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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.

As nation's future totally depends on peace, prevailing peace in the country is a must

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attaches great importance to peaceful Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Aug—Chairman of Union-level Peace-making Working Committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addressed meeting (1/2012) of the committee at Thabin Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 2 pm today.

The meeting was also attended by members of the committee Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Union ministers, Region/State chief ministers, commanders, the deputy minister for Border Affairs, the deputy attorney-general, national races Hluttaw representatives from Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and the director-general of Union government office.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said in his address said that it is the first-ever meeting of the committee. The purposes of the meeting were getting all the members together,



Chairman of Union-level Peace-making Working Committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses meeting (1/2012) of the committee.—MNA

explaining progress of peace measures being taken by the government, rallying participation of all stakeholders in peace making process in regions where initial peace deals have been reached, and acquiring suggestions for

establishing peace in regions where peace is yet to be established.

The 11-member Union-level Peace-making Central Committee was formed on 3-5-2012 with the President as the chairman by the Order No (11/2012) of the

President Office.

The working committee was formed on the same day with 52 members including himself. It is responsible for submitting report to the central committee after accomplishing duties.

Peace-making process

has three steps: discussion at the State level, discussion at the Union level and discussion at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The discussion at the State level includes ceasefire, staying only in designated area, not holding

weapons beyond the designated area, opening liaison offices and fixing dates and venues for Union level discussions.

The discussion at the Union level includes living forever in the (See page 8)

Kiprotich claims Marathon gold

LONDON, 12 Aug—Uganda's Stephen Kiprotich stunned the Kenyan challenge to clinch Olympic Games gold in the men's Marathon on The Mall today.

The 23-year-old burst past Abel Kirui and Wilson Kipsang around the 38km mark to leave his two rivals trailing and claim only Uganda's second ever Olympic gold in Athletics.

Kiprotich followed in the footsteps of his compatriot



Stephen Kiprotich celebrates as he approaches the line to win gold in the men's Marathon on Day 16 at London 2012.

John Akii-Bua, who was 400m Hurdles champion 40 years ago, and crossed the line in 2:08:01.

Kirui took the silver, 26 seconds adrift, and long-time leader Kipsang finished with the bronze.

Kipsang, the London Marathon winner, made an early move to try to break up the lead group, building a 21-second lead at one point.

It was a high-risk strategy in such warm conditions, though, and he paid for it as the race went on as he started to look less and less comfortable.

He missed a drinks stop and by the 25km mark his advantage was down to seven seconds.

Kenyan world champion Kirui and Kiprotich soon joined the leader to make it a three-way battle for the gold medal.

Kiprotich looked to be starting to struggle, holding the back of his leg, but he suddenly produced a big surge, leapt to the front and pulled away.

And in front of packed crowds rows deep all along the looped central London course, the Ugandan, who moved to Kenya as a teenager to train, started smiling and pointing his finger into the air as he closed in on victory before draping himself in the Ugandan flag as he crossed the line.

London-2012



A Euro Millions lottery grid is shown in 2011.

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UK ticket-holder wins record 190 million euro lottery

Archery: Rivals bow to Koreans again



South Korea's Ki Bo-bae, with the impression of her bow on her nose, poses with her gold medal during the victory ceremony for the women's individual archery event at the London 2012 Olympic Games at the Lord's Cricket Ground on 2 Aug, 2012.

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PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 13 August, 2012

Find new strategy to eliminate killer disease: Tuberculosis

With tuberculosis killing two people every three minutes and the number of people with drug-resistant TB increasing manifold every passing day.

TB remains one of the leading causes of death from infectious disease in the world, and because of increasing world travel and its ability to easily spread, health providers in Myanmar are being urged to find new strategies to fight the killer disease.

Myanmar could find 77 percent of all cases and achieved 85.5 percent success in treatment in 2011, achieving the UN's Millennium Development Goals.

However, the fight against the TB is being lost in some regions and states, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin said.

The Union Minister says that today is the time for reviewing the fight against the TB and finding a new strategy to eliminate the killer disease in the country.

As part of the partnership approach programme in battling with the disease, Myanmar is currently working together with 15 INGOs and seven local NGOs.

Although curable and preventable, TB requires a carefully followed regime of medication over six months. Anything less leads to drug-resistant strains. One undiagnosed TB-infected person can infect 10 others a year. More than 350,000 people living with HIV died because of TB in 2010.

TB can easily spread through the air and may spread from person to person through such actions as coughing, sneezing, laughing and singing. Symptoms of active TB include cough, weight loss, fever and night sweats. Those infected may complain about chest pain and may cough up blood.

To achieve the aim, not only public health officials but also the people must remain vigilant to watch for signs and symptoms of TB and get those infected into treatment as soon as possible.



Faculty members, students from Pwintbyu, studying in Institute of Agriculture visit crops plantations

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Aug—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing this morning met faculty members and students from Institute of Agriculture from Pwintbyu Township at 500-acre farmer educative farm in Koeywa Thabyegon of Ngalaik irrigated region in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and explained cultivation of paddy, edible oil crops sunflower and groundnut including cash crops.

The students viewed sorting of crops, packaging process, sapling test and paddy dryer.

They also looked into thriving paddy plantation. The Union Minister and officials presented 10 kilos of Basamati paddy seeds to Principal Daw Yi Yi Htay and faculty members.



Union Minister U Myint Hlaing meets faculty members and students from Institute of Agriculture from Pwintbyu Township at 500-acre farmer educative farm in Koeywa Thabyegon.—MNA

The observation team then viewed thriving crop plantations, 10 acres of Indian sunflower strain and 10 acres of Palethwe paddy plantation. In Yegyigon Village of Zabuthiri Township, they

looked into groundnut and Palethwe paddy plantations of K.M.A.Co.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister called for extended cultivation of edible crops

for saving annual amount of US\$200-300 million spent on import of palm oil and growing sunflower and groundnut in addition to paddy.

MNA

Farmers get loans, aids flood victims in Kyaunggon Township get aids



NAY PYI TAW, 12 Aug—Ayeyawady Region General Trading Cooperative Syndicate disbursed loans to farmers in Maubin Township yesterday.

During the ceremony held at the Kyaung Model Village Basic Education High School in Maubin Township, the syndicate gave loaned K6.13 million

to 201 farmers from the village of Thongwa in the presence of Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt.

The Union Minister also attended a ceremony to present aids to flood victims in Kyaunggon Township at Yadanarpon Beikman Monastery in the afternoon.

During the ceremony, the Union Minister handed

over rice donated by the Union Government and donors to the flood victims evacuated as the overflow of water from the Dahka River has flooded the low-lying areas in the township.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun, Deputy Speaker of Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw Dr Htein Win and region ministers also

presented bags of rice to the victims.

A total of 250 bags of rice were donated to the victims during the ceremony.

The Union Government, Ayeyawady Region Government and donors have assisted the flood victims from villages and wards in Kyaunggon Township and provided healthcare services to them.—MNA

Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt speaking on the occasion.

MNA



Flood warning for Thanlwin River

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Aug—According to the 12:30 hr M.S.T observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an 871 cm has exceeded by 121 cm (about 4 feet) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level 750 cm during the next three days, Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced.—MNA



STIPENDS GRANTED: South Okkalapa Township War Veterans Organization presented stipends provided by Myanmar War Veterans Organization to students for 2012-2013 academic year on 17 July. Lt-Col Min Han of Yangon Region War Veterans Organization Supervisory Committee presents cash assistance to offspring of war veterans.—KYEMON

Strong earthquake jolts at China border

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Aug—A strong earthquake of magnitude 6.3 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Xinjian Xizang Border, China), about (1250) miles northwest of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (17) hrs (20) min (20) sec M.S.T on 12th August, 2012, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA

An injured person is
taken to hospital in Ahar
on 11 Aug. 2012.

INTERNET



DUBAI, 12 Aug—Two powerful earthquakes killed 250 people and injured around 1,800 in northwest Iran, where rescue workers frantically combed the rubble of dozens of villages throughout the night and into Sunday as medical staff desperately tried to save lives. Thousands huddled in makeshift camps or slept in the streets after Saturday's quakes in fear of more aftershocks, 40 of which have already struck.

Drought crop damage worsens, ethanol waiver urged

WASHINGTON, 12 Aug—The worst drought in more than 50 years has caused more damage than expected to corn and soybean crops, the government said on Friday, heightening calls for a suspension of ethanol quotas to head off another global food crisis.

While benchmark corn and wheat futures closed lower in Chicago, experts say food prices appear set to keep rising after a 6 percent jump last month, escalating a food-versus-fuel debate centered on a law that dictates that about 40 percent of the corn crop must be converted into ethanol.

Hours after the Department of Agriculture said the corn yield would likely fall to its lowest since 1995, worse than forecast, the governors of two poultry-producing states asked the Obama administration to waive the ethanol requirement, the first formal request for relief.

Pressure is also building internationally, as poorer countries bear a larger burden of rising food costs. The top United Nations food official, José Graziano da Silva, wrote in the *Financial Times* that an "immediate, temporary suspension" of the mandate could help head off another world food crisis.

Bill Lapp, president of Advanced Economic Solutions, said US food inflation would reach 4.5 percent next year,

Two earthquakes in Iran kill 250 and injure 1,800

Casualty figures are expected to rise, Iranian officials said, as some of the injured were in critical condition while others were still trapped under the rubble inaccessible to rescue workers hampered by darkness in the first hours after the quakes. Six villages were destroyed and about 60 sustained more than 50 percent damage, Iranian media reported. About 110 villages were damaged in the quakes, Deputy Interior Minister Hassan Ghadami was quoted by *Fars* as saying.

Photographs posted on Iranian news websites showed numerous bodies, including children, lying on the floor of a white-tiled morgue in the town of Ahar and medical staff treating the injured in the open air as dusk fell.

Other images showed massive destruction wrought by the earthquakes and rescue workers digging people out of the rubble, some alive, many dead.

Iran is situated on major fault lines and has suffered several devastating earthquakes in recent years, including a 6.6 magnitude quake in 2003 that reduced the historic southeastern city of Bam to dust and killed more than 25,000 people.

The US Geological Survey measured Saturday's first quake at 6.4 magnitude and said it struck 60 km (37 miles)



Ruins of a houses are seen after an earthquake in the city of Varzaqan in northwestern Iran, on 11 Aug. 2012.

INTERNET

northeast of the city of Tabriz at a depth of 9.9 km (6.2 miles). A second quake measuring 6.3 struck 49 km (30 miles) northeast of Tabriz 11 minutes later at a similar depth.

Ghadami said 250 people had been killed and about 1,800 injured, *Fars* reported. A local emergency official told the *Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA)* that about 2,000 people were believed to be injured.

The second quake struck near the town of Varzaqan. "The quake was so intense that people poured into the streets through fear," said the news agency *Fars*.—Reuters



A damaged corn crop in Rice County, in central Kansas August 7, 2012.—REUTERS

adding about \$30 billion to domestic costs.

"Globally it's a much more direct impact, a more immediate impact," he said. "A greater deal of the food consumption is done without further processing so you can have a much more dramatic impact in global prices. That's what's compelling the United Nations to ask for some relief on the biofuel mandates."

Under the five-year-old Renewable Fuel Standard, US fuel companies are required to ensure that 9 percent of their gasoline pools are made up of ethanol this year, which means converting some 40 percent of the corn crop into the biofuel.—Reuters

Putin says Russia to get hundreds of military planes

MOSCOW, 12 Aug—Russia's military will get 1,600 new warplanes and helicopters by 2020, President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday, as part of efforts to strengthen the country's armed forces. Putin has worked hard to restore pride in the Cold War-era superpower's military since his first election in 2000. The planned addition of 600 military planes and 1,000 helicopters is part of a 23 trillion rouble (\$720 billion) programme to re-equip a military still weakened by spending cuts prompted by the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

"We are talking primarily about providing our forces with state-of-the-art modern technology," Putin said at an air show on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the country's air force.

Putin, who began a new six-year presidential term in May, said that in addition to the new planes and helicopters, existing military aircraft would be "modernised".

In his address at the air show in Zhukovskiy, outside Moscow, Putin thanked air force officers, veterans and industry workers he said "helped our aviation endure the very difficult times of the 1990s and early 2000s". A former Soviet KGB officer who has often used warnings of external threats to rally, Putin said during his presidential campaign that Russia needed a stronger military to protect it from foreign attempts to stoke conflicts around its borders.—Reuters



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends an air show dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Russia's Air Force at Zhukovskiy outside Moscow on 11 Aug. 2012. REUTERS

Nine killed in Iraq's violence Bomb kills Yemeni officer, al-Qaeda suspected

BAGHDAD, 12 Aug—Nine people were killed and two others injured on Saturday in separate gunfire and bomb attacks in central and eastern Iraq, the police said.

In Iraq's central province of Salahudin, gunmen attacked a group of civilians swimming at a canal near the city of Tuz-Khurmato, some 200 km north of Baghdad, killing six people before they fled the scene, a provincial police source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

In Iraq's eastern province of Diyala, gunmen broke into the house of a policeman in a village near the provincial capital city of Baquba, some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, killing him in addition to his mother and injuring a child, a provincial police source anonymously told *Xinhua*.

In a separate incident, a civilian was stabbed to death when gunmen attacked him near his house in al-Azat area, some 4 km east of Baquba, the source said.—*Xinhua*

ADEN, 12 Aug — A senior Yemeni military officer was killed when a bomb planted in his car exploded in the southeastern city of Mukalla in an attack blamed on al-Qaeda, a security official said on Friday. The bombing was the latest in a series of attacks on senior figures or government institutions in Yemen since a US-backed offensive drove Islamist militants linked to al-Qaeda from their strongholds in the southern part of the country in June. Brigadier Omar Barasheed, dean of the Command and General Staff

College, died in hospital from injuries incurred in the bombing, the official told Reuters.

His bodyguard was killed and a civilian was wounded. The official, who asked not be named, said all signs indicated al-Qaeda was behind the attack, which happened late on Thursday in the capital of Hadramaut province. Earlier this week, security forces foiled a plot by an al-Qaeda-linked cell to carry out attacks in the capital Sanaa and seized 40 belts packed with explosives, highlighting risks posed by Islamist militancy in the

impoverished Arab state.

The Defence Ministry said seven militants had been detained in the southern town of Jaar, where a suicide bomber killed 45 tribal fighters and threatened further attacks. The United States has been pouring financial and military aid into Yemen to stem the threat of attacks from al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and prevent any spillover of violence into neighbouring Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter. It has also stepped up a campaign of drone missile strikes against AQAP, which has been behind several failed attacks on the United States, including an attempt to blow up an airliner over Detroit on Christmas Day in 2009.

In the latest such strike, residents said a drone on Friday struck a farm owned by a former Islamist militant in Jaar where suspected militants from Ansar al-Sharia group (Partisans of Islamic Law) have been present, but there were no reports of any casualties.

Reuters



People look at the burnt car of Brigadier Omar Barasheed, the dean of the Command and General Staff College, after a blast ripped through it in the southern Yemeni port city of Mukalla on 9 Aug. 2012.—REUTERS

Two injured in explosion in US state of Oklahoma

HOUSTON, 12 Aug—Two people were injured and about a hundred others evacuated on Saturday after a blast occurred at a commercial oilfield building in Elk City, the US state of Oklahoma, local media reported. Firefighters rushed to the scene to curb a large fire caused by the explosion at the Hodges Trucking, and thick black smoke could be seen belching miles away from the scene, according to the reports posted on the website of *The Oklahoman*, a local English daily.

A spokesman for the Fire Department of Elk City, about 192 kilometres west of Oklahoma City, said that residents living in homes within a radius of two kilometres away from the building were evacuated due to heavy smoke. Hodges Trucking, which is an affiliate of Oklahoma City-based Chesapeake Energy, the second largest natural gas producer in the US, provides trucking services for the oil field industry. The cause of the explosion is not immediately available.—*Xinhua*

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

Migrating geese avoid offshore wind farms, says study

LONDON, 12 Aug — Pink-footed geese appear to be avoiding new offshore wind farms when returning to the UK, a study has suggested. By monitoring the movement of the birds over four years, researchers were able to detect changes in flight patterns around two newly erected wind farms. The results show that this species of geese, at least, identify wind farms as a threat and alter their flight to avoid turbine blades, the authors said.

The findings have been published in the *Journal of Applied Ecology*. Pawel Plonczkier and Ian Simms from the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) monitored



Pink-footed geese fly around and above wind farms, new research shows.
INTERNET

migrating flocks of pink-footed geese (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) using radar as they returned to a Lincolnshire shore.

Although the geese are known to identify potentially hazardous structures in open environments, the extent to which they would avoid obstructions was not known before this study. Because geese have relatively limited manoeuvrability in flight and often migrate at night, the threat of colliding with wind turbines was perceived to be substantial. The new research, however, has countered this assumption.

The team began monitoring the flight route of geese during the early construction stages of two offshore wind farms, off the coast from Skegness, in 2007 when only the turbines' foundations were in place. The highest turbine foundation was only 30 metres high. By 2010, the wind farm was constructed and fully operational, and the researchers had tracked more than 40,000 birds. Although weather conditions altered the overall number of birds wintering in the UK, the specific course they took altered, taking them

The researchers tracked more than 40,000 birds during their study.
INTERNET



around the wind farms.

By 2010, the proportion of goose flocks recorded flying outside of the wind farm area had increased from 52% to 81%. And 90% of those still flying "through" the wind farm areas also altered their flight to climb above the turbines, avoiding collisions with the rotating blades. As both numbers of pink-footed geese and offshore wind farm constructions are increasing, this study optimistically concludes that at least some species of wildlife will be able to adapt to the UK's development of alternative energy sources. But Dr Lucy Wright from the British Trust for Ornithology, who was not involved with the research, pointed out the limitations of the study.—*Internet*

Pinterest opens site to all, stops invite-only policy

LONDON, 11 Aug — Image-based social networking service Pinterest has relaxed its sign-up policy, opening the site to all.

Previously, people needed invites to become members and "pin" online images onto its virtual "boards".

Launched in 2010, Pinterest became the fastest-growing site ever, passing 10 million users in nine months. Although it has tried different money-raising techniques, the company has not yet disclosed a commercial plan.

"They're one of the main sites that serve the so-called

social collectors, people who like to curate information across the web," said Forrester Research analyst Darika Ahrens.

"What remains to be seen is what happens if they start to commercialise — how they're going to do that and if they do it in a way that's not going to alienate their users."

"So far, they have tried a number of different methods such as using monetising links that bring in a revenue share, but they stopped that."

One social media analyst told the BBC that having invites had been part of Pinterest's marketing



Pinterest became the fastest-growing site in history.
INTERNET

strategy.

"This tactic of adding exclusivity upon launch of a social network is not a new thing," said Rob McNair from mycleveragency.com. Google+ adopted [it]... creating a people-referral engine and as a result built pent-up demand from the everyday user that wanted to give it a try."

Fashion and recipes

have quickly become top topics on Pinterest, and women outnumber men on the site. Its number of users grew hugely over the past year, according to a digital media analytics company Comscore.

It said that last June, there were 1.2 million unique visitors globally — but a year later there were 31.2 million. In February, the company had to address concerns about users "pinning" copyrighted material.

It now allows websites to opt out of being featured on Pinterest. To do so, sites can block their content by adding a line of web code.

If a Pinterest user attempts to share images or other material from a site with the "nopin" instruction, a message is displayed: "This site doesn't allow pinning to Pinterest. Please contact the owner with any questions. Thanks for visiting!"

Internet

Google updates voice search app on Apple gadgets

NEW YORK, 11 Aug — Google is updating a search app it makes for Apple iPhones and iPads so it does a better job of working out what people mean when they talk to it. The app is being improved by linking it to Google's knowledge graph — a database of culture and concepts. This will help the app understand the context of queries rather than just relying on keywords, said Google. The update means it works just like voice-powered search on the Jelly Bean version of Google Android.

The changes to the app were one of the "baby steps" Google was taking to the search engine of the future, said Amit Singhal, one of the firm's search engineers in an official blogpost. The knowledge graph the app will draw on is a Google database that maps the connections between individual facts, concepts and ideas. This helps it spot the links between individual words and work out what a

search is really after.

The update will also mean that, when possible, results will be spoken to users instead of letting them scroll through a list of links. The voice-powered search function will be available "soon" on version 4.2 and above of iOS, the operating system for Apple phones and tablets, said Mr Singhal.

This means it will work on more Apple devices than Siri, Apple's own voice-powered search software. Currently, Siri is only available on the iPhone 4S. The updated app has yet to be approved by Apple.

The changes to the app come at a time of tension between Google and Apple. This week it emerged that the app for Google's YouTube video-sharing service has disappeared from the next version of iOS. Before now, Apple made the pre-installed app but its licence to do so has expired leaving Google to make one of its own.

Internet

The update means Google's voice-powered search is on more Apple gadgets than Apple's own.
INTERNET



Marine species' deaths caused by UVB increases

LONDON, 11 Aug — Increased ultraviolet radiation has caused a sharp rise in the deaths of marine species, scientists have found. An international team gathered information from previous studies looking at the effects of ultraviolet B (UVB) radiation on marine life. Their work shows a close link between UVB levels and death rate, particularly in algae, corals and crustaceans. The team believe this is the first time the effect of UVB on the health of marine ecosystems has been calculated. "In our study, mortality is the biological response which showed the greatest sensitivity to UVB radiation," said lead author, Dr Moira Llabres from the Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Studies in Spain, who worked on the paper with the Catholic University of Chile and the University of Western Australia.

The article is published in the journal *Global Ecology and Biogeography*. "Ultraviolet B radiation has caused a steep increase in deaths among marine animals and plants," said Dr Llabres. UVB radiation is



Hawksbill turtles forage on coral reefs but that habitat is increasingly under threat.—INTERNET



Increased ultraviolet radiation has caused a sharp rise in the deaths of marine species, scientists have found.—INTERNET

known to impair photosynthesis, nutrient absorption, growth and reproductive rates in certain species but this is thought to be the first attempt to quantify the damage it does to marine ecosystems. "The organisms most affected are protists, such as algae, corals, crustaceans and fish larvae and eggs," she said.

"UVB radiation represents a big threat to sea life because it is affecting marine ecosystems from the bottom to the top of the food web." The attention of many scientists has been focused on the effect of global warming, ocean acidification and eutrophication in recent years but Dr Llabres said that the evidence suggests UVB radiation, which has risen because of damage to the ozone layer, may be an important and overlooked factor behind the decline: "Krill decreased 60 times in abundance in the Southern Ocean between 1970 and 2003, while UVB radiation increased considerably during this time interval."—*Internet*

Online accounts for Blizzard video games hacked

IRVINE, 11 Aug — The maker of video games such as "Diablo" and "World of Warcraft" is warning players that hackers have gained unauthorized access to some online accounts.

Blizzard Entertainment says it has no evidence that the intruders acquired credit card information, billing addresses or players' names.

But hackers were able to access other data, including email addresses and answers to players' personal security questions.

Blizzard says it doesn't believe such information alone is enough for anyone to gain access to its Battle.

Net online accounts, which let people play with others around the world

online.

The company also says hackers took encrypted versions of passwords.

As a precaution, it's recommending that players change their passwords. Blizzard, which is a division of Activision Blizzard Inc, didn't say how many accounts were affected.

Internet

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

Oki Electric shares plunge 41% on accounting scandal

TOKYO, 12 Aug — Oki Electric has become the latest Japanese firm to be caught in an accounting scandal. The maker of printers and telecommunications equipment said that it discovered financial irregularities at its Spanish unit. It warned that the discrepancies could cause losses of about 8bn yen (\$102m; £65m) and delay the release of its first-quarter financial results. Oki Electric shares dropped as much as 41% to 72 yen in Tokyo trading.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange said it had put Oki Electric under watch and was

considering delisting the company. In a statement on its website, the company said its Madrid-based unit Oki Systems Iberica had overstated accounts. As a result, the firm said it would miss by a month the Tokyo Stock Exchange's financial reporting deadline of 14 August.

Earlier this year, Japan's Olympus Corp was fined 10m yen after it admitted to a 13-year accounting fraud. The medical equipment and camera-maker lost about \$4bn (£2.5bn) in market value because of the scandal, but was allowed to keep its listing

Oki Electric may face a possible delisting for missing its financial reporting deadline. — INTERNET



on the Tokyo bourse after being placed under supervision. Olympus still faces criminal investigations and shareholder lawsuits against former executives who were involved in the scheme. However, several

Japanese companies have been delisted from Tokyo's bourse because of falsified or misstated accounts over the years. These include heavy machinery maker IHI Corp, Seibu Railway and cosmetics firm Kanebo. — Internet

Can daily aspirin help ward off cancer?

NEW YORK, 12 Aug — A new study bolsters the case that daily aspirin may help protect against cancer, although the effect seems weaker than previously thought. And the final chapter on the popular but controversial drug has yet to be written, experts say, because like earlier research the new work has considerable limitations. "News about the cancer potential of aspirin use has been really encouraging lately," said Dr Michael Thun of the American Cancer Society, who worked on the study. "Things are moving forward, but it is still a work in progress."

Medical guidelines in the US already urge people to take low doses of aspirin to prevent heart disease if the predicted benefits outweigh the risk of side effects, or if they have already suffered a heart attack. Whether those recommendations should be broadened to include cancer prevention is still up in the air, however. Earlier this year, an analysis of previous clinical trials showed that people on aspirin were less likely to die of cancer than those not on the medication, with a 37-percent drop in cancer deaths observed from five years onwards.

The new report, published on Friday in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, is based on real-life observations instead of experiments. It includes a decade's worth of data from more than 100,000 men and women in the US, most over 60 and all of them non-smokers. People who said they took daily aspirin—whether 'baby' or adult strength—had a 16-percent lower risk of dying from cancer than non-users overall, Thun and his colleagues found. For men, the difference came out to 103 fewer cancer deaths a year per 100,000 people; for women, the number was 42.

The effect was strongest for gastrointestinal cancers, such as colon cancer and stomach cancer. But it didn't seem to matter whether people had been on aspirin for more or less than five years. Because the study wasn't a clinical trial, it's hard to know if the findings can be chalked up to aspirin or if something else is at play. Still, Thun said the results would favor broadening the aspirin guidelines to include cancer prevention based on an individual risk-benefit assessment. But he added that it will take scientists a few years to mull over all of the existing evidence.

Reuters

France to fall back into recession says central bank

PARIS, 12 Aug — France's economy will fall back into recession this quarter, the country's central bank has predicted. The Bank

of France estimates that the economy will contract by 0.1% in July to September. It has already predicted a fall of the same level for April to

June. France posted zero growth in the first quarter of the year.

France's economy has been hit by the eurozone debt crisis, which has weakened demand for its exports. The debt woes of fellow eurozone nations, such as Greece, Spain and Portugal, have also knocked French business and consumer confidence. If France does fall back into recession, it will be for the second time in three years. It last returned to economic growth in the spring of 2009. — Internet



The eurozone crisis has hit French exports. — INTERNET

FDA OKS Lucentis for diabetes-related eye disorder

WASHINGTON, 12 Aug — The Food and Drug Administration on Friday approved Roche's injectable eye drug Lucentis for a new use in treating a diabetes-related condition that can cause blindness. The agency cleared the drug for diabetic macular edema, a condition that causes swelling and blurred vision in patients with diabetes. In 2010, 3.9 million adults with diabetes reported vision problems, according to the FDA.

Lucentis is currently marketed for wet, age-related macular degeneration, the leading cause of blindness among the elderly. The drug has been facing new competition in that market from Regeneron Pharmaceutical's Eylea, which is cheaper and can be administered with fewer injections. Side effects with Lucentis include bleeding around the tissue that lines the eyelids and increased pressure on the eyes. Lucentis is manufactured by Roche's Genentech unit. — Internet



An aerial view shows an administration building of the German Bayer AG chemical company in Leverkusen wrapped as giant "Aspirin" box. — REUTERS

Global food prices rise in July due to extreme weather

LONDON, 12 Aug — Global food prices sharply rebounded in July due to wild swings in weather conditions, a UN food and agricultural body has said. The rise has fanned fresh fears of a repeat of the 2007-2008 food crisis which hurt the world's poorest. Untimely rains in Brazil, drought in the US and production difficulties in Russia drove the rally, said the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Food prices jumped 6% in July from June after falling three months in a row. The FAO food price index measures the monthly price changes for a basket of food commodities including cereals, oilseeds, dairy, meat and sugar.

The index reading in July was still well below the all-time high reached in February 2011. The Rome-based organization took the surprise step of publishing the index this month — which it usually does not — due to the exceptional market conditions affected by unusual weather patterns. Cereal prices

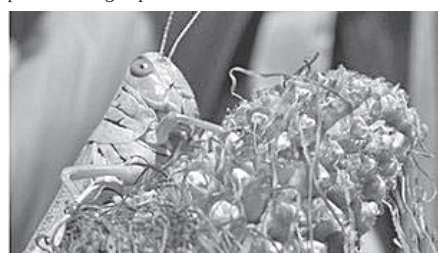
surged 17%, while sugar leapt 12% to new highs in July from the previous month after rains hampered sugarcane harvesting in Brazil, the world's largest producer. Delayed monsoons in India and poor rains in Australia also contributed to higher prices.

"The severe deterioration of maize crop prospects in the US following extensive drought damage pushed up maize prices by almost 33% in July," said the FAO. The price of rice and dairy was unchanged, although meat fell 1.7% due to a slump in pork prices. The surge in prices have

renewed fears of a food crisis that plagued countries in 2007-2008, sparking violent street protests in countries like Haiti and Egypt.

"There is a potential for a situation to develop like we have back in 2007-2008," said FAO senior economist and grain analyst Abdolreza Abbassian. There is an expectation that this time around we will not pursue bad policies and intervene in the market by restrictions, and if that doesn't happen we will not see such a serious situation as 2007-2008.

Internet



Drought in the US has hurt crops, and the world's poorest. — INTERNET

Heart defects on the decline in European babies

NEW YORK, 12 Aug — The number of newborns in Europe affected by heart defects appears to have fallen in recent years, but it's not clear why, says a new study. A team of European Union researchers analyzing millions of birth records found that the number of European babies born with heart defects fell from around seven in every thousand births in 2004 to around six per thousand by 2007—a drop of around four percent each year. While any drop in the numbers of

babies born with birth defects is good news, experts noted that the decline is a modest one and the researchers can only speculate about the reasons for it.

There is cause "for a high level of skepticism," said Dr Joe Simpson at the New York-based March of Dimes foundation, a non-profit organization that works to improve babies' health. "It would be lovely if... true," Simpson told *Reuters Health*, but given the lack of explanation for

the change, "whether it persists over time remains unclear." For the new study, a team led by Dr Babak Khoshnood at the National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM), in Paris, France, looked at data on congenital heart defects collected in 16 mostly western-European countries between 1990 and 2007. They found 47,000 cases of congenital heart disease among more than seven million births.

Reuters



**French nationals
Philippe Verdon
and Serge
Lazarevic (R) are
held at an undisclosed
location
in 2011.
INTERNET**

Five French hostages kidnapped in Sahel seen alive in video

PARIS, 12 Aug — A Mauritanian online news agency has published a video showing five of six French hostages kidnapped by the North African al-Qaeda branch from Mali and Niger in the past two years.

The video, seen by AFP on Friday, is a montage of images filmed in different locations, and shows the five hostages separately introducing themselves and leaving a message for their families while surrounded by armed and turbaned men.

One hostage, Philippe Verdon, spoke of "difficult

living conditions" and health problems, saying he had not taken his medication for three months. It was not clear what the medication was for. Verdon was kidnapped in November with Serge Lazarevic from Hombori in northeastern Mali, where they worked as geologists. He appeals to former French president Nicolas Sarkozy, who was beaten in a second round election on 6 May by Francois Hollande, and international organisations to intervene and free himself and his colleague.

Verdon said al-Qaeda was "available to negotiate".

The news agency *Sahara Media* reported that the video was taken in the last months of Sarkozy's time in office. An intermediary between France and AQIM told *Sahara Media* that negotiations were not advancing, and said the video was "obvious proof" that the hostages were still alive. *Sahara Media* is one of Mauritania's most reliable news organisations and often reports on the activities of armed groups such as AQIM which have occupied the vast desert north of Mali for over four months.

Internet

Philippine death toll in monsoon rain-triggered flood climbs to 85

MANILA, 12 Aug — Nineteen more people were reported killed in the Philippines, bringing the total death toll due to floods brought by monsoon rains to 85, the Philippine government announced on Sunday morning.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said in its report issued at 5 am on Sunday, among the casualties, 12 were killed in landslide, 62 died due to drowning, and the others died either by lightning, falling trees or electrocution.

More than 3 million people in 16 provinces were

affected by the worst flood since 2009. Of the total



A family gathers on the roof of their home in Calumpit town, north of Manila, on 11 August. —INTERNET

RIM looks to sell NewBay, other assets

TORONTO, 12 Aug — BlackBerry maker Research In Motion is looking to sell cloud services provider NewBay and some of the other minor assets it recently acquired, as part of a strategic review process, according to a source familiar with the matter.

RIM acquired NewBay, a provider of photo, video, and social-networking tools for smartphones and computers, in October 2011 for reportedly around \$100 million, as it sought to roll out a new strategy to stem its steady decline. RIM declined to comment on the sale report.

RIM, based in Waterloo, Ontario, is a pioneer in the smartphone industry, but has struggled over the last couple of years, as its aging line-up of BlackBerry smartphones have not been able to compete against more-advanced devices like Apple Inc's

iPhone and a slew of other devices based on Google Inc's Android software. The acquisition of NewBay in Dublin, Ireland, was a huge part of the former RIM leadership's plan to alter its course and boost service revenue by having carriers use its services for messaging, content delivery and analytics on all smartphones.

When RIM bought it in late 2011, NewBay had over 80 million subscribers. NewBay stores media on its own servers and delivers it to any Internet-connected device, including mobile phones, personal computers and tablets.

But in the face of mounting pressure RIM's Co-Chief Executives Mike Lazaridis and Jim Balsillie resigned early this year. RIM's new CEO Thorsten Heins has begun a strategic

review process within the company and is focused on delivering a new line-up of devices that run on RIM's new BB10 operating system, in the first-quarter of 2013.

Since taking the reins early in 2012, Heins has retained RBC Capital Markets and JPMorgan to explore options for RIM. Its share price has fallen more than 60 percent over the course of the last year, as RIM has continued to hemorrhage market share to the likes of nimble competitors like Apple and Samsung Electronics Co.

RIM's shares closed more than 6 percent higher at \$8.29 on Friday on the Nasdaq, after Bloomberg reported that tech giant International Business Machines Corp had at one point considered buying RIM's enterprise division.

Reuters

UK ticket-holder wins record 190 million euro lottery

LONDON, 12 Aug — A ticket-holder in Britain has won a record 190 million euros (£149 million, \$234 million) in the EuroMillions lottery, officials announced on Friday. The winner, whose identity is not yet known, beats the Scottish couple who became Europe's biggest ever lottery winners in July last year when they scooped 185 million euros.

But the euro conversion rate means the prize is worth less in pounds than the £161 million won by Scots Colin and Chris Weir. "Lady Luck is clearly shining down on the UK once again with another big EuroMillions win this year — the seventh jackpot to be won so far in 2012," said a spokesman for Britain's National Lottery.

"We have plenty of champagne on ice and look forward to welcoming the lucky ticket-holder into the National Lottery millionaires' club." The

number, 768,989 are still living in various concentration centers, the report said.

The total cost of damages to infrastructure and agriculture in north and central Luzon region was estimated at 604 million pesos (14.46 million US dollars).

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) forecast two to three storms may hit the country this month. A low pressure was observed at 1,020 kilometers east of Central Luzon, but it was still too far to affect any part of the country within the next 24 hours, Pagasa said. —Xinhua

winning main EuroMillions numbers were 50, 21, 17, 48 and 11, and the Lucky Star numbers were 09 and 10. The mysterious winner had a one in 116,531,800 chance of holding the lucky numbers. With the £148,656,000 prize, the winner could now afford to splash out on 4.5 tons of gold, 700 of Ferrari's top F12 Berlinetta sports cars, or their very own Airbus A350-800.

The EuroMillions lottery, launched in 2004, is now played by nine countries

across western Europe: Austria, Belgium, Britain, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland. Five of the top ten jackpots in the history of EuroMillions have been British. An increasing number of British punters tend to take part when the jackpot is particularly large. On Friday, 14 people across Europe selected six correct numbers, and will win more than 2,641,000 euros each.

Internet



A Euro Millions lottery grid is shown in 2011. — INTERNET

US military chief to discuss Afghanistan in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 12 Aug — The commander of the United States military Central Command (USCENTCOM) arrived in New Zealand on Saturday for talks with senior military officials on the military situation in Afghanistan.

General James Mattis would be in New Zealand until Monday as part of a regional tour of nations that contributed forces in Afghanistan, including Tonga and Australia, said a statement from the New Zealand Defence Force.

Mattis would meet with Minister of Defence Jonathan Coleman and conduct talks with senior officials, said the statement. Prior to taking command of USCENTCOM, Mattis served as both NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Transformation from 2007 to 2009 and as Commander, US Joint Forces Command, from 2007 to 2010. His current area of responsibility included the Middle East, Afghanistan and South Asia and his visit provided an opportunity to discuss recent developments in these areas, said the statement. Mattis arrived the same day as two New Zealand soldiers killed a week ago in an insurgent attack in Afghanistan were laid to rest. — Xinhua

Suicide bomber hits North Iraq Shi'ite mosque, kills five

MOSUL, 12 Aug — A suicide bomber driving a truck attacked a Shi'ite mosque near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul as Friday prayers ended, killing at least five people and wounding 70, police and health officials said. The mosque where the bomber detonated his explosives belonged to the Shabak minority in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad.

"A suicide car bomber targeted a Shabak mosque in Mwafaqiya village," said Hanin Qaddo, a local Shabak leader. "Part of the mosque building collapsed over the heads of the worshippers as they were leaving." A wave of attacks on mainly Shi'ite pilgrims and religious sites in recent months has increased worries about sectarian violence as Iraq's

Shi'ite, Sunni and Kurdish leaders struggle to end a crisis over their fragile power-sharing agreement.

The site of Friday's blast is near disputed territories at the centre of a feud between Baghdad's Arab-led central government and the autonomous Kurdistan region

in the north, which runs its own government and armed forces. Insurgents have carried out at least one major bombing a month since American troops left in December. July was the bloodiest month in two years, including one day of attacks that left more than 100 dead.

Reuters



Residents gather at the site of a bomb attack in Mwafaqiya village at Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, on 10 Aug, 2012. — REUTERS

The unsolved puzzle of Bagan monuments Inventory

Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

How many monuments are there in Bagan? Frequent question of visitors to Bagan but no correct nor exact answer can be given. Exaggeration? No. Seeing is believing. Whether your visit is a day trip or a week, a month or a year stay, you would realize you can get only a tentative answer because the wider and deeper your legs stretch into the forests of there ancient buildings in different sizes and shapes and in various degrees of ruin, the more you see them above and below ground, at and up on the hills and mountains by the side of the river banks, under wild vegetation or even one building inside the other. Even life long field researchers are reluctant to commit themselves to final inventory. They rather tell you the age old story of the unsolved puzzle of compiling inventory of Bagan monuments.

Since days of yore Bagan monuments' inventory has been told and transmitted to generations verbally by rhyme. The earliest triplet is as follows:-

Hlè Win Yoe Than ... the sounds of cart axes
Ta Nyan Nyan ... Are indeed creaking noises
Bagan Phaya Paung ... That's the total sum of Bagan edifices.

According to Myanmar formula of converting alphabets into numbers, the from words in the first line of this rhymed triplet become 4446 which therefore is the inventory. The other two lines are simply descriptions. When and by whom was this triplet composed are still unknown.

Later, during the reign of King Mo Hnyin Mintara of Inwa Period (1364-1555 A.D) of Myanmar history, an inventory was compiled and the total number was recorded in a rhymed couplet thus:

Win Win Htein Hlyan ...Bright, Bright, Brilliant,
Glittering
Pyi Pauk Kan ...Are pagodas of Bagan standing.

Here also the four words in the first line of the couplet represent four members 4474. An addition of 28 to the first inventory mentioned above.

Much later than that period, another verse appeared with no date and no composer's name. It is as follows:-
Myat Phaya Su Yey Sacred pagodas in total sum,
Hpyu Shwe Lo Win ... white washed and gilt handsome,

Bagan Pyay, Bei Taing.... Bagan the matchless kingdom
Hta Nay Hma ... No other country is to stand
San Matu Lun Htin Sha...As model of Pagoda Land
Saw Muni Mya ... Fanies of great name and fame
Forever, yonder they remain.

In this verse the four words in the second line "Hpyu Shwe Lo Win" are to be translated into numbers in a reverse order to get 4445. So this inventory is one less than the earliest and 29 less than the second inventory.

We should also add the number of monuments washed away by the Ayeyawady River and medium and small sized pagodas which King Narathihapate (Tayoke Pyay Min) ordered his men to pull down for bricks and stones with which fortresses and fortifications were hurriedly built to defend his kingdom against the invading Tartar equestrian archers, after the lost the battle of Ngasaunggyan in 1277 A.D.

The rhymed couplet that records the total number of monuments carried away by the floods of the Ayeyawady River is as follows:-

Shwe la thar, War War Win, In the golden
moonshine bright
Phaya Twe Yaycho Hsin, Pagodas went down

to bathe at night.

The last three words "War War Win" in the first line represent the number 444, which is the total number of monuments washed away by the flood. Myanmar chronicles record that King Narathihapate pulled down over 3000 pagodas for building fortresses and fortifications. Now, who can say what more legends, riddles and rhymed, couplets will turn up to tell us various other versions of Bagan monuments' inventory?

However, during the time of the writer's charge as the Director-General of the Department of Archaeology, the officials compiled inventory was 2217 monuments. These numbers are converted to another rhymed couplet, thus:-

Kyaung Kyi Oak Ni...Red brick big monuments
Bagan Pyi ...At old Bagan extent.

After the big earthquake in 1975, over 40 major monuments were badly damaged and many minors collapsed. The Department of Archaeology and UNDP/ UNESCO jointly carried out the restoration. In the process of implementing this joint project, 30 monuments were recovered from the overgrown vegetation. Thus another rhymed couplet was composed to add 30 to the recorded inventory as follows:-

Kyaung Kyi Win Ni ...Great monuments Red and Bright
Bagan Pyi ...At Bagan in sun light.
2217+30=2247

At the time of the writer's retirement in 1989, 892 ruins and mounds were unearthed, many of which had been restored with donation in cash and kind by, public and wellwishers at home and abroad. So 892 have to be added to 2247 to get 3137. Rhymesters have stopped composing a couplet for this latest number 3137. Perhaps they are waiting for more discoveries. Within twenty two years after the writer's retirement, his successors have been still busy with Bagan monuments' inventory, without final result. The Lake Mon Bokey, the retired U Aung Kyaing, Deputy Director General and a UNDP restoration expert Mr. P. Pichard gave their consensus. "Speaking from our field experiences Bagan monuments Inventory would be an ongoing job for along time because, Bagan monuments exist not only in the area of 25 square miles (now demarcated as Archaeological Zone) but they are found beyond that area, let alone those hidden under vegetation, underground under water.

The eleven economic zones of Bagan's time in now Kyaukse areas about 150 miles to the north-east, which stone inscriptions recorded as "Myithar Eleven Kharains" or "Leidwin Ko Khayine" and six economic zones or "Minbu Chauk Khayine" in Magway Region, plus 43 outpost towns along the north-east front defending the Bagan kingdom are indeed the extents to which Bagan civilization and culture had farflung. Going further south till the sea coastline, Bagan monuments and artifacts are found till the Ismus of Kra!

Here the writer would like to present to the readers two rhymed couplets he was given by local people of Bagan NyaungU during his tour of the ruins in the outer vicinities of Bagan. One runs as follows:-

Nyo Nyo Nyan ...Resounding, vibrating,
echoing,

Bagan Khaunglaung Paung...Are bells of Bagan ringing.

The three words in the first line "Nyo Nyo Nyan" when converted to number became 333. There are 333 bells at Bagan-normally bells are meant for religious purposes and so they are found at the sacred precinct. But they were used for public services—for early warning of natural disorders,

for day and night patrols for security, in times of war or any emergency. Bells of different sizes, most of them broken pieces are found at excavations or chance finds. Some were installed in the mouths of some statues, hidden and operated by string only when needed. The writer had learnt that such kind of bells used in other civilizations.

The other rhymed couplet is:-

Ko, Ko Tan ...Number 9 repeated 9 times
Bagan Eine Chay Paung ...They are households in
Bagan's time

If you write number 9, nine times you get 999999999! An astronomical sum. But if you interpret this riddle as 9 multiply by 9, you get 81 which is incredibly small for a big kingdom like Bagan. But this couplet is still a mystery. No doublet as big manpower was needed to build these monuments there ought to be a sizable population but the above nine 9 numbers are too big to accommodate at Bagan.

The late Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin, the principal of Yangon University, Professor of Oriental Studies and a life long researcher of Bagan history gave his pupils the following admonition.

"Regarding Bagan history, we use to say "keep a stick on your shoulder, when you talk about Bagan history. But I advise you, keep spade on your shoulder not stick."

A complicated history of 55 kings of a dynasty lasting over 3 centuries, with a wealth of archaeological architectural and inscriptional evidences above and underground and underwater only poses highly controversial themes. So when argument turns heated up, participants get hold of sticks to sub due the opponents. So Sayagyi advised but to quarrel and use stick, but to use spade to dig up the past, to excavate the truth.

His brother-in-law the late Professor G.H. Luce who abandoned his first specialization English literature for his love of Bagan history after he had visited Bagan countless times, produced the results of his life long research in 3 elephant size illustrated volumes "Old Burma: Early Bagan". He divided his research into (1) Early Bagan (2) Middle Bagan and (3) Late Bagan. He could finish only Early Bagan and he passed away at his ripe age in his homeland England. At the farewell party given to Sayagyi Luce, he tearfully made his remark.

"After I passed out of this life, and if I be born human in next existence, I wished I be born in Bagan to complete my unfinished research."

The advice and the wish of these two Myanmar and foreign life long researchers of Bagan U Pe Maung Tin and G.H. Luce spoke volumes for compilers of Bagan monument's Inventory. Bearing in mind that the present Bagan of 25 square miles is the fourth Bagan, the three seniors are (1) 19 Yone Hlut Kyun opposite to the Tuyin hill range at about 7 miles; distance to the south (2) Thiri pyitsayar at Lokananda and (3) Tampawaddy (Tampadipa) at Thamahti which are also archaeological zones.

As an old retired senior citizen who had served his country in different capacities for a long time, the writer wishes to appeal to the public and all ministries of the Government and all servicemen to be aware of the importance of our cultural heritage and to cooperate with one another in working for the good of our country. In their planning and implementation of their projects for the progress and development of our country, kindly cooperate with the Ministry of Culture and Department of Archaeology so that our tasks for building a new modern nation are not only environmentally friendly but also culturally safe and sound.

Collective teak sapling cultivation held in Yekyi Township

YEKYI, 12 Aug—A ceremony to grow 950 teak plants was held from Chingon Village to Linthakwin Village in Yekyi Township of Patheingyi District in Ayeyawady Region on 28 July afternoon.

At the ceremony, the Township Administrator and Staff Officer of Township

Forest Department U Soe Yi supervised cultivation of teak saplings by township level departmental personnel, ward and village administrators, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women's Affairs Organization, students and local people.

Myanma Alin

Agricultural loans disbursed in Pyinmana

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Aug—With a view to ensuring convenience of farmers to grow monsoon paddy in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, a ceremony to disburse agricultural loans to farmers from Kyi-in, Ywatha and Ywathit village-tracts of Pyinmana Township was held at the monastery in Kyi-in Village-tract on 8 October afternoon.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council Col

Myint Aung Than, Township Administrator U Kyaw Tint and Staff Officer of Township Cooperative Department U Myint Tha attended the ceremony.

After hearing the reports of farmers, the member of Nay Pyi Taw Council presented K 74.895 million to 389 members of Paunglaung Agricultural Cooperative Society.—Myanma Alin

As nation's future totally...

(from page 1)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar, accepting Our Three Main National Causes, lawful business activities, participation in anti-narcotics drives, participation in politics by establishing political parties, accepting the constitution and amending at the Hluttaw if they want to and transformation into only one armed organization.

The third stage, the discussion at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, signing the eternal peace deal by all national races at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

There were 11 armed groups which had not reached peace deal for various reasons. The government led by the President offered the olive branch to all armed groups with Notification No (1/2011) dated 18-8-2011.

Agreements have been reached with 10 out of 11 groups at the State level or the Union level and engagement is being made with each of the groups.



Vice-Chairman of Union-level Peace-making Working Committee Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Thein Zaw makes clarification.
MNA

Responsible persons for all daily stuff of these groups would made explanations.

Signing peace deals would not merely establish peace. Being a fragile situation, it can be reversible at any time.

The government must render assistances to the families of peace groups for making their livings in the legal framework and ensuring their social security.

Only when they are empowered to participate in the country's social, economic and political sphere, burying the hatchets, will the eternal peace be established.

Peace centres must be established for social, economic and political affairs, local and foreign aids and settlement for internally displaced persons (IDP).

Efforts should be made to encourage their education, health and literature matters, and at the same time, to encourage them to do their business in the legal framework.

Regarding the military affairs, the President have clearly gave guidance not to take any offensive and even not to fire except in self-defense. To maintain the relations between the two sides, liaison offices will be set up to solve the problems.

The ultimate goal of the government is not to force



Chairman of Union-level Peace-making Working Committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Work Committee members pose for documentary photo.—MNA

armed groups who exchanged arms for peace to serve as border guard forces and the militias always but it is a temporary arrangement. In the long run it is aimed at building a single Tatmadaw in which all can serve in accordance with the Constitution which protects the sovereignty of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The reason why the government is committing to peace is to develop the socio-economy of the country. The over 50-year armed conflicts have wasted time and wealth of the country. Myanmar is rich in natural resources and has a sizable population, was once one of the Asian's vibrant economies. Failure to gain peace is one of the reasons which cause Myanmar to fall into the status of the least developed countries.

Under the objective conditions, it can be said that the nation's future totally depends on whether there prevails peace or not, so peace must be reached in any way and this is one and only option.

Some Asian and African nations which are experiencing armed struggle have proved the fact that peace is directly proportional to economic development of a country and armed conflict is to the poverty.

The Union government as parent, elder brother and sister of a family, needs to have tolerance and show benevolence for bringing peace to the country.

The Vice-President called on responsible personnel and organization for keeping in touch with armed peace groups until the country gains the eternal peace and stressed the need for organizing more negotiation groups to keep on working for bringing peace to the country and urged them to make efforts for gaining aids from the peace center and for fulfilling the socio economy needs of those who exchanged arms for peace.

Afterwards, Vice-Chairman of the Union Peace Making Work Committee Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win clarified the works of the committee.

Vice-Chairman of the work committee Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min and Vice-Chairman of the work committee Hluttaw Representative U Thein

Zaw clarified works of the work committee.

Afterwards, members of the work committee "Wa" ethnic U Hsai Paung Nap, a representative of Amyotha Hluttaw, "Naga" ethnic U Hla Tun, a representative of Pyithu Hluttaw Representative, and "Kayin" national U Saw Tun Mya Aung took part in the discussion.

In his conclusion remarks, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said the government has been committing to peace and he stressed the importance of peace to bring about development to the country and to bring the country out of the LDC list.

Myanmar needs to grow its economy first to become



Union-level Peace-making Working Committee member Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Hsai Paung Nap makes clarification.
MNA

a strong country, and to develop its economy, she must bring peace to the country, the Vice-President said.

As Myanmar becomes a democratic country, all are to make efforts for gaining equal rights. To keep abreast of other nations, the country must be at peace, he added.

He called on members of the Union Peace Making Working Committee to make all-out efforts for bringing peace to the country.

After the meeting, the Vice-President posed for documentary photos together with participants of the meeting.

MNA

Yangon Region shows love for mother earth

YANGON, 12 Aug—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe delivered a speech at tree planting ceremony in Shwelinban Industrial Zone in Hlinethaya Township here this morning.

He called for paying considerable care to the trees which are key to environmental conservation.

Director U Maung Maung Win for Department of Forest of Yangon Region explained the purposes of planting trees.

The chief minister, the region hluttaw speaker, the region chief justice, the region hluttaw deputy speaker and region ministers gave away saplings to departmental officials, the chairman of Industrial Zone Management Committee and officials.

The chief minister and officials planted trees at designated places and viewed around collective tree planting.

A total of 2000 saplings were planted at the ceremony.

MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men's Football Tournament continues

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Aug—The group matches of the 6th Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men's Football Tournament continued at Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground No. 1 and No. 2 today.

In the morning matches, Ministry of Mines trounced Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Ministry 8-0 at Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground No. 1 and Rail Transportation Ministry beat Labour Ministry 1-0 at Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground No. 2. In the afternoon matches, Finance and Revenue Ministry defeated Culture Ministry 11-1 at Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground No. 1 and Electric Power No. 1 Ministry won over Industry Ministry 2-0 at Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground No. 2.—MNA

Awarding ceremony for school health week activity held in Taunggyi Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Aug—An awarding ceremony for school health week activity and a ceremony for raising school fund were held at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Taunggyi Township in Shan State yesterday morning.

At the event, Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat delivered an address. Head of Shan State Health Department Dr Myint Aung gave explanations on the work activities for school health care. The State Chief Minister presented prizes and certificates

of honour to the schools recognized as model school for taking school health care in 2012-2013 academic year and wife of the State Chief Minister Daw Phyu Phyu Nyunt, Deputy Speaker of Shan State Hluttaw U Sai Kham Hmat, state ministers and officials concerned followed.

Well-wishers made a donation for holding the ceremony and the State Chief Minister and those present viewed boards displayed school health week activities in the hall.—MNA

YANGON, 12 Aug—The first conference of Myanmar Seamen's Federation (MSF) was held at Yuzana Hotel on Shwegondine Road in Bahan Township at 9 am today with an address by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and for Labour U Aung Kyi.

In his address, Union Minister U Aung Kyi said that it was a great honour for MSF to be formed as an employees' association in accordance with the laws, adding that associations such as employees' association, employers' association and social organizations are civil societies. In democratic nations, civil societies in cooperation with the government and the people should play a leading role in the establishing of good governance, he disclosed.

To keep pace with changes and developments taking place in the modern world, the Hluttaw is in discussion about the emergence of the law on creating jobs and skills development, the least wages law and social security law which would contribute much to the mass of employees, he said. He continued that the partnership between the employers and employees is a new concept that has emerged in the 21st century.

The new approach-partnership could bring about mutual benefits between the employers and employees as the former are socially responsible for the later and in return,

First conference of Myanmar Seamen's Federation (MSF) held



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and for Labour U Aung Kyi addresses first conference of Myanmar Seamen's Federation (MSF).—MNA

the later are trying hard for increased capacity of factories and mills. With this end in view, the employers' associations in cooperation with the management are to introduce workplace reform, he reiterated.

Next, Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein spoke

on the occasion.

After that, President of MSF Dr Tin Hlaing extended greetings.

Also present on the occasion were executives of the federation, members, officials and invited guests.—MNA

Durability of library discussed in Dawbon

YANGON, 12 Aug—With the aim of raising reading habit and ensuring durability of libraries, Head of Dawbon Township Information and Public Relations Department

Daw Khin Htay Myint and staff held a meeting with officials of the library and local people at Hsonseeya Library in Lamudan Ward on 24 July.—*Myanma Alin*



Taxation knowledge disseminated to students in Paungde

PAUNGDE, 12 Aug—The clarification on taxation, organized by Paungde Township Internal Revenue Department, was held at Pyinnya Yadana Hall of Basic Education High

School in Paungde Township, Bago Region, on 20 August.

Headmistress Daw Khin Lay Yi made a speech.

Head of Township Internal Revenue Department Daw Khin Soe explained emergence of taxation system, purpose of levying taxes, matters related to the tax, commercial tax, income tax, stamp tax and Aungbalay lottery tax to the attendees.

Kyemon

Kyemon

District News

Taxation knowledge shared to basic education middle students

THANATPIN, 12 Aug—A ceremony to disseminate knowledge about taxation was held at Basic Education High School in Thanatpin of Bago Region on 26 July.

The knowledge was shared to basic education middle students.

At the talk, Head of Township Internal Revenue Department Daw Khin Aye Kyi gave lectures on rules, regulations and procedures for taxation.

Myanma Alin

Local people seen in front of city hall in Patheingyi for their works as usual on 4 August although heavy rains and floods hit the region.—*KYEMON*

Roadside safety supervised at Maha Bandoolla Bridge

YANGON, 12 Aug—With a view to ensuring traffic safety, Engineering Department (Road/Bridge) of Yangon City Development Committee laid traffic blocks at the entrance to Minnanda

Road in Dawbon Township side not to allow vehicles.

The department opens the way behind of Yamonna Car Park near Yanbye Bus Stop to enter Minnanda Road.



Kyemon

Knowledge about taxation disseminated in Ayadaw

AYADAW, 12 Aug—A talk on taxation was held at Saya San Hall of Basic Education High School in Ayadaw of Monywa District in Sagaing Region on 20 July morning.

Head of Township Internal Revenue Department Daw Thin Nwe Than explained matters related to taxation.

It was attended by departmental personnel, teachers and students.

Myanma Alin

Vacant plots to be put under kitchen crops

YEDASHE, 12 Aug—To minimize daily expense of kitchen, the rural people grow vegetables on the vacant plots.

Cultivation of kitchen

crops on vacant places in the respective compound and residences can save the expense of building vegetables. The plantations on manageable scale can be sufficient for each family.

Kyemon



Car hits roadside trees in dodging car on opposite



YANGON, 12 Aug—A Super Mandalay Yarpaye Jeep with number plate 8B/— driven by U Myo Myint, 65, son of U Aung Kyi of Hninsichan, 14th Street in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay together with U Myint Maung, 54, son of U Tin of 276, Shanwaing, Mahaaungmye Township and Maung Chit Ko, 30 of U Bo Gyi of Shweyinn Village of Myinmu Township on rare of the car hit two trees on the roadside between mile posts

Traffic Accident

57/5 and 57/6 on Myinmu-Monywa Road of Bomingyikin Village of Myinmu on 4 August morning while dodging the car from opposite way.

Driver U Myo Myint died on the spot. U Myint Maung was injured at his left forehead and right hand. Maung Chit Ko had no injury. In the accident, the car was damaged.

Myanma Alin



Cultivation of Paletwe hybrid paddy demonstrated in Maubin



MAUBIN, 12 Aug—A ceremony to demonstrate cultivation of Paletwe hybrid paddy was held on 22 acres of farmland of farmer U Nay Win in Maletto Village of Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 29 July.

It was attended by staff of Township Agriculture Department, Cooperative Department and representatives of Township

Cooperative Syndicate, officials of Township Agricultural Development Committee, representatives of the syndicate and Township Agriculture Committee, the patron and members of Myanmar Rice Industry Association, the village administrator and local farmers.

At the demonstration, Staff Officer U Nyi Lay Maung of Township

Agriculture Department explained cultivation of hybrid paddy seeds, selection of quality paddy seeds, 14-point good agriculture patterns and replied to queries raised by those present.

They viewed thriving of paddy plantation at the integrated farm of farmer U Nay Win.—*Myanma Alin*

Tamu District Police Force holds workshop

TAMU, 12 Aug—The workshop on turning out qualified prosecutor police officers was held at the hall of Tamu District Police Force in Sagaing Region on 30 July.

Commander of District Police Force Lt-Col Lin Htut made a speech.

District Law Officer U Myint Aung explained legal affairs in detail.

The workshop was attended by 24 prosecutor police officers of Tamu District.

—*Myanma Alin*

Cooperative Society holds AGM in Kyaikmaraw

KYAICKMARAW, 12 Aug—Aung Kyaw Naing Market Cooperative Society held Annual General Meeting in Peinnegon Village of Kyaikmaraw Township on 23 July, with addresses by Chairman of the Society U Aung Shwe and Deputy Director U Htay Myint Aung of Mon State Cooperative Department.

The Chairman of the society donated K 100,000 and K 100,000 from the profits of the society to Peinnegon Basic Education High School (Branch) through Headmistress Daw Khin Cho Hsint.

The donation will be spent on purchase of school equipment.

—*Myanma Alin*

Strong winds hit Pyapon Township

PYAPON, 12 Aug—A strong winds hit Pyapon Township with 60 mph from 6.30 am to 6.35 am on 4 August.

In the event, Self-reliant Basic Education Middle School in Gyowahtalun Village of Gyowahtalun Township was destroyed in the strong winds.

At the scene, Township Administrator U Tin Soe and officials repaired the school.

—*Myanma Alin*

Cash assistance provided to offspring of war veterans

NGAPHE, 12 Aug—The cash assistance provided by Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Committee to offspring of Ngaphe Township War Veterans Organization was held at the hall of Basic Education High School on 21 July morning.

At the ceremony, Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Naing Tun and Chairman of the Township War Veterans Organization U Kan Pan made speeches.

They presented cash assistance to 30 students.

—*Myanma Alin*

Policy for nurturing of children discussed in YeU

YE U, 12 Aug—Jointly organized by Sagaing Region Social Welfare Department, Region Health Department and UNICEF, an

eight-member team held the workshop on drawing of policy for nurturing of children from 9 am to 4 pm on 26 July. It was attended

by staff of Township Health Department, teachers and persons of non-governmental organizations.

—*Myanma Alin*

Traffic rules course for other ranks concludes

YANGON, 12 Aug—The traffic rule course No 2/2012 for other ranks conducted by Yangon Region Wireless and Traffic Police Force of

Myanmar Police Force concluded at Thiri Myaing driving range in Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 3 August.

Commander of No 2 Police Battalion Control Command Police Brig-Gen Thura Bo Ni made a speech.

The ceremony was attended by senior police officers, course instructors and 103 trainees.—*Kyemon*

Environmental conservation talked at Paukkhaung BEHSs

PAUKKHAUNG, 12 Aug—A talk on environmental conservation was held at Golden Jubilee Hall at Basic Education High School in Paukkhaung of Pyay District of Bago Region on 16 July morning.

A similar talk was held at Ohbogon Basic Education High School Branch in Paukkhaung at 1 pm.

Assistant Director U Thein Toe of Pyay District Forest Department and Township Administrator U Kyaw Kyaw Maung made speeches.

Writer Zarni Hein (Hsipaw) gave talks on environmental conservation to the students.

—*Myanma Alin*



Insein-Shwepyitha bus causes upside down

YANGON, 12 Aug—A small bus of War Veterans Organization with full of passengers driving from Insein to Shwepyitha plunged into the drain beside Bayintnaung Road in front of Shwe Set Wun Co Ltd in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone of Insein Township, Yangon North District, at 5.45 pm on 2 August.

The Hilux driven by Chan Mon took over other Hilux bus in front of Shwe Set Wun Co on Bayintnaung Road and then moved into the opposite way of the road.

His Hilux towed a another Hilux of 99th Bus-line driven by Myo Zaw Win and

then hit a lamp-post on the opposite way.

In the accident, Maung Tun Lin Myo, 24 of Ward 10 in Shwepyitha dropped from the Hilux. He was serious in

injury and died on the spot.

Some passenger of the Hilux were injured and then rushed to Insein General Hospital.

—*Kyemon*



Accident on the Road

Taxation knowledge shared to students

MINBU, 12 Aug—A clarification on taxation was held at No 1 Basic Education

High School in Minbu (Sagu) Township of Magway Region on 20 July.

At the talks, Head of Township Internal Revenue

Department Daw Khin Ohnma Ko explained matters related to taxation and distributed pamphlets.

—*Myanma Alin*



CSC ISSUED: Head of Kawkaik Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Nyo Nyo Than and staff issued citizenship scrutiny cards to local people in Naungkaing Village of Kawkaik Township on 25 July.—MYANMA ALIN

District News

Myanmar Thabin Asiayon (Central) holds coord meeting

YANGON, 12 Aug—Myanmar Thabin Asiayon (Central) held the coordination meeting at its office on Latha Road, here, on 31 July morning.

Acting Chairman of the Asiayon U Ye Dway made a speech.

Secretary U Aung Tin Win explained the organizational tasks and movements and Treasurer U Sein Ba Maw on financial statement.

Next, the Asiayon presented K 100,000 each to Sithu award winners U Shwe Nan Tin, U Sein Ba Maw, Daw San Shar Tin and Daw Nwe Nwe San.

Joint-Secretary U Moe Min reported on holding the plenary meeting of the Asiayon for 2012.

After that, Joint-Secretary U Chan Tha also reported on holding the ceremony to pay respects to older persons.—*Kyemon*

France's Hollande approval rating hit by weak economy

PARIS, 12 Aug—French President Francois Hollande's approval rating has dipped to 46 percent three months after winning office, pollster Ifop said on Saturday, suggesting a weak economy had cut short the Socialist leader's honeymoon period.

The survey showed Hollande—who won office on 6 May with nearly 52 percent of votes—had not benefited from the post-electoral bounce enjoyed by his predecessor Nicolas Sarkozy in 2007. Sarkozy's approval rating climbed to 65 percent in the weeks after his victory.

However, Hollande took

office amid gloomier economic prospects, with unemployment at a 13-year high of 10 percent and France expected to slip into recession this year. The Ifop poll, published in right-leaning newspaper *Le Figaro*, said that 51 percent of those questioned thought France was changing for the worse, with just 17 percent convinced it was changing for the better.

In 2007 after the election of Sarkozy, 45 percent of those questioned said France was changing for the better.

"In this very pessimistic climate and with regard to the very small room for manoeuvre which exists, the confidence

ratings for Hollande and his government are consistently below 50 percent," said Jerome Fourquet of Ifop.

Hollande has insisted his government will meet France's deficit targets of 4.6 percent of GDP this year, obliging him to unveil a 7.2 billion euro package of tax rises, mostly on wealthy households and large corporations.

To meet next year's 3 percent target, he will need to find some 33 billion euros in tax rises and savings.

Nonetheless, the survey of 1,004 people showed that 57 percent of those questioned thought Hollande was fulfilling his campaign



France's President Francois Hollande (C) and Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian (L) pay homage to Major Franck Bouzet, who was killed in Afghanistan, at the 93rd regiment of Artillery in Varcis, French Alps, on 11 August, 2012.—REUTERS

promises. His decision to cut his own salary and those of his cabinet by nearly one third was backed by 82 percent of voters.

The government's decision to partially undo Sarkozy's rise in the retirement

age for those who started work early in life—returning it to 60 from 62—won approval from 71 percent of those polled. Sixty-seven percent welcomed his announcement of a higher wealth tax on rich households.—Reuters

Kidnapped Saudi diplomat released in south Yemen—tribal chief

ADEN, 12 Aug—Al-Qaeda-linked militants released on Saturday night a Saudi Arabian diplomat they kidnapped in southern Yemen, a tribal source told *Reuters*, adding that his release was secured after tribal mediation efforts.

Abdallah al-Khalidi, the Saudi deputy consul in the Yemeni port city of Aden, was abducted in March.

"Tribal mediators received the Saudi diplomat and he will be moved to Sanaa in the next few hours," said Sheikh Tareq al-Fadli, a tribal chief.

In May, a militant who claimed responsibility for the kidnapping threatened to kill Khalidi unless a ransom was paid and al-Qaeda prisoners were freed from Saudi jails. The terms of Khalidi's release were not clear.

Kidnapping is common in Yemen, frequently in the context of regional or tribal disputes with Yemeni authorities. The victims are sometimes held for ransom, particularly if they are foreigners.

Reuters



An exterior view of the Standard Chartered headquarters is seen in London on 7 August, 2012.—REUTERS

Exclusive: Standard Chartered, regulators in settlement talks

NEW YORK, 12 Aug—Standard Chartered is in talks with multiple law-enforcement officials, including New York's banking regulator, to resolve a probe into improper Iranian money transactions by the British bank, according to people familiar with the situation.

The settlement negotiations are expected to last through the weekend and could result in a resolution by next week, these people said. The negotiations are at a delicate stage and could collapse, they added.

One set of talks is with federal officials while a separate negotiation is taking place with the New York bank regulator, underscoring a divide that exists between New York officials and other regulators, the sources said.

The negotiations come after a rancorous week that began when Benjamin Lawsky, superintendent of the New York Department of Financial Services, alleged in an order on Monday that the bank processed thousands of illegal transactions tied to Iran and that Standard Chartered had covered up its actions using incomplete or false records.

Lawsky demanded that

Standard Chartered officials appear at his office next Wednesday to explain why the bank should be allowed to keep doing business in New York, a global hub for the processing of dollars. The hearing remained on the calendar as of Friday afternoon.

The bank had been cooperating in a long probe that dates to 2010 and subsequent settlement talks with federal and local regulators. Those talks continue. The US Justice Department, Federal Reserve Bank of New York and Manhattan District Attorney's office had been engaged in those talks.

Reuters

China's trade surplus to narrow in August

BEIJING, 12 Aug—China's trade surplus will continue to narrow in August, as export growth is likely to stay low, according to a report issued by the Financial Research Centre of Bank of Communications.

"Given the grim prospects for global economic recovery, the country's exports in August will fall from one month earlier, and year-on-year export growth will remain low," the report said.

The research centre is not optimistic about the global economy, as the US economy has been struggling to gain traction

and Europe is slipping toward a recession.

The US economy grew at a tepid rate of 1.5 percent from April to June, down from 2.4 percent in the first quarter, adding to worries that the world's largest economy could be stalling three years after the recession ended.

Japan's economy may expand at a slower pace as its post-quake construction projects wind down, while emerging countries will continue to face great pressure to keep growth on track, according to the report.

However, the centre ruled out the possibility of a sharp drop in exports, despite

dim prospects in the external environment.

"China is likely to run a surplus of around 150 billion US dollars this year," the report said.

Chinese export growth rose one percent year on year in July, a six-month low and down from the 11.3-percent growth seen in June. The trade surplus narrowed 16.8 percent year on year to 25.15 billion US dollars, according to official data.

The nation's exports to the European Union, its largest trading partner, slumped 16.2 percent year on year in July.

Xinhua

Armed men attack peacekeeping troops in Egypt's Sinai

AL-ARISH, 12 Aug—A group of armed men opened fire on Sunday on peacekeeping troops in Egypt's Sinai peninsula at the border with Israel, a security source in Sinai said.

"The attack happened in Um Shyhan area in the middle of Sinai but no one got injured," the source said.

The incident came just days after the start of a military operation in the area against militants suspected of being behind a bloody attack on Egyptian border guards last

Sunday, which killed 16.

A group of armed men had earlier clashed with Egyptian security forces near the scene of the latest attack after they opened fire at a police checkpoint, the same security source said. No one was injured.

Police checkpoints have come under a series of similar attacks by armed assailants since last Wednesday.

Egypt sent hundreds of troops and armored vehicles into North Sinai on Thursday to tackle militants operating



An Egyptian army truck carries tanks and vehicles to Rafah city, some 350 km (217 miles) northeast of Cairo, 10 August, 2012.—REUTERS

near the border in an offensive that commanders said had killed up to 20 people they deemed terrorists.

The Egyptian army

captured six people it considered "terrorists" in Sinai on Friday and the security source said three of them were later released.—Reuters



Visitors view chairs made from recycled paper pulp at the 2012 China Hangzhou Industrial Design Expo in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 11 Aug, 2012.

XINHUA

Singapore's former minister mentor concerns about low birth rate

SINGAPORE, 12 Aug—Singapore's former Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew expressed his concerns on the country's low fertility rate on Saturday.

He said that the reproduction rates for Chinese, Indians and Malays in Singapore are 1.08, 1.09 and 1.64 respectively, representing their declining will to give birth to the next generation.

"If we go on like that, this place will fold up, because there'll be no original citizens left to form the majority, and we cannot have new citizens, new PRs to settle our social ethos, our social spirit, our social norms. So my message is a simple one. The answer is very difficult but the problems, if we don't find the answers, are enormous," local media Channel NewsAsia quoted as saying when Lee attended the National Day celebration dinner in his own group representation constituency.

He emphasized the important role of work permit holders who build the roads, homes and dig the tunnels. And without the permanent residents, Singapore's population would be older, smaller, and will lose vitality, he added.—Xinhua

A man collects beach umbrellas ahead of the expected arrival of Tropical Storm Ernesto in Veracruz, Mexico. Ernesto killed at least nine people in Mexico, officials said, with the dissipating storm threatening more heavy rain and possible flooding.—INTERNET



VERACRUZ, 12 Aug — Ernesto killed at least nine people in Mexico, officials said, with the dissipating storm

Storm Ernesto kills nine in Mexico

threatening more heavy rain and possible flooding. In the southeastern state of Tabasco, a 17-year-old fisherman drowned off the coast of the town of Centla, according to authorities, and the body of a second victim was found in the Samaria River. A landslide in the neighbouring state of

and rain in the municipality of Rio Blanco, Veracruz Governor Javier Duarte told reporters. Another woman was killed in her car when a river swept across a highway, and lightning fatally struck a 62-year-old man, according to a government report. In the southwestern state of Oaxaca, authorities said a woman was killed when heavy rains and landslides caused her car to crash. A child less than 12 years old died in his home after the runoff from a hill caused the building to collapse.

Ernesto, which has petered out, made landfall for a second time near the Mexican port of Coatzacoalcas on Thursday, dumping heavy rain and causing flooding in the Gulf coast region. The high mountains of southern Mexico have disrupted the

storm, whose remnants are expected to move off Mexico into the eastern Pacific over the weekend, when it could become a tropical cyclone, according to the US-based National Hurricane Centre.

It first became a hurricane on Tuesday, before being downgraded to a tropical storm and heading back out to sea. As the storm moves inland, some areas could still see up to 15 inches (38 centimetres) of rain before skies clear, the NHC said, adding that the storm would likely disintegrate late Friday. Mexican civil defence officials said 10 communities had been cut off by flooding, although no major damage was reported. The states of Veracruz, Tabasco, Puebla, Oaxaca and Guerrero were expected to see downpours through late Friday.

Internet

Veracruz left five dead and one missing on Thursday.

"Three people died when a tree fell" amid strong winds

Green-on-blue attacks leave eight NATO soldiers dead in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 12 Aug — The so-called green-on-blue attacks or shooting at NATO-led soldiers by men in military uniform have claimed the lives of eight service members in Taleban hotbed the southern Helmand Province over the past three days, inspector general police of Helmand Province said on Saturday.

"The so-called green-on-

blue attacks have left eight foreign soldiers dead over the past three days in Helmand Province," Abdul Nabi Ilham confirmed in a Press conference. He also said in the latest such incidents, he received report of three foreign soldiers killed by a man in police uniform in Garmsir district on Friday night and had sent a delegation to Garmsir District

for investigation. However, the police official has described the green-on-blue attack as a new tactic of Taliban by using their protegee to create distrust and hatred between Afghan and international coalition forces.

The Helmand police chief nevertheless stated that efforts are underway to strictly check any such incident in the future.

Earlier, an official in Helmand's provincial capital Lashkar Gah on the condition of anonymity said that three foreign soldiers were shot dead in Garmsir district of Helmand Province on Friday.

"A sixth grade student who also worked for police opened fire on foreign soldiers in police department of Garmsir district on Friday evening killing three Americans soldiers," the official told Xinhua but declined to give his name.—Xinhua

Plane hits Los Angeles neighbourhood; one dead

LOS ANGELES, 12 Aug — A small plane crashed into a Los Angeles neighbourhood of Westwood on Friday evening, leaving smoldering airplane wreckage in a corner yard and at least one person dead. The dead victim was of unknown age and gender and found within the burned wreckage of the plane, the Los Angeles Fire Department said on its website.

The accident occurred on the northeast corner of Glendon and Mississippi avenues, about 1.8 miles from Santa Monica Airport, the LAFD said. No structures were involved in the crash, ABC News station KABC reported, adding that the plane was departing Santa Monica Airport when it crashed.

The crash occurred around 6 pm after the pilot of a single-engine Cessna 210 declared an emergency, the Associated Press reported, citing a Federal Aviation Administration official. An aerial view of the accident from a local news chopper showed the scene of the crash — a corner yard with a smoldering palm tree trunk surrounded by small pieces of a white airplane. Smoke rose from the tree, the wreckage and the yard. Fire crews were at the scene.

Another tree nearby had broken limbs and appeared to have been clipped by the airplane as it crashed. The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the accident, the AP reported.

Internet



A small plane crashed into a Los Angeles neighbourhood of Westwood this on Friday, leaving smoldering airplane wreckage in a corner yard and at least one person dead.—INTERNET

Eight bodies found inside car in northern Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 12 Aug — Police found eight decomposing bodies on Friday inside a car abandoned by a waterpark in northern Mexico, a day after authorities in a neighbouring state located a sports utility vehicle with 14 bodies stuffed inside. The most recent grisly find was in the town of Fresnillo near a warehouse where police had recently seized drugs, Zacatecas state government said in a statement. The badly decomposed bodies were left there several days ago, it said.

Zacatecas is a largely rural state that has seen a rise in drug cartel violence in the last two years as the Zetas gang pushes south from its home base along Mexico's border with Texas. Drug violence has killed more than 47,500 people since President Felipe Calderon launched an offensive against Mexico's cartels when he took office in December 2006. Gruesome mass killings continue in parts of northern and western Mexico. On Thursday, police in neighboring San Luis Potosi state found the bodies of 14 men stuffed into an SUV near a gas station.

Federal police said on Friday a man who escaped from the SUV told investigator he played dead and then escaped when the gunmen stopped at a gas station. He hid in nearby hills until state police officers helped him and took him to a hospital. Also on Friday, five gunmen were killed during a clash with federal police in the western state of Michoacan, the federal Public Safety Department said in a statement.

The federal agents were on an anti-drug operation when they came under fire from gunmen hiding in the hills of the village of Holanda, part of the municipality of Apatzingan, the department said.

Assailants opened fired and threw grenades at federal agents who arrived in the area by land and air to help their colleagues. They also blocked highways and streets with cars set on fire to hinder the deployment of federal police, it said. The department didn't say what group is suspected in the attack but the Knights Templar cartel, a cult-like Mexican drug gang, is known to operate in the area.

Internet

Dallas County allows aerial spraying for 1st time in decades to fight West Nile virus outbreak

DALLAS, 12 Aug — Suffering from the nation's deadliest outbreak of West Nile virus this year, Dallas County authorized aerial spraying of insecticide on Friday for the first time in nearly five decades to help fight the mosquito-borne illness. Texas' second most populous county announced the decision after its leaders met with the state's top health official and experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Nearly 90 cases of the most severe form of West Nile have been confirmed in the county so far, nine residents have died, and the virus' peak season is just beginning. "This is a matter of extreme concern, and we're going to follow the science and do what's best for our people," said Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins, the county's top elected official. Five planes have been requested for spraying the heavily populated northern

part of Dallas as well as the nearby enclaves of Highland Park and University Park — the most affected areas — but they won't be used until leaders in those jurisdictions approve, said Jenkins, who urged the cities to allow the planes in.

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings and officials from the other cities said they plan to meet with other city, county and state officials and industry experts early next week to decide how to proceed.

Jenkins on Thursday declared a public health emergency.

Three nearby counties have reported one death each. There is no vaccine for the virus, which has been in the US since about 1999, according to the CDC. The virus, which most often affects people over 50, can cause high fevers, headaches and disorientation.

Public health officials typically advise residents of mosquito-prone areas to drain standing water, apply insect repellent containing the ingredient DEET and wear long-sleeve shirts and long pants.—Internet



British soldiers are silhouetted against the sky as they provide security in southern Afghanistan. A British soldier has been killed while on patrol in southern Afghanistan, the Ministry of Defence in London said on Friday.—INTERNET

Two British soldiers killed in Afghanistan

LONDON, 12 Aug — Two British soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan's restive Helmand Province, the Ministry of Defence in London said on Friday. Both soldiers were killed by "enemy action" in Helmand's Nad-e-Ali district, the ministry said.

The first was killed while on patrol on Thursday and the second died on Friday after he was hit while working on a construction task, it added. The deaths bring to 424 the number of British troops killed since the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001. Of these, at least 384 died as a result of hostile action.

Britain has around 9,500 troops in Afghanistan, making it the second-largest contributor to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force after the United States. They are based in central Helmand, battling Taliban insurgents and training local security forces. Britain intends to pull out all its combat troops by the end of 2014.—Internet

Widowed giraffe at Polish zoo to get new mates

A young male giraffe widowed following a hooligan attack in May is set to get three new female partners at his zoo. The females will arrive next week from two other Polish zoos and one in Leipzig, Germany. Włodzimierz Stanisławski, the head of the breeding section at the zoo in Łódź, central Poland, said Friday.

Leipzig zoo is sending 2-year-old Lira and Warsaw zoo 2-year-old Lokatka. The 9-year-old Judita is to come from Plock, in central Poland. They will fill the void that the 5-year-old Rothschild giraffe Tofik suffered after the death of two companions. Both died of stress following an attack by unidentified vandals who overturned signs and threw benches and garbage cans into animal runs in the nearest neighborhood of the enclosure of the naturally skittish giraffes.

Police arrest drunk Superman

Swedish police said they detained a Norwegian man who was seen "stumbling about" drunk while wearing a Superman costume.

Luleå police Officer Erik Kummus reported on the Swedish-language *Norrbotten skuri-*

ren paper residents had reported a highly intoxicated man walking around the Storhedan shopping centre late Wednesday night, *The Local.se* reported on 10 August.

"He was seen stumbling

about in a pretty drunk condition," Kummus said. "It is dark up there and there are all kinds of little slopes and hills, so we had to see if he was in need of help."

Kummus said the man was determined to be too intoxicated to take care of himself and was taken to the

police station to sleep off his drunkenness.

The officer said the man was seen stumbling around drunkenly the next night wearing the same Superman costume and was reportedly kicked out of a restaurant. However, he was not detained for a second time.



Actors perform during a tribute to Mary Poppins during the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Summer Olympics on 27 July, 2012 in Stafford, London.

News Album

Costumes and torches on Olympics site

Fans of the 2012 London Olympics and its athletes can acquire memorabilia the modern way — online through the Official London 2012 Auction site.

As of Friday, an Olympic torch signed by Bradley Wiggins, the British cyclist who capped a win in the Tour de France with a gold medal in London, had been sold for more than \$20,000, *The Daily Telegraph* reported.

But there was plenty still available, including a second torch with Wiggins' signature and a Mary Poppins costume used in the opening ceremony.

The top prices appeared

to be going for memorabilia from earlier Olympics.

On Friday, a bidder had offered \$31,350 for a bronze medal from the 1904 Summer Games in St Louis, and \$22,000 had been offered for a torch from the 1948 Games, also held in London.

There were some items for collectors with limited budgets. Bibs worn by the French and Canadian women's soccer teams in their bronze medal game were going for only \$47, while bidding had reached only \$430 for the Poppins costume, complete with hat, bag and umbrella — although the price could go higher before the auction closes on 12 Aug.



Singer Marc Anthony

NEW YORK, 12 Aug—Singer Marc Anthony hosted a fundraiser event in New York for an orphanage.

Marc Anthony supports charity for orphans

The 43-year-old hosted the event for Maestro Cares Foundation, which supports a project for underprivileged Latin American children.

Anthony hopes to raise enough money to open a new residence hall and learning facility for more than 200 youngsters living in the orphanage, reports contactmusic.com. The

event was held at Big Apple's Latino cultural institution EL Museo del Barrio.

Anthony later showed gratitude towards everyone who turned up at the event. He wrote on Twitter: "Thank you everyone who showed their support at El Museo del Barrio for Maestro Cares. You make all the difference."

Internet

Kristen and R-Patz deserve respect from fans, says

Twilight director



Twilight director Bill Condon

LONDON, 12 Aug—Twilight director Bill Condon has urged fans to show Kristen Stewart and Robert

Pattinson "respect" in the wake of the affair scandal that has rocked their relationship.

He said that they are just actors and have the right to privacy and respect.

It follows weeks of abuse after Stewart cheated on Pattinson with married 'Snow White and the Huntsman' director Rupert Sanders.

"The fact is, these are actors playing parts, and

maybe it's not such a bad thing that people be reminded of that," the *Daily Mail* quoted Condon as telling *Entertainment Weekly*.

Above all they have always shown great respect for the fans who made these movies such a success.

"Now it's time that some of that respect be returned to them," he added.

Internet

Conor meets Taylor Swift's parents

LOS ANGELES, 12 Aug—Singer Taylor Swift introduced her boyfriend Conor Kennedy to her parents when the couple visited her hometown.

Swift, 22, began dating the son of lawyer Robert Kennedy Jr and late Mary Kennedy in June, and has expressed her seriousness towards the relationship by taking him to her home in Nashville, Tennessee.

Conor, 18, enjoyed a barbecue dinner with Swift, and the couple looked smitten with each other. Onlookers said they could not keep their hands off each other, reports female-



Singer Taylor Swift

first.co.uk.

Taylor has previously dated musician John Mayer, singer Joe Jonas and actor Jake Gyllenhaal.—Internet

Pinkett Smith says no divorce plans

LOS ANGELES, 12 Aug—US actress Jada Pinkett Smith says she has no intention of divorcing her husband, actor Will Smith, after 14 years, despite rumors of a split.

The couple have two children together — Jaden, 14, and Willow, 11. Will also has a 19-year-old son, Trey,

from a previous marriage.

"We're not getting a divorce. Where am I gonna go? Where am I going to go? That's my boo," Pinkett Smith says of her longtime partner in the September issue of *Essence* magazine. "It's like he's another part of me."

She also talked to

UsMagazine.com this summer about what she thinks makes for a happy marriage.

"You need understanding, acceptance, and compassion," the actress said. "And usually you get understanding through friendship, so you need to have that."—Internet



Will Smith and his wife Jada Pinkett Smith

Springfield pleads no contest to reckless driving

LOS ANGELES, 12 Aug—Singer Rick Springfield has been placed on three years' probation after pleading no contest to reckless driving in Malibu, Calif., last year, officials said. Springfield, 62, was charged with driving under the influence after police said they

detected the smell of alcohol when they pulled him over while he was driving his 1963 Corvette Stingray.

TMZ said he made a plea deal with prosecutors on Thursday in which they agreed to drop the charge in exchange for a no-contest plea to reckless driving.

In addition to being placed on probation, the former "General Hospital" star was ordered to attend a two-month traffic programme.—Internet



Rick Springfield

'Breaking Dawn 2' will make everyone emotional: Nikki Reed

LOS ANGELES, 12 Aug—Actress Nikki Reed says everyone will be emotional at the premiere of her forthcoming film "Breaking Dawn 2" — the final movie in the "Twilight" series.

The 24-year-old plays Rosalie Hale, one of the vampires in the movie, and says she is saddened by the thought that the journey is coming to an end.

"It's not the last time we'll see each other, but it's the last time we'll see each other in that way and it's weird to say that it'll never happen again," eonline.com quoted Reed as saying.

"It is sad. I'm really sad," she added. The franchise started in 2008 with the first



Actress Nikki Reed

movie "Twilight". It was followed by "New Moon", "Eclipse" and "Breaking Dawn: Part 1".—Internet



Actress Heather Graham

Heather Graham returning to 'Hangover' franchise?

LOS ANGELES, 12 Aug—Actress Heather Graham is reportedly returning to the third instalment of the "Hangover" movie franchise. The 42-year-old had played the role of a Las Vegas stripper who married Stu Price played by actor Ed Helms in the first edition of the comedy released in 2009.

The plot of the movie, however, has been strictly kept under wraps, reports contactmusic.com.

Lead actors Bradley Cooper, Zach Galifianakis and Helms are also geared up to be part of the film. Boxer Mike Tyson, who gave a guest appearance in the first film, will also be seen doing a cameo in the movie.

"Hangover Part II", the sequel to the first movie, was released in 2011.—Internet

Allen signs for Liverpool

LONDON, 12 Aug — Liverpool have completed the signing of midfielder Joe Allen from Swansea City. The 22-year-old teams up with former Swans boss Brendan Rodgers, who took over at Anfield this summer. The Wales international watched his new side defeat FC Gomel on Thursday and has signed a “long-term” contract after completing a medical on Friday. Allen, part of the Team GB side at the London Olympics, played a key role for Swansea as they impressed in their first season in the Barclays Premier League. “I’ve always been ambitious and wanted to play at the highest level I possibly could,” Allen told the club’s official website. When you see an opportunity like this it’s almost impossible to turn it down.

“I’m someone who wants to be the best I can be. Every day, in training or in matches, I always want to

improve. You’ll always get 100 percent out of me and I’m really looking forward to gelling with the top-class players who are here and doing my bit for the club.” “It’s a proud day for me and my family. They have supported me through thick and thin for so long that this is as much a reward for them as it is for me. I feel proud, I’m really thrilled and I’m looking forward to my time here. I can’t really imagine how I’ll feel playing at Anfield right now. I’m excited about that prospect and witnessing the Anfield atmosphere and spirit, and being part of the home team, I’m sure it will be incredible.”

Allen believes that Rodgers, who led Swansea to an 11th place finish in the table last season, will bring success to Liverpool. “I have a lot of faith that Brendan Rodgers can bring success, that’s one of the reasons I’m here,” he added. “I wanted to be part of this project, his



Joe Allen made 36 Barclays Premier League appearances for Swansea City last season. — INTERNET

project, and I’ve really got a good feeling — as I’m sure all the players here have — that this football club is going to go from strength to strength in the next couple of seasons.” Allen is the second summer signing made by Rodgers, following the arrival of striker Fabio Borini.

And Rodgers is confident Allen will make the same impact for Liverpool as he did for Swansea. “I’m absolutely delighted that Joe has made the decision to come with us on this journey,” said

Rodgers. Joe is a player whose profile will fit perfectly with the ideas of this group. His ability to control and dominate the ball is an important ingredient in our attempt to gain success on the field. “Joe has had a fantastic education at Swansea City and will now begin the next chapter in his exciting career, and I wish him all the very best in what I’m sure will be a long and distinguished career here at Liverpool.”

Internet

Archery: Rivals bow to Koreans again

LONDON, 12 Aug — The more things change in the world of Olympic archery the more they stay the same. South Korea adapted to the London Games’ new format, put the new world number ones from India and America in their place and won three gold medals. Same old story. The only shock of the archery event was that South Korea did not sweep all golds — their men stumbled in the team semi-finals and Italy snuck in to snatch the title.

South Korea’s women continued their remarkable dominance of the sport by winning their seventh consecutive team gold medal, or all of them since the team event was introduced at the 1988 Games in Seoul. Korean women have garnered 14 of the 15 team and individual archery gold medals contested since 1984, making them perhaps the greatest Olympic women’s team of all time. Ki

Bo-bae is likely to have faced more pressure than any of her predecessors, however, as the 24-year-old only took individual gold after a nerve-wracking single arrow shoot-off against Mexican Aida Roman.

Ki brought gasps from the crowd when she leaked her shot outside the bulls-eye for an eight, leaving Roman needing a nine or 10 to win.

Reuters



South Korea’s Ki Bo-bae, with the impression of her bow on her nose, poses with her gold medal during the victory ceremony for the women’s individual archery event at the London 2012 Olympic Games at the Lord’s Cricket Ground on 2 Aug, 2012. — REUTERS

China sweep tainted badminton tournament

LONDON, 12 Aug — The London Games badminton tournament was rocked by the biggest scandal to hit the sport in its 20-year Olympic history, casting a pall over China’s stunning sweep of the five titles on offer. The sport’s federation sowed the seeds of the scandal by introducing a much-criticized format of round-robin matches in a pool-based first round, which left the tournament ripe for manipulation by teams seeking to secure preferable positions in the knockout rounds.

Organizers brushed off warnings from team officials and the competition was plunged into turmoil on day four when four women’s doubles pairs deliberately played to lose their matches

in farcical scenes at Wembley Arena. China’s world champion pair of Yu Yang and Wang Xiaoli were blamed for kicking off the match-throwing antics against South Korean opponents, but both pairs were culpable as they blatantly sprayed shots out and hit serves into the net, sparking jeers from a disgruntled crowd.

Despite repeated warnings from tournament referees, the shenanigans continued in a later match between South Korean and Indonesian opponents. “Who would want to sit through something like that?” London organizing committee chairman Sebastian Coe asked. “It is unacceptable.” Within hours, all eight players had been charged with misconduct and they were subsequently expelled from the tournament in a stunning decision that polarized teams and officials.

South Korea and Indonesia appealed against the expulsions but China’s delegation backed them and ordered head badminton coach Li Yongbo and the players to issue a public apology. Indonesia subsequently withdrew its appeal. The scandal rumbled on, with the IOC demanding the affected delegations investigate their coaches’ involvement in the negative tactics, overshadowing fiercely contested matches played out in front of near-packed houses every day.

Reuters

Lin Yue of China competes during men’s 10m platform diving semifinal contest, at London 2012 Olympic Games in London, Britain, on 11 Aug, 2012. XINHUA



LONDON, 12 Aug — The 14-day diving competitions at London Olympics ended on Saturday with the Chinese “Dream Team” bagging six out of the eight golds on offer but its gap with the rest of the world is shrinking. The two events China lost in London were men’s individual 3m springboard and 10m

platform. Russian diver Ilya Zakharov turned over China’s defending Olympic champion He Chong in the springboard final, while American world silver medalist David Boudia succeeded in his vengeance against China’s world champion Qiu Bo in men’s platform event.

While divers spearheaded by Russian, American, German and British improving rapidly in terms of difficulty and quality of moves, China has no more absolute advantage in either degree of difficulty or consistency of execution in diving, especially in men’s events. After triumph over Qiu, who has been dominant on the

World Series since 2010 in both 10m platform and synchro platform and never encountered any defeat in recent years, Boudia said the rest of the world are catching up with the Chinese, and set feet on China dominance in diving. “Everyone knows China is dominant in every single diving events. But we can win,” he said.

His opinion was joined by British overwhelming favorite Tom Daley, who captured a bronze medal in platform event. Daley said diving was an unpredictable event. Those scraped through into the final can be the ones grabbing gold

medals from the Chinese. Divers of Mexico, United States, Britain have showed their talents during London competitions while emerging stars from Australia, Malaysia and Canada are seizing their berth in the battle. China’s team manager Zhou Jihong said China has some stranglehold in women’s events but gradually lost dominance in men’s events. She said the Chinese team has expected difficulties in men’s events in London as they face increasing challenge from a raft of superb divers from around the globe with high degrees of difficulties in their dives. — Xinhua

Olympic Diving Roundup: China still dominates but chasers closer

Real Madrid tops Glasgow Celtic 2-0 in Philly

PHILADELPHIA, (Pa), 12 Aug — Real Madrid is one of the best soccer teams in the world. This month, North American fans were able to witness its dominance firsthand, including Saturday’s 2-0 victory over Scottish power Glasgow Celtic in the World Football Challenge before 34,018 at Lincoln Financial Field. Real Madrid, the Spanish League champion, dominated. The first goal came in the 22nd minute, when Gonzalo Higuain split two Celtic defenders and fed Jose Callejon, who scored into an open net.

Karim Benzema added an insurance goal in the 67th minute with a nice move past Adam Matthews then a shot to the far left corner of the net

that beat goalkeeper Lukasz Zaluska. In the 31st minute, Real Madrid had a chance to extend its lead, but Cristiano Ronaldo was denied by Zaluska. Ronaldo substituted out in the 58th minute along with several other Real Madrid players. Celtic’s best chance was in the 45th minute when Joe Ledley slipped past a defender and fired a 20-yard shot about a foot over the crossbar. Celtic lost more than the game. Dylan McGeough was removed from the field on a stretcher after a collision with Real Madrid’s Nuri Sahin when both went up for the ball and Sahin caught McGeough on the chin with his left shoulder.

McGeough moved his arms across his chest before he was taken to a hospital to

show he was conscious. “They think (McGeough suffered) a fractured jaw,” Celtic coach Neil Lennon said. “He’s in a distressing state when I left him. He had an injection and he’s on his way to the hospital now. I thought he had a great first half for us and we’ll keep our fingers crossed he can make a quick recovery. He may need surgery to repair it, and bit of shock as well.”

Saturday was the last in a nine-game North American series, organized by Major League Soccer. It also concluded a grueling four-game stretch in nine days for Real Madrid, which went 4-0 and outscored its those opponents by a combined 14-3. Celtic, the reigning Scottish Premier League champions,



Real Madrid’s Cristiano Ronaldo, left, kicks the ball on goal past Glasgow Celtic’s Kelvin Wilson in the first half of a soccer game on 11 Aug, 2012, in Philadelphia. — INTERNET

began its league season last weekend and is scheduled to play in Finland on Wednesday. Regular goalkeeper Fraser Forster did not play against Real Madrid and star forward Georgios Samaras did not make the trip. — Internet



Gold medalists China’s Tian Qing (L) and Zhao Yunlei pose at the women’s doubles badminton victory ceremony at the London 2012 Olympic Games at the Wembley Arena on 4 Aug, 2012. — REUTERS

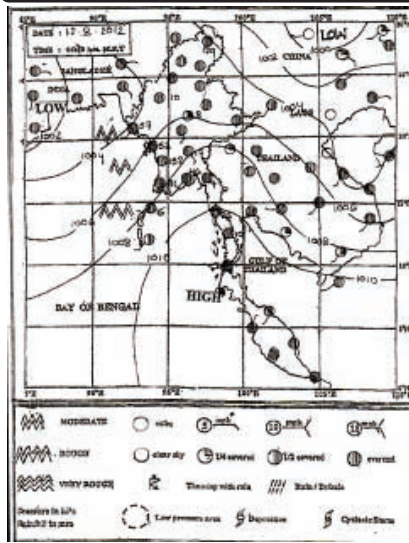
International
Sports

Focus Myanmar TV Programme**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**
(13-8-12 09:30 am ~
14-8-12 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Workshop on Millennium Development Goals: Acceleration Strategies and Priorities beyond 2015
- * News
- * Song for You
- * News
- * Let's observe the tradition of Matupi
- * News
- * Mother's First & Best Present
- * News
- * The 1st ASEAN (RCEP-WGI) Meeting
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * News
- * Japanese Goodwill Ambassador's Visit to Myanmar
- * News
- * Moe Hnyin Than Buddhé, The Unique Pagoda in Monywa
- * Myanmar Movie "Heartbroken Lady"

MYANMAR TV
(13-8-2012) (Monday)

- 7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:40 am
3. Dhamma Puja Song
- 7:50 am
4. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:15 am
5. Cute Little Dancers
- 8:25 am
6. Teleplay (Industry)
- 8:30 am
7. Dance Of National Races
- 4:00 pm
8. Martial Song
- 4:10 pm
9. Dance Variety
- 4:35 pm
10. Musical Programme
- 5:00 pm
11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:05 pm
12. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 5:20 pm
13. Myanmar Language
- 6:30 pm
14. Sing & Enjoy
- 8:00 pm
15. News
16. Cartoon Series
17. TV Drama Series
18. India Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**Weather forecast for 13th August, 2012**

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	33/91	25/77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
2	Kayah	29/84	21/70	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
3	Kaym	25/77	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers (H)	(100%)
4	Chin	20/68	16/61	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
5	Upper Sagaing	31/88	25/77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
6	Lower Sagaing	36/97	27/81	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
7	Tamhuys	29/84	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
8	Bago	26/82	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
9	Magway	33/91	27/81	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
10	Mandalay	37/99	26/79	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
11	Mon	26/82	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers (H)	(100%)
12	Yangon	29/84	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
13	Rakhine	27/81	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers (H)	(100%)
14	Southern Shan	25/77	18/64	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
15	Northern Shan	30/86	23/73	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
16	Eastern Shan	31/88	24/75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
17	Ayeyawady	30/86	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	32/90	25/77	One or two rain or thundershower	(100%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	29/84	23/73	Some rain or thundershower	(100%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	37/99	26/79	Isolated rain or thundershower	(80%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today

Bay Inference: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Floods hit Peinzalok of Nyaunglebin Township

PEINZALOK, 6 Aug—Ohnhnetha Creek that crosses Nyaunglebin Township overflowed Shwepaukkan Ward of Peinzalok as of dawn of 3 August.

Some roads in Shwepaukkan Ward were inundated in the floods. So, the local people faced difficulty in transport. *Myanma Alin*



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe presents School Health Model Award (Primary Level) and Best School Health Award to Headmistress Daw Tha Nu Aye of Hline Post-Primary School No 2 in Yangon Region on 6 August of part of 2012-2013 academic year Yangon Region School Health Activities held at Dagon BEHS No 1.—MYANMA ALIN

Asleep in Janadit

Haji U Kyaw Myint (a) Habibul Rahman
Assistant Director, Ministry of Home and Religious Affairs (Rtd)
Aged (84) years

Beloved son of (U Salilul Rahman-Daw Karimon Nisar) of No 138 on 3rd layer on 27th street in Yangon, beloved husband of (Hajima Daw Nyunt May) and Hajima Daw Saw May, father of U Kyaw Oo (U.S.A.)-Daw Wah Wah Khin, U Kyaw Nyunt (U.S.A.)-Daw Kyu Kyu Aye, U Kyaw Sein (U.S.A.)-Daw Yin Yin Thaw, Dr Khin May (Malaysia)-U Zaw Naing (MD, May 28 International Co.), U Kyaw Hla-Unitame Shipping Co)-Dr Khin May Win, (Associate Professor, Physics Department, Loikaw University), Haji U Kyaw Myint (a) Habibul Rahman received bless of Allah at 3.40 am on Friday on 10-8-2012. Relatives and friends were informed that the Dafana was held at Yay Way Sunni Kabarstan after completion of Johnma Namaz.

Bereaved Family

**Table tennis: Rivals look to Rio to beat China**

LONDON, 12 Aug — Young table tennis players from Japan, Germany and the United States gave a glimpse at London 2012 that they could challenge China's Olympic dominance in the future, in a tournament lit up by a rocking atmosphere, Chinese brilliance and a one-shoe winner. China swept aside their challengers to take all four golds in London, just as they did on home soil four years ago.

A silver for Japan's young, attacking women's team - the country's first in the sport - and two bronzes for Germany's Dimitrij Ovtcharov, 23, signaled the Chinese masters may not have it all their own way at the Rio de Janeiro Games in four years' time, though.

"For the future China will definitely be challenged by these other countries but it's not tomorrow, it's maybe another three or four years before we can see that new generation coming in," Adham Sharara, president of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), told Reuters.

There was a blunt message from China, however: rivals need to up their game and work harder. They can even go to China to help to close the gap, several officials said, recognizing that domination was not good in any sport. "I think even the Chinese are getting bored of China winning all the time. They are waiting for a close match," laughed Timo Boll, Europe's top men's player. Boll fell short of hopes in the individual event but showed the way by beating singles gold winner Zhang Jike in the team semi-final, although China still prevailed 3-1.—Reuters

China's Zhang Jike (R) and team mates Wang Hao (C) and Ma Long celebrate winning gold in the medal ceremony of the men's team table tennis tournament at the ExCel venue during the London 2012 Olympic.—REUTERS

Leading players still dreaming of Montreal glory

MONTREAL, 12 Aug—A former world number one and two grand slam champions enjoyed routine quarter-final victories on Saturday as they remained on course to claim a belated maiden title of 2012 at a rain-hit Montreal Cup. Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki, last year's French Open champion Li Na and 2011 Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitová ended a marathon day of tennis by easing into the semi-finals of the \$2 million tournament in convincing fashion.

They were joined by 16th seeded Czech Lucie Safarova, who will face Li in the first semi-final on Sunday, before Wozniacki and Kvitová face each other for the first time since last November's WTA Championships. Kvitová won that clash in straight sets on the way to claiming her most recent title and will be hoping to repeat the feat to advance to Monday's final in Montreal.

Wozniacki had the most difficult passage of the last four survivors, on a day that saw several of the top seeds

forced to play twice given the limited play possible on both Thursday and Friday due to rain.

The 22-year-old former number one, whose last title



Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark hits a return during her match against Aleksandra Wozniak of Canada at the Rogers Cup tennis tournament in Montreal, on 11 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS

was in New Haven almost a year ago, first needed two-and-a-half hours to defeat American Varvara Lepchenko 4-6 6-3 6-4 in a third round match.

She returned to centre court after a four-hour break to see off a stubborn Aleksandra Wozniak 6-4 6-4 after her Canadian opponent saved five match points. "It was tough today.—Reuters

Government accommodates victims at tents as first step in undertaking relief works, next step places them at better buildings

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Aug—Union Minister for Border Areas and for Myanma Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay, accompanied by Chairman of Indonesian Red Cross Society Mr Jusuf Kalla and party left here by air yesterday morning and arrived at Sittway Airport at 8.30 am to observe actual situation in Rakhine State and provide humanitarian aids.

After viewing round the documentary photos on riots caused in Rakhine State, and tasks for restoring peace and stability and performing relief and resettlement displayed at the meeting hall of Rakhine State Government Office, they held a meeting.

At the relief camp in Mingan Ward of Sittway, the Union minister and the delegation met the victims. Member of the delegation Assistant Secretary General of Humanitarian Affairs Mr Atta AL-Manan Bakhit said that they were there to provide humanitarian aids to the victims. It is important not to misunderstand each other, and two social communities are to live there in harmony and to have tolerance for each other.

Next, they proceeded to the relief camp in Thekkebyin Village of Sittway where they greeted and asked the victims.



Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay, Chairman of Indonesian Red Cross Society Mr Jusuf Kalla and party meet victims at relief camp in Sittway. MNA

The victims reported on requirements.

The delegation viewed the land razed by fire in

Setyonsu Ward of Sittway and along Strand Road by car.

At Sittway Hotel, the Union minister explained implementation of the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project, undertakings of hotel zone and fishery industry, construction of ports and dockyards, economic market and future urban development and replied to queries raised by the delegation members.

A meeting on reviewing the trip to Rakhine led by the Union Minister was held at the office of Rakhine State government. Chairman of Indonesian Red Cross Society Mr Jusuf Kalla, Vice-President Dr Mohamed Al Maadheed of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Assistant Secretary General of Humanitarian Affairs Mr Atta AL-Manan Bakhit frankly disclosed their attitudes, opinions, suggestions and future tasks on relief and resettlement in Rakhine State.

After that, the Union minister said that the government accommodated the victims at tents at first in undertaking the relief works, and then arrangements are being made for accommodating them at the better buildings. At present, semi-permanent buildings need for 8000 households. He urged international organizations to provide assistance as much as possible as the victims need foods, water, sanitation and health assistance in addition to housings. The Rakhine State Chief Minister manages coordination tasks for smooth process of works at the state level. Moreover, he said the sector-wise duties were assigned to state ministers to cooperate with UN agencies and international organizations. The Union government and officials of the state government is giving assistance for smooth process of personnel and organizations for their contributions to the region.

MNA

New school building handed over in Chanayethazan Township

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Aug—Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye yesterday morning attended the opening ceremony of Myawady two-storey building at No 5 Basic Education High School in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay Region yesterday.

At first, Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing, Director-General in-charge U Myo Nyunt of No 2 Basic Education Department and wellwisher Daw Mya Thein formally opened the archway of the school.

The Union Minister unveiled the stone inscription and signboard of the new building. The Union Minister, the region minister and wellwishers sprinkled scented water on the stone inscription and planted star-flower plants.

At the ceremony to hand over the new school building to the Ministry of Education,



Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye sprinkles scented water on stone inscription of Myawady two-storey building at Chanayethazan

BEHS No 5.—MNA

the Union Minister said that not only the government but also School Board of Trustees, social organizations, parents and wellwishers provide assistance for improvement of the school. He expressed

his belief that the school will turn out new generation human resources in the future and the headmaster and teachers will train the students to become reliable persons for the State.

Thiha Thudhamma

Manijotadhara U Chit Tun explained the purpose of donations and wellwisher Daw Mya Thein handed over documents related to the building to the director-general in-charge of BED No 2.—MNA

London 2012 Olympics medal tally Day 16(24:00 hrs MST)

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	United States of America	46	29	29	104
2	People's Republic of China	38	27	22	87
3	Great Britain	29	17	19	65
4	Russian Federation	24	25	33	82
5	Republic of Korea	13	8	7	28
6	Germany	11	19	14	44
7	France	11	11	12	34
8	Italy	8	9	11	28
9	Hungary	8	4	5	17
10	Australia	7	16	12	35
11	Japan	7	14	17	38
12	Kazakhstan	7	1	5	13
13	Netherlands	6	6	8	20

14	Ukraine	6	5	9	20
15	Cuba	5	3	6	14
16	New Zealand	5	3	5	13
17	Islamic Republic of Iran	4	5	3	12
18	Jamaica	4	4	4	12
19	Czech Republic	4	3	3	10
20	DPRK	4	0	2	6
21	Spain	3	10	4	17
22	Brazil	3	5	9	17
23	Belarus	3	5	5	13
24	South Africa	3	2	1	6
25	Ethiopia	3	1	3	7
26	Croatia	3	1	2	6
27	Romania	2	5	2	9
28	Kenya	2	4	5	11
29	Denmark	2	4	3	9
30	Azerbaijan	2	2	6	10
30	Poland	2	2	6	10

Russia take Group gold

LONDON, 12 Aug—Russia won their fourth consecutive Olympic gold in the Rhythmic Gymnastics Group All-Around competition after two stunning performances in the final at Wembley Arena today.

The final piece of gymnastics action at London 2012 did not disappoint, with Russia scoring 28.700 in their five balls routine. Then 28.300 with the ribbons and hoops earned them a total of 57.000 to retain their title. Belarus scored 55.500 to win silver ahead of Italy, who racked up 55.450 for bronze.—London-2012

