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Wednesday, 24 August, 2011

President U Thein Sein felicitates Ukrainian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Viktor Yanukovich, President of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine, which falls on 24 August 2011.—MNA

President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to Ukrainian PM

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mykola Azarov, Prime Minister of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine which falls on 24 August 2011.—MNA

Our Three Main National Causes

- * Non-disintegration of the Union
- * Non-disintegration of National solidarity
- * Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Questions raised and answered, proposals and bills submitted for approval First Pyithu Hluttaw second regular session goes on



Second-day first Pyithu Hluttaw second regular session in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—The first Pyithu Hluttaw second regular session continued for the second day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here this morning.

Present were Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 388 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

Today, three representatives put forward

four educational questions, and Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye replied to the questions.

In response to the question by U Nyan Win from Hlinethaya Constituency on to rebuild some primary schools in Hlinethaya Township whose brick walls and floors are in bad conditions, and to build more buildings in some basic education primary

schools in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region, the Union minister said that since 1999-2000 financial year, budgets have been allocated yearly to rebuild old buildings and build new ones; and survey will be carried out to repair damaged buildings, rebuild buildings in bad conditions, and build new ones in 2011-2012 financial year and 2012-2013 financial year.

(See page 8)

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 24 August, 2011

Put public interests to the fore

The first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw second regular session was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 August, with a speech delivered by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein.

The 2010 election was held peacefully and successfully in accordance with the 2008 constitution, and first sessions of respective Hluttaws could be summoned. Now, democratization is in progress with the legislative, executive and judicial bodies. Steps are being taken to translate the 2008 constitution into reality in the transition to a new system.

In the interest of the nation and the people, the government is showing its benevolence by holding out an olive branch to the national race armed groups that have not accepted the constitution yet.

To satisfy the public aspirations, the government is pursuing tasks for ensuring good governance, clean government, democratic practices, fundamental rights of citizens, the rule of law, transparency, undertakings, reducing the gap between the rich and the poor, setting up a harmonious society, economic reforms, and environmental conservation.

In his address, the President said, "Our government is the government of the people. So, we have to give the first priority to the public interest. We are giving educative talks, reminding and taking action in order that all of us become good public servants who win public satisfaction, trust and reliance. In this transitional period, we are working hard for transition to new system. So, we will take punitive action against those sticking to procedures and red tape system, and those without a sense of democratic spirit but with partiality. The executive power of the Union government shall reside in the whole Union".

Being an elected one, the government puts public interests to the fore. Therefore, the people are urged to do their bit in the tasks for building a peaceful, modern developed nation.

UEC grants permission to set up political party

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—Union Election Commission has scrutinized parties that submitted applications to set up as political parties and permitted them to register as political parties. The UEC today gave permission to New National Democracy Party formed with 20 members inclusive of U Thein Nyunt that fall within the competence of laws and rules, to set up as a political party.—MNA

Myanmar donate blood most among regional countries

YANGON, 23 Aug—In addition, it has developed a contact list so as to fulfill the urgent need of blood. Blood donors and 75 blood donors organizations

Union FM sends felicitations to Ukraine

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine which falls on 24 August 2011.—MNA

U Zin Yaw presents Credentials to Indian President

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug—U Zin Yaw, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of India, presented his Credentials to Her Excellency Mrs. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of the Republic of India, on 12 August 2011 in New Delhi.

MNA

Hluttaw representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw meet Human Rights Special Rapporteur



Hluttaw representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw met Human Rights Special Rapporteur Mr Thomas Ojea Quintana and party at Zabuthiri Meeting Hall in Hluttaw Building.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—The Hluttaw representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw met Human Rights Special Rapporteur Mr Thomas Ojea Quintana and party at Zabuthiri Meeting Hall in Hluttaw Building here this morning.

Also present at the call were Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw

representatives of Union Solidarity and Development Party, Solidarity and Democratic Party (Sa Da Ka), Kayin State Democratic and Development Party, "Wa" Democratic Party, Chin Progressive Party, National Development and Solidarity Party, Shan Nationalities Democratic Party, National Democratic Force, Pa-O

National Organization, Kayin Peoples Party, Mon Democratic Party, Chin National Party, Taaung (Palaung) National Party, Phalonn-Sawaw Democratic Party, Rakhine Nationalities Progressive Party, Inn National Development Party and independent representatives: U Thurin Zaw, U Khet Htein Nan, U Mann Aung Tin Myint,

U Hsai Paung Nap, U Khun Lein, U Bran Shoung, U Nelson (a) U Hsaung Hsi, Dr Than Win, U Nyunt Tin, U Nay Win Tun, U Saw Nay Kaw Gyi, U Sakhon Teint Yein, Dr Banyar Aung Moe, Daw Zar Talam, U Aik Mone, Daw Nan Say Owa, U Win Swe and U Thein Nyunt.

MNA

Union Mines Minister, Chinese guests discuss mineral exploration

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik held discussion with Vice-President Mr Jia Xiangguo and party of Guiling Research Institute of Geology for Mineral Resources based in Guangxi Province of the People's Republic of China, at the ministry here this morning.

The discussion covered cooperation in mineral exploration.

It was also attended by the officials concerned of Mining Department, No. 2 Mining Enterprise, Geological Survey and Minerals Exploration Department, No. 1 Mining Enterprise and No. 3 Mining Enterprise.—MNA

Dy Construction Minister inspects Kungyangon-Kawhmu-Twantay-Hlinethaya Road, Twantay Bridge

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint on 21 August held a meeting with locals at the meeting hall of Kawhmu Township Administration Department, after overseeing Kungyangon-Kawhmu-Twantay-Hlinethaya Road.

He gave necessary instructions on bank loans with low interest rates to be taken out by the government to farmers for farming, and on forming of micro credit associations in the region.

In the evening, he visited Twantay Bridge where he urged the officials concerned to keep regular checks on the bridge.—MNA

or monthly, contribute 2500 to 3000 bottles of blood a month.

Mingala Bhuha Organization is at the top of the blood donor list, making contribution 400 to 500 bottles of blood every two months round

the year. On Full Moon Day of Tawthalin (Metta Akhadaw Day), a total of 1500 blood donors share their blood at the blood donation activity organized by the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, in

which National Blood Centre received 650 bottles of blood.

Myanmar's volunteer blood donors outnumber their counterparts in regional countries, a study said.

MNA

Powerful Hurricane Irene heads toward Bahamas, US

NAGUA (Dominican Republic), 23 Aug— A rapidly strengthening Hurricane Irene roared off the Dominican Republic's resort-dotted northern coast on Monday, whipping up high waves and torrential downpours on a track that could see it reach the US Southeast as a major storm by the end of the week.

Irene grew into a Category 2 hurricane late Monday and the US National Hurricane Centre in Miami said it could reach Category 3 as early as Tuesday and possibly become a monster Category 4 storm within 72 hours.

"We didn't anticipate it gaining this much strength this early," said center meteorologist Chris Landsea, adding that the ocean's warm



A woman is carried on a stretcher by civil defense workers after she was unable to attend a respiratory therapy due to an emphysema after hurricane Irene struck and flooded the area she lives in Naguabo, Puerto Rico, on 22 Aug, 2011.—INTERNET

temperatures and the current atmosphere is "very conducive" to energizing storms.

Forecasters said it could still be that strong when it slams into the United States, possibly

landing in Florida, Georgia, or South Carolina. Irene is expected to rake the Turks and Caicos and the Bahamas on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Republic, where the powerful storm's outer bands were buffeting the north coast with dangerous sea surge and downpours.

Late Monday, the storm's downpours forced more than 1,000 Dominicans to evacuate their homes, with some families in low-lying areas fleeing to churches and public buildings. Others hunkered down inside their homes as the winds howled outside and heavy waves pounded the piers and washed onto coastal boulevards.

"We are going to see if the zinc roof resists" the storm, Fidelina Magdaleno, 60, said in her house in Nagua while a chicken dinner was prepared inside without electricity.

Internet

Briefs

26 exotic birds killed in Daytona Beach house fire

DAYTONA BEACH, 23 Aug—Authorities say 26 exotic birds died in a weekend fire at a home in Daytona Beach.

Firefighters reported finding 30 birds and one turtle inside a single-story home on Sunday. Four birds were rescued and taken to an emergency veterinarian clinic, but the others died from smoke inhalation. It wasn't clear what happened to the turtle. Fire officials say the birds were valued at between \$10,000 and \$15,000.—Internet

29,000 have lost homes in N Korea floods

GENEVA, 23 Aug—The Red Cross says over 29,000 people in North Korea have lost their homes from storms and flooding in the past three months. The International Federation of the Red Cross says it is working to provide emergency food supplies, water and shelter to 7,500 families in the south and southwest of the country.

The humanitarian aid group says in some areas half of homes have been destroyed by floods. The Red Cross said Monday the worst-hit area in South Hwanghae Province is considered the 'bread basket' of North Korea.—Internet

Magnitude 5.5 earthquake hits S Colorado

GOLDEN (Colo), 23 Aug—A magnitude 5.5 earthquake has shaken southern Colorado near the New Mexico border.

The National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colo, says the quake was recorded at about 11:46 pm MDT Monday about five miles west of Cokedale, Colo. It follows two smaller quakes that hit the area earlier in the day.—Internet ■■

19 NATO oil tankers burnt in Pakistan



Residents and the media gather near the site of burning tankers, used to carry fuel for NATO forces in Afghanistan, which were attacked by unidentified gunmen on the outskirts of Quetta on 22 Aug, 2011.—INTERNET

ISLAMABAD, 23 Aug—At least 19 oil tankers were burnt when a NATO supply convoy came under attack Monday afternoon in Pakistan's southwest province of Balochistan, reported local Urdu TV channel Geo. According to the report, the attack took place at about 2:30 pm when unknown gunmen opened fire at a NATO convoy on the Sibi-to-Quetta Highway in the Dasht area of

Mastung, a district some 60 kilometers south of Balochistan's capital city Quetta.

The attackers fled the scene after they opened fire at the convoy and set the oil tankers on fire. Huge fire from the oil tankers could be seen several kilometers away, said the report, adding that six fire brigades were called in from Quetta to put out the fire.

No casualties were reported in the attack.

No group has claimed

responsibility for the attack. Attacks on NATO supply convoys are frequently reported in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and southwest Balochistan province as nearly 70 percent of the NATO supplies shipped into Afghanistan has to pass two border ports in Pakistan, namely the Chaman border port in Balochistan and the Torkham border port in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

MNA/Xinhua

Rain-triggered mudslides trap 100 in central China

WUHAN, 23 Aug—About 100 people were trapped after mudslides triggered by heavy downpours hit central China's Hubei Province on Monday morning, said local authorities.

The debris of the mudslides covered some parts of the National Highway 209 in Xingshan

County and Shennongjia forest district, said a spokesman with the county's fire control authorities.

The rubble buried several vehicles on the highway, said the spokesman, adding that casualties were not immediately known.

Xinhua



A collapsed road is seen in Xingshan County of Yichang City, central China's Hubei Province, 22 Aug, 2011. Rain-triggered mudslides hit the mountainous region in Yichang on Monday, blocking the No 209 National Highway and leaving hundreds of people stranded.

XINHUA

China factory output cools in August

BEIJING, 23 Aug—China's factory sector is likely to slow slightly for a second consecutive month in August as sluggish overseas demand saps new orders, HSBC's China Flash PMI showed on Tuesday.

The listless performance attests to China's gently slowing economy, and does little to dispel market worries that global demand is faltering on Europe's persistent debt problems and sluggish US growth.

The flash Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), designed to preview China's factory output before official data is released, edged up to 49.8 in August, from July's final reading of 49.3.

But that still left the index a touch below the 50-point mark that demarcates expansion from contraction in activity. HSBC publishes its final China PMI index for August on 1 Sept.



Stock markets rose in China and in big commodity supplier Australia on relief that the report did not show an even sharper slowdown. There had been some market speculation that the reading could be considerably weaker.

Chinese Vice Commerce Minister Jiang Yaoping said on Tuesday debt crises in developed countries were "bringing rising pressure and challenges to the vast emerging market countries, including China."

But investors may take heart that despite a mild slowdown in the pace of growth, all data suggests the world's second-largest economy is still expanding robustly. Exports hit record levels in July as factory output grew 14 percent from a year ago.—Reuters

Roche "good" cholesterol drug shows early promise

LONDON, 23 Aug—An experimental drug from Roche designed to raise "good" HDL cholesterol has produced encouraging results in a small mid-stage clinical trial, boosting shares in the Swiss drugmaker by more than 2 percent on Monday.

Further details about the performance of dalcetrapib will be released at a medical meeting in Paris next week, but analysts said a scientific abstract posted by the European Society of Cardiology at the weekend painted a positive picture.

While dalcetrapib continues to be viewed as a high-risk project, its chances of success have improved following data from the 130-patient Phase II imaging study showing it does not increase plaque-related inflammation on artery walls.

Furthermore, patients on the new drug had less build-up of potentially artery-clogging plaque in their blood vessel walls than those on placebo, and the medicine was well tolerated.

It is still early days for dalcetrapib, and medical experts remain wary following the high-profile failure of a similar drug from Pfizer called torcetrapib. There is also a lack of evidence — so far at least — that raising HDL with drugs actually stops heart attacks and strokes.—Reuters



A worker makes its way on a bridge at Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche plant in Basel on 2 Feb, 2011.—INTERNET

Heart attack victims get faster help

BEIJING, 23 Aug—More than 90 percent of US heart attack patients who need the lifesaving procedure receive it within just 90 minutes of being admitted to the hospital, according to a study released Monday in the journal *Circulation*.

The study on the American Heart Association's journal shows that in 2010, 91 percent of heart attack patients who needed angioplasty were treated within the 90-minute window. While in 2005, 44% were.



In this photo taken 19 Aug, 2011, Linda Tisch poses in her back yard at her home in Westerley, RI Tisch suffered a heart attack on 13 Aug, 2011, was treated in a record 16 minutes and is returning to work today just 10 days after treatment.—INTERNET

Workers make shoes, which will be exported to the US, at a shoe factory in Xihua county, Henan province on 2 April, 2011. INTERNET

Briefs

23RD AUGUST, 2011

Singapore banks top Asia's safest bank list

SINGAPORE, 23 Aug — Singapore banks had the top three spots in a list of Asia's safest banks, local media reported on Tuesday.

DBS Bank retained the top spot for the third year running in the ranking based on a survey conducted by the Global Finance magazine. Two other local banks OCBC and UOB have been placed at the second and third places, respectively, the Business Times said.

The banks were assessed based on the evaluation of their total assets and long-term credit-worthiness from credit rating agencies such as Moody's, Standard and Poor's, and Fitch.

"Customers around the world are viewing long-term creditworthiness as the key feature of banks with which they do business," said Joseph Giarraputo, publisher of the magazine, on the evaluation methodology. "These banks have solid capital positions and superior risk management capabilities," he said.—Xinhua

Judge allows intervention in BofA \$8.5 billion pact



Pedestrians are reflected in the window as customers conduct transactions at a Bank of America ATM in Washington on 19 July, 2011.

NEW YORK, 23 Aug—A New York state judge granted the request of dozens of investors including pension funds, insurers and several Federal Home Loan Banks to intervene in Bank of America Corp's proposed \$8.5 billion settlement with investors who lost money on mortgage-backed securities.

Justice Barbara Kapnick of the State Supreme Court in Manhattan granted the request, which was not opposed by the bank or by Bank of New York Mellon Corp, the trustee that negotiated the accord with 22 investors including BlackRock Inc and Allianz SE's Pimco.

Some investors have objected that the \$8.5 billion payout is too low, and that the settlement extinguishes claims they might otherwise have against Bank of America. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman also has expressed opposition.

Bank of New York Mellon has contended that the settlement is fair. Bank of America hopes that the accord will address many of its remaining liabilities from its 2008 purchase of mortgage lender Countrywide Financial Corp.

Kapnick has scheduled a 17 November hearing on the settlement.

Reuters

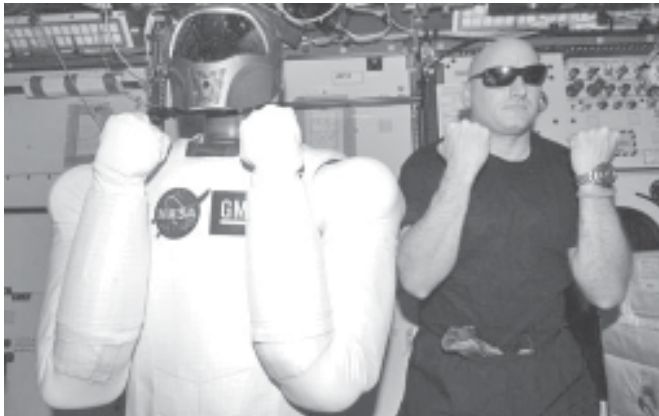
It's alive! Space station's humanoid robot awake

CAPE CANAVERAL, 23 Aug — NASA's humanoid robot has finally awakened in space.

Ground controllers turned Robonaut on Monday for the first time since it was delivered to the International Space Station in February.

The test involved sending power to all of Robonaut's systems. The robot was not commanded to move; that will happen next week. "Those electronics feel GOOD! One small step for man, one giant leap for tinman kind," Robonaut posted in a Twitter update. (All right, so a Robonaut team member actually posted Monday's tweets under AstroRobonaut.)

The four visible light cameras that serve as Robonaut's eyes turned on in the gold-coloured head, as did the infrared camera, located in the



In this 15 March, 2011 file photo provided by NASA, astronaut Scott Kelly, Expedition 26 commander, right, poses with Robonaut 2, the dexterous humanoid astronaut helper, in the Destiny laboratory of the International Space Station.—INTERNET

robot's mouth and needed for depth perception. One of Robonaut's tweets showed the view inside the American lab, Destiny. "Sure wish I could move my head and look around," Robonaut said in the tweet.

Robonaut — the first humanoid robot in space

— is being tested as a possible astronaut's helper. The robot's handlers at Mission Control in Houston cheered as everything came alive. The main computers — buried inside Robonaut's stomach — kicked on, as did the more than 30

processors embedded in the arms for controlling the joints. "Robonaut behaved himself," said deputy project manager Nicolaus Radford.

"Oh, Robonaut definitely got an 'A.' He won't be held back a grade, if that's what you want to know."—Internet

Hadron collider's higgs boson search not conclusive

GENEVA, 23 Aug— Researchers at the Large Hadron Collider near Geneva, Switzerland, say hints of the discovery of the long-sought Higgs Boson particle have not panned out.

Last month CERN scientists reported what looked like glimpses of the elusive particle, sending waves of excitement through the global physics community. But a reanalysis, using additional data, found the signals thought to indicate the presence of the particle considerable weakened.

"We see no striking evidence of anything that could resemble a discovery," Guido Tonelli, spokesman for the Compact Muon Solenoid detector group at CERN, told Britain's *The*

Guardian.

In particle colliders it is common for signals to come and go because of statistical blips or fluctuations, researchers said.

"We might be very close to a depressing moment in which we conclude those fluctuations were statistical jokes, but there is also the possibility of seeing them grow with more data," Tonelli said. "The exciting part is that after 20 years of preparation and work, I would say this will be decided by Christmas."

"We are months away from really solving one of the major mysteries in fundamental physics," he said.

Internet



Two Large Hadron Collider (LHC) magnets are seen before they are connected together. The LHC simulates mini-Big Bangs allowing scientists to study theories of the dawn of time.

INTERNET

HP TouchPad sold out in fire sale



SAN FRANCISCO, 23 Aug—Hewlett-Packard's tablet TouchPad has become the hottest consumer electronics device on Monday after HP launched a fire sale for the discontinued product line over the weekend. "It was like a stampede and they went quick," a Best Buy employee in San Diego told

technology news website Betanews, describing the line waiting to buy TouchPad. He said the discontinued tablet was sold out five minutes after the store opened. The device is also getting snatched up at a lightning speed online and increasingly difficult to find.

The TouchPad is no longer listed on Bestbuy.com in the United States, which last week was reportedly sitting on 270,000 unsold TouchPads and was hoping HP would buy them back. On Amazon, TouchPad tops the world's largest online retailer's electronics sales list, beating out the electronic reader Kindle and iPod touch. Last Thursday, HP announced that it will completely shut down its webOS operations, specifically the TouchPad tablet and webOS phones.—Internet

Kim Jong Il visits Amur Region of Russian Federation

PYONGYANG, 23 Aug—Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, visited Amur Region in the Far East Region of the Russian Federation on 21 August. He arrived at Bureya Railway Station in Amur Region this morning.

He exchanged greetings with Oleg Kozhemyako, governor of Amur Region; Aleksandr Bashun, chairman of the Amur Region Legislative Assembly; Pavel Shtein, governor of the Bureya District Administration; and other leading officials of the region, city and district who came to greet him and Viktor Ishayev, presidential envoy to the Far East Region of the Russian Federation; and Valery E Sukhinin, Russian Ambassador to the DPRK; who were conducting him on a visit to the Far East Region.

He was accompanied by Kim Yong Chun, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and minister of the People's Armed Forces, Kang Sok Ju, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premier of the Cabinet, Jang Song Thaek, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-chairman of the NDC, Kim Yang Gon, Pak To Chun and Thae Jong Su, alternate members of the Political Bureau and secretaries of the WPK Central Committee, Ju Kyu Chang, alternate member of the Political Bureau and department director of the WPK Central Committee, Pak Pong Ju, first vice department director of the WPK Central Committee, O Su Yong, chief secretary of the North Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the WPK, Kim Kye Gwan, first vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, Kim Yong Jae, DPRK ambassador to Russia, and Sim Kuk Ryong, consul general of the DPRK Consulate General in Nakhodka of Russia.—MNA/KCNA

Dwarf planet shows ice, little atmosphere

PASADENA, 23 —US astronomers say a dwarf planet dubbed Snow White is an icy world covered in water ice that once flowed from ancient, slush-producing volcanoes. Scientists at the California Institute of Technology say the redtinged dwarf planet, 2007 OR10, may be covered in a thin layer of methane, the last remnant of an atmosphere slowly being dissipated into space.

"You get to see this nice picture of what once was an active little world with water volcanoes and an atmosphere, and it's now just frozen, dead, with an atmosphere that's slowly slipping away," Mike Brown, Caltech professor of planetary astronomy, said in an institute release Monday. The small sphere orbits our sun at the edge of the solar system and at about half the size of Pluto is the fifth-largest dwarf planet, astronomers said.

These distant dwarf planets are part of a group of icy bodies called Kuiper Belt Objects. "We're basically looking at the last gasp of Snow White," Brown said. "For 4 1/2 billion years, Snow White has been sitting out there, slowly losing its atmosphere, and now there's just a little bit left."—Internet

NJ toy gun swap contrasts with nearby violence

NEWARK, 23 Aug— Several dozen children clutching water pistols and cap guns Monday lined up in Newark to exchange their fake weapons for non-violent toys as word spread that a shooting with a real gun had taken place just blocks away. Newark Mayor Cory Booker said the nearby gunfire was from a man accidentally shooting and injuring himself, and that the fact it took place near a children's toy gun exchange illustrated just how important such initiatives had become to curbing the cycle of violence.

"We have a serious, serious problem in Newark, in Jersey City, Camden, Detroit, Cleveland; there's a serious problem in America with gun violence," Booker said. "We've got to start to break this culture, and we in

Newark are determined to do that."

Newark's toy gun exchange program was organized by a grassroots group called Stop Shootin' Inc, which holds anti-violence vigils and community events throughout the city. Toy gun exchanges have been held in cities across the country, as a way to educate young people about the dangers of illegal weapons.

Monday's event, held in a small park in Newark's gritty South Ward, offered children who brought in plastic weapons of any kind a choice of new, non-violent toys and books. Among the offerings were new hockey sticks and pucks donated by the New Jersey Devils hockey team, new basketballs, boxing gloves, Barbie dolls or chess sets.—Internet



The handle of a toy rifle, bottom left, is seen next to the remains of another toy on the parking lot of Mildred Helms Park as Elijah Anderson, 12, top right, dribbles a basketball while holding toys he received in exchange for a water gun during a toy gun exchange event, on 22 Aug, 2011, in Newark, N.J.—INTERNET

Fire breaks out at 5-star hotel in Turkey

ISTANBUL, 23 Aug— A fire broke out at a 5-star hotel in Turkey's Mediterranean province of Antalya on Monday leaving five staff members suffering from smoke inhalation.

The fire broke out in a kitchen chimney and spread to the top floor of the hotel resulting in the evacuation of tourists staying at the hotel, the state-run Anatolia news agency reported. The report did not mention the name of the hotel in Antalya's tourist region of Lara.

The cause of the fire has yet to be found. The five staff members who suffered from smoke inhalation were treated onsite by medical crews dispatched to the scene.—Xinhua

At least one killed in passenger plane's hard landing in Russia

MOSCOW, 23 Aug — A passenger plane made a hard landing in Russia's Tuva republic Monday, killing at least one person and injuring three others, said Russian air safety watchdog Rosaviatsiy.

According to Rosaviatsiy, the An-2 plane made the crash landing in the Todzhi district of Tuva in a poor visibility conditions due to bad weather.

The three injured were in grave condition, reported Itar-Tass news agency.

According to unconfirmed reports, the plane with fishermen onboard was on a flight to local lakes, where a storm warning was announced several hours ago.

A local emergency ministry spokesman said the survivors contacted rescuers via a satellite phone.

A helicopter with rescue team on board has been sent but preliminary reports said the bad weather hampered the rescue team to reach the site.—Xinhua

600 said killed in South Sudan cattle raids

PIBOR, 23 Aug— Two months after cattle raiders stole his entire herd, Nyati Kelabo stalks around this desolate river town, sleeping under a tree, begging for food and worrying constantly about how he will feed his five children and two wives.

South Sudan became the world's newest country in July, amid high hopes that it would leave its violent past behind. A 2005 peace deal with the north ended a civil war



In this Wednesday, 13 July, 2011 photo, young men herd cattle through the mud-caked streets of Pibor, South Sudan.—INTERNET

and paved the way for January's independence referendum. But the new country is already reeling from internal violence — often

in the form of massive cattle raids — that is devastating communities in the vast swamplands of its eastern region.

The UN said Monday that new clashes last week have killed as many as 600 people, and that reports suggest that between 26,000 and 30,000 cattle have been stolen. Jonglei state Gov. Kuol Manyang Juuk said eight villages were destroyed when warriors from the Murle tribe in Pibor county attacked the

Lou Nuer tribe of Uror county on Thursday. Juuk estimated the death toll at 125.

Last week's deaths bring to more than 3,000 the number of people killed in hundreds of violent incidents in South Sudan this year.

Local officials in Pibor, which was ravaged by violence in June, estimate that more than 360 members of the Murle ethnic group were killed in raids just weeks before the south declared independence.

Internet

Strong quake strikes Indonesia, no casualty reported

JAKARTA, 23 Aug— A shallow undersea quake with a magnitude of 6.2 jolted Sumatra island, Indonesia early Tuesday, but no immediate report of a tsunami warning and damages or fatality were issued, officials said.

The quake struck at 03:12 am Jakarta Time (2012 GMT Monday) with its epicenter at 140 km southwest Krui town of Lampung Province, and hitting a depth of 10 km under the sea bed, an official with the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency told Xinhua.

The intensity of the quake was felt at 2 MMI

(Modified Mercalli Intensity) in Krui town of the province and 2 to 3 MMI in Kepiang town of the nearby Bengkulu Province, the official said.

Local officials of disaster management and mitigation agency in Lampung and Bengkulu provinces confirmed that no injuries were reported or buildings damaged. "No serious impact of the quake just now. No damages and no one injured are reported so far," a senior official of disaster management and mitigation agency in Lampung known by the name of Ridwan told Xinhua on the phone.—Xinhua

2nd body found at CA home where man shot officer

EL CAJON, 23 Aug— A second adult body was found Monday in the charred debris of a Southern California home where a gunman opened fire, critically wounding a police officer, police said.

The second body was found toward the back of the burned-out home in El Cajon, a working class city east of San Diego, police spokesman Lt Mark Coit said. It was believed to be the body of Beverly Rakov, 51, the mother-in-law of suspected gunman Kevin Collier. The other body found in the home Sunday night was believed

to be that of Collier.

Coit said both bodies were burned beyond recognition so forensics tests would be needed for positive identification. Collier is suspected of killing his baby daughter in his truck, then torching his home, in a dramatic series of events that ended with him critically wounding El Cajon Officer Jarred Slocum, 28.

Slocum remained hospitalized in critical but stable condition after undergoing surgery for a gunshot wound to his forehead that fractured his skull.—Internet



A photo provided by Heartland Fire & Rescue shows police in San Diego County, Calif, on 21 Aug, 2011 outside a burning building where a gunman had shot an El Cajon policeman. The fire broke out after the policeman was shot.—INTERNET

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Human Rights Special Rapporteur Mr Thomas Ojea Quintana and party

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Human Rights Special Rapporteur Mr Thomas Ojea Quintana and party at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Building here this morning.

Also present at the call together with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker were Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa,

Chairman U Thein Zaw of Pyithu Hluttaw National Race Affairs and Local Peace-making Committee, and members of Pyithu Hluttaw Bills Committee, Pyithu Hluttaw Accounts Committee, Pyithu Hluttaw Rights Committee and Pyithu Hluttaw Government Grantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee.—MNA

Speaker of
Pyithu
Hluttaw
Thura
U Shwe
Mann
cordially
greeted
Human
Rights
Special
Rapporteur
Mr Thomas
Ojea
Quintana
MNA



UEC Chairman receives Human Rights Special Rapporteur



Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye receives Human Rights Special Rapporteur Mr Thomas Ojea Quintana and party at UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—Human Rights Special Rapporteur Mr Thomas Ojea Quintana and party called on Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye at the office of Union Election Commission here today.

The commission members were also present at the call. They cordially discussed matters relating to election affairs and political party affairs.—MNA

Agriculture & Irrigation Ministry advances to final

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation beat the Ministry of Finance and Revenue 1-0 in the second semi-final of 2011 Fifth Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament at No. 2 Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground this afternoon.

The Ministry of Finance and Revenue and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism play for the bronze medal at No. 2 Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground on 25 August, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation meet the Ministry of Construction at the final at No. 1 Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground on 26 August.

MNA

Human Rights Special Rapporteur Mr Thomas Ojea Quintana visits Human Rights Promotion and Protection Course

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—Human Rights Special Rapporteur Mr Thomas Ojea Quintana and party visited Myanmar Human Rights Promotion and Protection Course 2011 at the auditorium of the Ministry of Home Affairs this afternoon.

United Nations Development Programme Acting Resident Representative Mr Ramesh Shretha gave lecture on human rights standards, liberty and equity, and human rights provisions. Mr Quintana added human rights affairs to the lecture.

He also answered the questions raised by trainees.—MNA



Mr
Thomas
Ojea
Quintana
lectures
on human
rights
affairs at
Myanmar
Human
Rights
Promotion
and
Protection
Course
2011.
MNA

**The best time to plant a tree
was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.**



**Union
Con-
struction
Minister
U Khin
Maung
Myint
answer-
ing
queries.**
MNA

Questions raised and answered, proposals...

(from page 1)

As regards the proposal by U Hla Myint from Dawbon Constituency to resume research stipend paid by the previous Ministry of Education, the Union minister said that internal stipends and annuities are given and research funds have been set up for promotion of the education sector and bringing about scholars; that 1209 under Ph.D and M.A degrees research trainees, other trainees, study tour and 1209 attendants have been sent abroad for further studies; and that the Ministry of Education is planning to give more international and local stipends and annuities for the educational purposes.

In connection with the proposal by U Than Sein from Kyimyindine Constituency to open a basic education high school on the other bank of Kyimyindine in Yangon Region, the Union minister said that the school buildings of the basic education high school (branch) in Setkalay on the other bank in Kyimyindine Township are enough for all local high school students; and that data will be submitted to superior bodies to upgrade the school (branch) to a basic educa-

tion high school.

Four Hluttaw representatives submitted five questions about transport, and Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint replied to them.

Regarding the proposal by U Lwin Oo from Thanlyin Township Constituency to upgrade the 18 miles long gravel and earth road linking Thahtaygwin Village in Thanlyin Township and Maungma Village in Kayan Township, the Union minister said that reports on 2012-2013 financial year budgets will be submitted to upgrade old roads and bridges to maintain Thahtaygwin-Bagandaung-Phagu-Maungma Road.

With respect to the proposal by U Han Sein from Taikkyi Constituency to upgrade the 29 miles and two furlongs long latelite road that goes through Taikkyi, Htantapin and Hmawby townships, the Union minister said that reports on budgets for 2012-2013 financial year will be submitted to upgrade the road that links Ywatha Village to Myochaung through Tawlati and Yaybawthaung to a gravel one, and the wooden bridges on the road, to reinforced concrete ones.

As to the proposal

by U Kyi Myint from Hmawby Constituency to upgrade the 2.5 miles long gravel road linking Taikkyi and Htantapin townships in Hmawby Township, Yangon Region, the Union minister said that a plan has been already laid down to upgrade the road to a tarred one in the dry season in 2011-2012 financial year. The expenditure is covered by the ordinary maintenance budget of Yangon Region to launch the project by the end of December 2011.

Concerning the

ing to Hokho village, 20 miles from Ohmmathi Village to tarred ones, the Union minister said that the approach road to Dokhtawady Bridge on Shwenyaung-Yaksawk-Kyaukgu-Taungkham-Nawngkhiko Road will be upgraded with the 2012-2013 fiscal year budget; that the 20-mile road from Ohmmathi Village to Hokho Village has been upgraded to a tarred one for seven miles up to 2011-2012 fiscal year, and a six-mile section is in the process, so the remaining section will be upgraded

hold discussions on the reports may register, and the report will be under discussion on 26 August for approval, and they are to register by 24 August.

Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee U Win Sein presented the committee report. The Pyithu Hluttaw speaker announced that those representatives wishing to hold discussions on the reports may register, and the report will be under discussion on 24 August, and

up economic growth, and establishing a watchdog to replenish the budgets in the same fiscal year, and Dr Maung Maung Wint from Bahan Constituency on an order to be issued to designate the Myanmar Medical Council as a professional body, promulgation of necessary laws and rules to form Medical Protection Society.

Pyithu Hluttaw decided to discuss the proposals. They will be discussed on 24 August. The Pyithu Hluttaw speaker announced that those representatives wishing to hold discussions on the reports may register this afternoon.

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun submitted a proposal on Myanmar Microfinance Bill to Pyithu Hluttaw. Member of Pyithu Hluttaw Bills Committee Dr Soe Moe Aung clarified the bill.

The Pyithu Hluttaw speaker announced that the bill will be discussed according to Pyithu Hluttaw Rules 156 on 29 August, and those wishing to hold discussions on the reports may register by 25 August, stating the paragraph they want to discuss.

The second-day session ended at 2.15 pm.

The first Pyithu Hluttaw second regular session continues tomorrow.

MNA



**Dr Maung Maung Wint from
Bahan Constituency.—MNA**



**U Kyi Myint from Hmawby
Constituency.**
MNA

proposal by U Kyaw Myint from Nawngkhiko Constituency to upgrade Nawngkhiko-Taungkham-I n d a w - K y a u k g u - Yaksawk and Taunggyi road, and the 14 miles long gravel road on Mandalay-Lashio Road lead-

ing to Hokho village, 20 miles from Ohmmathi Village to tarred ones, the Union minister said that the approach road to Dokhtawady Bridge on Shwenyaung-Yaksawk-Kyaukgu-Taungkham-Nawngkhiko Road will be upgraded with the 2012-2013 fiscal year. The Pyithu Hluttaw speaker announced that those representatives wishing to

those representatives are to register by this afternoon.

U Kyi Myint from Latha Constituency submitted a proposal on tax exemption from all exports for boosting import and export and speeding



**Pyithu
Hluttaw
representa-
tives
signing
attend-
ing
book.**
MNA



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Human Rights Special Rapporteur

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received Human Rights Special Rapporteur Mr Thomas Ojea Quintana and party at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Building here this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein, and the chairmen of Committee for Amyotha Hluttaw Accounts, Vetting Committee for Government Grantees, Pledges and Undertakings, Committee for National Race Affairs and Local Peace-making,

Committee for Fundamental Rights of Citizens, Democracy and Human Rights, Committee for National Planning, Economic, Monetary and Tax, Committee for Education, Health and Culture, Committee for Women and Children Affairs, Committee for Public Complaints and Appeal, Committee for the United Nations, ASEAN, AIPA and International Relations, and Committee for Peasants and Local and Overseas Workers Affairs.

MNA

**Speaker
U Khin Aung
Myint greets
Human Rights
Special
Rapporteur Mr
Thomas Ojea
Quintana.**

MNA

Provision of medicines to hospitals,...

(from page 16)

The Union Minister added that environmental conservation bill was finally drafted by experts at home and

abroad through workshops and seminars in 2000; that members of Environmental Conservation Committee and experts from related departments are amending



**Amyotha Hluttaw representative
U Swe Aung of Yangon Region
Constituency No. 12.**

MNA



**Amyotha Hluttaw representative
U Tin Yu of Yangon Region
Constituency No. 11.**

MNA



**Union Forestry Minister
U Win Tun replies queries.—MNA**

the bill in accord with the current situations so as to pass it as an environmental conservation law.

Next, U Tun Myint from Constituency No. 6 of Sagaing Region proposed the Amyotha Hluttaw to consider education of offspring of families residing in forest reserves, and the Hluttaw accepted the proposal for discussion.

U Tin Yu from Constituency No. 11 of Yangon Region submitted Hluttaw Office bill and Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, on behalf of the Union government, private school registration bill for Hluttaw's discussion and read the bills. The Hluttaw agreed to discuss the bills and the second-day second regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw came to an end at 2:35 pm. The third day regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw will continue at 10 am tomorrow.—MNA

UEC hears Election Objection Amendment Nos (8/2011) and (9/2011)

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug — Chairman U Tin Aye and all members of Union Election Commission heard the case of Election Objection Amendment No (8/

2011) at 10 am and of Election Objection Amendment No (9/2011) at 3 pm at UEC Office here today.

MNA

Thank guides for tourism growth

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug — Myanmar tourism industry has got far thanks to honourable role of the tour guides who are often referred as "diplomats of the country", said Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan at the workshop on tour guide work at the ministry this morning.

The Union minister awarded outperformed tour companies before 11 tour guides read papers on Myanmar's tourism development, and difficulties and desires of the tour guides.

Deputy Minister U Htay Aung then assessed the workshop.—MNA



Amyotha Hluttaw representatives sign attendance book.—MNA

EP-2 Ministry conducts proficiency course

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug — Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Aung Than Oo addressed opening ceremony of Proficiency Course No (2/2011) of Myanma Electricity Enterprise at Belinpin Power Station in Kyaukse of Mandalay Region yesterday.

A total of 41 trainees are attending the two-week course.

MNA

Flood bulletin

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug — According to the 14.30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Dokhtawady River at Myitnge 872 cm has exceeded by 2 cm above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level 870 cm during the next 24 hours commencing noon today, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

India Navy Chief arrives in Yangon

YANGON, 23 Aug—A delegation led by Navy Chief Admiral Nirmal Verma, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chairman COSC & CNS of the Republic of India and wife arrived at Yangon International Airport this evening.

The delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Commander of Danyawady Naval

Command Commodore Tin Aung San and wife, military officers, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri, Military Attaché Col Rajesh Kumar and wife, and officials. MNA

Commander of Danyawady Naval Command Commodore Tin Aung San shakes hands with Navy Chief Admiral Nirmal Verma, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chairman COSC & CNS of the Republic of India.—MNA



Over 820 millions fingerlings to be released into dams, rivers, lakes, wet land

YANGON, 23 Aug— Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has planned to release 353 millions of fingerlings into dams, reservoirs, rivers,

lakes, wet land and rice field this year.

As part of efforts for rural area development, poverty alleviation, development of fishery sector and conservation

of aquatic resources, the department's hatcheries across the country will produce 822 millions of fingerlings and prawns this year. MNA

Over 900 patients receives free eye surgeries in Kalay

YANGON, 23 Aug—So far 914 eye patients have received eye surgeries at Sitagu Free Hospital for Eyes Diseases in Kalay till the

end of July.

The free hospital has provided medical treatment to eye patients as from 2009.

The hospital was

built with the contribution of local wellwishers, and Sitagu Sayadaw donated medical equipment and medicines to the hospital.—MNA

Matriculation students may submit forms for exam-2012

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug— 2012-academic-year matriculation students are to buy matriculation examination forms at fixed prices at Myanmar Board of Examinations starting from 1 September, 2011.

The students with subject Nos. (1), (5), (6), (7) and (8) are to submit their forms and cards in green colour, and those with subject Nos. (2), (3) and (4), their forms and cards in pink colour.

Students (external) are to present their examination forms to the relevant TEO Offices in the townships where they really live, from 1 to 30 September.

The heads of the schools are to deliver the collective exam fees for students who will sit in Basic Education High Schools, Schools (branch), and affiliated schools, during a period from 1 September to 14 October.

Students should submit their forms in time and to express clear writing on their forms so that they are entitled to sit for the exam.

Examination forms and stamps for fee are on sale at Nay Pyi Taw Office No. 52 Myanmar Board of Examinations (Headquarters) and Myanmar Board of Examinations (Zwekabin) in Hline Campus in Hline Township.—MNA

15 killed, 30 injured in bus accident in Venezuela

CARACAS, 23 Aug—At least 15 people were killed and 30 more injured in a car accident between three vehicles early Monday morning in southwest Venezuela, local police said.

The accident happened at 4:00 am local time around a dangerous curve in Trujillo State when one of the freight vehicles' tyres burst, knocked over and hit one of the buses, officer of the National Institute of Land Transports told the official Venezuelan Television.

Police said the accident surprised the other bus, which was travelling from Chichiriviche in Falcon state to Merida, causing the tragedy.—Xinhua

Local people reinforce the bridge pier damaged by floods in Linxi County of Chifeng City, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 22 Aug, 2011.
XINHUA



Baby injured in fall from Calif parking structure

ORANGE, 23 Aug—An infant boy plunged at least two stories from a Southern California hospital parking structure on Friday, and police said they were searching for the person who was with the baby. The circumstances are "obviously suspicious" because the one- to three-month-old couldn't have gotten over the ledge on his own, Orange police Sgt Dan Adams said Friday.

He said a witness called 911 after seeing the baby drop from the second or fourth floor of the Children's Hospital Orange County garage.

The boy suffered critical injuries and was rushed to a trauma centre at UC Irvine Medical Center for treatment.

Police had no information on the baby's identity or that of his parents. Adams said he

didn't know whether the baby had been treated at the children's hospital.

Detectives were reviewing surveillance video to determine what happened and locked down the garage to search for evidence. Video shot by a KCAL-TV news helicopter showed yellow police tape outside a garage gate where a baby blanket remained on the ground.

Internet

Wing walker dies after fall at Michigan air show

DETROIT, 23 Aug—A stunt wing walker died Sunday after falling about 200 feet at an air show in southeastern Michigan, officials said.

Technical Sgt Dan Heaton, a spokesman at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, said wing walker Todd Green was trying to move from a plane to a helicopter when he fell at the base in Harrison Township, about 20 miles northeast of Detroit.

Heaton said in a news release that the accident happened about 1:30 pm while Green was flying on a Stearman aircraft during a stunt.

He said an ambulance rushed Green to Mount Clemens Regional Medical Centre. Hospital spokeswoman Diane Kish told *The Associated Press* that Green died from his injuries. Authorities did not give Green's age or hometown.

The air show began Friday and ended Sunday.

Some spectators who saw the fall thought it was part of the performance, but quickly learned from an announcer that something had gone wrong, *The Macomb Daily of Mount Clemens* reported.

Jennifer Bradley of Linden was at the show with her sons, ages 7 and 11, when the fall happened.

"There were lots of tears," Bradley told the newspaper. "We sat and prayed together."—*Internet*

First int'l trade fair opens in northeast DPRK

PYONGYANG, 23 Aug—The first International Trade Fair opened Monday in Rason, a northeastern city of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the official KCNA news agency reported.

Rason, which borders China and Russia, became an economic and trade zone in 1991, the first of the DPRK's experiment with special economic zones.

According to the KCNA, Jo Jong Ho, chairman of the Rason City People's Committee and chairman of the organizing committee of the fair, said many people attended the opening ceremony on Monday, including government officials, scientists and technicians, representatives of different countries and regions, foreign businessmen and the consul generals of China and Russia.

More than 110 companies from the DPRK, China, Russia, Australia, Italy and the United States brought to the fair electrical and electronic products, light industry goods, food stuff, medicine, vehicles and other commodities.—Xinhua



A worker walks in the subway tunnel built under the Yangtze River in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 21 Aug, 2011. The 3.1-km-long subway tunnel is the first of its kind to cross the Yangtze River, China's longest river, and will start operating at the end of next year.

XINHUA



Photo taken on 22 Aug, 2011 shows China's Icebreaker "Xue Long" (Snow Dragon) in Shanghai, east China. A maintenance work is carrying out on "Xue Long", which is scheduled to begin its 28th Antarctic scientific expedition at the end of October this year.

XINHUA

More US homeowners miss to pay mortgage in Q2

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug—The number of Americans that could not pay their mortgage on time is rising, reflecting the struggling housing market and economy as a whole, reported a leading industry organization on Monday.

The Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) said that the delinquency rate for mortgage loans on one-

to-four-unit residential properties increased to a seasonally adjusted rate of 8.44 percent of all loans outstanding as of the end of the second quarter of 2011, an increase of 12 basis points from the first quarter of 2011.

The delinquency rate includes loans that are at least one payment past due but does not include loans in the process of

foreclosure.

Analysts said that the increase in delinquency rate indicates that both the housing market and the economy will remain weak for a few years.

US economy, which grew 0.4 percent and 1.3 percent in the first and second quarter respectively, is not expected to grow much faster in the next half of this year.

Xinhua

New strategy outlines Denmark's Arctic engagement

COPENHAGEN, 23 Aug—Better livelihoods for Arctic communities will take centre-stage in Denmark's new strategy for the region, the country's foreign minister said here Monday.

"We are keen supporters of economic development and foreign investments in the area," said Foreign Minister Lene Espersen, when launching a 10-year strategy document outlining Denmark's engagement in the Arctic.

But Espersen cautioned that those wishing to tap the region's resources will have to abide by the highest international standards if they want to take part."

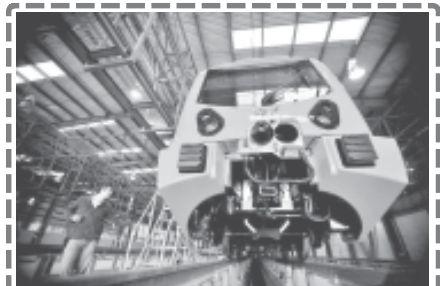
"It is important for the governments of Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands that the local communities will benefit from any future

activity boom in the region, but we will not accept that the fragile environment in the Arctic will be put at risk," she added.

The strategy, which covers the period 2011 to 2020, is a joint-effort of the governments of Denmark, and its autonomously governed territories Greenland and Faroe Islands, which lie in the Arctic Circle and North Atlantic, respectively.

The strategy aims to protect the Arctic environment, balance natural resources interests with international security issues, and improve maritime safety in the region.

Espersen explained the strategy is needed as the region "will undergo profound changes due to global warming in the short term, and these changes are forcing us to act now."—Xinhua



A visitor walks next to one of the new trains in the workshops at the station Tlahuac, in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 22 Aug, 2011. 30 trains made in Spain are already in the workshops and will circulate in the underground line in 2012.—XINHUA

XINHUA

Overseas passengers boost Auckland Airport profit

WELLINGTON, 23 Aug—Executives of Auckland Airport, New Zealand's primary gateway for overseas visitors, said moves by the government to "remove barriers to travel," particularly for the Chinese market, are expected to boost visitor numbers significantly.

At the announcement of a 15.1-percent rise in Auckland International Airport Ltd's (Auckland Airport) underlying profit to 120.87 million NZ dollars for the 2011 fiscal year, chief executive Simon Moutter said shifting global trade and tourism markets were changing airline dynamics.

"This means we need to focus on the key markets and the carriers with the available aircraft to connect us with them. Put simply, we need to 'sell' New Zealand as a route destination to those airline customers who are in a position to 'buy'," said Moutter.

"The New Zealand government understands these dynamics and is working positively with the industry to remove barriers to travel.—Xinhua

Children play in the slum Attacoubé in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, on 22 Aug, 2011. Too much garbage has become a big problem to the residents of the slum.

XINHUA



Iran to import 14 million litres of gasoline per day

TEHERAN, 23 Aug—An official of Iran's Majlis (parliament) said the country has plans to import 14 million litres of gasoline on daily basis, the semi-official Mehr news agency reported on Monday.

Naser Soudani, the deputy chief of Majlis Energy Commission, said "the Oil Ministry has issued an order to import gasoline to the country due to some problems in the current condition," said the report.

But the imports "will be temporary," Soudani told Mehr.

The need of imports is resulted from the unsatisfactory quality of domestically-produced gasoline, and the reduction of gasoline production of Abadan Refinery.

In May, Iran said it

postponed producing premium gasoline in the southern Abadan Refinery after an explosion occurred in the inauguration ceremony of the new gasoline producing project attended by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The imports of gasoline will continue till the end of current Iranian calendar year (ending on March 20, 2012) and after that the country will be able to gain self-sufficiency by completing the projects underway, said Soudani, according to Mehr's report.

Xinhua

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Paper and paper articles; cardboard and cardboard articles; printed publications including books, magazines, newsletters; cartoons and cartoon posters, photographs, maps, almanacs, calendars, stationery, letter and envelope sets; postcards, gift cards, place cards, greeting cards, announcement cards; note pads, notebooks, rulers, albums, address books, book and paper binders, autograph books, comic books, memo pads, coloring books, activity books, sketcher books, sticker albums, artist's materials, including canvas, drawing pads, paints, brushes; modeling clay; staplers, erasers, pencil sharpeners, pens, pencils, markers, crayons, high-lighters, chalk; pencil cases; paper weights; office supplies; school supplies; educational and instructional materials; stickers, decals, appliques, trading cards; paper hats, paper napkins; party bags, gift wrap, paper gift wrap bows, paper case decorations, paper table cloths, paper table decorations, paper table mats; bookends. (International Class 16)

On-line retail services, mail order catalog services, and retail store services featuring a wide variety of consumer goods. (International Class 35)

Communication services; television, cable television, digital television, satellite television and radio broadcasting services; providing telecommunications access to an integrated digital platform in the nature of a secure broadband computer network for the production, distribution, transfer, and manipulation of motion picture, television, and other media content. (International Class 38)

Educational and entertainment services, including the production and/or distribution and/or presentation of programs for television, cable television, digital television, satellite television and radio; services in the nature of a continuing comedy, drama, action, adventure and/or animation program series and motion picture film production, provided through cable television, broadcast television, broadcast radio and the global computer information network. (International Class 41)

Computer services, computer on-line services, including providing an on-line magazine; providing an on-line computer data base and interactive data base; providing a website featuring information on entertainment and amusement and providing on-line links to other websites; providing temporary use of on-line software; amusement and theme park services. (International Class 42)

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Tin Ohnmar Tun

B.A.(LAW) LL.B, LL.M(UK)

P.O. Box 109, Ph: 09 731 50632

For Donnerr Somjai & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)

Dated 24 August, 2011

Don't Smoke



YANGON SAILING CLUB, 132 INYA ROAD, YANGON

NOTICE TO NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS OF YANGON SAILING CLUB

Non-resident members, now residing out of Yangon or living abroad and out of contact with the Yangon Sailing Club for more than a year are urged to contact the club and settle the outstanding fees not later than 30th September 2011.

Failure to contact the club and settle the outstanding fees beyond the said date, membership from the Yangon Sailing Club will be terminated. Contact Phone Numbers are - 95 1 513899 / 95 1 535298

Executive Committee

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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for Johnson & Johnson
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 24 August 2011

Three French nationals arrested, released

ABIDJAN, 23 Aug—An Ivory Coast official says authorities have freed three French nationals who were arrested over the weekend.

Military spokesman Lt Jean-Marc Tago refused to elaborate Monday on the circumstances of their arrest.

A diplomat who asked not to be named because she is not authorized to speak to journalists said the French Embassy in Abidjan negotiated their release. Two of the men were freed Saturday. The third was released Sunday.

Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SUPA BHUM VOY NO (192)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SUPA BHUM VOY NO (192) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.8.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MED PRODIGY VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MED PRODIGY VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.8.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Species flee warming faster than previously thought

LONDON, 23 Aug — Animals and plants are shifting their natural home ranges towards the cooler poles three times faster than scientists previously thought. In the largest study of its kind to date,

researchers looked at the effects of temperature on over 2,000 species.

They report in the journal *Science* that species experiencing the greatest warming have moved furthest.

The results helped to "cement" the link between climate change and shifts in species' global ranges, said the team. Scientists have consistently told us that as the climate warms we should expect animals to head polewards in search of cooler temperatures. —Internet



Warmer weather has brought the British comma dancing around Scottish nettles for the first time.—INTERNET

Urban cliff divers make a splash

Divers from across the globe leapt from a platform some 90 feet above Boston Harbor on Saturday in an extreme-diving tour that used the overhanging roof of an art museum as its most recent launching pad.

Fourteen divers competed in the urban twist to the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series.

Their diving board was the roof of the

Institute of Contemporary Art, as thousands of spectators marveled at the acrobatic feat from behind a glass wall on the museum's fourth floor gallery, and from nearby grandstands and lawn seats. Some of the best views were had by spectators cruising the waters nearby in leisure boats, or lounging in kayaks mere feet from the divers' entry point.

It took just three seconds from take-off to entry, with a host of tucks, twists and somersaults on the way down, before divers pierced the water at speeds of 60 miles per hour, with an audible smack.

"You can't help but get nervous for them as you're watching," said Kristie Faletra, 37, who was at the event with her two young sons.



In this photo released by Red Bull, Kyle Mitrone of the US dives from the 26.5-meter platform on the Institute of Contemporary Art building during the sixth stop of the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series at Fan Pier in Boston, 20 Aug, 2011.

Woman, 90, beats back burglars with cane

A feisty 90-year-old German woman chased away three would-be burglars from her rural farmhouse with her cane, police said on Monday.

The retired farmer was moving around her house with the help of a walking frame and spotted the intruders — two men and one woman.

She grabbed her cane and started beating the burglars with it. The trio fled the house in a town outside Muenster.

"It was quite courageous of her," a police spokeswoman said. "But on the other hand it was also quite dangerous. She was quite fortunate that nothing serious happened."

News Album

Neighbours call for skunk action plan

Residents of an Illinois neighbourhood said they want their city to take action to curb the population of skunks in their area.

Neighbours in the Bryan Avenue area of Joliet said the skunk population has been steadily growing during the past few summers and the smell has become a major problem, *The (Joliet) Herald-News* reported Monday.

Doreen and Bob Swanson described the problem to the Joliet City Council last week as an epidemic and called on officials to create an action plan for the skunk infestation. The Swansons said they rented



two traps from the Joliet Township Animal Control Centre and have caught four of the animals during the past two weeks.

Bryan Jones, an animal control officer for Joliet Township, said he picks up an average of three skunks per day, but he doesn't seem to be making a dent in the population.

Girl struck by lightning twice in shower

A 12-year-old Gothenburg, Sweden, girl was struck by lightning twice while showering, her parents say.

Alice Svensson was taking a shower during a thunderstorm 17 Aug when her parents heard her scream, *The Local* reported.

Her mother, Cecilia Svensson, went to the bathroom to check on her daughter, but did not immediately understand what happened.

"She screamed again. She was holding the metal shower hose while rinsing off," Svensson.

Cecilia Svensson called an expert on the radio who explained what had happened — lightning struck the house and traveled through the pipes to the shower hose the child was using.

Nothing else in the house was damaged.

"It could have gone badly," said Svensson.

Selena Gomez to host 2011 VMA pre-show

BEIJING, 23 Aug—US Emmy award-winning actress Selena Gomez will host the MTV Video Music Awards pre-show on 28 Aug, according to media reports Monday.

Along with a cadre of MTV personalities and rock act Cobra Starship, Gomez will interview celebrities and musicians outside Los Angeles'

Nokia Theatre on VMA's "black carpet."

"After all of my years watching the VMAs, the pre-show has always been one of my favorite parts," Gomez says in a statement. "It is a true honor to be hosting from the black carpet this year."

Artists including Lady Gaga, Adele, Lil

Wayne, Bruno Mars, Chris Brown and Young the Giant are slated to appear.

Gomez currently has a hit album with her backing band the Scene, "When the Sun Goes Down," which is at No 17 on the US pop chart.

Xinhua

Rock Hall to honor Aretha Franklin with series

NEW YORK, 23 Aug—Aretha Franklin is already a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, but this fall, she'll be honored by the hall once again, as part of its American Music Masters series.

The Queen of Soul will be the subject of a week-long celebration by the hall and Case Western Reserve University. It kicks off 31 Oct, includes an all-day symposium and ends with an all-star tribute concert on 5 Nov. Performers for that show have yet to be announced.

Internet

Winslet escapes fire at Branson home

NECKER ISLAND, 23 Aug—Actress Kate Winslet and her children escaped unharmed from a fire Monday that tore through the home of Richard Branson in the British Virgin Islands.

Winslet, 35, and her daughter Mia, 10, were staying in Branson's Necker Island Great House along with more than a dozen other people, including Branson's 90-year-old mother Eve and 29-year-old daughter, Holly, Britain's *The Guardian* reported.

"Around 20 people were in the house and they all managed to get out and they are all fine," said Branson, who was staying in another Necker Island property 100 yards away with his wife, Joan, and son, Sam, 25.—Internet



In this image issued Monday 22 Aug, 2011 by Virgin Limited Edition shows British entrepreneur's Sir Richard Branson's luxury home, on Necker Island, in the Caribbean, in flames as a fire which ripped through the luxury home.—INTERNET

George Michael admits Kenny split

BEIJING, 23 Aug—British singer George Michael has admitted his split from longtime partner Kenny Goss at his concert at the Prague State Opera House Monday.

"Kenny and I haven't been together for two and a half years," the 48-year-old announced when he dedicated his new song, "Where I Hope You Are," to his former partner.

There have been months of rumours and whispers about the couple's separation, however, Michael took to Twitter and went on live TV in March to say the



British singer George Michael arrives on stage before his concert at Czech State Opera House as a part of "Symphonica: The Orchestral Tour" in Prague 22 Aug, 2011.

XINHUA

rumours of a split were "lies".

"My love life has been a lot more turbulent than I've let on," Michael said at the concert. "This man has brought me a lot of joy and a lot of pain."

They split, he said, in part because of Goss' longtime struggle with alcohol addiction after his parents died.

Began dating in 1996, Michael and the businessman founded the Dallas-based Goss-Michael Foundation, which exhibits British contemporary art.

Xinhua

Kewell to miss Australia's opening WCup qualifier

SYDNEY, 23 Aug — Harry Kewell has been left out of the Socceroos' first squad for World Cup qualifying just three days after signing with Australian A-League club Melbourne Victory. Coach Holger Osieck announced his 23-man squad Tuesday for World Cup Asian qualifying matches against Thailand on Sept. 2 and Saudi Arabia on Sept. 6, including all 18 players involved in the 2-1 win over Wales in a friendly earlier this month plus recalling striker Josh Kennedy, Brett Holman, defenders Sasa Ognenovski and Mark Milligan and drafting in goalkeeper Nathan Cooe.

Everton midfielder

Tim Cahill, veteran Fulham goalkeeper Mark Schwartz and Lucas Neill, who signed with Gulf powerhouse Al-Jazira on Monday, were all included as expected for the home and away matches. Former Liverpool and Leeds United star Kewell missed the Wales match due to a lack of match fitness and had been without a contract for two months after leaving Turkish club Galatasaray after last season. —Internet



Harry Kewell

SPORTS

US tennis player Kendrick's ban cut to eight months



Robert Kendrick of the US

BERNE, 23 Aug — Tennis player Robert Kendrick's doping suspension has been reduced from 12 to eight months by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Kendrick, who tested positive for methylhexanamine (MHA) at the French Open in May, had wanted the ban cut to three months to allow him to play at next week's US Open.

"CAS has confirmed Robert Kendrick was guilty of a doping offence but has decided to reduce his suspension to eight months starting from 22 May 2011," it said in a statement. Kendrick said he took a pill to help him cope with jetlag without knowing it contained the banned substance.

Internet

Man Utd sign deal with Vietnam mobile company

LONDON, 23 Aug — Manchester United on Monday announced a three-year partnership with a leading Asian mobile telecommunications company to distribute content in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. It is estimated United have 16 million supporters in Vietnam alone and the Premier League champions have joined forces with mobile firm Beeline to expand the club's brand in Asia.

"Manchester United has always been at the forefront of the game off the pitch as well on it and this partnership is another example of that," United manager Sir Alex Ferguson said. "Everyone knows about the passion of our fans in that part of the world and this deal makes it a lot easier for us to keep in touch with them." Meanwhile, United have confirmed that logistics company DHL will be their first training kit sponsor. —Internet

Wenger gets 2-match touchline ban from UEFA



Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger

NYON, 23 Aug — UEFA gave Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger a two-match touchline ban on Monday for breaching the terms of a previous suspension during last week's Champions League playoff against Udinese. Wenger had been banned for the first leg for comments made about the referee follow-

ing last season's Champions League elimination by Barcelona. However, he was seen passing on instructions to the bench through coach Boro Primorac, who sat alongside the manager in the stands.

UEFA ruled that was a breach of its rules, banning Wenger from Wednesday's second leg against Udinese and his next European match.

Arsenal was also fined \$14,400 for "improper conduct by its officials." Arsenal said on its website that it would be appealing Wenger's suspension and the club fine. Arsenal won the first leg 1-0.

Internet

Milan defender Taiwo faces month on sidelines

MILAN, 23 Aug — AC Milan announced on Monday that they will begin their defence of the Serie A title without left-back Taye Taiwo after the Nigerian summer signing suffered a sprained ankle. Taiwo, who was brought in on a free transfer after six years at French side Marseille, picked up the injury in Sunday's Berlusconi Trophy match against Juventus and faces a month on the sidelines.

The 26-year-old has already been criticised by his new coach, Massimiliano Allegri, who has said that

he "has to learn about the way the game is played in Italy." Meanwhile, Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic is a doubt for Milan's season-opener against Cagliari in Sardinia with a knock to his left ankle. — Internet



AC Milan left-back Taye Taiwo

Ballack is staying at Leverkusen, insists Voeller

LEVERKUSEN, 23 Aug — Ex-Germany captain Michael Ballack will not be sold by Bayer Leverkusen, the German league club's director of sport Rudi Voeller insisted on Monday. "This is all speculation, there is no

truth in it at all," said Voeller at a reception in Aachen on Monday after reports in the German media that Ballack is set to be sold with the transfer window due to close at the end of August.

Ballack, 34, has played in just one of Leverkusen's three league games so far this season and coach Robin Dutt has said he will not play the ex-Chelsea star alongside captain Simon Rolfes in their three-man midfield. Dutt has said he has no problem with the veteran midfielder who is under contract until June 2012. — Internet



Ex-Germany captain Michael Ballack



Manchester United's Rooney scores against Tottenham Hotspur during their English Premier League soccer match in Manchester, northern England on 22 Aug, 2011. Man United beats Tottenham 3-0. —XINHUA

Woods considers adding tournament

JUPITER, 23 Aug — Tiger Woods is thinking about adding another PGA Tour event to his schedule. Woods failed to qualify for the FedEx Cup playoffs that start this week in New Jersey for the top 125 players in the standings, meaning he is ineligible for tour events until October. He said on his website Monday that he might add a tournament in the Fall Series. "Right now, I'm looking at my options," Woods said.

The Fall Series begins in Las Vegas on 29 September. It is followed by the Frys.com Open in San Martin, Calif, before moving to the East Coast for the final two weeks — the McGladrey Classic in St. Simons Island, Ga., and

concluding with the tournament at Disney on 20-23 Oct. Woods won Las Vegas for his first PGA Tour victory in 1996. He also won Disney that year. He also said he wants to be part of the Presidents Cup team in Australia the week before Thanksgiving, although Woods will have to rely on being one of two captain's picks. "I've had some conversations with US captain Fred Couples, and we'll see how it goes," Woods said. "Of course, I want to be on the team. It's always fun to play for your country, and we did pretty well two years ago in San Francisco. I'm just going to keep practicing and try to get better. It's Freddie's call, and he can make any choice he wants." —Internet

Cardinals LF Matt Holliday gets moth stuck in ear

ST LOUIS, 23 Aug — This was a different sort of injury bug for Matt Holliday. In a bizarre epi-



St Louis Cardinals trainer Barry Weinberg, left, looks at the ear of Cardinals leftfielder Matt Holliday during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Monday. —INTERNET

sode, a moth got stuck deep in Holliday's right ear, forcing the St. Louis Cardinals star to walk off the field while the Los Angeles Dodgers batted in the eighth inning on Monday night. With two outs, Holliday called time in left field and started toward the dugout holding his ear. Cardinals trainer Barry Weinberg met Holliday and tried to help.

"He had a moth fly into his ear, deep into his ear. I don't even know what happened to it," St. Louis manager Tony La Russa said moments after his team's 2-1 loss.

Internet

Provision of medicines to hospitals, environmental conservation, private school registration bill discussed at second day session of Amyotha Hluttaw



The second regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw for second day in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—The second regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw was held at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here this morning for the second day.

It was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, and 209 Hluttaw representatives of Amyotha Hluttaw. At the session, U Tin Yu from Yangon Region constituency No. 11 put a question about sufficient provision of medicines to hospitals.

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin replied that even the developed countries in the world still cannot provide cent per cent free healthcare to their citizens; that the Health Ministry has reckoned the cost of basic medicines and number of patients taking treatment at people's hospital so as to fully provide them with medicine; that the Health Ministry has arranged to provide more basic medicines to hospitals with allocated fund for purchase of medicines and maintenance of equipment in 2011-2012 fiscal year; and that provision of adequate medicines to hospitals was one of the topics of the recent National Workshop on Promoting Quality of Healthcare organized by the Ministry of Health.

U Swe Aung from Constituency No. 12 of Yangon Region raised a question about introduction of laws or rules and regulations about

environmental conservation.

Union Minister for Forestry U Win Tun answered that National Environmental Conservation Commission was formed in 1990 as a medium of coordination between departments and organizations concerned to ensure non-deterioration of the environment in economic development measures of the nation; that Myanmar as a member of international conventions on environmental conservation is taking measures for conservation of the environment; that it has focused on control of air pollution, reduction in use and non-use of chemicals harmful to the ozone layers, and is implementing National Ozone Unit Project; that it is preparing ozone-related rules and regulations and that it has drafted a bill on works inclusive of chemicals leading to ozone depletion.

The Union Minister continued that Myanmar has also completed initial national climate change report and could calculate amount of green house gas emission; that the report shows that Myanmar's forest can absorb more carbon than the actual emitted amount, leading to the conclusion that Myanmar is not a carbon contributor nation; that the government has formed environmental conservation committee with a view to ensuring effective and wide environmental conservation works.

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UEC Chairman receives Human Rights Special Rapporteur



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India Navy Chief arrives in Yangon

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Powerful Hurricane Irene heads toward Bahamas, US

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