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President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Hungarian President

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 Aug—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Janos Ader, President of the Republic of Hungary, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Hungary, which falls on 20 August 2012.—*MNA*

Union Construction Minister inspects roadwork on Pyay-Paukkaung-Toungoo

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 Aug— Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint yesterday inspected progress of roadwork on Pyay-Paukkaung-Toungoo Road. The Union Minister assisted in construction of retaining wall between milepost Nos. 106/6 and 106/7, maintenance of tar road session between milepost Nos. 97/7 and 100/0 with the use of toll wall and dredging the drains for proper flow of water, construction of retaining walls between milepost Nos. 90/5 and 90/6, and between milepost Nos. 64/4 and 64/5.

At Nawaday Avenue's briefing hall, the Union Minister met with engineers of district/township special groups of Bago Region, calling for ensuring that no overloaded trucks are allowed on Pyay-Paukkaung-Toungoo Road, a central one among Yoma crossing roads, and making efforts on upgrading roads and bridges in the district.

MNA

Union Construction Minister U Khin Maung Myint inspects progress of roadwork being carried out on Pyay-Paukkaung-Toungoo road.—MNA

Flood warning for Sittoung, Shwegyin rivers

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 Aug—According to the 12.30 hr M.S.T observations today, the water level of the Sittoung River at Madauk 1190 cm has exceeded by 120 cm (about 4 feet) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level 1070 cm during the next three days.

The water level of the Shwegyin River at Shwegyin 710 cm has exceeded by 10 cm (about 0.3 foot) above its danger level. It may continue to rise 30 cm (about 1 foot) during the next 48 hours commencing this noon and may remain above its danger level 700 cm, announced by Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—*MNA*

Myanmar trounces New Zealand 3-0 in volleyball friendly

Yangon, 19 Aug—The Myanmar-New Zealand Goodwill Friendly Volleyball Matches was held at National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township, here, at 2 pm today.

Among the spectators were officials from Asian Volleyball Federation, Vice-President U Thein Win and executives from Myanmar Volleyball Federation and invited guests. Myanmar selected men's volleyball team beat New Zealand selected men's volleyball team 3-0 with 25-18, 25-19 and 25-16 results. The second match will be held at the same venue at 2 pm tomorrow.—*MNA*

New role for drones - wildlife, eco conservation

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People play with water in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, on 18 Aug, 2012. Heatwave hit most part of France, with the temperature climbing up to 38 degrees Celsius on Saturday in Paris.

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Japan's Miyazato keeps LPGA lead

South Korea's So Yeon Ryu during the second round of the LPGA Safeway Classic on 18 August.

Page 14

Our Three Main National Causes

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

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (19-8-2012)

Kyaikmaraw	**(7.68) inches**
Mawlamyine	**(6.23) inches**
Bago	**(5.87) inches**
Gwa	**(5.75) inches**
Hpa-an	**(5.00) inches**
Kayan	**(4.88) inches**
Yangon (Mingaladon)	**(4.38) inches**
Yangon (Kaba-Aye)	**(4.26) inches**
Kawkareik	**(3.86) inches**

Chelsea beat Wigan 2-0 in Premier League

Wigan,19 Aug— Chelsea opened its Premier League campaign with a 2-0 away victory over Wigan Sunday, with Branislav Ivanovic and Frank Lampard scoring inside the first seven minutes.

Eden Hazard, making his league debut for Chelsea, was instrumental in both goals at the DW Stadium. The Belgium international played the ball to Ivanovic in the second minute for the opening goal before being fouled for Lampard's penalty by Wigan debutant Ivan Ramis.

Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic celebrates after he scores the first goal of the game for his side during their English Premier League soccer match at the DW Stadium in Wigan, England, Sunday 19 Aug, 2012.

Internet

Ramis made up for his error in the second half, clearing a Fernando Torres chip off the line as Chelsea looked to increase its lead. Brazilian attacking midfielder Oscar, who came off the bench to make his first Chelsea appearance, also came close.

Wigan's Jordi Gomez missed several chances in the second half as Roberto Di Matteo's side took all three points.—*Internet.*

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 20 August, 2012

Engines of growth

Now, we are going forward under our newly adopted democratic system and market-oriented economy helping us achieve well-rounded development in all areas including business, trade, and so on.

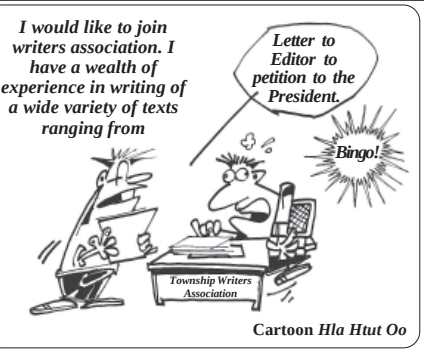
Like in many other fast developing countries around the world all-round development will become a drive for mass migration of people from the rural to the urban, followed by the increase in the populations of towns, especially cities and major towns, because of a large number of job and business opportunities created by extra industries, private business firms, joint-ventures, cooperative cartels, financial institutions including banks and the enlargement of transport facilities including ports and airports.

As a result of this positive trend, the formation of urbanization plans as well as action groups alongside the task of ensuring socio-economic development, creating favourable urban environment, introducing green economy, establishing environmental friendly industrial and housing estates has become a must for us all.

Currently, ten percent of the country's population lives in Yangon, the commercial city where products from the whole country meet, and serving as the main gateway into motherland and the largest portal for imports and exports. Once an Asian model city now is a candidate for future mega metropolitan of the continent.

We have Mandalay; another metropolis renowned for its cultural heritages, and the country's second largest economic hub acting as the centre in doing business with two global emerging economies — China and India. Roughly, 20 percent of Myanmar people living in Yangon and Mandalay are generating 30 per cent of Gross Domestic Product.

So, it is crystal clear that such major economic hubs are vital for our economic well-being serving as engines of growth and home of a very large working force. In this context, we must devise and deliver effective urbanization projects turning large and promising towns into major cities in which considerable number of industries and labour force are serving as extra engines of growth for our motherland.



Cartoon *Hla Htut Oo*

Farmers fight back flood in Bago

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug— Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing visited 200-acre Palethwe paddy plantation in Oattwin Township, Bago Region this morning and comforted local farmers.

He then attended the ceremony to provide paddy seeds and cash assistance to farmers who suffered losses from flooded farms at Bago Region Government Office. The torrential rains had flooded over 0.1 million acres of rice plants and about 8600 acres are faced with the threat of complete damage. But, measures are underway to re-grow the flooded farms.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister highlighted the threat of flood and draught worldwide due to global warming, calling for practical measures to substitute crops in case they are damaged by disasters. He expressed thanks to partner companies and wellwishers for their contribution to fulfill the requirements of farmers.

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint called for donation of paddy seeds and assistance and harmonious cooperation of businessmen so as to re-grow the flooded farms in time.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing donated 300 baskets of paddy seeds and Dr Naing Tun Aung and wife Dr Wai Wai Yin of International Gate Way Co Ltd and Myohla Sugar Mill K 50.15 million kyats to the farmers.

Union Minister U Win Myint contributed 200 baskets of paddy seeds, businessmen and companies 15 million kyats, 100 USD and instant noodle worth K 3 million.

Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win spoke words of thanks. Today's donations include 500 baskets of paddy seeds, K 80.15 million and 100 USD.

MNA

Union A &I Minister U Myint Hlaing provides farmers whose farms were flooded in Bago Region with 300 baskets of paddy.

MNA

Union Foreign Minister felicitates Hungarian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Janos Martonyl, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Hungary, which falls on 20 August 2012.—*MNA*

Outstanding students honoured in Thongwa

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug—A ceremony to honour outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination with flying colours, the teachers and schools for their best performance with best pass rate in 2011-2012 academic year was held at Basic Education High School No. 1 in Thongwa yesterdaymorning.

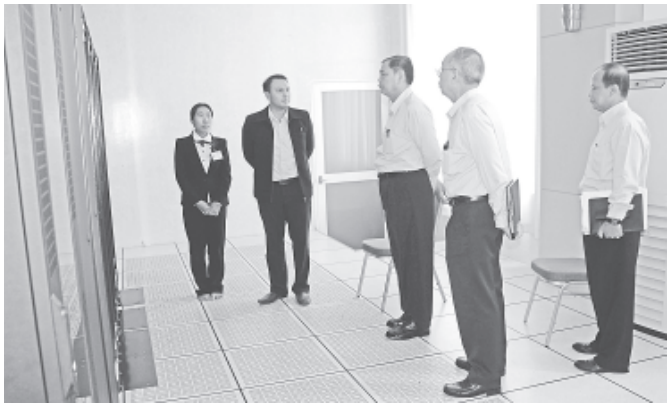
At the ceremony, Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung and Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein gave speeches.

After that, the Union Minister, the Region Minister and officials presented prizes to the outstanding students, teachers and schools.

Later, the Union Minister donated cash and publications to the schools and social organizations in Thongwa Township.

MNA

Union CPT Minister on inspection tour of Yatanarpon Teleport



Union CPT Minister U Thein Tun looks around machine rooms at the main building of Yatanarpon Teleport.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug— Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun paid an inspection tour of Yatanarpon Teleport where he looked around machine rooms at its main building and greeted engineers and officials concerned.

Calling the staff of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs for keeping an eye on cyber security, he left necessary instructions on ensuring that the public have easy access to use online system of Web Portal, and on taking preventive measures against online attacks of hackers through DDOS, and carrying out security checks day and night.

He proceeded to Yatanarpon Solar plant in which he paid a close attention to production process of solar panels to be used in GSM/UMTS mobile phone stations.

After that, the Union Minister viewed the sites chosen for the construction of staff quarters in Yatanarpon Myothit Industrial Zone.—*MNA*

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

Ryan puts personal spin on Medicare debate

THE VILLAGES, 19 Aug—Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan on Saturday put a personal spin on the debate over Medicare, bringing his 78-year-old mother on stage at a speech to seniors in Florida where he vowed to safeguard the health insurance programme for the elderly.

Under attack by Democrats for his budget cost-cutting plan that proposes a major transformation in how Medicare works, Ryan has gone on the offensive, charging that President Barack Obama would take billions from Medicare to pay for his 2010 health care reform law.

With that, he has also begun to align himself with presidential candidate Mitt Romney's approach to Medicare, one that would spend $716 billion more than either Obama's or Ryan's over the next 10 years. Ryan personalized the issue at The Villages, the world's biggest retirement community and a bastion of Republican support in a key swing state.

"When I think of Medicare, it's not just a programme, it's not just a bunch of numbers, it's what my mom relies on, it's what my grandma had," Ryan, 42, said. Standing in front of a banner that read "Protect And Strengthen Medicare," Ryan hugged his mother Betty Douglas, who lives part-time in Florida. The short-haired, diminutive Douglas waved to the crowd.

Romney's choice of Ryan as his running mate has put a spotlight on the Wisconsin congressman's best-known achievement—a budget plan that would slash Medicare's projected costs by converting it to a programme that provides limited subsidies to buy coverage.

But on the campaign trail, Ryan has emphasized less contentious proposals offered by Romney.

Talk of shrinking the health programme for the elderly could lose votes in the 6 November election in the hotly contested state of Florida, home to the highest concentration of retirees in the country. "Their plan would put Medicare on track to be ended as we know it," President Barack Obama said to a crowd of about 2,300 at a campaign event on Saturday in Windham, New Hampshire.—*Reuters*

Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan (R) introduces his mother Betty Douglas at a campaign event at The Villages in Lady Lake, Florida on 18 August, 2012.
REUTERS

Wildfires strain outdoor tourism business in western US

SALMON, 19 Aug—Wildfires sweeping across the western United States are straining communities that depend upon the summer tourism season, as recreation sites catch fire, campgrounds close and outdoor activities such as river rafting are disrupted.

In the mountains of central Idaho, where whitewater rafting has replaced logging as an economic mainstay, blazes are curtailing trips on rivers whose world-class rapids draw an international crowd of thousands from June through August.

Tourists who booked rafting trips months in advance have been canceling their reservations, spooked by fast-changing blazes that have produced a smoky haze and led to road blockages.

"We've had nothing but cancellations," said Lorali Simmons, owner of River Shuttles, a business in Salmon, Idaho, that shuttles vehicles for boaters on the Middle Fork and the Salmon River's wild and scenic corridor.

The wildfires that have scorched 80,000 acres of mountain pine forests in east central Idaho stranded 300 Middle Fork rafters northwest of Salmon this week after falling rock closed the only road to the site.

Dozens of fires are burning out of control across parched Western states, including California, where blazes have encroached on national parks.

***US Forest Service firefighters work on the Springs Fire in Boise National Forest near Banks-Garden Valley, Idaho in this 13 August, 2012 photograph made available to Reuters on 17 Aug, 2012.—*REUTERS**

A survey released this week by the US government shows the number of Americans engaging in outdoor recreation rose last year for the first time in three decades. At the same time, remote, sparsely populated communities in western states have tried to remake themselves as gateways to natural resources that attract visitors.

In recent years, fires, floods and heat waves have taken a toll on a tourism industry that the Outdoor Industry Association says generates more than $35 billion combined for Idaho, Colorado and California annually.—*Reuters*

At least 14 killed in attack on Yemen intelligence HQ

***A man takes a photo of smoke rising from the site of an attack on the Political Security Agency building, the headquarters of the Yemeni intelligence services in the southern provinces, in the southern Yemeni city of Aden on 18 Aug, 2012.—*INTERNET**

ADEN, 19 Aug—Suspected al-Qaeda-linked militants killed at least 14 Yemeni soldiers and security guards on Saturday in a car bomb and grenade attack on the intelligence service headquarters in the southern port city of Aden.

More bodies were believed buried under the rubble of the building, part of which was leveled in the assault, the defence ministry said. At least seven people were wounded.

The United States has been pouring aid into Yemen to stem the threat of attacks from al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and to try to prevent any spillover of violence into neighboring Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter.

Last year, a U.S.-backed offensive drove al-Qaeda offshoot Ansar al-Sharia from cities it had seized in an uprising against former president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

But militants have carried out a number of suicide bombings on high-profile military and security targets since June, exposing the government's vulnerability.

On Saturday, witnesses said militants drove up to a building owned by Yemen's state television broadcaster and blew up a military vehicle guarding it outside.

They then moved on to the three-storey intelligence base nearby and opened fire with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades.

The attackers also detonated a car bomb next to the building, destroying part of it, said the defence ministry.

The ministry said the attack killed 14 people and wounded seven—all of them members of the intelligence service and the Central Security forces. A security source and medics said 18 people died.—*Reuters*

Serial attacks kill seven, wound 5 in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 Aug—Seven people were killed and five others injured on Saturday in separate gunfire and bomb attacks in Iraq, the police said.

In central Iraq, gunmen stormed the house of a police traffic officer in Swaeb district in southwestern Baghdad, and shot him, his wife, his sister and his daughter dead, an Interior Ministry source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The attackers robbed about 75, 000 US dollars and fled the scene, the source said, adding that Iraqi security forces launched an investigation into the incident.

In Iraq's northern province of Nineveh, gunmen with assault rifles broke into a civilian house in al-Rashediyah area in the provincial capital city of Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad, killing two brothers and injuring their guest inside, a provincial police source anonymously told *Xinhua.*

In a separate incident, a woman was gunned down by gunmen near her house in Al-Methaq area, in eastern Mosul, the source said.

In Iraq's western province of Anbar, a roadside bomb hidden in a garbage container detonated near a police patrol in eastern the city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, wounding two policemen, a local police source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

In addition, police arrested a woman suicide bomber wearing an explosive vest in the provincial capital city of Ramadi, some 110 km west of Baghdad, the source said.

In Iraq's eastern province of Diyala, a roadside bomb went off in an area located just west of the provincial capital city of Baquba, some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, injuring a woman, a provincial police source anonymously told *Xinhua*.—*Xinhua*

***A firefighter rescues trapped tourists in Longmenshan Township of Pengzhou City in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 18 Aug, 2012. Heavy rains lashed Chengdu on Friday night, triggering mudslide in Yinchanggou scenic zone of Pengzhou.—*XINHUA**

Hurricane Gordon heads toward eastern Azores

MIAMI, 19 Aug—Hurricane Gordon sped across the Atlantic on early Sunday toward the eastern Azores islands, where a hurricane warning is in effect, US forecasters in Miami said.

The US National Hurricane Centre in Miami said Gordon was centered about 395 miles (635 kms) west-southwest of the Azores at 2 am EDT (0600 GMT) Sunday. It added that Gordon was a Category 2 hurricane with top sustained winds of 110 mph (175 kph) and higher gusts. The hurricane, which formed on Saturday, was moving toward the east at 22 mph (35 kph).

The hurricane was on a forecast track expected to take it near the eastern Azores on early Monday. Forecasters said that while the Gordon was expected to weaken somewhat during the day Sunday, it still was expected to be a hurricane when it passes near the eastern Azores. Portugal's government, meanwhile, has discontinued a hurricane warning for the central Azores.

Forecasters said Gordon, on an eastward track in the pre-dawn hours, was expected to turn toward the east-northeast later Sunday. Hurricane-force winds extended outward up to 35 miles (55 kms) from the center and tropical storm force winds reached outward up to 125 miles (205 kphs).

Gordon's dangerous surf and ocean swells could reach the central and eastern Azores on Sunday afternoon and heavy rains were expected, the Miami forecasting center said.

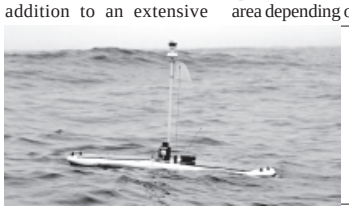
Gordon became a hurricane on Saturday even as onetime Tropical Storm Helene swiftly weakened into a tropical depression as it lumbered ashore on Mexico's Gulf Coast and degenerated into a rain storm without reports of significant damage.

Internet

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

Sharks tracked by surfing robot and free app

SAN FRANCISCO, 19 Aug — A surfing robot is being used to track great white sharks off the coast of California, US, by marine scientists. The mobile transmitter is the latest addition to an extensive programme of electronic tagging. Researchers aim to fine-tune 12 years of results with the self-propelled craft and raise public awareness of the area's diverse wildlife. Shark fans are able to follow the animals' movements via a free app for smartphones and tablet computers.



The unique shark-tracking robot. INTERNET

The project is led by shark expert Professor Barbara Block from Stanford University, who describes the area off the coast of San Francisco as the "blue Serengeti", comparing its underwater highways to the migratory routes in Africa. Her latest project follows on from a 10-year programme dedicated to tracking predators in the Pacific Ocean using electronic tags on creatures ranging from seabirds to turtles.The study revealed that the waters were a hotspot for a variety of species which frequent the area depending on the season and water temperature, many migrating between Mexico and Canada.

According to Prof Block, the great white sharks in particular demonstrated an "incredible homing ability". But to further investigate their behaviour, she required a "mobile observatory"." Across the planet the goal of oceanographers and biologists alike is to observe the ocean in as much detail as possible," she said, explaining that unobtrusive equipment is the key to accurate data. After first hearing about the "environmentally friendly" unmanned technology developed by the Silicon Valley based company Liquid Robotics, Prof Block said she became "infatuated".

The bright yellow shark-tracking robot designed by the company consists of two parts — a glider that descends 23ft (7m) down into the ocean with a surfboard above.The glider has a special wing system that converts wave energy into forward thrust to keep the robot moving through the water. It also has a receiver that picks up the audio signals from the sharks' electronic tags.The surfboard carries the rest of the scientific instruments, including the satellite link that allows researchers to accurately pinpoint the animals' locations.

When a shark or other tagged animal encounters the robot, their position is recorded and relayed back to the research team.

They have also placed a number of fixed buoys mounted with underwater audio receivers known as hydrophones to form a listening network in known hotspots. In the first week of its release the team report that the robot has picked up five great white sharks.— *Internet*

Shamoon virus targets energy sector infrastructure

LONDON, 19 Aug — A new threat targeting infrastructure in the energy industry has been uncovered by security specialists. The attack, known as Shamoon, is said to have hit "at least one organization" in the sector. Shamoon is capable of wiping files and rendering several computers on a network unusable. On Wednesday, Saudi Arabia's national oil company said an attack had led to its own network being taken offline.

Saudi Aramco is Saudi Arabia's national oil provider. INTERNET

Although Saudi Aramco did not link the issue to the Shamoon threat, it did confirm that the company had suffered a "sudden disruption". In a statement, the company said it had now isolated its computer networks as a precautionary measure. The disruptions were "suspected to be the result of a virus that had infected personal workstations without affecting the primary components of the network", a statement read.It said the attack had had "no impact whatsoever" on production operations.

On Thursday, security firms released the first detailed information about Shamoon. Experts said the threat was known to have had hit "at least one organization" in the energy sector. "It is a destructive malware that corrupts files on a compromised computer and overwrites the MBR (Master Boot Record) in an effort to render a computer unusable," wrote security firm Symantec.

The attack was designed to penetrate a computer through the internet, before targeting other machines on the same network that were not directly connected to the internet.Once infected, the machines' data is wiped. A list of the wiped files then sent back to the initially infected computer, and in turn passed on to the attacker's command-and-control centre.During this process, the attack replaces the deleted files with JPEG images - obstructing any potential file recovery by the victim.

Seculert, an Israel-based security specialist, also analysed the malicious code and concluded that it had unusual characteristics compared with other recent attacks. "The interesting part of this malware is that instead of staying under the radar and collect information, the malware was designed to overwrite and wipe the files," the company said.

"Why would someone wipe files in a targeted attack and make the machine unusable?"Shamoon is the latest in a line of attacks that have targeted infrastructure. One of the most high-profile attacks in recent times was Stuxnet, which was designed to hit nuclear infrastructure in Iran. Others, like Duqu, have sought to infiltrate networks in order to steal data.— *Internet*

New family of spiders found in Oregon cave

GRANTS PASS, (Ore), 19 Aug — Amateur cave explorers have found a new family of spiders in the Siskiyou Mountains of Southern Oregon, and scientists have dubbed it Trogloraptor — Latin for cave robber — for their fearsome front claws.

The spelunkers sent specimens to the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, which has the West Coast's largest collection of spiders. Entomologists there say the spider — reddish brown and the size of a half dollar — evolved so distinctly that it requires its own taxonomic family — the first new spider family found in North America since the 1870s.

"It took us a long time to figure out what it wasn't," said Charles Griswold, curator of arachnids at the academy. "Even longer to figure out what it is. We used anatomy. We used DNA to understand its evolutionary place. Then we consulted other experts all over the world about what this was. They all concurred with our opinion that this was something completely new to science.""It's a good example of how science works — professional and citizen scientists share information," he added.The discovery is described in the Friday online edition of the journal *ZooKeys*.

Jonathan Coddington, curator of arachnids at the Smithsonian Institution and associate director for science at the National Museum of Natural History, agreed that the spiders represent a family never seen before."This is really a distinct event," he said. "To walk out in the woods and find an example of an ancient lineage that no one has ever seen before is special." — *Internet*

This undated photo from the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, Calif, shows a specimen of a new family of spiders, which scientists are calling Cave Robber (Trogloraptor marchingtoni) for its fearsome claws. INTERNET

The social network says the new rules aim to "deliver a consistent Twitter experience" INTERNET

Twitter changes provokes anger from developers

LONDON, 19 Aug — Developers and users of Twitter have reacted angrily to changes made by the social network to restrict creation of third-party applications. Any new app that wants to serve more than 100,000 users must now seek the company's explicit permission. Apps which already have more than 100,000 users are allowed to double their user base before having to get Twitter's go-ahead to grow any further. Critics said it would stifle the development of innovative products.

The changes came as part of Twitter's overhaul of its Application Programming Interface (API). An API allows different parts of a program to communicate together, as well as letting one application share content with another. In Twitter's case, its API has allowed for the development of extremely popular third-party services like Tweetdeck, Hootsuite and Twitpic. Twitter says the new rules, announced by its director of consumer product Michael Sippey, aim to "deliver a consistent Twitter experience".

Mr Sippey wrote: "If you are building a Twitter client application that is accessing the home timeline, account settings or direct messages API endpoints (typically used by traditional client applications) or are using our User Streams product, you will need our permission if your application will require more than 100,000 individual user tokens."In this context, "tokens" are individual users.The guidelines also covered how tweets are displayed within apps."If your application displays Tweets to users, and it doesn't adhere to our Display Requirements, we reserve the right to revoke your application key," Mr Sippey explained.

The changes are not expected to have an immediate impact on users. However, the announcement was heavily criticised by developers. Marco Arment, creator of popular reading service Instapaper, advised developers who were building on Twitter to "start working on another product"."Twitter has left themselves a lot of wiggle room with the rules," he wrote in a blog post.

"Effectively, Twitter can decide your app is breaking a (potentially vague) rule at any time, or they can add a new rule that your app inadvertently breaks, and revoke your API access at any time."Of course, they've always had this power. But now we know that they'll use it in ways that we really don't agree with."I sure as hell wouldn't build a business on Twitter, and I don't think I'll even build any nontrivial features on it anymore." Twitter is not the only service to put such restrictions in place. Last year, Google announced that it would begin charging companies that made heavy use of its Maps product.— *Internet*

Next-generation ASUS Transformer tablet revealed ahead of launch

NEW YORK, 19 Aug — An upcoming tablet from ASUS recently passed through the Federal Communications Commission's testing facility equipped with the model number TF500T. Few details are revealed in the resulting documentation, however the model number suggests the tablet could fall between the budget-friendly Transformer Pad TF300 and the high-end Transformer Pad Infinity TF700. The Taiwanese manufacturer's upcoming tablet will be Wi-Fi only and will feature an HDMI port and a microphone. We can also safely assume that the TF500T will have the ability to transform into a laptop with the help of ASUS's keyboard dock. — *Internet*

Next-generation ASUS Transformer tablet revealed ahead of launch.— Internet

Hacker claims to have found new security flaw with Apple's iPhone

SAN FRANCISCO, 19 Aug— A hacker on Friday revealed a security flaw that he claimed could make Apple's iPhone particularly vulnerable to text message cheating. The flaw has existed since iPhone was first launched in 2007, and is still not solved in the beta version of iOS 6, the next operating system for iPhone, the hacker under the name "Pod2g" said in a blog post.

Under the protocols handling the exchange of SMS (Short Message Service) text between mobile phones, the sender of a message can technically change the reply-to phone number to something different from the original number, Pod2g explained. In a good implementation, the receiver of the message would see both the original phone number and the reply-to one.

But using iPhone's SMS feature, when receivers see the message, it seems to come from the reply-to number, while the original phone number of the sender is hidden.The loophole means that someone could send iPhone users messages pretending to be from the receivers' banks or other trusted sources, asking for some private information, or cheating them to go to a dedicated website to obtain users' information.

Pod2g called the security flaw "severe" and urged Apple to fix it before the final release of the iOS 6 software."Now you are alerted. Never trust any SMS you received on your iPhone at first sight," Pod2g wrote in the blog post. Apple Inc could not be reached for comments.— *Xinhua*

The demand for gold has surged in China in recent years amid an economic boom. INTERNET

China eyes African Barrick Gold stake

LONDON, 19 Aug — China's state-owned miner, China National Gold, has held preliminary talks to buy a stake in African Barrick Gold (ABG), one of Africa's largest gold miners. Demand for gold in China has surged and it is expected to become the world's biggest market for the metal this year. African Barrack has large reserves but has struggled to meet production targets. Barrick Gold, the parent of ABG, said the talks were at an "early stage". "There can be no certainty that these discussions will result in the acquisition of all or part of Barrick's holding in ABG," Barrick Gold said in a statement.

ABG's production levels have been falling in recent years. Last year, the company produced almost 688,000 ounces of gold. That was down from 701,000 ounces in 2010 and 716,000 ounces the year before. At the same time, its cost of production has gone up. According to the firm, it cost it $692 (£440) to produce an ounce of gold last year, a jump of more than 20% from 2010.

The firm has also been hurt by issues such as power cuts as well as theft of fuel. As a result, its shares have taken a hit, falling almost 30% in the past one year. Analysts said that given these issues, the miner was a risky bet for potential suitors." African Barrick has always looked like it offered good value albeit at a high risk, and if the potential acquirer can get the asset and is comfortable with the risk, you will be able to get a reasonable set of assets for a good price," said Hunter Hillcoat an analyst with Investec. — *Internet*

Australian scientists in research into spider venom for breast cancer cure

BRISBANE, 19 Aug — Australian scientists are undertaking ground-breaking research into spider venom for use in medicine to fight breast cancer, Queensland Science Minister Ros Bates said on Friday.

Scientists at James Cook University in Cairns in Far North Queensland will determine if venom from funnel web spiders and tarantulas can kill breast cancer cells through the research, the minister said. Bates said the research was on the back of international studies that suggested certain toxins in spider venom could offer an untapped suite of natural molecules to kill breast cancer cells.

"With more than 40,000 species of spiders, it's estimated there are more than four million different toxins in spider venom," Bates said in a statement. "Those toxins will now be screened, to look at their potential to treat cancer in humans." The minister said the work being done by James Cook University researchers had cemented Queensland's place as a global scientific leader.— *Xinhua*

Australian scientists in research into spider venom for breast cancer cure. XINHUA

Eat walnuts a day keep the doctor away

Could two handfuls of walnuts a day keep the fertility doctor away?— INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 19 Aug — Eating around two handfuls of walnuts a day improves sperm health in young men, a study in the journal *Biology of Reproduction* suggests. Sperm shape, movement and vitality improved in men who added walnuts to their diet over 12 weeks.

The fatty acids found in these nuts are thought to have helped sperm development. It is not known if this would help improve male fertility. About one in six couples are infertile, with 40% of these due to a male factor.

Dr Allan Pacey, senior lecturer in andrology at the University of Sheffield said: "It would be relatively easy to poke fun at studies like this, but there is increasing evidence to show that aspects of a man's diet can affect the number and quality of sperm produced by his testicles."The researchers say the next step is to work with couples who are attending infertility clinics to determine if placing sub-fertile men, with poor semen quality, on a walnut diet results in better success conceiving. It is thought that infertility in men may be a result of too few sperm being made, or that the sperm have poor swimming ability, size or shape.

This study involved 117 men between the ages of 21 and 35, who were divided into two groups. One group added 2.6 ounces (75 grams) of whole-shelled walnuts to their daily diet. The other group continued their usual diet but avoided eating tree nuts. Both groups ate a typical Western-style diet.

Lead author, Prof Wendie Robbins from UCLA's Fielding School of Public Health said: "We found a significant improvement in sperm parameters in the group that consumed the walnuts. "The men who ate no tree nuts saw no change." Sperm quality improved in terms of concentration, vitality, movement, shape and chromosome abnormalities.

Dr Pacey said: "The study has been well executed and my only criticism would be that the men in the walnut-eating arm of the trial could have altered other aspects of their behaviour to give the results shown in the paper. "A better trial would be to produce tablets of walnut extract that looked identical to a placebo so that the study was completely blind. In spite of this, the results of the study show a small but statistically significant improvement in sperm health."

These benefits may be down to the fatty acids in the nuts. Co-author Catherine Carpenter, from the UCLA Centre for Human Nutrition said: "Walnuts provide a particularly rich source of a-linolenic acid, a natural plant source of omega-3, which we suspect may have been responsible for the improvements we observed." The walnuts for the study were supplied by the California Walnut Commission and the study was funded by the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health's Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health.

Internet

Eurozone trade surplus rises to record high in June

LONDON, 19 Aug — The eurozone's trade surplus hit 14.9bn euros ($18.3bn; £11.7bn) in June up from 200m euros a year ago. The surplus was the highest since the European Union's statistics agency began collecting data in 1999.

Germany, the Netherlands and Republic of Ireland recorded the biggest surplus among the 17-member euro area and the wider 27-member EU, said Eurostat. The EU's trade surplus was 400m euros, compared with a 15.3bn-euro deficit a year earlier The switch to a surplus was helped by increased exports to Asia and emerging markets including Russia, Japan, Brazil and South Korea.

The data underlined the region's dependence on external sources of growth as austerity measures in core eurozone countries have damaged household spending and business confidence. "Companies have to look for foreign buyers to replace austerity-hit domestic demand and wage restraint and leaner production improve competitiveness," said Berenberg Bank analyst Christian Schulz.

"Germany is still playing a big part. Although it has recently started losing competitiveness vis-a-vis its eurozone partners, the German economy continues to enjoy a high and still improving level of competitiveness at the global level," he added.

Earlier this week, Eurostat said the eurozone economy had shrunk by 0.2% in the April-to-June period from flat growth in the previous first quarter. Capital Economics warned: "With global growth slowing, we don't expect the resilience of the core's exports to last much longer."We still see both Germany and France slipping into recession in 2013."— *Internet*

Hospira recalls pain injection on overdose risk

WASHINGTON , 19 Aug — The US Food and Drug Administration said Hospira Inc is voluntarily recalling one lot of its hydromorphone pain relieving injection as it may contain more than the intended fill volume, posing a risk of drug overdose.

Overdose of opioid pain medications such as hydromorphone may lead to life-threatening con-sequences, including slowed breathing, low blood pressure and reduced heart rate, the FDA said.

Hospira began the recall on Thursday after a complaint that one Carpuject — the drug delivery system — contained more than the intended 1ml labeled fill volume.

The company said it has not received any reports of adverse events related to the affected lot.

The number of the affected lot is 12720LL and it was distributed between March and May 2012.— *Reuters*

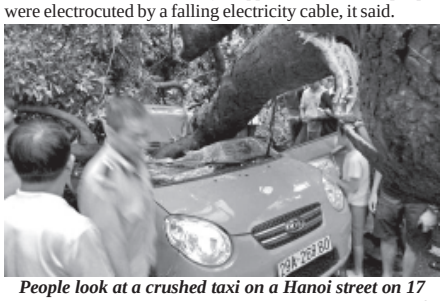
Typhoon Kai-Tak kills nine in Vietnam

HANOI, 19 Aug—At least nine people were killed, thousands of homes damaged and swathes of farmland flooded as Typhoon Kai-Tak swept across northern Vietnam, authorities said on Sunday.

The storm, which made landfall late Friday, brought strong winds and heavy rains that inundated several densely populated communities including part of the capital Hanoi.

Five people were swept away by floodwaters while one woman died when a landslide buried her house while she was sleeping in Bac Giang Province, according to the government's central committee on flood and storm control.

A taxi driver was killed by a toppled tree while two people were electrocuted by a falling electricity cable, it said.



*People look at a crushed taxi on a Hanoi street on 17 August. At least nine people were killed, thousands of homes damaged and swathes of farmland flooded as Typhoon Kai-Tak swept across northern Vietnam, authorities said on Sunday .—*INTERNET

Nearly 12,000 houses were damaged and 23,000 hectares (56,800 acres) of cropland were flooded, according to the committee.

In Hanoi, about 200 large trees were uprooted and part of the city remained under water on early Sunday.

The Vietnamese army had put 20,000 soldiers backed by helicopters, rescue boats and canoes on standby for rescue operations, but only a small number of them were deployed.

More than 11,000 boats, including several hundred used by tourists at the UNESCO world heritage site Halong Bay, were ordered to stay close to the shore.

The storm, which earlier killed four people in the Philippines, was packing winds of about 100 kilometres (62 miles) per hour when it slammed into Vietnam, but it was downgraded to a tropical depression on Saturday.—*Internet*

Outbreak of Ebola virus strikes DR Congo town of Isiro

ISIRO, 19 Aug—At least one person has died after an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, officials say.

The death is one of two cases of the virus discovered in the town of Isiro. Medical charity workers say they are attempting to find and isolate anyone who has been in contact with those infected by the virus.

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) says the strain is not the same as the kind found recently in neighbouring Uganda.

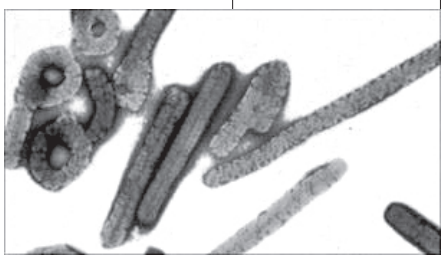
At least 16 people died during an outbreak there last month. The DR Congo outbreak occurred in Oriental Province, which shares a border with Uganda.

"There is no link between both epidemics at this moment," Anja de Weggheleire, of MSF, told the BBC.

She added that there may be more cases that have yet to be detected. "Not every person who develops the disease will develop clear symptoms that are recognised as Ebola. For the moment it seems that there are not that many cases but the exact number of cases is unknown."

Experts fear that the town's position as a transit point could make an outbreak more challenging to control.

The Ebola virus is fatal in 90% of human cases. INTERNET



The virus, which is transmitted to humans from both monkeys and birds, causes massive internal bleeding and has a very high mortality rate. It is one of the most virulent diseases in the world and is spread by close personal contact.

There is no vaccine for the virus and symptoms of infection include a sudden onset of fever, weakness, headache, vomiting and kidney problems.—*Internet*

Three dead in Indonesian quake

JAKARTA,19 Aug—A powerful 6.3-magnitude earthquake that shook the eastern Indonesian island of Sulawesi has killed at least three people and seriously injured a dozen others, according to an official.

The quake struck on Saturday evening near the mountainous districts of Parigi Moutong and Sigi in Central Sulawesi Province, where panicked residents ran from their homes into the streets as the ground shook violently for around 15 seconds.

"We've received reports from the ground that three people have died, including a nine-year-old boy," National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho told *AFP*.

"Twelve others have been seriously injured and 40 homes are damaged."

The US Geological Survey said the quake struck at a depth of around 20 kilometres (12 miles), 56 kilometres southeast of the provincial capital Palu, where residents also felt the tremor and ran from their homes.

Indonesia sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" where continental plates collide, causing frequent seismic and volcanic activity.

Internet

*This file photo shows a fisherman unloading at a port in Indonesia's Sulawesi province, in 2011. A powerful 6.3-magnitude quake shook the Province on Saturday, the US Geological Survey said, sending terrified residents fleeing into the streets.—*INTERNET

Gunmen raid homes, kill six people in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 Aug—Gunmen killed six people in Iraq on Saturday, raiding two homes in a northern city in yet another bout of violence to strike the country in what has become a particularly bloody month.

Provincial police officials described the slayings in Mosul as "terrorist attacks." They are still investigating why gunmen stormed the houses, killing a husband and wife and two others in the first attack, and two men in the second house.

Attacks have picked up in recent weeks, with nearly 200 people killed since the start of August. On Thursday, a relentless assault across the country killed at least 93 people and wounded many more. It was the second deadliest day in Iraq since US troops left in December.

Internet

Miss China crowned Miss World 2012, in China

ORDOS, 19 Aug—Miss China won the coveted title of Miss World on Saturday, triumph-ing on home soil during a glitzy final held in a mining city on the edge of the Gobi desert.

The mostly Chinese audience erupted in cheers, and fireworks lit up the sky, when it was announced that the home candidate, Yu Wenxia, had been awarded the coveted title.

"When I was young I felt very lucky because so many people helped me, and I hope in the future I can help more children to feel lucky," Yu, a 23-year-old aspiring music teacher said when asked why she should be crowned.

Yu, who became China's second Miss World winner, appeared on stage in a dazzling array of ballgowns during the two-hour final and serenaded the audience with a piercing rendition of a popular Chinese song.

Last year's Miss World, Ivian Sarcos of Venezuela, handed over her crown to Yu, who wore a sparkling blue dress, in the futuristic Dongsheng stadium in the northeastern city of Ordos.

Miss Mexico, Mariana Reynoso, had been the bookmakers' favourite for the title, but failed to make the last seven candidates despite a strong showing in the early rounds of the pageant. Miss Wales, Sophie Moulds, came in second, while Miss Australia, Jessica Kahawaty, finished third.

The final, watched by a worldwide TV audience of an estimated one billion viewers, included a nod to the culture of Inner Mongolia, with a performance by a group of Mongolian musicians playing the erhu, a traditional two-stringed instrument.

Ordos, which sits around 700 kilometres (440 miles) from the nearest beach, was an unlikely setting for the world's biggest beauty pageant.

The city has grown rich over the past decade on the back of a coal mining boom that has transformed it from a sandstorm-afflicted backwater into one of the wealthiest places in China.

Internet

*Yu Wenxia (right) of China waves to the audience after being crowned the winner of Miss World 2012 during the pageant's final ceremony at the Ordos Stadium Arena in the inner Mongolian city of Ordos on 18 August. She defeated more than 100 other hopefuls at the glittering ceremony.—*INTERNET

Bomb hidden in cemetery kills two in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, 19 Aug—A bomb hidden in a cemetery in a southern Afghan city exploded on Sunday as a police official and his family were visiting the grave of a relative, police said.

The official and his brother were killed and seven other family members were wounded.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand Province, but it matched the declared strategy of the Taleban to target government officials and others who align themselves with the government or international forces.

A lawmaker for Helmand Province, Abdulwadood Popal, is a brother of the two men killed in the explosion, but he was not there at the time of the blast. The family was visiting the grave of their relative after morning prayers marking the Eid al-Fitr holiday.

The bomb was buried near the grave, said Helmand Deputy Police Chief Ghulam Rabbani. He said one of the men killed was the police chief for Nawa district, just west of Lashkar Gah. Rabbani did not provide the man's name.

Rabbani said he believed the bomber had directly targeted this family, but did not say if it had been remotely detonated or had been triggered by the visitors.

Afghans commonly visit the graves of relatives on holy days to pay their respects. The Eid al-Fitr holiday marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, during which people abstain from food and drink during the daylight hours.

In a message ahead of Eid al-Fitr, Taleban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar instructed his fighters once again to avoid killing or wounding Afghan civilians.

"Employ tactics that do not cause harm to the life and property of the common countrymen," he said in an eight-page message released to news organizations last week. The Taleban have said previously, however, that they do not consider those who collaborate with the government to be civilians.

A UN report issued earlier this month said 1,145 civilians were killed and 1,954 injured during the first half of the year, most of them by militants.

Internet

Cash donated to flood victims in Madauk

MADAUK, 19 Aug—A ceremony to donate cash to 340 flood victims of Myoma Wards 1 and 2 was held at Pan Ngwe Yon Pariyatti Monastery in Madauk in Nyaunglebin Township of Bago Region on 12 August.

The people in the wards fell victims to flood due to overflow of Sittoung River and heavy rains.

On the occasion, WO Than Hlaing-Daw Thi Thi Lwin (Aung Nilar Yadana Store, Bogyoke Market) of Yangon donated K 5000 each to families, amounting to K 2.7 million. Ward 1 Administrator U Aung Soe and Ward 2 Administrator U Mya Thein and flood victims accepted the cash donations.

Myanma Alin

Sowing of paddy seeds demonstrated in Pauktaw Township

PAUKTAW, 19 Aug—The talks on agricultural technology was held in conjunction with the demonstration on sowing of paddy seeds in Kyaukseik Village of Pauktaw Township in Sittway District on 17 July morning.

At the talks, Township Administrator U Sai Maung Lu gave instructions on following the technology for boosting of production.

Head of District Agriculture Department U Khin Zaw explained the good agricultural patterns in detail.

At the demonstration, Head of District Settlement and Land Records Department U Kyaw Nyunt, Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Maung Maung Win and staff, Head of Township Agriculture Department U Tha Kyaw and staff demonstrated sowing of paddy seeds on the farmland of U Aung Kyaw Min.

It was attended by 106 local farmers and village administrator.—*Myanma Alin*

Relief aids provided to flood victims in Shwegyin Township

SHWEGYIN, 19 Aug—Shwegyin Township Flood Relief Committee opened the office to help flood victims at the relief camps of the town due to overflow of Shwegyin and Sittoung Rivers as of 3 August.

Up to now, wellwishers donated cash and kind to the victims. On 17 August, U Kyaw Min Naing (Shwekyungyi Co) donated K 5 million, U Moe Aung (Zaburiz Co) 300 bags of rice, U Hla Win-Daw Khin San Lwin (Win Yadana Gold Shop) 120 bags of rice and 1000 viss of fish, Chantha Co 100 bags of rice and K 1 million, U Htin Kyaw (Iron Fist Co) 50 bags of rice, U Maung Pon (Shwegyinthar Co) 50 bags of rice, U Ko Latt (Golden Target Co) 50 bags of rice, Dr Tun Tun Win-Dr Aye Aye Han 50 bags of rice.

Other wellwishers donated cash, bags of rice, packets of instant noodle, purified drinking water and packets of rice to 10006 people from 2034 households of wards and villages.

Moreover, arrangements are being made to provide paddy seeds for cultivation of monsoon paddy in time.

Kyemon

Cash donated to Yaw Education Foundation

YANGON, 19 Aug—As a token of contributing to persons from Yaw, Saw, Gangaw, Htilin, Laungshay and Kyaukhtu and ten Kyaw villages who helped compilation of the book entitled "Yaw Region in Konbaung Period (1752-1885 AD) that secured the Tun Foundation Literary Award (History Genre), retired dean and history professor U Kyaw-Daw Khin Soe Myint and family donated K 300,000 to the fund of Yaw Region Education Foundation recently.

Chairman of Yaw Association U Aye Maung accepted the cash donation.

Kyemon

Breastfeeding Week marked in Sangyoung Township

YANGON, 19 Aug—The activities to mark the World Breastfeeding Week 2012 and the Nourishment Week 2012 were held at Sabei Hall of Basic Education High School No 2 in Sangyoung Township on 15 August.

Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein, Chairperson of Yangon Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Thaung Mya and Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Thu Zaw of District General Administration Department and departmental personnel attended the ceremony.

On the occasion, Dr Sanda and Dr Khin Myitta reported on the plan of World Breastfeeding Week and the Nourishment Week.

Officials presented prizes to outstanding persons.—*Kyemon*

Prizes awarded to outstanding students, teachers in Pyu

PYU, 19 Aug—Aungdawmu Social Development Association in Kanyutkwin Region of Pyu Township held the prize presentation ceremony for 2011-2012 academic year at Aungdawmu Hall on 4 August.

The association presented one scholarship award, prizes to distinction winners in the matriculation examination and 17 outstanding teachers.

The association provides K 2.5 million for enrolment of school going age in the region and K 480,000 to 29 university students.

Myanma Alin

Winners awarded in reading habit skill contest

YANGON, 19 Aug—Organized by Myanmar Libraries Foundation, No 3 Basic Education Department and Yangon Region Information and Public Relations Department jointly held the reading habit skill contest and prize presentation ceremony at Aung San Hall of Basic Education High School No 4 in Ahlon Township on 3 August.

Chairman of the foundation U Muang Maung made a speech. Vice-Chairman U Nyunt Swe donated books to BEHSs in Ahlon Township.

Later, officials awarded the winners in the reading habit skill contest.

Myanma Alin

District News

CSC ISSUED: Head of Wakema Township Immigation and National Registration Department U Aye Win and staff issued citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible citizens in Sabayo Village of Wakema Township on 2 August.

MYANMA ALIN

School uniforms provided to students in Kyaunggon

KYAUNGGON, 19 Aug—A ceremony to present school uniforms to offspring of vendors and slow-moving vehicle drivers was held at the office of Township Development Affairs Committee in Kyaunggon Township of Pathein District on 7 August.

The executive officer of Township Development Affairs Committee gave school uniforms to 24 students.

Myanma Alin

EXHIBITION OPENED: ***The School Health Week exhibition for 2012-2013 academic year was held at Basic Education High School No 1 in Dagon Township on 6 August. Yangon Region School Health Officer Dr Daw Khin Saw Yi and Headmaster Dr Aung Ko Ko formally open the exhibition.***—**MYANMA ALIN**

Union F & R Minister calls for accurate and secure online banking services

YANGON, 19 Aug—Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun met officers of departments and enterprises under the ministry in Yangon Region at the Central Bank of Myanmar (Yangon Branch) here yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister clarified the instructions of the President at the second meeting of the Planning Commission from 13 to 15 August, adding that the President would proportionately allocate the budget and foreign loans and aids for regions and states in line with the constitution.

He called on the personnel at different levels to effectively handle corruption, citing that it is still rooted right and left at the bottom levels of administrative hierarchy. He recommended punitive actions against corruption, describing it as a shame to the government and nation.

He urged the officials to wipe off the black mark for emergence of a clean government. He called on them for a sense of duty regardless of the corrupt bottom level.

He promised to make further reforms as his ministry has so far made 74 amendments since 1 April, 2011. He said he viewed seminars on monetary sector development to be held in the capital, Yangon and Mandalay in coming sector as a shot in the hand for acceleration of reform process.

Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein explained work programmes for meeting international practices in monetary sector of the country.

The Union minister called for provision of accurate and secure online service to customers with IT-based office operations.

The Union Minister visited branches of Myanma Economic Bank in North Okkalapa, Mingaladon, Insein Townships and construction of MEB branch in Hlinethaya Township.

MNA

***Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun meets officers of departments and enterprises under Ministry of Finance and Revenue at Central Bank of Myanmar (Yangon Branch).*—MNA**

Launching ceremony of iPay Head Office

The launching of iPay Head Office in progress at its building at corner of Bogyoke Street and Seikkantha Street in Kyauktada Township.
MNA

YANGON, 19 Aug— The launching of iPay Head Office took place at its building at the corner of Bogyoke Street and Seikkantha Street in Kyauktada Township of Yangon Region here yesterday morning. At the ceremony, Region Road Transportation Minister U Aung Khin and Managing Director U Myint Lwin of Kispanadi Express Ltd cut the ribbon and Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung and Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe pressed the iPay signboard to launch the ceremony. The Union Minister and party looked round inside the iPay office.

Region chief minister attended opening of Yangon Expo & Car Show held at Tatmadaw Hall in U Wisara Road in Dagon Township.

Region Planning and Economic Minister U Than Myint, Region Electric and Industry Minister U Nyan Tun Oo and Chairman of show committee U Aung Phone Myint cut the ribbon to open Yangon Expo & Car Show.

The Region chief minister and party viewed the booths displayed in the show.

At the four-day show, 90 booths from 45 companies displayed their goods and it will continue till 21 August.

MNA

Union Sports Minister meets officers from the ministry

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug— Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan yesterday morning viewed individual longest drive, nearest to the pin, banker drive and putting drive of the golfers held at Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee Golf Club and awarded cash to best drive golfers.

The Union Minister inspected testing of physical fitness for cycling athletes at Zabuthiri Cycling Ground and preparation for Nay Pyi Taw Archery Ground, VIP Room and VIP Stands.

The Union Minister also inspected construction of Zabuthiri Tennis Court, doing exercise of boxing athletes, construction site for sports village, hostels for athletes and supervisory office.

The Union Minister proceeded to Sports Training Camp (Lewe) where he viewed training of athletes and awarded cash to them.

The Union Minister gave gifts to three Taekwondo coaches from Korea.

The Union Minister met with sports in charge officers from regions and states at the conference room of Lewe Sports Ground. At the meeting, the Union Minister said that the most important task for the Ministry of Sports is successfully holding XXVII SEA Games and achieving success for Myanmar, Myanmar got a chance to host those SEA Games after 40 years, so communication tasks with international are required to implement by taking international competition experiences. The sports in charge officers of the ministry are needed to study in detail rules and regulations concerning sports, the State provided sports training centers and necessities for athletes, he added.

The ministry is arranging to organize national sports tournament in the near future which includes all sorts of sports and tentatively athletes were selected from those tournament, said the Union Minister. The Union Minister urged the athletes to uplift the dignity of the State and people in XXVII SEA Games.—*MNA*

***Photo shows athletes under training at Sports Training Camp (Lewe).*—MNA**

Mourinho fury, Modric fear as Spurs chairman Levy makes new demands

LONDON, 19 Aug— Tottenham midfielder Luka Modric fears his dream move to Real Madrid is set to fall through.

The Sun says the sensational development comes after a stormy exchange between Real boss Jose Mourinho and Spurs chief Daniel Levy.

A meeting on Friday to thrash out a deal for the Croatian ace ended with Mourinho in a rage after Levy asked for another £2m at the last minute.

Now ex-Chelsea boss Mourinho is set to pull the plug and look elsewhere leaving Modric devastated.

A source close to the Croat said: "Luka is shocked by all of this.

He is desperate for the move to go through and wants it sorted."

Internet

Donate blood

Billboards on traffic rules erected in Tachilek

KENGTUNG, 19 Aug—The billboards on traffic rules were put up in Kengtung of Shan State (East).

The posters and billboards were erected beside Kengtung-Tachilek Road in Kaukkaw region of Ward 1 in Kengtung.

Police Captain Aye Lwin of Tachilek Traffic Police Section gave lectures to the people to abide by traffic rules in front of the billboards.—*Myanma Alin*

Licences issued to motorcycles in Nyaunglebin Township

NYAUNGLEBIN, 19 Aug—According to implementation of the plan to register unlicenced motorcycles from Nyaunglebin, Shwegyin, Kyaukdaga and DaikU townships of Bago Region, licences for motorcycles were issued at the gymnasium in Nyaunglebin on 11 and 12 August.

Assistant Director Daw Khin Aye Aye Maw of Bago Township Internal Revenue Department and 51 members from Township General Administration Department, Customs Department, Directorate of Road Transport and Myanma Economic Bank in cooperation with Chairman of Nyaunglebin Township All Private Bus Line Control Committee U Tar and departmental personnel issued licences to 1122 motorcycles.

Myanma Alin

BREASTFEEDING CONTEST HELD: ***The Breastfeeding Contest and Cookery Contest were jointly organized by Pakokku District and Township Maternal and Child Welfare Associations and Pakokku District and Township Health Departments at Pyithaya Hall in Pakokku on 12 August. Medical Superintendent Dr Thin Thin Aye awards winners in the contest.*—MYANMA ALIN**

Stimulant tablets seized in Tatkon Township

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug—A total of 180 stimulant tablets were seized in Tatkon Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 16 August evening.

A police squad led by SIP Thet Swe of Shwedwingon Police Station searched Ma Lady at mile post No. 6 on Kintha-Pinlaung Road in Tatkon Township. They seized 180 stimulant tablets packed with plastic bag from her right hand.

Further investigation is underway to arrest the related culprits.

Myanma Alin

Nourishment Weeks launched in Mabein

MABEIN, 19 Aug—Health Department of Mabein Township of Kyaukme District in Shan State launched the Nourishment Weeks at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Mabein on 1 August.

On the occasion, Chairman of Township Health Committee Township Administrator U Soe Than made a speech. Head of Township Health Department Dr Maung Maung Soe explained matters related to nourishment weeks.

Later, the township administrator and officials awarded winners in the essay contest in commemoration of the Nourishment Weeks.

Myanma Alin

Nourishment Week 2012 of Shan State (North) launched in Lashio

LASHIO, 19 Aug—A ceremony to launch Nourishment Week 2012 of Shan State (North) was held at the hall of Nursing Training School in Lashio on 10 August.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Khiang Soe of District General Administration Department made a speech.

Medical Superintendent Dr Than Htut Oo of Shan State (North) General Hospital explained members of nourishment week.

He then presented ferrous sulphate tablets, vitamin B1 and iodized salt to expectant mothers.

Kyemon

Basic administrative reform multiplier course opened

MOMAUK, 19 Aug—The basic administrative reform multiplier course was opened at the meeting hall of Momauk Township General Administration Department in Bhamo District in Kachin State on 15 August morning.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Nyan Hlaing made a speech. Officials presented prizes to outstanding staff who passed the work proficiency examination.

At the training course, Township Administrator U Nyan Hlaing, Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Thein Aung, Deputy Heads of Township General Administration Department U Aye Hlaing and U Than Soe gave lectures to the trainees.

Myanma Alin

Fingerlings released to farmlands in Nyaungdon Township

NYAUNGDON, 19 Aug—With the aim of boosting fish production, ensuring sufficiency of fish consumption in rural areas, alleviating poverty and developing rural regions, Nyaungdon Township Fisheries Department released fingerlings into the paddy fields at the farm of U Maung Soe in Tuchaung Village of Nyaungdon Township on 15 August.

On the occasion, Acting Township Administrator U Zaw Min Naing, Head of Nyaungdon Township Fisheries Department U Myint Naing and staff, members of Township Agricultural Development Committee, departmental officials, social organization members, village administrators and farmers released fingerlings into the farmlands.

Myanma Alin

District News

Foods, supplies transported to Putao region by air

YANGON, 19 Aug—Myitkyina-Putao route in Kachin State spends one night trip by car in open season. Due to smooth transportation of passengers and commodities, the local national races, State service personnel, students and local people are enjoying fruits of education, health, social and economic sectors.

At present, the transport along the route is the worst in the region due to region security and rainy season. Thus, the local people rely on aviation only. Over 180,000 people and staff in six townships of Putao District are facing problems of basic needs, medicine and foodstuffs.

Thus, ATR042 flight of Myanma Airways of Ministry of Transport runs four times on 27 July and 3 August, F-28 flights eight times on 11 and 13 August, totaling with the assistance of the Kachin State government and Hluttaw representatives.

The 12 times of flights transported 1075 bags of rice, five containers of edible oil, 1789 bags of exercises in 30 dozens, four bales of clothes and other supplies, weighing 120,820 pounds.

Likewise, Tatmadaw flights transported supplies. Thus, two caps of rice were sold at K 1000 recent days. At present, four caps of rice are sold at K 1000.—*Kyemon*

REFRESHMENT GIVEN: ***As part of efforts to launch School Health Week in 2012-2013 academic year, Maung Phone Pyaw Kyaw of third standard student and family serve refreshment to students of No. 3 Basic Education Post-Primary School in Bahan Township on 7 August.*—KYEMON**

Crime News

Gamblers together with K 300,000 arrested

YEDASHE, 19 Aug—Surveillance police squad led by SIP Than Naing of Swa Police Station together with witnesses searched Min Zaw, 32 of Aungchantha Village on the village road on 16 August.

They seized documents related to sales of Che lottery (three-digit) and K 120,000.

The squad also searched the house of Daw Khin Than, 53, in the village and seized U Hla Ko, 57 of Zalokkyi Village and U Myint Swe, 56 of Aungchantha Village together with documents related to sales of Che lottery, K 216,600.

Action is being taken by Swa Police Station against the gamblers.

Kyemon

New role for drones - wildlife, eco conservation

In this 15 March, 2012 photo released by ConservationDrones.org., conservation drone pioneer Lian Pin Koh, right, of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, and partner Serge Wich conduct a drone test flight in Zurich, Switzerland.—INTERNET

PRANBURI, 19 Aug— They're better known as stealthy killing machines to take out suspected terrorists with pinpoint accuracy. But drones are also being put to more benign use in skies across several continents to track endangered wildlife, spot poachers and chart forest loss.

Although it's still the "dawn of drone ecology," as one innovator calls it, these unmanned aerial vehicles are already skimming over Indonesia's jungle canopy to photograph orangutans, protecting rhinos in Nepal and studying invasive aquatic plants in Florida. Activists launched a long-range drone in December to locate and photograph a Japanese whaling ship as the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society attempted to block Japan's annual whale hunt in Antarctic waters.

Relatively cheap, portable and earth-hugging, they fill a gap between satellite and manned aircraft imagery and on-the-ground observations, says Percival Franklin at the University of Florida, which has been developing such drones for more than a decade.

"The potential uses are almost unlimited," says Ian Singleton, director of the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme, testing drones this year over Indonesia's Tripa peat forest where fires set by palm oil growers are threatening the world's highest density habitat of the great apes.

Conservation is one of the latest roles for these multi-taskers, either autonomously controlled by on-board computers or under remote guidance of a navigator. Ranging in size from less than half a kilogram (pound) to more than 18 metric tons (20 tons), drones have been used for firefighting, road patrols, hurricane tracking and other jobs too dull, dirty or dangerous for piloted craft.

Most prominently, they have been harnessed by the US military in recent years, often to detect and kill opponents in America's "war on terror" in Afghanistan, Pakistan and elsewhere.

A conservation drone pioneer, Lian Pin Koh of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, says the idea came to him after another sweaty, jungle slog in Sabah, Malaysia, hauling heavy equipment for his field work.

"I told my assistant, who happened to be my wife, 'How wonderful it would be if we could fly over that area rather than walk there again tomorrow,'" recalled the Singaporean expert on tropical deforestation, and a model plane hobbyist.

Unlike eco-drones in the United States, mostly custom-built or commercial models, Koh last year cobbled together a far cheaper, off-the-shelf version that poorer organizations and governments in the developing world can better afford.

He and partner Serge Wich bought a model plane— some are available in China for as little as $100 — added an autopilot system, open source software to programme missions, and still and video cameras. —*Internet*

Rescuers search for Philippine minister, two pilots

MANILA, 19 Aug—More than 200 rescuers were searching on Sunday for Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo and his two pilots after their small plane crashed into the sea while attempting an emergency landing. An aide of Robredo made a dramatic escape from the doomed plane and was helping in the search, officials said.

The four-seat *Piper Seneca* took off on Saturday from central Cebu city, where Robredo had met local officials, and was 30 minutes into the flight to his hometown of Naga city when one of two engines failed and the plane began to wiggle. The Filipino pilot and Nepali student co-pilot scrambled to land in Masbate Province but missed the runway by about half a kilometer (half a mile), Transport Secretary Mar Roxas said.

President Benigno Aquino III flew on Sunday with his defence chief and the heads of the national police and the military to Masbate, about 380 kilometers (235 miles) southeast of Manila, to oversee the US military-backed search.

Only the tip of the right wing has been found so far, Defence Secretary Voltaire Gazmin told *The Associated Press*. Dozens of divers scoured the sea while helicopters and ships criss-crossed overhead. Troops and police searched along the coast and a US Navy plane flew over the area to help look for the wreckage.—*Internet*

***In this 7 Sept, 2010 file photo, Philippine Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo gestures at the Department of Justice in Manila, Philippines.*—INTERNET**

Fourth-tier Rangers shatter world crowd record

GLASGOW, 19 Aug— Rangers manager Ally McCoist paid tribute to the troubled club's fans after 49,118 packed into Ibrox to watch on Saturday's 5-1 thrashing of East Stirling, a world record attendance for fourth tier football.

"It was quite unbelievable really," said McCoist. "I looked out of the office at 1:30 today and Edmiston Drive was chock a block.

"It was fantastic. It's a statement and it's really encouraging.

"When you're getting support like that from the fans, you can only go one way and we must go forward."

The Glasgow club, demoted to the Scottish Third Division following their liquidation, marked their first home game in the bottom tier in spectacular fashion.

Rangers smashed the previous record crowd at that level—set in 1961 when 37,774 watched Crystal Palace's English Fourth Division clash against south London rivals Millwall.

And McCoist's side recovered from a sloppy start to send their fans home happy thanks to Andy Little's hat-trick.

Paul Quinn converted an early penalty for East Stirling, but the treble from Little, as well as a first Rangers goal on his first start from Francisco Sandaza and a late strike from Lee McCulloch, secured the club's first league win of the season following last weekend's draw at Peterhead.

McCoist added: "It was not the start that we would have wanted but I was pleased with the overall display.

"We created a staggering amount of chances and I was very pleased with our second-half performance."

Rangers chief executive Charles Green had addressed fans ahead of kick-off, making reference to a campaign to sell out Scottish Premier League grounds last week.

He told the Ibrox crowd: "Never mind 'Sell-out on Saturday'—this is 'Sold-out on Saturday'. That's testament to the passion, loyalty and commitment shown by the Rangers support and we thank you all."—*Internet*

Glasgow Rangers football club is pictured in Glasgow, Scotland in February 2012.
INTERNET

Texas mall shooting results in one dead, two injured

SAN ANTONIO, (Tex),19 Aug —One man was killed and two wounded on early Saturday in a shooting at a shopping mall in the west Texas town of Odessa, police say. Police say officers went to the Music City Mall on a report that people were refusing to leave a sports bar inside, which was then followed by reports of shots fired.

Detectives say Pablo Jimenez, 23, was rushed to the hospital but died of his wounds. A 19-year-old man and a 21-year-old man were hospitalized.

"This was a fight that began at the bar at closing time," said Odessa Police Lieutenant Pete Marquez. He said the shooting may have been gang related, and police are searching for a suspect.

According to its web site, Music City Mall is the largest mall between Fort Worth and El Paso. Marquez said the rest of the mall was closed when the shooting happened and no patrons were threatened.

Reuters

World must brace for higher food prices, experts say

NEW YORK, 19 Aug— With drought parching farms in the United States and near the Black Sea, weak monsoon rains in India and insidious hunger in Africa's Sahel region, the world could be headed towards another food crisis, experts say.

Asia should keep a catastrophe at bay with a strong rice harvest while the G20 group of industrialized and emerging economies tries to parry the main threat, soaring food prices. "We have had quite a few climate events this year that will lead to very poor harvests, notably in the United States with corn or in Russia with soja," warned Philippe Pinta of the French farmers federation FNSEA.

"That will create price pressures similar to what we saw in 2007-2008," he added in reference to the last global food alert, when wheat and rice prices nearly doubled.

In India, "all eyes will be on food inflation—whether the impact of a weak monsoon feeds into food prices," Samiran Chakraborty, regional head of research at Standard Chartered Bank was quoted by Dow Jones Newswires as saying.

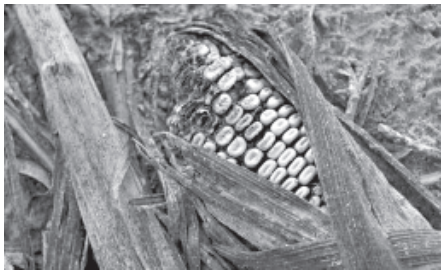
Monsoon rains were 15.2 percent below average in mid-August, according to latest data from India weather bureau, and Asian rice prices are forecast to rise by as much as 10 percent in the coming months as supplies tighten.

India and Thailand are two of Asia's leading rice exporters. Indian Food Minister Kuruppasserry Varkey Thomas told parliament this month that prevailing conditions "could affect the crop prospects and may have an impact on prices of essential commodities."

Despite that warning however, the UN Food and Agricultural Organization expects rice output to slightly surpass "excellent results" recorded last year, though the FAO cut its global forecast for production of unmilled rice to about 725 million tons from its previous figure of 732 million.

The world is feeling the onset of the El Nino weather phenomenon, which has a natural warming effect, is active in the western Pacific and expected to last until winter in the northern hemisphere, according to Japanese meteorologists.

Internet



***Rotting corn damaged by severe drought lies on the ground at a farm near Bruceville, Indiana.*—INTERNET**

One dead, nine injured in fog-induced crashes

RENSSELAER, 19 Aug—One person was killed and another nine injured on Saturday in three separate crashes caused by fog and smoke on I-65 in Indiana, police said.

At least 20 vehicles were involved in the crashes around 7 am, the *Chicago Tribune* reported.

One crash in the northbound lanes of I-65 near mile post 227 involved 12 vehicles, killing one person and injuring six others, Indiana State Police Sgt Dan Leslie said.

A second crash involving six vehicles and a third crash involving two vehicles in the southbound lanes left three people with non-life-threatening injuries, the newspaper said.

Internet

Chicago Air and Water Show kicks off

CHICAGO, 19 Aug— Hundreds of thousands of people in the US metropolis of Chicago gathered on Saturday along the lakefront for the 54th annual Air and Water Show, featuring daring performances from a variety of planes and parachuters.

The perfect 70-degree-Fahrenheit temperatures and sunny skies brought a huge crowd out to a two-mile section of the nearby Lake Michigan beaches, as families camped out in lawn chairs to see the 26 aviation performances scheduled for the day.

Headlining this year's Chicago Air and Water Show was an appearance by the US Navy *Blue Angels*, the pilots of *F/A-18 Hornets* that thrilled audiences with their tight group formations and acrobatic aerial maneuvers.

Flying at supersonic speeds, the *Blue Angels* zoomed over Lake Michigan and performed loop-de-loops and barrel rolls, with the sound of their engine roars echoing all the way into downtown Chicago.

Another favourite for the audience was the US Army Golden Knights, an elite group of army soldiers that specializes in parachuting.

At 12,500 feet above sea level, the Golden Knights jumped out of the military planes carrying them and fell to the earth at more than 120 miles an hour, deploying parachutes just above North Avenue Beach to gracefully land at a precise target near the crowds.

The air show has become an annual tradition for many Chicagoans, who enjoy the mix of family atmosphere and aviation excellence. The show is also free, which adds to the appeal for many attendees.

"It's a great opportunity just to bring the kids and enjoy the nice weather," local resident Tim Jacobson told *Xinhua* during a break in the action.—*Xinhua*

Aeroshell acrobatic team performs during the Chicago Air and Water Show on the Michigan lake, north of Chicago, on 18 Aug, 2012. The two-day Chicago Air and Water Show, opened on Saturday, is the largest free show of its kind in the United States. —XINHUA

Tourists look at flowers at the 11th China (Changchun) International Agriculture-Food Expo in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province, on 17 Aug, 2012. More than 100,000 flowers of 74 categories were displayed at the expo, which attracted many visitors.—XINHUA

Soft drinks provide relief to low industrial growth in India

KOLKATA, 19 Aug —Aerated water and soft drinks provided the otherwise disappointing industrial growth numbers in June in India, while sugar production fell sharply due to low output in the western state of Maharashtra, the country's largest producer. The heat in June, coupled with humid conditions, led to a 58.3 percent rise in the sale of aerated waters and soft drinks in the month year-on-year, while larger category of this segment, consumer non-durable, declined 1 percent.

The June figure for aerated water and soft drinks was even higher than the previous month, when production rose 25.1 percent, even as industrial growth was lower in June compared to May, though sugar production declined 66.1 percent in June. Abinash Verma, director general of the Indian Sugar Mills Association, said the crushing of sugarcane in Maharashtra continued till June last year, but this year the mills improved their capacities, due to which they could crush the same amount of cane by the middle of May. Crushing season starts from November every year.

He said, "This has brought down the overall sugar production in India in June compared with the same period last year." Maharashtra produced 0.13 million tonnes of sugar in June last year, while this year it fell to 0.01 million tonnes. Some of the other important products which indicated high negative growth in June included cable and rubber insulated products, which fell 82 percent, colour television picture tubes fell 79.7 percent, di-ammonium phosphate by 54.1 percent, cement machinery by 40 percent and three-wheelers by 29.4 percent.—*Xinhua*

Flight returns to airport in New Jersey after engine problem

WASHINGTON, 19 Aug— A United Airlines flight returned to the Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey on Saturday after an engine problem erupted during its takeoff, media reports said.

An FBI official said a tire of the passenger plane blew during takeoff and flew into an engine, according the reports by CNN.

The Berlin-bound flight then circled the airport and landed at around 8:05 pm local time after burning fuel for more than an hour, said the Federal Aviation Administration.

An eyewitness, who was driving on a road near the airport, said she saw fireballs near a wing shortly after the plane took off, according to the reports.

The Newark Airport, located about 24 km southwest of Midtown Manhattan in New York, is a major airport in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area.—*Xinhua*

Visitors pose for photo at a 3D exhibition in Bejing, capital of China, on 18 Aug, 2012. Over 80 pieces of artworks created by South Korean artists are on display to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and South Korea. The exhibition will last till 9 Sep, 2012. —XINHUA

Cuba plans to expand ostrich farming

HAVANA, 19 Aug—The Cuban government plans to expand ostrich farming across the country to boost local economy and exports.

Ostrich is considered the latest livestock introduced into the island country, with farms now existing in the provinces of Havana and Granma. The Ministry of Agriculture is planning to establish six more farms in other provinces, with the goal to supply the domestic and international markets, the state news agency *Prensa Latina* reported.

The first flock of ostriches were imported to Cuba from Mexico by CENPALAB (the National Centre for Laboratory Animal Production) in 1997 as part of a programme designed "to diversify the production of healthy foods and create new export items."

The first commercial farm was established in 2007, when the experimental farm La Esperanza, in the outskirts of Havana, received 36 ostriches from the CENPALAB.

Compared to other cattle breeding, ostrich farming carries more economic benefits since ostrich has high reproduction rate and commercial value. Its skin can be used for clothes, footwear and fashion jewelry of high quality. Its meat is highly nutritious, which is sold at high prices at the international markets. Its egg has a protein power equivalent to about 23 chicken eggs and the shells, an excellent source for calcium, are widely used in crafts and decorations.

Oil obtained from the ostrich's abdominal fat is rich in essential fatty acids (EFAs), which is good for human health and can be utilized by cosmetic and perfume industry.—*Internet*

Greece needs 2.5 billion extra spending cuts over two years

BERLIN, 19 Aug—Greece will likely need to cut an additional 2.5 billion euros in spending over the next two years to meet demands made by its international lenders in return for financial aid, Germany's *Der Spiegel* magazine reported on Saturday.

Citing an interim report by the troika of European Commission, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund, *Der Spiegel* said Greece would likely need 14 billion euros over the next two years to get its deficit below 3 percent by the end of 2014, up from a previously expected 11.5 billion.

The country's budget deficit stood at 9.3 percent in 2011. The increased financing gap was due to setbacks to privatization plans and as the economy, in its fifth year of recession, was faring worse than expected, the magazine said.

International creditors, who have bailed out Greece twice, have set those targets in return for financial aid. A positive verdict from the troika is key for lenders to decide whether they will keep funds flowing to the austerity-bound country.

The troika representatives wrote the report after their last trip to Athens and would determine the exact amount needed when they next visit Greece in early September, the magazine reported.

"The delegation also criticized in its interim report that Prime Minister Antonis Samaras' government had already been unable to explain how the savings of 11.5 billion euros should be reached," *Der Spiegel* reported. "Roughly a third is uncovered."—*Reuters*

Nigerian government ready to have dialogue with militant group: minister

ABUJA, 19 Aug—The Nigerian government announced on Saturday that it is ready to hold peace talks with the Boko Haram sect in a bid to stop violence in the west African country.

Minister of Information Labaran Maku disclosed this in a statement made available to *Xinhua*, saying the olive branch extended to the militant group by the government followed recent comments credited to Boko Haram members in the media, in which they signaled readiness to hold dialogue with government representatives.

"The government welcomes any initiative that will usher in peace, security and tranquility, in the light of security challenges we have faced in the last two years," said the minister, adding that the government wishes to reiterate its willingness to listen to the grievances of the sect.

Although President Goodluck Jonathan has openly expressed worry over the activities of Boko Haram and has devised several schemes to tackle the menace, critics blame him for the inability of his government to stop the violence.

According to Maku, the government hopes that the dialogue would lead to the restoration of peace, security and tranquility to northern Nigeria.—*Xinhua*

People play with water in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, on 18 Aug, 2012. Heatwave hit most part of France, with the temperature climbing up to 38 degrees Celsius on Saturday in Paris. In southern France, temperatures reached 40 degrees Celsius. —XINHUA

Ministry of Information
Invitation for open tender of Myanma Radio and Television to purchase machines

1. Machines to be purchased for Myanma Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information are as follows:—

(a) NLE Laptop Computer	- 5 Nos
(b) Inmarsat BGAN Terminal Network	- 2 Sets
(c) P2 Card (64 GB)	- 10 Nos
(d) P2 Card Drive	- 2 Nos

2. Application forms of open tenders may be taken out from Office No. 7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, from 09:30 to 16:30 hour from (20-8-2012) to (5-9-2012) during week days.
3. The open tender are submitted to Office No. 7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, in the presence of the members of the tender committee from 09:30 to 16:30 hr on (6-9- 2012). The tenders, later than the designated date, will not be considered.
4. Forms of open tender and detailed Information may be inquired by following address.

Procurement Committee
Ministry of Information
Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: 067-412327, 067-412323

***Iraqis inspect the remains of destroyed vehicles in the aftermath of at least four car bombs where were set off across the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk on 16 August.*—INTERNET**

Wave of attacks that killed 82 overshadow Eid in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 Aug—A spate of attacks that killed 82 people in Iraq overshadowed preparations on Friday to mark the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, amid warnings insurgents would look to carry out deadly strikes.

The violence, the worst in more than three weeks, hit 15 cities across the country and left 270 people wounded on Thursday, just days before the Eid festival that is set to begin on Sunday.

The attacks brought the number of dead nationwide over the course of Ramadan, which began on 18 July, to 404, according to an *AFP* tally. There has been at least one bombing or shooting on every day of the holy month but one.

Thursday's deadliest violence struck in and around Baghdad, where at least 54 people were killed in a series of attacks throughout the day, security and medical officials said. Blasts and shootings also took place in the south, west and north of Iraq.

In the east Baghdad neighbourhood of Zafraniyah, a roadside bomb went off outside an ice cream parlour late on Thursday evening, killing four people and wounding 11. A subsequent car bomb nearby killed 22 more and left 30 wounded.—*Internet*

***Map locates helicopter crash in Afghanistan.* INTERNET**

KABUL, 19 Aug—A newly recruited Afghan village policeman opened fire on his American allies on Friday, killing two US service members minutes after they handed him his official weapon in an inauguration ceremony. It was the latest in a disturbing string of attacks by Afghan security forces on the international troops training them.

Later Friday, an Afghan soldier turned his gun on foreign troops in another part of the country and wounded two of them, a spokesman for the NATO coalition said.

The attacks in the country's far west and south brought to seven the number of times that a member of the Afghan security forces — or someone wearing their uniform — has opened fire on international forces in the past two weeks.

Such assaults by allies, virtually unheard of just a few years ago, have recently escalated, killing at least 36 foreign troops so far this year. They also raise questions about the strategy to train Afghan national police and soldiers to take over security and fight insurgents after most foreign troops leave the country by the end of 2014.

The NATO-led coalition has said such attacks are anomalies stemming from personal disputes, but the supreme leader of the Taleban boasted on Thursday night that the insurgents are infiltrating the quickly expanding Afghan forces.

Friday's deadly attacker in the far western province of Farah was identified as Mohammad Ismail, a man in his 30s who had joined the Afghan Local Police just five days ago.

He opened fire during an inauguration ceremony attended by American and Afghan forces in the Kinisk village, the Farah provincial police chief Agha Noor Kemtoz said.

"As soon as they gave the weapon to Ismail to begin training, suddenly he took the gun and opened fire toward the US soldiers," Kemtoz said.

Ismail was shot and killed as the coalition and Afghan forces returned fire, the police chief said.—*Internet*

Another Afghan police attack kills two US troops

Bomb blast wounds one, damages police station in Nigeria

JOS, 19 Aug—A bomb blast in the volatile central Nigerian city of Jos has injured a civilian and damaged a police station as well as nearby houses, an army spokesman said on Friday.

"The police post, three other houses and a vehicle were affected by the blast. One person by the name Alhaji Abubakar Adam was injured," Special Task Force spokesman in the city, Captain Salisu Mustapha, said in a statement.

The bomb exploded late Thursday between the police station and a residential building in the Rikkos district of Jos, capital of Plateau state.

Plateau has seen violent clashes between Christian and Muslim ethnic groups as well as attacks blamed on Islamist militants Boko Haram. It lies in the middle belt region between the mainly Christian south and majority Muslim north.

"It is clear that the police station was the target of the attack," Mustapha told *AFP*.

Nigeria has tightened security ahead of this weekend's Eid celebrations, and two main prayer grounds in Jos where violence has previously occurred have been put off-limits, with alternative areas provided.—*Internet*

***A general view of the Nigerian city of Jos in 2011. A bomb blast in the volatile central Nigerian city of Jos has injured a civilian and damaged a police station as well as nearby houses, an army spokesman said on Friday.*—INTERNET**

***This file photo shows Pakistani paramilitary soldiers checking documents on a street in Quetta, in June. A suicide bomber blew up his explosive-laden car at a check post in southwestern Pakistan overnight killing five people including three soldiers, according to an official.*—INTERNET**

Five killed in Pakistan suicide bombing

QUETTA, 19 Aug—A suicide bomber blew up his explosive-laden car at a check post in southwestern Pakistan overnight killing five people including three soldiers, according to an official.

Troops from the paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC) stopped a Toyota car for a security check in Quetta, capital of the insurgency hit Baluchistan Province when it entered the city late Friday, FC spokesman Murtaza Baig said.

"They were questioning the driver when he detonated himself, killing three FC soldiers and two officials of the military intelligence," Baig told *AFP*. The bomber was also blown into pieces, the official said.

He said the alleged terrorist may have planned to target some military installation or a public place during the Muslim festival of Eid ul-Fitr starting this weekend. "The soldiers sacrificed their lives to foil a major terror attack," he added. There was no claim of responsibility for the latest incident but the province which borders Iran and Afghanistan suffers from Taleban attacks.

It is also a flashpoint for sectarian violence involving Sunni and Shiite Muslims that has left thousands of people dead since the late 1980s.

Baluch rebels rose up in 2004, demanding political autonomy and a greater share of profits from the oil, gas and mineral resources in the region. Bomb blasts and attacks on police and security forces are frequent in insurgency-plagued Baluchistan, which is one of the most deprived areas of Pakistan.—*Internet*

Navy to repair nuke sub that caught fire in Maine

PORTLAND, 19 Aug—The Navy says a nuclear-powered attack submarine severely damaged by a fire at a naval shipyard in Portsmouth, Maine, is going to be repaired.

Navy spokeswoman Lt Courtney Hillson told *The Associated Press* on Friday engineering assessments are ongoing but the Navy has made the decision to repair the *USS Miami*, which is based in Groton (GRAH'-tuhn), Conn.

A former shipyard worker from Portsmouth, NH, is charged with setting the fire while the sub was in dry dock on 23 May.

There had been lingering questions over whether it would make financial sense to repair the 22-year-old submarine. Early estimates put the damage at $400 million.—*Internet*

Seven charged in shootings that killed Louisiana police officers

NEW ORLEANS, 19 Aug—Louisiana police have charged seven people in connection with shootings near New Orleans on Thursday that killed two sheriff's deputies at a trailer park and wounded two others, authorities said. Brian Lyn Smith, 24, of LaPlace was charged with attempted first-degree murder while six others also face charges linked to the violence, St John Parish Sheriff's Office spokesman Dane Clement said on Friday.

The charges stem from a pair of related shootings early on Thursday in and around LaPlace, about 25 miles west of New Orleans, in which a gunman shot and wounded St John Parish Deputy Michael Scott Boyington, 33, as he performed off-duty work directing traffic at a parking lot for Valero Energy Corp's St Charles refinery, St John Parish Sheriff Mike Tregre said.

The gunman fled, and officers investigating the incident ended up at a trailer park in LaPlace. As they were interviewing two suspects, someone came out of a trailer with an assault weapon and shot dead the two officers and wounded another, Tregre said.—*Reuters*

Conn town settles dispute over girl's pet bunny

Officials in a Connecticut town have settled a zoning dispute over a local girl's 20-pound pet bunny after receiving calls and emails from across the country demanding that the rabbit be allowed to stay.

North Haven First Selectman Michael Freda said on 17 August that the town will allow 7-year-old Kayden Lidsky and her family to keep the Flemish giant named Sandy and change the zoning rule that led to a cease-and-desist order three weeks ago. The rule bars anyone from keeping rabbits and other livestock on properties smaller than 2 acres.

The town's zoning enforcement officer issued the cease-and-desist order while investigating a neighbour's blight complaint against the Lidsky family, whose property is less than 2 acres.

"All along I've said that little girl is not losing that rabbit," Freda said. "We have a ridiculous ordinance ... and we're going to change it."

The Lidsky family, however, interpreted the cease-and-desist order to mean that they had to get rid of Sandy. Josh Lidsky, Kayden's dad, had planned to appeal the order to a town board.

"I'm happy it's over," Josh Lidsky said. "I'm saddened that it had to go as far as it did. It's very tough for a 7-year-old to understand why people would do something like that. She's cried nightly."

Kayden tells the New Haven Register she's "excited" that she can keep it.

Since the dispute hit the news last week, nearly 4,400 people have signed an online petition on change.org urging the town to not force the family to give up the rabbit.

Freda said he's also spoken to and exchanged emails with about 1,000 people nationwide.

The ordinance was put in place about 50 years ago when North Haven was a large farming community, and it was designed to prevent people from raising and selling rabbits and other livestock on less than 2 acres in competition with farmers, Freda said.

Freda said the new ordinance will allow rabbits to be kept as pets.

In this, 16 Aug, 2012 photo, Kayden Lidsky, left, poses with her father Josh, and sister Madison, and Sandy, the family bunny, in North Haven, Conn., after town officials settled a zoning dispute allowing the 20-pound Flemish giant to stay. An ordinance put in place about 50 years ago, when the town was a large farming community, barred people from raising and selling rabbits and other livestock on less than 2-acres in competition with farmers. The town's zoning enforcement officer had previously issued the cease-and-desist order while investigating a neighbor's blight complaint against the Lidsky family, whose property is less than 2-acres.

News Album

Man tackles armed robber outside store

A Minnesota man who tackled an armed teenage robber outside a SuperAmerica store said his years playing football helped prepare him for the feat.

John Daiker, 38, of Rogers, who stands 6 feet, 3 inches and weighs 270 pounds, said playing defensive end in high school and college gave him the experience he needed to take down the robber — who was armed with a handgun — outside the Rogers store shortly after 11 pm Tuesday, the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* reported on 16 August Thursday.

"I've always thought if you could help somebody, you just do it," Daiker said.

Douglas, Wieber enjoy celebrity sparkle after gold

NEW YORK, 19 Aug— They've been on a whirlwind tour since the Olympics — from "Late Night With David Letterman" to the Empire State Building and the New York Stock Exchange — but gold-medal gymnasts Gabby Douglas and Jordyn Wieber have one more stop to make before they can truly take a breath: the White House.

President Barack Obama made the invitation in a phone call. "We'll definitely take him up on it," Douglas said.

The girls say they are trying to get the most out of this post-London euphoria. Long days of interviews, autographs and photo ops haven't left them jaded. "Were enjoying every step of the way," said Wieber, who with Douglas, McKayla Maroney, Kyla Ross and Aly Raisman gave the United States its first Olympic team title in women's gymnastics since 1996.

Olympic champion gymnast Gabby Douglas pretends to talk on the phone while posing for photos on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, on 14 Aug, 2012, in New York.
INTERNET

Douglas also won the women's all-around individual gymnastics competition.

They insist they're not tired or homesick, despite going weeks before making their way home late this week. Wieber says she has jammed pretty much everything she owns into four suitcases, including her own pillow, and hasn't looked back.

"We've been having so much fun the past few days," agreed Douglas, who has Tweeted photos of herself meeting Nicki Minaj, Karmin and Nick Cannon, and also has savored online congratulations from Justin Bieber and Taylor Swift. She shared a couch with first lady Michelle Obama on "Tonight" with Jay Leno.

She is still waiting for her invitation to appear on "The Vampire Diaries," hands-down her favorite TV show. Wieber? She'd like a little gig on "Teen Wolf."

Douglas and Wieber are still girls, and they acknowledge not being fully prepared for all the attention and publicity they've received over the past few weeks. Douglas is 16, and Wieber 17.

"I don't think anyone expected this. ... I didn't expect this," said Wieber, of DeWitt, Mich.—*Internet*

Actor Josh Hutcherson and actress Jennifer Lawrence attend a special signing event to promote their new movie "The Hunger Games" at Barnes & Noble Union Square in March 2012 in New York City.—INTERNET

'Hunger Games' dethrone Potter at Amazon.com

NEW YORK, 19 Aug— Amazon.com on Friday announced that "The Hunger Games" trilogy has replaced the "Harry Potter" saga as the online retail giant's best-selling series of books.

"Since debuting in 2008, Katniss Everdeen and the Hunger Games have taken the world by storm, much as Harry Potter did a decade before," said Amazon.com books and Kindle editorial director Sara Nelson.

The trilogy by Suzanne Collins about children forced to fight for their lives in a Roman circus-style televised blood sport in a dystopian world has outsold "Potter" even though JK Rowling wrote seven books about a boy wizard. "To achieve this result in just four years is a great testament to both the popularity of the work and, we think, the growth in reading digitally during that time," Nelson said.

"Hunger Games" titles have consistently made it into Amazon.com's Top 10 lists in print and in digital format for the Seattle-based firm's Kindle electronic readers.

Internet

Talent thrives among Elvis's grandkids: Lisa Marie

MEMPHIS, 19 Aug— Elvis Presley's grandchildren all have show business in their blood, but their mother Lisa Marie Presley said on Friday she hoped they would succeed at whatever they chose to pursue.

Presley, 44, discussed her iconic rock 'n' roll father, who died 35 years ago this week, alongside her mother Priscilla during a half-hour talk before Elvis fans at the family's Graceland mansion in Memphis, Tennessee.

It was the first time the singer-songwriter, whose latest album "Storm and Grace" came out in May, had participated in an open panel discussion at the annual Elvis Week festivities.

"Really, I just want them to be really good at whatever they want to do," she said when asked about her children Riley Keough, 23, Benjamin Keough, 19, and three-year-old twins Harper and Finley Lockwood.

Riley, who appears in director Steven Soderbergh's male stripper film "Magic Mike," is doing "incredibly well" in her acting career, while music-loving Benjamin is "swinging back and forth" between bass and guitar, said Presley.

Of "the little ones," she said Finley "is definitely going to sing... that child loves music," while potential thespian Harper can recreate any movie she sees "scene by scene, line by line, exactly as she saw it."

Asked what the twins make of their iconic grandpop, Presley said: "They are very, very, very proud. 'That's my grandfather! I want to see my grandfather!' They have such a sense of pride. It's really cute."

Presley had her older children with her first husband, musician Danny Keough, and the youngest ones with her current spouse, music producer Michael Lockwood. She was also married to the late Michael Jackson and actor Nicolas Cage.—*Internet*

Lisa Marie Presley, daughter of rock 'n' roll icon Elvis Presley, mingles with fans and signs autographs outside her father's Graceland mansion in Memphis, on 17 August, a day after the 35th anniversary of his death.—INTERNET

Jenny McCarthy announces split with Brian Urlacher

CHICAGO, 19 Aug— Former Playboy Playmate and actress Jenny McCarthy says she is no longer romantically involved with Chicago Bears linebacker Brian Urlacher.

This 14 May, 2012 file photo shows "Love In The Wild" host Jenny McCarthy arrives for the NBC network upfront presentation at Radio City Music Hall in New York. McCarthy, who is from suburban Chicago, released a statement on 17 Aug, 2012.
INTERNET

McCarthy, who is from suburban Chicago, released a statement on Friday that said: "Brian and I have decided to turn our romance into an amazing friendship. I will continue to be the biggest cheerleader for him."

The 34-year-old Urlacher is recovering from arthroscopic knee surgery. He says he expects to be ready for the 9 September opener against Indianapolis. The 39-year-old McCarthy has also been outspoken about autism treatments and written a book detailing her search for a cure for her son. She was previously romantically involved with actor Jim Carrey.

Internet

Pizza Hut, Home Depot deny copying Black Keys work

LOS ANGELES, 19 Aug— Attorneys for Pizza Hut and The Home Depot are denying that a pair of ads improperly used music by The Black Keys.

The Grammy-winning band sued the companies in June, claiming they used the band's music to sell pizza and power tools. The companies separately denied the band's allegations in court documents filed on Thursday and Friday in Los Angeles.

Each company is asking a judge to have the band pay their attorneys' fees if they win the case.

The Black Keys claim The Home Depot Inc used elements of its hit "Lonely Boy" in an ad for power tools.

In this 12 March, 2012 file photo, guitarist/ vocalist Dan Auerbach of The Black Keys performs at Madison Square Garden, in New York.
INTERNET

The band accuses Pizza Hut Inc. of using elements of the song "Gold On the Ceiling" to sell a cheesy crust pizza.

Both songs appeared on the rock group's seventh album, "El Camino."

Internet

Kaka on Galaxy radar to replace Beckham

Brazil star Kaka

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 Aug — Brazil star Kaka is reportedly being sought by Los Angeles Galaxy as a possible replacement for David Beckham.Brazil's Estado de Sao Paulo reported the north American club had identified the Real Madrid midfielder as the ideal candidate to take over from Beckham as the club's marquee player.

Beckham, 37, is understood to be undecided about whether to continue beyond his current contract, which expires in December.If the former England captain retires, Galaxy would have the funds to pay up to 27 million euros for Kaka, the report said. In the event Beckham continues, the club will wait until next year.

Kaka, 30, has been told by Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho that he is not guaranteed a starting place for the Spanish outfit this season. The 2007 FIFA World Player of the Year has been strongly linked in recent weeks with a return to former club AC Milan. Rossoneri officials are still hopeful of securing a deal before the transfer window closes on 31 August.

Xinhua

David Beckham

Ronaldinho "happy" to face former Milan teammate Seedorf

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 Aug — Ronaldinho said he will put his friendship with Clarence Seedorf aside when the former AC Milan teammates meet in Brazil's Serie A championship on Sunday.

Ronaldinho's Atletico Mineiro will be hoping to extend its lead at the top of the standings while Botafogo, the club Seedorf joined last month after ending his 10-year spell at the San Siro, is closing in on the top four. The pair struck up a strong friendship while playing together with the Rossoneri between 2008 and 2010. "I'm very happy to see him here because he was one of the people who helped me most when I arrived in Italy," Ronaldinho said.

"It's great to see an old friend but in the same way that he wants to win, so do I. I'm looking forward to playing against him."Both players enter the match in good form. Ronaldinho has been instrumental in Atletico's emergence as one of the title favorites while Seedorf scored his second goal in less than two weeks in Botafogo's 2-0 victory over Sport on Wednesday.— *Xinhua*

Ronaldinho

Clarence Seedorf

"I am ready for Chelsea debut": Oscar

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 Aug— Brazil international playmaker Oscar has declared himself ready to debut for Chelsea in the team's Premier League season-opener against Wigan on Sunday.

Oscar joined his new teammates at Stamford Bridge on Thursday following his involvement with Brazil's Olympic team, which took the silver medal after losing to Mexico 2-1 in the final."I'm very happy to know that the manager has me in his plans for Sunday," Oscar said.

"I think that I can do the job asked of me if selected because I have been playing regularly and have good rhythm. I am ready to go."Oscar, who signed with the London club for a reported 25 million pounds, has been given Chelsea's No11 shirt formerly worn by Cote d'Ivoire striker Didier Drogba.— *Xinhua*

Brazil international playmaker Oscar

Japan's Miyazato keeps LPGA lead

NORTH PLAINS, (Oregon), 19 Aug — Japan's Mika Miyazato, seeking her first LPGA title, fired a four-under par 68 to seize a two-stroke lead after the second round of the LPGA Safeway Classic. Miyazato, who began on the back nine, birdied the par-3 11th and third holes and added birdies at the sixth and par-5 eighth holes to finish 36 holes on 11-under 133, two clear of South Korean So Yeon Ryu, who also shot a 68. "I had so much frustration on the putting on the front nine, but I made three birdies on the back nine," Miyazato said.

Ryu and Miyazato, both 22, were playing partners in the first two rounds and will be again for Sunday's final round of the 54-hole event at Pumpkin Ridge, where Miyazato will try to take a solid season to the next level by winning. "I have so much good experience the last four or five events, but I don't know how much closer I am to winning a tournament," Miyazato said. "I tried to focus on my golf game one shot at a time."Ryu likes her chances even as she will be trying to deny her the long-sought crown.

"I think she's ready to make a win, but I think the problem is that golf is a mental game, so I think the final round gave a lot of pressure for her, but I think she can make it pretty soon," Ryu said. "But I want to make another win this week. So I want to make a great competition with her." Ryu was coming off a victory last week at the Jamie Farr Toledo Classic, her first since capturing the 2011 US Women's Open."It's really hard to keep focusing on my golf after my winning, but last week's tournament is finished so I'm just thinking about this week and that's why I played well," she said.

"I shot 5-under on the front nine, but the back nine I made one bogey and I missed a lot of birdie putts. I have to practice some of my utility shots and practice some putts. I'm ready to sink some putts tomorrow."

American Cristie Kerr and South Korean Inbee Park shared third on 136, both expressing confidence in their chances on Sunday. "Whoever has won this tournament has gone low on Sunday so that's what you have to do," Kerr said. "You have to go low, get off to a really hot start and try to bring it home."Kerr seeks her first victory since the 2010 State Farm Classic.— *Internet*

***South Korea's So Yeon Ryu during the second round of the LPGA Safeway Classic on 18 August.*— INTERNET**

***Japan's Mika Miyazato during the second round of the LPGA Safeway Classic on 18 August.*— INTERNET**

Djokovic to face Federer in Cincinnati final

MASON, (Ohio), 19 Aug — Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, the top two players in the world, set up a showdown for the Cincinnati Masters title after cruising to semi-final victories on Saturday.

The gap between the leading four, which also contains Rafa Nadal and Andy Murray, and the chasing pack was again evident as Djokovic beat Argentine Juan Martin del Potro 6-3, 6-2 before Federer saw off fellow Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka 7-6, 6-3.

World number one Federer is chasing a fifth title in Cincinnati while Djokovic is hoping to claim his first at the Ohio venue.

The Serb has lost in the final three times including last year when he retired injured in the second set against Murray and in 2009 when he was beaten by Federer.

Djokovic avenged his defeat by Del Potro in the bronze-medal match at the London Olympics earlier this month when he powered into his 22nd Masters 1000 final.

A tight first set turned in Djokovic's favor when sixth seed Del Potro, who was unable to capitalize on any of the six break points he had in the match, double-faulted to let his opponent go 4-2 ahead.

It was relatively straightforward in the second set after Djokovic, who won last week's Toronto Masters crown, took advantage of some loose returns to break for a 2-1 lead.

Federer has a 15-12 advantage in matches with Djokovic and won their last meeting in the Wimbledon semi-finals last month."We all know how good he is, especially in the later stages of events, and here conditions are quite fast so I think it's suited to his style," the Serb told reporters.

Reuters

Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a return to Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina in their men's singles semi-final match at the Cincinnati Open tennis tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio on 18 Aug, 2012.
REUTERS

Arsenal can shine without stars, says Wenger

LONDON, 19 Aug — Arsene Wenger insists Arsenal will still be a force to be reckoned with after Alex Song was confirmed as the latest key player to leave the Emirates Stadium. Song's departure to Barcelona came minutes after the final whistle of the 0-0 draw against Sunderland on the opening day of the Premier League season on Saturday. His transfer comes as Wenger attempts to cope with star striker Robin van Persie's move to Manchester United on the eve of the campaign starting.

Arsenal's lacklustre efforts without van Persie and Song, who was left out of the squad for the Sunderland clash, suggests Wenger's side face a major struggle to end their seven-year trophy drought. But Wenger believes his squad already has enough strength in depth to cope with the changes, while he could also make another signing before the transfer window closes on 31 August. When asked about Song, Wenger said: "He expressed a desire to leave for Barcelona."

"It is frustrating but we have learnt to deal with that. I also believe the financial potential of some clubs is massive and that makes a difference. But Jack Wilshere is coming back now in one or two months. We have Abou Diaby coming back, we have (Tomas) Rosicky not far away and might get a midfielder in as well. Olivier Giroud came on for his debut against Sunderland and shot wide with Arsenal's best chance, while Lukas Podolski did not get a clear-cut opportunity on his first appearance as Arsenal laboured to unlock Sunderland's stubborn defence."— *Internet*

***Arsenal's striker Lukas Podolski (L) clashes with Sunderland's striker Fraizer Campbell during their English Premier League football match at The Emirates Stadium in north London. The match ended in a 0-0 draw.*— INTERNET**

International Sports

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(20-8-12 09:30 am ~ 21-8-12 09:30 am) MST

* News
* The Land of Blossoming Flowers
* News
* 13th ELT Conference for Teachers of English
* News
* Strenuous Steps (Men)
* News
* Strenuous Steps (Ladies)
* News
* BOT System Precise and Speedy for the People Cooperate Shall We... Meiktila-Mandalay Road Section
* Culture Stage
* Orchid Products for Healthy Lifestyle
* News
* Banking is a Service Industry
* News
* Myanmar Movie ''A Fragrant Flower From Bagan''

MYANMAR TV

(20-8-2012) (Monday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:40 am
3. Nice & Sweet Song

8:00 am
4. Cute Little Dancers

8:10 am
5. Teleplay (Health)

8:20 am
6. Dance Of National Races

4:00 pm
7. Martial Song

4:10 pm
8. Dance Variety

4:20 pm
9. Musical Programme

5:00 pm
10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5:05 pm
11. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanamr Modern Music Troupe)

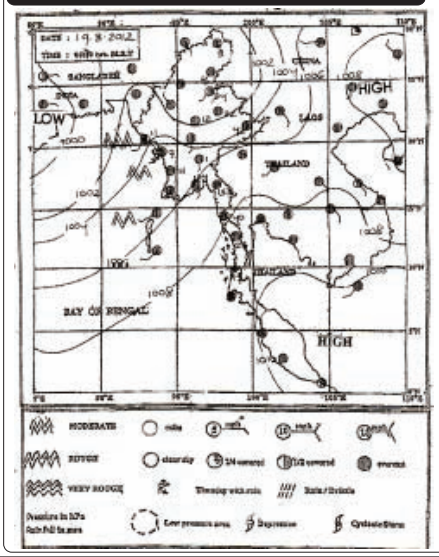
5:15 pm
12. Myanmar Language

6:20 pm
13. Sing & Enjoy

7:00 pm
14. "Road to 27th SEA GAMES" (Taekwondo)

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 20th August, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	32/90	26/79	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
2	Kayah	25/77	20/68	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
3	Kayin	25/77	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
4	Chin	24/75	16/61	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
5	Upper Sagaing	32/90	26/79	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
6	Lower Sagaing	33/91	26/79	Scattered rain or thundershower	(100%)
7	Tanintharyi	26/79	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
8	Bago	27/81	23/73	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
9	Magway	31/88	26/79	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
10	Mandalay	30/86	25/77	Scattered rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
11	Mon	24/75	21/70	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
12	Yangon	28/82	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
13	Rakhine	26/79	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
14	Southern Shan	23/73	19/66	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
15	Northern Shan	23/73	21/70	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
16	Eastern Shan	23/73	21/70	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
17	Ayeyawady	30/86	25/77	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	31/88	24/75	One or two rain or thundershower	(100%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	28/82	22/72	Some rain or thundershower	(100%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	30/86	25/77	Isolated rain or thundershower	(80%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today	During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Magway Region, scattered in Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing and Bago Regions, Chin and Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Bago and Yangon Regions, Mon and Kayin States and isolated heavy falls in Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Kyaikmaraw (7.68) inches, Mawlamyine (6.23) inches, Bago (5.87) inches, Gwa (5.75) inches, Hpa-an (5.00) inches, Khayan (4.88) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (4.38) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (4.26) inches and Kawkareik (3.86) inches.
Bay Inference	According to the observations at (05:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over Northwest Bay of Bengal has become unimportant. 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 sub-	Likelihood of increase of rain in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Cash donated to delivery room, school in Tachilek

TACHILEK, 19 Aug—Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central) President and party donated cash to the fund for all-round development of ShweliU Pre-primary School of Tachilek Township MCWA at the school on 6 August afternoon.

President of MMCWA (Central) Dr Mon Mon Aung, Joint Secretary Dr Gyo Gyo San, Dr Wai Myint and Dr Hla Hla Aye presented toys and snacks worth K 70000 to 45 childrens and three sets of uniforms to teachers of the school and K 50000 to the fund of the school.

The President of the MMCWA (Central) and party met female students from the six-month midwifery course being jointly conducted by Tachilek District and Township MCWAs in the compound of Tachilek People's Hospital.

Then, they visited the delivery room of the association and donated cash to the fund of delivery room and uniforms for the midwives.

Myanma Alin

Manchester City 3-2 Southampton

***Manchester City's Carlos Tevez (R) shoots to score during their English Premier League soccer match against Southampton at the Etihad Stadium, northern England.—*REUTERS**

MAN CITY, 19 Aug—Manchester City have got their Premier League title defence off to a winning start by beating Southampton 3-2 this afternoon.

The hosts should have taken the lead within 20 minutes when Carlos Tevez was brought down inside the penalty area. David Silva stepped up, but his spot kick was poor and comfortably saved by Kelvin Davis.

The champions did take the lead five minutes before the break when Tevez fired past Davis from close range, although replays suggested that the striker was offside.

Tevez came close again before the break, and City picked up where they left off earlier in the second half when Samir Nasri found Edin Dzeko, who could only fire straight at Davis.

The hosts continued to pour forward and squandered good chances through Gael Clichy and Silva, the latter of whom hit the crossbar with his effort.

Then, against the run of play, Southampton grabbed an equaliser through Rickie Lambert's low strike. Things got even better for the Saints with just over 20 minutes left as they took the lead through debutant Steven Davis.

City responded as only champions can, however, and pulled level through Dzeko with 15 minutes left on the clock and almost took the lead a minute later through Tevez.

Dzeko came close again before the hosts got the winner ten minutes from time through Nasri's strike after poor defending from Southampton.

Internet

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Wigan	**0 - 2**	**Chelsea**
Man City	**3 - 2**	**Soton**

Li defeats Venus to meet Kerber in final

MASON, (Ohio), 19 Aug — China's Li Na defeated an injured Venus Williams 7-5, 3-6, 6-1 to reach the final of the Cincinnati Open on Saturday and set up a meeting with German Angelique Kerber. Wimbledon semi-finalist Kerber came through a grueling 6-1, 2-6, 6-4 win over Czech Petra Kvitova to reach her fourth final of the year and her biggest yet. Earlier, Williams, playing in her first semi-final since the 2010 US Open, was limited in her serve speed which was hovering around a slow 75 mph mark after picking up a back strain shortly before the match begun.

"Just in my warmup it was bothering me. I was like 'Oh, no'. I tried to fix it between the warmup and the match, but it didn't work," Williams told reporters."Right now I don't know why my back hurts, I just know it hurts. After this I'm going to get an evaluation and see what exactly is happening," said Williams, who will be keen to regain full fitness for the U.S. Open later this month. The American, who has comeback from illness this year, double-faulted on break point to go 3-2 down in the first set but, relying on her return game, she battled back to 5-5.

But another crucial double-fault on game point allowed Li to sneak back ahead 6-5 and then wrap up the set. After receiving an on-court massage to her back, Williams roared back in the second set to win five consecutive games en route to taking it 6-3 to level the match. But the exertion of her comeback cost her in the third set where she ran out of energy and was convincingly beaten 6-1 as Li went in for the kill. Li, the ninth seed, is now a perfect 4-0 in her semi-final matches this year but has yet to win a final. Li's most recent loss coming at Montreal last week at the hands of Kvitova.

"It's amazing this year, because in the last two years I hardly got a point in North America. So I'm happy I can be in the final again," the 2011 French Open champion told reporters. Kerber's rise to seventh in the rankings this year has included wins at the Paris indoors and Copenhagen events but her test against Li Na will be the perfect preparation for Flushing Meadows.

The German dominated the opening set with Kvitova making a series of unforced errors but the gritty Czech dug deep to take the contest to a third, making full use of her powerful serve. Kerber, though, swiftly regained her rhythm to race into a 5-2 lead in the decider against an exhausted looking Kvitova. The German was then broken as she served for the match before sealing the contest just before it reached the two hour mark on her next service game.—*Reuters*

Li Na of China hits a return to Venus Williams of the US during their women's singles semi-final match at the Cincinnati Open tennis tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio on 18 Aug, 2012. **REUTERS**

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Workshop on Development of Agricultural Sector of Magway Region held

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing delivers an address at Workshop on Development of Agricultural Sector of Magway Region.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug—The Workshop on Development of Agricultural Sector of Magway Region was held at the meeting hall of Magway Region Agricultural Department this morning with an address by Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing.

In his address, Union Minister U Myint Hlaing said that the country is in cooperation with global nations and countries in the region in such sectors as political and economic sectors, adding that under the agreement of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), all the ASEAN member countries are to abide by the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement which covers free flow of goods, free flow of services, free flow of investments, free flow of capitals and free flow of skilled labour. Meanwhile, means and ways are to be sought to ensure double increase of farmers' income. And all should exercise a constant vigilance against falling victims to developed nations, he disclosed.

After that, Union Minister U Win Myint spoke, saying that Magway brokerage, Pakokku brokerage, Aunglan brokerage and Yesagyo brokerage had been opened and efforts are to be made for opening of brokerages in Yenangyoung, Taungdwingyi and Chauk which are economically strategic locations. The Ministry of Commerce in cooperation with FAO has facilitated Bayintnaung brokerage, Mandalay brokerage and Muse-105 Mile brokerage with auto answering machines that tell market prices. Such facilities are being provided to Pathein brokerage, Hinthada brokerage, Pyay brokerage, Monywa brokerage and Magway Brokerage, he added.

For the sake of consumers, public awareness workshops were held in Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Taunggyi. ASEAN Economic Community which imparts knowledge to the consumers and protects the interest of the consumers is to be implemented in 2015. With the emergence of ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection-(ACCP), the country is to implement ACCP Work Plan in real time. In this context, the Ministry of Commerce has been assigned duties by the President Office as a focal department.

Next, the workshop continued with the discussions of Mr Smouk of Thailand and Hsinpaungwe Township No. 2 Region Hluttaw representative U Myint Ngwe on Mega Farm Project which is implementing 12000 to 15000 acres of modern industrial farm.

Afterwards, Chairman of Magway Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry U Tun Hsaing, Representative U Sein Aye Maung of Myanmar Rice Merchants Association's Magway Region Branch, Representative U Nay Win Aung of Magway Region Edible Oil Entrepreneurs Association and Director U Po Ni of Shwehtanaung Agricultural Company participated in the discussions.

This was followed by a general round of discussions.

Later, those present on the occasion viewed samples of quality Palethway hybrid paddy, quality Basamati hybrid paddy, quality paddy from regions and states, documentary photos on achievements of Palethway paddy in Magway Region, edible oil crops, value-added products of agricultural produce, a variety of fertilizer and pesticides and educational pamphlets.—*MNA*

All Myanmar Islam Association announces its attitude towards incidents in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug— All Myanmar Islam Association on 10 August announced its attitude towards incidents occurred in Rakhine State. The following is the translation of the announcement.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
All Myanmar Islam Association

No. 214 (Government's Religious Cash Assistance Acceptance Committee Office)
Bo Sun Pak Street, Pabedan Township, Yangon
Ph: 388146, 253683, 252608, 241717, 241212, 296134

Announcement of attitude towards incidents occurred in Rakhine State

Dated: 10 August, 2012

1. Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity and Islam have flourished in Myanmar and those who professed the religions have been living through thick and thin in the country.
2. All Myanmar Islam Association totally disapproves of any exaggeration of incidents occurred in Rakhine State these days.
3. All Myanmar Islam Association publicly denounced any persons or organizations who attempt or commit terrorist acts, make threats and coerce which can harm the lives, property and undermine the dignity of Myanmar and its people taking advantages of incidents occurred in Rakhine State.
4. All Myanmar Islam Association has announced its attitude towards peaceful settlement of disputes in the framework of law through coordination based on loving-kindness putting aside different views, ideologies and concepts according to the nature of the human being among the people of Myanmar.

(Al Haji Maung Larnar Yusuf)	(Al Haji Nyunt Maung Shein)	(Al Haji Kyaw Soe)	(Al Haji Myint Tun)	(Kyaw Khin)
Vice Chairman	Chairman	Secretary-General	Chairman	General Secretary
Olama Council of Muslim Theologians	Islam Religious Affairs Council Headquarters	Myanmar Maulawi Organization Headquarters	Myanmar Muslim Youth's Religious Organization (MaMala Headquarters)	Myanmar Muslim National League (MaAhPha Headquarters)

Low pressure becomes unimportant

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug—According to the observations at 5.30 hrs MST today, the low pressure area over Northwest Bay of Bengal become unimportant, announced by Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA

Blood collectively donated at Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 19 Aug—The 15th collective blood donation was held at Chanthagyi Prayer Hall on the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda this morning.

Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees member U Thein Linn gave a speech, and In-charge of National Blood Center Dr Daw Thida Aung explained facts about donation of blood, and the collective blood donation followed.

Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees gave certificates of honour to the In-charge of National Blood Center, health staff and blood donors.—*MNA*

Golf qualifier wraps up in Mandalay

YANGON, 19 Aug—Jointly organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Senior PGA, the golf qualifier tournament was held at Shwemantaung Golf Course in Mandalay on 13 and 14 August.

A total of 54 golfers participated in the tournament.

After the qualifier tournament, Khin Maung Aye, Myint Ko, Tayzar Linn, Kyaw Moe, Tun Win, Thein Htaik Oo, Kyi Lwin, Myo Tun, Hun Tun Oo and Aik Kyon were qualified at the professional level.

U Khin Maung Nyo, U Tun Shan and U Maung Hla were also qualified at Senior Professional level.

Likewise, Kyaw Thura, Min Thant Zin, Thaung Htaik Soe and Min Naing Soe were qualified at Teaching Pro level.

MNA

Kightly hoping Stoke can sign ex-Liverpool, Man Utd striker Owen

LONDON, 19 Aug—Stoke City winger Michael Kightly is hoping Michael Owen can join him at the club.

The 26-year old, who recently joined from Wolves, suggests that the former Liverpool and Manchester United man would be a great addition to Tony Pulis' squad if a potential deal can be done.

"Michael's a top, top player and his experience will only help us, so we'll see what happens," Kightly said in the wake of his debut Potters goal in yesterday's 1-1 draw with Reading.

"He's not been the first big player to be linked with this club and that's one of the attractions that was there for me to come here.

"Whether we sign him is a different matter but it's a club that I feel that are pushing in the right direction and one that I wanted to be a part of."—*Internet*