

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XX, Number 59

14th Waning of Nayon 1374 ME

Monday, 18 June, 2012

True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.

* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Lt-Gen Hla Min of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, Union Minister for Border Affairs, State Chief Minister on tour of Ponnagyun, Yathedaung, Kyauktaw, Pauktaw

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—Lt-Gen Hla Min of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) office, Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin, Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko Naing, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe and officials visited Ponnagyun, Yathedaung, Kyauktaw and Pauktaw today and met departmental officials and townselders.

They also cordially greeted displaced persons from other regions.

In Ponnagyun, Lt-Gen Hla Min and Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay met displaced persons from other townships at the ordination hall of Lawka Marazein Pagoda.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay, Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and Deputy Minister U Phone Swe presented instant noodle packets, clothes, plates and spoons for displaced persons through officials.

Lt-Gen Hla Min and party gave instructions on restoring peace and stability of the region to the township administrator, departmental officials and townselders.

While in Yathedaung, they met townselders at the hall of Township GAD. Township Administrator U Zay Wunna Hlaing reported on peace and stability of the township and accommodation for the displaced persons at the relief camps.



Lt-Gen Hla Min of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office gives a speech to departmental personnel and townselders at Yathedaung Township General Administration Department.—MNA

Lt-Gen Hla Min of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay, the Chief Minister and the deputy minister explained conditions of some townships in the state, necessary for restoring peace and stability in Yathedaung Township and fulfillment of the Union government and state government for basic needs of the displaced persons and for their return to home, and responded to the reports of the townselders.

At Basic Education High School where the relief

camp is being opened, they asked about health, accommodation and food of the displaced persons and presented assistance to them.

Lt-Gen Hla Min and party met departmental officials and townselders in Kyauktaw and gave instructions on peace and stability of the region.

In the afternoon, they met departmental officials, townselders and local people at the hall of Pauktaw Township General Administration Department.

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Cash and kind donated to displaced people in Rakhine State



Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint accepts cash contributions from wellwishers for displaced persons in Rakhine State.

MNA

YANGON, 17 June—Companies, sister associations of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and wellwishers donated cash and kind to displaced people who are experiencing difficulties for their livelihood in Rakhine State.

At the ceremony to donate cash and kind to the displaced people held at Yangon Region Office here today, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint called on the people to actively cooperate with the government in maintaining the peace and stability in Rakhine State while the government has managed to restore the rule of law there.

The government has established relief camps to give shelter to the victims of the riots which broke out on 28 May and has provided aids to them for their livelihood and health, he said.

Besides, the government will lay down plans for their rehabilitation and have restored peace and stability in Rakhine State, he added.

As part of efforts for fulfilling the livelihood and rehabilitation of the displaced people who lost their property due to the unrest in Rakhine State, Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce

(See page 8)



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Senior UN official praises development of China's space programme

Julio Cesar Chavez Jr stops Andy Lee in 7th round

PAGE 14



Greece, Czechs top Group A, through to Euro 2012 quarters



PAGE 14

Players of Greece celebrate for victory after the Group A 3rd round match against Russia at the Euro 2012 in Warsaw, Poland, on 16 June. Greece won 1-0.

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 18 June, 2012

NGOs

We now have the constitution that permits the formation of non-governmental organizations in various frontiers as ready helpers playing their part well in looking after the citizens in various aspects, the natural environment, ancient heritages and traditions and cultures of our kith and kin through multiple operations.

Consequently, many domestic NGOs are emerging in our country in different forms and types as foundations, federations, associations, civil society organizations or groups for specific activities especially for particular communities that need their help. NGOs are difficult to define and classify as they are involving in a wide range of fields from health and education to development work and relief and reconstruction. Normally an NGO can be called an independent charitable body of voluntaries acting in harmony on a firm basis for some common points other than winning government positions, earning money or unlawful actions.

In a more comprehensive way we can say that a non-governmental organization in our country is a non-profit group founded and run by voluntary Myanmar people on a regional or national scale. Steered by people with a common goal, NGOs perform a large array of services and campaigns involving the task of submitting public concerns to the Government, providing the people with political and other necessary knowledge and supporting and monitoring the development projects through information sharing method. Some NGOs serve as suppliers of analysis, know-how and early warning systems and help monitor and implement international agreements. In fact, types of their services and campaigns differ from one another depending on their goals, location and principles.

As for a country in her democratic transition, the services and campaigns of NGOs will help the government and its offices in one way or another as we believe that they although are independent organizations free from government control are run by the people observing the constitution and laws in force.

Union Construction Minister receives Japan, Thai businessmen

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint received Mr Shoichi Satoh, Programme Manager of Marubeni Aerospace Corporation based in Japan and party at his office here on 15 June.

During the meeting, they discussed matters on cooperation in high-tech communication sector using satellites.

Similarly, the union minister also received Mr Premchai Kamasuta, President of Italian Thai Development Public Co Ltd from Thailand at 2.15 pm on 15 June. During the meeting, they discussed



Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint receives President Mr Premchai Kamasuta of Italian Thai Development Public Co Ltd.

MNA

cooperation in the road sector.

Also present at the meetings were Deputy

Minister U Soe Tint, Managing Director of the Public Works U Kyaw Lin, Director General of the

Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development U Min Htein. MNA

Championship shield to Yangon Region in Pencak Silat event

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June—Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan this morning inspected installation of gymnastic devices, modern machines at canteens and Gym and fitness centres at the gym of sports training zone in Lewu Township.

The Union Minister enjoyed the final matches in the Pencak Silat event of the Champion Challenge Cup at the training hall of the Pencak Silat event.

After the final matches, officials presented medals and cash awards to first, second and third prizes winners.

The Union Minister awarded championship shield to Yangon Region team with three gold, one silver and one bronze medals.

After that, he viewed women's boxing event of the Champion Challenge Cup at boxing gymnasium in Zabuthiri Sports Zone.

MNA

Experience on 22nd AGM of MMCWA recounted

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win attended the ceremony to recount experience on 22nd annual general meeting of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Work Coordination Meeting at Bago City Hall yesterday morning and made a speech.

He awarded Bago Region Maternal Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Adviser Head of Region Health Department for his first prize winning research paper.

Afterwards, Region MCWSC Patron Daw Myint Myint Soe awarded Region MSWSC Chairperson Daw May Thu, model volunteer member awards to members of Bago, Toungou, Pyay and Thayawady Districts.

After that, he gave cash assistance to be spent on MCWA activities and delivery rooms and membership cards to District Chairpersons of the association.—MNA

Sagaing Region Chief Minister attends ASEAN Dengue Day Ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June—Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye yesterday addressed ASEAN Dengue Day Ceremony of the region and viewed placards and booths at Mya Sanda Hall in Monywa.

The chief minister and party attended educative talks on prevention against dengue fever in Dawnachan

ward and inspected construction of new school building in Basic Education Primary School of the ward.

The chief minister also attended opening of sixth Computer Technology and Mobile Exhibition at City Hall of Monywa and viewed booths displayed in the hall.

MNA

Quality Palethwe paddy seeds provided to farmers

MOHNYIN, 17 June—A ceremony to present Palethwe hybrid paddy strain to be grown for the first time was held in Mayingon Village of Mohnyin Township on 10 June.

Head of Township Agriculture Department U Htin Aung Zaw explained the plan to provide quality paddy seeds and one bag of fertilizer to the farmers who will grow Palethwe hybrid paddy strain in Mohnyin Township.

The meeting was

attended by Deputy Commissioner U Htin Aung of Mohnyin District General Administration Department and officials.

In-charge of seed section Daw Thet Thet Swe of Kachin State Agriculture Department said that a total of 40 acres of farmlands will be put under Palethwe paddy plantations in Myitkyina District, 40 acres in Bhamo District, 60 acres in Mohnyin District and 10 acres in Putao District.

NLM-001

395 persons arrested in 319 drug-related cases

NAY PYI TAW, 16 June—A total of 319 drug-related cases were exposed across the nation in May 2012.

The seizures of cases were 227,0266 kilos of opium in 48 cases, 8,8988 kilos of heroin in 78 cases, 4,6536 kilos of opium liquid in 12 cases, 1,3272 kilos of low-grade opium in nine cases, 2,8891 kilos of marijuana in 18 cases, 443,945 stimulant tablets in 136 cases, 46,2462 kilos of opium speciosa in six cases, 100 litres of opium liquid,

0.801 kilo of Ice, 2.25 kilos of morpheme in one case, 78 kilos of Caffeine in one case, 467 bottles of morpheme in one case, 241,109 tablets of Alprazolam in two cases, 4,344 kilos of Psudoephedrine, 241,354 kilos of Ephedrine in two cases, 299 tablets of tramadol in two cases and one case of failure to register.

Action was taken against 395 persons—319 men and 76 women—in 319 cases under law.

MNA



Deputy Commissioner of Mohnyin District gives instructions at the ceremony to distribute Palethwe hybrid paddy strains.—NLM-001

32 Shiite pilgrims killed at end of major ritual in Iraqi capital

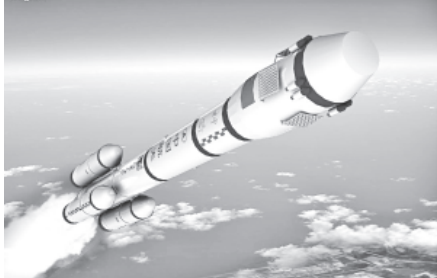
BAGHDAD, 17 June — Two car bomb explosions killed 32 Shiite pilgrims in Baghdad as millions of them ended Saturday a major ritual at a holy shrine in the Iraqi capital amid tightened security measures. The deadliest attack occurred at about 2:00 pm local time (1100 GMT) when a car bomb hit a procession of Shiite pilgrims near Sanaa Square outside the holy Shiite shrine district of Kadhmiah in northern Baghdad, killing 18 pilgrims and wounding 36.

An earlier car bombing took place around midday when a booby-trapped car struck a procession of Shiite pilgrims at an intersection in Shula district in northwestern Baghdad, killing 14 pilgrims and wounding 32 others. The pilgrims were marching on foot to return

to their homes after they participated in the observation of one of the major Shiite rituals at Kadhmiah's mausoleum of Imam Mussa al-Kadhim the 7th of the most sacred 12 Shiite Imams.

During the past few days, large crowds of pilgrims from Iraqi cities and some Muslim countries flocked to Kadhmiah to observe the annual commemoration of the Imam's death. Iraqi authorities estimated that total number of pilgrims reached up to six millions by the end of the event which culminated on Friday and ended on Saturday. "We have received more than six million pilgrims for past few days until Saturday noon, some came from other countries," Fadhel al-Anbari, head of Kadhmiah shrine told *Xinhua*. — *Xinhua*

Launch procedures of Shenzhou-9 Booster Cutoff diagram



Graphics shows the launch procedure of the manned Shenzhou-9 spacecraft on 16 June, 2012. China on Saturday launched the manned Shenzhou-9 spacecraft in Jiuquan, northwest China's Gansu Province. XINHUA

Senior UN official praises development of China's space programme

JIUQUAN, 17 June — China's space station will be an ideal international cooperation platform and the world is expecting China to escalate its space programme, said a senior official of the United Nations after watching the launch of the *Shenzhou-9* spacecraft in the Gobi desert on Saturday. Dr Mazlan Othman, director of the Vienna-headquartered United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), told *Xinhua* at northwest China's Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre that

the world is "waiting very anxiously for China's space station to be completed, which will give another opportunity for international cooperation."

She said she hopes to see "a great involvement of developing countries" through China's space programme. "The world is watching China," said the Malaysian astrophysicist. China launched the *Shenzhou-9* spacecraft on Saturday to test the country's manual space docking technology. Aboard the craft

are three astronauts, including China's first female astronaut. "I'm excited as I'm also a female," said Othman, also deputy director-general of the United Nations Office at Vienna. She added that the United Nations promotes gender equality. By 2020, China's space station could be the only space station, and China's role is even more important, she said, adding that the world is looking to China for international cooperation in the space sector. Aboard the *Shenzhou-8* spacecraft that was launched last November to conduct the country's first space docking, there was an experiment box containing 17 life science experiments jointly conducted by Chinese and German scientists. — *Xinhua*

Cuba, Sri Lanka vow to boost cooperation

HAVANA, 17 June — Cuban President Raul Castro and visiting President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka agreed on Saturday to further strengthen cooperation between their countries. The two leaders highlighted the good state of the bilateral relationship and expressed common willingness to further promote it, the official NNTV news reported.

Earlier in the day, Rajapaksa, who arrived on Friday for a three-day state visit, laid a wreath to the statue of Cuba's National Hero Jose Marti at Revolution Square and visited other places of historical and economic interests. Rajapaksa also visited the Center of Biological Medicines, as Colombo is interested in enhancing collaboration in the field of biotechnology with Havana. The Sri Lanka president is scheduled to leave Cuba on Tuesday to attend the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro, better known as the Rio+20 summit.

Cuba and Sri Lanka established diplomatic relations in 1959, six months after the triumph of the socialist revolution on the island. The two nations have developed close ties in education, health and sports. Cuba sent a medical brigade with biotechnological drugs to support Sri Lanka immediately after a devastating tsunami hit the country in 2005.

Xinhua



File picture shows F-15 fighter jets. An F-15 fighter jet was scrambled on two separate occasions Saturday to intercept two single-engine planes that violated a flight ban imposed for President Barack Obama's visit to his hometown of Chicago, officials said. INTERNET

Two planes spark F-15 scramble during Obama visit

WASHINGTON, 17 June — An F-15 fighter jet was scrambled on two separate occasions on Saturday to intercept two single-engine planes that violated a flight ban imposed for President Barack Obama's visit to his hometown of Chicago, officials said.

Both small aircraft were intercepted "in the vicinity of Chicago," the first at approximately 10:30 am (1430 GMT) and the second at about 4:45 pm (2045 GMT), North American Aerospace Defence Command said in a statement.

Both planes were escorted out of the restricted area without further incident, NORAD said. No details were given about the make of the first aircraft. The second was a Cessna 172. Obama was in Chicago to spend the weekend there with his family and to attend the wedding of the daughter of Valerie Jarrett, one of his senior advisers. — *Internet*

G20 to focus on global economic growth

MEXICO CITY, 17 June — Global economic recovery and growth will be the most pressing topic at the upcoming Group of 20 (G20) summit in the Mexican city of Los Cabos. Around the world, the chronic euro-zone debt crisis, a dismal US economic outlook, and the slowdown of economic growth in some emerging markets have prompted G20 leaders to take concrete measures at this time of unprecedented economic hardship.

Mexican Deputy Foreign Minister Maria de

Lourdes Aranda told *Xinhua* in an exclusive interview that Mexico will focus on how to maintain economic stability and meanwhile follow the important agreements of previous G20 summits so as to promote vigorous, sustainable and balanced global economic recovery. "The recovery of market confidence and structural reforms are necessary for further growth and job creation," she said, adding that "we also know that fostering financial inclusion and improving the international financial

architecture are important to prevent similar crisis in the future."

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai said recently that restoring a strong growth and recovery is at the moment the most urgent task. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy said in a joint letter to the leaders of EU members that "we should deliver a strong and credible message on growth at the Los Cabos Summit." To end the crisis, European countries have adopted a set of measures including strengthening firewalls and reducing bank liquidity risks. — *Xinhua*

A giant balloon of a cartoon character flies in front of the Argentine Humor Museum in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, on 16 June, 2012. The Argentine Humor Museum opened here on Saturday, presenting the most famous cartoon works during the past two centuries. XINHUA



China makes great progress on sustainable development

RIO DE JANEIRO, 17 June — China has made great progress on sustainable development despite difficulties along its development path, a senior UN official said here on Friday. As a developing country, China has gone through a more difficult development course than developed countries, said Sha Zukang, UN under-secretary-general for economic and social affairs, at an event on the sidelines of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Earth Summit).

Looking ahead, China will face many difficulties and obstacles. At present, China has more than 100 million people living below the poverty line, and China still has to work hard in emission reduction and environmental protection, he said. "But I have full confidence in the road of China's sustainable development. I believe that China has broad prospects in its participation in international cooperation on this subject, especially in technology transfer and capacity building," he said. — *Xinhua*



Workers assemble Iranian new car called Runna at Iran Khodro car manufacturing company in Teheran, Iran, on 16 June, 2012. Iran Khodro, the largest car maker in Iran, announced on Saturday it has started its mass-production of the third kind of home-made car called Runna. — XINHUA

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

New device powers gadgets through walking

LONDON, 17 June—British scientists have built a novel device that converts body movement into electricity capable of powering small gadgets such as GPS trackers. The device, unveiled this week in the July issue of the journal *Smart Materials and Structures*, is designed to be worn on the knee and harnesses the energy produced by walking. The journal said it could be used by the military to reduce the number of heavy batteries — each weighing up to 10 kg (20 lb) — that soldiers carry on foot patrol.

It was created by researchers at the Universities of Cranfield, Liverpool and Salford, originally with funding from the UK Ministry of Defence. The researchers estimate it could retail for 10 pounds (\$16) if produced on an industrial scale.

The “energy harvester” is based on so-called piezoelectric materials that

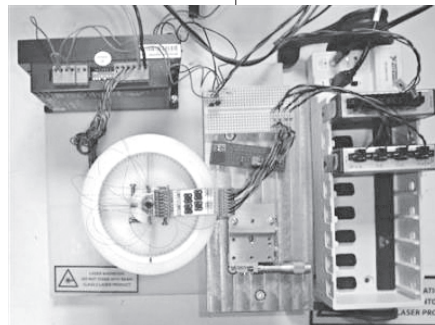
have long been used in sonar sensors and ultrasound scanners and have become the focus of energy generation research in recent years. Scientists at Princeton University and the California Institute of Technology used a similar technology two years ago to develop electricity-generating rubber sheets.

The novelty of the British device is the way it uses the body’s movements to generate power. An outer ring that rotates as the knee joint moves is fitted with 72 plectra that in turn move four energy-generating arms called bimorphs attached to an inner hub. The vibration generates the electricity.

Michele Pozzi, who led the development project, said researchers were looking at ways to make the device cheaper and more portable.

“There is an on-going project looking at manufacturing a more

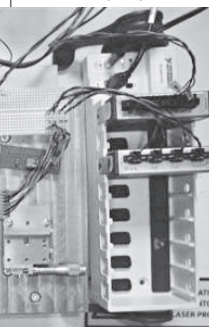
compact and truly wearable harvester,” the journal’s website quoted Pozzi as saying. “At the moment we are using precise but cost-effective manufacturing techniques for the plectra and



casing and anticipate that remaining parts will be molded industrially, slashing the cost.” At the moment, the piece can harvest about two milliwatts of power but the researchers believe this could

A device, designed to be worn on the knee, uses the energy produced by walking into electricity to power small gadgets like GPS trackers in remote locations, is seen in this May handout photo.

REUTERS



exceed 30 milliwatts with a few enhancements, enough for the latest GPS tracking devices. The gadget could also have uses in medical monitoring devices, he said.

Reuters

Samsung LCD lines hit by brief power outage

SEOUL, 17 June—Samsung Display, a unit of Samsung Electronics Co, said four flat-screen production lines had stopped briefly on Thursday due to a power outage — a development that may mean sizeable losses.

Although production was only halted for 10 minutes, even a short stop can render some panels obsolete.

“Samsung may have to report some costs, because around 70 percent of panels which were in the process of production during the blackout become useless,” said an analyst who declined to be identified.

Shares in Samsung Electronics, tumbled 3 percent in morning trade, underperforming a 0.7 percent decline in the broader market.

Samsung, which competes with local rival LG Display and Japan’s Sharp Corp, has since restored 60 percent of output later on Friday.

The lost output, mainly large-sized panels for TVs and computer monitors, is unlikely to have major impact on sales or global LCD market, where supplies are plentiful due to weak consumer demand.

The plant in Tangeong, southwest of Seoul, houses Samsung’s most advanced LCD production lines. The four lines have a combined monthly output capacity of 320,000 panels.

Its parent Samsung Electronics separated out its loss-making flat-screen business in April to combine it with a more promising AMOLED (active matrix organic light-emitting diodes) flat-screen operation, currently used mainly in high-end smartphones.—Reuters



Students walk out of a showroom at the headquarters of Samsung Electronics in Seoul on 28 October, 2011.

REUTERS



TV maker Vizio enters PC market

NEW YORK, 17 June—Vizio, best known for making televisions, announced its entry into the US computer market with ultrabooks, mid-size laptops and all-in-one desktops.

Vizio helped commoditize the burgeoning flat-panel television market during the last decade, grabbing market share from the likes of Sony and Sharp.

Vizio held an event in New York on Thursday to introduce its new PC systems, CNET.com reported.

The systems evoke images of Apple’s designs, combining high-end components with slick configurations including unibody construction, hidden hinges and full HD displays.

The all-in-one models are especially influenced by Vizio’s TV-making experience, with HDMI inputs for the display, a remote control, and Blu-ray options, CNET.com said.

Prices for all three product lines — all based on Intel processors — will start at \$898, Vizio said.—Internet

New region of sun spitting out flares

GREENBELT, 17 June — An active region on the sun that rotated into view of the Earth on Sunday has fired off two flares and two coronal mass ejections, US scientists say.

The first flare lasted for a relatively long 3 hours, peaking at 9:17 am EDT on Wednesday, the NASA/Goddard Space Flight Centre reported.

The associated CME left the sun at approximately 375 miles per second and is directed toward Earth, although because of its relatively slow speed the effect on Earth is expected to be minimal, the centre said.

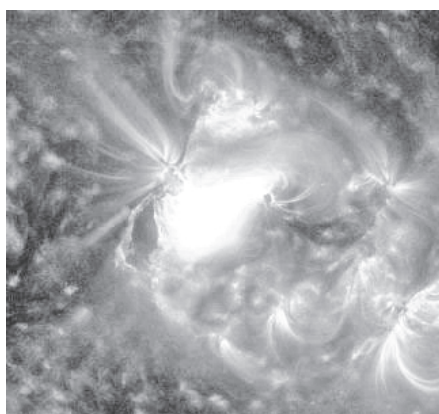
The second M-class flare was also a long-duration event and peaked at 10:08 am EDT on Thursday.

The CME associated with this flare is traveling much faster — preliminary analysis at Goddard’s Space Weather Centre indicates speeds of approximately 800

miles per second — and is heading toward Earth and could also affect Mars and the Spitzer spacecraft, the centre said.

The Space Weather Centre models estimate both CMEs will arrive at the Earth on Saturday.

Internet



The Solar Dynamics Observatory captured this image of an M1.2 class flare on 13 June, 2012. The sun is shown here in teal as this is the color typically used to represent light in the 131 Angstrom wavelength, particularly good for observing flares.

INTERNET

US secret space plane X-37B returns to Earth

LOS ANGELES, 17 June—After spending more than 15 months orbiting Earth on a mystery mission, the US Air Force’s X-37B unmanned, reusable space plane finally returned to the ground on Saturday.

The space plane, known as the Orbital Test Vehicle 2 or OTV-2, was on its second ever space mission. It glided back to Earth on autopilot, touching down at the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California at 5:48 am PDT (1248 GMT) on Saturday, the Base announced in a news release.

OTV-2, which was launched on 5 March, 2011, conducted on-orbit experiments for 469 days during its mission. The estimated mission length for the space planes is about 270 days. The OTV-2 mission and its predecessor were both launched from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. The US Air Force is preparing for another launch

of the X-37B from the Cape Canaveral station sometime in fall 2012 aboard an Atlas V booster. This will be a flight of the first X-37B OTV, which was successfully recovered at the Vandenberg base on 3 Dec, 2010.

“With the retirement of the Space Shuttle fleet, the X-37B OTV programme brings a singular capability to space technology development,” said Lt Col Tom McIntyre, the X-37B programme manager. “The return capability allows the Air Force to test new technologies

without the same risk commitment faced by other programmes.”

The X-37B space planes are built in tight secrecy by Boeing, and look much like NASA’s retired space shuttles, only much smaller. Each X-37B spacecraft is about 8.8 meters long and 4.5 metres wide.

Industry analysts said the spacecraft could be a precursor to an orbiting weapon, capable of dropping bombs or disabling enemy satellites as it circles the globe.—Xinhua



US secret space plane X-37B returns to Earth.—XINHUA

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

Burger King eyes China expansion

MIAMI, 17 June—Burger King Worldwide Holdings Inc BKCBK UL said on Friday it plans to open 1,000 of its namesake restaurants in China over the next five to seven years under a newly-formed joint venture.

China is the world's fastest growing major economy and US restaurant companies such as Yum Brands Inc (YUM N), McDonald's Corp (MCD N) and Starbucks Corp (SBUXO) each plan to build hundreds of restaurants there in the coming years.

Miami-based Burger King said the deal represents the largest multi-unit development agreement in company history. Its joint venture partners in the China deal are members of the Kurduglu family, a long-time

Burger King master franchisee, and Cartesian Capital Group, a global private equity firm.

The agreement gives the group exclusive rights to expand the Burger King brand in China from 63 units currently.

Burger King, which went private in October 2010 with its \$3.26 billion sale to 3G Capital Management LLC, is scheduled to close its merger with a publicly held shell company this month. When the deal closes, its shares will begin trading.

Yum Brands is the largest US restaurant brand in China, with more than 3,800 KFC restaurants and almost 700 Pizza Hut outlets. Yum executives, who are still building restaurants there, expect China's middle class



Burger King signs at a restaurant in Annandale, VA, on 24 August, 2010.
INTERNET

to grow from about 300 million people today to 600 million in a decade.

McDonald's has more than 1,400 restaurants in China, which ranks as its third-largest market in the world. The Golden Arches is

boosting investment in the country by 50 percent this year, when it aims to open as many as 250 new restaurants.

Starbucks has 570 shops in China and expects to have more than 1,500 by 2015.

Reuters

Lifestyle counseling can prevent diabetes

SAN FRANCISCO, 17 June—Type 1 and 2 diabetes affect 26 million Americans at a cost of \$200 billion a year but researchers say much of it can be prevented through lifestyle changes.

Dr Alka Kanaya and Anita Stewart of University of California, San Francisco, and colleagues at the City of Berkeley Department of Public Health said diabetes is not something people should assume they will get because it runs in the family.

"It is very preventable, and lifestyle changes can really impact the onset of diabetes," Stewart said in a statement. "You can do something about it."

The study involved 230 people in poor, urban neighbourhoods in the San

Francisco Bay Area cities of Richmond, Oakland and Berkeley. Almost one-third said they faced financial hardship, and 22 percent had less than a high-school education. Contacted by phone about once a month, half of the people received specific dietary guidance and other lifestyle counseling.

After six months, the study found those who had received the counseling had, on average, lost more weight, were consuming less fat, were eating more fruits and vegetables and showed more improvements in lowering their blood triglycerides—a key risk measure for type 2 diabetes. The finding were published in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

Internet



Cryopreserved cord blood in a cryogenic tank for blood storage seen at the French Blood Service building in Creteil near Paris on 2 September, 2011. Leading scientists, biomedical research bodies and patient groups urged the European Parliament on Friday to maintain vital European Union funding for studies using embryonic stem cells.—REUTERS

Many men afraid to hear what Dr might say

MAYWOOD, 17 June—Adult men should have blood pressure, cholesterol, heart and teeth checked each year, but not many do, a US family doctor says.

"Many men are simply afraid of what their doctor might find," Dr Aaron Michelfelder, a family doctor at Loyola University Health System, in Maywood, Ill., said in a statement. "But ignoring a problem doesn't make it go away. Indeed, the earlier we diagnose such conditions as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and cancer, the more successfully we can treat them." Michelfelder urges his patients to see him at least once a year, which at least provides an opportunity to conduct appropriate screening tests such as:

- A measure of body fat based on height and weight. Normal is 18.5 to 24.9. Overweight is 25 to 29.9 and obese is 30 and above.
- Cardiovascular health.
- Dental checkups. Dental disease is a risk factor for cardiovascular disease.
- Blood pressure. Every man 18 or older should have his blood pressure checked at least once a year.
- Cholesterol. Men 35 and older should be screened once every five years if normal.
- Men with risk factors for diabetes should have blood sugar checked.
- Colorectal cancer. Men should be screened beginning at age 50.
- If a patient or his spouse reports a hearing problem, hearing should be checked.
- Abdominal aortic aneurysm, a bulge in the large blood vessel that supplies the abdomen and lower body.

Michelfelder said he screens men for depression, smoking and alcohol abuse, and talks to them about controlling their weight, getting enough physical activity and avoiding risky sexual behavior.—Internet

Hyundai Heavy wins \$600 million orders for oil, gas rigs

SEOUL, 17 June—Hyundai Heavy Industries (009540.KS), the world's largest shipbuilder, has won three orders worth a total \$600 million to build oil and gas rigs. Hyundai said in a statement it had won a \$400 million order for a 35,000-tonne offshore oil platform scheduled to be delivered by August 2015. It did not identify the oil major which placed the order.

The other two orders are each worth \$100 million. One is to build a semi-submersible drilling rig for LLOG of the United States, which has an option exercisable to order an additional structure.

The other is for six "land plant modules" capable of producing 200 million cubic feet of natural gas and 10,000 barrels of oil a day for an unnamed US oil major, with scheduled delivery in June 2015.—Reuters

Apple I computer fetches \$374,500 at NY auction

NEW YORK, 17 June—A rare, still-working Apple I Computer from 1976 sold at Sotheby's auction house on Friday for \$374,500, or more than 500 times its original retail price. The computer, one of only a handful in full working condition, had been estimated to sell for about \$150,000 at the auctioneer's sale of books and manuscripts.

The Apple (AAPL.O) computer, built by the company's founders Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, included the original cassette interface, operating instructions and BASIC computer language user's manual. But like all Apple I's, it did not come with a monitor or power supply.

Two bidders competed for the machine, the first compact computer to allow casual users to type on a keyboard and operate basic programs. An anonymous telephone bidder prevailed for a final cost of just under \$375,000 including commission.

The Apple founders created the personal computer in 1976 and presented it at a Palo Alto computer club, but there were few takers at the time. Paul Terrell, owner of a retail chain called Byte Shop, placed an order for 50 of the machines and sold them for \$666.66 retail—once Wozniak and Jobs agreed to assemble the circuit boards rather than offer them as kits, Sotheby's said.

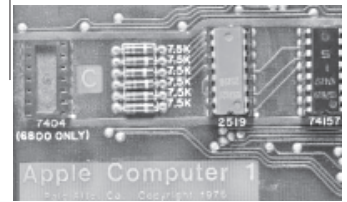
The pair then produced 150 more and

sold them to friends and other vendors. Sotheby's said fewer than 50 original Apple I's are believed to survive, with only six known to be in working condition.

Other highlights of the sale, which took in a total of \$2.67 million, included an unpublished F Scott Fitzgerald story, "The I O U", which sold to an unidentified U.S. institution for \$194,500, far above the \$75,000 pre-sale estimate, and an autographed letter from Oscar Wilde calling his work, "The Ballad of Reading Gaol", his swan song. It fetched \$134,500, or more than three times the estimate.

Another unpublished Fitzgerald story, "Nightmare", from the early 1930s, doubled its pre-sale estimate and sold for just over \$80,000, while artist Andy Warhol's illustrated book from 1954, "25 Cats Named Sam and One Blue Pussy", also doubled its estimate, selling for just under \$60,000.

Reuters



Oil holds near \$84 per barrel

NEW YORK, 17 June—Crude oil prices held close to \$84 on Friday after the OPEC oil cartel elected to keep production at 30 million barrels per day.

Oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries met in Vienna on Thursday. They said demand would grow, but not fast enough to warrant increasing the group's production quota.

In New York, West Texas

Intermediate crude oil for July delivery lost 8 cents in late trading to reach \$83.95 per barrel. Natural gas lost 2.7 cents to hit \$2.468 per million British thermal units.

Home heating oil gave up 0.94 cents to \$2.6371 per gallon.

Gasoline moved lower, giving up 0.82 cents to reach \$2.6935 a gallon.

At the pump, the national average price of unleaded gasoline fell to \$3.524 per gallon from Thursday's \$3.532, AAA said.—Internet



One woman motorist with gas pump in hand looks over her \$70 final tab for filling her vehicle in Denver on 15 April, 2011.—INTERNET



Newly-wed couples wave to their friends and parents at a group wedding ceremony in Shenyang, northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 15 June, 2012. A total of 75 couples participate attended the group wedding.
XINHUA

Dutchman seeks birth parents for adopted daughter

NANCHANG, 17 June — A Dutchman who visited east China's Jiangxi province last week in the hope of finding the natural parents of his adopted Chinese daughter has told how the trip was satisfying though ultimately unsuccessful. Jan Steenberg, 45, said that he wanted to help his daughter — Jiang Yongquan, nicknamed Quanquan — find her birth parents as a Father's Day gift. Though empty-handed on Tuesday, the night before his return to the Netherlands after two weeks' searching, Steenberg said that he would feel better when facing Quanquan since he has done

his best for her.

Quanquan, nine, was born in Yongxiu county in Jiangxi, and was adopted by Steenberg in 2004 at the age of one. In Yongxiu, Steenberg put up many posters on kiosks, visited local orphanages, public security bureaus and hospitals, and even made key rings featuring photos of the girl and delivered them to residents living near the site where she was abandoned. This was not the first time the hunt has brought him to Yongxiu. In 2010, when Quanquan came up with the idea of finding her mum and dad, Steenberg immediately agreed and spent

several weeks in China.

A father of five daughters including two adopted Chinese girls, Steenberg said he liked having a big family. He adopted the other Chinese — six-year-old Wei Kangying, who is handicapped — in 2007 in Tianjin municipality, and has also visited Tianjin to look for Wei's birth parents. Before adopting Quanquan, he and his wife spent six years going through adoption application procedures, including child rearing training and assessment of their financial stability. In order to make their Chinese daughters feel at home, the couple decorated

their home in a Chinese style.

Every year on Quanquan's birthday, Steenberg would tell her that her natural parents took her to a warehouse along with a note of her birth date, reassuring her this means they loved her very much. Quanquan is now in her third grade in primary school in the Netherlands. She ranked top of her class in academic performance and has shown gymnastic talent, according to her adopted father. She is very happy and healthy now, but her well-being will improve further if she can find her natural parents, said Steenberg, a laboratory technician and regular volunteer who accumulated annual leave over several years to allow him to take time off to travel to China. — Xinhua

Scientists to strap cameras to Hawaiian seals

HONOLULU, 17 June — Hawaiian monk seals need an image makeover. Some fishermen blame the endangered species for stealing their catch. There are unfounded rumours that they devour and deplete fish stocks. And at least four of them have been killed by humans in Hawaii since late last year. To help correct the misconceptions, government scientists plan to glue submersible cameras onto the seals' backs, using the footage to prove to fishermen the animals are not harming their way of life. It may even end up on reality TV.

"It's following seals to have them tell their own story," Charles Littnan, lead

scientist for the National Marine Fisheries Service's Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Programme. They expect to see the seals dive for eels and fish on the ocean floor. The "Critttercams," provided by the National Geographic Society, are the latest tactic to protect a population that is down to just 1,100 in Pacific Ocean waters around Hawaii. The killings were painful blows to a species on course to disappear in 50 to 100 years.

The deaths have come as resentment simmers while the species experiences a modest rebound around Kauai, Oahu and other islands where Hawaii's humans live. There have been cases of

people pestering seals: state officials found an Oahu teenager throwing rocks at a seal at a wildlife sanctuary in January. On Friday, the state said a court fined him \$1,000 and sentenced him to 80 hours of community service for trespassing and harassing the monk seal.

Archaeological evidence — like monk seal bones in a human trash pit dating between the 15th and 18th centuries — shows the seals were around on these islands long ago. But most were hunted for their meat and fur by the early 1900s. The seals were then generally only found among tiny, remote atolls northwest of Hawaii's main islands. — Internet



This 2002, file photo, provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service shows a juvenile Hawaiian monk seal with a camera strapped to its back at French Frigate Shoals, Hawaii, one of the outermost islands in the Hawaiian island chain.
INTERNET

Cambodia reports trade deficit of 1.1 bln USD in first 5 months

PHNOM PENH, 17 June — Cambodia recorded a trade deficit in equivalent to 1.1 billion US dollars in the first five months of this year, according to a report of the Commerce Ministry on Saturday. During January-May period this year, the report showed that the country's total import and export value was 5.16 billion US dollars, up 17 percent from 4.41 billion US dollars at the same period in a year ago.

The imports jumped by 18 percent to 3.13 billion US

dollars, while the exports rose by 15 percent to 2.03 billion US dollars, resulting in an trade deficit of 1.1 billion US dollars, it said. Cambodia is heavily reliant on international trade. The country's economy is supported by garment industry, tourism, agriculture and construction.

According to the report, the main products Cambodia exported include garments and footwear, rubber latex, milled rice and cassava. On the import side, the country

shipped in products including garment and textile raw materials, petroleum, construction materials, automobiles and motorcycles, food and soft drinks, pharmaceutical products and cosmetics.

In the whole year 2011, the country's trade deficit was 1.73 billion US dollars. The main foreign trading partners with Cambodia are the United States, European countries, China, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Canada. — Xinhua

Photo taken on 15 June, 2012 shows Salvador Dali's work "The City of the Drawers" in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan. One hundred works of Spain surrealism artist Salvador Dali would be shown on an exhibition here since 16 June. — XINHUA



WHO launches tools to help stop abuse of people with mental health conditions

GENEVA, 17 June — The World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday urged countries to better protect people with mental health conditions, as the Geneva-based organization launched a tool kit to assess and stop violations to their rights and dignity. The "WHO Quality Rights Tool Kit — Assessing and improving quality and human rights in mental health and social care" was aimed to ensure that quality of care and human rights standards are put in place in mental health and social care facilities around the world. Shekar Saxena, Director of WHO's

Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, said poor quality services and human rights violations in these facilities were still an everyday occurrence in many places, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

"Decrepit buildings, overcrowding and unhygienic living conditions are a reality for many people living in psychiatric institutions. In many facilities, people are exposed to violence, abuse, harmful treatment and neglect. Many are locked up against their will, overmedicated, put in seclusion cells or restrained, sometimes for years," said

Saxena. The tool kit established key standards that need to be met in all facilities, as well as in social care.

It also provided specific guidance on how to conduct a comprehensive assessment of services, and how to report findings and make appropriate recommendations to improve quality of care and human rights at the health facility and at national level. The tool kit is a critical first step in a larger WHO Quality Rights project which aims to improve the quality of mental health care and human rights conditions in mental health and social care facilities. — Xinhua

Colombia, Costa Rica to sign trade agreement



Costa Rica's President Laura Chinchilla and Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos exchange documents after signing bilateral agreements during a meeting in San Jose on 15 June, 2012. — REUTERS

SAN JOSE, 17 June — Presidents Laura Chinchilla of Costa Rica and Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia agreed on Friday to start negotiations for a free trade agreement between their two countries. Santos said he expects the agreement to be ready for the leaders to sign at the end of this year and would then require approval from both congresses. "We trust that the declaration signed today will allow us to work towards joint

aspirations, such as joining the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development)," said Chinchilla in a Press conference after the meeting. The first round of negotiations will be held on 30 July in Colombia and will be headed by trade ministers Sergio Diaz-Granados of Colombia and Anabel Gonzalez of Costa Rica. Trade between the two countries totaled 503.9 million dollars last year and had an annual growth rate of 11 percent from 2002 to 2011, according to report by the Costa Rican trade ministry.

Some entrepreneurs in Costa Rica oppose the agreement arguing it will be hard for the Central American nation, which lacks infrastructure and has high energy costs, to compete with Colombia. "With the signing of such agreements we are eliminating the import tariff, which is the only protection mechanism the production sector has to face imports from other countries. We should also consider the poor use we have made of other free trade agreements so far," said Marco Meneses, president of the Chamber of Industries. — Reuters

Two Bayintnaung Overpasses to be completed in one year



YANGON, 17 June—A plan is under way to build the overpass at Bayintnaung Junction by First Myanmar Construction Co Ltd and TPC Prestressed Concrete (Thailand) Co Ltd under supervision of Yangon City Development Committee within one year, it was learnt.

The 1444 feet long overpass will lead from the south to the north along Bayintnaung Road and

another one, 1969 feet in length from the east to the west along Thamaing railway station road.

The overpass on Bayintnaung Road will have four-way facility and the overpass on Thamaing Railway Station Road, two-way facility. These facilities will be of reinforced concrete structures.

In the project area, the Bayintnaung Road will be

upgraded to eight-way facility. The west Thamaing Railway Station road section from Bayintnaung Bridge to the junction will be upgraded to the six-way facility and the east section of Thamaing Railway Station road section will be four-way road, according to an official of Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) of YCDC.

As the route in area of the Overpass is used by container carriers and timber trucks, the Bayintnaung Overpass will be built with withstanding of 75 tons of loads and the Thamaing Railway Station overpass, 60 tons of loads. It was reported that both overpasses will be constructed with the withstanding of earthquake intensity.—*Saw Thein Win*

School uniforms provided to students



KYAHLAT, 17 June—Development Affairs Committee presented school uniforms to 123 offspring of vendors and slow-moving vehicle drivers at the office of the committee in Kyaiklat on 9 June.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Aung Naing made a speech. Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Than Win, the township administrator and Executive Officer U Aung Than Lwin presented school uniforms to the students.—*Myanma Alin*

They issued citizenship

School enrollment day held at local battalion

EINME, 17 June—The school enrollment day was observed at Basic Education Primary School in the local military unit in Einme Township of Myaungmya District on 29 May morning.

At the ceremony, Major Myo Min Tun of the local station and officials, School Fund Raising Committee Chairman WO-II Kyi Aye (Rtd), Chairman of School Board of Trustees U Hla Thein, Headmaster U Tun Tun, teachers and townelders donated textbooks, exercise books and pencils to 154 students.—*Myanma Alin*

Books, cash donated to library in Ingapu Township

INGAPU, 17 June—A ceremony to donate cash and books to Pyinnna Beikman Library was held in Gwaytaukchaung Village of Ingapu Township in Hinthada District of Ayeyawady Region on 10 June morning.

U Han Tun and family of Yangon donated K 500,000, U Win Myint and family of Yangon K 500,000 and U Myint Thein and family 200 books to the library.

Next, Township Administrator U Hlwam Moe Han, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Maung Maung Soe, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Htay Win, Staff Officer of District Information and Public Relations Department U Win Shein and Village Administrator U Aye Kyu formally opened the library.

After that, the Amyotha Hluttaw representative and the staff officer of District IPRD explained durability and development of the library and increase of books and publications at the library.

The library was built at a cost of K 1 million by the State and K 1.3 million by the people. The building is 24 feet long and 14 feet wide.—*Township IPRD*

Eye care services given in Penwagon

PENWAGON, 17 June—Aceremony to sponsor eye surgical operation jointly organized Tipitaka Sakkhupala Group and Ga Mone Pwint Co was held at Tawgyagi Monastery in Penwagon in Bago Region on 2 and 3 June.

Under the auspices of Tipitakadhara Dhamma-bhandagarika Rakhine Sayadaw Ashin Ikkadapala and eye specialist Dr U Aye Tun, Ga Mone Pwint Co owner U Maung Maung and



CSC issued to local people in Shwepyitha Township



YANGON, 17 June—According to Moe Pwint-3 Plan, Shwepyitha Township Immigration and National Registration Department Staff Officer U Zaw Thein Oo and staff made a field trip to Bonshegon Village of Okpo Village-tract in the township on 8 June.

They issued citizenship

scrutiny cards to the local people.—*Myanma Alin*

Daw Shu Kyi family repaired buildings of the monastery as the recreation hall for patients and out-patient ward.

At the ceremony, specialists and party checked about 800 out-patients and performed surgical operation at 168 patients. Station Medical Officer Dr Kyaw Swa Lwin of Penwagon and local doctors, youth organizations, members of Red Cross and Fire Brigades and local people contributed to the eye care services.—*Kyemon*

Citizenship scrutiny cards issued in Kamayut Township

YANGON, 17 June—A ceremony to issue citizenship scrutiny cards to local people was held by Township Immigration and National Registration Department at the Dhammayon in Ward 7 of Kamayut Township in Yangon West District on 13 June morning.

Region Hluttaw representative U Mya Ngwe, Head of Region INRD U Ye Tun Oo, Deputy Director U Yin Htwe and Head of the Township Department U Ko Ko provided necessary assistance to the works.—*Myanma Alin*

DISTRICT NEWS



UNIFORMS PRESENTED: A ceremony to present school uniforms and exercise books to students of vendors from No 1 Myoma Market in Pakokku was held at market on 5 June. Executive Officer U Soe Than and loan committee member give school uniforms and exercise books worth K 130,500 to the students.

MYANMA ALIN

Livestock breeding knowledge shared to milk production cooperative society

SANGAING, 17 June—An educative talk on livestock breeding was given to members of Milk Production Cooperative Society in Hse Village of Sagaing Township in Mandalay Region on 5 June morning.

Head of Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Than Htaik made a speech. The Staff Officer of Township Cooperative Department and the Staff Officer of Township LBVD explained future livestock breeding tasks.

Dr Zaw Lun Aung gave talks on availability of clean milk, Dr Win Myint on infectious animal diseases and Dr Zaw Lin on techniques for giving nutritious feedstuff to animals.

The Staff Officer and staff of Township LBVD checked health of milch

cows of the village. Township Cooperative

Winners awarded in essay contest

YANGON, 17 June—In commemoration of the International Cooperatives Year, Mayangon Township Cooperative Department held the prize presentation for winners in the essay contest at Basic Education High School No 4 in Mayangon on 14 June.

Head of Yangon Region Cooperative Department Daw Myint Myint Thu, Chairman of Yangon Region Cooperative Syndicate U Myint Naing and Township Education Officer U Tin Tun made speeches.

They later presented prizes to the winners.

MYANMA ALIN

Lt-Gen Hla Min of Commander-in-Chief...

(from page 1)

At the meeting, Lt-Gen Hla Min, Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay and the State Chief Minister explained that peace and stability have been restored in some townships at present. They said that there was no undesirable occurrence in Ponnagayun, Yathedaung, Kyauktaw and Pauktaw townships. Therefore, they continued that it is necessary to continuously restore peace and stability and urged them not to believe



misinformation.

Later, the Union Minister, the State Chief Minister and the deputy minister presented aids for the displaced persons through officials.—MNA

Lt-Gen Hla Min of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay cordially greet local people at Pauktaw Township GAD meeting hall.—MNA

Outstanding students awarded, exercise books donated in Hlegu Tsp

YANGON, 17 June—Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye addressed ceremony to donate exercise books and award outstanding students at No (1) Basic Education High School in Hlegu of Yangon Region this morning.

He highlighted the importance of human resource development while developing the education sector.

Union Minister for Electric Power No (2) U Khin Maung Soe explained presentation of exercise books, poverty alleviation tasks and maintenance of inter-village roads.

Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe and wife Daw Ni Ni donated 5000 dozens of exercise books through Union Minister Dr Mya Aye who returned the certificate of honour to them.

Union Minister Dr Mya Aye donated a set of computer and copier through Hlegu Township Education Officer Daw Myint Myint Kyi who returned the certificate of honour.

Union Minister Dr Mya Aye then awarded outstanding students.—MNA

Construction of Pandaing sluice gate No. 2 inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw inspected construction of Pandaing sluice gate No. 2 in Htantabin Township of Yangon Region this morning. The sluice gate will supply water to plantations of summer paddy and summer crops in November.

At briefing hall of

Panhlaing sluice gate in Nyaungdon Township, the Deputy Minister met officials of Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago Regions and instructed them to systemically carry out preventive measures against natural disaster in form of flood and inundation in this year's raining season and emergency tasks.

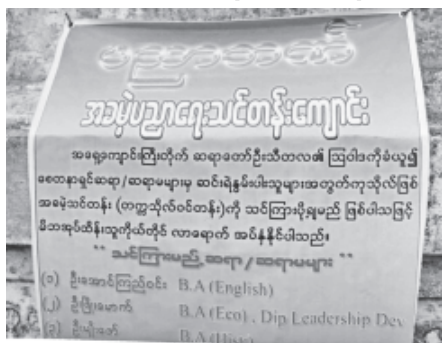
MNA

Pyinnya Bank education school launched

MOHNYIN, 17 June—In accord with the advices of East Monastery Sayadaw U Sitala of Hopin, Pyinnya Bank free education school was opened in June for needy

students.

The students are admitted to attend the courses for 2012-2013 academic year under the prescribed disciplines.



Medical servicemen give talks on health knowledge at relief camps

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—Servicemen of local medical battalion in Sittway today gave educative talks on preventive measures for illness, diarrhea and dysentery at the relief camps in Sittway.

Moreover, the medical servicemen provided health care to families at U Ye Kyaw Thu

Medical servicemen from local battalion give medical treatment to local people at relief camps in Sittway.

MNA

Effective teaching will be provided to the students from the fresher student section and repeater student section, said Hopin Sub-Township Administrator U Khaing Tun Zaw.

A total of 30 teachers comprising retired teachers and youth tuition teachers are teaching the students the whole year free of charge, said youth tuition teacher Ko Kyaw Nay Min.

NLM-001

Cash and kind donated...

(from page 1)

and Industry, Myanmar Banks Association, brother associations and private donors donated cash and kind for the displaced people and will continue to provide aids to them.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe expressed his delight for the donations led by UMFCCI and Myanmar Banks Association and he called for cooperation of the people for the rule of law.

Union Minister U Win Myint, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister Dr Pwint Hsan, Yangon Region Rakhine National Race Affairs Minister U Zaw Aye Maung, Ambassador (Retd) U Hla Maung, region ministers and President of UMFCCI U Win Aung accepted aids including cash, rice, edible oil, foodstuff, medicines and household goods.

On behalf of Rakhine State government, U Mya Aung, Rakhine State Planning and Economic Minister, spoke words of thanks.

Brother associations of the UMFCCI and over 60 wellwishers donated cash and kind worth to K1637.296 million to the displaced people during the ceremony.

Today's donations included K363 million donated by on behalf of Myanmar Banks Association, General Secretary of MBA and Chairman of the Cooperatives

Bank Ltd U Khin Maung Aye, K150 million by Patron of UMFCCI U Aung Ko Win, K50 million and 200 sets of gloves by President of UMFCCI and Chairman of Dagon International Ltd U Win Aung, K200 million by CEO of Shwetaung Development Company Ltd U Aung Zaw Naing, K100 million by Chairman of Kankaungchin Yadana U Kyaw Sein, K100 million by Ever Winner Company, K50 million each by Managing Director of Capital and Diamond Star Company U Ko Ko Gyi, Managing Director of Asia World Company U Tun Myint Naing, Patron of Naing Group Construction Company U Kyaw Naing Oo, Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Port Company U Ko Ko Htoo and Chairman of the Mineral and Resources Affairs Committee of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Nay Win Tun and Chairman of Royal Family Company U Ko Ko Htwe, K30 million each by Chairman of Fortune International Company Dr Mya Han, Chairman of Eden Group Company U Chit Khaing, U Thein and Daw Ni Ni of Shwe Thanlwin Company and Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association, 2000 bags of rice worth K28 million by Vice-Chairman of the association U Aung Than Oo, on behalf of Myanmar Rice Industries Association, 1100 viss of edible oil by Chairman of Myanmar Edible Oil and Entrepreneurs Association U Thein Han.—MNA



Sports to hail Olympic Day-2012

YANGON, 17 June—Hailing the Olympic Day-2012, Myanmar sports federations organized sports meets at the federations here this morning.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee and Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaug Htaik and officials concerned arrived Myanmar Wushu Federation in Padonma Sports Ground in Sangyoung Township here, where Director U Zaw Win of the Sports and Physical Education Department and U Chakiyo awarded the first, second and third winners in Taola event of Wushu (Women), and the Director-General

presented prizes to the winners in Taolu (Men) event.

At the training camp of Myanmar Table Tennis Federation on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township, the director-general enjoyed the matches and then awarded the victors in the table tennis contest (above-45).

Afterwards, he presented prizes to winners in the billiard (individual) after Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation President U Tin Maung Win and members praised the winners in the Snooker 100 Up Best of (5) Round Match at Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation at Aung San Stadium.—MNA

Union A & I Minister calls for extended cultivation of high-yield cotton strain

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing called for extended cultivation of high-yield cotton strains in land where high-yield strain can grow well today.

During his tour of inspection, the union minister visited Ngwechi-6 high-yield long stable cotton cultivation on the 500-acre field in Nyaungpingyisu in Nay Pyi Taw Pobbathiri Township and fed by irrigation water from Ngalaik Dam. The 500-acre plantation is established to educate farmers.

He viewed the cotton plantation which can yield 1000 viss per acre as 10000 cotton plants are grown on one acre.

During the tour, he called



on officials concerned for storing cotton systematically, for doing research for producing edible oil from cotton seeds and using expeller of the cotton seeds as feedstuff for cattle for extra

income.

The union minister also inspected testing quality of Palethwe (R) strains of rice which can produce over 100 baskets per acre and Director-General of Agricultural

Department U Kyaw Win reported on arrangements for planting Palethwe (R) strain rice on 10 acres in each village tract in Manaung Township, Rakhine State.

The union minister



Myanmar Women's Day 3rd July

stressed the need for sending agriculturalists to Manaung township to establish model rice fields as part of efforts for changing rice strains to fight the decreasing rice harvest in the township.

He also called for assigning duties to local agriculturalists in the township to extend cultivation of the new high-yield strain in this rainy season. He also

inspected the storage of hybrid Palethwe strain from China and Barsamarti strain from India and viewed thriving cultivation of hybrid strains of rice.

During the visit, the union minister also went to the staff quarter in Zabuthiri Township and presented seeds, plants and agricultural tools to them.

MNA

Union Information and Culture...

(from page 16)

in consideration of their religious values to Myanmar people. So, donations were invited under two themes in line with those policies. Donors could repair the pagodas hiring contractors to their satisfaction and also donate cash to the department which took the works for the donors. If the donors would directly repair the buildings themselves, the departmental technicians would supervise the repairing works to make sure that it was in compliance with international policies maintaining their original styles.

In repairing religious buildings, most of the population being Buddhists usually donated for all-round renovation of pagodas. There was only a few number of donors who made contribution for maintaining the ruins of pagodas in their current forms. The pagodas chosen by the ministry for maintaining in their current forms had ancient cultural values. The donation for maintaining such pagodas contributed both to renovation of religious sites and preservation of cultural heritage.

It was aimed to construct ancient cultural heritage sites like Inwa and Pakhangyi and such historical buildings as ancient palace and ancient fort as archaeological park or historical park for public recreation while preserving their traditional cultural values. Such construction projects including roads, renovation, sanitation and

security, toilets, landscaping, maps, instructions, signboards, and car and horse cart rental services, restaurants and souvenir shops would be implemented in partnership with the private businessmen in order that local and foreign visitors may visit the places easily and conveniently.

Cooperation will be made with UNESCO, foreign countries, international organizations, local organizations and experts to nominate Myanmar's cultural heritage sites Bagan, Mrauk U, Pyadalin and Inwa to World Heritage List after Archaeological Park and Historical Park have been established, he said. As authenticity of the ancient buildings is important, plans were made in advance to repair ancient edifices without having impact on its original architecture, he said.

He also recalled the memories of merit-sharing ceremony for renovation of 19 Thudhama public rest houses on the foot of Mandalay hill held at the public rest houses on 22 April. Six of them were renovated with the government's fund and 13 others with the donations of the people. As 63 ancient temples and pagodas in Bagan have been renovated cent per cent, collective merit-sharing and consecration ceremony will be held on an opportune day, he said. Merit gained by renovating the pagodas and temples is eternal, he said. Like the donor of a well gains merit as long as the well is in services,

merit will ascend the donors for renovation of the pagodas and temples as long as the people do good deeds in the religious edifices, he compared. The merit may lead to longevity, fitness and mental well-being at immediate present and may bear fruits in next existences, he said. He, on behalf of the government and the ministry, thanked the donors who contributed to the renovation of ancient pagodas and temples in Mrauk U and Inwa area. He concluded his speech with the call for perpetuating the pagodas and temples.

U Win Swe and wife Daw Min Thwe Nu and son Thiha Thudhama Manijotadhara Academy Khant Sithu donated K 5.7 million; U Maung Maung Nyunt and wife Daw Soe Soe Oo, K 5.1 million; Daw Khin Aye Myint, K 2.9 million; U Ye Tun Khaing and wife Daw Khin Than Htay, K 2 million; Daw Moe Thida, K 1.5 million; Maj-Gen Ket Sein (ret'd) (retired health minister) and wife Daw Yin Yin Myint, K 2.5 million; U Khin Kyu (Bamarn national minister) and wife Daw Mar Mar Lu, K 4.5 million; Maj Myint Thaung (ret'd) and wife Daw Khin Cho Oo, K 8.1 million; nun Daw Añethi and U Kyi Win and wife Daw Than Than Mya, K 7.4 million; Daw Tin Tin Myint and sons K 4.8 million; Daw Yi Yi and Dr U Tin Maung Htway and wife Dr Khin Le Yu, K 4.1 million; U Ohn Myint and family, K 3.7 million; U Htin Aung Khaing and wife Daw May Phyu Thwe (Lucky Bird Company), K 3.2 million; Daw Tin Nyunt and family, and U

Win Htay and wife Daw Nwe Nwe Win, K 2.9 million each; U Aung Nyunt Thein and wife Daw Mar Mar Oo, K 2.8 million; Daw Khin Aye Lwin and U Zaw Lwin, 2.7 million; U Tin Shwe and wife Daw Ohn Kyin, K 2 million; U Khin Aung and wife Daw Khin Myint, K 1.8 million; U Kyi Win and wife Daw Aye Aye Myint, K 1.6 million; Maj Myint Htay and wife Daw Aye Myint, K 1.5 million; Daw Khin Aung, Factory Manager U Myo Hein, Dr Myo Thein and Saya Khin Maung Tun, K 1.2 million; (U Ohn Kywe) and wife Daw Toe Myaing, (Daw Tin Aye), Daw Tin Tin Win, U Toe Lin and wife Daw Khin Khin Htay, U Wai Lwin, Daw Khin Thin Phyu and U Thet Khaing Oo and wife Daw Moe Moe Hlaing, K 1.1 million; Dr Tun Min Latt and Dr Win Min Soe, K 1 million; U Win Myint and

wife Daw Khin Soe and U Khin Maung Tin and wife Daw Nyunt Tin, K 0.9 million each; Supreme Court Attorney U Than Win Shwe, U Maung Maung, Daw Ohn Hsint, Daw Hsan Hsan Myint (retired nurse), Daw Phyu Phyu Khin and Daw Ni Ni Khin, and U Ba Myaint and wife Daw Sein Nyunt, K 0.8 million each; Captain Ye Tun Naung and wife Daw Phyo Haymar Khin, U Kyaw Swar Tun and wife Daw Soe Moe Htway, U Thaug Myint and wife Daw Khin Hnin Wai, K 0.6 million each; U Than Tun and wife Daw Myint Myint Hsan, K 0.5 million each; and Daw Thein Htay, K 0.2 million. Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan accepted the donations.

Director-General of Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department U Kyaw Oo Lwin

explained situations of renovation of ancient pagodas. The Union minister cordially greeted those present at the ceremony.

Cash donated for all-round renovation of 29 pagodas in Inwa region touched 60.8 million. Cash donated for renovation 16 out of 49 pagodas in need of repair in Inwa region amounted to K 3.3 million. Cash donated for renovation of six out of 12 pagodas in need of all-round renovation in Mrauk U region was K 15.2 million. The donations in total amounted to K 79.3 million.

The department has also invited donations for preservation of 29 pagodas in Inwa region, all-round renovation of six pagodas in Mrauk U region and preservation of eight pagodas in Mrauk U region.—MNA

SCG Authorized Dealer Showroom opened in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June—The opening of ASM Building Materials Showroom as the second ASG Authorized Dealer in ASEAN Region jointly organized by ASM: Asterism International Co Ltd and SCG Trading took place at the showroom at the corner of 64th Street and 37th Street in Maha Aungmyay Township in Mandalay this morning, formally opened by Region Minister for Development Affairs Mandalay Mayor U Aung Maung, Overseas Division Manager of SCG Mr Akaraphol Dacharux and Managing Director of ASM U Arnt Zaw Maung.

The Mandalay mayor, guests and representatives



Opening ceremony of ASM Building Materials Showroom in progress.—MNA

of companies looked round building materials and interior decoration products such as high quality roofs and related materials, ceilings and walls, heat-

resistant products, ready-to-use floors and bathroom accessories imported from Germany, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and China.—MNA

MAJA to open Japanese course

YANGON, 17 June—Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) will open Japanese course in June.

Those willing to attend the training

may contact MAJA Centre, No. (707), Building (C), Pearl Condo, Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, (Ph: 098612151 and 098613848).—Htin Kyaw

Farmers preparing for cultivation of monsoon groundnut



YEDASHE, 17 June—As it rains daily, farmers in the area of forest reserve of Yedashe Township are making preparations for cultivation of groundnut on 12 June.

High yield groundnut produces better per-acre yield year after year.

“This year, cold season groundnut produces high per

acre yield. Some farmers from Mayoegongot 400-500 baskets of groundnut per acre.

In the previous year, the rats destroyed not only groundnut but also paddy plantations. So, the farmers sorrowfully lost their plantations,” said a local farmer.

The hills covered with thick foliage become barren

hills due to deforestation. Some farmers reclaimed farmland on the barren hills as well as some companies grew Seintalon strain mango plants.

Groundnut plantations can be grown not only on the plains but also on the hilly areas. Thus, cattle are very tired in land preparations.

Moreover, the land is put under chilli and beans and pulses. In the rainy season, the local farmers focus on ploughing for cultivation of paddy.

Kyemon

Smooth transport of commodity discussed in Meiktila

MANDALAY, 17 June—With the aim of ensuring secure and smooth transport, a meeting was held at Bandoola Passenger and Commodity Transport Service in Meiktila on 7 June.

In meeting with owners, drivers, bus conductors of 36 passenger transport services in Meiktila and 15 commodity transport terminals, Mandalay Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan stressed the need to get registration of vehicles and carry



prescribed tons of loads.

It was also attended by Region Hluttaw representative U Saw Htay and U Kyaw Aye, Head of District Transport Planning Department U Aye Cho, Chairman of the District Bus-

line Supervisory Committee U Khin Maung Myint, Secretary of Bandoola Passenger and Commodity Transport Service U Thein Tun, bus owners, drivers and bus conductors.

Myanma Alin

Cooperative special sales held in Mingala Taungnyunt Township



YANGON, 17 June—Organized by Mingala Taungnyunt Township Cooperative Syndicate of Yangon Region, the basic cooperative societies held the cooperative special sales in honour of the International Cooperatives Year, at the place in front of Sanpya Fa-Hsa-Pa-La Trading Cooperative Society on 14 June morning.

Altogether 22 cooperative societies from 20 wards opened the shop to sell traditional medicines, foreign medicines, personal goods, hard goods and construction materials at fair

prices.

Officials of Yangon Region Cooperative Department Staff Officer Daw Myint Myint Thu of Planning Department, Staff Officer U Thet Pyin of Township Cooperative Department, Chairman of Township Cooperative Syndicate Dr Sein Mya and executives attend the Special sales.

Myanma Alin

Agricultural loans disbursed to farmers in Kyaukpadaung

KYAUKPADAUNG, 17 June—Township Manager of Agriculture Development Bank Branch in Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay Region and staff disbursed loans to local farmers for 2012 monsoon cultivation season.

On 14 June, they disbursed K 50,000 per acre each to 134 farmers of Aingma Village-tract, amounting to K 10.55 million for 211 acres of farmland. So far, they have disbursed K 12.8 million to the local farmers.—Kyemon



CASH ASSISTANCE PROVIDED: Htantabin Township General Administration Department of Yangon Region gave cash assistance to offspring of Staff of Township GAD at its hall on 5 June. Township Administrator U Mya Win presents cash assistance to the students.—MYANMA ALIN

Self-reliant generator launched in Pwintbyu Township

PWINTBYU, 17 June—As part of efforts for rural development and poverty alleviation in Pwintbyu Township, the self-reliant generator was launched in Ywahtaung Village of Shwehlay Village-tract in the township on 29 May morning.

Village-tract administrator U Myint Aung and Patron of the village electricity supply committee U Thein launched the generator.

Next, the village-tract administrator made a speech.

The electricity supply committee chairman explained the efforts to generate electricity to be supplied to the local people. The generator was facilitated to 147 housings of the village with K 7,708,600 by local people.

Myanma Alin

DISTRICT NEWS

Monsoon tree growing ceremony held in Htantabin

HTANTABIN, 17 June—Htantabin Township Forest Department of Toungoo District held the monsoon tree growing ceremony for establishment of rural housing and village forest on 11 June morning.

At the ceremony, Deputy Head of Department of Township General Administration Department U Nay Thway, Hluttaw representative U Sein Tun, Head of Township Forest Department U Htay Win and staff together with local people grew 600 Eucalyptus plants at Basic Education Middle School in Nat Village, 15680 Eucalyptus plants and 2352 teak plants in Nat Village.

Township Forest



ASSISTANCE PROVIDED: A ceremony to present stipends and textbooks to students of staff was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Yamethin Township on 1 June. Township Administrator U Maung Maung gives stipends and textbooks to student.—MYANMA ALIN

Talks on progress of geotechnology and future development 23 June

YANGON, 17 June—Organized by Myanmar Geosciences Association, Dr Bo Myint Win will give talks on progress of geotechnology, its application and future development at Function Hall of Myanmar Engineering Society building in Hline Township at 9 am on 23 June.

Enthusiasts may attend the talk.—Aung Aung

Palethwe hybrid paddy harvested on model plot

TACHILEK, 17 June—The harvesting of model Palethwe hybrid paddy was held in field No 5 of Mongkoe Village-tract in Tachilek Township on 6 June morning.

Assistant Director U Zaw Myint of Tachilek District Agriculture Department explained Palethwe hybrid high yield

paddy.

The model plot produced 157 baskets of wet paddy per acre.

In 2012-2013 cultivation season, Tachilek District plans to grow 30 acres of Palethwe paddy on model plot.

It was attended by Deputy Commissioner of

Tachilek District General Administration Department U Thet Lwin, Head of Shan State (East) Township Agriculture Department U Aung Kyaw Myint, Tachilek Township Administrator U Ye Htoo and local people observed the harvesting of paddy.

Myanma Alin

ESSAY CONTEST HELD:

The essay contest “Endeavour of entire Myanmar women always serving national interest” in commemoration of Myanmar Women’s Day was held at Yangon East University recently. Rector U Kyaw Ye Tun and Chairperson of Yagon South District Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Ohnma Nay Tun and part view participation of students.—MYANMA ALIN



26th International Travel Expo opens in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 17 June — The 26th International Travel Expo (ITE) Hong Kong opened on Thursday at the Convention and Exhibition Centre with over 600 exhibitors attending the four-day event.

The ITE is held concurrently with the seventh MICE Travel Expo, an exhibition for tours of Meeting, Incentive, Conference and Exhibition. Featuring around 30 official pavilions and exhibitors from 54 countries and regions, the ITE and MICE 2012 maintains a highly international profile of exhibitors, said the organizer, TKS Exhibition Services Ltd in a statement.

Among the 50

exhibiting destinations, 42 percent are from Asia, 37 percent from Europe, North and South America, 15 percent from the Middle East and Africa and six percent from island paradises in the Pacific and Indian Ocean. Some 80 percent of the exhibitors, including tourism boards, hotels, airlines, cruise and golf clubs etc, are from abroad, according to the statistics provided by the organizer.

Reflecting trend that travel fast becoming part of life style, the ITE and MICE highlights themes like cruise, wellness and medical tourism, and new themes this year include honeymooning and overseas wedding, travel

photography, and study tour. "The Expo is moving with the times," said John Tsang, financial secretary of the city government while attending the opening ceremony. New themes this year include weddings and honeymooning, wellness and health travel, study tours and travel photography.

Tsang added that despite the difficult economic environment globally, Hong Kong's tourism-related business generated great value in the past years. "Currently around 220,000 people, or over six percent of Hong Kong's workforce, are employed by the travel industry." —Xinhua



In this 13 June, 2012, photo, visitors enjoy the Ferris Wheel and Wave Swinger at Chicago's nearly century-old Navy Pier. Admission is free and Navy Pier is open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is one of several free activities/things/places visitors can enjoy in Chicago. —INTERNET

Cuba's Robles recovered, ready to compete

HAVANA, 17 June — Olympic champion and world record holder Dayron Robles is fit to compete in upcoming international track and field meets, a top Cuban sports official said on Friday. Director of the Cuban Track and Field Federation Jesus Molina said Robles was "fully recovered from the injury in his attacking (left) leg" and would soon return to competition.

The 110m hurdles star missed recent Diamond League meets in Eugene, Oregon, and New York after he suffered the "slight" injury. Robles is expected to show up in events in Poland on June 25 and Paris on July 6. His world mark of 12.87 seconds was matched by China's Liu Xiang, though in wind-aided condition, at the IAAF Prefontaine Classic event in Eugene.

Robles, 25, is the star of Cuba's 33-member track and field delegation heading to the 2012 London Olympics in July, though he has participated in only three international events so far and is in seventh place in world rankings. —Xinhua

Kidnapped crime reporter found dead in eastern Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 17 June — Assaults kidnapped and killed a reporter who covered the crime beat in Mexico's Veracruz State, officials said on Thursday, the latest in a series of attacks on journalists amid a relentless drug war across the country. Victor Baez, who worked for Mexican daily newspaper *Milenio* was abducted when he was leaving his office in the town of Xalapa late Wednesday and police found his body in the morning in the city centre, said Gina Dominguez, spokeswoman for Veracruz state government.

Dominguez said the assailants were three armed men but did not give details about how Baez was killed. Next to the corpse was a note signed by the Zetas drug cartel, one of the largest and most feared criminal groups



Mexican reporter Victor Baez is seen in Veracruz on 14 March, 2011. —REUTERS

in Mexico, officials said. "Victor Baez's murderers committed a crime that hurt his family and all journalists. Their aim is to intimidate society," Dominguez told a tearful news conference which was attended by fellow reporters who had worked

alongside Baez for years.

Several journalists have left Veracruz state in recent months fearing for their lives, but Baez had insisted on staying to cover his beat. "He told me, 'Friend, we cannot and should not live in fear and darkness. We won't let

them impose terror on us,'" Dominguez said. Baez is at least the sixth journalist to have been murdered in Mexico in the last two months. One crime reporter was killed in the northern Sonora state and another in Morelos State near Mexico City.

Three other journalists have been slain in Veracruz, which has seen a surge in violence as the Zetas cartel battles rivals for control of drug trafficking routes to the United States. On Friday, a crime reporter in the northern state of Coahuila went missing along with her 2-year-old son. Stephanie Cardoso, 28, works for the *Zocalo* daily in the city of Saltillo.

"We are deeply concerned by the disappearance of Stephanie Cardoso and her son," said Joel Simon, director of the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists.

Reuters

World has become slightly more peaceful, research body says

UNITED NATIONS, 17 June — New reports released here on Thursday by the international non-profit research organization, the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), reveal a slight improvement toward achieving global peace. "The notable thing for this year's peace index (is that) the world has become slightly more peaceful," the vice president of the IEP's US operations, Michael Shank, said here during a press conference. "This is a good, (it is) stopping a two-year trend," he said.

The IEP, which is affiliated with UN agencies, such as UN Association of Australia, UN Global Compact Expert Group on Responsible Business and Investment in High Risk Areas, as well as non-UN agencies including Alliance for Peace Building, dedicates

its research to "shifting the world's focus to peace as a positive, achievable, and tangible measure of human well-being and progress. This year, the IEP has included five new countries to conduct research on, bringing their coverage to about 99 percent of the world. The 2012 Global Peace Index (GPI) report, states that "all regions, apart from the Middle East and North Africa, saw improvement," in efforts that lead toward a more peaceful co-existence.

It also names Iceland as the most peaceful country, with Somalia being the "world's least peaceful nation for second year running." Shank noted that there are "negative trends (that are) disconcerting," mostly domestic challenges, faced while trying to find sustainable solutions to achieve peace. —Xinhua

Dairy giant exposed over mercury in baby formula

BEIJING, 17 June — China's consumer quality regulator on Thursday said it has found an "unusual amount" of mercury in baby formula produced by Inner Mongolia Yili Industrial Group Co, one of China's biggest dairy companies. The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) said in a statement that the mercury, a metallic element that is toxic in high doses, was detected in several batches of Yili products during a check of baby formula products.

The administration has thus far examined samples from 715 infant formula products, covering all of the country's formula producers, the statement said. Yili was the only company found to have products contaminated with mercury, the statement said. The Inner Mongolia autonomous region's local consumer quality regulator has also reported "unusual" mercury content in two batches of Yili baby formulas and two samples of Yili whey powder.

The mercury levels of these products were higher than the average levels of similar products, said Ma Li, deputy head of Inner Mongolia's quality inspection bureau. Yili announced Thursday that it started recalling the defective products on Wednesday. The recall applies to "QuanYou" products that were produced between November 2011 and May 2012. Yili said it will find the cause of the contamination and properly handle all tainted products. —Xinhua

Deserts still menace rivers

BEIJING, 17 June — Millions of hectares of stony desert areas prevail in parts of South and Southwest China, posing great threats to the environment of the Yangtze and Pearl rivers, two of the country's main waterways, officials said.

The country's stony desert areas shrank to 12 million hectares by the end of 2011, down 7.4 percent from 2005, according to the latest monitoring results released by the State Forestry Administration. The spread of stony deserts has been brought under control and the areas have been shrinking at an annual rate of 1.27 percent over the past few years, according to Zhang Yongli, deputy director of the administration, on Thursday.

"However, the country

still faces severe challenges in fighting desertification as the spread of stony deserts continues due to the impact of climate change," he said. For instance, with successive years of drought, stony desert areas now spread at an annual rate of 6.8 percent in Qujing, Yunnan Province, a major headwater area of the Pearl River, according to the administration. Of the 12 million hectares of stony desert areas, nearly 65 percent were in Guizhou, Yunnan, and Guangxi, regions frequently hit by drought and flood in recent years, Zhang said.

The country's stony desert areas now threaten the headwater areas of the Pearl River, major tributaries of the Yangtze River, as well as water source of the South-to-North Water Diversion



Farmers plant corn in a stony desert area in Huishui county, Guizhou Province. —XINHUA

Project and the Three Gorges reservoirs, according to the administration. "The stony desert areas with water loss and soil erosion cause sand deposits in the lower reaches of the rivers, which pose great threats to the local environment, as well as to lives and properties along the rivers," he said. Forestry officials said forestation and vegetation protection, as well

as the application of modern agricultural technologies, contributed a lot to the ecological restoration in the stony desert regions.

At present, more than 50 million people live in the rocky regions, where desertification has resulted from water shortages, soil erosion and persistent poverty, according to the administration. —Xinhua



Photo taken on 15 June, 2012 shows the haze in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province. Wuhan Meteorological Station issued a yellow alert for haze in the next 12 hours at 9:51 am on Friday. — XINHUA

Pentagon to step up mobile device security

WASHINGTON, 17 June — The US Department of Defence plans to step up security for mobile devices against the “new boundary of threat,” according to part of its mobile device strategy released on Friday. The newly released strategy focuses on improving “reliable” and “secure” wireless infrastructure, mobile devices and mobile applications, said the Pentagon.

As part of the mobile device strategy, the Pentagon plans to develop a wireless security architecture that “mitigates the risks of mobile device exploitation” and enable the management of mobile devices, applications and network connections to secure the interfaces between the Pentagon networks and commercial networks.

The growing numbers of

mobile devices expand the boundary of threat, and make them targets for traditional security risks as well as sophisticated new forms of attack, the Pentagon said in the documents. Mobile device use of third-party and commercial wireless networks and short range networks like Bluetooth introduce additional vulnerabilities, said the Pentagon. The Pentagon personnel become increasingly mobile with a wide variety of devices as well as the increasing use of social media, said Teri Takai, Pentagon's chief information officer.

Takai said the challenge is ensuring the networks can “securely support the information demands” of mobile device users, allowing them to “make informed decisions in the execution of their missions.” — Xinhua

Arab women cheer for China's first female astronaut

DUBAI, 17 June — China's first woman in space, Liu Yang, who headed off for her mission on Saturday has triggered applause from Arab women, as they see Beijing's move that women in the Eastern hemisphere are on the way up in society. “I am really amazed, this is great news for China and for all women in the world,” said a 24-year-old Tunisian student who lives in Dubai. Xinhua met the student, who identified herself as Meriem, on the Chinese Court of the famous Ibn Battuta shopping Mall, named after Arab explorer who extensively travelled the Middle East and Asia in the 14th century.

The young Arab lady added that she hoped China would motivate the Arab world also to send a female astronaut to space one day.

“There is a stereotype in the Western world that women in the East, whether in the Middle East or in the Far East, have fewer rights than men. I think this space mission proves the opposite,” Meriem said. On Saturday, Liu, 33, and two other male colleagues climbed aboard the Shenzhou-9 spacecraft to lead Beijing's fourth manned space mission. On the 13-days mission, Liu will conduct medical experiments in zero gravity.

Meanwhile, a 44-year-old Egyptian housewife, who identified herself as Thuraya and is mother of two, said “God willing, she (Liu) will motivate women in the Arab world to strive for new horizons, despite all obstacles.” Her husband, whose first name is Mahmoud, added with the typical Egyptian sense of humor,

“maybe our nine-year old daughter will be the first Arab woman in space one day, who knows?” Mahmoud, 52, also said that he remembered well the first Arab man heading off to space. “That was Saudi Prince Sultan Bin Salman Al-Saud in 1985, when he was member of a US NASA

mission. After China, I think our countries should really strive for the first Arab lady in space.”

Leila and Micheline from Lebanon, who are both in their mid-twenties and work together in a jewelry store, said they would like to see more women entering paths which were so far solely done by men. — Xinhua



Security officers inspect the blast site in northwest Pakistan's Landi Kotal on 16 June, 2012. At least 25 people were killed and over 45 others injured when a bomb ripped through a busy market in Pakistan's northwest tribal area of Khyber Agency on Saturday, local media reported. — XINHUA

Renoir, Picasso paintings to be auctioned in London

LONDON, 17 June — The world's leading art business Christie's will put 71 lots under the hammer next Wednesday evening, with estimated value of 86 million to 126 million pounds (about 109 million to 159 million US dollars). Among those on offer are paintings from famous artists such as Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Pablo Picasso, Paul Signac, Paul Gauguin, and Maurice de Vlaminck. The auction is led by Baigues, completed by French Impressionist artist Renoir in

1888 featuring his most celebrated theme, the female nude. It was estimated to be worth of 12 million to 18 million pounds.

The painting had been owned by a Swiss collector, before coming to the market for the first time in 15 years. It has previously set the record price at auction for a nude by the artist, selling for 20.9 million dollars in New York. Another highlight at the auction is *Femme au chien* from Spanish painting master Pablo Picasso, which is

known as portrait of his second wife Jacqueline Roque. The lady was painted in Picasso's characteristic cubism style, alongside their Afghan hound. Estimated to be sold at 6 million to 9 million pounds, it is offered from private collection for the first time in almost 40 years.

La Comed'orles Minarets by Paul Signac will be taken to the market for the first time in almost a century. Rich in pictorial rhythm and exhibiting the artist's signature Neo-Impressionist brushwork, the

landscape piece belongs to an important series of 12 paintings depicting Constantinople. The artist was moving from meticulous Pointillism to a focus on chromatic brilliance and a sense of harmony. Another picture of Signac from that series was sold by Christie's in London in February for 8.7 million pounds, while the present one is estimated to take in 4 million to 6 million pounds.

Paul Gauguin, a leading French Post-Impressionist artist, will have his work *Paysage aux troncs bleus* exhibited for sale at a price between 3 million and 5 million pounds. — Xinhua

Weak factories, sentiment show shaky US recovery

WASHINGTON, 17 June — Factory output contracted in May for the second time in three months and families took a dimmer view of their economic prospects in early June, signs that the economy's recovery is on shaky ground. Data released on Friday was the latest in a series of weak economic reports that have led analysts to cut growth forecasts while raising expectations the US Federal Reserve could launch new stimulus measures.

Until recently, manufacturing had been a buttress for the US economy, helping it resist headwinds from Europe's snowballing debt crisis. But in May, factory output shrank 0.4 percent, with US plants producing fewer cars and less machinery, Federal Reserve data showed.

It's more convincing evidence that the economy is stuck in low gear,” said Joe Manimbo, a market analyst at Travelers Global Business Payments. Other reports pointed to cooling factory activity in New York state this



Shoppers ride an escalator at a Target Store in Chicago, on 25 Nov, 2011. REUTERS

month, along with a drop in household confidence in the economy.

The fall in confidence poses a serious threat to President Barack Obama's chances of winning re-election in November. It could also lead consumers to cut back on spending, which would reduce economic growth. “Consumers are scared,” said Sharon Stark, managing director at Sterne Agee in Birmingham, Alabama. US consumer sentiment fell in early June to a six-month low. A gauge of household confidence in the economy's future also dropped to its lowest since December. — Reuters

US commander says no new bases needed in Asia-Pacific

WASHINGTON, 17 June — The US military will not build new bases in the Asia-Pacific as it rebalances its strategic priorities to the region, but will rather rely on allies and partners to pick up the tab, a senior commander said here on Friday. “We're not really interested in building any more US bases in the Asia-Pacific,” said Pacific Command Commander Samuel Locklear during a press briefing at the Pentagon.

“We shouldn't have to at this point in time.”

Locklear said the US military will rely on allies and partners in the region for shared use of military facilities, and those arrangements can be bilateral as well as trilateral. “We should be able to find ways to not only bilaterally, but in some cases multilaterally ... find these locations where we can put security forces,” Locklear said.

The US military is

shifting its focus toward the Asia-Pacific, but the Pentagon is also faced with huge budget cuts totaling 487 billion dollars in 10 years. If Congress doesn't act this year, it may face across-the-board automatic cuts mandated by the Budget Control Act of last year. Although the Pentagon has indicated that operations in the Asia-Pacific will not be affected, doubts still remain.

Xinhua

Lockheed wins \$490 million deal to buy F-35 parts

WASHINGTON, 17 June — Lockheed Martin Corp has won a US contract worth \$490 million to start buying parts, material and components for a seventh batch of 35 F-35 Joint Strike Fighter planes, the Pentagon announced on Friday. Lockheed, the Pentagon's largest supplier, welcomed the agreement and said it would help ensure that the \$396 billion F-35 programme, which has been restructured three times in recent years, continued to meet its production schedules. “This is an important milestone in paving the way for the acquisition of these aircraft,” said Lockheed spokeswoman Laurie Quincy.

News of the order came as Lockheed continued to hire temporary workers to maintain F-35 production at its plant in Fort Worth, Texas, where 3,300 members of the International



The US Marine Corps version of Lockheed Martin's F35 Joint Strike Fighter, F-35B test aircraft BF-2 flies with external weapons for the first time over the Atlantic test range at Patuxent River Naval Air Systems Command in Maryland on 22 Feb, 2012. — REUTERS

Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers have been on strike for eight weeks over pension and healthcare benefits. — Reuters

Home-brews banned from beer festival

Officials in St Louis, Mo, said home-brewed beers will be banned at the St Louis Brewers Heritage Festival, leaving more than 1,000 gallons without a home.

Dan Kopman, chief executive officer of local brewery Schlafly, said he met with St Louis Excise Commissioner Robert Kraiberg and the official told him state laws forbid home-brewed beer from unlicensed brewers to be distributed at this weekend's paid festival, the St Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

"We discussed the fact that home-brewers' beers have been available for patrons to sample at the Heritage Festival as well as other area festivals in the past," Kopman said. "While everyone acknowledges the value to our brewing community of having the home-brewed beers available, the fact is that we have concluded it is illegal for us to serve these beers at the festival."

Local home-brewing organizations said they have about 1,000 gallons of home-brewed beer that was made for the festival. "It's unfortunate that this came up so late," Kopman says. "We'd like to have a private event for home-brewers, friends and families. And we'd like to do it soon — because there's been a lot of beer brewed for this festival."



Local home-brewing organizations said they have about 1,000 gallons of home-brewed beer that was made for the St Louis Brewers Heritage Festival.

Zoo celebrates walrus' 30th birthday

A Washington state zoo is celebrating the 30th birthday of its prized walrus ET with three days of walrus-themed events.

The Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in Tacoma said the birthday bash for ET, taking place from 8 to 10 June will include talks about the marine mammal and his species, a human-powered flipper relay race, and the serving of a fishy birthday cake and fishsicle treats for the walruses, *The (Tacoma, Wash) News Tribune* reported.

Zoo administrators said the 3,450-pound walrus, one of only 17 walruses in US zoos and aquariums, has two girlfriends but has yet to become a father. They said he is helping them to understand the species' biology.

"We really want to understand reproductive biology better not only to enhance breeding here, but also at facilities in North America and worldwide," zoo general curator Karen Goodrowe Beck said. "By studying the walruses here and changes in their bodies, it gives us a model to base studies on in the wild."

Road closed after apple juice spill

Authorities in Ohio said a road was closed in the morning of 12 June when a tractor-trailer overturned and spilled thousands of bottles of apple juice. Hamilton County emergency responders said the truck overturned around 3 am when the driver lost control in the 400 block of Galbraith Road in Arlington Heights after exiting the northbound lanes of Interstate 75, *The Cincinnati Enquirer* reported.

The crash spread thousands of bottles of apple juice across all lanes of the road, leaving it closed through the morning rush hour. The driver was treated for minor injuries at University Hospital.

News Album

Stroman to direct 'Bullets' on Broadway



Susan Stroman, director/choreographer of the new musical comedy motion picture *'The Producers,'* arrives for the world premiere of the film in Los Angeles, California on 12 Dec, 2005.

INTERNET

NEW YORK, 17 June—Tony Award-winner Susan Stroman is to direct and choreograph the world premiere production of "Bullets Over Broadway" in New York, producers said.

The announcement was made on Friday by Julian

Schlossberg and Letty Aronson, who are producing the musical adaptation of Woody Allen's and Douglas McGrath's screenplay for the 1994 crime-comedy film by the same name.

Set to open on Broadway during the 2013-14 season, the show will feature existing music of the 1920s from the great American songbook.

Additional creative team, dates, theater and casting will be announced shortly, the producers said.

Like the movie, the musical tells the story of an aspiring young playwright newly arrived on Broadway and forced to cast a mobster's talentless girlfriend in his latest drama so he can get it produced.

Internet

Justin Bieber performs on the NBC Today Show at Rockefeller Centre in New York City on 15 June, 2012.

INTERNET



NBC expands Bieber special to 2 hours

NEW YORK, 17 June—NBC says it plans to expand its special "Justin Bieber: All Around the World" to 2 hours — broken up into two segments to air on consecutive nights next week.

Combining documentary and music performances, the programme — scheduled to air on Wednesday and Thursday — is the superstar's first network special. It highlights his new album "Believe."

"The worldwide hysteria surrounding Justin's album launch is unlike anything we've seen, and we're thrilled to share it with our audience over two nights," Doug Vaughan, the network's senior vice president of special programmes and late night, said in a statement on Friday. "With added stops in Italy and Mexico, we'll have even more unprecedented access to Justin as our cameras film not only his performances, but his every move on this global tour."—*Internet*

Wallenda completes Niagara tightrope walk

NIAGARA FALLS, 17 June—Daredevil Nik Wallenda completed a harrowing tightrope walk in windy, misty darkness 170 feet above Niagara Falls on Friday night.

Authorities approved the stunt with the understanding the 33-year-old Wallenda would wear a safety tether from the time he stepped out on the cable until he reached solid ground in Canada.

Wearing soft-soled shoes and the tether while carrying a 40-foot balancing pole, Wallenda began his walk at 10:16 pm EDT and

reached the Canadian side of the falls at 10:42, walking on a multi-strand 2-inch steel cable stretched 2,200 feet and swaying. He said earlier he expected the trip to take 40 minutes.

In an interview with Canada's CTV News on Friday morning, Wallenda said he'd wanted to do this since he first visited Niagara Falls as a 6-year-old boy. He said in the hours leading up to the stunt he felt like "a kid on Christmas morning."

After completing the stunt, guided by spotlights, he hugged his wife and three



children and said, "I told you I'd be fine, didn't I?"

He was then greeted by Canadian immigration officials who asked to see his passport.

"Oh, no," Wallenda said,

'Godfather'-themed Monopoly now available

CARLSBAD, 17 June—Hollywood's Paramount Pictures says a new edition of the board game Monopoly based on its film classic "The Godfather" is now available.

Produced by USAOPOLY, under license from Hasbro and Paramount Licensing, the game was created to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the iconic gangster picture. "Reminisce and relive 'The Godfather' story anew as you play America's favorite game with a killer instinct the Don would respect," a news release said.

"Expand your family's interests by amassing property and influence as you seek to bankrupt those around you. Buy, sell and trade the likes of Woltz International Pictures, Moe Green's Casino, Joe's Diner and Hyman Roth's Home as you muscle your way to an empire. Make them an offer they can't refuse as you vie for the Corleone Long Island Home and Corleone Lake



Actors Robert Duvall and James Caan (right) who starred in the first *Godfather* movie appear at a 2/10/05 promotional event in New York for EA Games which is producing "The Godfather" video game for release in mid 2005. The late Marlon Brando recorded his voice overs for the game shortly before he died in 2004.

INTERNET

Tahoe Estate (the prime properties traditionally occupied by Boardwalk and Park Place.) Travel the board with one of six game tokens: the horse head, cannoli, Genco Olive Oil tin, the Don's limo, a dead fish or the Tommy gun."—*Internet*

Lohan suffering from exhaustion, dehydration

LOS ANGELES, 17 June—Lindsay Lohan's publicist says the actress was treated for exhaustion and dehydration in her room at a Los Angeles hotel on Friday.

Lohan, 25, wasn't taken to a hospital and emergency workers called to her room left after determining she was OK.

The former child star has been shooting her long-awaited comeback, "Liz & Dick," a bio-picture about silver screen icon Elizabeth Taylor and Taylor's husband, Richard Burton.

"She was on set last night at 7 pm and worked through the night until 8 am this morning," Lohan's publicist Steve Honig told People.com.

"She took a nap before shooting her final scene. Producers were concerned when she did not come out of her room and called paramedics as a precaution," Honig said.

"Lindsay was examined and is fine, but did suffer some exhaustion and dehydration. ... She is resting now and is hoping to be back on set later this afternoon."

Lohan has a history of drug and alcohol addiction but has said in recent months she is committed to her sobriety.

Internet

Lindsay Lohan attends the 2012 White House Correspondents Association Dinner held at the Washington Hilton on 28 April, 2012 in Washington, DC.—INTERNET



Greece, Czechs top Group A, through to Euro 2012 quarters



Players of Greece celebrate for victory after the Group A 3rd round match against Russia at the Euro 2012 football championships in Warsaw, Poland, on 16 June, 2012. Greece won 1-0. — XINHUA

WARSAW, 17 June — Greece's footballers brought some much-needed and unexpected joy to their hard-pressed compatriots back home on Saturday as they reached the Euro 2012 quarter-finals with a stunning 1-0 win over Russia. Fittingly, it was a goal by one of their heroes from the Euro 2004 triumph captain Giorgos Karagounis that delivered victory to a country which is wilting under the pressures of the euro zone crisis with high unemployment and swingeing cuts.

Russia's despair was complete as a 72nd-minute goal by Petr Jiracek gave the Czech Republic — who were beaten

by the Greeks in the Euro 2004 semi-finals — a 1-0 victory over co-hosts Poland to finish top of the table, sending both the Russians and the Poles home.

Polish coach Franciszek Smuda promptly announced that was the end of the road for him, while Russia's Dutch coach Dick Advocaat had perhaps wisely already said he was leaving for PSV Eindhoven.

Karagounis's joy at his goal was tempered later in the game by a booking that brought an anguished reaction from the 35-year-old as it means he will miss the quarter-final. However, he reflected afterwards how much this

victory meant to the wider Greek community. "When we left Greece, we all said in one voice 'we will give everything and we will give everything when our compatriots aren't having the best of times'," said Karagounis. "I believe that this tonight puts a smile on their faces."

For Greece's Portuguese coach Fernando Santos this victory was inspired by Greece's rich history as a country. "What inspires us is the history of Greece," said Santos, whose 45 percent pay rise before the tournament raised eyebrows.

This is the thing that inspires me the most because



Czech players celebrate after Czech midfielder Petr Jiracek scored a goal during their Euro 2012 Group A match against Poland, on 16 June, at the Municipal Stadium in Wroclaw. A 72nd-minute goal by Jiracek gave the Czech Republic a 1-0 victory to finish top of the table. — INTERNET

Group A

Results after matches on Saturday, 16 June

Match times in Central European Time

8 June - Warsaw

1900

Poland 1 1 Greece

8 June - Wrocław

2045

Russia 4 1 Czech Rep

12 June - Wrocław

1900

Greece 1 2 Czech Rep

12 June - Warsaw

2045

Poland 1 1 Russia

15 June - Warsaw

2045

Greece 1 0 Russia

16 June - Wrocław

2045

Czech Rep 1 0 Poland

Ranking	Pts	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	D
1 - Czech Rep.	6	3	2	0	1	4	5	-1
2 - Greece	4	3	1	1	1	3	3	0
3 - Russia	4	3	1	1	1	5	3	2
4 - Poland	2	3	0	2	1	2	3	-1

P: played

W: won

D: drawn

L: lost

GF: goals for

GA: goals against

D: difference

Qualified for the quarter finals

Group A table for Euro 2012, after 16 June matches. INTERNET

the Greek people have huge pride for their tradition and history and I think respect from everyone is well deserved. "Everyone has to respect Greeks because of its history and the principles of democracy, science... everything started from Greece, so it's very difficult for anyone to give us lessons."

Smuda was left to rue a bright first-half performance from the Poles that crucially yielded no goals and gave the Czechs, who took time to get into their stride without injured playmaker Tomas Rosicky, hope. Jiracek duly delivered for his second goal of the tournament leaving Smuda dejected but at the same time he took pride in the way a relatively young

side he shaped had performed respectably. "I can't say we'll leave the ground devastated, we've played some good matches in friendlies and even here."

"Ok, they weren't perfect or as good as we would have liked but this is football, this is how it works." His Czech counterpart Michal Bilek said that even after losing 4-1 to Russia in their opener he and his players had not lost faith.

"We were confident in ourselves, we had already been in difficult situations before, but we have always got out of them playing as a team," said Bilek, whose side had to come through a play-off to get here. "The players showed their mental strength, we deserved to go through." — INTERNET

Julio Cesar Chavez Jr stops Andy Lee in 7th round

EL PASO, (Texas), 17 June — Julio Cesar Chavez Jr recovered from a slow start he blamed on leg cramps and stopped Andy Lee at 2:21 of the seventh round on Saturday night to retain the WBC middleweight title. A right uppercut by Chavez snapped Lee's head upwards and sideways and Chavez connected on a barrage of punches before referee Laurence Cole intervened and waved an end to the fight. "I began by studying him," Chavez said. "I saw he had nothing, and I dove in."

Chavez (46-0-1, 32 KOs) began tentatively, not even throwing his first punch until



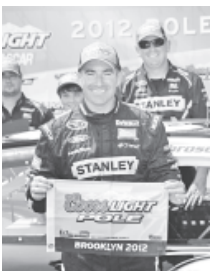
Julio Cesar Chavez Jr celebrates his victory over Andy Lee in their WBC middleweight title bout on 16 June, 2012, in El Paso, Texas. — INTERNET

75 seconds had elapsed in the first round, and was initially outboxed by Lee (28-2), a much taller challenger than Chavez had previously faced. But as the next two rounds passed, the Mexican champion began to stalk Lee, blasting him with right-cross counterpunches. "He's strong, he's young, he's big," Chavez said of Lee. "He gave me everything he had, but he couldn't do anything to me."

In the fifth round, Chavez openly taunted Lee's punching power, dropping his gloves, grinning wildly and pretending to have wobbly knees. — INTERNET

International Sports

Ambrose takes Sprint Cup pole at over 203 mph



Driver Marcos Ambrose, of Australia, poses with the pole sitter flag after qualifying for Sunday's NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Quicken Loans 400 auto race at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Mich, on 16 June, 2012. INTERNET

BROOKLYN, (Mich), 17 June — The last time anyone was this fast in qualifying in NASCAR's top series, Richard Petty was still driving. He's an owner now, but when Marcos Ambrose won the Sprint Cup pole at Michigan International Speedway on Saturday for Richard Petty Motorsports, the Hall of

Famer was on hand to put the accomplishment in perspective.

Ambrose posted a speed of 203.241 mph, the first time since 1987 the 200 mph mark was broken during Sprint Cup qualifying. "I can't hardly remember that far back," Petty said. "To be able to do it on a flatter race track, not Daytona or Talladega, that is unheard of." Ambrose made his first Sprint Cup pole a memorable one on a day 19 drivers surpassed 200 mph on the newly paved surface at MIS.

Speeds have been soaring since drivers began testing sessions, and NASCAR decided to alter the left-side tires for the race Sunday.

The cars slowed down significantly at a practice session after the switch, but the change didn't affect qualifying. The last pole winner to break 200 mph in this series was Bill Elliott, a quarter-century ago at Talladega. Ambrose had the 11th-fastest pole-winning speed in series history.

INTERNET

Chinese bags first gold medal at 3rd Asian Beach Games

HAIYANG, 17 June — Rollerskater Guo Dan grabbed the first gold medal at the 3rd Asian Beach Games on Sunday. Guo, 22, claimed the women's 10,000 meters points title for China. She won a winning total of 18 points after spending most of the time staying between third and fourth places and surging to the lead in the final lap.

South Korea's Woo Hyo Sook, 2010 Asian Games gold medalist, finished runner-up with 16 points. Yang Ho-Chen from Chinese Taipei secured



Dancers perform during the opening ceremony for the 3rd Asian Beach Games held in Haiyang, east China's Shandong Province, on 16 June, 2012. — XINHUA

a bronze medal. Guo said she owed her victory to her supportive 17-year-old

teammate Li Lisha, who finished in the sixth place.

"She helped me greatly in fending off the other's blockade and scoring most of the points. Our strategy worked," she said. Guo took a silver medal in the women's 10,000 meters points and elimination race at the Asian Games two years ago. Roller skating is contested for the first time in the 3rd Asian Beach Games. Guo will also compete in the women's 20,000 meters elimination on Monday. — XINHUA

Furyk, McDowell share the lead as Tiger tumbles

SAN FRANCISCO, 17 June — Graeme McDowell and Jim Furyk, a pair of US Open champions, managed to beat par at The Olympic Club. Tiger Woods simply got



Graeme McDowell, of Northern Ireland, watches his drive on the 11th hole during the third round of the US Open Championship golf tournament on 16 June, 2012. — INTERNET

battered. In the 33 times he has started a round atop the leaderboard at a major, Woods never had a tougher struggle with par than Saturday at the US Open — a 5-over 75 that made his uphill climb to the majestic clubhouse overlooking San Francisco feel a lot longer. Thanks to late birdies by McDowell and Furyk, it won't get any easier on Sunday.

McDowell showed the kind of fight that won him a US Open two years ago down the coast at Pebble Beach. He scratched out pars and finished with a 4-foot birdie putt that gave him a 2-under

68 and a share of the lead going into the final round at The Olympic Club. "Probably for the first time this week, I actually enjoyed the round of golf," McDowell said. Furyk, also bidding for another trophy from golf's toughest test, outclassed Woods in the final pairing with key bunker saves and an 8-foot birdie putt on the 17th for a 70, making him the only player who has yet to have a round over par. They were at 1-under 139, the only survivors against par. "Obviously, I like being up front in the position I'm in," Furyk said.

"The golf course will take



Tiger Woods lets go of his club after hitting a shot on the 14th hole during the third round of the US Open Championship golf tournament on 16 June, 2012. — INTERNET

its effect on a bunch of people. And the guys that go out there and deal with the conditions and the situations the best ... those are the guys that are have some success and have an opportunity to win the last few holes." — INTERNET

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

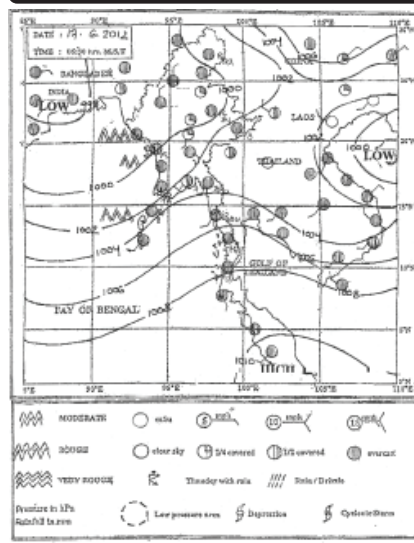
(18-6-12 09:30 am ~ 19-6-12 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * B.O.T System Precise and Speedy for the People Cooperate shall we.. (Meiktila - Kyaukpadaung)
- * News
- * Euro 2012
- * News
- * Diverse National Costumes & Their Fashion Trend (Episode-1)
- * News
- * UK School and Colleges Exhibition Myanmar
- * News
- * Memories of Love
- * News
- * News Tid-Bits (Part-I)
- * News
- * News Tid-Bits (Part-II)
- * Education Malaysia Exposition 2012
- * Myanmar Movie "The Magician's Flower"

MYANMAR TV (18-6-2012) (Monday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:25 am
- 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:40 am
- 3. Nice and Sweet Song
- 7:50 am
- 4. Health Programme
- 8:10 am
- 5. Cute Little Dancers
- 8:25 am
- 6. Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions
- 4:10 pm
- 7. Dance Variety
- 4:30 pm
- 8. Musical Programme
- 4:45 pm
- 9. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Year (Law)
- 5:00 pm
- 10. Songs for Upholding National Spirit
- 5:05 pm
- 11. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 5:15 pm
- 12. Myanmar Language
- 5:30 pm
- 13. Documentary on Human Trafficking
- 8:00 pm
- 14. News
- 15. World's Stars
- 16. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Weather forecast for 18th June, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	35/95	25/77	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(80%)
2	Kayah	30/86	20/68	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(80%)
3	Kayah	29/84	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(90%)
4	Chin	24/75	16/61	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(80%)
5	Upper Sagaing	26/78	25/77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
6	Lower Sagaing	36/97	23/73	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
7	Tanintharyi	26/79	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers (HI)	(80%)
8	Bago	30/86	26/79	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
9	Magway	36/97	24/75	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
10	Mandalay	36/97	26/79	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
11	Mon	30/86	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers (HI)	(80%)
12	Yangon	31/88	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers (HI)	(80%)
13	Rakhine	32/90	23/73	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (HI)	(80%)
14	Southern Shan	24/75	18/64	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(80%)
15	Northern Shan	24/75	22/72	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(80%)
16	Eastern Shan	27/81	23/73	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(80%)
17	Ayeyawady	32/90	25/77	Widespread rain or thundershowers (HI)	(80%)
18	Neighbouring Nya Pyi Taw	33/91	24/75	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	31/88	24/75	One or two rain or thundershowers	(80%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	36/97	26/79	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today

Bay inference

State of the Sea

Outlook for subsequent two days

Taleban ban anti-polio drive in Pakistan tribal area

ISLAMABAD, 17 June — Pakistani militants in a Taleban and al-Qaeda infested tribal region Saturday banned anti-polio vaccination teams, to protest US drone strikes saying the attacks were killing civilians. "Anti-polio vaccination teams will not be allowed to administer polio drops among children in North Waziristan," local warlord Gul Bahadur said in a statement. Bahadur, who is allied with Afghan Taleban fighting US-led troops across the border, said the ban will

remain effective until the US stops drone attacks in the tribal region. "On the one hand they are killing innocent women, children and old people in drone attacks and on the other they are spending millions on vaccination campaign," the statement distributed in the region's main town Miranshah said. It said "the day and night US drone flights in Waziristan are causing mental illness in the local population which is more dangerous than polio." Residents said people

would respond to the call as Bahadur commands influence in the region. Pakistan's northwestern tribal region, known as a hotbed of Taleban and al-Qaeda militants, is witnessing increasing drone strikes amid a stalemate in US-Pakistan talks to end a blockade on NATO supplies crossing into Afghanistan. Pakistan shut NATO supply lines in anger over US air strikes on a border post on 26 November that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers.



A Pakistani child receives anti-polio vaccine drops in 2004.—INTERNET

The statement, citing the case of Pakistani doctor Shakeel Afridi jailed for helping the CIA find Osama bin Laden, also slammed the immunisation campaign saying that it may be used for espionage purposes.

Internet

Drogba non-committal on Shanghai deal

NEW DELHI, 17 June — Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba said on Sunday that an announcement on his future was due shortly as he side-stepped questions



Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba, seen here in New Delhi, said that an announcement on his future was due shortly as he side-stepped questions about whether it lay with China's Shanghai Shenhua.—INTERNET

about whether it lay with China's Shanghai Shenhua. "The next step is interesting," the 34-year-old said during a visit to New Delhi for a sponsor's event when he was asked his future plans after leaving English Premiership giants Chelsea.

"I will announce it soon. But as of now, you will just have to wait." The Chinese Super League club have been linked with Drogba, who announced his departure from Chelsea after helping them win the Champions League final against Bayern Munich last month. Drogba scored a late equaliser and then a penalty to help Chelsea beat the German club in Munich to secure their first ever Champions League title. Drogba is reportedly also being sought by Al Wasl of the United Arab Emirates. The striker joined Chelsea from Marseille in 2004 and went on to score 157 goals in 341 appearances for the club, helping them win 10 trophies. "Chelsea were very good for me," Drogba said. "I shared a special relationship with the club. It was a difficult decision to leave them." If the deal with Shanghai Shenhua goes through Drogba could play alongside his former Chelsea team-mate Nicolas Anelka.—Internet

Blake wins in Olympic trials tuneup

EDMONTON, (Alberta), 17 June — Reigning 100-metre world champion Yohan Blake of Jamaica won the 100m crown at the Donovan Bailey Invitational on Saturday in 10.05 seconds. With no wind recorded, Blake produced a solid performance in Canada only a week after winning a Diamond League 100m race in New York in 9.90 seconds, serving notice he will be a contender at the Jamaican Olympic trials. Blake defeated American

Trell Kimmons by .06 of a second with Jamaican Lerone Clarke third in 10.13 and Norway's Jaysuma Saïdy Ndure fourth in 10.15. Blake will be tested by reigning Olympic 100 and 200 champion and world record-holder Usain Bolt as well as Asafa Powell and a host of other Jamaican sprint stars in his homeland's Olympic trials at the end of the month, all of them fighting for berths at the London Olympics athletics events in August.—Internet



Reigning 100-metre world champion Yohan Blake of Jamaica, pictured here in 2011, won the 100m crown at the Donovan Bailey Invitational on Saturday in 10.05 seconds.—INTERNET



Locals look at a forest fire approaching their house at Thymari coastal village, 40 km (25 miles) southeast of Athens, on 16 June, 2012.—REUTERS

Greek wildfire rages unabated near Athens

ATHENS, 17 June—A wildfire near Athens raged unabated on Sunday, burning rural land and sending some residents fleeing their homes, but firefighters said they expected to bring it under control within hours.

More than 140 firefighters with dozens of engines battled the flames, aided by seven aircraft and four helicopters.

Politicians from the country's main parties visited the region just hours before a national election that may determine Greece's future in the euro zone.

The fire broke out on Saturday from sparks at a site where workers had been welding, and, fanned by strong winds, it quickly spread to engulf the settlements of Palaia Fokaia, Keratea and Lagraia near the southern coast of Athens.

"It destroyed at least 10 small warehouses and two deserted homes. It is still burning but winds have calmed down," a fire brigade official said. "It should be contained by the afternoon."

Police said the blaze, the first of Greece's wildfire season, was not threatening homes, though some residents in the area were evacuated as a precaution.

Four firefighters were taken to hospital with breathing problems, the fire brigade said. Wildfires are frequent in Greece during the summer, often due to soaring temperatures and strong winds, drought or arson.

Hot and dry summers mean forests are more frequently brought to the tinder-box conditions that allow fires to spread devastatingly.—Reuters



Union Minister for Border Affairs and Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin comfort villagers at relief camps in Rakhine State.

MNA

Union Border Affairs and MID Minister inspects situation in Buthidaung, Maungdaw

NAY PYI TAW, 17 June— Union Minister for Border Affairs and Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay inspected relief camps in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships in Rakhine State and Aungthabyay Village near Bangladesh border.

During the meeting with 828 displaced people sheltering relief camps at Basic Education Middle School No 1 and Shwekyin Monastery in Buthidaung Township, the union minister asked about the wishes of the displaced people from eight villages in Buthidaung Township and urged officials concerned to take measures for safety of the people and to assist them in returning back to their homes and in their works at a time when they wish to go back.

The union minister presented K5 million, 20 bags of rice, 50 viss of edible oil, clothes and food to the displaced people for their current livelihood.

Afterwards, the union minister proceeded to Gandamar Model Village and met with local people. During the meeting, he explained the aim of establishing villages and called on villagers for

working hard to gain higher living standard and gave instructions of creating jobs for young local people. He also presented cash assistance to the villagers.

The union minister and his entourage went to Aungthabyay model village and met with villagers from seven villages at No.1 Office of the Border Areas Immigration Control Headquarters and called on them to continue to maintain the peace and stability of the area, living under the rule of law.

During the meeting, he said the area is rich in natural resources though it is a far-flung area. He also expressed his delight that youths are playing a leading role in the education and administration sectors and there was no unrests broke out in the area.

He also asked views of the representatives of the villages and discussed with them about peace and stability and went back to Sittway.

The union minister held a meeting with Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Hla Maung Tin and Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko Naing over situation of the state and inspected damages and refugee camps in Sittway.—MNA

Union Information and Culture Minister addresses donation ceremony for renovation of ancient pagodas in MraukU, Inwa areas

YANGON, 17 June—Union Minister for Information and Culture U Kyaw Hsan addressed cash donation ceremony for renovation of ancient pagodas in MraukU and Inwa areas held at National Theatre (Yangon) on Pyay Road here this morning.

The ceremony was attended by Yangon Region Finance and Revenue Minister Daw San San Nwe and Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein, departmental heads of ministries of culture and information and donors.

The Union Minister, in his speech, said that MraukU in Rakhine State and Inwa in TadaU Township of Mandalay Region were the regions of rich culture in the history of the country. Ancient buildings in those regions were cultural heritage reflecting the dignity of the country. However, those heritages were damaging due to their long lifespan and prolonged exposure to the elements.

As regards MraukU of Rakhine State, King Min Saw Mon established the First MraukU in AD 1430 and King Min Bagyi the Second MraukU in AD 1530 according to the history of Rakhine. MraukU Period lasted 354 years from AD 1430 to 1784 during which a large number of pagodas and stupas made of sandstones were built, but now there remained only 537 on the ground according to the recent field survey.

Old Ava (now Inwa) City was built in TadaU Township of Mandalay Region during the reign of King Thadoe

Minpya in AD 1364. It lasted over 400 years until the time of King Bagyi Daw in Konbaung Period in AD 1840. A considerable number of palace chambers, city walls and religious buildings were built during the period, but there remained only 496 ancient pagodas, stupas and buildings now according to the field survey.

If the remaining pagoda, stupas, monasteries, lakes and ancient buildings in MraukU and Inwa were not preserved in our time, such valuable ancient cultural heritage would not survive down to our next generations. Ancient religious buildings and palace chambers and city walls in those regions were preserved as much as possible with the fund of the State and contributions of the individual wellwisher. Wellwishers were invited to make contributions for all-round renovation of 12 pagodas and stupas and maintaining the current condition of the eight ruined pagodas in MraukU, and all-round renovation of 29 pagodas and stupas and maintaining the current condition of the 45 ruined pagodas in Inwa.

So, wellwishers donated K 79.3 million for all-round renovation of 6 pagodas in MraukU and 29 pagodas in Inwa and for maintaining the current 16 ruined pagodas, totaling 51 pagodas. The Union Minister then expressed his heartfelt thanks to the wellwishers for all their contributions.

The Union Minister noted that the government had



Union Minister for Information and Culture U Kyaw Hsan accepts cash donations of wellwishers at the ceremony for renovation of ancient pagodas in MraukU and Inwa Regions.—MNA

adopted two policies regarding the preservation of ancient buildings. The first point was focusing on maintaining the ruins in their original form and the second was all-round renovation of pagodas and stupas out of ancient buildings (See page 9)



Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung addresses the ceremony to sign MoU on conducting feasibility study for maintenance and utilization of Ayeyawady and Chindwin River courses.

MNA

Feasibility study for maintenance and utilization of Ayeyawady, Chindwin river courses to be made

YANGON, 17 June—The signing ceremony of MoU on conducting feasibility study for maintenance and utilization of Ayeyawady and Chindwin Rivers between Directorate of Water Utilization and Improvement of River Systems of the Ministry of Transport and Gold Cycle Engineering & Project International Co Ltd was held at Sedona Hotel, here, yesterday evening, with an address by Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung.

Director-General of the department U Tun Lwin Oo explained maintenance and utilization of river courses. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Gold Cycle Engineering & Project International Co Ltd

U Chit Ohn spoke words of thanks.

Forever Chindwin Ayeyar Managing Director U Kyaw Myint of Gold Cycle Engineering & Project International Co Ltd explained matters related to the process and Green Growth Programme Managing Director U Thet Khaing regional development tasks along the water course.

Next, Director-General of DWUIRS U Tun Lwin Oo and Chairman of Gold Cycle Engineering & Project International Co Ltd U Chit Ohn signed the MoU and Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung gave the permit to Gold Cycle Engineering & Project International Co Ltd.—MNA