of water to the people daily. With the aim of supplying safe water to the people for the second phase, the project is under implementation. At present, the project has been completed by 84 per cent. On completion, a total of 45 million gallons of water can be supplied to the Yangon city dwellers. —MNA

Effective information exchange system needed to prevent price fluctuation: Union Commerce Minister

Navytaw, 2 Sept—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint together with the Shan State finance and revenue minister, and personnel of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry met chairpersons and members of brokerages in Lashio on 29 August. The Union Minister speaking on the occasion, called on brokerages to design effective information exchange system to prevent price fluctuation under extraordinary circumstances. He then invited suggestions for economic and commercial development, urging them to report the barriers encountered in transaction process. —MNA

Transport Ministry seeks suggestions from entrepreneurs, scholars

Navytaw, 2 Sept—A work-coordination meeting between the scrutinizing committees for successfully holding the 19th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions for 2012 in Yangon Region was held at the meeting hall of Yangon Region government’s office, here, yesterday morning.

Chairman of the leading committee for holding Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions for 2012 Yangon Region Chief Minnister U Myint said, in his speech, that the 19th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions for 2012 needs to be held in line with five objectives laid down by the State and that it needs to strictly select participants through Region level competitions for central-level competition is drawing near, to focus on advices from senior artistes in Yangon Region, so make preparation tasks after reviewing weakness of the previous-year competition and to lend a hand to Yangon Region team to succeed in the competition. Chairman of the leading committee for holding the 19th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions for 2012 Yangon Region Minister for finance and revenue Daw San San Nwe, senior artistes and those present on the occasion presented reports on their preparation tasks for holding Region level competition, selecting and training. —MNA

Artistes to serve as coordinator between government and people

Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi meets chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and executives, Myanmar Video Organization (Central) and executives and those of film and movie industries. —MNA

Navytaw, 2 Sept—Film, literature and music associations are civil society. Members need to set rules and regulations themselves and adhere to them in the society. Civil society takes the same form in the international context, said Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi as Union ministers and those artists met at Myanmar Motion Picture Organization on Winkaba Street in Bahan Township here this morning.

Union Minister U Aung Kyi said that he would seek advices from professionals in arts field and cooperate with them, adding that he would keep on sticking to three principles, faith and sacrifice, truth and honesty and, cooperation and coordination which he has always upheld.

Union Minister U Aung Kyi said that he would work for the best results provided the time is sufficient. Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min said film is the pioneer of the youth, calling on directors and scriptwriters to discourage the youth from indulging in wrongdoings. Artistes have their audience and can bridge between the government and the people, said the Union minister, urging them to act as coordinator between the government and the people.

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Present on the occasion apart from the Union ministers were Deputy Minister at the President Office U Soe Thein, Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Aung Myo Myint and personnel, patrons, the chairman and executives of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, the chairperson and executives of Myanmar Video Organization (central), producers and those engaged in film and video industry. —MNA

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Ngamoeyeik water treatment plant project completed by 84 per cent

Navytaw, 2 Sept—Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint inspected public activities for prevention against common diseases and talks on health educative knowledge on Yangyiung street in Ward 5 of Mayangon Township, repairing of Lower Mingaladon Road in Insein Township, laying of 32-inch diameter water pipeline between Khayebin Junction to Gyozyba-Hlawga Pipelines in Mingaladon Township, laying of 48-inch diameter water pipeline between Khayebin Junction and Ngamoeyeik water treatment plant in Hlaingawi Township, operating of water treatment plant of Yangon City water supply project (Ngamoeyeik) near Nyaungmyapin Camp of Hlaingawi Township, construction of ACH machine, and progress of water supply project for the second phase yesterday morning.

The first phase of the water treatment plant was completed in 2005 and it supplies 45 million gallons of water to the people daily. With the aim of supplying safe water to the people for the second phase, the project is under implementation. At present, the project has completed by 84 per cent. On completion, a total of 45 million gallons of water can be supplied to the Yangon city dwellers. —MNA
Farmers prepare for re-cultivation of paddy in Kyaunggon Township

KYAUNGGON, 2 Sept—Flooding in some townships of Ayeyawady Region destroyed farmlands. The government provided assistance for substituted cultivation of monsoon paddy and wellwishers, assistance to monsoon paddy and substituted cultivation of monsoon paddy. When floods have subsided, local farmers are making preparations for cultivation of monsoon paddy. On 27 August, a talk on re-cultivation of monsoon paddy and agricultural technique was held at the hall of Kyaunggon Township General Administration Department.

Deputy Director-General U Aye Tun of Agriculture Department explained the plans to grow the crops. Head of District Agriculture Department U Sai Kya Ohn discussed substituted cultivation of crops and paddy and replied to queries raised by local farmers.—Myanma Alin

Environmental conservation talked in Bago

BAGO, 2 Sept—The talks on eradication of illegal timber extraction and environmental conservation took place in Kali Village of Bago Township in Bago District of Bago Region at 2 pm on 30 August.

In charge of Bago Township Forest Department Senior Forester U Thein Shwe gave talks on eradication of illegal timber extraction and environmental conservation. In charge of forest block U Than Zaw Tun explained matters related to the Forest Law and issued instructions on what is to be undertaken at farmlands on a manageable scale.

A ceremony to release fingerlings to paddy farms of U Myat Thein was held in Hlaseik Village of Kyaiklat Township on 25 August morning.

Head of Pyapon District Fisheries Department U Aye, Township Administrator U Aung Naung, Head of Township Fisheries Department U Aye Min and staff, members of the township agricultural committee, Hlaseik village administrator and local people released fingerlings to the paddy farm.

Next, officials distributed 150,000 fingerlings to 35 farmers to set them free. By breeding fish in the paddy field, the local people can produce paddy and fish. With out digging the lake, the local people can undertake agricultural and livestock breeding tasks on a commercial scale. Fish and paddy integrated farming can earn increased income.—Myanma Alin

Motor road repaired for better transport in Thaubaung after floods

THABAUNG, 2 Sept—A total of 314 villages fall in 63 village-tracts and three wards, farmlands, schools and departmental offices were flooded and inundated due to heavy rains and overflow of rivers in Thaubaung Township of Ayeyawady Region in August.

In the incident, a total of 83974 people of 19126 households became flood victims.

As of 4 August, the relief camps are kept open for flood victims in the township and accommodated them. The Government, social organizations and wellwishers people donate relief aids to the victims daily. The Union government provided assistance to needy people for their travel charge to go to school.

Department concerned repaired damaged roads for better transport. On 28 August, basic education schools were reopened, said an official of the township.

However, the victims are facing basic needs and students difficulties till today, said a local.—Kyemon

Kyaiatk Township breeding fish and growing paddy

KYAIKLAT, 2 Sept—Cultivation of crops plays an important role in ensuring local food sufficiency while the role of livestock breeding is also important. Fish breeding is being undertaken at farmlands on a manageable scale.

Fingerlings released into paddy fields in Momauk

MMAUK, 2 Sept—Under the supervision of Bhamo District Fisheries Department of Kachin State, fingerling releasing ceremony was held at paddy field No. 173 in Momauk Township on 24 August.

At the ceremony, Deputy Commissioner U Aye, Township Administrator U Aung Naung, Head of District Fisheries Department Daw Nyay May, Chairperson of District Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Aye Mya Mya Khing, Chairperson of Township Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Sw Zein Win, members of social organizations and departmental officials released fingerlings into the paddy field.

So far, Momauk Township has set over 200,000 fingerlings free at Namauk Creek.—Myanma Alin

Crime News

Stimulant tablets seized in Nyaungshwe Township

NYAUNGSHWE, 2 Sept—Members of Taunggyi Special Anti-Drug Squad, Office of District Police Force and Nyaungshwe Township Police Force searched the house of Myo Tint (a) Myo Swe Tint, 40, son of U Thang of Ward 4 in Mongli at 5 pm on 30 August. They seized 200 WV brand pink stimulant tablets worth K 800,000 and one pink stimulant tablets worth K 5500 as proceeds from her bed. The team also seized two WV brand green colour stimulant tablets and one stimulant tablet worth K 12000 and 119,000 in cash from the house of Aung Cho (a) Maung Pyone, 43 of Thalyai Village of Nyaungshwe Township.

Tint (a) Myoi Swe Tint, 40, daughter of U Soe Wai of Mongli Ward 5 and seized 10 WY brand orange colour stimulant tablets and one WY brand green colour stimulant tablets worth K 4000 and K 55000 as proceeds from her bed. The team also seized two WV brand green colour stimulant tablets and one pink stimulant tablet worth K 12000 and 119,000 in cash from the house of Aung Cho (a) Maung Pyone, 43 of Thalyai Village of Nyaungshwe Township.

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Township Administrator’s Cup Football Tournament wraps up

NA VP TAW, 2 Sept—The Ottarathiri Township Administrator’s Cup Monsoon Football Tournament was held at Ottarathiri Football Ground on 29 August afternoon. Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Saw Hla enjoyed the final match in which Mingon Village-tract played against Maungyarn Village-tract.

After that, Acting Township Administrator U Zeya Min presented the first prize to Mingon Village-tract. The commander of Township Police Force gave the second prize to Maungyarn Village-tract, and the head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department awarded the third prize to Zalaung Village-tract.
As Isaac pushes north, Gulf Coast slowly recovers

“We’ve restored about 45 percent of our customers in about a day and a half,” Entergy spokesman Chanle Lagarde said on Saturday. He added that crews have come in from 24 states. “In many situations, crews have driven all day and have worked their 16-hour day and have to rest for the day.” As of Saturday night, the company was reporting about 270,000 outages, mostly in Jefferson and Orleans parishes. New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu said he too was eager to get power back on.

“Like everybody else, my patience is wearing thin,” he said. — Internet

Explosion kills five Boko Haram in northern Nigeria

“Fuel-Propelled Improvised Explosive Device was used by the terrorists during the attack, which resulted to fire outbreak that burnt some adjoining shops,” Musa said, adding “five of the bombers were killed” while two soldiers and a teenager were wounded as a result of the encounter.— Xinhua

Indonesian plain clothes police officers inspecting the scene of a terrorist raid in Solo. Indonesian anti-terrorism forces killed two suspected militants both aged 19 in an armed raid that also left an officer dead after a shoot-out, authorities said on Saturday. — Internet

They were not working alone”, he said. Detachment 88 has led a long and successful crackdown on militant groups over the last decade, claiming the scalps of some of the country’s most notorious terrorist suspects blamed for major attacks.

The unit has faced criticism, however, for using excessive force and targeting separatists and pro-independence activists. Muslim-majority Indonesia suffered a series of deadly attacks over the last decade by terror network Jemaah Islamiyah — blamed for the Bali bombings in 2002 that left 202 dead — but there has not been a major incident in recent years.— Internet

Three aboard ill-fated plane found, probably all dead

There were no reports of damage in Illinois, and Missouri officials said some power lines caught on fire. By midday Saturday, the storm had dumped up to 5 inches of rain in parts of Illinois. And the

Three aircraft carrying 22 people were believed to have been in the gasrich Libyan desert, near the border between Egypt and Libya. The plane’s tail number was 7930, said an official of the country’s Civil Aviation Authority. The aircraft was registered to the Libyan Arab Airline.

The official said the plane was flying from Tripoli to Benghazi when it disappeared from radar screens. The official pointed out that there was no record of the plane’s appearance at the Tripoli airport.

The officials said the plane was carrying 22 people, including crew members. There was no information about the destination of the flight.

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Sudan says repulsed rebel attack in border area

Khartoum, 2 Sept — Sudan’s army repulsed a rebel attack in the oil-producing border state of South Kordofan, Sudanese state TV SUNA said on Saturday, in clashes days before Sudan and South Sudan are set to resume talks on securing their disputed border. South Sudan split away from Sudan last year under a 2005 peace deal that ended decades of civil war, but the two have remained at odds over a range of issues and conflict has continued to plague their borderlands.

One of the most contentious issues has been Khartoum’s accusation that Juba is supporting the rebel Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. South Sudan denies the charge but diplomats say the accusations are credible. Sudan’s army said rebels had launched an attack against government forces in the Rashad area in the state’s northeast on Thursday, SUNA said.

“The army repulsed this limited attack,” army spokesman Boy Rafli Amar told SUNA, adding that several civilians had been wounded when a car ran into a mine rebels had planted on a road near Rashid on Friday.

The SPLM-N was not immediately available for comment.

Its spokesman said on Friday its forces had clashed with the army in the Rashad area on Wednesday. Sudan and South Sudan are expected to resume negotiations over border security in Addis Ababa next week, talks delayed because of the funeral for Ethiopia’s former Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.

The two countries have agreed to come under pressure from mediators to reach a partial deal on border security so that they can resume oil exports vital to both economies.

Wednesday. Sudan shut down its oil output in January in a row with Khartoum over how much it should pay to export through Sudan. The two sides reached an interim agreement on fees last month but Sudan says it wants a

As the remnants of Hurricane Isaac pushed their way up the Mississippi valley on Saturday, spinning off severe thunderstorms and at least four tornadoes, some on the Gulf Coast were impatient with the pace of restoring power days after the storm dragged through the region. While New Orleans streets were bustling again and workers were returning to offshore oil rigs, thousands of evacuees couldn’t return home to flooded low-lying areas of Louisiana and more than 400,000 sweltering electricity customers in the state remained without power.

Meanwhile, the National Weather Service said two tornadoes touched down in rural areas of north-central Illinois and at least two touched down in rural southeast Missouri.

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The attack took place in the northeastern Rashad area, according to the SPLM-N movement. A SPLM-Nasııl unit was killed as a result of the attack, said the SPLM-N spokesperson. The SPLM-N作了 similarly claims.

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As the remnants of Hurricane Isaac pushed their way up the Mississippi valley on Saturday, spinning off severe thunderstorms and at least four tornadoes, some on the Gulf Coast were impatient with the pace of restoring power days after the storm dragged through the region. While New Orleans streets were bustling again and workers were returning to offshore oil rigs, thousands of evacuees couldn’t return home to flooded low-lying areas of Louisiana and more than 400,000 sweltering electricity customers in the state remained without power.

Meanwhile, the National Weather Service said two tornadoes touched down in rural areas of north-central Illinois and at least two touched down in rural southeast Missouri.

There were no reports of damage in Illinois, and Missouri officials said some power lines caught on fire. By midday Saturday, the storm had dumped up to 5 inches of rain in parts of Illinois. And the

Sudanese armed forces repulsed a rebel attack Saturday in the oil-producing South Kordofan state of Sudan, military spokesman Boy Rafli Amar said.

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Iran, North Korea agree to cooperate in science, technology

IRAN, 2 Sept — Iran and North Korea have signed an agreement to cooperate in science and technology. The two countries have a common interest in developing ballistic missiles and other military technology. The agreement was signed in Tehran by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, right, and his North Korean counterpart.

Iran to hold major air defence drill: commander

IRAN, 2 Sept — Iran will hold a large-scale air defence drill involving all air defence systems next month, an Iranian commander was quoted as saying on Hamshahr daily. The drill will test the ability of Iran's air defence force, including fighter jets, to simulate a large-scale military drill in the country's airspace. The commander said that the drill will test the ability of Iran's air defence force to protect the country's strategic interests.

AMISOM forces kill 36 Al-Shabaab fighters in Somalia

Nairobi, 2 Sept — The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) said its forces killed 36 Al-Shabaab fighters in a battle near the town of Baladweyne. The AMISOM forces said they were able to advance into the town and disrupt the Al-Shabaab fighters' supply lines.

Gunmen kill seven Shiites in Pakistan's sectarian attacks

ISLAMABAD, 2 Sept — Gunmen killed 7 Shiites in southwest Pakistan on Saturday in two separate sectarian-motivated attacks, police and eye-witnesses said. In the first incident, four gunmen riding two motorcycles stopped a passenger bus and forced some people out of the vehicle and then shot them dead, witnesses said. Police said that all those killed were Shia and they were singled out among the passengers. The gunmen sprayed bullets on those people and fled, witnesses said. The slain men were going to work when came under attack at Hazar Ganji area in Quetta, capital of Balochistan, relatives of the victims said.

Iraq's monthly death toll sharply decreases in August

BAGHDAD, 2 Sept — The death toll among Iraqis from violence in August sharply decreased compared to previous months, according to figures released on Saturday. A total of 164 Iraqis, 90 civilians, 35 policemen and 39 soldiers were killed in attacks last month, compiled by the health, interior and defense ministries showed. The latest toll showed that the number of people killed in attacks across the country is nearly half of that in July when the authorities put the toll at 325 killed, including 241 civilians, 40 policemen and 44 soldiers. Another 260 Iraqis were wounded and 234 civilians and 39 policemen received injuries. The Iraqi government has been working to reduce violence in the country, but the death toll remains high.
California legislature approves pension reform

Sacramento, 2 Sept — California’s legislation easily passed a pension reform measure on Friday that cuts some of the most generous public employee retirement benefits in the United States, but even many supporters of the plan called it only a first step in fixing a pension deficit that has been decades in the making. The pension bill, unveiled by Governor Jerry Brown on Tuesday after months of talks with fellow Democrats, will raise the retirement age and reduce benefits for new employees.

It will also boost employee contributions and eliminate some practices that have led to exorbitant pensions for a relatively small number of workers.

The ability of a state government controlled by Democrats to defuse an issue that Republicans have seized on in Wisconsin and other states could have broader repercussions in the national debate over government fiscal policies. Passed on the final day of the legislative calendar before the fall elections, the pension bill is a key component of the state fiscal overhaul that Brown promised when he was elected to a third term as governor in 2010 — decades after his previous terms in office.

Brown hopes the pension measure will help persuade voters to support another pillar of his programme: a tax increase on the November ballot. The pension bill garnered strong bipartisan support in both chambers, passing 48-8 in the Assembly and 38-1 in the Senate, although supporters from both sides of the aisle said more was needed. “This is not something we’re going to do overnight. We’re going to have to work on this over the next several years,” said Democratic Assembly member Jim Beall Jr. — Reuters

Over 11 million tourists visit Malaysia in 1st half

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 Sept — Malaysia registered 2.4 percent increase in tourist arrivals with more than 11.6 million tourists visited the country in the first six months of 2012, local media reported on Friday. Ng Yen Yen, Malaysia’s tourism minister, attributed the growth to the support from trade partners and increased air connectivity from Malaysia to key destinations such as Beijing, Hong Kong and Kansai in Japan.

Key international-level tourism events such as the Formula 1 Petronas Malaysia Grand Prix have also contributed to the continued growth, Ng said. Singaporean tourists visited their neighbour from January to June this year. Indonesia and China ranked as the second and third largest tourist source for Malaysia, with 1.1 million and 758 thousand visitors respectively.

Meanwhile, the Philippines recorded the highest growth of 45.3 percent year-on-year followed by China (34.2 percent), Japan (32.5 percent), Indonesia (20 percent), India (6.9 percent) and United Kingdom (5.9 percent), according to the data from the authorities. Foreign tourists are also spending more money in Malaysia, generating 26.8 billion ringgit (8.6 billion US dollars) in revenue, a 4 percent increase compared with the same period last year. — Xinhua

Banks pin hopes on $7.6 billion AIA selldown to buffer poor year

HONG KONG, 2 Sept — As American International Group (AIG) prepares to sell a $7.6 billion stake in former unit AIA, deal-starved bankers in Hong Kong are justifying the move on the basis that may be Asia-Pacific’s biggest stock market event of the year. A lock-up agreement preventing the US insurer from selling the stake expires on 4 September.

If AIG does decide to sell the entire 18.6 percent stake, the deal would be Asia’s biggest-ever block offering, ahead of Vodafone plc’s $8.6 billion sale in China Mobile two years ago.

A role in the AIA Group Ltd selldown could offer a major financial boost to the banks, in the form of a substantive fee for a day’s work, and a significant increase to their deal rankings heading into the final quarter of what has been a dismal year, AIG CEO Robert Benmosche has hinted previously that the stake will be sold after the lockup date expires, though he has not specified how much or when. An AIG spokesman in New York declined to comment for this story.

AIG could decide not to sell anything or it could sell off a small chunk. But sources with knowledge of the matter say the investment banking industry is preparing for the US insurer to unload the entire lot. “Everyone is running around to be a part of it. Most people expect AIG to clean out its position,” one financial institutions group banker said. But AIG’s general counsel, Bossert, had ruled out the sale of AIA in 2010, raising $26.5 billion in the world’s third-largest IPO ever at the time. AIG agreed to certain restrictions on its remaining stake and sold a chunk in March, raising $6 billion. — Reuters

Super volcano discovered in Hong Kong

BEIJING, 2 Sept — Some 140 million years after it erupted and then toppled into the sea, an ancient super volcano in Hong Kong is making headlines.

Hong Kong government scientists on Thursday announced that it had located the super volcano — the first discovery of its kind in southeastern China — while surveying the area in southeastern Hong Kong. The volcano is now extinct and poses no threat to Hong Kong.

The newly-discovered High Island Super volcano spanned out 1,300 cubic kilometres of ash about 140 million years ago, enough to blanket all of Hong Kong. The super volcanic eruption on the southeastern China seaboard would have produced a global environmental impact and could be related to the extinction of dinosaurs, according to a handout from Hong Kong’s Geotechnical Engineering Office that conducted the research. — Xinhua

The AIA building is seen in Shanghai on 22 Oct, 2010. — Reuters

CDC says 10,000 at risk of hantavirus in Yosemite outbreak

LOS ANGELES/SAN FRANCISCO, 2 Sept — Some 10,000 people who stayed in tent cabins at Yosemite National Park this summer may be at risk for the deadly rodent-borne hantavirus, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Friday. The CDC urged lab testing of patients who exhibit symptoms consistent with the lung disease, hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, after a day at the California park between June and August and recommended that doctors notify state health departments when it is found.

Two men have died from hantavirus linked to the Yosemite outbreak and four others were sickened but survived, while the CDC said additional suspected cases were being investigated from “multiple health jurisdictions.” Most of the victims believed to have been infected while staying in one of 91 “Signature” tent-style cabins in Yosemite’s popular Curry Village camping area.

“An estimated 10,000 persons stayed in the Signature Tent Cabins from 10 June through 24 August, 2012,” the CDC said. “People who stayed in the tents between 10 June and 24 August may be at risk of developing HPS in the next six weeks.” Yosemite officials earlier this week urged down annual of the insulated tent cabins after finding deer mice, which carry the disease and can burrow through holes the size of pencil erasers, nesting between the double walls.

Meanwhile, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Friday the Yosemite outbreak and four others were sickened but survived, while the CDC said additional suspected cases were being investigated from “multiple health jurisdictions.” Most of the victims believed to have been infected while staying in one of 91 “Signature” tent-style cabins in Yosemite’s popular Curry Village camping area.

This in this undated handout from the Centers for Disease Control image shows an electron micrograph (TEM) reveals the ultrastructural appearance of a number of virus particles, or “virions”, of a hantavirus known as the Sin Nombre virus (NYV). — Reuters

At least three dead in US store shooting

BEIJING, 2 Sept — At least three people have died in a multiple shooting at a supermarket in the US state of New Jersey.

According to local authorities, the shooting occurred inside a Pathmark supermarket in Old Bridge, a suburb about 40 km from the city of New York. Among the dead was an 18-year-old woman.

While another, a 23-year-old man, was believed to be the gunman. The motive behind the shooting and how the shooter was killed is not immediately clear.

But local media reported that the suspect was a former Marine who worked at the supermarket.

He returned there in the early morning and killed two people with an AK-47 rifle and an automatic handgun. He then shot himself when confronted by police.

Park authorities said Friday that they had contacted approximately 3,000 parties of visitors who stayed in the tent cabins since mid-June, advising them to seek immediate medical attention if they have symptoms of hantavirus. Nearly 4 million people visit Yosemite, one of the nation’s most popular national parks, each year, attracted to the dramatic scenery and hiking trails. Roughly 70 percent of those visitors congregate in Yosemite Valley, where Curry Village is located.

British weather quality seen hurt by poor weather

London, 2 Sept — Rainy weather and disease have reduced the quality of wheat crops harvested to date in Britain, the Home-Grown Cereals Authority said on Friday, issuing provisional results of its cereal quality survey.

A recent survey of specific weights have been hit the hardest, to date, at 8 percent below the three-year average, while Hagberg Falling Number and protein content are seen at more typical levels,” HGCA senior analyst Charlotte Garbutt said.

Specific weights in early samples averaged 71.9 kilograms per hectolitre, while the three-year average was 77.5. Hagberg Falling Numbers, a key measure of milling quality, came in with three-year average at 267 seconds, while protein content was slightly higher than normal at 12.7 percent versus 11.8 percent.

Britain’s wheat harvest is about 40 percent complete and is running about 10 days behind normal.

The HGCA said the provisional figures were based on 8,603 wheat samples. Updated tables will be released at the end of September and in October when more samples have been collected and analysed. The survey typically has about 60,000 wheat samples. — Reuters
**Stowaway cat from China says ‘ni hao’ to new home**

A stowaway kitten who survived a three-week ocean voyage from China to California has found a new home.

The family has not been further identified, but officials said it was chosen from more than 80 serious candidates who applied to adopt the stowaway.

The cat was rushed to a care centre where veterinarians say he has thrived.

The only lingering sign of trauma is a limp, which Reyes describes as “his own strut.”

The kitten suffered considerable muscle atrophy on the journey, causing him to walk with a ginger, unusual gait, Reyes said.

**Bottle of oil突破 world record**

A Scottish ship’s captain has found the oldest known message in a bottle, set adrift nearly 98 years ago, Guinness World Records said.

The record-keeping organization said Andrew Leaper, skipper of the Lerwick-registered Copious, found the bottle message in April in his trawler’s net alongside a haul of cod, haddock and monkfish in the North Sea.

The bottle was found to have been set adrift in 1920 and prior to being found, The Scotsman reported.

The bottle, as well as the previous record holder, which was found by Leaper’s friend, Mark Anderson, aboard the Copious in 2006 — was from a batch of 1,890 bottles set adrift by the Glasgow School of Navigation in 1914 as part of a study to map the currents of the seas around Scotland.

The bottle contained a postcard promising a reward of 6 pence to the finder.

**Taylor, Blige to perform at the DNC**

*Charlotte, N.C., Sept. 2—James Taylor, the Foo Fighters and Mary J Blige have been booked to perform at next week’s Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, NC, organizers said.

Politico reported earth, Wind and Fire, Delta Rae, Marc Anthony, Branford Marsalis and Amber Riley are also scheduled to take the stage at the convention.

This roster of performances only adds to the excitement building in Charlotte for the historic week ahead of us, DNC Chairman and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said in a statement.

“The tens of thousands who will attend convention events in person, and all those tuning in across the country, should be ready for quite a show.”

**Wrinkles get set for ‘Arrested’ return**

*Los Angeles, Sept. 2—Henry Winkler is to reprise his role of attorney Barry Zuckerkorn on the Netflix revival of “Arrested Development,” The Hollywood Reporter said.

Netflix ordered a fourth season of the quirky sitcom six years after Fox canceled it. The fresh run of episodes is to be released online next spring, the entertainment industry trade newspaper said.

Created by Winkler’s “Happy Days” co-star Ron Howard and Mitch Hurwitz, “Arrested Development” is about a wealthy, dysfunctional family. It stars Jason Bateman, David Cross, Jeffrey Tambor, Portia de Rossi, Will Arnett and Michael Cera.

**Actor, director and producer Henry Winkler**

**Hunger Games**

*Los Angeles, Sept. 2—The young-adult survival picture “The Hunger Games” is the top-selling DVD and Blu-Ray and No 1 rental in the United States for a second week, Rentalk said.

Coming No 1 on the DVD and Blu-ray sales chart for the week ending 26 Aug is “Dr Seuss’ The Lorax,” followed by “The Dictator” at No 3, “NCIS: The Ninth Season” at No 4 and “Dexter” The Sixth Season” at No 5.

Rounding out the top tier are “Pocahontas/Pocahontas II: Journey to a New World” at No 6, “The Rescuers/The Rescuers: Down Under” at No 7, “The Aristocats” at No 8, “House: Season 8” at No 9 and “Glee: The Complete Third Season” at No 10.

The No 2 rental for the week ended 25 Aug is “The Dictator.”

**Actress Josh Hutcherson appears backstage with the Best Male Performance award he won for “The Hunger Games”**

*Los Angeles, Sept. 2—Rudalavage says he has disappeared from outside her home on Monday.

“A bullet-pierced gorilla statue has been returned to its 97 years and Patricia Radulavage.

**400-pound gorilla statue returned to Pa woman**

A Pennsylvania woman says a 400-pound gorilla statue was stolen from her home, used for target practice and then returned.

Patricia Radulavage’s beloved lava-rock statue Greystone was returned to her Scranton-area home.

The statue had bullet holes in its head, stomach and extremities but is still standing.

Radulavage tells The Times-Tribune of Scranton that two men arrived with the statue in the back of a pickup truck, saying they’d found him about five miles away at a makeshift shooting range on a mountain.

She says they refused the $100 reward for his return.

**Behar books Gore, Etheridge for new show**

Tuesday’s debate episode to welcome comedian and television personality Joy Behar to the network.

Greg is expected to talk with Behar on politics and share his thoughts on the Democratic and Republican conventions, the network said.

Other guests confirmed for next week include Susie Essman and Alan Colmes.

Scheduled to appear later in September are Sue Simmons, Cyndi Lauper, Jesse Ventura, Meredith Vieira, Tony Danza and Hanna Rosin.

Joy Behar: Say Anything” will air on current Monday through Thursday at 6 pm ET.

**Hallyday headed to LA**

Paris, 2 Sept.—French rocker Johnny Hallyday has left the Martinique hospital where he was treated for bronchitis, Radio France Internationale said on Friday.

Hallyday, 69, fell ill last weekend at a home he owns on the island of Saint-Barthélémy. He left a hospital in Fort-de-France on early Friday and flew by private jet to Los Angeles where he is expected to check into another medical center.

RFI said it was unclear whether he will be well enough to go on tour with his 2012 tour, the second leg of which is due to begin in October in Montreal.

**INTERNET**
Pazzini hat-trick downs Bologna

MILAN, 2 Sept—New AC Milan recruit Giampaolo Pazzini took his stock with the Rossoneri sky high by scoring a hat-trick in a 3-1 win away to Bologna on Saturday. Pazzini was part of the exchange that took AC Milan’s coveted striker Antonio Cassano the other way last week—a transfer which angered many of AC Milan’s fans.

But a week after starting his new job with a shock home defeat to Sampdoria, the Italy striker took no time in showing where his loyalties now lie by scoring a first-half penalty then producing a superb second-half brace. After scoring only five goals in a frustrating last season at Inter, Pazzini could not hide his joy. “I think this ball will mean a lot to me,” he told Sky Sport Italia as he prepared to take the match ball home.

“It was a difficult period for me recently but now I’m really happy. Maybe it’s a sign, for me and the people who’ve stood behind me. “The match was hard-fought but we came through it. I can’t get any better.”

Despite some lively transfer action in midweek Milan started with no less than 10 Italians on the pitch. New arrivals Bojan Krkic of Spain and Dutchman Nigel De Jong started on the bench while Brazilian defender Roger de Carvalho was sent into Bologna’s starting line up after signing from Genoa.

Bologna started in lively fashion but Milan’s enterprise and discipline soon told as they worked steadily towards breaking the deadlock. German-born Ghanaian Prince Boateng was proving a handful for Bologna’s defence and twice won freekicks early on only to see both of his low drives go wide of Federico Agliardi’s goal.

Sundhage to be new Sweden coach

NEW YORK, 2 Sept—Pia Sundhage is to take over as coach of the Swedish women’s national side, moving over from the United States who she guided to Olympic gold in London.

The 52-year-old announced that she was leaving the US job she had filled for five years last Saturday after her team trounced Costa Rica 8-0 in a friendly in Rochester, New York state.

Shortly afterwards in Stockholm the Swedish football federation announced that she would take over as national coach on 1 December, replacing Thomas Dennerby, who stood down from the post last month after the Olympics.

“We are extremely happy to reveal that Pia Sundhage will be our new national coach,” federation president Karl-Erik Nilsson said.

Sundhage, who won 146 caps for her country between 1975 and 1996, said: “It is the realisation of a dream for me to become the national coach of my own country.”

First up for Sundhage will be next year’s European championships which Sweden is hosting, although she is expected to stay with the US team for at least the next two matches of their victory tour, aspiring of qualifying against Australia on September 16 in Carson, California, and September 19 in Commerce City, Colorado.

The Americans then host two matches against two women’s World Cup champions Germany on 20 October and 23 October.

Robbie, 18, is coming off successive victories over Kim Clijsters and Li Na.

Roddick added his retirement from tournament Australian teenager Bernard Tomic in the second round. Olympic champion Andy Murray said he hoped to cross paths with Roddick in the locker room at Flushing Meadows against unseeded American Ryan Fognini.

Roddick has announced he will retire after the US Open— the scene of the only major tour title of his career, in 2003. Also in action on Sunday will be Marin Cilic of Croatia and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France, who meet at the Diller-von Elindorf Tennis Center next. The winner advances to take on Roger Federer, from Genoa, again after the US Open against unseeded American Ryan Fognini.

Andy Murray has come into the tournament in top form. He has won the last seven matches he has played and is looking to extend his winning run.

He will meet with Andy Roddick in the quarter-finals. Verdasco, 28, had 35 unforced errors and 10 double faults as he lost to Swiss Federer for the fifth time in as many meetings. Williams, seeking her fourth US Open title, needed a break of serve in the final game of the opening set to grab the momentum as she ousted Russian Ekaterina Makarova 6-4, 6-0.

Makarova buckled under the pressure of a first-set ledown and was blown away in the second in just 32 minutes.

The Russian knocked out Williams in the fourth round of this year’s Australian Open and the American said she was “motivated” to turn the tables at the year’s final grand slam tournament. —Reuters

McIlroy leads with Tiger lurking at Deutsche Bank

NORTHAMPTON, 2 Sept— Rory McIlroy fired a second successive six-under 65 to take a one-shot lead after the second round of the Deutsche Bank Championship on Saturday but Tiger Woods was lurking just two shots back.

The world number one set the pace in the morning wave with an impressive round consisting of six birdies, an eagle and two bogeys to lead by one over former British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen. South African Oosthuizen matched McIlroy’s 65 to move to 11 under at the FedEx Cup playoff event while Woods virtually made the cut with a four-over-par 76.

McIlroy finished nine shots behind Barclays Classic winner Nick Watney in week one of the playoffs in his first ever appearance at claiming the PGA Championship. The 23-year-old was unperturbed, however, suggesting the greens in New York were not entirely up to scratch and he just needed to shake a little rust off his putter. He leads the field in strokes gained putting and total puts after the opening two rounds.—Reuters

Open-Federer and Serena march on at US Open

NEW YORK, 2 Sept—Top-ranked Roger Federer continued his dynamic US Open form in near-tropical conditions on Saturday while fourth seed Serena Williams avenged a shock defeat she suffered in January.

With a possible semi-final showdown with Federer looming, Britain’s Andy Murray remained in the hunt for his first grand slam crown by defeating Spain’s Feliciano Lopez to reach the fourth round. Women’s second seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland set up a fourth-round tussle with Italy’s Roberta Vinci by easing by former world number one Serena Williams 6-3, 7-5 at a steamy Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"With the hot conditions you really have to fight yourself more than your opponent," said Radwanska, a sentiment echoed by several players. Federer cruised past Fernando Verdasco 6-3, 6-4 in two hours and two minutes, blasting seven aces and scoring a hat-trick against Bologna during a Serie A football match at the Dallara stadium in Bologna. —INTERNET

International Sports

Fernando Verdasco of Spain congratulates Roger Federer (R) of Switzerland after their men’s singles match at the US Open tennis tournament in New York on 1 September, 2012. —Reuters

Andy Carroll to miss England World Cup qualifiers

LONDON, 2 Sept—Andy Carroll has withdrawn from England’s World Cup qualifiers against Moldova and Ukraine next week because of a hamstring injury. The 23-year-old striker, who joined West Ham in a loan deal from Liverpool on July 31, may make his impressive debut as the Hammers beat Fulham 3-0.

Carroll limped out of the action on 68 minutes at Upton Park. The Football Association will wait until after Sunday’s games before deciding on how to replace Carroll.

Following his side’s win, West Ham boss Sam Allardyce said it was “unlikely” Carroll would be fit. “He’ll probably be on the treatment bench for a while,” said Allardyce.

“He over-extended himself. We won’t know the extent of the injury until the scan and we see how serious it is,” England’s road to Brazil 2014 begins with a qualifier at the Zimbros Stadium in Moldova on 7 September and Roy Hodgson’s side are back in action at Wembley against Ukraine on 11 September.
Weather forecast for 3rd September, 2012

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**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:00 am to 4:30 am</td>
<td>News</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 am to 5:30 am</td>
<td>Business Matching, Between Myanmar Thai entrepreneurs</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 am to 6:00 am</td>
<td>News</td>
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<td>6:00 am to 7:00 am</td>
<td>Collective Charitable, Deed in significant, Month, Wano</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 am to 8:00 am</td>
<td>News</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am to 9:00 am</td>
<td>Launching Ceremony of &quot;The Chilies Journal&quot;</td>
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<td>9:00 am to 10:00 am</td>
<td>News</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am to 11:00 am</td>
<td>International News</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 am to 12:00 am</td>
<td>Weather forecast</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 am to 1:00 pm</td>
<td>News</td>
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</tbody>
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**Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**

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**Weather forecast for 3rd September, 2012**

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**German boxer Felix Sturm (L) and Australian boxer Daniel Geale face each other during a Press conference in Essen, western Germany, on 27 August.**

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**1,000 English ants to receive radio tags**

London, 2 Sept—About 1,000 northern hairy wood ants are expected to have tiny radio tags, about 0.04 inches (1 millimeter) long, attached to their bodies, allowing researchers to track their movements on a protected English estate.

The wood ants, which get their name from the "eyebrows" visible through a microscope, live in colonies housed within nests connected by trails wound into the ground by years of ant traffic.

The biologist doing the work, Samuel Ellis of the University of York, intends to examine how the ants interact with one another. The results are expected to help staff at the Longshaw Estate in Derbyshire manage the estate—a natural and archaeological site—with the ants’ needs in mind.

"I think this is a world first. It has not been done in the wild before," said Ellis in a video produced by the UK National Trust, which manages the estate. Ellis is not certain how long they will stay attached to the insects.

"The tags act like a bar code," he said in the video. "It gives each ant an individual identity and what this means is you can see which ants are going where and how individual ants interactions work together to make the colony long produce honeydew; in return, the ants protect these aphids.

An estimated 50 million hairy wood ants, Formica lugubris, inhabit the estate. They are the largest species of ants native to the British Isles and are workers reaching up to 0.4 inches (10 mm) long. To get food for their young, ants gently stroke sap-sucking aphids, which then produce honeydew. In return, the ants protect the aphids.
YANGON, 2 Sept—Jointly organized by Myanmar Football Federation and No 1 Basic Education Department and No 3 Basic Education Department held the U-12 Men’s Football Tournament at Aung San Stadium on 31 August.

In the final match, Yangon East District A secured 1-0 victory over Yangon West District B. In the third place match, Yangon North District A edged out Yangon North District B 5-1. After the matches, Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein, Director-General in-charge Dr Myo Thein Gyi of No 1 Basic Education Department, Director-General in-charge of No 3 Basic Education Department U Aung Chein, General Secretary of MFF U Tin Aung, Director of No 3 BED U Myint Soe presented trophies and medals to the respective winners.

The tournament started with eight teams on 28 August. The outstanding players will be selected for Yangon Region U-12 team. Myanmar Football Federation will organize the MFF U-12 Digital Cup 2012 (Lower Myanmar) from 10 to 17 September at Aung San Stadium.—Kyonmon

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin meets faculty members of Magway and Mandalay Universities of Medicine

Yangon East District A emerges champion in U-12 Football Tourney

Arsenal pile on misery for struggling Liverpool

Pazzini hat-trick downs Bologna

400-pound gorilla statue returned to Pa woman