President U Thein Sein attends hoisting of golden umbrella atop Laygyun Manaung Pagoda

NAI PYI TAW, 18 Aug—A ceremony to hoist golden umbrella atop Laygyun Manaung Pagoda built in 1086 ME in Inwa Era by the King Taninganway at Thawtapan Ward of Sagaing was held in conjunction with the consecration ceremony this morning.

President U Thein Sein and the congregation took the Nine Precepts from Zeyathein Pali Tekkatho Monastery Sayadaw of Sagaing. The President donated diamond orb, Buddha tooth relic and offerings to the Sayadaw.

The Chairman of Union Election Commission and party members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees offered pennant-shaped vane, jewellery items and alms to members of the Sangha.

The Rector Sayadaw of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University delivered a sermon and shared merits gained together with the congregation.

The President and party hoisted atop diamond orb, pennant-shaped vane and tiers of umbrella atop the pagoda and then offered flowers, water and oil lights to the Buddha image.

Members of the Sangha consecrated the pagoda.

(See page 8)

Linzin Diversion Weir to benefit over 71000 local people in Salin Township

Linzin Diversion Weir and irrigation system were built in 1927 on Salin Creek near Linzin Village of Salin Township in Magway Region. Diversion weir, 750 feet long and seven feet high, is of concrete work. It has two 60x7.5 square feet sand sluice gates and three valves in 20x4.5 square feet size each.

In 2012, the irrigation facility could supply water to 32980 acres of monsoon paddy out of 34332 acres according to the statistics. A total of 1352 acres of farmlands of Linzin irrigated area in the farthest area of the diversion weir missed the chance to get the irrigation water.

Thanks to the emphasis of the leaders of the State, the diversion weir is under repair from 2011-12 to 2013-14. In this regard, three miles long Salin main canal, 3.3 miles long two feeder canals, 4.2 miles long minor canals and 20 canal structures were repaired in 2011-12 fiscal year.

In 2012-13, 17 miles long Salin main canal, 33.03 miles long ten feeder canals, dredging of sand at the diversion weir and 62 canal structures were maintained. In 2013-2014, 10.03 miles long three feeder canals, four minor canals, 51 canal structures and placing of gravel along 20 miles long main canal are being repaired.

Upon completion of all maintenance works, a total of 34332 acres of farmlands can be placed under paddy and over 2000 acres under crops at full capacity. Moreover, the diversion weir will benefit over 71000 local people from 116 villages in the irrigated area and increase their per capita income as a drive for implementation of rural area development and poverty alleviation schemes.

Myayna Amin: 16-8-2013
Trs: TTA
**Local News**

**Culture**

**Myanmar marionette team leaves for Thailand**

**YANGON, 18 Aug**—A team comprising Maung Khang Khant Tun and Maung Kaung Khant Cho led by Headmaster U Cho Aye of ACA Pyinnya Yekiney Private High School left here by air on 16 August.

They will show off their brilliant skills on marionette in the Programme for ASEAN International Camp 2013 to be held in Udon Thani of Thailand from 16 to 19 August.

Those responsible for the collision have filed lawsuit against the authorities. — **MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay)**

**Fire Prevention**

**Fire drill practised on platform of Shwesayan Pagoda**

**THATON, 18 Aug**—With the aim of avoiding loss and damage of ancient pagodas and religious edifices in outbreak of fire in Thaton Township of Mon State, Township Fire Services Department and Shwesayan Pagoda Board of Trustees jointly organized the fire drill on the platform of the pagoda on 13 August noon.

Staff Officer U Saw Tun of Township FSD said, “We wish all the pilgrims should offer lights with the use of candle and oil lamps and joss sticks to the Buddha images systematically. Due to undisciplinary acts, the fire engulfed various kinds of property in many examples. The heritages of the ancient buildings lost in the fire. These loss and damages cannot be substituted with new ones. Therefore, we coordinated with the Pagoda Board of Trustees and demonstrated fire drills for enabling the pilgrims and shopkeepers to have knowledge on danger of fire. We will coordinate with Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, members of the Sangha and students to keep the water taps on the platform of the pagoda so as to quickly put out the fire if the fire breaks out at any place of the pagoda.”

Shwesayan Pagoda is one of the most magnificent ones in Thaton Township. Stone inscription chamber, Buddhology Museum, Sasa breeze King Pagoda, Pitak Pagoda and other stupas in addition to many ancient buildings are located in the precinct of the pagoda.

It is related to the history of Suwanbumhaini ancient city. — **Kyemon-Thet Oo (Thaton)**

**Pilgrimage vehicle collides with passenger bus in Mandalay**

**MANDALAY, 18 Aug**—A Light Truck collided with a Saloon at the corner of 35th street and 82nd street on 16 August.

The light truck carrying pilgrims bound for Mandalay from Myingyan collided with Shan Taungdan Passenger Transport Vehicle, destroying the front of the Saloon.

Authorities have filed lawsuit against those responsible for the collision. — **MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay)**

**Health Care Activity**

**Free health care service provided in Namhsam**

**NAMHSAM, 18 Aug**—Namhsam Township Medical Officer Dr Saw Thurein and party made field trips to Loikham Village of Ngunhsai Village-tract in Namhsam Township of Palaung Self-Administrated Zone of Shan State on 14 August.

The medical team provided free medical services to about 120 local people and transferred three patients to the hospital for intensive care, distributed about 80 mosquito nets and disseminated health knowledge to the local people. — **Kyemon-Township**

**National Sports**

**Line-up of Myanmar U-16 announced for AFF U-16 Championship 2013**

**NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug**—The AFF-U16 Championship 2013 will be hosted at Nay Pyi Taw Wunna Theikdi Stadium from 20 August to 2 September with the participation of 10 football teams.

Myanmar U-16 selected team is constituted with the players from the Myanmar U-15 Team that has participated in the FamFrenz ASEAN Championship 2013. Most of the players are products of Mandalay Nay Pyi Taw and Pathein Football Academies.

The list of 20 footballers for the Myanmar U-16 team was announced on 16 August.

They are Goalkeeper Hsan Hset Naing, Saw Htay (Mandalay Academy), Phone Thitsa Min (Nay Pyi Taw FC Academy), Defenders Soe Moe Tun, Ye Yint Ko, Ye Yint Aung, Shin Phyo Win (Mandalay Academy), Aung Phyo Tha, Ye Min Thu (Nay Pyi Taw FC), Midfielders Thitna Tun Kyaw, Kyaw Lwin Moe, Kyaw Zin Soe, Okkar Bo (Mandalay Academy), Min Thu (Pathein Academy), Moe Min Zaw (Mandalay Region), Forwards: Zwe Thet Paing, Aung Pyae Ko, Shwe Ko (Mandalay Academy), Aung Thet Soe and Hsan Thu Aung.

Myanmar U-16 team is under control of Manager U Win Thu Mo, team manager Japanese Coach Tashima, coach U Aung Aung Tun, Assistant Coaches U Khin Maung Htwe and U Aung Kyaw Zan and Goalkeeping Coach U Maung Maung Myint. — **Kyemon-Maung Maung Zaw**
Bomb hits Iraq’s main commodity port, traffic unaffected

BASRA, (Iraq), 18 Aug—A truck bomb exploded at Iraq’s main commodities port near the oil-exporting southern city of Basra, wounding four people on Saturday, but officials said shipping traffic at the Umun Qasr docks was not affected. Umun Qasr port, near Iraq’s border with Kuwait, sits at the top of the strategic Gulf waterway and does not export oil. Imports handled there include grain shipments and heavy equipment used in the energy industry.

The blast damaged an out-of-service Iraqi ship anchored there and wounded four porters, the head of the Basra provincial security committee, Jabbar al-Saedi, told Reuters. “It’s a serious breach to the port security and a terrorist act targeting Iraq’s economy,” he said.

The truck had been parked near one of the port’s unloading berths, he added. Shipping movements and unloading operations at the port were not disrupted by the explosion, said Mahdi Askar, an official with the state-run General Company for Maritime Transport.

The site is close to the city of Basra, about 420 km (260 miles) southeast of the capital Baghdad.

Iraq’s economic infrastructure has been hit hard by frequent militant attacks. An oil export pipeline between Iraq and Turkey has been bombed about 30 times since the start of the year, the oil ministry said last week. The pipeline was hit again late on Friday. Sunni Muslim militant groups, including al-Qaeda, have stepped up their insurgency against Iraq’s Shi’ite-led government in the past four months.

More than 30 people were killed and scores wounded in Baghdad on Thursday after a series of car bombs, part of a wave of violence that has taken the monthly death toll to the highest levels in around five years.

Four abducted Thai nationals freed in southern Nigeria

LAGOS, 18 Aug—Four Thai nationals abducted by unknown gunmen a week ago in southern Nigeria have been released, said authorities in the southern Rivers State on Saturday. Emmanuel Chinedah, the state commissioner for agriculture, told Xinhua on phone that the four Thais were released at about 2 am local time in an undisclosed area by the gunmen. He said the Thais were basically in good health condition. “We are taking them to hospital for proper medical check up,” he said.

The four Thais were on their way to work at a fish farm on 9 Aug in the southern state of Rivers when they were kidnaped. Chinedah told Xinhua that the state government does not support or pay ransom to kidnappers in any situation.

British police studying new information on Princess Diana death

LONDON, 18 Aug—British police said on Saturday they were assessing new information about the deaths of Princess Diana and her friend Dodi al-Fayed in a Paris road crash in 1997.

London’s Metropolitan Police did not elaborate on the information, or its source, but Britain’s Sky news television station said it had come from the parents-in-law of a former soldier and had been passed on by the Royal Military Police. Sky said it understood the new information included an allegation that the deaths of Diana, Dodi and their driver were caused by a member of the British military.

A royal spokesman said there would be no comment. The Metropolitan Police said in a statement that it was assessing the “relevance and credibility” of information into the deaths that it had recently received.

“This is not a re-investigation and does not come under Operation Paget,” it said, referring to an investigation by a former head of the Metropolitan police, John Stevens.

Dodi’s father, Mohammed al-Fayed, the former owner of Harrods department store, alleged that the couple had been killed on the orders of the British establishment. Stevens concluded there was no evidence of murder and said that driver Paul had been drunk and going too fast.

Though silent, Israel remains worried by Egypt upheaval

JERUSALEM, 18 Aug—Israel has looked on at upheaval in Egypt largely in silence, keen to avoid disrupting strategic security cooperation with a military it sees as critical to curbing attacks by Islamist militants in neighbouring Sinai, officials and analysts said. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had aides instruct cabinet ministers to avoid public comment about Egypt, according to an official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

“Israel and the United States see the situation in Egypt very, very differently and just as Israel’s prime minister wouldn’t want Israeli cabinet ministers to publicly criticise American policy,” Giora Eiland, a former national security adviser, said on Channel 2 television. In private, one senior Israeli official expressed alarm at US President Barack Obama’s condemnation of the bloodshed in Egypt and cancellation of a joint military exercise with Cairo.

“Eyebrows have been raised,” the official said. Israel worries that any sign of wavering US support for Egypt’s military may embolden Islamist militants sympathetic with the Muslim Brotherhood, ousted by the Egyptian army after a year in power. Eiland backed the crackdown by Egyptian army chief General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on the Brotherhood this week.

“Sisi in the situation he faced, had no choice but to do what he did,” said Eiland, adding he thought Western outrage at the scale of the bloodshed was understandable. Almost 800 people have been killed so far. Israel wants to avoid any disruption of its security cooperation with Egypt, which stems from a 1979 peace treaty — the first of only two such accords between Israel and Arab countries.

Military ties with Egypt have helped Israel strategically in a region where it is otherwise largely isolated, as well as a potential counter to weapons smuggling to Palestinian militant groups.

Up to 100,000 face evacuation in Russia’s flood-hit far east

MOSCOW, 18 Aug—As many as 100,000 people may be evacuated from their homes near Russia’s border with China if the region’s biggest floods for 120 years get worse, Russian media reported on Saturday. The floods, caused by a month of unusually heavy rain, are not expected to start receding until early September, the head of Russia’s hydrometeorology monitoring service told news agency Ria Novosti.

A royal spokeswoman said there would be no comment. The Metropol itan Police said in a statement that it was assessing the “relevance and credibility” of information into the deaths that it had recently received.

“This is not a re-investigation and does not come under Operation Paget,” it said, referring to an inves tigation by a former head of the Metropolitan police, John Stevens.

Dodi’s father, Mohammed al-Fayed, the former owner of Harrods department store, alleged that the couple had been killed on the orders of the British establishment. Stevens concluded there was no evidence of murder and said that driver Paul had been drunk and going too fast.

Though silent, Israel remains worried by Egypt upheaval

JERUSALEM, 18 Aug—Israel has looked on at upheaval in Egypt largely in silence, keen to avoid disrupting strategic security cooperation with a military it sees as critical to curbing attacks by Islamist militants in neighbouring Sinai, officials and analysts said. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had aides instruct cabinet ministers to avoid public comment about Egypt, according to an official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

“Israel and the United States see the situation in Egypt very, very differently and just as Israel’s prime minister wouldn’t want Israeli cabinet ministers to publicly criticise American policy,” Giora Eiland, a former national security adviser, said on Channel 2 television. In private, one senior Israeli official expressed alarm at US President Barack Obama’s condemnation of the bloodshed in Egypt and cancellation of a joint military exercise with Cairo.

“Eyebrows have been raised,” the official said. Israel worries that any sign of wavering US support for Egypt’s military may embolden Islamist militants sympathetic with the Muslim Brotherhood, ousted by the Egyptian army after a year in power. Eiland backed the crackdown by Egyptian army chief General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on the Brotherhood this week.

“Sisi in the situation he faced, had no choice but to do what he did,” said Eiland, adding he thought Western outrage at the scale of the bloodshed was understandable. Almost 800 people have been killed so far. Israel wants to avoid any disruption of its security cooperation with Egypt, which stems from a 1979 peace treaty — the first of only two such accords between Israel and Arab countries.

Military ties with Egypt have helped Israel strategically in a region where it is otherwise largely isolated, as well as a potential counter to weapons smuggling to Palestinian militant groups.

Up to 100,000 face evacuation in Russia’s flood-hit far east

MOSCOW, 18 Aug—As many as 100,000 people may be evacuated from their homes near Russia’s border with China if the region’s biggest floods for 120 years get worse, Russian media reported on Saturday. The floods, caused by a month of unusually heavy rain, are not expected to start receding until early September, the head of Russia’s hydrometeorology monitoring service told news agency Ria Novosti.

A royal spokeswoman said there would be no comment. The Metropolitan Police said in a statement that it was assessing the “relevance and credibility” of information into the deaths that it had recently received.

“This is not a re-investigation and does not come under Operation Paget,” it said, referring to an investigation by a former head of the Metropolitan police, John Stevens.

Dodi’s father, Mohammed al-Fayed, the former owner of Harrods department store, alleged that the couple had been killed on the orders of the British establishment. Stevens concluded there was no evidence of murder and said that driver Paul had been drunk and going too fast.
Facebook reveals daily users for US and UK, data aimed at advertisers

A smartphone user shows the Facebook application on his phone in the central Bosnian town of Zenica, in this photo illustration, on 2 May, 2013. — Reuters

New York, 18 Aug — One out of three people in the United States — more than 128 million — visit Facebook every day, and about 24 million in the United Kingdom do the same, the company said on Tuesday, releasing regional data for the first time as a way of helping advertisers understand how people use the social network. It is also part of a larger push to go after dollars earmarked for TV commercials, the top source among advertisers when they launch campaigns.

“We would like to be able to expand and say this is the amount of people you can reach tomorrow, or the amount of people you can reach when you are launching a movie,” said Carolyn Everson, Facebook vice president of global marketing solutions. Consider that almost 6 million people tuned in to watch the mid-season premiere of AMC’s highly anticipated series “Breaking Bad” on Sunday. With more than 1 billion users, there is little doubt about the popularity of the world’s No 1 social network, but advertisers often need much more data to make decisions.

Rebecca Lieb, a media and advertising analyst at Altimeter Group, said one billion is an abstract number. “As impressive and as big as Facebook is, by breaking it down more regionally we are getting more of an idea,” she said. Facebook also released on Tuesday the number of active monthly and daily mobile users in the United States and the UK.

New Light of Myanmar

Panda gives birth in semi-wild environment

Vienna giant panda couple give birth to third cub by natural conception

Vienna, 18 Aug — A baby giant panda was born in Schoenbrunn Zoo on Wednesday, the third birth by a panda couple who have lived in Vienna for over 10 years, the zoo announced on Thursday. The birth of the third baby giant panda marked a new record of successful conception of giant pandas in Europe. The couple in Vienna are the unique pair in Europe which mated naturally and successfully had their babies.

The giant panda couple in Vienna zoo have given birth to 3 cubs by natural conception. Fu Long and Fu Hu, their elder children, have been sent back to China when 2 years old as per a loan agreement between China and Austria.

Xinhua

Canada’s telecoms to change tack in anti-Verizon crusade

Toronto, 18 Aug — Canada’s three biggest wireless companies plan to attack Verizon Communications Inc’s role in the US government’s electronic spying scandal, as they scramble to force Ottawa to rethink rules that encourage Verizon to set up in Canada, according to four sources. The Canadian government has so far spurred an intense lobbying effort from the trio — Rogers Communications, BCE Inc and Telus Corp — by insisting its policies will cut Canadians’ wireless bills.

The planned campaign, which has yet to be announced, and green light, will focus on how Verizon’s entry into Canada could open the door to overreaching surveillance and a loss of privacy for Canadians, said the sources, who declined to be named as the plans are not yet public. If the companies sign off on the proposals, the ads will start appearing in newspapers, online and on radio next week in the hope that they will swing public opinion behind the three players and persuade the government to change its mind.

Telecoms BCE and Rogers declined to comment on any changes to the campaign. Under current rules, new entrant Verizon could bid in a 2014 auction for two of four prime blocks of the spectrum that wireless companies need to operate mobile services, while the existing big players can only bid for one block apiece.

Canada can also buy one or more of the smaller telecoms firms, but according to eMarketer research, which estimated that $66.3 billion in ad dollars would go towards TV this year, digital advertising represents about 25 percent of 2013 estimated advertising spend at $42 billion.

Still, there is a shift occurring: the average time spent daily with digital media is expected to surpass TV viewing this year, according to eMarketer. Under scoring the change taking place in people’s habits, WPP founder and Chief Executive Martin Sorrell expects up to 45 percent of the agency’s business to go towards digital within five years, he wrote in post on LinkedIn. — Reuters

A sign of Verizon Wireless is seen at its store in Westminster, Colorado on 26 April, 2009. — Reuters

UNSG’s message for World Humanitarian Day

19 August 2013

Every year on August 19th, we mark World Humanitarian Day in honour of aid workers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

We commemorate their sacrifice and reaffirm our commitment to the life-saving work that humanitarians carry out around the world, every day, often in difficult and dangerous circumstances where others cannot or do not want to go.

This year’s commemoration marks the 10th anniversary of the attack on UN headquarters in Baghdad that killed Special Representative Sergio Vieira de Mello and 21 other United Nations colleagues and partners. That tragedy was among the inspirations for this Day.

Sergio was a vocal advocate of the values and mission of the United Nations. He touched the lives of all who met him and helped make it possible for vulnerable people in a life of service on several continents. His death was a great loss to the United Nations, but his legacy has motivated many people to pursue humanitarian work.

This year, our World Humanitarian Day campaign is calling on people to answer a question: What do you think the world needs more of? I urge people everywhere to go to www.worldhumanitariandyad.org and tell us, in one word, what you think.

My word is “teamwork.” In a time of global challenges, people and countries need to work together in common cause for peace, justice, dignity and development. That is the humanitarian spirit. That is the humanitarian imperative of the United Nations. — UNICEF/Yangon

A smartphone user shows the Facebook application on his phone in the central Bosnian town of Zenica, in this photo illustration, on 2 May, 2013. — Reuters

Science & Technology

Airtel plans 4G network expansion in Kolkata

Kolkata, 18 Aug — Telecom major Airtel is considering expanding its existing 4G network in Kolkata that could attract an investment of Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 3,000 crore. “Airtel officials had met me to increase fibre network coverage by anywhere between 500km and 1000km for expanding 4G services,” Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) mayor-in-council (engineering and health) Alin Ghosh said.

“We had provided Airtel the draft licensing agreement required for cable laying and they have said they will revert in the next 7-10 days,” he said. “If they lay 1000 km of optical fibre for 4G, the investment will be in excess of Rs. 3000 crore,” Ghosh added.

The development comes after Mukesh Ambani controlled Reliance Jio Infocomm sought to start 4G network across the city and held a meeting with KMC to obtain right of way for some 750 km of optical fibre network.

Airtel without divulging the subscriber base of 4G said they had launched the service in April and the coverage is only in the central business district of city and so far they invested Rs. 600 crore for the network in city.

PTI

Chengdu, 18 Aug — A giant panda born in captivity gave birth to a cub in a semi-wild environment without human interference in a panda base in Ya’an City, southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on Sunday. Through surveillance cameras in the semi-wild training center of the Bifengxia Panda Base, researchers were able to observe the mother, Princess, give birth to a cub at 1:46 am in the wild garden full of weeds.

Huang Yan, deputy chief engineer of the panda base, said on Monday that five to six cubs were born every year under the semi-wild training programme, which started in 2010 and is aimed at preparing giant pandas for going back to the wild. “Under the programme, we select qualified cubs and release the baby pandas to the wild along with their moms, so that they have a better chance of survival there,” Huang said.

Princess, 11, was the first giant panda in the world to be brought up by people right after its birth. Her mother refused to feed her. Similar problems arose when Princess delivered her first two twin cubs in 2003. Experts used toys and VCDs to teach her how to nurse her cubs. Already experienced in labour, Princess on Sunday held the cub and licked its body skilfully after delivery. Giant pandas are one of the world’s most endangered species. About 1,600 of the animals live in the wild, mostly in the mountains of Sichuan, with more than 300 live in captivity.

Xinhua
Soft drinks linked to behavioral problems in young children

WASHINGTON, 18 Aug—US researchers said Friday children as young as five who consume soft drinks every day are more likely to have behavioural problems such as aggression, difficulty in paying attention and social withdrawal.

Previous studies have found that high drink consumption is associated with aggression, depression, and suicidal thoughts in adolescents but the relationship had not been evaluated in younger children.

It was the new study, the researchers from the Columbia University, the University of Vermont, and the Harvard School of Public Health assessed about 3,000 five-year-old children enrolled from 20 large US cities. Mothers reported their child’s soft drink consumption and completed the child behaviour checklist based on their child’s behaviour during the previous two months. The researchers reported in the Journal of Pediatrics that 43 percent of the children consumed at least one serving of soft drinks per day, and 4 percent consumed four or more.

Children who drank four or more soft drinks per day were more than twice as likely to destroy things belonging to others, get into fights, and physically attack people, they said. The kids also had increased attention problems and withdrawal behavior compared with those who did not consume soft drinks.

“We found that the child’s aggressive behavior score increased with every increase in soft drinks servings per day,” Shakara Suglia, an assistant professor of epidemiology at the Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, said in a statement.

“Although this study cannot identify the exact nature of the association between soft drink consumption and problem behaviours, limiting or eliminating a child’s soft drink consumption may reduce behavioral problems,” Suglia said.—Xinhua

Habits linked to obesity may differ for boys and girls

NEW YORK, 18 Aug—Some behaviors, such as TV watching and eating school lunches, were linked to obesity among sixth grade boys and girls in a new study, but other risk factors were gender specific. Involvement in sports, for example, was tied to a lower risk of obesity in boys but not girls. The kids researchers from the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor, the study’s authors, led by Dr Elizabeth Jackson, wrote in the journal Pediatrics that understanding obesity risk factors for specific genders may help target programs aimed at weight loss or preventing weight gain in children.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that about 17 percent of children and teens are obese. For the new study, Jackson and her colleagues used data collected between 2004 and 2011 from 1,714 sixth-grade students at 20 middle schools in and around Ann Arbor.

Overall, about 18 percent of boys and 16 percent of girls were obese, which is defined as children who are in the top-fifth percentile of body mass index—a measurement of weight in relation to height. Among boys who were not obese, about 56 percent participated in at least 20 minutes of vigorous physical activity at least five times per week, compared to about 43 percent of boys who were obese. But there was no difference between the percentage of obese and non-obese girls who reported regular vigorous physical activity. Playing on at least one sports team was also linked to decreased risk of obesity for boys but not girls.

The lack of an association between obesity and physical activity in girls may be explained by girls not reporting some activities like cheerleading or dance, because children may not consider those activities sports, the researchers write.

They did find, however, that drinking two or more servings of milk per day was tied to about a 20 percent decreased risk of obesity among girls but not boys. One possible explanation is that milk is displacing sugary drinks in the girls’ diets, Jackson’s team writes. In addition to those gender-specific risk factors for obesity, the researchers found that heavy TV-watching and regularly eating school lunches were each tied to an increased risk of obesity for both boys and girls. Watching more than two hours of TV was linked to a 19 percent increased risk of obesity and almost always eating school lunches was linked to a 27 to 29 percent increased risk. The new study cannot prove that any of the children’s habits caused their obesity. For example, the authors point out in their report, a child regularly eating school lunches might be eligible for the meals because of low family income — itself a risk factor for obesity.

This isn’t the only study showing that school lunches caused obesity, but it’s appropriate to point out that the school lunch program hasn’t had the effect we would have liked,” Daniel Taber, assistant professor at the University of Texas School of Public Health in Austin, said.

“It’s pointing out that the school lunch program needed improvement because it wasn’t preventing childhood obesity,” Taber said. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) set new standards for school lunches in January 2012 that set maximums for calories during the school year. The new standards that only skim or reduced-fat milk are offered to students.

Prior to 2012, the USDA set calorie measurements for school lunches. Now, the agency requires school lunches to fall between 550 calories and 850 calories — depending on a child’s grade level.

Earlier this year, Taber published a study that found stricter lunch standards—like the ones implemented in 2012—were tied to healthier body weights among students (see Reuters Health story of 8 April, 2013 here:). “It’s not that you want to steer kids away, you want to improve the school lunch program, which is exactly what they’ve been doing this past year,” he said. Jackson and her colleagues wrote that more research is needed to find out how much children may benefit from improving school lunches and reducing TV time, while also learning more about gender-specific risk factors for obesity.—Reuters

New green policy gives industries a big boost

BEIJING, 18 Aug—China will speed up development of the energy-saving sector and make it a pillar of the national economy by 2015, top policymakers said on Sunday. The State Council said in a statement to spur technological innovation, expand demand for energy-saving products and boost the environmental-protection service industry.

According to the State Council, the value of the energy-saving industry’s output will reach 4.5 trillion yuan ($728 billion) by 2015, an average annual growth of 15 percent. Wang Xiaoan, an energy analyst at Sublime China Information, said in a statement to Kyodo News, “For instance, the equipment manufacturers for power plants and grid will benefit from the policy.”

Ren Junming, a commentator on Xinhua.net, said the policy is significant in terms of expanding domestic demand and promoting upgrading of traditional industries. China will invest 1.8 trillion yuan in the renewable energy industry during the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-15) and spend another 2.3 trillion yuan on energy-saving and emissions reduction, Xie Zhenhua, deputy director of the National Development and Reform Commission, said in late July.

China has committed to reduce its carbon emissions per unit of GDP by 40 to 45 percent by 2020 from the 2005 level and raise its non-fossil energy consumption to 15 percent of its energy mix. From 2006 to 2012, China’s energy consumption per unit of GDP was reduced by 16 percent, which was equivalent to a reduction of 1.8 billion metric tons of carbon emissions. Market share of high-efficiency energy-saving technology and equipment will rise from the current 5 percent to 30 percent by the end of 2015.

“Facing the promising green and low-carbon markets, related companies should increase their investments in research, development and the application of low-carbon technology to strengthen their competiveness in the global market,” said Xie. “By coping with climate change and adapting to the new trend, companies can make profits and fulfill social responsibility at the same time.” The market share of energy-efficiency products will increase at least 50 percent by 2015, the State Council said. Urban sewage treatment capacity will also increase to 200 million cubic meters per day by 2015.

Xinhua

NTT West subsidiary begins interpretation service by smart phone app

OSAKA, 18 Aug—A call centre company which is a subsidiary of Nippon Telegard that phone service West Corp has started to offer interpretation services through a smartphone application for foreigners living in Japan.

The app for Android phones is designed to be used in situations such as procedures at government offices or conversations in hospitals for those who do not speak Japanese, the company said.

Users speak with the call centre staff through their smartphone in their native language and then pass them onto the other parties concerned for the staff to translate into Japanese, according to the company. (Kyodo News)
Wildfire threatens Idaho resort towns as 2,250 homes evacuated

Afghan forces kill 36 Taleban fighters in 24 hours

Four Kenyan policemen killed in suspected al Shabaab raid

Bomb injures guard at Egypt’s mission in Benghazi, Libya

Turkey’s Erdogan says Kurds have not withdrawn as agreed

Citizens watch the houses at Lanzhou New Area in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China’s Gansu Province, 14 Aug, 2013. China’s State Council, the Cabinet, approved the establishment of Lanzhou New Area as the 5th State-level new area, the first such area in northwest China, on 20 Aug, 2012. The infrastructure construction of Lanzhou New Area has been basically completed now. It is said the New Area has attracted many famous corporations from both home and abroad, resulting in a total investment of nearly 100 billion yuan.——XINHUA

Residents of Ketchum.

Wildfire threatens Idaho resort towns as 2,250 homes evacuated

Salmon, Idaho, 18 Aug.—A fast-moving central Idaho wildfire forced the evacuation of 2,250 homes near the tourist towns of Hailey and Ketchum as fire-fighters lost ground on Saturday against the blaze that also threatens the Sun Valley ski resort.

Blaine County Sheriff Gene Ramsey called for evacuations on the outskirts of both towns to leave without delay. He expanded evacuation areas to include residential developments north of Ketchum.

The fast-moving wildfire has burned more than 92,000 acres (37,250 hectares) of sagebrush flats, pine forests and granite canyons in the Sawtooth Range west of a highway that connects Hailey, a town of about 8,000 people, to Ketchum and Sun Valley to the north.

More than 1,000 people have fled upscale subdivisions on the southern outskirts of Ketchum, where some homes are worth tens of millions of dollars. The area features the vacation getaways of such celebrities as former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and actor Tom Hanks.

The blaze has sent towering columns of smoke over the tourist towns nestled in a narrow mountain valley known for premier hiking, biking, fishing and skiing.

An animal shelter on the west side of Hailey, where flames enveloped a mountain ridge and raced toward a city park below, was safely emptied of dogs and cats, said Blaine County Deputy Sheriff Anita Selner. Hundreds of firefighters were battling to keep flames from crossing to the east side.

They said highway that links the two townships and is the only developed road out of the valley.

A so-called Beavercreek fire has claimed one residence, one bunkhouse and six other buildings since being sparked by lightning on Aug. 7. Federal fire information officer Sandy Miller said.

Roughly 30 people stayed overnight in an American Red Cross shelter in Hailey, where onlookers gathered as air tankers equipped with fire retardant and helicopters with water buckets flew overhead.

“A lot of people are just watching the fire and our customers are thinking of nothing else,” said Alexis Suarez, barista at Zaney’s River Street Coffee House in Hailey. “People are pretty worried.” The valley is crisscrossed by recreation trails and gated subdivisions of log mansions and luxury homes that border the Sawtooth National Forest.

Four Kenyan policemen killed in suspected al Shabaab raid

Garissa, Kenya, 18 Aug.—Four Kenyan police officers were shot dead in the border county of Garissa when 40 heavily armed men, suspected of belonging to Somali militant group al Shabaab, attacked a police post, a senior regional government official said on Saturday.

The east African nation, which sent its troops into Somalia in late 2011 to pursue the al-Qaeda-linked militants, has suffered a string of gun and grenade attacks claimed by al Shabaab group as retaliation. “Four administration police officers were killed during the attack and we are now preparing to transport their bodies from the scene,” Garissa County Commissioner Rashid Khattor said.

“Our initial assessment points to the attackers being al Shabaab militants who crossed over the border and carried out the hit and run attack,” he said.

Benghazi, Libya, 18 Aug.—A bomb blast ripped through the garden wall of the Egyptian consulate in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi on Saturday, injuring a security guard who needed hospital treatment, witnesses said.

They said at least five children were also cut by flying glass from the explosion, which blew out windows and significantly damaged a building opposite the consulate and vehicles. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Witnesses said the bomb had apparently been hidden inside a briefcase.

Police cordoned off the scene as investigators combed the area for clues. They later reopened the street but posted extra police outside the consulate.

Egyptian security forces are conducting a crackdown on Muslim Brotherhood supporters following last month’s outing of Islamist President Mohamed Mursi.

At least 800 people have been killed in three days of violence after security forces broke up Brotherhood protest camps in Cairo set up to demand Mursi’s reinstatement.

Islamists across the Middle East have condemned the crackdown and some have staged protests in their own countries. Lawlessness has blighted large areas of Libya following the 2011 war that toppled Muammar Gaddafi.

Bomb injures guard at Egypt’s mission in Benghazi, Libya

Israel, 18 Aug.—The Israeli government has imposed sanctions on Turkey, in response to the death of an Israeli civilian in an incident earlier this week.

The Israeli government has imposed sanctions on Turkey, in response to the death of an Israeli civilian in an incident earlier this week.

Israel’s Defense Ministry said it would sever military ties with Turkey and freeze arms sales to the country, citing Turkey’s support for Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The ministry also said it would recall its ambassador from Ankara and suspend a military agreement with Turkey.

Turkey’s Erdogan says Kurds have not withdrawn as agreed

Istanbul, 18 Aug.—Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan has said the separatist Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) has failed to withdraw its fighters from Turkey as agreed, a condition for Kurdish rights to be expanded as part of a peace process.

Erdogan did not say what this meant for the process, seen by many as the best chance yet to end a conflict that has killed more than 40,000 people, mainly Kurds, since 1984, but indicated that a Kurdish rights package would be unveiled soon.

“The promises made by the PKK to withdraw from Turkish soil have not been fulfilled,” the newspaper quoted him as saying on his way back from Turkmenistan late on Friday.

“Only 20 percent have left Turkey, and they are mostly women and children.” The PKK feared its fighters, estimated at around 2,000, would be attacked as they withdrew to bases in the northern Iraqi mountains, but so far a ceasefire declared in March has largely held. The PKK has not said how many of its fighters have left, but says clashes could resume if Ankara does not take concrete steps by the start of September.

Erdogan said on Aug. 8 that parliament may cut short its summer recess, due to end on 1 Oct, to pass the “democratisation package.” A Justice Ministry official told Reuters last week that the package would include provisions for wider Kurdish-language education.

But Erdogan, under pressure from nationalists for offering concessions to Kurds, has said Ankara does not plan to make any amnesty for PKK fighters, who have been promised safe passage out of Turkey, but not rehabilitation.
Defiant Hezbollah leader says ready to fight in Syria

BEIRUT, 18 Aug — Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah accused radical Sunni Islamists on Friday of being behind a car bomb that killed 24 people in Beirut and vowed that the attack would redouble his group’s commitment to its military campaign in Syria.

In a fiery speech to supporters, one day after the deadliest bombing in the capital since Lebanon’s civil war ended two decades ago, Nasrallah raised the stakes by pledging to join the battle in Syria himself if needed.

Thursday’s blast in the Shi’ite militant Hezbollah’s stronghold followed months of sectarian tension and violence in Lebanon fuelled in part by Hezbollah’s intervention against Sunni Muslim rebels in Syria’s civil war.

“It is most likely that a takﬁr group was responsible for yesterday’s explosion,” Nasrallah said, referring to radical Sunni Muslim factions linked to al-Qaeda, many of whom are fighting with Syrian rebels against President Bashar al-Assad. “If you think by killing our women and children … and destroying our neighbourhoods, we would retreat from the battle in Syria, you are wrong,” he said in a combative speech broadcast via videolink from a secret location to his supporters.

“If we had 100 fighters in Syria, now they will be 200. If we had 1,000, they will be 2,000. If we had 5,000 they will be 10,000. If the battle with these takﬁr terrorists requires that I and all Hezbollah should go to Syria, we will go.”

Thursday’s blast came a month after a car bomb wounded 50 people in the same district of the Lebanon capital — an attack that Nasrallah also blamed on takﬁrists, who consider all but the most radical Sunnis to be infidels whose blood can be spit.

Defence Minister Fayez Ghanem said a Syrian man had been arrested in suspected involvement in the Beirut attack.

In its neighbours’ conflict, Lebanese Hezbollah fighters helped Assad’s soldiers retake a strategic border town in June, while Sunni Muslims from Lebanon have joined the rebel ranks.

The violence has spilled back into Lebanon, with bombings and street clashes in the Bekaa Valley and Mediterranean cities of Tripoli and Sidon. — Reuters

A boy tries in a new car during the 2013 Nanjing Auto Expo in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 16 Aug, 2013. Many parents took children to visit the Expo. — Xinhua

African envoys seek solutions to rampant poaching

NAIROBI, 18 Aug.—African Ambassadors accredited to Kenya began a two-day retreat at the Tsavo National Park in the southwest of Kenya on Friday to assess the impact of poaching in the East African nation.

The retreat, organized by Kenya’s Mission to the UN Office at Nairobi (UNON), is intended to increase awareness of poaching and its negative impact on the country and region’s prosperity and heritage.

The retreat comes as part of a programme developed by the African Ambassadors where they travel regularly to different parts of Kenya and contribute to socio-economic projects,” said a statement from Kenya’s ministry of foreign affairs.

The retreat comes after conservationists have warned that poaching could eliminate elephants in the next 10 years unless measures are undertaken to curb this crisis.

Protecting Kenya’s 38,000 elephant herd is both an ecological and economic imperative. Kenya has been identified as one of the leading transit routes for smuggling ivory out of Africa, with several incidents of ivory seizures and recovery of wildlife carcasses in recent days.

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) estimates that more than eight tonnes of raw and worked ivory have been seized since 2009. The demand for ivory in the Far East has attracted criminal cartels to Kenya, who are feeding the insatiable demand.

Conservationists warn that unless the demand is extinguished, poachers will wipe out Africa’s elephants.

The retreat whose theme is “Poaching and Prosperity: The Challenges and Opportunities of Protecting Elephants and Rhinos” is expected to build synergies among the African representatives for the development of a common African position on poaching, particularly in elephants and rhinos.

“This is intended to help start a process in which African countries collectively increase their engagements with regional and global enforcement agencies in order to enhance the effectiveness of anti-poaching efforts,” the statement said.

The Ambassadors, who also serve as their countries’ Permanent Representatives to UNEP, will be taken through the challenges of poaching faced in Kenya, which are similar to the experiences of other African countries.

Professor Judy Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Water and Natural Resources spoke on the policies and mechanisms the Government has adopted to address the poaching crisis in the country.—Xinhua

Zuma’s government pulls out of commemoration for mine killings

MARIKANA, 18 Aug — South Africa’s ANC government pulled out at the last minute from a memorial ceremony marking the anniversary of the nation’s bloodiest post-apartheid labour violence, drawing attention to the dominant party’s loss of support among many miners.

President Jacob Zuma’s government had planned a unifying day of prayer and reflection to commemorate the killings by police last year of 34 striking platinum workers at Lonmin’s Marikana mine. The deadliest incident of its kind since the 1994 end of white-minority rule, it shocked South Africans and the world.

But just hours before the planned commemoration, a statement went ahead on Friday at the mine northeast of Johannesburg, a government spokesman said no one from Zuma’s government would appear. More than a dozen seats for cabinet ministers on the main stage were empty when ceremonies started.

Zuma, who faces an election next year, has come under fire from critics over the government’s clumsy handling of what has come to be known as the “Marikana massacre”, including questions over alleged police brutality.

The Marikana killings were among 60 deaths during a wave of illegal strikes and labour violence in the country’s mines that started last year and spilled over into this year. The violence helped trigger credit downgrades for Africa’s biggest economy and dented the image of the ANC government.

“The retreating ANC said it would not participate in Friday’s memorial because the event was being organized by a Marikana support group, which includes the hardline Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU).

“Zuma’s ruling ANC said it would not participate in Friday’s memorial because the event was being organized by a Marikana support group, which includes the hardline Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU).”

“We are not participating in this activity,” ANC spokesman Ishmael Masiyiwa told reporters. “People are taking advantage of a tragedy for their own political benefit.”

Reuters

Crosses are placed at a hill known as the “Hill of Horror”, during the one-year anniversary commemorations to mark the killings of 34 striking platinum miners shot dead by police outside the Lonmin’s Marikana platinum mine in Rustenburg, 100 km (62 miles) northwest of Johannesburg, on 16 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

Colombian rebel chief willing to shake president’s hands

BOGOTA, 18 Aug — The top leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) insurgent group, Rodrigo Lon- dono Echeverri, said on Friday he would like to “shake hands” with President Juan Manuel Santos, despite the president having ordered his destruction.

Londoño is better known by the nom de guerre “Timoleon Jiménez” or “Timochenko.”

Londoño indicated in an interview aired on Fri-day by local media that he was looking forward to that moment once an agreement is reached between the govern- ment and the rebels to end five decades of armed con- flict, but dismissed the possibility of a meeting between the two before on-going peace talks conclude with a peace deal.

“If we reach a peace accord that is socially just, rest assured that from the oldest guerrilla fighter to the newest, they are going to back it,” said Londoño, predicting that the talks will lay down their weapons once a peace deal with the government is signed.

Still, Londoño said he was concerned by Santos’ recent order to have him and other rebel leaders killed, while the two delegations continue to negotiate an end to the fighting.

“It’s worrisome that Santos believes that peace talks and the talks in Havana, our bomb-felled bodies must be laid out in the negotiating table,” Lon- dono said.—Xinhua

But plungs off cliff in Bolivia, killing 10, injuring 25

LA PAZ, 18 Aug — At least 10 people were killed and another 25 injured Friday when a passenger bus plunged into a ravine more than 100 meters deep in southern Bolivia, according to a preliminary report by transit authorities.

The bus belonging to the San Lorenzo company was traveling along the road linking the departments (states) of Cochabamba and Tarija when it plummeted off the ridge near Falda La Quepua, 50 kilometres from Tarija’s capital.

The driver of the bus reportedly lost control of the vehicle before it veered off the road at around 9 am local time (1300 GMT), the report said.

The head of Tarija’s Transit Department, Angel Mantilla, said rescue teams were searching for the bodies of the victims and attempting to reduce the injuries.

A caterpillar tractor was being used to retrieve the bus from the bottom of the ravine, he added.

Several passengers were quoted by local radio stations as saying the driver had fallen asleep at the wheel.—Xinhua

Forensic inspectors examine the site of a car bomb that occurred on Thursday in Beirut’s southern suburbs, on 16 Aug. 2013.—Reuters

Colombo.
An important correlation

Because of raindrops all the plants grow and thrive well on Earth the only planet in this Universe that harbors life. Monsoon turns the environment green, with plants blossoming colorful flowers and bearing fruits sweet or sour. From a single plant and a single flower to forested areas and dense jungles rain is their life blood.

What’s more, rains not only benefit the plants, but also the whole world supplying water for crops and supporting life on Earth. Rain is a blessing for flora and fauna and also for the mankind.

Fundamentally, more trees mean more precipitation. Rains support trees and vice versa. So there is correlation between trees and rains as they are relying on each other.

Beyond doubt, a place where trees flourish possesses a favorable climate. On the other hand an area with fewer trees is exposed to natural disasters like droughts and floods and even to desertification. In fact, forest depletion invites these disasters. Experts say that forest areas are dwindling at a rate of one acre per second while the damage rate is at 57 million acres per year. That’s alarming.

Firewood requirements, burning forest for certain reasons and industrial invasion are some of the main sources of daily forest depletion which never comes alone but always with a more evil companion—global warming. The worst is that long-term forest depletion is even harming ecosystem.

As trees benefit mankind, we all are responsible for their existence and safety. We must avoid all acts including firewood cutting and forest burning that destroy trees. As there is correlation between trees and precipitation, rain will come as long as we have thriving forests. So, let’s always protect and preserve this important correlation.

President U Thein Sein attends hoisting of golden umbrella atop Laygyun Manaung Pagoda...

(from page 1)

Also present on the occasion were Sagaing Zayathein Pali Tekkatho Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Paññāsiri, Rector of ITBMU Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dr Nanda mala h bhivamsa and Dean of Patipatti Department Dhammaduta Sayadaw Professor Dr Ashin Çhekinda and members of the Sangha, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Union ministers U Aung Kyi, U Soe Maung, U Hla Tun, U Win Myint and Dr Pe Thet Khin, Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, commanders, officials, religious associations of Sagaing, guests and wellwishers.

Pagodas and stupas in Mandalay and Sagaing Regions were struck by an earthquake on 11 November 2012. Therefore, the Union government, region government and people rebuilt and renovated the damaged pagodas and stupas. At that time, Laygyun Manaung Pagoda, 122 feet high, was also damaged in the earthquake.

At present, wellwishers led by Dhammaduta Sayadaw Professor Dr Ashin Chekinda and local people has renovated the pagoda and held the golden umbrella hoisting ceremony.

Yesterday evening, the President and party paid homage to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay and applied gold foils on the Buddha Image.—MNA

Union Industry tours industries in Magway, Padaung Tsps

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint yesterday morning heard reports on number of trainees and creating of job opportunities presented by the deputy principal of Automobile Technical Training School in Magway Industrial Regional in Magway Region.

The Union Minister stressed the need to produce air bag system of automobile and viewed theoretical and practical works of trainees and teaching aid.

At No 23 Heavy Industry (Magway), the Union minister met the industry manager and officials and called for expanding the market of the product and informing the people of the products through media. He then looked into production process of the industry and displays of heavy turbo trucks and gear boxes.

The industry manufactures about 1000 heavy turbo trucks and 500 truck gear boxes per year.

On arrival at No 23 Heavy Industry (Nyaungeche-dauk) in Padaung Township, the Union minister stressed the need to manufacture the products depending on market demand. He said that it is necessary to manufacture the products in quality and quantity while trying to penetrate the market.

The Union minister inspected production of machine tools, transformer, PVC wire, power cable and copper cables.—MNA
Mandalay Chief Minister visits Kuthodaw Pagoda

Mandala, 18 Aug—Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, accompanied by Region Minister for Forestry and Mines U Than Soe Myint, visited Mahalawkamarazein Kuthodaw Pagoda at the foot of Mandalay Hill in Aungmyethazan Township on 13 August and inspected the maintenance tasks.

They also viewed the star-flower plants aged more than 100 years and urged the Director of Region Forest Department, the district deputy commissioner, the township administrator and members of Pagoda Board of Trustees to keep them alive.

They also viewed round the sanitation and greening tasks in the precinct of the pagoda.

Stone inscriptions of Tipitaka developed by King Mindon have attracted more tourists.

The chief minister called for maintaining the pagoda carefully as it has attracted more and more tourists.

MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)

Compensations presented to families of 14 missing seamen

Yango, 18 Aug—Shipping companies granted compensations to 14 seamen who went missing in sea off the shore of the Philippines at the ceremony held in Bahan Township in Yangon on 14 August.

Singapore’s Ocean Sentinels Shipping Management Ltd and SSR Big Trans Shipping MV Harita Bauxite granted compensations to the 14 Myanmar seamen who had gone missing on 16 February 2012.

Nine officers and seamen who had been rescued received the compensation of one-month salary.

According to a survived seaman, they would receive insurance about a year later as well.

Families of the missing seamen accepted the compensations at the ceremony.

The ship sunk after an engine failure in the sea.

Two out of nine survived seamen were injured in the incident as the ship went adrift in the sea before sinking.

Compensation for one missing seaman has been granted on 26 July.

MMAL

Spending over US$ 1.6 million on socio-economic development contract signed

Mandala, 18 Aug—The contract signing ceremony of 2013 socio-economic projects by Myanmar-China oil and gas pipeline project was held at the oil and gas control station beside Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Amarapura Township on 16 August afternoon.

Officials of SEAOP and SEAOP Companies and the companies which will implement 33 items of socio-economic development project signed the agreements.

In the project, SEAOP Company will provide assistance for 18 tasks and compensations to the 14 seamen who could be rescued had gone missing on 16 September 2012.

Moody Bauxite granted $100 million to seamen who went missing in sea off the shore of Philippines.

In 2013-2013 fiscal year, US$ 1,654,264 will be spent on 33 items of socio-economic development in the nation.

The fund will be allotted to the pipeline area including nine schools and two orphanages in Shan State, two schools, two orphanages, two tube-wells and one village electrification in Mandalay Region, four schools, one school road, one inter-village road and one village dispensary in Rakhine State, three schools, one village dispensary and one building for homeless aged in Magway Region.

Kyemon

Educative talks on insurance given

Loikaw, 18 Aug—An educative talk on insurance was organized in Dimawha Township General Administration Department in Loikaw District in Kayah State.

State in Charge of Kayah State Internal Revenue Department Daw Aye Aye Myint briefed the background history of Internal Revenue Department, insurance policies, available insurances and rules and regulations of insurance.

Health

MMA organizes extempore contest in commemoration of International Youth Day

Yangon, 18 Aug—Myanmar Medical Association Youth Development Programme organized an extempore contest on youth and migration with the support of the United Nations Population Fund and other UN agencies at Dolphin Restaurant in Natmauk Street in Yangon on 12 August.

It was held in commemoration of International Youth Day and aimed at disseminating youth education.

Ms Janet Jackson, Resident Representative of United Nations Population Fund, and Professor U Kyaw Myint Naing, Chairman of Myanmar Medical Association (Central) gave speeches.

The paper reading sessions and the extempore contests are yearly held to mark the International Youth Day.

The chairman said it would boost the reading habits of the young people and widen their horizons.

He said the information obtained in the sessions would contribute to the better future of the young people.

It was participated by 250 young delegates.

The Myanmar Medical Association is working in cooperation with UNFPA to distribute the reproductive health knowledge, teenage reproductive health knowledge and humanitarian aids. A youth development programme of UNFPA features a youth reproductive health project.

MMAL-Saungvah

Finance

Revenue shared to Yangon City Development Committee’s Fund

Yangon, 18 Aug—Head of Township Internal Revenue Department U Nay Lin Aung presented K 5,982,152 as tax to Assistant Manager of Township Development Affairs Committee U Maung Maung Oo.

MMA

New Light of Myanmar

LOCAL NEWS

Monday, 19 August, 2013
China, Russia vow to strengthen strategic ties

Sochi, (Russia), 18 Aug—Russian President Vladimir Putin met visiting Chinese State Councillor Yang Jiechi here on Friday with both sides pledging to deepen their strategic ties.

Putin asked Yang to conveyed greetings to his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, noting that he and Xi had agreed to lift the Russia-China relationship to a new level.

Russia has the will and confidence to work with China to fully implement bilateral relations development plans, keep close contact at top levels, and deepen pragmatic cooperation, strengthen coordination on international affairs, and safeguard global and regional peace and stability, he added.

"I’m eagerly expecting President Xi Jinping’s visit to Russia next month for the Leaders’ Summit of the Group of Twenty to be held in St. Petersburg and a meeting with him," Putin said, adding that they will exchange views on major international and regional issues and further push forward major programmes of cooperation.

The two countries will continue joint efforts and contribute to a successful summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) which is to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, so as to safeguard regional security and stability, and promote common development among SCO member states, Putin said, Yang hailed Xi’s state visit to Russia in March, during which the two heads of state set layout for new and time-consuming issues and further push for major programmes of cooperation.

Six killed, 30 wounded in separate attacks in Iraq

Baghdad, 18 Aug—At least six people were killed and 30 others wounded in separate violent attacks in Iraq on Friday, police said.

A roadside bomb exploded near a popular play-area in the Gazaliya area in western Baghdad, killing five people and injuring 17 others, a police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Also one person was killed and six others were wounded when a roadside bomb went off near a shop in the Sidiya area in southwestern Baghdad, the police source said.

Seven policemen were wounded when a roadside bomb targeted their patrol in Samarra, some 120 km north of Baghdad, he added.

Iraq is witnessing its worst eruption of violence in recent years, which raises fears that the country is sliding back to the full-blown civil conflict that peaked in 2006 and 2007, when monthly death toll sometimes exceeded 3,000.

The UN Assistance Mission for Iraq recently reported that over 1,000 Iraqis were killed and more than 2,300 wounded in acts of terrorism and violence in July, the deadliest month in more than five years.

Syrian refugees pour into Iraq at new crossing, UN says

Geneva, 18 Aug—Thousands of Syrian refugees poured into the Kurdish region of northern Iraq on Thursday, taking advantage of a new bridge along the largely closed border, the United Nations said on Friday. Between 5,000 and 7,000 refugees followed a first group of some 750 people who crossed the pontoon bridge at Peshkhabour over the Tigris River, and more buses were seen dropping off families on the Syrian side, it said.

"Thousands of Syrians crossed into northern Iraq yesterday (Thursday) in a sudden, massive movement," Adrian Edwards, spokesman of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told a news briefing in Geneva.

Most were families with women, children and the elderly, mainly from Aleppo, Hassakeh and other embattled areas of Syria where fighting has intensified in the civil war, now in its third year, that has driven nearly 2 million refugees abroad. There are already more than 150,000 Syrian refugees registered in Iraq.

According to the UNHCR which has urged all neighbouring countries to keep open their borders to Syrians needing international protection.

The border between Syria and Iraq has been largely closed since authorities of the Kurdish regional government shut the crossing on 19 May, apart from a single formal crossing point at Al-Wahid in Anbar Province.

Israel’s Livni sees peace talks aiding Arab world alliance shift

Jerusalem, 18 Aug—Israel’s top peace negotiator said on Friday newly resumed talks with the Palestinians also held a wider opportunity for Israel to seek alliances with Arab world moderates against militants in the Middle East.

The US-brokered talks were held last month after a three-year stand off, the latest session on Wednesday coming amid a row over new plans by Israel to expand its enclaves in territory Palestinians want for a state.

The sides have provided little detail about the talks, hoping a lower profile may help them reach Washington’s ambitious goal of reaching a deal for Palestinian statehood in nine months, despite wide gaps over key issues.

Livni, speaking after a meeting about the negotiations with visiting UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday, declined to say whether any progress has been made.

She said the talks have provided an opening "not only to relaunch negotiations but also to change the way the talks are held and played in the media and among the public, and in order to reach an understanding of the parties to move towards the agreement of a comprehensive peace plan that is acceptable to all the parties and the international community, in order to achieve peace and security for all the parties and the region."
**Families clash in SE Turkey over land dispute, eight killed**

ANKARA, 18 Aug — An armed clash between two families in southeastern Turkey on Saturday left eight people and seriously wounded nine others, private Dogan news agency reported.

The incident took place in the Ciftlibahce Village of Hazro town, Diyarbakir Province, when members from the two families exchanged fire over a land dispute.

An investigation into the incident has been launched, the report added. On 27 July, eight people were killed and four others wounded in an armed clash caused by a land dispute between two families in the same province. — Xinhua

**Cambodian police arrests 4 suspects for distributing anti-government pamphlets**

PINOM PENH, 18 Aug — Cambodian authorities have arrested four people for producing and distributing hundreds of leaflets, aiming at inciting weapon violence to topple the government, a statement from the spokesman for the National Police said on Saturday.

“The arrest was made on Thursday when the suspects were producing and distributing hundreds of leaflets, appealing to armed forces to use weapons to overthrow the government,” said the statement.

“This action is a criminal offence that will be punished based on the Penal Code, and it is not the legal rights and freedom or political activity,” it said.

The Phnom Penh Municipal Police have arrested four suspects including two females to the city’s court for legal action.

“Making and distributing such leaflets is an intentional activity to create weapon violence and to cause serious social instability; thus, the perpetrators will be punished in accordance with the law in effect,” the statement said.

According to the statement, the suspects had given out those pamphlets at the behest of Suon Serey, president of the Khmer People Power Movement, which is a US-based described “ civil political movement” against the Cambodian government.

Suon Serey, who is currently living overseas, used to mobilise illegal armed forces and is wanted by Cambodian police for inciting criminal conduct.

Cambodia has been in a political crisis since Monday when the National Election Committee released the initial results of the 28 July election, according to which the Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) of long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen won a majority of vote.

However, the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party of longtime opposition leader Sam Rainsy rejected the results, claiming serious irregularities during the poll.

Soldiers, police and military police with armed forces have been deployed on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, since last week after the opposition has repeatedly threatened to call mass demonstrations against the election results.

**Lifting self-defence structure won’t lead to military action**

TYO, 18 Aug — Defence Minister Isunori Onodera said on Saturday that lifting Japan’s self-imposed ban on exercising the right to collective self-defence would not lead to overseas military deployment of Self-Defence Forces.

“We will never go to other countries for military actions,” Onodera said in a Tokyo Broadcasting System Television programme.

Japan “will also determine by itself if it should exercise the right to collective self-defence,” even if requested to do so by other countries, he added.

Onodera said, “It would be extremely difficult under the current interpretation to address a case in which a US warship deployed to protect Japan were to come under attack on the high seas,” apparently stressing the need to promote debate on the issue.

The plan has come under fire not only from opposition parties, such as the Japanese Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party, but also the New Komeito party, the junior coalition partner of Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party, on the grounds that it will allow Japan to use force overseas.

**Philippines suspends hunt for ferry disaster survivors; 32 dead, 170 missing**

CEBU, (Philippines), 18 Aug — Worsening weather and sea conditions on Saturday forced the Philippines to suspend a search for survivors of a ferry disaster that killed at least 32 people and left 170 missing, authorities said.

The ferry sank on Friday after a collision just outside the central port of Cebu with a cargo vessel owned by a company involved in the world’s worst peacetime maritime disaster nearly 30 years ago.

Divers will resume searching early on Sunday, Transportation Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya told a news conference in Manila, after heavy rain brought by a typhoon and low pressure had reduced visibility at sea almost to zero.

“Diving operations stopped because of weather conditions,” Abaya said, adding that 661 of the 831 passengers and crew on the ferry had been accounted for. With 32 dead and 629 rescued, there are 170 missing. Just 17 of the dead have been identified.

**Chinese Vice Premier meets Cambodian King, OCA president**

NANJING, (China), 18 Aug — Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong met here with Cambodian King Norodom Shihmoni and Sheikh Ahmed Al-Sabah, the President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), respectively on Friday.

During the meeting with King Shihmoni, Liu extended warm welcome to him for attending the opening ceremony of the second Asian Youth Games in Nanjing and spoke highly of his efforts to further enhance the traditional friendship between China and Cambodia. Liu said that China is willing to work with Cambodia to deepen bilateral strategic partnership for the welfare of the two nations.

During the meeting with Sheikh Ahmed and other OCA high-ranking officials, Liu expressed gratitude to the OCA for its long-time support for and assistance to China in sports development. She said the Chinese government has always attached great significance to sports, adding that under the guidance of the OCA, China will deliver a vibrant and culture-oriented Asian Youth Games. — Xinhua

**Readers select books in a Eslite Bookstore in Taipei, southeast China’s Taipei, on 12 Aug, 2013. Eslite was established in Taipei in 1989 with a focus on art and humanities-related books, New Eslite has a total of 43 branches, attracting locals and tourists. — Xinhua**

**Participants compete in the 2013 Pokemon World Championships in Vancouver, Canada, on 10 Aug, 2013. This is the first Pokemon World Championship held in Canada. During the three-day event, players competed in various age categories for prizes such as scholarships, game expansion packages, travel funds and Pikachu championship trophy. — Xinhua**

The remarks come as the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to review its interpretation of the war-renouncing Constitution to pave the way for Japan to exercise its right to collective self-defence.

So far Tokyo has taken the position that while Japan has the right to come to the defence of an ally under armed attack, it cannot exercise the right because of the limits imposed by the country’s pacificist Constitution.

Onodera said, “It would be extremely difficult under the current interpretation to address a case in which a US warship deployed to protect Japan were to come under attack on the high seas,” apparently stressing the need to promote debate on the issue.

The plan has come under fire not only from opposition parties, such as the Japanese Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party, but also the New Komeito party, the junior coalition partner of Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party, on the grounds that it will allow Japan to use force overseas.

“But we’ve got information that some bodies have been recovered, and we expect the number of missing to decrease, and we expect the casualties to increase.”

Many of the survivors were sick from swallowing oil and seawater, disaster officials said.

Scores, sometimes hundreds, of people die each year in ferry accidents in the Philippines, an archipelago of 7,100 islands with a notoriously poor record for maritime safety. Overcrowding is common, and most of the vessels are in bad condition.

The 40-year-old ferry was approaching Cebu late in the evening when it was struck by the departing cargo vessel, the Sulpicio Express 7, leaving two huge holes in the latter’s bow. The ferry sank in minutes, at about a kilometre off Cebu.

Small planes and helicopters also scoured the waters and coastal areas of Cebu island for survivors, officials said.— Reuters
Nearly 100 trapped in central China floods

CHANGSHA, 18 Aug—Nearly 100 people in central China’s Hunan Province have been trapped due to torrential rain that started hitting the province two days ago, local authorities said.

The trapped are from four villages in Lanshan County in the city of Yongzhou, according to the municipal government.

Precipitation in the past 36 hours has reached nearly 400 mm in some areas in the county. Water levels on the Shunshui River, which runs near the county, are above safe levels, the local government said.

Armed police and firefighters have been dispatched to rescue the trapped villagers.

--------------------------------------------------

Passengers escape death after airline engine catches fire in Ghana

ACCRA, 18 Aug—All passengers of a local airline in Ghana, Antrak Air, escaped death after one of the engines of the airplane flying to Accra caught fire above ground immediately it took off at the Tamale Airport in northern Ghana on Friday morning.

This had caused one of the fans of the plane to stop functioning, compelling to make force landing to save the lives of the passengers, local media quoted Charles Nyaaba, one of the passengers on the plane, as saying.

Frightened passengers prayed and screamed while the pilot steered the faulty airplane to land and save their lives, he said.

The airline is yet to comment on the incident but is expected to issue a statement on the incident soon.

A similar incident occurred last year when an Antrak Air plane traveling from Tamale to Accra nearly caught fire while it was about to take off.

--------------------------------------------------

German tourist killed in Venice gondola crash

ROME, 18 Aug—A German tourist was killed and his three-year-old daughter seriously injured when a gondola carrying them on Venice’s Grand Canal collided with a ferry on Saturday.

The man appeared to have been crushed between the two boats near the historic city’s famous Rialto bridge, a spokesman for Venice’s fire brigade said.

The little girl suffered a head injury and was taken to a hospital in Padua for treatment, he added.

--------------------------------------------------

Syrian rebels kill 11, mainly Christians, in checkpoint attack

BEIRUT, 18 Aug—Syrian rebels killed at least 11 people, including civilians, in an attack on a checkpoint west of the city of Homs on Saturday that official state media described as a massacre.

Most of those killed were Christians, activists and residents said. Some were from the National Defence Army, a militia which fights alongside President Bashar al-Assad’s soldiers, and others were civilians, they said.

“Terrorists today committed a massacre, killing 11 people ... in Homs countryside,” the state news agency SANA quoted an official as saying.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said rebel gunmen had attacked the checkpoint, killing five militia fighters and six civilians, including two women. It said the rebel fighters had also sustained losses.

A resident who visited the site of the overnight attack said he saw the remains of a destroyed checkpoint and two civilian cars nearby, whose passengers may have been caught up by chance in the fighting.

He said the checkpoint had been used as an artillery base to bombard the rebel town of Homs, about 2 km (1 mile) away, which lies below the towering Crusader castle Crac des Chevaliers.

Many Christians fleeing the violence in Homs city over the past two years have settled in the Christian villages around the area where Saturday’s attack took place.

Some have joined the pro-Assad forces, fearing for their future were the president to be toppled by rebel forces increasingly led by radical Islamist brigades, some with links to al-Qaeda.

More than 100,000 people have been killed in Syria’s civil war, which grew out of a 2011 uprising against 40 years of dynastic rule by the Assad family, and nearly 2 million more have fled the country as refugees.

--------------------------------------------------

10 killed in Morocco after truck falls into river

RABAT, 18 Aug—Ten people were killed and 26 others injured on early Friday after a truck drove off a bridge and plunged into a river near the city of Chichaoua in central Morocco, local MAP news agency reported.

Among the injured, 14 are in serious conditions, said the report.

The accident occurred when the truck driver lost control of the vehicle when trying to overtake a taxi.

Morocco’s roads are rated among the most dangerous in Africa, with accidents claiming 4,200 lives in 2011, according to the Transportation Ministry.

--------------------------------------------------

People walk on a waterlogged road in Huadian City, northeast China’s Jilin Province, on 16 Aug. 2013. Eleven people were killed and three others went missing in a flood that inundated a residential compound in Hongshi Township in the city of Huadian on Friday. Northeast China has been hit by the biggest floods in decades this summer.—XINHUA

A rider shoots on horse during the annual horse racing festival in the village of Dagdong, Daliangdeqen County, southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, on 15 Aug, 2013.—XINHUA

A similar incident occurred last year when an Antrak Air plane traveling from Tamale to Accra nearly caught fire while it was about to take off.

--------------------------------------------------
Is Jennifer Lopez Simon Cowell’s secret messenger?

Simon Cowell has gone incognito after the news of his relationship with Lauren Silverman surfaced.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 18 Aug — Music mogul Simon Cowell is reportedly taking Jennifer Lopez’s help to communicate with sociale Lauren Silverman, who is expecting his baby.

‘Free Willy’ actor August Schellenberg dies aged 77

LOS ANGELES, 18 Aug — Actor August Schellenberg, best known for playing Native American roles in films such as “Free Willy” and “The New World,” has died after battling lung cancer, his manager said on Friday. He was 77. Schellenberg died at his home in Dallas on Thursday, manager Alan Mills said. The actor’s family has not yet made arrangements for his funeral.

The Montreal-born Schellenberg was half-Mohawk and half-Swiss-German, and played a whale trainer in 1993’s “Free Willy,” reprising the role for the sequels. He also played Chief Powhatan in Terrence Malick’s 2005 film “The New World,” alongside Christian Bale and Colin Farrell.

Schellenberg appeared in numerous television shows, most recently in “SGU Stargate Universe” in 2011, and was nominated for a supporting actor Emmy award in 2007 for his role in HBO TV movie “Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee.”

August Schellenberg, a cast member in the HBO film “Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee,” arrives at the premiere of the film in Los Angeles, on 10 May, 2007 file photo.—Reuters

Shah Rukh Khan: Rajinikanth likes ‘naughty’ Lungi Dance

MUMBAI, 18 Aug—Superstar Shah Rukh Khan was elated when Rajinikanth called him up and praised the “naughty” number Thalaiva tribute (Lungi Dance), a special track in honour of the legendary actor in Chennai Express.

“He (Rajinikanth) called me three days back and he saw the video on YouTube. He said it’s very good, very naughty, very sweet. He said, ‘It’s really nice that you have done this song’. I’m very happy that Rajini sir is happy with the song and the family is happy,” Shah Rukh said.

The 47-year-old actor said that he called Rajinikanth and his daughter Soundarya, and took his permission for the song, sung by rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh.

“As gracious, humble and sweet he is, he said, ‘Why are you doing it sir? You are such a big star yourself’. He said it so sweetly. I told him, ‘I am sending you the song and please let me know how do you like it’. We shot the song in a day-and-a-half,” said Shah Rukh.

“I thought the timing is good. If you don’t pay a tribute to Rajini sir in a film called Chennai Express, then it is incomplete,” he added.

Directed by Rohit Shetty, Chennai Express also features Deepika Padukone.—PTI

Mark Wahlberg wants to play Iron man

The 42-year-old actor revealed that he almost starred in a Batman film and now he seems enthusiastic in filming Iron Man in which the title role is currently played by Downey Jr, reported Ace Showbiz.

“I would like to take over the Iron Man franchise for Robert Downey. But it’s one of those things where I kind of like playing real people, so I’ve never been asked,” he said. “Once I was kind of being talked about for the Robin role in Batman Forever,” he added.

PTI

The actor wants to take over the franchise from Robert Downey Jr.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 18 Aug — Actor Mark Wahlberg says he wants to take over the role of Iron Man from Robert Downey Jr. in the future.

PTI

Akshay Kumar: I do movies according to market demand

NEW DELHI, 18 Aug—Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar says his choice of films is dictated by the market demand and he does not mind playing regular action-comedy roles. Last year, the 45-year-old actor dominated the screens with his masala entertainers Housefull 2, Rowdy Rathore, Joker, and Khiladi 786.

Akshay’s previous movies Desi Boyz, Tees Maar Khan, Khata Meetha and De Dana Dan were also in the comedy genre.

“Such films were running so what should I do! You have to do something different at times what people like. I do feel the need to change but I have to see what the market wants. Whatever the demand is the product has to be the same. It is not my choice,” Akshay said.

The actor seemed miffed to be asked about choosing similar looking roles lately but said he is breaking the mould with Special 26 and his upcoming film Once Upon A Time in Mumbai Dobaara! where he is playing a negative role after his 2001 release Ajnabee. “It felt amazing to take out the gun and keep it on the hero’s head. For the first time I got an opportunity to do that. I honestly enjoyed it,” Akshay said. A sequel to 2010 hit Once Upon A Time In Mumbaai, the movie sees Akshay take on the role of Shoaib Khan, previously played by Emraan Hashmi.

There were reports that Shaoba’s role is inspired by Duwood Ibrahim but the actor denied any similarity between the real and the reel don.

“The characters are fictitious and it has no relation with any living person. It is a fictitious and romantic story set in the backdrop of underworld. The good thing about the film is that it has a hint of dark humour which wasn’t there in the first part,” he said. Akshay revealed that the makers have kept the film’s ending open, hinting at a part three to the franchise.

“I think the producers want to make a part three so I run away in the end and don’t get beaten up by the hero. They have kept the ending open. I don’t know if there are any plans but if it happens I will surely be back.”

His three films in the past have made it to the 100 crore club, which has definitely become the new criteria for a Bollywood hit but Akshay is not worried about the business this time. “What will the result be? I can’t say whether it will be a hit or a flop. But as an artiste you are very proud of some films and this is that one film for me. There are few films which I don’t keep in my DVD collection but of OUATIMD I can keep two copies.” Directed by Milan Luthria and also starring Sonakshi Sinha and Imran Khan, OUATIMD hits the theaters on 15 August.

PTI

The actor dominated the screens with Housefull 2, Rowdy Rathore, Joker, and Khiladi 786 last year.—PTI

PTI

The song is a tribute to Rajinikanth and has been sung by rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh.—PTI
**SPORTS**

Williams to face Azarenka for Cincinnati crown

**CINCINNATI, 18 Aug—** World number one Serena Williams said on Saturday and halfway through the US Open that she had taken her best 19.79 from lane eight for the first time, was not at her dominating best against Li but it was a good enough effort to put herself in line for a $1 million bonus.

Her appearance in Sunday’s final combined with a win last week in Toronto has put Williams at the top of the US Open Series bonus challenge and sends her to Florence with a chance to compete for the largest payout ever awarded at the year’s final grand slam.

Williams can pocket $3.6 million, with the million-dollar bonus supplementing the $2.6 million cheque for winning the women’s singles at the US Open.

In a career that has generated 54 singles titles including 16 grand slams, Williams has won just about everything there is to win in her sport but Cincinnati, one of the WTA Tour’s most prestigious tournaments, is not among them.

“I definitely would not have predicted myself being in the final here at all,” said Williams, who will be chasing a career-high ninth title in a single season on Sunday.

“I came in here not playing my best and then I’m in the final. It’s just almost weird.”

“It was definitely a little bit tricky but I was able to get through. I just tried to stay positive. “When I was down, I just got really relaxed and I felt like, you know, Serena, you don’t really have much to lose. So just kind of relax and get through it.”

---

Problems for Wenger after openingday

Arsenal defeat

**LONDON, 18 Aug—** An opening-day Premier League defeat, a growing injury list and the weight of an unspent transfer kitty hang heavily over Arsenal as they head into Wednesday’s Champions League playoff clash with Fenerbahce.

It was a shock 3-1 home defeat by Aston Villa on Saturday and full back Antonio Luna grabbed a debut goal for the visitors.

The semi-finals had a dramatic different look from what tennis fans might have hoped with the ATP Tour’s big four; world number one Novak Djokovic, number two Andy Murray, number three Nadal and five-time Cincinnati champion Roger Federer all featuring without their Harbour Lights

---

Bolt completes sprint double with ease

**MOSCOW, 18 Aug—** Usain Bolt completed yet another crushing sprint double on Saturday and hardly needed to extend achievement as he took his third successive World 200 metres title in the year’s fastest time of 19.66 seconds — easing down.

Fellow Jamaican Warren Weir improved on his Olympic bronze by taking silver in a personal best 19.79 from lane eight while Curtis Mitchell won bronze for the United States in 20.04, just preventing another Jamaican podium sweep as he beat Nickel Ashmeade by a hundredth of a second.

“When I entered the straight, I felt tired, my legs felt a little heavy. And my coach told me not to push too hard if it was possible, so I backed off a little,” Bolt said.

“The 200m is my favourite event so this victory is very important for me. The atmosphere at the stadium was wonderful tonight.”

“My goal is to defend (for a second time) my title at the next Olympics as it hasn’t been done before by anyone. And this world championships is a stepping stone towards that goal.”

Bolt, the world record holder with his 19.19 from Berlin four years ago, won the 100 metres last weekend and thus completed the sprint double twice at the Olympics and also in the 2009 world championships.

He was always in command from lane four on Saturday and halfway round the opening bend he loomed over diminu- tive British teenager Adam Gemili in lane five like an ocean going liner swamp- ing a dinghy, before disappearing into the distance.

After a slow start to the season when he was hampered by injury, Bolt has been on an upward curve in the last few weeks and his 19.73 in Paris six weeks ago was the fastest time of the year before Saturday’s race.

American Tyson Gay, who ran 19.74 in June and was the last man to beat Bolt in a global 200 when he won the 2007 world championships, was unable to challenge him again in Moscow having failed a doping test.

After winning the 10 metres gold Bolt will hope to complete another hat-trick in the 4x100m relay on Sunday, when gold would draw him level with Ameri- can trio Allyson Felix, Carl Lewis and Michael Johnson with eight world titles.

**CINCINNATI, 18 Aug—** Rafa Nadal continued his perfect run on the North American hardcourts turning Czech Tomas Berdych 7-5, 7-6 (4) at the Western and Southern Open on Saturday to setup a final showdown with big-serving American John Isner.

Earlier, unseeded Isner had blasted his way into the Cincinnati final (5), 6-3 marathon win over Argentine Juan Martin Del Potro.

“Ours is a tournament that I never was able to play very well,”

“Last week in Cincinnati I never felt that I was playing well and this year the situation is different. “I am having the right feelings on court. I’m playing aggressively.”

Nadal had the only break of a tight opening set to take the first set off the Czech in Cincinnati and grab a 1-0 lead. In the second, Berdych, battling to end a run of 13 straight losses to the Spaniard, broke to go up 4-2 only to watch Nadal break right back and go onto take the tiebreak (7-5) and the match.

A contest between the towering 6-foot, 10-inch (2.06m) Isner and the 6-foot, 6-inch (1.98m) Del Potro was always going to be a bruising baseline bat- tle and the match more than lived up to predictions as the two giants slammed it out for 2 hours and 47 minutes. The semi-finals had a dra- stically different look from what tennis fans might have hoped with the ATP Tour’s big four; world number one Novak Djokovic, number two Andy Murray, number three Nadal and five-time Cincinnati champion Roger Federer all featuring without their Harbour Lights.

But after a day of ups and downs that saw only Nadal survive, the partisan crowd still had a champion to cheer as Isner carried the US flag into the semi-finals picking up his first career win in five tries.
Iran has 18,000 uranium centrifuges, says outgoing nuclear chief

DUBAI, 18 Aug—Iran has installed 18,000 uranium-enrichment centrifuges, the country’s outgoing nuclear chief was quoted as saying by Iranian media on Saturday. The US and its Western allies are pressing Iran to curb its uranium enrichment programme, which they suspect is aimed at developing a nuclear weapons capability, but Iran refuses and insists its nuclear activity is for purely peaceful purposes.

New Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, a former nuclear negotiator who oversaw a previous deal to suspend Iran’s uranium enrichment, has welcomed new talks with world powers over the programme but has insisted on Iran’s right to enrich uranium. Iran has 17,000 older “first-generation” IR-1 centrifuges, of which 10,000 are operating and 7,000 are ready to start operations, the ISNA news agency quoted Fereydoun Abbasi-Davani, outgoing head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), as saying. A May report from the UN nuclear watchdog indicated that Iran had then installed roughly 1,660 IR-1 machines in two separate facilities. Abbasi-Davani also said there were 1,000 new, more advanced centrifuges ready to start operations, in a reference to IR-2m centrifuges, which once operational would allow Iran to enrich uranium several times faster than the IR-1 machine. The IAEA in its last report in May said Iran had installed a total of 689 such centrifuges and empty centrifuge casings. Rouhani on Friday appointed Ali Akbar Salehi, Iran’s previous foreign minister, to take over the AEOI. Salehi, who once headed the agency, is seen as a pragmatist, as opposed to the more hardline Abbasi-Davani.—Reuters

Swiss horn blowers blast away world record on mountain

GORNERGRAT, (Switzerland), 18 Aug—More than 500 Alpine horn players blew away the world record for the largest ensemble of people playing the instrument on Saturday in the Swiss region of Zermatt, home to the Matterhorn mountain.

The musicians, clad in traditional Swiss costume, gathered on the Gornegrat ridge, more than 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) above sea level, to perform a piece specially composed for their wooden horns.

The 508 players broke a record set in 2009, when 366 musicians took part in a concert. The instrument, known as an alphorn and traditionally used for herding animals, can be up to four metres long. It has to be propped up on the ground and its player usually has to stand up to sound it because of its size.—Xinhua

Mexico captures leader of cocaine-trafficking Gulf Cartel

MEXICO CITY, 18 Aug—Mexican security forces on Saturday caught the leader of the cocaine-trafficking Gulf Cartel, the second major gang boss capture in just over a month as President Enrique Pena Nieto fights cartel violence.

Mario Ramirez Treviño, known as “El 20” or “The Bold One,” was captured in Mexico’s northern Tamaulipas state on Saturday morning, according to a government statement.

The government said it would give more information about Ramirez’s capture at a news conference on Sunday. Ramirez had not long been the leader of the Gulf Cartel, whose former boss Jorge Costilla, alias “El Coss,” was caught in September. The Gulf Cartel’s power has waned in recent years in a feud with Mexico’s most brutal gang, the Zetas, which began life providing protection to the cartel’s operations in north-eastern Mexico.

The US government had offered a $5 million bounty for Ramirez, as Washington says his cartel controls most of the cocaine and marijuana trafficking to the United States from Tamaulipas in Tamaulipas state. Mexico’s marines last month arrested the leader of the Zetas, Miguel Angel Trevino, a few miles (km) from his home-town of Nuevo Laredo on the US border. More than 70,000 people were killed during former president Felipe Calderon’s six-year offensive against drug cartels and over 6,000 have died since Pena Nieto took office in December.—Reuters

A veteran salutes during the National Peacekeepers’ Day ceremonies at the Peacekeeping Monument in Ottawa, Canada, on 11 Aug, 2013. The National Peacekeeping Day is an official remembrance day for Canadian veterans of military peacekeeping, marked on August 9 every year but observed on the closest Sunday.—Xinhua

Contestants in waiter dress take part in a race to cover a distance of 1.8 km carrying a tray with water-filled glasses and bottles — without running and liquid spilling — in Geneva, Switzerland, on 11 Aug, 2013.—Xinhua

A 508 players broke a record set in 2009, when 366 musicians took part in a concert. The instrument, known as an alphorn and traditionally used for herding animals, can be up to four metres long. It has to be propped up on the ground and its player usually has to stand up to sound it because of its size.—Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(19-8-13 09:30 am ~ 20-8-13 09:30 am) MST

* Local News
* Taung Byone Nat Festival (Episode-4)
* World News
* Intricate Myanmar Silver Art
* Local News
* Home Grown Treasure (Part-1)
* World News
* Great Shwedagon-The Historic Bells
* Local News
* Diverse National Costumes & Their Fashion Trend (Episode-3)
* World News
* Beauties of Makyee Island (Island of Tamarind Tree)
* Local News
* Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Episode-6)
* World News
* The Night of Heartthrobs
* Local News
* Taung Byone Nat Festival (Episode-3)
* World News
* The Beauty of Stylish Myanmar Dress
* Local News
* A Worth Studying Site For Ancient Myanmar Heritage
* World News
* Pagoda Forest in Pa-O Land
* Local News
* Shwe Kyet Yet-Shwe Kyat Kya’s Boat Race Festival
* World News
* Pyin Oo Lwin Sweater
* Local News
* A Oasis Trip to Mt.Popa
* World News
* Colorful Buildings and New Yangon

MYANMAR TV

(A8-8-2013, Monday)

6:00 am
1. Paririta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
2:35 pm
19. Performance by State Traditional Orchestra
6:20 am
2. Physical Exercise
3:00 pm
20. News
6:30 am
3. Song & Dance of National Races
3:15 pm
21. Teleplay (Forest)
6:40 am
4. Documentary
4:00 pm
22. News/Weather Report
7:00 am
5. News/Weather Report
4:15 pm
23. Song & Dance of National Races
7:20 am
6. People Talks
4:25 pm
24. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures)
8:00 am
7. News/International News
-First Year (Law)
8:25 am
8. SEA Games Go For Gold (Woshu San Shou)
4:45 pm
25. Documentary (SEA Games)
8:50 am
9. Teleplay (Health)
5:00 pm
26. News
9:00 am
10. News/International News
5:15 pm
27. Sweet Songs For You
9:20 am
11. Cartoon Series
6:00 pm
9:30 am
12. TV Drama Series
6:20 pm
29. Teleplay (Hitar)
10:00 am
13. News
7:00 pm
30. News
10:15 am
14. TV Drama Series
8:00 pm
11:00 am
15. Documentary
8:35 pm
32. People Talks
11:10 pm
16. New Melody
8:45 pm
33. Documentary
12:00 pm
9:00 pm
34. News
12:25 pm
18. Myanmar Movies
35. Hit Songs of Stars

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
English Language Competition for collegeans kicks off

YANGON, 18 Aug—Organized by Myanmar Muslim entrepreneurs, Eidual Fitr Get-Together dinner party was held at Strand Hotel on Strand Road yesterday evening, with an address by Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint.

At the dinner, the Union minister requested mutual respect, trust and understanding among all faiths and urged those present to oppose the religious extremists. It was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa and wife, Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win, the ambassadors, regions ministers, departmental officials and religious leaders from Interfaith Friendship Group. —MNA

Fertilizer Factory No 5 needs to send fertilizer to farmers timely

YANGON, 18 Aug—Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung inspected Fertilizer Factory No.5 of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise in Kangyidaunt Township on 16 August, calling for making efforts for running the factory at full capacity.

During the visit, the Union minister urged responsible personnel of the factory to make more efforts for transporting fertilizer to farmers before the cultivation season and for achieving standard quality of the product of the factory.

He also inspected the production process of the factory and measures for safety at the work site.

During his tour of inspection, the Union minister also visited the PaperFactory (Thabaung) of Myanma Paper and Chemical Industries under the Ministry of Industry and assisted in making arrangements for getting the factory up and running again.

In the evening, the Union minister went to the Liquefied Natural Gas Factory (Nayungdon) and inspected the control room and LNG storage tanks and fulfilled the requirements. —MNA

MMPE, MMS hold talks over censorship principles, rules

YANGON, 18 Aug—To seek ways for encouraging creation and making attractive movies, Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise and Myanmar Movies Society held a meeting, focusing on censorship principles and rules for films and videos at the MMPE’s head office here today.

Deputy Minister for Information U Paik Htwe and responsible personnel of Myanmar MotionPicture Enterprise and Myanmar Movies Society attended the meeting.

Out of 10 censorship principles and rules of the film and video censorship board, four have been relaxed and the remaining ones are being considered and advised based on art creation since December 2011.

U Lu Min, Chairman of Myanmar Movies Society, declined the fact that the society would protest against the board if it tightens the censorship principals and rules. He also stressed the importance of the voices of the people and called for freedom and accountability in creating films and videos.

During the meeting, film directors and responsible personnel discussed facts found when films and videos were censored and ways for encouraging artistic creativity in making films and videos.

The participants of the meeting also discussed the closed cooperation and coordination with trust between the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise and Myanmar Movies Society. —MNA

Fertilizer Factory joint cultural show performed

The teachers and students from National Culture and Fine Arts University and IISY cultural troupe from Indonesia entertained the audience with dance and songs during show.

Afterwards, Dr Daw Khin Swe Myint, wife of the Union Minister, and the wife of Indonesian ambassador presented a flower basket to the artises. —MNA

Police arrest a man who robbed a French tourist

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—A French tourist Ms. Amilic Schaitt (23yrs) was robbed of her belt pulse by a Myanmar citizen near Hsulaygon pagoda on NayungU-Bagan Myothit motor road in No. 7 Wetygynn Ward in NayungU Township on 3 August evening. In the incident, the French tourist got injured in her left eye, neck and left hand and one passport, US$ and Myanmar currency notes, one credit card and air ticket were taken away. With regard to the case, the owner of View Point guest house opened a file at NayungU Myoma police station. NayungU District police force members seized one credit card near a place about one mile from the crime scene. It is reportedly that the case is under investigation to take action against Ye Min Soe (a) Myo Min Oo. —MNA