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Sunday, 24 June, 2012

Pyuchaung Hydropower Project to generate 120 million kwh/Year

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—Union Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min yesterday afternoon inspected fixing of Spiral Casing at Unit 1 and Unit 2, installation of penstock steel pipeline at the exit of power intake tunnel, completion of concrete works at the tunnel, construction of sluice gate and land preparations for construction of the switch yard at Pyuchaung Hydropower Project being implemented by Construction 3 of Hydropower Implementation Department on Pyu Creek, seven miles southwest of Pyu in Bago Region.

The Union minister stressed the need for officials to strive for timely completion of the project and supervise worksite safety and then viewed progress of main embankment construction tasks.

The main embankment of the project is being built by

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the power station by Ministry of Electric Power No 1.

On completion, two 20-megawatt generators will generate 120 million kilowatt hours per year. The project would be completed in 2013.

MNA



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.



Union Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min looks into progress of Pyuchaung Hydropower Project.

MNA

Cash and kind donated to local people in Rakhine State

YANGON, 23 June—Cash and kind were donated to local people in Rakhine State who lost their property and possessions in a series of recent events in the state at the donation ceremony held at the hall of Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township here this morning.

Chairman of Supreme Group of Companies Dr Sein Myint and wife Daw Myat Thanda donated K 1 million; Col Tin Shein (Retd) and wife Daw Aye Mon Shein, K 0.5 million, Yangon Region Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, K 0.3 million; sisters of Maekha-Maelikha

Confluence, K 0.25 million; Ma Win Nweni Cho and sister Ma Thae Ei Phyu (Yangon), K 0.125 million; U Tin Tun Khaing and wife Daw Moe Soe, and Ko Zaw Min Aung and wife Daw Moe Moe, 63 dozens of exercise books worth K 0.1 million; Lt-Col Aung Htoo and wife Daw Tin Win Phyo, K 0.1 million; Lt-Col Aung Din (Retd) and wife Daw Yin Min Tun, K 0.1 million; Lt-Col Mann Shwe (Retd) and wife Daw Wah Wah Aung, K 0.1 million; U Thet Khaing and wife Daw Cho Cho Win, K 0.1 million; U Sit Hlaing and wife Daw Khin Ye Myint, K 0.1 million; U Hla Win Shein (Kawhmu Township), K 0.1 million; Daw Pu Sein (west Kyaunggon, Shwepyitha),

K 0.1 million; the abbot of Maha Bodhi Monastery in Mogaung street in Yankin Township, K 0.1 million; family of late Major Pyae Phyo Myo, K 50,000; Col Khaing Soe and wife Daw Yi Yi Myint, K 50,000; Major Zaw Myint Aung (Retd) and wife Daw Nyo Mi San, K 50,000; Ko Chit Ye and Ko Thein Than Toe, K 50,000; Ko Aung Aung and wife Ma Nwe Ni Wai, K 30,000; U Win Ngwe and wife Daw Than Than Hsint, K 20,000 and one bale of cloth; deputy director Daw Aye Aye Soe of Education Ministry, two bales of cloth; deputy fire brigade head of admin division of FSD (Head Office) Daw Zin Nwe Soe,

platoon commander Daw Cho Win Mon, Sgt Thida Aye, Sgt San Mya Thida and Private Thet Hnin Wai, K 20,000; Daw Tin Tin Ei (Bayintnaung), K 3000; Warrant Officer Class I U Kyaw Tun Wai (Retd) and wife Daw Htay Htay, K 15,000; Sgt Zaw Win Maung and wife Daw Cynthia Khin Soe, K 11,000; Ma Su Hlaing Phyo, Ma Thawda San and Maung Htin Lin, K 11,000, one bale of cloth and one bale of slipper; Ma Khin Su Su San and Maung Phyo Pyae Sone, K 11,000, two bales of cloth and one bale of handbag; U Aung Kyaw Min and Daw Myo Myo Thant, K 3000; Ko Zami Win Naing and wife Ma Thi Thin Naing, one bale of cloth; U Hlaing Moe and wife Daw Saw Le Le, K 20,000; U Thit and wife Daw Htay Yi, K 3000; U Khin Soe and Daw Than Myint and U Zaw and Daw Than Than Oo, K 11,000; U Tun Tun Oo of Myanmar Regn Company, K 10,000; U Kyaw Nyein (Hydro-power-Nay Pyi Taw), K 0.2 million; and U Ki Hin and wife Daw Kyin Yoe, two bales of cloth and one bale of school uniform. FSD Deputy Director-General U Ko Ko Hlaing and officials accepted the donations and the deputy director-general spoke words of thanks.

Donation amounted to K 158,035,676 to date.—MNA



Officials accept cash and foodstuffs donated by wellwishers for local people of Rakhine State, at Fire Services Department (Head Office).

MNA

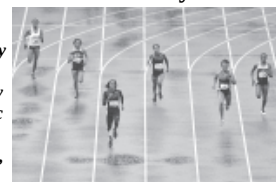
Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (23-6-2012)

Hkamti	(9.06) inches
Kyauktaw	(4.65) inches
MraukU	(3.94) inches
Maungtaw	(3.62) inches
Myitkyina	(2.68) inches
Shwegyin	(2.13) inches
Paletwa	(1.85) inches
Toungoo (Airport)	(1.85) inches

All favourites move on easily at trials

Sanya Richards-Ross leads the way in the women's 400m preliminary at the US Olympic Track and Field Trials on 22 June, 2012, in Eugene, Ore.

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Sweden's Jacobson eyes repeat at storm-hit PGA event

PAGE 14



International Rhino Foundation shows Ratu, a Sumatran rhinoceros, at Way Kambas National Park in Indonesia on 14 June. Ratu gave birth to a male baby on Saturday — only the fourth birth in captivity in more than a century.

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PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 24 June, 2012

Maximum results

Mostly, the national budget cannot be an adequate single financial force for the developing countries in their missions for multiple sectoral progresses covering the national development goals and the UN Millennium Development Goals. Naturally, they need international aid, loans and technological assistance.

In consequence, our government in office formed the Central Committee for Management of Foreign Aids, the Work Committee and the National Economic and Social Advisory Council for the effective management of any financial or material assistance we receive from international community while learning the international experiences in facilitating the work.

Normally, benefactor states or organizations have their own specific programmes, interests and focusing areas, and the receiving countries on their part too have their own special, pressing and normal issues for the effective implementation of their development plans and reform strategies.

So we need comprehensive and integrated plans in carefully and wisely spending the financial resources we receive from the government budget allotments, international aids and domestic and foreign investments as effective as we can. A large chunk of government budget allotments and aids should be saved for far-flung areas where the private sector has less interest in making investments as the profit prospects are low while using most of the local and foreign investments in regions which are economic for private companies.

In taking loans from abroad we must take into account the interest rate, other terms and conditions, and our promising areas and projects and priority concerns. We need considerable investments in infrastructure projects including education, health, electricity, communications, roads, bridges and ports as they serve the long-term interest of the State and the people.

As the current year sees the government launching the second phase of reform strategy at top gear, all levels at government bodies must do their best in managing financial and material resources though wider bottom-up approach to get maximum results in every sector.

Hockey matches hail International Olympic Day 2012

YANGON, 23 June—Jointly organized by Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Hockey Federation, the 2012 International Olympic Day sports activity was launched at MHF, here, this morning.

In the activity, three student hockey teams from North Okkalapa, Thakayta and Mingala Taungnyunt townships which attended the summer basic hockey course 2012 played the round-robin matches.

After the matches, President of Myanmar Hockey Federation member of Yangon City Development Committee U Htin Zaw Win, the vice-president and executives presented the first prize to Mingala Taungnyunt Township team, the second to North Okkalapa Township team and the third to Thakayta Township team.—NLM

Union H&T Minister stresses better services and quality products

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—As Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services (Restaurant Branch) earns the largest amount of income for the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, those in-charge of the branch are to draw better plans with reforms for earning more income, said Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan in the meeting with those in-charge from Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services (Restaurant Branch) (Nay Pyi Taw Head Office), Upper Myanmar branch and Lower Myanmar branch and six top sales branches at the ministry, here, this morning.

After that, the Union Minister stressed the need to try hard for providing better services with quality products to the customers, practise thrifty not to cost unacceptable expenses and make field trip to the grassroots level for knowing capability of each staff in the worksite.

The attendees reported on plans to earn increased incomes.

Later, Managing Director of MHTS U Hla Htay and Deputy Minister U Htay Aung gave supplementary reports.—MNA

Bago Region Chief Minister attends tree-planting ceremony

YANGON, 23 June—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe yesterday morning attended a monsoon tree-planting ceremony held near Maha Pagoda in Oktha Myothit, Bago.

At the ceremony, he presented saplings to those present from the departments, Bago Region Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association to plant them at designated places.—MNA

Walk and race contests mark International Olympic Day 2012

YANGON, 23 June—The mass walk activity to mark the 2012 International Olympic Day was held in front of the Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports in Kyaikkasan Grounds of Tamway Township this morning.

Vice-President of Myanmar Track & Field Federation U San Tun launched the mass walk activity, and the athletes led by Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu walked round the Kyaikkasan Grounds.

Next, the deputy minister launched the 15-km men's and women's race. After that, the deputy minister presented prizes to the men's open event, member of Myanmar Olympic Committee Vice-President of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Dr Daw Khin Swe Myint, prizes to winners in the women's open event, General Secretary of MOC Director-General U Thauung Htaik of SPED, winners in the men's U-20 event, MOC member MWSF executive Prof Dr Daw Khin May Ohn winners in the women's U-20 event, Vice-President U San Tun, winners in the men's U-18 event and MOC member MWSF executive Dr Daw Pandora Aung Gyi, winners in the women's U-18 event.

The deputy minister and party enjoyed the International Olympic Day commemorative volleyball tournament at Aung San Gymnasium and Judo contest at the National Swimming



Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win partaking in monsoon tree-planting ceremony.

MNA

Pool on U Wisara Road and presented prizes to the winners.

After that, he also watched water polo contest at the national swimming pool, the Champion Challenge Cup Tournament (bodybuilding) 2012 and IOD commemorative body-building and physical culture contest at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township.

The deputy directors-general of SPED awarded the winners in the weightlifting contest. Later, the deputy minister and party enjoyed IOD commemorative sailing contest at Myanmar Sailing Federation.—MNA

Dy Education Minister visits Yangon University, Dagon University

YANGON, 23 June—Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe this morning met Rector Dr Tin Tun, pro-rectors and faculty members of Yangon University this morning and gave instructions on upgrading of education

standard, uplift of faculty members' proficiency and promotion of education to cooperate with international community.

The deputy minister viewed renovation of Convocation of Yangon University.

At Dagon University, the deputy minister met Rector in-charge Dr Hla Htay, pro-rectors, officials and sports subcommittees. He then inspected construction of multi-

functioned gymnasium, the gymnasium, university football ground and gym.

After that, he met trainees of GIS training course at Centre for Geospatial Technology of Geography Department.

MNA

Tree growing ceremony hails Myanmar Women's Day

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—In commemoration of the Myanmar Women's Day which falls on 3 July, Mon State Women's Affairs Organization held the tree growing ceremony at Pariyatti Dhamma Beikman in Myenigon Ward of Mawlamyine this morning.

Present on the occasion were the Speaker of Mon State Hluttaw, the Chief Justice of Mon State High Court and wife, state ministers and wives, the state advocate-general, the state auditor-general, the state, district and township level departmental officials and wives, Chairperson of Mon State Women's Affairs Organization Daw San Lwin and members, chairpersons of Mawlamyine District and Township WAOs and members, members of social organizations, trainees of nursing training school and Education College and guests totalling 673.

The Speaker of State Hluttaw and those present grew 550 saplings of shade and flowery plants.—MNA



Photo shows three student hockey teams from North Okkalapa, Thakayta and Mingala Taungnyunt townships.—NLM

Big four eurozone economies propose growth package at Rome summit

ROME, 23 June—As Italy sweltered in the summer heat, there were signs of warmer relations among leaders of the big four eurozone nations — Italy, Germany, France and Spain, as they met in Rome to consider the future of the euro and how to balance austerity with growth. Dressed in a mint green suit, German Chancellor Angela Merkel looked cool and in control as she faced the media flanked by Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti, French President Francois Hollande

and Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy.

The biggest surprise was the leaders' endorsement of a 130-billion-euro (163.0 billion US dollars) package, or 1 percent of Europe's gross domestic product, to stimulate growth in Europe ahead of a crucial European Union summit in Brussels next week. "Risk cannot be sustainable economically and politically if there are no conditions for growth," Monti told the media. "We agree on the fact that what has been done so far

is insufficient for economic growth, the stability of the eurozone and the possibility to offer European citizens a long-term vision of euro integration," he said.

"Growth and job creation should be the first objective to be brought about by national structural reforms to increase competitiveness and a new European agenda," he said. Hollande endorsed the growth package, but he also spoke of the need for austerity in a concession to his colleagues. Merkel backed



Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, French President Francois Hollande, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti (L to R) attend a press conference after their meeting in Rome, Italy, on 22 June, 2012.

XINHUA

the ambitious spending package and called for more action to stabilize the euro. "We want it to be clear that we will do our best for the euro and are ready to fight for the euro so it can go back to be a

stable currency," Merkel said. Italian political pundits immediately welcomed the leaders' growth proposal but demanded more details about how the stimulus package would be funded. "I think it is

important from a political point of view," said Professor Miguel Maduro, head of the global governance programme at the European University Institute in Florence.—Xinhua

Pakistan's newly elected PM, cabinet take oath

ISLAMABAD, 23 June—Pakistan's newly elected Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf took oath of his office in Islamabad on Friday night. President Asif Ali Zardari administered the oath-taking ceremony which was attended by former prime minister Yusuf Raza Gilani, chairman of the Senate, speaker of the National Assembly, senior political leaders, military and civilian officials, members of the parliament, dignitaries and journalists.

Ashraf replaced Yusuf Raza Gilani who was disqualified by the Supreme Court on Tuesday over contempt of court to become the 25th prime minister of the country. The president also administered the oath to federal ministers and ministers, who had been members of Gilani cabinet.

President Zardari congratulated the newly elected prime minister over his election and said his election reflects continuation of democratic process in the country. He also praised speaker of the National Assembly for smoothly running the house during the election process. He hoped that the new prime minister would focus on solution to the energy crisis in the country.—Xinhua



Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari (L) takes an oath to Pakistan's new PM Raja Pervaiz Ashraf (R) during his sworn-in ceremony in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan, on 22 June, 2012. Pakistan's National Assembly, the lower house of the parliament in the country, on Friday elected Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, a candidate from the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party, as the country's new prime minister, announced the National Assembly Speaker.

XINHUA

Russia says more missile talks only possible after US presidential election

MOSCOW, 23 June—Further talks with Washington over the controversial missile defence issue are only possible after this November's presidential election in the United States, the Kremlin said on Friday. "Perhaps it would be possible to resume authentic and detailed political discussions on the missile defence issue only upon the end of the US presidential election," Russian presidential aide Yuri Ushakov told a news briefing here.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who met with his US counterpart Barack Obama at the G20 summit in Mexico earlier this week, has said that Washington is continuing its development of the missile defence system. "Still, our president said a drastic decision will change everything, if the United States accepts our offer to make everyone — Russia, the US and Europe — equal participants in that process," Ushakov said. Meanwhile, the official said that Moscow remains calm at a tough rhetoric of US Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who called Russia a "geopolitical opponent."

"This statement is odd but we perceive it absolutely calmly ... and understand that the election campaign is in progress, (and) the emotions are on the rise," he said. Ushakov also expressed hope that if Romney becomes the next US president, he would understand it is in the national interests of the United States to treat Russia in a balanced and pragmatic way.

Xinhua

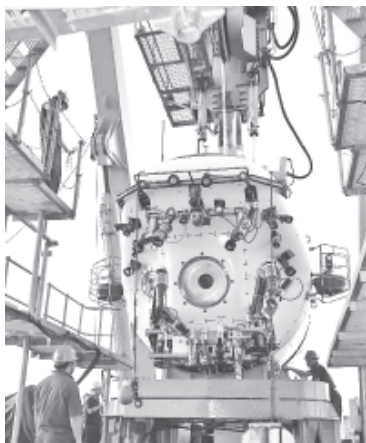


Photo taken on 22 June, 2012 shows the Jiaolong, China's manned deep-sea submersible, on the deck of the mother ship Xiangyanghong 09 in the Marian Trench. The Jiaolong completed its third dive into the Mariana Trench and returned to the mother ship with a biological sample on Friday. The dive reached as deep as 6963 metres.—XINHUA

UN, EU launch new project to prevent biological, nuclear disasters

UNITED NATIONS, 23 June—The UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the European Union (EU) launched a programme here on Friday in a bid to prevent future biological and nuclear disasters around the world. The Centres for Excellence (CoE) Initiative is designed to alleviate the risks of crimes related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear disasters (CBRN) by "promoting cooperation, coordination, and coherent national and regional CBRN policies," according to a Press statement issued here on Friday.

"The initiative maximizes existing capacities and supports countries to better address the risks posed by CBRN through the coordination and integration of their actions within a broader network," Jonathan Lucas, director of UNICRI, said in the Press release. During a Press conference here, Bruno Dupre, the policy coordinator for CBRN issues for the EU Diplomatic Service, said that the agency's aim toward "increasing cooperation, increasing vigilance and increasing dialogues" in those regions which are at higher risk of suffering from any nuclear disaster.—Xinhua

Spanish Govt announces plan to boost tourism

MADRID, 23 June—The Spanish government on Friday approved a plan aimed at promoting and increasing income from tourism in the country. About 1.6-1.8 billion euros (2.0-2.3 billion US dollars) would be dedicated to the sector, announced the government.

The plan aims to create the conditions for rapid and sustainable growth in the sector. Spain is the fourth most important tourist destination in the world after France, the United States and China. Nearly 57 million foreign visitors visited the country in 2011.

Tourism accounts for around 10 percent of Spain's GDP, which is vital in times of economic crisis. About 19.1 million foreign visitors spent time in Spain between January and May this year. Catalonia is the most popular destination for tourists. Visitors there increased by 12.3 percent so far this year.—Xinhua

US looks forward to working with Pakistan's new PM to restore ties

WASHINGTON, 23 June—The US government said on Friday it looks forward to working with Pakistan's newly-elected prime minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf to bring the strained US-Pakistan relations back on track. "We are pleased that the leadership issue appears to have been settled," State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland told reporters at a news briefing.

"We obviously look forward to working with the new prime minister and hope that this will open space to continue to roll up our sleeves and get back on track with all of the things that we want to do with Pakistan," she added. Ashraf took oath of his office in Islamabad Friday night at a ceremony administered by President Asif Ali Zardari, to replace

Yusuf Raza Gilani, who was disqualified by the Supreme Court on Tuesday over contempt of court.

The US-Pakistan relations have been soured since May 2011, when the US sent special forces into Pakistan to kill al-Qaeda mastermind Osama bin Laden, without notifying Islamabad in advance. The ties took a turn for the worse in late November last year, when the US-led NATO forces in Afghanistan launched an air strike on a Pakistan's border post, killing 24 soldiers. Pakistan closed NATO's land supply routes in retaliation and has been demanding for an apology from Washington for the incident. Past talks on reopening the routes have yielded no tangible results.

Xinhua



Afghan security forces check a room after a battle with Taliban militants at a hotel in the western edge of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 22 June, 2012.—XINHUA

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

Samsung probes burnt out Galaxy phone in Ireland

SEOUL, 23 June—Samsung Electronics Co said it was investigating reports that one of its flagship Galaxy S III smartphones exploded in a user's car in Ireland.

Samsung launched its latest Galaxy S, the strongest rival for Apple's iPhone, in Europe on May 29 and in the United States on Thursday. It plans to roll out the device in its lucrative home market in South Korea on Monday.

A Dublin-based consumer posted comments and photos on a web site on Wednesday (here), saying his Galaxy phone "exploded" while mounted on his car dashboard. He wrote that while he was driving, "suddenly a white flame,

sparks and a bang came out of the phone."

"There's no confirmation it was a fault with the phone. It may actually have been caused by a combination of my car mount and my car's heating system," he added.

There have been other reports of Samsung smartphones overheating. In March, a Korean schoolboy reported that a spare battery for his Galaxy S II exploded in his back pocket. Samsung said then that the cause was massive external pressure or force.

On Friday, the company said it was still looking into the reported Irish incident. "Our initial investigation found no fault with the phone,



A woman holds up her new Samsung Galaxy S III after it was launched at Westfield in west London, on 29 May, 2012.—REUTERS

but we'll conduct further investigations to decide the exact cause of the problem," spokesman James Chung said, adding the result of those investigations could be released as early as next week.

Heat issues have been reported with other devices. In March, influential

consumer watchdog Consumer Reports said Apple's latest iPad tablet threw off a lot more heat than the previous version, lending weight to complaints on Internet forums that the device could get uncomfortably warm after heavy use.—Reuters

In a court filing on Tuesday, Yahoo attorney Kevin Smith asked a San Francisco federal judge to push back a series of deadlines in the case for two weeks. Facebook did not oppose the request, Smith wrote.

The extension would "facilitate settlement," he wrote. Representatives for Yahoo and Facebook declined to comment. US District Judge Jeffrey White approved the delay request on Wednesday.

The case in US District Court, Northern District of California is Yahoo Inc v Facebook Inc, 12-cv-1212.—Reuters

Yahoo, Facebook seek more time for settlement talks

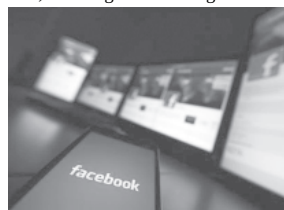
NEW YORK, 23 June—Yahoo Inc (YHOO O) and Facebook Inc (FB O) believe settlement talks in a high profile patent lawsuit would be helped if a US judge pushed back certain deadlines in the case, according to a court filing

on Tuesday.

Yahoo sued Facebook earlier this year, claiming the social networking company infringed 10 of Yahoo's patents, including several that cover online advertising technology. In its lawsuit,

Yahoo said Facebook was considered "one of the worst performing sites for advertising" prior to adapting Yahoo's ideas. Facebook then filed a countersuit of its own and called Yahoo short-sighted for its decision to prioritize "litigation over innovation."

Yahoo brought its lawsuit while the company was under the leadership of then-Chief Executive Scott Thompson. However, shortly after the case began Thompson was ousted from the company amid questions about his resume.



The loading screen of the Facebook application on a mobile phone is seen in this photo illustration taken in Lavigny on 16 May, 2012.—REUTERS

Twitter double outage blamed on bug

SAN FRANCISCO, 23 June—A double outage rocked Twitter on Thursday, as users worldwide reported significant down-time and slow service across the website and mobile applications of the microblogging platform.

The outages left another bruise on a service that earned a reputation for unreliability in its early days. The San Francisco-based company blamed the disruption on a "cascading bug" in one of its infrastructure components.

"One of the characteristics of such a bug is that it can have a significant impact on all users, worldwide, which was the case today," Mazen Rawashdeh, a Twitter vice president of engineering, wrote in a blog post after normal service resumed.

"This wasn't due to a hack or our new office or Euro 2012 or GIF avatars, as some have speculated today." "We are currently conducting a comprehensive review to ensure that we can avoid this chain of events in the future," he added.

Twitter's statements

came amid speculation that hackers contributed to the disruption.

UgNazi — an emerging hacker outfit that recently gained publicity for breaking into Cloudfare chief executive Matthew Prince's personal Google email account — claimed credit for the service disruption in an email to Reuters, saying it launched a distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack against Twitter because of the company's support for the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act.

One security professional said the group probably used a DDoS-for-hire site to launch an attack against Twitter on Thursday, but played down the likelihood the group was responsible for

bringing down the social media network. "It was mere coincidence," the security professional said. "The backend of Twitter is having issues, which is unrelated to the very small attack."

North American traffic levels for Twitter.com plummeted on two occasions between 8.30 am PDT (1530 GMT) and 11.00 am PDT (1800 GMT), according to data provided by network analytics company Sandvine. The first outage lasted between 8.30 am (1530 GMT) and 10.00 am (1700 GMT), data showed.

Twitter acknowledged the disruption in a mid-morning blog post that was continually revised as the service resumed, only to fail for a second time before 11.00 am.—Reuters

A Twitter page is displayed on a laptop computer in Los Angeles on 13 Oct, 2009.—REUTERS



Prehistoric 'giant wombats' unearthed

BRISBANE, 23 June—Australian paleontologists say they've unearthed a large deposit of prehistoric "giant wombat" skeletons that provide clues to the species' extinction.

Remains of about 50 diprotodons, the largest marsupial that ever lived, were found in Queensland and are believed to be between 100,000 and 200,000 years old, researchers said.

"When we did the initial survey I was just completely blown away by the concentrations of these fragments," Scott Hocknull of the Queensland Museum in Brisbane told the BBC.

"It's a paleontologists' goldmine where we can really see what these megafauna were doing, how they actually behaved, what their ecology was."

The "mega-wombats" were still widespread across Australia about 50,000 years ago when the first indigenous

people are believed to have lived but the creatures first appeared about 1.6 million years ago, researchers said.

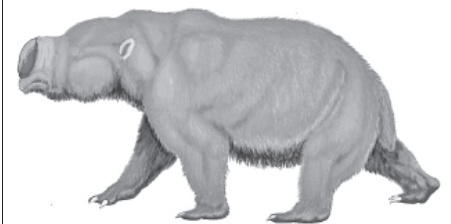
Scientists say they're not sure why the species went extinct but it could have been due to hunting by humans or, more likely, a changing climate.

The grouping of the skeletons found suggests the creatures had been trapped in a bog while taking refuge from dry conditions, Hocknull said.

Along with the diprotodons, researchers found other prehistoric species including a 20-foot lizard called megalania and giant crocodiles.

"We're almost certain that most of these carcasses of diprotodons have been torn apart by both the crocodiles and the lizards, because we've found shed teeth within their skeletons from both animals," Hocknull said.

Internet



Most US readers unaware of e-books at libraries

NEW YORK, 23 June—Though Kindles and Nooks are becoming almost as common as books, more than half of all US readers don't know they can borrow e-books from their local library, a Pew Centre poll showed on Friday.

The poll showed 62 percent of readers didn't know if their library had e-books for lending, and only 12 percent of Americans 16 and older who read e-books had borrowed at least one from a library in the past year.

"The most important thing libraries can do is make sure e-books are accessible through the rest of the library system," said Micah May, the director of strategy at the New York Public Library, about raising e-book lending awareness.

Of those who had borrowed e-books, 66 percent said their library's selection was at least "good," while only 4 percent thought theirs was "poor," the survey said.

There are difficulties, occasionally, with the

process, with 56 percent of borrowers saying their libraries didn't have a particular e-book while 52 percent found there was a waiting list to borrow a book they wanted. Some 18 percent had incompatible readers for the e-books they wanted.

May said most e-book lending problems were due to the current library e-book distribution system. On Thursday, book publisher Penguin agreed to digitally lend its books to the NYPL, joining Random House and HarperCollins to become only the third of the "Big Six" publishing companies to lend e-books through libraries.

Simon and Schuster, Macmillan and Hachette don't lend new e-books through libraries, according to Publisher's Weekly.

Print readers expressed interest in e-books, though. Of those who don't borrow e-books, 46 percent said they'd be at least somewhat likely to borrow a device pre-loaded with a book, while 32 percent

would be at least somewhat interested in learning how to use an e-reader or download e-books.

Those who borrow e-books are much heavier readers than those who don't, averaging six more books than non-borrowers last year.

The lack of knowledge about libraries and e-books means many readers still buy; 55 percent of e-book readers with library cards prefer to buy their e-books, while 46 percent said they prefer purchasing printed books.

The purchasing numbers lessen with those who borrow e-books; 33 percent of e-book borrowers prefer to buy e-books and 57 percent prefer to borrow them.

Reading is still important to many Americans. Fifty-eight percent of those 16 and older have library cards, while 69 percent said the library was important to them. The Pew poll surveyed 2,986 Americans aged 16 and older by phone with a margin of error of 2 percentage points.

Internet

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

Sony to invest \$997 million to boost output of CMOS sensors

TOKYO, 23 June—Sony Corp said on Friday it would spend 80 billion yen (\$997 million) to boost production of image sensors as part of its strategy to boost income from digital imaging.

Sony, which posted a record net loss in the year to 31 March, said it will complete the investment by September 2013 at its CMOS image sensor plant in Nagasaki in southern Japan, with half the money to be spent during the current business term as part of outlays already announced.

Output at the plant will be 60,000 wafers a month once it has established new production lines, the company said. These will be sold to makers of smart phones and tablets and will also be used

for Sony's own products.

With its television unit hammered by weak demand and intense competition from foreign rivals such as Samsung Electronics the company is looking for ways to boost revenue and profits in other divisions.

Sony expects sales at its TV unit, which has lost more than \$12 billion in 9 years, to fall 11 percent to 17.5 million this business year.

The company's new president, Kazuo Hirai, in April said that Sony's future lay in mobile devices such as the Xperia smartphone, gaming and digital imaging. He set a target for group sales of 8.5 trillion yen in two years, with an operating margin of more than 5 percent.—Reuters



A Sony logo is seen as customers look at Sony's digital cameras at an electronic shop in Tokyo on 10 May, 2012. REUTERS

Court rules in favour of Tata Motors in Singur land tussle

KOLKATA, 23 June—The Calcutta High Court on Friday nullified a law that forced Tata Motors (TAMO NS) to forfeit Singur land acquired by the company to build a factory, in a decision that could pave the way for the automaker to recoup some of its \$310 million investment in the development.

The law, which forced the company to hand back land in West Bengal, was ruled "unconstitutional and void" by the Calcutta High Court, lawyers present told Reuters.

The ruling will be challenged in the Supreme

Court, said Kalyan Banerjee, a lawmaker in the state government.

Tata, which abandoned the project in 2008 and shifted the factory to make its ultra-low cost Nano car to Gujarat, has previously sought compensation over the dispute.

"We will be studying the order before deciding the next course of action," Tata Motors spokeswoman Ashmita Pillay said.

Shares in Tata Motors were flat in the afternoon, after having risen slightly following the ruling.

Reuters



A view of a factory shade of a new small car project, run by Tata Motors, is seen in Singur 50 km (32 miles) north of Kolkata on 7 August, 2008. —REUTERS

IKEA to enter India, invest 1.5 b euros in stores

MUMBAI, 23 June—Swedish retailer IKEA, the world's largest furniture maker, is opening up in India, marking a crucial step for the Indian government whose policy flip flops related to foreign investment have damaged market confidence. The company, known for huge stores selling flatpack furniture and accessories, said it would invest 1.5 billion euros to open 25 stores in Asia's third-largest economy after initially balking at India's sourcing requirements.

IKEA's plans, announced by the Indian government after a meeting between the company's CEO and India's trade minister in Russia, could give a boost to the embattled government of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, which was forced in December to backtrack on plans to allow in foreign supermarket operators.

While the government removed foreign investment caps in single-brand retail in January, it imposed a condition that foreign retailers source 30 percent from local small and mid-sized enterprises, dampening the enthusiasm of retailers for the plan. "It's a baby step but it has definitely sent the right signal out... The government is trying to convince international investors, India is still open for business," said



A Japanese woman takes a seat on one of Swedish furniture retailer IKEA's chairs at the company's first store in Japan in Funabashi, east of Tokyo, on 24 April, 2006.—INTERNET

Devangshu Dutta, consultant with Third Eyesight, a retail consultancy said. The Indian economy which grew at its slowest pace in nine years has been badly hit by political roadblocks to economic policymaking battering corporate investor sentiment.

But the company, following similar moves in China and Russia, plans to cash in on India's burgeoning urban middle class, which, having grown up on pop culture, generates a strong demand for owning international brands and lifestyle products such as furniture.

Sourcing

On Friday, India said the company had discussed its reservations over the sourcing policy with the government.

"IKEA had certain reservations about sourcing

norms which were discussed with the DIPP (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) officials; suitable answers of which were provided leading to the decision to invest," the Indian government said in a statement. The company does not yet have any stores in India but sourced \$450 million worth of goods from the country last year, a figure it aims to lift to \$1 billion in coming years.

It sources goods such as textiles and carpets from 70 suppliers and 1,400 sub-suppliers in the country, the company said. "The mandatory sourcing clause that requires goods to be sourced from small and medium enterprises will remain a challenge," IKEA spokeswoman Malin Pettersson Beckeman told Reuters by phone on Friday.

The Singh government is keen to bring global supermarket chains such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc (WMT.N) and Carrefour SA (CARR.PA) into India, in hope of improving the efficiency of supply chains in a country where roughly one-third of fresh produce rots before it gets to market.

However, foreign direct investment in supermarkets has been opposed by owners of one-off shops, which account for roughly 90 percent of India's \$450 billion retail sector, as well as by members of the ruling coalition.

IKEA said its investment will be made over 15 to 20 years. India's Commerce Ministry said IKEA will initially invest 600 million euros and a further sum of up to 900 million. "These investment estimates have been drawn up based on our experience in countries like China and Russia," Beckeman said.

Industry officials, however, said that the Swedish firm's entry will not really shake things for the domestic market given the number of stores it plans and the period of investment. "It's not going to shake up the entire domestic market but it will set a benchmark model for others to follow in India's nascent furniture and home products market," Dutta said.—Reuters

Health Tip: Does your child have a seasonal allergy?

It may be difficult to tell if your child's sniffles are caused by the common cold or seasonal allergies. The American Academy of Pediatrics offers these telltale signs of seasonal allergies:

- *Persistent symptoms including red and watery eyes, sneezing and runny nose that last for weeks at a time, and seem to emerge at the same time each year.
- *A tingling or itching feeling in the mouth or throat.
- *A scaly red rash in the skin creases, ankles or wrists.
- *If your child has the skin condition eczema, he or she is more likely to develop seasonal allergies.—Internet

Drugs help infants from getting mom's HIV

BETHESDA, 23 June —Adding nevirapine to drugs given newborns of women diagnosed with HIV shortly before or during labour halves the newborns' risk of HIV, US researchers say. Study author Dr Heather Watts of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development said the rate of mother-to-child HIV transmission around the time of delivery was 2.2 percent among infants who received the standard drug zidovudine combined with nevirapine, compared with 4.8 percent among infants treated with zidovudine alone. The study, which involved 1,600 infants, found a reduced rate of transmission — 2.4 percent — among infants treated with a three-drug combination: zidovudine, nelfinavir and lamivudine. However, infants given the two-drug combination were less likely than were those on the three drug regimen to have neutropenia — a blood disorder consisting of low levels of neutrophils, a type of infection-fighting white blood cells.

"Pregnant women who don't know they have HIV or those who don't come in for prenatal care may not get the early treatment needed to keep the virus from being passed on to the baby," Watts said in a statement. "Our findings show that even in these situations, many, many infant cases of HIV can be prevented with the two drug combination treatment."

The findings were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.—Internet



A logo of Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche is pictured in front of a company's building in Rotkreuz, on 12 April, 2012. REUTERS

Roche's breast cancer drug extends survival in study

ZURICH, 23 June—A late-stage study showed that women with an aggressive type of breast cancer lived significantly longer when treated with Roche's new breast cancer drug Perjeta, the Swiss drugmaker said on Friday.

The phase III study found a combination treatment of the drugs Perjeta and Herceptin plus chemotherapy lengthened the amount of time women lived without their disease

worsening, compared to those just treated with Herceptin and chemotherapy. Perjeta, also known as pertuzumab, was granted approval by US health regulators earlier this month.

Roche is hoping that it will become the standard treatment for women with a form of cancer known as HER-2 positive, which makes up about a quarter of all breast cancers and has no cure.

Reuters

Endangered Sumatran rhino gives birth in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 23 June — A critically endangered Sumatran rhinoceros was born on Saturday at an Indonesian sanctuary, only the fourth birth in captivity in more than a century, boosting survival hopes for the species, say conservationists.

"Ratu gave birth to a male baby at 00:45 (1745 GMT Friday) on Saturday. Both the mother and the baby are all very well," conservationist Widodo Ramono, who works at a sanctuary on the southern tip of Sumatra island, told AFP.

The last three in-captivity births for Sumatran rhinos took place in the United States at the Cincinnati Zoo in Ohio. The father of the new born, Andalas, was himself the first Sumatran rhino delivered in

captivity in 112 years. He was born in September 2001, according to the zoo.

Andalas was brought to Indonesia to mate with Ratu, a female who grew up in the wild but wandered out of the forest and now lives at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas National Park.

Sumatran rhinos have suffered a 50 percent drop in population numbers over the past 20 years, largely due to poaching and loss of tropical habitat. There are now believed to be fewer than 200 alive. Most reside in isolated pockets in Southeast Asia.

"Thank God, we are very grateful that all the delivery process went smoothly and naturally. We actually made some emergency preparation

in case that Ratu need(ed) a surgery in delivering the baby," Indonesia forestry ministry's spokesman Masyhud said.

"It's really a big present for the Sumatran rhino breeding efforts as we know that this is a very rare species which have some difficulties in their reproduction," the ministry's spokesman said.

"This is the first birth of a Sumatran rhino at a sanctuary in Indonesia," he told AFP. "Soon after the delivery, the mother began breastfeeding the baby," he added. The US-based International Rhino Foundation executive director Susie Ellis said in a Press release, published on Friday before the birth, that a veterinary team would



Image provided by the International Rhino Foundation shows Ratu, a Sumatran rhinoceros, at the Way Kambas National Park in Indonesia on 14 June. Ratu gave birth to a male baby on Saturday — only the fourth birth in captivity in more than a century. — INTERNET

immediately harvest placental cells that can be used to generate stem cells. Stem cells have the potential to be useful for many purposes in the near future, including curing diseases and helping promote reproduction, it said.

Internet

Baghdad market bombs kill 14, wound more than 100

BAGHDAD, 23 June — Two bombs exploded in an open-air market in Baghdad on Friday, killing at least 14 people in the latest round of spiraling violence six months after the last US troops withdrew from Iraq. More than 160 people have died this month in attacks mostly attributed to Sunni insurgents linked to al-Qaeda.

They are targeting security forces and Shiite civilians in an attempt to weaken Iraq's fragile government, which is mired in deadlock and struggling to provide security and even basic services like electricity.

Friday's explosions, timed within minutes of each other, came at mid-morning in the mostly Shiite

neighbourhood of Husseinayah in northeast Baghdad. No one claimed responsibility. Mohammed Hussein al-Jizani said he was haggling with customers in his shoe store next to the market when he heard a loud blast and ran outside.

"Three minutes later, there was a second explosion as people and policemen were rushing to the site of the first bomb," al-Jizani said. "The evil insurgents chose the best time to attack, because the market is usually busy on Fridays with young people gathering to sell and buy birds."

The blasts killed at least 14 people and wounded 106, a medical official said. He spoke on condition of

anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information. The death toll for the month of June is the second highest so far in 2012, rivaled only by January, when 198 Iraqis were killed in a series



of blasts widely seen as al-Qaeda's attempts to shock the country immediately after the last American troops withdrew in December.

Internet

An Iraqi policeman secures an area in Baghdad in 2011. Attacks in Iraq killed at least 14 people and wounded dozens more on Friday, security and medical officials said, in the latest in a wave of violence across the country.

INTERNET

Chavez hosts close ally Ahmadinejad

CARACAS, 23 June — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez hosted Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Friday to ink a series of deals, just a week after boasting about collaboration with Teheran on a drone project.

Chavez, who has been battling cancer for more than a year and faces a tough re-election contest in October, has expressed "solidarity" with key ally Iran as it faces growing pressure over its suspect nuclear programme. The two firebrand leaders, who share a common hostility towards the United States, were scheduled to hold a joint Press conference at Chavez's Miraflores presidential palace at 8:00 pm local time (0030 GMT Saturday).

Chavez said he planned to ink bilateral cooperation deals with Ahmadinejad on a wide range of areas, from housing to technology. Iran and Venezuela also engage in military cooperation. Chavez raised hackles last week when he announced that, with Iranian help, he had made his first drone and planned to soon begin exporting the unmanned aircraft. A Venezuelan general said the drone, which "does not carry arms," has a 100-kilometre (60 mile) sweep, can fly solo for some 90 minutes and reach an altitude of 3,000 meters (9,000 feet).

The United States — which has controversially waged drone strikes remotely against suspected militants in Pakistan and Yemen — ex-

pressed caution about Chavez's announcement. "The Venezuelans make lots of extravagant claims. Sodo the Iranians," State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland told reporters in Washington. Iran and Venezuela have mutual investment of about \$5 billion in factories to make cement, satellites, food, tractors and bicycles.

Under escalating pressure from the West over its nuclear activities, Iran has sought closer political and economic relations with countries far and wide, including many in Latin America. Ahmadinejad will arrive in Caracas from the UN-sponsored Rio+20 summit on sustainable development in Brazil. En route to Rio, the Iranian leader stopped in Bolivia to court support from another leftist Latin American nation that has tense ties with the United States. Chavez has visited Teheran 13 times since taking power in 1999.

Internet



Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez hosts Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, pictured on 21 June, to ink a series of deals, just a week after boasting about collaboration with Teheran on a drone project. — INTERNET

NJ woman hit with ball sues Little League player

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP, (NJ) 23 June — A New Jersey woman who was struck in the face with a baseball at a Little League game is suing the young catcher who threw it. Elizabeth Lloyd is seeking more than \$150,000 in damages to cover medical costs stemming from the incident at a Manchester Little League game two years ago. She's also seeking an undefined amount for pain and suffering.

Lloyd was sitting at a picnic table near a fenced-in bullpen when she was hit with the ball. Catcher Matthew Migliaccio was 11 years old at the time and was warming up a pitcher. The lawsuit filed on 24 April alleges Migliaccio's errant throw was intentional and reckless, "assaulted and battered" Lloyd and caused "severe, painful and permanent" injuries.

A second count alleges Migliaccio's actions were negligent and careless through "engaging in inappropriate physical and/or sporting activity" near Lloyd. She continues to suffer pain and anguish, incur medical expenses and has been unable to carry out her usual duties and activities, the lawsuit says.

And Lloyd's husband, in a third count, is suing for the loss of "services, society and consortium" of his wife. They've demanded a jury trial. Anthony Pagano, a lawyer for the Migliaccios, said the lawsuit is frivolous and without merit.

Internet

In this 20 June, 2012 photo released by the Dearborn Heights Department of Public Works, a young raccoon's head is shown stuck in a storm drain cover in Dearborn Heights, Mich.

INTERNET



This file photo shows a general view of a village in northern Sumatra. A 5.9-magnitude earthquake hit the north of Indonesia's Sumatra island on Saturday, the US Geological Survey said, but there were no reports of damage or casualties. — INTERNET

5.9 quake hits Indonesia's Sumatra

JAKARTA, 23 June — A 5.9-magnitude earthquake hit the north of Indonesia's Sumatra island on Saturday, the US Geological Survey said, but there were no reports of damage or casualties. The quake struck at 11:34 am (0434 GMT), 66 kilometres (41 miles) west-southwest of Kabanjahe at a depth of 97 kilometres, the USGS said.

Indonesia's Meteorological and Geophysics Agency put the magnitude at 6.6. "The quake's epicentre was on land. There are no reports of damage so far," Indonesian agency official Dedi Sugianto told AFP, adding the quake was felt moderately in a number of areas. Indonesia sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" where continental plates collide, causing frequent seismic and volcanic activity. — Internet

Oil, soap used to free stuck baby raccoon in Mich

DEARBORN HEIGHTS, 23 June — A baby raccoon that got stuck head-first in a sewer grate is free thanks to the quick and slippery work of some city workers in suburban Detroit.

The Detroit Free Press reports Dearborn Heights Department of Public Works Director Bill Zimmer was in his front yard on Wednesday when he noticed the critter. He called fellow Public Works employees for help. They used vegetable oil and dish soap to free the raccoon.

A release from Dearborn Heights says the crew took the raccoon to the Public Works yard for a "much-needed shower" before letting it go in the woods. The animal was OK after the ordeal. — Internet



Be healthy, be strong

Khin Aye Kyu

These days when slim, skinny and thin models are in fashion, women especially young girls, watch TV advertisements and models walking the catwalk showing fashionable gowns and dresses, with awe and envy. They would be willing to pay their fortunes to be like them. They diet and try to lose weight. Some skip meals, feel dizzy and get gastric ulcers and all kinds of disorders.

Some take slimming pills which are detrimental to health. However much they may advertise and say it is harmless, these pills are sure to contain chemicals which would suppress the appetite and go against nature. I read in a foreign newspaper some time ago, that a TV celebrity had to have a life-saving liver transplant after she nearly died from liver failure. She had taken diet pills to make her slim. At least a dozen other women had reported having health problems after taking these pills. Although they may be produced with herbs, they are adulterated with western synthetic chemicals which are harmful to the human body.

People especially young girls should think twice about taking these pills and eat nutritious food with a lot of fibre and also take vitamins that would make them grow

healthy and strong. It is vital to have a balanced diet with the necessary proteins, carbohydrates and minerals. But because of modern day lifestyles most people rely on ready-made fast foods and do not get the required amount of nutrients and become weak and ill.

Luckily up to now, I have not suffered any major illnesses. It is I think due to the nutritious diet given to me by my parents when I was young. My father, a naval officer never drank alcohol. He just drank juice, milk, Ovaltine and Holicks, did exercise and walked a lot. He lived up to the ripe old age of eighty-eight. He would have lived even longer if he had not fallen down and broke his hip bone causing other complications.

Vitamins are essential. Lack of Vitamin A causes shortsightedness and dry skin. We should eat liver, drink milk, take cod-liver oil, eat vegetables and fruit. Lack of Vitamin B1 causes beri-beri and disorder of the nervous systems. Cereals, beans and meat are rich in Vitamin B1. Lack of B2 can slow and stunt growth. So to grow tall and strong we must eat cereals and dairy products. Vitamin C is essential to keep away scurvy and you can get this Vitamin from citrus fruits and fresh vegetables. Lacking in Vitamin

D causes our bones to grow soft, so we should eat eggs and take milk and cod-liver oil.

Deficiency of Vitamin E causes weak muscles, so we much drink milk, eat cereals, vegetables and some fat. Calcium is also necessary for our bones and teeth. We can get this vitamin from milk and vegetables. Recently, Vitamin K was found to show promise in the treatment of Parkinson's Disease, a condition characterized by lack of movement, tremors and muscle stiffness. Research shows that Vitamin K succeeded in undoing the effect of one of the genetic defects that leads to Parkinson's Disease.

Millions of people do not eat enough fruits and vegetables, putting them at risk of cancer. Research shows that a diet based on plant foods such as wholegrains and pulses as well as fruit and vegetables can protect against a range of cancers. It confirmed that foods containing fibre reduce the risk of bowel cancer.

With this knowledge in mind the young will be able to eat nourishing food and grow up to be healthy, strong and sturdy citizens who will have the ability to serve our beloved Motherland.

Setsetyo Creek dredged for proper flow of water

TAUNGDWINGYI, 23 June—With the aim of exceeding sown acres of monsoon paddy in 2012 and carrying out ploughing

tasks in time, under the supervision of Township Administrator U Aung Htut and leadership of Commander of Township

Police Force Police Captain Myint Swe and Executive Officer U Aung Phyo Kyaw of Township Development Affairs Committee, the staff and local people cleaned debris and dredged sand and silt in Setsetyo Creek for proper flow of water on 20 June.—Kyemon



CITIZENSHIP CARDS ISSUED: The issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards was held in Shwekkok Myaing Village-tract of Myawady Township on 15 June through one stop service. Kayin State Head of INRD U Thaung Zaw, Deputy Commissioner of Myawady District U Shein Win and party presented cards to local people.—MYANMA ALIN

Thakayta Township designates crime free month

YANGON, 23 June—The crime free month from 18 June to 17 July in the area of Thakayta Township Police Force in Yangon East District was implemented at the office of Thakayta Township Fire Services Department on 18 June.

It was attended by Yangon Region Hluttaw representative U Zaw Win Naing and guests.

ESSAY CONTEST: In commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which falls on 26 June, a painting and an essay contests were held at No 2 Basic Education High School on 17 June. Township Administrator U Thein Win and officials viewed participation of students in the essay contest.

MYANMA ALIN

Commander of Yangon East District Police Force Police Lt-Col Myint Aye made a speech. Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Tint Naing gave talks on matters related to crime free month and Township Judge U Kyaw Kyaw Win on legal affairs.

Township Law Officer U Maung Maung Myint and Head of Township Fire Services Department U Ko Ko Oo participated in the discussions.

Myanma Alin



Regional ASEAN Dengue Day observed in Bago

YANGON, 23 June—The Regional ASEAN Dengue Day of Bago Region was held at Thiri Pyinnya hall of Basic Education High School No 1 in Bago on 15 June.

Bago Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Kyaw Oo delivered an address.

Head of Region Health Department Dr Nay Myo Ohn explained purpose of holding the Regional ASEAN Dengue Day and prevention against ASEAN Dengue. Child specialist Dr Daw Than Than Win of Bago General Hospital gave talks on dengue disease. After the ceremony, the attendees participated in preventive measures against dengue.

Health

DISTRICT NEWS

Uniforms provided to offspring of vendors in Letpadan

BAGO, 23 June—Letpadan Township of Thayawady District Development Affairs Committee of Bago Region held the ceremony to provide school uniforms and cash assistance to 41 students of 25 vendors at the hall of the

committee on 13 June evening.

It was attended by Township Administrator U Thiha, Bago Region Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Min and Daw Aye Aye Khaing, Executive Officer U Aye Win of Township Development

Affairs Committee, micro-finance service committee members, vendors and students.

Officials presented one set of uniforms worth K 123,000 in total amount to 41 students.

Kyemon

Agricultural loans disbursed in Kyonpyaw Township

KYONPYAW, 23 June—Myanma Agricultural Development Bank of Kyonpyaw Township in Patheingyi District disbursed loans for cultivation of monsoon crops for 2012 as of 15 June. A total of 46 farmers from Kansu Village-tract have been disbursed with K 9.6 million for 193 acres of farmlands.

Township IPRD



Uniforms, cash assistance provided in Wakema



YANGON, 23 June—Wakema Township General Administration Department

presented uniforms and staff members at Manaw Thukha Hall of the township on 15

June, with an address by Township Administrator U Soe Tun.

Next, the township administrator and Chairperson of Township Family Disciplinary Committee Daw Ohnma Ko Ko Hyi presented uniforms to staff and cash assistance to offspring of staff.

The township GAD gave uniforms worth K 208,000 and cash assistance K 436,000.—Myanma Alin

Winners awarded in cultural course

YANGON, 23 June—A ceremony to award the students who passed the Buddhism cultural course of Dagon Myothit (South) Township was held at Maha Dhammacariya monastic education

Minyekaungbon Road in Ward 56 of the township on 17 June.

Patron of the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Narapati gave advice. Township Administrator

U Myint Lwin supplicated on religious affairs.

At the ceremony, the Township Administrator and officials presented K 380,000 and certificates to the students.

San San Kyi

Union Sports Minister takes part in mass walk activity hailing International Olympic Day

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June— It is about 65 years that the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been a member of International Olympic Committee so as to communicate with international sports organizations in sports sector since 1947. Being IOC member, Myanmar Olympic Committee holds sports activities every 23rd June on which IOC was established like other members.

To hail International Olympic Day, a mass walk activity and a circular cycling race, all of which were held in front of Myoma Market here this morning, participated by Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan.

After the Union Minister had watched starting of the circular cycling race, he led the mass walk activity comprising members of Myanmar Olympic Committee, staff of the Ministry of Sports and respective ministries in Nay Pyi Taw, locals from Zabuthiri Township, sports men getting training in Nay Pyi Taw Sports Training Camp, coaches and youths, totalling some 2500 participants.



Chairman of National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan enjoys cycling contest to mark International Olympic Day 2012 in front of Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market.—MNA

Afterwards, the Union Minister enjoyed basketball round matches (second round) of Champion Challenge Cup, held at Nay Pyi Taw Pyimana (Paunglaung) Gymnasium.

He paid attention to progress of installation of target switches at the shooting training hall of the Sports Training Camp (Lewe), where he enjoyed Wushu second-round matches (Sanshou) and Judo matches of Champion Challenge Cup, being held at Wushu training hall and

Judo training hall, and gave encouragement to weightlifters practising at Weightlifting training hall and youths performing aerobatics movements at Aerobatics training hall.

The Union Minister greeted in-charges of the sports training camp and coaches and managers of respective sports teams at the meeting hall of the camp, and he was among fun seekers watching Judo final matches at weight-classes at Judo sports training hall.

At the awarding ceremony, the Union Minister presented Men's Championship shield to Kachin State Team (Men) and Women's Champion one to Mon State Team (Women) and Men's/Women's Champion shield to Ayeyawady Region Team.

The Union Minister had enjoyment from Tennis Tournament (Men/Women) of Champion Challenge Cup at the tennis court in Zabuthiri Sports Zone.

MNA

Exercise books donated to village BEPSs in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 23 June— Mohnyin Degree College donates exercise books to Basic Education Primary Schools of its surrounding areas yearly.

On 20 June, Principal of the degree college Dr Kyi Shwin and faculty members donated exercise books to BEPSs in Ywathitgon, Kantawgon and Htantabin villages. On behalf of the Township Education Officer, Headmistress Dr Wathan Myat Thin of Basic

Education High School No 1 and school heads of BEPSs attended the donation ceremony.

At the ceremony, exercise books worth K 300,000 were presented to students of respective BEPSs. Since its establishment in 2003, Mohnyin Degree College has been donating exercise books to village BEPSs and this year's donation was for the 10th time of its kind.

NLM 001



Mohnyin Degree College Principal Dr Kyi Shwin presents exercise books to students of Htantabin Basic Education Primary School.—NLM 001



AGM HELD: Annual General Meeting of Shwepon Win Trading Cooperative Ltd for 2011-2012 fiscal year was held at Basic Education Primary School No 32 in Ponnagon Ward of Tamway Township on 16 June. Chairman of the cooperative U Khin Maung Yi explains formation of cooperative limited.—MYANMA ALIN

Trafficked victims handed over to parents

TACHILEK, 23 June— Eight Myanmar women who fell the victim of human trafficking and then kept under care of the Homes of the Social Welfare Department of Thailand were handed back to Myanmar at No 1 Friendship Bridge in Tachilek on 20 June.

Assistant Director U Lin Htut of Additional State Office of Social Welfare Department, Chairman of Tachilek District

Women's Affairs Organization Dr Htay Htay Win, Staff Officer U Thein Lwin of Township Immigration and National Registration Department, IP Yin Yin Aye of Anti-Human Trafficking Squad and officials took back the victims.

Officials cordially met five women from Mongshu and three from Kunhing and gave cash assistance to them. Then, they were sent back to their parents.—Myanma Alin



26-June-2012

Nyaungshwe gets branch of Asia Green Development Bank

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June— A ceremony to open Nyaungshwe branch of Asia Green Development Bank was held in front of the bank branch in Nyaungshwe of Shan State yesterday morning.

It was attended by Shan State Chief Minister U Sao

Aung Myat, Shan State Minister for Finance and Revenue U Khun Thein Maung and Executive Director of Asia Green Development Bank U Ye Min Oo formally opened the bank branch and looked round there.

MNA

Monsoon tree-planting ceremony held in Mingaladon Tsp

YANGON, 23 June— To mark Myanmar Women's Day, a monsoon tree-planting ceremony took place in the compound of Pearl Hospital in Shwe Nantha Village in Mingaladon Township here this morning.

There, wife of Yangon Region Chief Minister Patron of Yangon Region

Women's Affairs Organization Daw Khin Thet Htay extended greetings. Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe, Yangon Region Women's Affairs Organization patrons and chairpersons presented a total of 550 saplings to those present at the ceremony.

MNA

Myanmar-Hong Kong business meeting on 26 June

YANGON, 23 June— Hong Kong businessmen led by Director Ms Tina Phan of Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) holds industry-wise meeting in cooperation with the Republic of the

Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at Rarkroyal Hotel on 26 June.

Those willing to attend the meeting are to enlist at UMFCOI Office not later than 25 June.—MNA



CASH DONATED: In memory of Daw Khin Mar Oo, U Soe Win and family donated K 1 million to fund for construction of Nagayon Buddha Image in compound of Maubin Home for the Aged on 17 June. Chairman of the Construction Committee U Soe Win accepts cash donation.

MYANMA ALIN

Union A & I Minister supplies staff with cash assistance

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing attended the ceremony to present cash assistance to officers and staff of the ministry, who are serving in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, held at the ministry here this morning.



Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint inspects preventive measures against dengue fever.

MNA

On the occasion, the Union Minister addressed, and Deputy Ministers for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than and U Khin Zaw followed.

The Union Minister, the deputy ministers presented assistance—one set of uniform, one blanket and K 10000 for each of 2376 staff—through the respective directors-general of the departments.—MNA

Yangon Mayor inspects DHF preventive measures

YANGON, 23 June—Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint inspected preventive measures against dengue fever in Tamway Township this morning.

The measures against the seasonal disease were also carried out in other

townships in the region.

The mayor then inspected sanitation tasks in the townships of Yangon Region.

He also visited construction sites of Ngamoyeik Bridge (Parami) and new market sheds.—MNA



**Myanmar Women's Day
3rd July**

Rainy-season tree-planting ceremony held in Ministry of Transport

NAY PYI TAW, 22 June—A ceremony to hold rainy-season tree-planting and put fingerlings by Ministry of Transport, took place at the

front of the Ministry here this morning. At the ceremony, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung and wife Daw Wai Wai planted a starflower plant in commemoration of the ceremony. And Deputy Minister U Win Shein and wife Daw Su Nyunt Oo also planted a Padauk plant.

After that, the Union Minister enjoyed tree-growing of departmental heads and their wives, and staff. The Union Minister and wife, the deputy minister and wife, the departmental heads and staff put fingerlings into No.33 dam. The ministry has been planting saplings in Nay Pyi Taw since 2006 and a total of 13550 plants have been planted and 35,000 fingerlings, put so far. The Ministry planted 550 saplings this year. —MNA

U Aung Zan. Wellwishers may make donation at the donation acceptance centre of Mandalay Region government at the region fire services department.

MNA



Myanmar volleyball team leaves for China

YANGON, 23 June—The Myanmar selected men's volleyball team led by Vice-President of Myanmar Volleyball Federation U Thein Win (General Manager of Asia World Co Ltd) left here by air this afternoon to take part in the 2012 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship to be held in Shanghai of China from 30 June to 8 July 2012.

The Myanmar selected

volleyball team comprises Chief Coach Mr Zhang Qun, Coach General Secretary U Nyi Nyi Lwin of Myanmar Volleyball Federation, trainer U Maung Zaw (Ministry of Home Affairs), players Kyaw Shwe and Win Tun Oo (SPED), Aung Thu (Ministry of Defence), Ye Min Aung, Aung Myat Tun, Do Maeni Ko, Kyaw Kyaw Htwe, Ye Yint Tun, Paing Tha (Ministry of Home Affairs), Sai Nyi Lay

(Immigration) and Zaw Htet Wai and Zaw Myo (Students).

A total of 17 contending teams are divided into four groups. Group B is constituted with Myanmar, Iran, Qatar and Uzbekistan.

In the debut, Myanmar will play against Qatar on 1 July. Before the championship, Myanmar plans to play tune-up matches with volleyball clubs in Guangzhou.—MNA

Translation manuscript set for Sarpay Beikman manuscript contest 2011

YANGON, 23 June—As the manuscripts have been invited for Sarpay Beikman manuscript contest 2011, three extracted chapters from Disaster Management by Dr Ratina Nagar was chosen for translation manuscript. The book is available at Sarpay Beikman bookshop, No.

529-531, Merchant Street, here for 255 kyats.

The manuscript will be accepted only with designated form and pamphlets describing rules for the contest are sold at Sarpay Beikman for 100 kyats. Those from other townships wishing to order through mail may send

money order of 800 kyats inclusive of the book addressing to the secretary of the Sarpay Beikman manuscript award scrutiny board (Ph: 01-376569, 01-381449).

The manuscript for the translation category is to be sent by 15 September, 2012. MNA

Cash donated to people of Rakhine State

MANDALAY, 23 June—Chinese Yunnan Buddhist Temple donated cash for people who lost shelters and properties due to recent incidents in Rakhine State at Mandalay Region Fire Services Department at the corner of 29th Street and 81st Street yesterday evening.

Present on the occasion were Region Planning and Economic Minister U Aung San, Director of No.1 Region/State Fire Services

Department Command Division U Aung Kyaw Myint, head of Region Fire Services Department U Kyi Toe and Chairman of Chinese Yunnan Buddhist Temple U Kyaw Sein and members and donors.

The Buddhist temple chairman donated K 5 million for the sufferers through region minister

Students in Kyaiklat get knowledge on traffic rules

KYAIKLAT, 23 June—As Pyapon District of Ayeyawady Region is implementing the traffic rule education period for local people to be free from traffic dangers, educative talk was held at the hall of Basic Education High School No 1

in Kyaiklat on 15 June morning.

At the ceremony, in-charge of Pyapon District Traffic Police Corps IP Chit Sein gave talks on traffic rules. A similar talk was given at Kyaiklat BEHS No 2 in the afternoon.—District IPRD



Agricultural loans disbursed to local farmers



Hlaingbwe, 23 June—Manager of Hlaingbwe Township Myanma Agricultural Development Bank Branch of Kayin State U Tun Tun Oo and staff disbursed K 23150000 to 58 farmers from Partkyaw Village-tract on 15 June.

The bank disburses K 50,000 per acre in 2012 rainy paddy cultivation.—Township MADB

Winners in article and photo contests announced

YANGON, 23 June—Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation yesterday announced winners in article and photo contests hailing Myanmar Women's Day that falls on 3 July.

Ma Aye Myat Myat (Aye Myat Myat-University of Foreign Languages) won first prize in the article

contest while Aung Naing Win (SPED) stood first in the photo contest.

Winners are awarded at the Myanmar Women's Day ceremony on 3 July. They are required to report MWAF in Nay Pyi Taw (Ph: 067-419174 and Fax: 067419179) not later than 28 June.—MNA

School uniforms presented to students

MEIKTILA, 23 June—Meiktila Township Development Affairs Committee of Mandalay Region held school uniforms presentation to students of vendors for 2012-2013 at Kandaw Mingala Hall in Meiktila on 14 June.

At the ceremony, Executive Officer U Than Aye and loan committee member presented school uniforms worth K 510,000 to 102 students.—Myanma Alin

Drive carefully

Essay, painting and poster contest held at Yankin Education College



YANGON, 23 June—In commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which falls on 26 June, the essay, painting, cartoon and poster contest

was held at Yankin Education College in Yankin Township of Yangon East District on 15 June.

Under the supervision

of Yankin Township General Administration Department and Yangon Region Volunteer Drug Supervisory Committee, a total of 54 trainees from the college and 47 students from Education College Practising Middle School participated in the contest.

Chairman of the Yangon Region Association U San Shein and executives, U Win Aung of Township General Administration Department and township level departmental officials viewed participation of students in the contest.

SWD

YCDC to grow over 365,000 saplings

YANGON, 23 June—A plan is under way to grow 365,000 shade trees and windbreak for keeping Yangon green and pleasant in rainy season from 1 June to 31 July, said Head of Parks and Playgrounds Department of Yangon City Development Committee U Tin Pe.

It was reported that the department will grow 365,441 shade, windbreak and flowery plants in four districts. Saplings of shade plants and windbreak are being nurtured at Hanthawady, 6-1/2 miles and Hlawga parks and flowery and seasonal plants at Resistance Park, Thuwunna and Kandawmingala Park.

The department will grow over 1 million of 15 species of flowery and seasonal plants at the parks, roundabouts, traffic islands and pavements in Yangon the whole year.

Kyemon

Limited Store opened in Dawbon Township

YANGON, 23 June—Dawbon Township Cooperative Syndicate of Yangon Region opened the Limited Store in commemoration of the International Cooperative Day on Yamonna Street in Dawbon Township on 21 morning.

Deputy Director U Hla Han of Yangon Region Cooperative Department formally opened the store.

Swe Swe Naing (MNA)

DISTRICT NEWS

CASH DONATED: Graduate officers of *Thiha Company at No. 85 Officer Training Course* donated K 200,000 to *Aye Yeikmon Nunnery and Home for the Female Orphanage in Aungmyaythazan Township of Mandalay* on 9 June.—MNA



Cash, books donated to village library in Ingapu Township

INGAPU, 23 June—A ceremony to donate cash and books to Shwe Myintmo Library was held in Nyaungon Village of Ingapu Township in Hinthada District on 10 June

afternoon.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Hlwan Moe Han made a speech. Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Htay Win and Staff Officer of District Information and Public Relations Department U Win Shein gave talks on durability of the library and increase of books.

Next, wellwisher U San Myat and family of Shwe Myintmo Robe House donated 700,000 and Dr Kyaw Shwe and family of Hinthada 200 copies of books.

Secretary of the library committee U Kyaw Aung

Htay handed over documents related to Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Thi Thi Shein.

The library, 24 feet long and 14 feet wide, was built at a cost of K 1 million by the State and K 1.5 million by the people.

Township Administrator U Hlwan Moe Han, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Maung Maung Soe, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Htay Win and Staff Officer of District IPRD U San Myat formally opened the library.—Township IPRD

Drug possessor seized in Hopin

YANGON, 23 June—Member of Myitkyina Anti-Drug Special Squad of Kachin State together with witnesses searched the hut near Thebyuchaug forest in Myayzeya Ward in Hopin Sub-Township of Mohnyin Township on 9 June morning.

At the hut, Kyaw Myo Lwin, 38 of Setkon Ward in Hopin Sub-township hacked Constable Thurein Tun with the use of 20 inches sword. The policeman was injured at his right arm.

Although the authorities concerned urged Kyaw Myo Lwin to give up, the latter continued attacks. So, the leader of the squad shot his right knee. In the incident, powder like heroin weighing 0.5 gram, one penicillin bottle and 0.001

gram of expected heroin in one box and K 161,000.

Injured Constable Thurein Tun and Kyaw Myo Lwin were rushed to

Hopin People's Hospital. The authorities concerned takes action against the offender.

Yi Yi Myint (MNA)



STUDENTS HONOURED: A ceremony to honour outstanding students in 2011-2012 academic year was held at North Okkalapa General and Teaching Hospital on 19 June. Medical Superintendent Dr Tin Win Kyaw presents prize to three-distinction winner Ma May Pwint Phu Thwe, daughter matron Daw Khin May Win.—KYEMON

Talks on Ca Cevix on 24 June

YANGON, 23 June—A talk on endoscopic surgical operations for Ca Cervix will be given at Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon from 9 am to 11 am on 24 June.

OG specialists from Pacific Healthcare Singapore will give talks.

Those wishing to attend the talk may take out invitation cards from Room 203 of IHBC on the first floor at 365/367 on Upper Block of Bo Aung Kyaw Street in Kyauktada Township, free of charge.—Swe Swe Naing-MNA



Trees grown in village of Thanatpin Township

THANATPIN, 23 June—The tree growing ceremony was held in Phayegy Village of Thanatpin Township of Bago Region on 6 June.

The ceremony was participated by Senior Forester U Thein Shwe of the Township Forest Department, village-tract administrator U Aung Ko Latt and local people, Headmistress Daw Tin Nwe Oo of Basic Education Post-Primary School and students. They planted 600 Eucalyptus plants for establishment of one-acre forest per acre.

Township Forest

Rainy season tree growing ceremony at YWTU

YANGON, 23 June—Yangon West Technological University in Hlinethaya Township and Forest Department in Insein Township jointly organized the 2012 monsoon season tree growing ceremony at the university on 19 June.

Rector (Duty) of the university Dr Theingi made a speech. Staff Officer U Myint Aung of Township Forest Department explained the purpose of holding the tree growing ceremony.

Later, the rector (duty) and faculty members, staff of the Township Forest Department and students grew over 500 saplings.—Myanma Alin





Smoke is seen from the attacked hotel in the Qargha Lake, a picnic spot on the western outskirts of Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, on 22 June, 2012. — XINHUA

Kenya wildlife agency decries death of lions due to human wildlife conflict

NAIROBI, 23 June—The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) on Friday decried the loss of lions to both poachers and incidences of human wildlife conflict. KWS Assistant Director Paul Mbugua told journalists in Nairobi that the estimated population of lions in the country stands at 2000 with 30 of them at the Nairobi National Park. “KWS is concerned that rapid population growth has seen humans encroach on wildlife migratory paths leading to loss of wildlife, including lions,” Mbugua told journalists in Nairobi.

According to the wildlife agency, the country has lost nine lions, six alone in the past week and four elephants since January due to conflicts with people. Data from KWS also indicates that total wildlife mortality resulting from human wildlife conflict since January is 50, including 26 primates. Mbugua noted that

areas that were once inhabited by wildlife have now been occupied by humans leading to increasing conflict. “Since the beginning of the year, 18 people have lost their lives as a result of human wildlife conflict, while another 65 have suffered injuries,” the assistant director said.

On Tuesday, angry residents at a local village in the outskirts of Nairobi spearheaded investigations to ascertain the cause of the deaths and also dispatched rangers and a veterinary capture teams to search for the lions who escaped during the incident. Mbugua noted that some communities are still engaging in the age old practice of killing lions in order to show their prowess but it results in loss of precious resource for the country.—Xinhua



A woman prepares to export butterfly pupae in a hatchery in Cali on 21 June, 2012. Alas de Colombia is a company dedicated to the breeding, conservation and export of native butterflies which are used for gifts and, when they die naturally, are also used to create accessories and crafts. — REUTERS

Russia confirms three new ISS crew members

Moscow, 23 June—Russia confirmed Friday three new crew members for the International Space Station (ISS). They were NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko and Japanese astronaut Akihito Hoshide, a spokesman for Russia's Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center told reporters. The new crew members have passed all of the exams at the training center and Russia's Soyuz TMA-05M rocket has been scheduled to take them to the ISS from the Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan on 15 July, the spokesman said.

The backup members for the new crew also were announced and include Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko, Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield and NASA astronaut Thomas Marshburn. The new crew members will join the current ISS crew, which includes Russian cosmonauts Gennady Padalka and Sergei Revin and NASA astronaut Joe Acaba, who have been in orbit since mid-May.

Xinhua

Yemeni security forces detain local al-Qaeda leader

ADEN, 23 June—A local leader of Yemen-based al-Qaeda branch was arrested by soldiers of Yemeni security apparatus on the outskirts of southern port city of Aden, a police officer said on Friday. Security soldiers managed to capture a leading member of the al-Qaeda terrorist group suspected of links to a suicide bombing attack that killed a high-ranking military commander earlier this week in Aden, the local police officer told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. “Sami Dayyan, the captured al-Qaeda leader, was behind assassinating Major General Salim Qatan, the commander of military forces in southern regions last Monday. He masterminded and planned the suicide operation,” the police officer said. “Two of his bodyguards were also arrested while they were attempting to sneak into Aden by a pick-up truck filled with explosives and suicide belts,” he added. Last Monday, the al-Qaeda group claimed responsibility for assassinating Major General Salim Qatan, the commander of military forces in south Yemen.—Xinhua

Death toll of Taliban attack on hotel in Kabul rises to 23: Afghan gov't

KABUL, 23 June—The death toll of a Taliban attack on a hotel in Afghan capital of Kabul has risen to 23, the Afghan Interior Ministry said in a statement on Friday evening. “The terror attack on Spozhmai Hotel in Qargha Lake has left 18 people including 17 civilians and a policeman dead,” the ministry said in a statement. The clash, according to the statement, began at 11:00 pm local time on Thursday when the attackers occupied the hotel building, overlooking the lake, some 10 km west of Kabul, and was over at 10:30 am on Friday.

“The five suicide attackers opened indiscriminate gun fire on guests and hotel servants shortly after occupying the building besides holding several civilian hostages,” the statement said, adding that five more people including four civilians and a policeman were injured in the incident.

Meantime, Afghan President Hamid Karzai, Interior Minister Basimullah Mohammadi and the top US and NATO commander in the country General John R. Allen have strongly condemned the attack.

General Allen blamed the Haqqani network for the attack. A Taliban-affiliated group of militants, the Haqqani network which mostly operates in eastern Afghan provinces and capital Kabul, has been responsible for many high-profile attacks including suicide bombings and Improvised Explosive Device (IED) against security forces. Taliban insurgents claimed responsibility for the attack. The Taliban-led insurgency has been rampant since the militant group announced that it would launch a spring rebel offensive dubbed “Al-Farooq” from 3 May this year against Afghan and NATO-led troops stationed in Afghanistan.—Xinhua

Russia rejects artificial timetable for Iranian nuclear talks

ST. PETERSBURG, 23 June—No artificial timetable to solve the Iranian nuclear issue should be set, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday.

“It seems the process is underway. The talks should not be protracted, but it is wrong to set some artificial deadlines and ultimatums saying like ‘unless by July or August the final agreement is reached’ — which is definitely impossible in such

terms, — ‘we shall cut the negotiations and start some belligerent actions’,” Lavrov told Russia-24 TV channel.

He said that threats to use force against Iran were not helping the situation, adding that the Moscow talks between Iran and the six world powers on 18-19 June were useful. “There were no agreements reached on the essence of the Iranian nuclear problem, but the meeting, from our point of view, was

quite useful,” Lavrov said. During the Moscow talks, Iran and the P5+1 group, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany, thoroughly exchanged their views and agreed to meet again in Istanbul in July at the expert level. The Western countries suspect that Iran is developing nuclear bombs under the cover of its nuclear programme, while Iran insists on the programme's peaceful nature.—Xinhua



A dog owner guides her dog onstage during the 24th annual World's Ugliest Dog Contest at the Sonoma-Marin Fair in Petaluma, California, on 22 June, 2012.

REUTERS

Turkish military plane lost over Mediterranean Sea, pilots in good condition

ANKARA, 23 June—The Turkish general staff said Friday that a military aircraft disappeared on radar over the Mediterranean Sea. The warplane, carrying two pilots, was found crashed into Syrian territorial waters, said local Dogan News Agency, adding that the two pilots have been rescued by forces.

The pilots, located in the Mediterranean Sea, were in good health, according to a report posted on the website of Turkish newspaper Hurriyet Daily News. Turkish search and rescue teams are waiting for Syrian authorities' permission to enter the area to further locate the plane, Dogan said, adding that the Mediterranean naval units of Turkey are now approaching

the area. The military plane disappeared on radar at 11:58 am local time (0858 GMT) in the southwest of Turkey's southern Hatay Province after it departed from southern Malatya-Erhaç airbase one and a half hours ago, the Turkish general staff said in a statement.—Xinhua

Participants take part during a rehearsal for the Chinese Queen beauty pageant contest in Panama City on 22 June, 2012. Nine participants will compete in Panama's annual Chinese Queen contest on Saturday, and the winner will represent Panama in this year's Central American Chinese Queen contest held in Guatemala, according to the organizers.—REUTERS



CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOYNO (451)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOYNO (451) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.6.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Slowest Greenland sharks hunts sleeping prey

LONDON, 23 June — Researchers have measured the swimming speed of the ocean's slowest shark. Data-logging tags revealed that Greenland sharks "cruise" at 0.34m per second—less than 1mph.

The study showed that, even when the languid fish embarks on a burst of speed in order to hunt, it is far too slow to catch a swimming seal. Since the species is known to eat seals, the scientists think it probably "sneaks up on them" as they sleep under the water. The Greenland shark was already known to be the world's slowest swimming shark, but its sluggishness surprised the scientists.

Yuuki Watanabe from the National Institute of Polar Research in Tokyo, who took part in the study, said that, when you account for the size of its body, it is the slowest fish in the ocean.

Previous research had revealed seal remains in the stomachs of the sharks. "It was hard to understand," he told BBC Nature, "because [it would seem] impossible for them to catch fast-swimming seals."

The researcher joined Dr Kit Kovacs and Dr Christian Lydersen from the Norwegian Polar Institute, to tag Greenland sharks in the waters off Svalbard.

The study, published in the Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology, was the latest part of an ongoing mission by the Norwegian researchers to find out what has been killing the harbour seals off Svalbard's coast.

It was thought that Greenland sharks simply fed on the carcasses of dead seals on the seafloor, but the team recently discovered evidence that they were taking live seals.—Internet

Air France announced on Thursday plans to shed more than 5,000 jobs, about 10 percent of its workforce, by 2014. The struggling Franco-Dutch airline, which posted an \$809 million loss in 2011, said all departures would be voluntary. — INTERNET



PARIS, 23 June—French airline Air France said Thursday it is to cut over 5,000 jobs or around 10

percent of its workforce in voluntary departures by 2014. A total of 5,122 jobs will be shed and the struggling carrier said in a statement that all departures would be voluntary provided a new framework agreement can be signed with unions.

"Air France has chosen to work in complete transparency and to privilege social dialogue to find

structural and sustainable solutions, included in corporate agreements," it said.

If new framework agreements are signed by staff then "Air France has pledged not to make redundancies and to implement various measures to support the necessary reduction in staff numbers," it said. The struggling Franco-Dutch carrier Air France-KLM has launched a major cost-saving programme after posting a loss of 809 million euros (\$1.0 billion) for 2011 and a first quarter net loss in 2012 of 368 million euros. Shares in Air France-KLM shot up by 6.0 percent after the job cuts announcement.

The company said that the new framework

agreement is "a major condition of the company's recovery" and the carrier needs to increase economic efficiency by 20 percent by the end of 2014. Air France said the Central Works Council would have draft agreements for signing by unions on 28 June.

"If the agreements are signed, the accompanying measures to reduce staff numbers will exclude the use of forced departures before the end of 2013," Air France said. The efficacy of the plan will be evaluated in the second half of 2013 and if the 20 percent improvement is achieved "the use of forced departures will also be avoided in 2014," the company said.

Internet

S Korea, US conduct joint drills in Yellow Sea

SEOUL, 23 June—Forces from South Korea and the United States launched combined maritime maneuver drills on Saturday in the Yellow Sea with the participation of the US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the USS George Washington. According to Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), the three-day exercises mobilized about 10 warships and submarines. Apart from the carrier George Washington, South Korea's King Sejong destroyer also took part in the drills.

The drills, taking place near a South Korean island off the west coast town of Taean in the Yellow Sea, also involved some 8,000 personnel from the two allies' navies and airforces, along with South Korea's F-15K fighter jets and the US F-18 Super Hornet aircraft. The intention of the exercises is to boost the operability of the combined forces between the two allies, the JCS said. According to the plan, the two sides will conduct maneuvers to jointly detect. The exercises came as a follow-up of a two-day, trilateral naval drill with Japan in waters off South Korea's



A tank is seen during a media day of the live-fire drill in Pocheon, northeast of Seoul, on 19 June, 2012. South Korea and the United States staged their largest-ever live-fire drill on Friday amid lingering tensions on the Korean peninsula. — XINHUA

southern island of Jeju which just ended on Friday.

Also on Friday, the two allies held their largest-ever live-fire drill in Pocheon. The series of military drills came amid persistent tensions on the peninsula in April, which was seen as a cover for a long-range missile test and drew condemnation from the UN Security Council. —Xinhua

The team
fitted six
Greenland
sharks
with data-
loggers.
INTERNET



One NATO soldier killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 23 June—One NATO soldier was killed on Friday following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan, the military alliance confirmed.

"An International Security Assistance Force service member died following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan today," the NATO-led ISAF said in a press release issued on Friday. The brief statement did not provide more details and the nationality of the victim, only saying "it is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities."

The Taliban insurgents, who have been waging more than a decade-long insurgency, announced on 2 May that they would launch a spring rebel offensive starting on 3 May to target Afghan forces as well as US and NATO troops across the country. A total of 208 NATO soldiers with the majority of them Americans have been killed in Afghanistan so far this year.

Xinhua

Rising sea levels to hit California hard by 2100

WASHINGTON, 23 June—Seas could rise higher along the California coastline this century than in other places in the world, increasing the risk of flooding and storm damage, dune erosion and wetland destruction, the US National Research Council reported on Friday. Rising sea levels have long been seen as a consequence of climate change, because as the world warms, glaciers melt and contribute water to

the Earth's oceans. At the same time, ocean waters tend to expand as they heat, pushing sea levels higher.

The report looked at how much seas could rise by 2100 along the US West Coast, and found that the water off California's coast from the Mexican border to Cape Mendocino could rise between 16.5 inches and 66 inches by century's end, compared to what they were in 2000. The high end of the

range is higher than the projection for the global rise in sea levels, which runs from about 20 inches to 55 inches, scientists said in the report.

That global range is higher than predictions made in 2007 by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: between 7 inches and 23 inches, with an additional 6.7 inches if rapid changes in ice flow are part of the calculation.

MNA/Reuters

Changi Airport inks JV for four Russian airports

SINGAPORE, 23 June—Singapore's Changi Airports International, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Singapore Airport Group, announced on Friday a joint venture (JV) agreement for a 30 percent stake in a company in developing four airports in Russia.

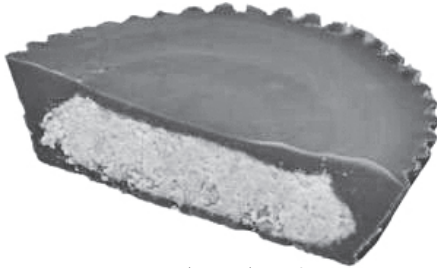
The other two shareholders of the JV are Russian giant Basia Element Group and Russia's largest bank Sberbank, with respective stakes of 50 percent and 20 percent.

The JV will invest in and further develop four airports in Russia, including airports of Sochi, Krasnodar, Anapa and Gelendzhik, which have the joint value over 500 million US dollars, according to the joint Press release. Changi Airports International has long been involved in investments of various airports throughout the world and consulting services to foreign airports.—MNA/Xinhua

Thief repeatedly targets Reese's cups

Police in Ohio said they are searching for a man who stole \$400 to \$600 worth of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups and chips from a gas station over several months. Lorain police said the man has been coming to the Sunoco gas station on Oberlin Avenue during the past several months, usually after midnight, and running off with the candy and chips before clerks can contact police, the *Lorain Morning Journal* reported.

The most recent incident took place at 1 am, on 20, June police said. The suspect was described as a black man, estimated to be 18 years old, standing at 5 feet, 10 inches and weighing about 140 pounds.



An Ohio robber stole \$400 to \$600 of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups and chips from a gas station.

Lily Allen recording new album

LONDON, 23 June—British pop singer Lily Allen announced via Twitter she is working on a new album.

This will be her first new music since her second album, "It's Not Me, It's You," which was produced by Greg Kurstin, was released in 2009, the BBC said.

The 27-year-old recording artist suffered a miscarriage in 2010 and celebrated the birth of her daughter in 2011.

"You will be pleased to



British singer Lily Allen

know that I am currently in the studio with @GregKurstin," Allen wrote via Twitter this week. "No big deal really, I'm just throwing stuff at the wall and seeing if anything sticks."

Internet

Nick Stahl's wife ends search



Actor Nick Stahl has gone missing twice in the last two months. INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 23 June—Nick Stahl's wife told TMZ on Thursday she has stopped looking for the Hollywood actor, who has been missing for more than a week after leaving rehab.

Rose Stahl reported the "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines" and "In the Bedroom" star missing twice in the past two months.

The 32-year-old actor checked into rehab to be treated for drug addiction after going missing the first time but walked out of the facility last week against doctors' orders and hasn't contacted his loved ones since.

Rose Stahl told TMZ she

is no longer actively trying to find her husband and bring him home. "I'm backing off," she said. "He knows exactly where home is. It's the loving thing to do for him, myself and our daughter."

Internet

Wynonna Judd marries Cactus Moser

LEIPER'S FORK, 23 June—Country music star Wynonna Judd married musician Cactus Moser, her boyfriend of three years, on her farm in Leiper's Fork, Tenn., UsMagazine.com reported. The bride, 48, wore an Hourai Barahimi dress and went barefoot for the June 10 wedding, which her famous mother Naomi and Sister Ashley did not attend, the magazine said Wednesday. However, Grace, 16, and Elijah, 17 — her children from a previous marriage — were on hand to help her celebrate her big day. Moser, 55, is a drummer in Judd's band, The Big Noise.—Internet

Zoo apes get stimulation from iPad apps

Officials at the Houston Zoo said the "Apps for Apes" program, which provides apes with iPad apps designed for children, helps mentally stimulate the primates.

Zookeepers said the facility is the first in Texas to participate in the "Apps for Apes" programme, which was developed by New York primate advocacy group Orangutan Outreach and pioneered at zoos in Wisconsin and Toronto. The programme helps to stimulate the primates mentally in the absence of wild conditions, the Houston Chronicle reported.

"Chimps and orangutans and



other apes are very intelligent," chimp keeper Helen Boostrom said. "In the wild, the problems they must solve are finding food

and shelter. They don't have to do that at the zoo. This is enrichment. It helps them use their minds."

Zoo spokesman Brian Hill said zookeepers have noticed similar reactions in apes and human children when they solve the puzzles on the iPad apps.

"You see the same reaction on their faces when they solve a problem and get something right," he said.

News Album

Man stuck upside down in tree

Firefighters in Alaska said they were called to rescue a man who was stuck dangling upside-down about 25 to 30 feet up a tree.

The Fairbanks Fire Department said the 53-year-old man, whose name was

not released, climbed the tree next to the old Ice Park site on Phillips Field Road for exercise because "it was something he wanted to do," The Fairbanks Daily News Miner reported Thursday.

The man said he used

foot spikes and a belly belt to climb the tree and ended up stuck upside down when he leaned back to rest.

The Fire Department rescued the man using a platform/ladder truck.

"He had a cellphone on

a lanyard around his neck and called his buddy who called 911," the Fire Department said in a news release. "It was suggested that when he does this in future he not do it alone ... have a buddy with him. He picked up his gear once medics checked him and walked back to his car. Everyone then went home."

'Sherlock Holmes' tops DVD sales chart

LOS ANGELES, 23 June—"Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" is the top-selling DVD in the United States, Rentrak reported on Thursday.

Coming in at No 2 on the DVD and Blu-ray sales chart for the week ending on 17 June is "Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance," followed by "Safe House" at No 3, "Act of Valor" at No 4 and "John Carter" at No 5.

Rounding out the top tier are "Tyler Perry's Good Deeds" at No 6, "Journey 2: The Mysterious Island" at No 7, "True Blood: The Complete Fourth Season" at No 8, "Tyler Perry's Aunt Bam's Place" at No 9 and "Game of Thrones: The Complete First Season" at No 10.

"Safe House" is the No 1 DVD and Blu-ray rental for the week ended on 16 June. "Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance" is No 2, "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" is No 3, "Man on a Ledge" is No 4, "This Means War" is No 5, "Act of Valor" is No 6, "John Carter" is No 7, "Journey 2: The Mysterious Island" is No 8, "The Grey" is No 9 and "Gone" is No 10.—Internet



American actor Robert Downey Jr., Swedish actress Noomi Rapace and British actor Jude Law attend the premiere of "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" at Empire, Leicester Square in London on 8 Dec, 2011. INTERNET

Forbes: Stewart is highest paid actress



Actress Kristen Stewart earned \$34.5 million in the past year.—INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 23 June—Forbes says Hollywood starlet Kristen Stewart earned \$34.5 million between May 2011 and May 2012, putting her at the top of its list of highest-paid actresses. Stewart, 22, is the female lead of the "Twilight" film

franchise and also recently headlined "Snow White and the Huntsman."

Cameron Diaz came in at No 2 on the Forbes list with \$34 million, followed by Sandra Bullock at No 3 with \$25 million, Angelina Jolie at No 4 with \$20 million and Charlize Theron at No 5 with \$18 million. Rounding out the top tier are Julia Roberts at No 6 with \$16 million, Sarah Jessica Parker at No 7 with \$15 million, Meryl Streep and Kristen Wiig tied at No 8 with \$12 million, and Jennifer Aniston at No 9 with \$11 million.—Internet

'Sesame Street' movie in the works

LOS ANGELES, 23 June—20th Century Fox is developing a film based on the classic American children's television series "Sesame Street," The Hollywood Reporter said. Joey Mazzarino, a longtime writer on the show, is writing the script, while Shawn Levy and his 21 Laps production company, Michael Aguilair, Mark Gordon and Film 360's Guymon Casady are producing the picture.

The series premiered in 1969 and is a mix of live-action, animation and Jim Henson puppets such as Big Bird, Elmo, Oscar the Grouch, Cookie Monster and Bert and Ernie.

The show has inspired two previous movies — "Follow That Bird" in 1985 and "The Adventures of Elmo

in Grouchland" in 1999.

The Hollywood Reporter said Fox had no comment on its story about a possible third installment in the big-screen "Sesame Street" franchise.

The entertainment industry trade newspaper did not say on which characters the new movie would focus or what the story might be.

Internet



Elmo and Big Bird (R) attend the 150th birthday celebration for Macy's department store in New York on 28 Oct, 2008. INTERNET

Wynonna Judd signs copies of her new book "Restless Heart" at Borders Books and Music at Time Warner Centre in New York on 25 Jan, 2011. INTERNET



Germany thrashes Greece to reach Euro 2012 semis

GDANSK, 23 June — Germany showed their champion-level strength by sweeping past Greece 4-2 to reach Euro 2012 semifinals on Friday night. Philipp Lahm's powerful strike, Sami Khedira's volley, Miroslav Klose's header and Marco Reus' last shot inspired Germany to keep 100% record at this tournament and play either England or Italy in the last-four battle in Warsaw on 28 June. "No matter whom we will meet, the next step for us is to go to the finals. We want to achieve it," said German playmaker Mesut Oezil, who was voted as the man of the match.

Greece, who upset Russia to progress from Group A, failed to find their rhythm throughout this lop-sided match despite being boosted by Giorgos Samaras' equalizer and Dimitris Salpingidis' late penalty. Germany has refreshed their advantageous record against Greece by six wins and three draws, igniting the passion of their fanatic supporters at the 39,150-capacity Gdansk Arena, where German Chancellor Angela Merkel also appeared in the stands. "The Chancellor showed her praises and congratulations to us," added by Oezil.

Germany head coach Joachim Low made a bold selection by giving four changes to his starting lineup for the encounter. Jerome Boateng returned from suspension to his regular right defending role while two young wingers Marco Reus, Andre Schuerrle and veteran Miroslav Klose all made their first appearances. "Though they put in many new faces, they are equally good as the first-choice players. As I said before the tournament, Germany and Spain are favorites to win the title. Low made a right decision to give chances to young players," said Greece's head coach Fernando Santos. The youngest squad at this tournament started solid and gave no chance to the opponents, dominating the game with a near 70% possession and 26 shots in total, which are three times of Greece.

The fullback Lahm showed his attacking talent with six minutes left in the first half. The German captain cut in from left flank, rounded a defender and struck a swerving shot near the edge of the area to send the ball in the dead corner. Greece launched a counterattack 10 minutes into the second half when left winger Samaras ran onto a sharp pass to the near post and made a cool finish before a desperate save from



Mesut Oezil (R) of Germany vies with Kostas Katsouranis of Greece during the quarterfinal match between Germany and Greece at the Euro 2012 football championships in Gdansk, Poland, on 22 June, 2012. —XINHUA

Manuel Neuer. However, the fans of Greece got another blow just after six minutes when Khedira in the middle of the area connected well with Jerome Boateng's pass to deliver a volley and restore Germany's lead.

The starting forward Klose proved his value in the 68th minute when he grabbed a header in the area to make it 3-1 and leave no suspense for the match. Greece produced their last goal in the tournament by a well-placed penalty in the last minute of regular time after the young gun Reus fired in a Germany's fourth goal in the area. "I just thought about the change after the group campaign. Greece knew our formation well. So today I wanted to make our team unpredictable. I fielded onto three different type players. All of them did well," said coach Low. Germany are now on a run of 15 consecutive competitive victories, refreshing their national team record. "We are in the fourth successive semifinals in big tournaments (2006, 2008 and 2010).

We won 15 official games in a row. No one would think about that after 2004. The team are very young and have great future. I was proud of what they did today," added by the coach. For the next opponent England or Italy, Low said every team in the last four had the talents to win the title. "England are well organized and dangerous in counter-attack. Italy are great in the back. Just a small thing can decide the match in this level. We don't allow that to happen." — Xinhua

All favourites move on easily at trials

EUGENE, 23 June—Sanya Richards-Ross stepped over a puddle, ran hard for a few more steps, then jogged to the finish line for an easy win. A routine result Friday at the rain-drenched Olympic trials that left one of America's biggest track stars with nothing to complain about. Well, almost nothing. "Other than it messing up my hair, it's OK," she said. Richards-Ross ran her qualifying heat in the 400 meters in 51.69 seconds, winning by 0.55 seconds even though she jogged to the finish. "We all have to compete in it," said Richards-Ross, who will also try to qualify in the 200 next week. "Whatever it is, go out here and put in your best show." A few minutes earlier, Merritt, the defending Olympic champion at 400 meters, took to the rain-slickened track, sidestepped a runner who fell in the lane next to him and finished in 45.36 seconds, the best time in the men's heats. "I saw him and I had to do a little step more toward the inside of my lane, where I should've been in the first place," Merritt said.



Sanya Richards-Ross leads the way in the women's 400m preliminary at the US Olympic Track and Field Trials on 22 June, 2012, in Eugene, Ore. — INTERNET

International Sports

Sweden's Jacobson eyes repeat at storm-hit PGA event



Fredrick Jacobson of Sweden makes his shot toward the 1st green during the 2012 Travelers Championship at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, Connecticut. Jacobson of Sweden fired a four-under par 66 to seize a one-stroke lead in Friday's storm-halted second round of the US PGA Travellers Championship. — INTERNET

CONNECTICUT, 23 June — Defending champion Fredrik Jacobson of Sweden fired a four-under par 66 to seize a one-stroke lead in Friday's storm-halted second round of the

US PGA Travelers Championship. Despite closing with a bogey, Jacobson was the clubhouse leader after 36 holes at nine-under 131 in the \$6 million event at TPC River Highlands.

Jacobson could match Phil Mickelson from 2001 and 2002 as the only players to defend a title in the event's 60-year history. "It's easy to start thinking about the finish line already and I can see that," Jacobson said. "Any tournament it's tough to win. To win two in a row is probably tougher." But you have the thing going for you that you have some good memories to draw from, so hopefully that increase your chances."

Australian Nathan Green and American Charley Hoffman were on the course at eight-under par when storms halted play with 77 players yet to finish their second round. Green birdied five of the last seven holes on the front nine but has yet to finish the back nine. Hoffman, who began on the back nine and has 12 holes to play, had birdied five holes in a row when play was stopped. — Internet

Herman back on the right track at PHS Wichita Open

WICHITA, 23 June—Jim Herman wasn't happy with his performance at last week's U7 Open at The Olympic Club, finishing 36 holes at 10-over and missing the cut. So he came to Wichita for this week's Nationwide Tour event determined to do something about it. If his first 36 holes this week are any indication, Herman is definitely on the right track.

After posting a 66 in the afternoon yesterday, the 34-year-old Herman used a run of five consecutive birdies on Crestview Country Club's back nine to shoot 64 on Friday, one of four players to record a 7-under score in Round 2. Herman's bogey-

free score of 12-under 130 for the first 36 holes led to a two-stroke lead over Stanford product Joseph Bramlett, a runner-up earlier this year at the Chile Classic presented by Pacific Rubiales, and veteran Robert Damron, the winner of the 2001 Verizon Byron Nelson Classic on the PGA TOUR and the 2008 Athens Regional Foundation Classic on the Nationwide Tour.

Herman's stretch of consecutive birdies on the back nine started with a five-footer at the short par-4 11th after almost driving the green. He then holed 15- and 25-foot birdie putts and the next two par-4s before two-putting from 20 feet for birdie at the

par-5 14th. His last birdie of the day came at the par-4 15th when he holed an eight-foot putt.

Herman's two-day total this week was also just one stroke off Camilo Benedetti's best first 36 holes on the 2012 Nationwide Tour, recorded at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open. The Palm City, Fla resident was a 36-hole co-leader earlier this year at the Stadion Classic at the University of Georgia tournament and eventually finished solo sixth in Athens. His only victory on the Nationwide Tour came at the 2010 Moonah Classic in Australia where he was the solo leader after the first two days. — Internet

Andy Roddick earns 600th career win

EASTBOURNE, 23 June—Andy Roddick claimed his 600th career singles win and reached the Eastbourne final when Steve Darcis retired on Friday after receiving treatment on his back. Roddick was leading 6-3, 3-1 when Darcis stopped, sending the American into his first final since winning Memphis in February 2011.

Roddick next faces third-seeded Andreas Seppi, who beat American Ryan Harrison 7-5, 6-1.

On the women's side, unseeded Tamira Paszek of Austria rallied to beat defending champion Marion Bartoli 4-6, 7-5, 6-4. Paszek's opponent in the final is fifth-seeded Angelique Kerber of Germany, who beat Klara

Zakopalova of the Czech Republic 6-0, 6-3. Players had great difficulty in gusts up to 50 mph. Sixth-seeded Roddick was in control throughout against Darcis.

The Belgian dropped his serve at the start of the second set after leading 40-0, and retired after playing three more games.

Internet



Andy Roddick



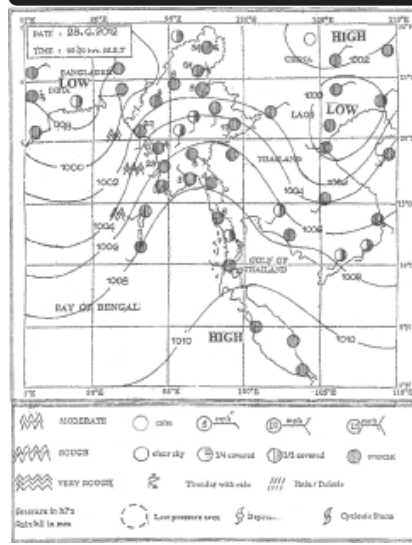
The closing ceremony for the 3rd Asian Beach Games is held in Haiyang, east China's Shandong Province, on 22 June, 2012. — XINHUA

Focus Myanmar TV Programme**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL****(24-6-12 09:30 am ~ 25-6-12 09:30 am) MST**

- * News
- * 12 Sign Ascendants in July 2012
- * News
- * Brainstorming Boys & Girls
- * News
- * Ho Chi Minh City Expo 2012
- * News
- * Journey to Unimaginable Spots (Episode-8)
- * News
- * MI People's Celebrities "Hein Wai Yan and His Family"
- * Law Ka Nat Member Show
- * News
- * Home-Grown Treasure (Part-2)
- * News
- * UEFA EURO 2012 Welcoming Event
- * News
- * Myanmar Potent Herbal Medicine, Pennywort
- * Myanmar Movie "Page 15"

MYANMAR TV**(24-6-2012) (Sunday)**

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:25 am
- 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:40 am
- 3. Nice and Sweet Song
- 8:25 am
- 4. Songs for International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- 11:10 am
- 5. Musical Programme
- 11:30 am
- 6. TV Drama Series
- 12:30 pm
- 7. How It's Works
- 12:50 pm
- 8. Fashion Show in honour of Myanmar Women's Day (2010)
- 4:20 pm
- 9. Dance of National Races
- 4:25 pm
- 10. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Myanmar)
- 4:45 pm
- 11. Songs for International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- 5:20 pm
- 12. Sing & Enjoy
- 7:00 pm
- 13. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 14. News
- 15. Cartoon Series
- 16. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**Weather forecast for 24th June, 2012**

S. No.		Temperature (C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	27/81	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers (H)	(100%)
2	Kayah	29/82	19/86	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
3	Kayah	29/84	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
4	Chin	27/70	16/61	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
5	Upper Sagaing	27/81	25/77	Widespread rain or thundershowers (H)	(100%)
6	Lower Sagaing	26/97	26/79	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)
7	Tanintharyi	32/80	24/75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
8	Bago	31/88	26/79	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
9	Magway	31/88	26/79	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)
10	Mandalay	36/97	26/79	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)
11	Mon	31/88	25/77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
12	Yangon	33/91	23/73	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
13	Rakhine	31/88	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers (H)	(100%)
14	Southern Shan	25/77	17/63	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
15	Northern Shan	29/84	23/73	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
16	Eastern Shan	29/84	22/72	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
17	Ayeyawady	32/90	25/77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	31/88	24/75	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	33/91	23/73	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: Monsoon is moderate strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea: Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along Rakhine coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar water.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of increase of rain in the Rakhine coast.

Seven Czechs killed, 44 injured in Croatia bus crash

ZAGREB, 23 June — At least seven Czech tourists were killed and 44 injured in a bus crash on a major highway in Croatia on early Saturday, police said. The accident happened at around 4 am some 200 kilometers (124 miles) south of Zagreb, on the highway connecting the Croatian capital with the central Adriatic coastal city of Split.

Croatia's state TV said the bus crashed through the metal barriers in the middle of the highway and overturned in the opposite lane near a tunnel. The TV quoted eyewitnesses saying that the bus started "swaying" on the highway moments before it crashed through the barriers. Initial photos from the scene of the crash showed the twisted metal remains of the bus positioned on its side, with bodies covered with white sheets spread on the pavement. The TV said that among the killed is one child.

Most of the injured passengers were hospitalized at the nearby town of Gospić while three of the most seriously hurt, including two children, were flown to Zagreb by a helicopter. Gospić General Hospital doctor Marija Vrkljan Ilijevska told the Croatian TV that those hospitalized there were not seriously



Police and firefighters survey the scene of the bus crash near Gospić, Croatia, on 23 June, 2012. At least seven Czech tourists were killed and 44 injured in a bus crash on a major highway in Croatia on early Saturday, police said.—INTERNET

injured, mostly having fractures of extremities and concussions. The highway was closed for traffic because of the crash. The cause of the accident was under investigation. Internet

Remote Indian state becomes rock music hub

NEW DELHI, 23 June — In the far north-east of India, cut off from the rest of the country except via a narrow land bridge, perhaps the only way to make yourself heard is loud, really loud, rock music. For White Fire's drummer Elangbam Kumar, that explains why their cover version of the Guns N' Roses song "Welcome To The Jungle" has become an anthem for the band and a big hit with their fans in the remote state of Manipur.

The state, which is 1,000 miles (1,700 kilometres) from the capital New Delhi, has struggled for decades with separatist violence, a society divided among competing tribes and grinding poverty. It is also an unlikely hub for rock and heavy metal music, boasting a burgeoning festival scene and local stars who have defied social and

cultural boundaries to pursue their music.

"All my pain and angst found an outlet in this genre of music. It is the attitude and the lyrics which are the biggest draw for us," 32-year-old Kumar, his tattooed biceps bulging out of a tight T-shirt, told AFP.

Kumar first started playing music at college in the city of Bangalore, where he watched MTV and hung out with students from across India who were into the "head-banging" style of the West.

"There is something raw, rebellious and pure about rock. You can express yourself freely," he explains, adjusting drums in his makeshift practice room decorated with posters of US heavy metal bands Coal Chamber and Slipknot.

Internet



Members of rock band "White Fire" — (L-R) guitarist Kenan Laishram, drummer Elangbam Kumar, bassist Akoi Konjengbam and vocalist Alvina Gonson — during a jam session in a practice room in Imphal, Manipur. The remote state of Manipur has become an unlikely hub for rock and heavy metal music.—INTERNET

Serena Williams: Venus and I are not ready to retire

NEW YORK, 23 June — Former Wimbledon champion Serena Williams has hit back at suggestions that she and sister Venus could be ready to retire from tennis. After over a decade as the sport's most dominant forces, both Serena and Venus head into Wimbledon, which starts on Monday, without a grand slam title

between them since 2010.

The American sisters are both in their 30s now and have never hidden their desire to pursue off-court interests in fashion and show business.

That, combined with a decline in their performances, has led to a belief they could be ready to call it quits.

Venus, 32, has struggled to recover from Sjogren's

syndrome, an autoimmune disease that causes fatigue and joint pain, and the five-time Wimbledon champion will be unseeded at the All England Club for the first time since 1997 after dropping to 55th in the world rankings.

Serena, 30, remains a powerful force, but she hasn't won a grand slam since her fourth Wimbledon triumph in

2010 and her first round exit from the French Open against Virginie Razzano last month ranked as her worst ever result at a major.

Even so, Serena is adamant she and Venus love the sport too much to contemplate retirement. I have no intention of stopping and I don't think she (Venus) does either.—Internet

CASH DONATED: In commemoration of the birthday, U Aung Than Nyunt-Daw Khin Thiri Aung donated K 100,000 to the fund of Home for the Aged through Head of the Home U Maung Maung in Yedashe recently.

MYANMA ALIN

Tree growing ceremony held in Minbu

MINBU, 23 June — As a gesture of hailing Myanmar Women's Day, Minbu Township held the tree growing ceremony near Minbu Station on 17 June morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Khin Maung Myint, Assistant Director U M Khaw Hsawng of District Forest Department, members of District and Township Women's Affairs Organizations and local people totaling about 540 planted saplings.—Township Forest

NAY PYI TAW, 23 June—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye this morning attended the ceremony to honour the teachers and the students who passed matriculation examination in 2011-2012 academic year from Basic Education High School No 18 and No 19 in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister U Myint Hlaing said that education in international community plays a crucial role for development of the State. As intelligent skills of human are very important in technology age, the government is giving encouragement to emergence of outstanding educated persons in all aspects, he said. The Union Minister stressed the need for the students for trying hard to achieve success in learning. As today's youths are to discharge duties of the State in the future, they have to set precise and firm aims to become intellectuals, intelligentsia and leaders, he said.

Next, Union Minister Dr Mya Aye delivered an address.

After that, Union Minister U Myint Hlaing presented K 90,000 each and one wrist watch each to two four-distinction winning students in the matriculation examination.

The Deputy Director-General of No 2 Basic Education Department and the township education officer presented cash awards to three two-distinction winning students and one distinction winning students.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing gave one set of Sky Net TV receiver each to Dekkhinathiri Township Education Office and No 19 BEHS. Union Minister Dr Mya Aye

Outstanding students, teachers honoured in Dekkhinathiri Township



Union Education Minister Dr Mya Aye delivering address at ceremony to honour the teachers and the students who passed matriculation examination in 2011-2012 academic year from Basic Education High School No 18 and No 19 in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.—MNA

presented one sets of computer and copiers to BEHS No 18 and No 19.

Managing Director U Khin Maung Aye of KMA Co donated K 2 million, Managing Director U Tun Yin of Capital Diamond Star Group Co K 2 million and Marketing Manager U Kyaw Si of Myat Mon Yadana Co K 2 million to the education fund. Union Minister Dr Mya Aye accepted

the cash donations.

Daw Khin Thant Sin, wife of Union Minister U Myint Hlaing, donated 83 sets of school uniforms to 35 teachers from BEHS No 18 and 48 teachers from BEHS No 19.

The Union ministers then cordially greeted parents, teachers and students.

MNA

Blood donors honoured at Kyaukse Hospital

KYAUKSE, 23 June—Kyaukse Township People's Hospital of Mandalay Region honoured blood donors in commemoration of the World Blood Donor Day at the hospital on 14 June.

Medical Superintendent Dr Yin Thanda Lwin made a speech. Pathologist Dr Than Tun Aung explained function of the

blood bank.

Chairman of the hospital supervisory committee Deputy Commissioner of Kyaukse District General Administration Department U Ohn Than presented a certificate of honour wellwisher Daw Thein Nyunt and family of Yanponhrit Village who donated air conditioner.

Deputy Commissioner U Ohn Than, Township Administrator U Khin Maung Than, Chairperson of District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Aye Aye Win and Chairperson of Township Women's Affairs Organization Daw San San Wai presented certificates of honour, T-shirts and brooches to blood donors.

Later, blood donors donated blood at the national blood bank branch in Kyaukse.—*Myanma Alin*

New records set at regions and states level in swimming event

YANGON, 23 June—Jointly organized by Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Swimming Federation, the 2012 International Olympic Day commemorative water polo and swimming contests were held at the National Swimming Pool in Dagon Township this morning.

Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu, General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaug Htaik, General Secretary of Myanmar Swimming Federation U Myo Wunna Tun and

executives, guests and spectators enjoyed competition of athletes.

In the first match of Water Polo Contest, Ministry of Defence (B) beat Ayeyawady Region. In the second match, Ministry of Defence (A) won over TNO Sports.

Among 28 swimming matches, athletes set two new records of the Regions and States old records. In the men's 200-m butterfly event, Thiha Aung broke the record 2 min 46.25 sec in 2010 of Win Tun Myat with new record 2 min 30.69 sec. In the women's 200-butterfly event, old record 3 min 03.38 sec of Ei Ei Thet in 2010 was broken with new record 2 min 57.97 sec.—*MNA*



Pakistan's newly elected PM, cabinet take oath

PAGE 3

Slowest Greenland sharks hunts sleeping prey

The team fitted six Greenland sharks with data-loggers.

PAGE 12



Germany thrashes Greece to reach Euro 2012 semis



Mesut Ozil (R) of Germany vies with Kostas Katsouranis of Greece during the quarterfinal match between Germany and Greece at Euro 2012 in Gdansk, Poland, on 22 June.

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Federer's eyes on Nadal, Djokovic at Wimbledon

LONDON, 23 June—Roger Federer insists he is still hungry enough for grand slam glory and will do whatever it takes to break Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal's grip on the top prizes.

For years, Federer reigned supreme at Wimbledon, winning the grass-court grand slam six times, while also enjoying huge success at most of the other major events.

The Swiss star amassed a record 16 grand slam crowns and occupied the world number one ranking for a total of 285 weeks.

But those halcyon days must seem like a distant memory to the 30-year-old, who heads into Wimbledon, which starts on Monday, without a grand slam title to his name since the 2010 Australian Open.

That barren sequence includes successive Wimbledon quarter-final exits as Djokovic and Nadal have run amok, winning nine grand slams between them since Federer last lifted a major trophy.

Such is Nadal and Djokovic's stranglehold on the sport that they have made the last four grand slam finals a private battle for supremacy.

Having won so much in his illustrious career and with other priorities now—Federer



Switzerland's Roger Federer, shown here at Wimbledon in 2011, insists he is still hungry enough for grand slam glory and will do whatever it takes to break Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal's grip on the top prizes.—INTERNET

is a father to young twin daughters—he has been suggested that his appetite for success has started to fade.

But Federer is adamant he is still willing to put in the hard work required to keep up with, and ultimately defeat, Djokovic and Nadal. "My confidence is very good. I've won many tournaments, so many matches the last year or so that I feel perfect in this regard," Federer said on the eve of his 14th Wimbledon appearance.—*Internet*

Over 400 saplings planted in TadaU Township

TADAU, 23 June—TadaU Township of Mandalay Region organized the rainy season tree growing ceremony near Paunghegyi Lake of the township on 16 June morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Zaw Min and officials, Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Aung Thu, Head of Township Forest Department U Win Htaik and staff, departmental personnel members of social organizations and local people grew 425 saplings of shade and flowery plants.

Myanma Alin