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Sunday, 26 August, 2012

Our Three Main National Causes

* Non-disintegration of the Union

* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity

* Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Collaborative efforts of government and people crucial to overcome challenges

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, accompanied by General Hla Htay Win of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Office, Union Ministers U Myint Hlaing, U Ohn Myint, U Thein Nyunt, U Aung Kyi, U Win Myint, Dr Mya Aye and Dr Pe Thet Khin, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hsan Oo, region ministers, and departmental heads, attended a ceremony to provide grains and cash assistance for agricultural development of Yangon Region at Kayan Township General Administration Department at 8.20 am today.

It was also attended by departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local farmers.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe presented brief report on salient facts about Yangon Region, projects to be implemented in 2012-2013 fiscal year for rural development and poverty alleviation, rainfall and progress of monsoon paddy cultivation in August, condition of floods due to the rains and supervision for re-cultivation of damaged farmlands by forming committees at different levels and assistance to flood victims.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing explained measures for agricultural development of Yangon Region. He recommended a focus on quick win as agricultural is instrumental to rural



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein cordially greets flood victims at a relief camp in Dekkhinayama Yekyaw Monastery in Kayan Township.—MNA

development and poverty alleviation scheme, systematic reforms in line with five-point instructions of the President, establishment of quality agricultural zones

with a shift to quality grains suited to local climate and land, and setting up a model township for agricultural development.

In his instructions, President U Thein Sein said that they were there to lend a helping hand to local people who are in difficulties for a while due to flood. The visit is mainly

aimed at providing financial assistance to them to be able to purchase grains, and to render assistance to flood victims for their livelihood, education and health.

The world is experiencing more catastrophes than the past due to climate (See page 8)

Student's iPhone app helps Mars rover



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China willing to promote military ties with US



Deputy Chief of the General Staff of PLA Cai Yingting (L) is interviewed in Washington DC on 24 Aug, 2012. A PLA delegation led by Cai made an official visit to the United States since Monday.

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Chelsea seal swoop for Wigan's Moses



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Premier League club Sunderland sign Wolves striker Fletcher



Scotland striker Steven Fletcher from Championship side Wolves

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Bay Bulletin

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug—According to the observations at 16:30 hrs MST today, a low pressure area has formed over North Bay of Bengal, announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

Flood warning for Sittoung and Thanlwin Rivers

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug—The water level of the Sittoung River at Toungoo has exceeded its danger level starting from 6:30 pm yesterday. According to the 12:30 hr MST observation today, it has exceeded by 5 cm (about 2-inch) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next 24 hrs

commencing this noon.

The water level of the Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded its danger level about 32 days starting from yesterday. According to the 12:30 hr MST observation today, it has exceeded by 77 cm (about 2.6-ft) above its danger level during the next 3 days. The water level of the Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded its danger level

starting from 4:30 pm on 22-8-2012 According to the 12:30 hr MST observation today, it has exceeded by 5 cm (about 2-inch) above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next 24 hrs commencing this noon, announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 26 August, 2012

Myanmar Agricultural Sector: Window to the World

Naturally, investment in the agriculture is uncertain to gain profits as it is depending on the weather. But, as the world has seen bigger problem of food security, some big companies are interested in doing investment in the sector despite risks its.

In the world, about 70 per cent of water resources is used in the agricultural sector while the remaining 30 per cent is used for hydropower and industrial sectors. At the same time, the world has faced hindrances to water supply in the agricultural sector due to the climate change today.

Meanwhile, the agriculture sector of Myanmar is cheered as the Window to the World as the country possesses favourable conditions to be able to reclaim its status of the world's biggest rice exporter in the 1960s.

Myanmar is an agro-based country and has about 8 million hectares of virgin land and the big rivers such as the Ayeyawady, the Sittoung, the Thanlwin and the Chindwin are flowing in the country. It is the greatest asset of Myanmar.

The agricultural sector of Myanmar is attractive because of the chance of applying new technology, and mechanization improving the productivity and all this will have to be done in next five years in this country. The chance is now better, improved, higher quality agriculture.

To improve the agricultural sector, the key word is growing quality strains of crops and mechanized farming. At the same time, to improve the socio-economic status of the farmers, emphasis should also be placed on establishing cooperatives of farmers to be able to distribute quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and running micro-credit scheme smoothly.

Therefore, we all need to make a firm commitment to development of the agricultural sector as the Window to the World.

Advice sought from Ovadaçariya Sayadaws

YANGON, 25 Aug—A ceremony to take advice from Ovadaçariya Sayadaws of All Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Organization and Border and Hilly Region Sasana Nuggaha Association was held at Zabuthiri Beikman in Mayangon Township this morning.

Present were Ovadaçariya of the Organization and Association Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumara and Ovadaçariya Sayadaws.

Patron of the Organization and Association Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung supplicated on religious affairs and donated alms to the Sayadaws.

Chairman of the Organization and Association Chairman of Zay Gabar Co Ltd Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara Wunna Kyawhtin Dr Khin



Union Minister Thura U Myint Maung accepts K 1000 million including K 640 million donated to the fund by Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara Wunna Kyawhtin Dr Khin Shwe for the second time.—MNA

Shwe donated K 1000 million including K 640 million to the fund for the second time, 1000 boxes of relief items for victims and K 20 million for victims of Rakhine State, Chairman of Yangon Region

Sasana Nuggaha Association U Kyaw Khin Myint, Vice-Chairman of Mandalay Region Association U Aung Thein K 20 million and U Shein Win of Tetlan Construction K 20 million each

for victims of Rakhine State. World Buddhist Missionary Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nanissara (D.Litt) delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.—MNA

MoU inked for feasibility study on Yangon Coal-Fired Power Plant

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug—Hydropower Department of the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 and the Myanmar citizen's owned Virtue Land Co Ltd signed MoU on implementing Yangon Coal-Fired Power Plant through the BOT system yesterday.

The MoU is the first step to carry out the assessment to potential for building the coal fired power plant.

The signing ceremony was held at the Myat Tawwin Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone here yesterday.

In his key-note address at the ceremony, Union Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min said that the ministry has been carrying of power plants projects with the local investment through the BOT system and with the

foreign direct investment through the JV/BOT systems to fulfill the power needs of the country.

Director-General of the Hydropower Department U Kyee Soe and responsible personnel of the Virtue Land Co Ltd signed the MoU and exchanged notes.

The ceremony ceremony was also attended by Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin and deputy ministers, the directors-general and managing directors and the chairman and members of the Virtue Land Co Ltd.

The MoU is the first phase of the project to carry out the assessment to the potential for the plant which would be equipped with two 150 MW generators.— MNA

ICT reforms to start in Yangon Region

Union CPT Minister U Thein Tun speaking at the workshop on ICT development.

MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug—Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs has sought advices from the IT experts for doing reforms in the ICT sector in Yangon Region.

During the Workshop on ICT development held at the Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Campus in Yangon yesterday, Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun urged the participants of the workshop to give advices to the ministry so that it can do reforms better.

The Union Minister called for working hard to catch up with other ASEAN nations in the ICT sector as Myanmar lagged behind the development in the sector in compared with neighbouring countries.

Myanmar is working to link with SEMEWE-5 link not to cause failures to connect with international community when the SEMEWE 3 and Cross Border Link which are being used by the country are cut.

MNA

There's no illiterate in our ward. But many are still alien to texts.



Cartoon Maung Maung Hnyet

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

Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Cai Yingting (L) is interviewed in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 24 Aug, 2012. A PLA delegation led by Cai made an official visit to the United States since Monday.— XINHUA



WASHINGTON, 25 Aug — China is willing to work with the United States to properly handle their differences and promote stable and sound development of military-to-

China willing to promote military ties with US: senior army officer

military ties, says a senior Chinese military officer. Cai Yingting, a deputy chief of the general staff of the People's Liberation Army, made the remarks on

Thursday while meeting with US Deputy Secretary of Defence Ashton Carter at Pentagon. Cai, who arrived in the United States on Monday for a visit, said the two nations

have made key and positive progress in developing bilateral relations since the Obama administration came to power in 2009. The top leaders of the two countries have reached important consensus to establish a new type of big power relations, he said, adding that the two sides should be committed to the principle of equality, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation while developing inter-military ties. Saying the US strategy in the Asia-Pacific region is not aimed at containing China, Carter voiced his country's hope that China continues to be its cooperation partner. He called on the two sides to work together to find a way to ensure their development and prosperity through cooperation. Also on Thursday, Cai met with Admiral James Winnefeld,

vice chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, and General Lloyd Austin III, the US Army's vice chief of staff. During his talks with Winnefeld, Cai said the two countries should prevent their military relations from suffering major setbacks.

Winnefeld said that, as conflicts and frictions between big powers are inevitable, it is important for both sides to enhance dialogues, step up strategic mutual trust and avert misjudgment.

While meeting with Austin, Cai proposed that the two countries should promote mutual trust and cooperation between their armed forces, and properly tackle the obstacles that are undermining healthy and stable development of inter-military ties.

Austin said it is important to establish a long-term and fruitful inter-military relationship between the United States and China, which will benefit both sides.

Xinhua



Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras (L) and German Chancellor Angela Merkel attend a Press conference after their meeting in Berlin, capital of Germany, on 24 Aug, 2012. Merkel on Friday stressed that Germany would support efforts by the Greek government to solve its debt crisis "step by step," urging Greece meanwhile to meet its bailout commitments.— XINHUA

Germany to help Greece solve crisis step by step

BERLIN, 25 Aug — German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Friday stressed that Germany would support efforts by the Greek government to solve its debt crisis "step by step," urging Greece meanwhile to meet its bailout commitments.

"Greece sacrificed a lot," Merkel said after talks with Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras.

Samaras arrived in Germany on Friday for talks with Merkel over his country's future in the eurozone. He was expected to ask for an extension of two years for Greece's implementation of its economic reforms in order to have some "breathing space."— *Xinhua*

Two dead, nine others injured in NYC Empire State Building shooting, perpetrator identified

NEW YORK, 25 Aug — Authorities in New York City say two people died and nine others injured in a shooting early on Friday outside the Empire State Building in midtown Manhattan and the dead included the gunman who was later killed by police. The perpetrator was identified as Jeffrey Johnson, 56, who used to work at Hazan Import Corp, a women's fashion accessories company, near the iconic Empire State Building. Johnson was laid off one year ago.

New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said at a news conference at the scene that the shooting happened near the 34th Street and the Fifth Avenue, where the Empire State Building stands, at about 9:03 am, local time. Johnson reportedly followed one of his former co-workers to the area, opened fire with a .45-caliber pistol and shot the victim on the head three times after a dispute, killing the co-worker. The shooting was witnessed by one construction worker who alerted the police officers nearby. The police officers approached the gunman and shot him dead in a shootout.

The gunfire came less than two weeks after a knife-wielding man was shot dead by police near Times Square, another tourist attraction in the midtown Manhattan. Authorities say police shot 51-year-old Darrius Kennedy after he lunged at officers with a kitchen knife on 11 August. Kennedy was smoking marijuana in Times Square in

the afternoon of the day when officers first approached, police said. In Friday's shootout, nine others were also injured, but none of them was seriously hurt, said New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg at the news conference at the scene. Mayor Bloomberg also admitted that some of the injured "may be accidentally shot by the police" in the shootout.

While addressing the news conference, Mayor Bloomberg called the incident a "terrible tragedy," and said "We are not immune to the national problem of gun violence." The injured were hospitalized. They were

expected to survive and recover quickly, said Mayor Bloomberg. The shooting led to a chaos in the midtown Manhattan as it took place at a very packed area of the city just after the morning rush hour.

Both the 34th Street and the Fifth Avenue were cordoned off, causing temporary traffic disruptions, while helicopters hovered above in the sky. A guard at the Empire State Building, however, said the incident didn't involve the parts of the building where tourists gather to visit the landmark skyscraper.

Xinhua



A police guides the traffic following a shooting incident near the Empire State Building in New York, the United States, on 24 Aug, 2012.—XINHUA

NAM summit in Teheran to prove Iran not "isolated"

TEHRAN, 25 Aug — Teheran's interim on Friday Prayers Leader Hojjatolislam Kazem Seddiqi said that the upcoming Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in Teheran will prove that Iran is not isolated, Press TV reported on Friday. Seddiqi said the arrogant front has resorted to every ploy and

Mexican police shoot two US Embassy staff in botched chase

MEXICO CITY, 25 Aug — Two US Embassy employees were shot at and wounded by Mexican police on Friday after they were caught up in a police chase on the outskirts of the capital, Mexico's Navy said. Police fired on the vehicle in which the embassy employees were travelling, which carried diplomatic plates, after the driver veered out of the way when he saw the officers' weapons. "At that moment those in the ... (police) vehicle opened fire on the diplomatic vehicle," the Navy said in a statement. "Moments later, three other vehicles joined the chase and fired shots at the US Embassy vehicle."

Two employees were taken to a hospital for treatment and their injuries were not life-threatening, it said. The US government said the two employees were in stable condition. The US Embassy in Mexico said in a statement that the diplomatic vehicle was "ambushed by a group of individuals" and "sustained heavy damage" as a result of the attack. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a Mexican government security official said federal police had

thought the vehicle belonged to a group of suspected kidnappers they were pursuing, and opened fire on it. "This was all because of a mix-up," the official said. The Navy said the officers involved were being questioned.

which has been ravaged by criminal gangs during the government's conflict with drug cartels.

The US Embassy said it has been "cooperating closely" with the investigation initiated by Mexican



A bullet-riddled armoured US embassy SUV is seen on a road near the town of Tres Marias, on the outskirts of Cuernavaca on 24 Aug, 2012.— REUTERS

"We are working with Mexican authorities to investigate an incident this morning in which two employees of our embassy in Mexico City came under attack by unknown assailants," said State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland.

"They are receiving appropriate medical care and are in stable condition." The incident took place on a highway on the southern outskirts of Mexico City close to the city of Cuernavaca,

authorities. Roadside shootings have been a feature of the violence linked to drug gangs that has overshadowed President Felipe Calderon's six years in office.

Gangs have been known to set up fake military checkpoints to ambush rival groups. Last year, two US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were shot by hitmen on a major Mexican highway. One of the agents died.

Reuters

conspiracy to imply that Iran is isolated.

Also, a member of Iran's Majlis (parliament) said on Friday that the forthcoming NAM summit in Teheran demonstrates the failure of the West to isolate the Islamic republic, said Press TV.

"Iran's hosting of the NAM summit has promoted

the Islamic republic's standing in the global stage and this is why the West, particularly the United States, and the Zionist regime (of Israel) are deeply concerned," Spokesman for the Majlis Economic Commission Mohammad Alipour was quoted as saying.

Attempts to establish peace and security in the region, fighting against the hegemonic powers and the reinforcement of the Islamic Awakening will be among the achievements of the upcoming summit and none of these will be agreeable to the West, said Alipour.

Xinhua

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

Student's iPhone app helps Mars rover

WEST LAFAYETTE, 25 Aug—A 19-year-old Purdue University sophomore from Los Angeles played a big role in enabling the first steps of NASA's Curiosity rover on Mars, the school said.

Riley Avron, working as an intern with NASA engineers training this summer to drive the Mars rover Curiosity, noted the slow progress caused by their having to spend several minutes entering arcane code into their computers before every maneuver.

So Avron solved the problem by whipping up a custom-designed iPhone app that makes driving a one-ton robot as easy as a toy remote control car, a Purdue release reported on Friday.

"They were spending so much time with their face buried in a computer that they couldn't pay attention to the rover's progress through the simulated Mars

landscape — the real reason they were out there," Avron said. "With the iPhone it was quick and easy, and they



could really learn what the rover was capable of doing."

Avron has returned to Purdue from his internship at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena to pursue his studies, but JPL engineers still use his app regularly to drive Curiosity's earthbound twin Scarecrow through tough maneuvers on

Mars Science Laboratory mission team members used the Scarecrow rover in mobility tests on California sand dunes in preparation for operating the Curiosity rover. INTERNET

a simulated Mars landscape.

"If the scientists want Curiosity to go through a crater, over a rock or along a ridge, then engineers absolutely have to know if it can do it without rolling over or getting stuck," Avron said. "After all, there's no AAA tow truck to call for help up on Mars."—Internet

Boston subways to see bioterror test

BOSTON, 25 Aug—A series of tests in Boston's subways will measure the performance of new bioterrorism sensors developed to detect biological agents, US officials said.

The "Detect-to-Protect" Bio Detection project will assess several sensors developed by US companies and designed to alert authorities to the presence of biological material, the US Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate reported on Friday.

These devices with "trigger" and "confirmer" sensors are intended to identify and confirm the release of biological agents within minutes, it said.

The tests will see the release of a small amount of an innocuous killed bacterium in subway stations in the Boston area to test how well the sensors work.

After the subway stations close, scientists will



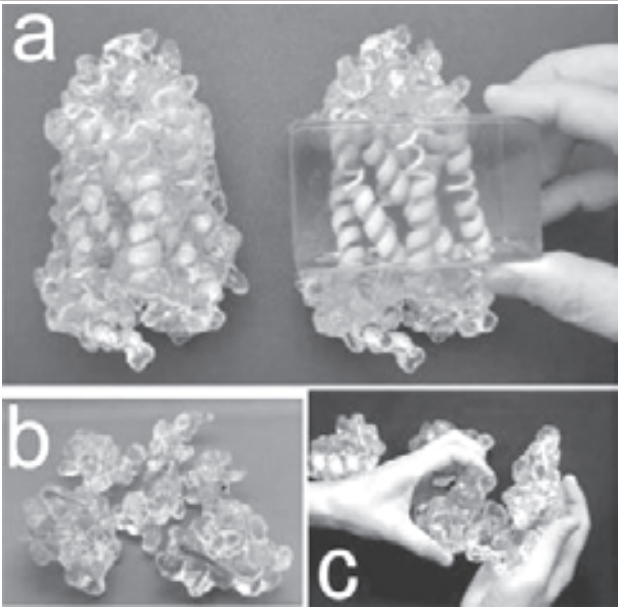
spray small quantities of killed Bacillus subtilis in subway tunnels.

The common, food-grade bacterium is widely found in soil, water, air and decomposing plant matter and, even when living, is considered nontoxic to humans, animals and plants, directorate scientists said.

"While there is no known threat of a biological attack on subway systems in the United States, the S&T testing

will help determine whether the new sensors can quickly detect biological agents in order to trigger a public safety response as quickly as possible," Anne Hultgren, manager of the project, said.

The testing will continue periodically for the next six months, officials said, and will be monitored by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority as well as state and local public health officials.—Internet



The soft and transparent protein models will enable researchers to quickly and collaboratively see, touch, and test ideas about molecular interactions and the behavior of proteins.—INTERNET

'Squishy' model shows cell biology

WASHINGTON, 25 Aug—A new soft, transparent and squishy silicone model could offer biology researches hands-on help to learn the secrets of molecules, its Japanese developer said. Created by Masaru Kawakami a biophysicist researcher at the Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, it is mostly transparent and easy to manipulate, intended to help researchers more intuitively understand protein structures, positions, and interactions.

The model, described in the American Institute of Physics journal *Review of Scientific Instruments*, will enable researchers to quickly and collaboratively see, touch and test ideas about molecular interactions and the behavior of proteins, Kawakami said.

"Because my new model is soft, users can deform the model and experience ligand binding or protein-protein association, which has never been possible with other physical molecule models," he said. "I believe my model would be an effective discussion tool for the classroom or laboratory to stimulate inspired learning."—Internet

Flat lens can create a perfect image

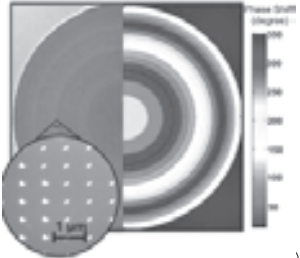
CAMBRIDGE, 25 Aug—An ultrathin, flat lens with a nanometer-thick layer of gold can focus light without imparting the distortions of conventional lenses, US engineers say.

The flat lens is essentially two-dimensional at only 60 nanometers thickness but focusing power approaches the ultimate physical limit determined by the laws of light diffraction, Harvard University researchers reported on Thursday.

A very thin wafer of silicon is plated with a nanometer-thick layer of gold, which is stripped away in places leaving behind an array of V-shaped structures. When a laser is shone onto the flat lens, the structures act as nanoantennas that capture incoming light and

hold onto it briefly before releasing it again.

Those delays, precisely tuned across the surface of the lens, change the direction of the light in the same way that a thick glass lens would.



Left: A micrograph of the flat lens made of silicon. The surface is coated with concentric rings of gold optical nanoantennas (inset) which impart different delays to the light traversing the lens. Right: The coloured rings. INTERNET

However, the flat lens eliminates optical distortions such as the "fish-eye" effect that results from conventional wide-angle lenses.

Operating at wavelengths commonly used in fiber-optic communications, the new device is completely scalable, from near-infrared to terahertz wavelengths, and simple to manufacture, the researchers said.

"In the future we can potentially replace all the bulk [lens] components in the majority of optical systems with just flat surfaces," study lead author Francesco Aieta, a visiting graduate student from the Universita Politecnica delle Marche in Italy, said.

"It certainly captures the imagination."—Internet

Storms spoil NASA's 2nd launch bid for satellites

CAPE CANAVERAL, 25 Aug—Thunderstorms have ruined NASA's second attempt to launch a pair of science satellites. For the second day in a row, NASA had to halt the countdown for its Radiation Belt Storm Probes. Lightning and thick storm clouds prevented the



This framegrab image provided by NASA-TV shows the Atlas V first stage and Centaur upper stage sitting on the launch pad at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.—INTERNET

unmanned rocket from taking off early Saturday from Cape Canaveral. On Friday, a tracking beacon on the rocket held up the flight.

NASA says it will try again on Sunday. The twin satellites are designed to study Earth's harsh radiation belts. Scientists say the two-year mission will improve space forecasting. The goal is to better guard against solar storms. Spacecraft can be damaged, and astronauts hurt, from severe solar outbursts. Life here on the planet also can be disrupted.—Internet

Logitech unveils washable PC keyboard

NEW ARK, 25 Aug—US computer peripheral maker Logitech says its newest keyboard is a boon for those who suffer spilled coffee accidents, because it's completely washable.

The Logitech Washable Keyboard K310 can stand anything from a light dusting to a rinse in the kitchen sink,



the company said in a release on Wednesday.

The keyboard can be hand washed repeatedly and can even be submerged — with the exception of the USB cable — in up to 11 inches of water, Logitech said.

Drainage holes at the back of the keyboard allow for easy drying while key characters are laser printed and UV coated to ensure the letters don't fade in the wash.

"We've all experienced that moment of distraction

— followed by panic, when a cup of coffee or a soda spills all over your keyboard," Sophie Le Guen, senior director of mice and keyboards at Logitech said.

"Because life and its messes will happen, regardless of how careful you are, Logitech designed the Logitech Washable Keyboard K310 to look and function like new, even over time," she said.

The suggested retail price is \$39.99.

Internet

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

Tap water in neti pots linked to deaths from ‘brain-eating’ amoeba

NEW YORK, 25 Aug—A popular treatment for sinus congestion has been linked to a rare brain-eating amoeba, which the FDA has linked to two deaths in the US.

The Food and Drug Administration has warned consumers about using tap water in neti pots — a device with a long spout that is used to rinse nasal passages with a saline solution.

The agency warned that un-filtered tap water can contain bacteria, including amoebas. While stomach acid is quick to kill the bacteria ingested through the digestive system, the “bugs” could stay

alive in the nasal passage and cause serious infections, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. A warning on the FDA website posted on Thursday states: “Improper use of neti pots may have caused two deaths in 2011 in Louisiana from a rare brain infection that the state health department linked to tap water contaminated with an amoeba called *Naegleria fowleri*.”

Naegleria fowleri is also referred to as the “brain-eating amoeba.” A 2010 study from Stanford University states that the amoeba can cause primary amebic

meningoencephalitis in humans, of which 98 per cent of cases end in death. On average, victims die of the infection only one week after symptoms such as headaches, fever, nausea and vomiting appear, according to the study.

The FDA warning extends to all nasal-rinsing devices, which include bulb syringes and squeeze bottles.

While the devices are generally safe, the agency said they must be used and cleaned properly.

The FDA also warned that some manufacturers’ instructions recommend



In this 30 Jan, 2008 file photo, Neti pots are seen in Lexington, Ky.—INTERNET

using tap water in the devices, while others warn against it. Some manufacturers do not provide any instructions or information with the items, the FDA noted.

It’s recommended to use distilled, sterile or filtered water in any sinus-rinsing product. Consumers can also

use boiled tap water that’s been cooled. “The nose is like a car filter or home air filter that traps debris. Rinsing the nose with saline solution is similar to using saline eye drops to rinse out pollen,” said the FDA’s Dr Steven Osborne on the agency’s website.—*Internet*

Dow, S&P snap six week winning streak

NEW YORK, 25 Aug—US stocks rebounded on Friday, wrapping up a dismal week on positive note, but major indexes were still lower for the whole week.

When then market closed, the Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped 100.51 points, or 0.77 percent, to 13,157.97. The Standard & Poor’s 500-stock Index gained 9.05 points, or 0.65 percent, to 1,411.13. The Nasdaq Composite Index climbed 16.39 points, or 0.54 percent, to 3,069.79.

Friday’s rally came after the surface of a letter from Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke to Republican Representative Darrell Issa, saying that he thinks the central bank can do more to help the economy.

“There is scope for further action by the Federal Reserve to ease financial conditions and strengthen the recovery,” Bernanke says in the letter.

The US central bank head also noted that the Fed has had to deploy other means to strengthen the economy, such as buying bonds, as the interest rates have already stayed at record lows.

His words fueled the expectations for further stimulus and push major indexes higher.

Internet

Food inspection agency issues mango warning

VANCOUVER, 25 Aug—The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is warning Canadians that a batch of mangoes sold between 12 July and 14 August of this summer may be contaminated with salmonella.

“There have been several confirmed illnesses associated with the consumption of these mangoes,” the organization said in a statement released on Friday afternoon.

The affected mangoes came with a sticker that reads PLU# 4959 and were sold in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon.

The organization said Food contaminated with salmonella may not look or smell spoiled. But consumption of food contaminated with the bacteria can cause salmonellosis, a foodborne illness.

Young children, the elderly and people with

weakened immune systems are particularly susceptible and salmonellosis could cause serious and even deadly infections for those individuals.

In otherwise healthy people, salmonellosis may cause short-term symptoms such as high fever, severe headache, vomiting, nausea,

doctor and those who believe they may have bought the affected mangoes should contact their retailers to check.

The voluntary recall by the Vancouver-based importer, North American Produce Sales, is being monitored by the CFIA.

Internet



abdominal pain and diarrhea. Long-term complications may include severe arthritis.

The CFIA said people who exhibit symptoms of the disease should contact their



Happiness gene discovered—but it only works for women

LONDON, 25 Aug—Scientists have discovered a gene that makes people happy, but it is said to work only in women.

The findings could help explain why women are often happier than men, the predominantly female team of US researchers said.

The study focused on a gene called MAOA that affects the levels of feel-good chemicals in the brain.

Almost 350 men and women were asked how happy they were and gave a saliva sample that was tested for their DNA.

The MAOA gene comes in two versions, a highly active and a less active type.

Women with the less active type were happier than others, the researchers found—and those with two copies of the “happy” type of MAOA had the sunniest dispositions of all.

Some 59 percent of the women studied had one copy and a lucky 17 percent had two—leaving only around one in four women lacking the happiness gene.

Many of the men in the study carried the gene but were no happier than others.

University of South Florida researcher Dr Henian Chen said this could be because its effects are cancelled out by testosterone—but boys may benefit.

“Maybe men are happier before adolescence because their testosterone level is lower,” the *Daily Mail* quoted him as saying.

The link was true even when other factors affecting wellbeing—from age to income—were taken into account.

But there was a downside—the happy version of the gene has been linked to alcoholism and anti-social behaviour.

“You may be more likely to get into trouble but still be happier than the next person,” Dr Chen said.—*Internet*

Cup of tea with cucumber sandwich ‘best way to keep cool’

LONDON, 25 Aug—Having a cup of tea with a cucumber sandwich is the ideal way to cool off in a heat wave, say scientists.

According to the researchers, however tempting ice creams may be, they will not work to beat the heat.

Even water should be drunk at room temperature rather than ice cold during the hottest days of the year, a newspaper reported.

While the British colonial favourite of cucumber sandwiches works best during summer, the crust free, white bread versions served

in posh hotels and tea rooms, do not seem to work best.

Instead, having them on whole wheat bread with a slab of mayonnaise and sea salt on top works best, said food industry experts at the American Chemical Society (ACS) annual meeting.

Fruit and vegetables with high water content are particularly good for hot weather, which includes cucumber but also watermelon and celery.



Foods with grain are good for the body because they keep the body topped up with magnesium and calcium, preventing cramps in the heat.

The key, said ACS researcher Sara Risch, is to lower the body’s in built thermostat to withstand the heat, avoid dehydration and retain vital minerals and vitamins.

“Though the temptation is great, it is probably best to avoid anything that is too cold from ice cream to icy drinks, including lager but even iced water,” said Risch.

Internet

Hong Kong apartment fetches record \$61 million

HONG KONG, 25 Aug—A luxury apartment in Hong Kong has sold for a record HK\$470 million (\$61 million), making it the priciest condominium in the Chinese city and possibly the second most expensive in the world, reports said. An unidentified buyer paid the HK\$75,806 (\$9,773) per-square-foot price for the 6,200-square-feet (576-square-metre) unit at Opus Hong Kong in the upmarket Peak residential area, *Hong Kong Economic Journal* and *Sing Tao Daily* said.

The whopping price for the unit, which takes up the entire eighth floor of the 12-storey building, is believed to be Asia's most expensive apartment and the world's second most costly after London's One Hyde Park, *Sing Dao Daily* said. The building was designed by the Pritzker Prize-winning architect Frank Gehry. Developer Swire Properties declined to confirm the deal. "We have no information to share at this point," spokeswoman May Lam-Kobayashi told *AFP*. She added however that tenants recently leased another unit at the property for HK\$850,000 a month.

Local media reported that the sale beat the city's previous record price of HK\$360 million paid for a unit at another luxury property last year. "This is definitely a new record price for any Hong Kong apartment," Centaline research head Wong Leung-sing told *AFP*. "But we think it's an isolated case as this is an ultra luxury condo," Wong said, adding that it could not be used as a yardstick to gauge investors' appetite for luxury apartments in the Asian financial hub.



Photo taken on 13 August shows high rises in Hong Kong, including Opus Hong Kong (4th L on the left hill). An apartment in Opus Hong Kong has been sold for a record \$61 million, making it the priciest condominium in the Chinese city and possibly the second most expensive in the world, reports said.— INTERNET

Property prices in Hong Kong, famous for its sky-high rent and super-rich tycoons, have surged over the past few years due to record low interest rates and a flood of wealthy buyers from mainland China. The property market however has seen a slowdown this year, with sentiment hit by the eurozone crisis and plans to boost public housing. Even so, many residents complain they can no longer afford decent accommodation in the city of seven million people, and analysts say property ownership is out of reach even for the upper middle class.— *Internet*

Ammonia leak sickens 17 at US meat plant

HOUSTON, 25 Aug—At least 17 people were sickened on Friday in an ammonia leak at a northeast meat packing plant in the US state of Texas.

According to local TV channel ABC13, the leak occurred in the afternoon at the Pilgrim's Pride poultry plant in Mount Pleasant, about 176 km northeast of Dallas.

Seventeen people were sent to hospital for examination as a precaution, and no serious injuries or illnesses were found, a spokeswoman at Titus Regional Medical Centre in Mount Pleasant was quoted as saying.

The spokeswoman said the hospital had initially been told to expect as many as 40 people potentially exposed to the leak.— *Xinhua*

Four dead in Iraq attacks on Shiites

BAGHDAD, 25 Aug — Attacks on Shiites in Baghdad and north of the capital killed four people on Friday, after the conclusion of the Eid festival and as al-Qaeda claimed a series of attacks earlier in the summer. In the deadliest attack, two explosions struck the predominantly Shiite neighbourhood of Sadr City in north Baghdad at around 12:30 pm (0930 GMT) as worshippers were gathering for prayers on the Muslim day of rest. Three people were killed and at least eight were wounded, according to medics at nearby hospitals and an interior ministry official.

A police officer at the scene of the blasts said they were caused by mortar fire. All spoke on condition of anonymity. Among the wounded was Nasser al-Saadi, an official in the movement loyal to anti-US cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, the medics said. Another person was killed and three others wounded by

a roadside bomb targeting the home of a Shiite family in the town of Khan Beni Saad, 30 kilometres (18 miles) north of Baghdad, a police colonel and a medic at the main hospital in provincial capital Baquba said. Officials in the main northern city of Mosul, meanwhile, on Friday morning found four bodies, all of men in their 30s who had been shot in the head and chest. It was unclear why they had been targeted.

Both police First Lieutenant Mohammed al-Juburi and doctor Mahmud Haddad at Mosul General Hospital said the men appeared to have been killed late on Thursday. The violence came after the conclusion of the three-day festival of Eid, which had been relatively calm after violence during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan left 409 people dead across Iraq. Friday's unrest takes to 242 the number of people killed in attacks nationwide this month, according to an *AFP*

tally based on reports from security and medical officials. On Wednesday, al-Qaeda's front group in Iraq in a statement posted on jihadist forums claimed to have carried out a series of attacks, mostly on security forces in the western province of Anbar in June and July.

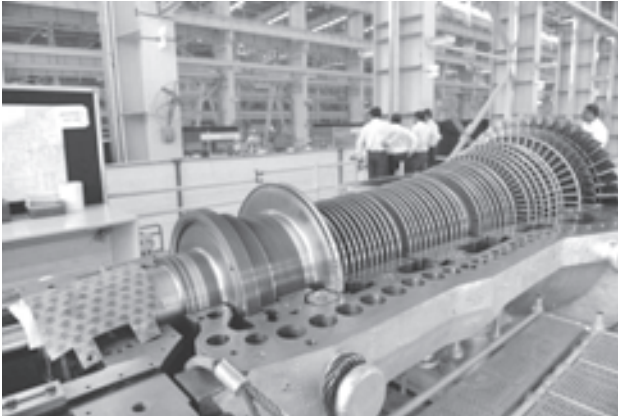
The 43 attacks purportedly carried out by the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) were largely in the form of bombings and shootings against Iraqi soldiers, police and anti-Qaeda militiamen known as the Sahwa, according to the statement. It comes after the ISI declared a campaign last month to retake territory it had abandoned in the years since the peak of Iraq's sectarian bloodshed between 2006 and 2008. Also in the early hours of Friday, six people were killed and 10 injured by a fire at a nightclub in central Baghdad, security and medical officials said. The blaze appeared to have been caused by an electrical fault.— *Internet*

India sets up investment panel as FDI slumps 78% in June

NEW DELHI, 25 Aug — India's government on Friday set up a panel to suggest ways to improve the climate for doing business in the country as figures showed foreign direct investment in India slid by 78 percent in June. The committee, headed by former Securities and Exchange Board of India chairman M Damodaran, will prepare a report within six months for submission to the Congress-led government, the corporate affairs ministry said. Overseas investors have increasingly been giving a wide berth to Asia's third-largest economy — until recently a sought-after investment destination.

They have been deterred by a string of graft scandals, red tape, high inflation, sharply slowing growth and the government's inability to further open up the economy in the face of fierce political opposition. The panel will include Indian industrial tycoons Anand Mahindra and Kumar Mangalam Birla "and come out with a detailed roadmap for improving the climate of business in India in a time-bound manner", the ministry said. The late evening announcement coincided with the release of official data earlier in the day showing foreign direct investment (FDI) in June tumbled to \$1.24 billion from \$5.66 billion in the same month a year earlier.

For the financial first quarter to June, FDI tumbled year-on-year by 67 percent to \$4.43 billion, according to the department, with big drops in construction, real estate, mining, and business and financial services. The central bank said on Thursday that India could help reverse the investment decline by shortening investment approval times and sorting out land acquisition issues. Central bank governor Duvvuri Subbarao cited the example of Singapore, an investment hub, to stress the importance of doing away with cumbersome rules that deter business.



In this file photo from 2010, Indian personnel look on as they stand beside a turbine at the Siemens steam turbine and compressor manufacturing facility at Maneja. — INTERNET

"There is a need to make doing business easy by adopting models like the one in Singapore where multiple agencies/ministries sit together to quickly give a decision clearing investment projects," he said in the bank's annual report.

Experts say foreign investment is vital for India, which needs to fund a \$1 trillion scheme over the next five years to overhaul its dilapidated ports, airports, highways and other infrastructure seen as key to boosting growth. Among a host of stalled high-profile projects are South Korean steelmaker POSCO's plans to build a \$12 billion mill.

Internet



The remains of a car bomb in Sadr City in Baghdad in May. Two explosions in the Sadr City neighbourhood of north Baghdad ahead of Friday prayers killed three people and wounded at least eight. INTERNET

Azerbaijan's trade within CIS exceeds 1.9 billion USD

BAKU, 25 Aug—The trade turnover between Azerbaijan and other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) amounted to more than 1.9 billion US dollars during the first seven months of this year, customs authorities said on Friday. During the period, the country exported 617.7 million dollars of goods to other CIS countries and imported 1,301 million dollars, resulting in a negative balance of some 683 million dollars, according to a report released by the State Customs Committee.

In 2011, Azerbaijan's foreign trade turnover with its CIS counterparts totalled 5.498 billion US dollars, with exports and imports respectively at 2.925 billion dollars and 2.573 billion dollars. Oil products accounted for some 60 percent of Azerbaijan's exports to other CIS countries.

Xinhua

Former US crime kingpin sentenced to 218 years

LOS ANGELES, 25 Aug — Pierre Mercado, a former leader of US notorious Asian Boyz gang, was sentenced on Friday to 218 years in jail by a Los Angeles judge. Mercado, 38, was sentenced after he was found guilty on charges of four killings, five attempted murders and two kidnappings committed in what the gang called the "summer of madness" in 1995 in an attempt to make it the most feared gang in Los Angeles, said Deputy District Attorney Hoon Chun.

While most of other crime groups desired to make money through drug trafficking, the Asian Boyz was committed to burglaries and robberies, Chun said, adding that Mercado was the last member of the crime group to be put on trial. The Asian Boyz is an Asian American street gang formed in 1985 by Cambodian youths in southern California. Its branches spread across the United States.

Mercado, along with his older brother Marvin Mercado who was also a key gang member, fled to the Philippines shortly after the violent activities. They were arrested in 2007 and brought back to Los Angeles to stand trial. The older Mercado was convicted of eight murders and received last year eight life sentences without the possibility of parole.— *Xinhua*

Continuing Education

Hlaing Thinn

The following is the reproduction of Hlaing Thinn's article appeared in the annual magazine of Defence Services Technological Academy. Ed

Continuing Education, as its name implies, is life-long education. Today is what is called 'knowledge Age' and in knowledge age it goes without saying that continuing education is an inevitable way of life. It sounds like the latest development in 21st century education. However, for every Myanmar who is familiar with the story of U Gya Pwe (the Rev. Pestle)(sic) of Bagan Dynasty (over seven centuries ago,) it is by no means a modern concept.

The story went like this: once, an illiterate monk of over sixty-year of age disclosed to the King that he wanted to become learned and he needed *kankusan* (soapstone pencils) for that purpose. The King Kyaswa himself was erudite and enjoyed in giving lectures on Buddhist literature to his royal family and attendants. "How", quoth the King, "could an old wooden pestle procreate new shoots?" Nevertheless, the King donated *kankusan* to the monk. Unstoppable and unbowed, the monk went back to the monastery, endeavoured day and night to become learned and came back to the King holding a pestle to which small shoots were bound by strings!

Monks of light and leading from six institutions of Bagan asked him difficult problems from Holy Scriptures. The monk gave unequivocal answer to every question. When he, in turn, asked them, they were dumbfounded by his transcendent genius. He became famous with the name of **Ditha Pamauka** (the far-famed professor).

No single soul, before and since, had corroborated the theory of life-long education more brilliantly than Albert Einstein himself. In 1905, a twenty-six-year-old German Jew, Albert Einstein, had published a paper, "On the electrodynamics of moving bodies" which became known as the Special Theory of Relativity. In 1915, his General Theory of Relativity emerged. From that point onward, Einstein had destroyed the Newtonian cosmology, based upon the straight lines of Euclidean geometry and Galileo's notions of absolute time. (Actually Einstein's theory was confirmed after the tests made during the solar eclipse on 29 May, 1919.) When the actual announcement that the theory had been confirmed was made at the meeting of the Royal Society in London, A.N Whitehead who was present wrote:

We were the chorus commenting on the decree of destiny as disclosed in the development of a supreme incident. There was dramatic quality in the very staging: the traditional ceremonial, and in the background the picture of Newton to remind us that the greatest of scientific generalization was now, after more than two centuries, to receive its first modification...a great adventure in thought bad at last come home to shore.

But for most people, to whom Newtonian physics, with their straight lines and right angles, were perfectly comprehensible, relativity never became more than a vague source of unease. The postulate that spacetime is curved due to matter and energy seems to be beyond the compass of the ordinary human mind. Einstein asked us to think of gravity not a force acting between bodies but in terms of the shape, the curvature of four dimensional spacetime itself. In general relativity, gravity is the geometry of the universe. (Very recently, I happened to publish a book entitled "Universe" where it was attempted to explain Einstein's theory as much plainly as could be plausible. For further information, readers are referred to that book.)

Einstein's life was devoted to the quest not only for truth but for certitude. In scientific sense, he was a determinist. In the 1920s he found the indeterminacy principle of quantum mechanics not only unacceptable but abhorrent. For the rest of his life until his death in 1955 he

sought to refute it by trying to anchor physics in a unified field theory.

He wrote to his colleague, Max Born:

"You believe in a God who plays dice, and I in complete law and order in a world which objectively exists and which I, in a wildly speculative way, am trying to capture. I firmly believe but I hope that someone will discover a more realistic way or rather a more tangible basis than it has been my lot to find."

Einstein failed to produce a unified theory. But he best exemplified the life-long education.

Before Einstein died, a genius of his peer was born on Jan 8, 1942, in Oxford, England. Stephen William Hawking liked to recall that his birth was exactly 300 years after the date of Galileo, who is called the father of modern science.

After graduating from Oxford he went to Cambridge for his graduate studies in the field of cosmology. Shortly after his twenty-first birthday in January 1963, Hawking found that he had contracted a rare disease for which there was no known cure, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Despite his huge physical handicap, Hawking would not allow himself to be discouraged in his studies. Although his disease had caused a great damage to his physical condition his brain was fortunately free from any effect of it. He became the most prominent physicist and mathematician in Britain and in 1979 Cambridge University gave him the prestigious title of Lucasian Professor of Mathematics that was once held by Sir Isaac Newton.

The story of Stephen Hawking is essentially a story of life-long education. Hawking has been working on the so-called Theory of Everything that Einstein had attempted and failed to produce. Hawking said he thought there was a good chance it would be found before long, leaving little for theoretical physicists like himself to do. Unable to walk, write, feed himself or raise his head if it tips forward, Stephen Hawking is still steadfastly clinging to his ever wearing-out thread of life with his unusual determination. The science world of our times is waiting and praying if Hawking becomes the 'someone' mentioned by Einstein in his letter to his friend, Max Born.

There might have been numerous people in our own country (albeit not of the stature of Einstein or Hawking) who refused to let go of learning simply because of the passage of youth. I would like to mention two ladies, from among my acquaintances. The former is the mother-in-law of my friend, Col. Nyan Tun Oo. *Aphwa*, as I call her, used to be the wife of the then prestigious government minister and at the same time a renowned writer non de plume of Ma Myat Lay. Even under such a cozy circumstance, she made and is still making out of the way efforts to get her degrees successively at her advanced age; first, B.A at the age of 46, then D.T at 48 and B.L at 52. She finished a librarian course at the age of 85 and now at the age of 87 she is attending a course of Diploma in Applied Psychology. She's some lady! The latter is the spouse of my first C.O. Ma Ma Thein, as I call her, was merely pre-matriculated when she got married to my C.O. It was not until she had given birth to her three offspring that she could manage to restart her education that was not terminated till she got her master of education degree.

Theory of education, as explained by our Director of Studies, who is also one of the best renowned educators of our country, is remarkable. On one of the inspection tours of the industrial training of final year cadets, Sayagyi U Mg Mg Than addressed the cadets:

"The concept of education has changed of late. In previous times, a person who was graduated from a University

was called 'educated' person. Nowadays, knowledge is expanding more rapidly than ever before. That is why an educated man of today is less equipped with certitudes than an ancient man of Bagan Era. So our mission becomes not to produce 'educated' persons but to produce 'educable' persons. 'Educable person' means a person who is ready and still willing, even after graduation, to proceed his learning process throughout his whole life."

When one of my old friends, who has also been a part-time lecturer in our Academy, held a seminar on his M. Phil. papers, I addressed the cadets. I made my address in English:

"Good morning, gentlemen. I'm very pleased to have this opportunity of presenting U Khin Mg Chit who is the Deputy Director in Irrigation Department and also a candidate of M. Phil. Degree in our Academy. U Khin Mg Chit, after graduation from R.I.T, attended M.E. classes in R.I.T for two years and successfully passed the examinations. Unfortunately, however, he could not have managed to submit a thesis and was disqualified to be conferred an M.E. from R.I.T. Now, U Khin Mg Chit has been serving with our Academy in the capacity as a part-time lecturer and he is entitled to do toward a degree of M.Phil. Thus he has to submit six tenable papers and sit for an oral examination to defend his papers before a board of examiners. He has been an authority in concrete technology spending better part of his service life in the concrete laboratories. So, his papers on concrete technology will contribute to your benefit.

At the age of 53 and exactly 30 years after graduation, he is still, I'm pleased to witness, eager or enthusiastic to do towards another degree. It is a good example for the theory of continuing education or life-long education that we are constantly talking about. You must bear in mind that receiving your first degree is not the end of your studies. You have to study for your entire life and until and unless you acquire your doctorate your student-days will not be over.

One thing I forget to tell you. While in R.I.T, U Khin Mg Chit used to be C1 and me C2. You can imagine how smart he is. Be attentive and ask as many questions as you like.

So, may I request U Khin Mg Chit to take the floor and proceed with your programme. Thank you."

To my surprise and delight, owing to the enthusiasm of the cadets the seminar was not over until late in the afternoon.

U Khin Mg Chit is not the only candidate who is over 50 doing the graduate studies in our Academy. O/Lt. Col. Hla Thein, head of electrical engineering department of Military Technological College, and U Charlie Than, Engineer-in-Charge of Dala Dockyard are also doing toward their M.E.'s. We are giving every possible moral support to anybody who thinks himself never at the end of his tether in education.

On hearing about education, some might have thought of classrooms, lectures and examinations. This is not necessarily the case. Education simply means the quest for knowledge and, in most cases, it can be achieved through self-study. Most of the geniuses, past and present, are self-made. As long as one's pursuit of knowledge is ongoing it can be said one is undergoing the process of continuing education.

Avid for learning, Myanmar society is a society of continuing education. It is not without reason that I make this assertion. As our old adage goes, "One is never too old to learn," it is obvious that the concept of life-long education has been deep-rooted in our society since long time ago.



Saikkhaung pineapple marketable at Nay Pyi Taw Ahara Thukha Market

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug—Pineapples produced from Saikkhaung region of Shan State (South) are high demand at Nay Pyi Taw Ahara Thukha Market (Kinmondan Tax Free Market).

Recently, the news crew of Myanma Alin had an interview with pineapple marchant Ma Nan Htwe Htwe Win. She explained, "Now is at the end of pineapple season. Pine apples from Hsipaw and

Kyaukme of Shan State (North) do not flow into the market. Recently, we could buy the fruits on choice in Saikkhaung to resell the fruits. Now, those wishing to buy the fruits are to purchase all the fruits of farm. At Nay Pyi Taw Ahara Thukha Market, we sell pineapples per K 200 to K 700. Retailers in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area buy the fruits at the Ahara Thukha Market."—Myanma Alin

Loans for monsoon paddy disbursed in Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug—Five township branches of Myanma Agricultural Development Bank in Kachin State has disbursed K 724.664 million loans in 2012 to 23215 farmers from 11 townships.

Myanma Alin

Collaborative efforts of government...

(from page 1)

change and thus Myanmar also has encountered some like the current one for a while. However, the government and the people must exert collaborative efforts to surmount the challenges.

The government being the people's government elected by the people is responsible to fulfil the aspirations of the people. The same wish of the majority nowadays is stability of the State and socio-economic development of the nation. So, the government is trying to fulfil those two wishes of



President U Thein Sein pays homage to Presiding Sayadaw of Dekkhinayama Yekyaw Monastery.—MNA

internal peace. So, the government has reached cease fire agreement with 10 out of 11 national race armed groups. The government is trying to make eternal peace for becoming an industrilize country. However rice production is sufficient for the population it needs to envision on food sufficiency for the future population. As farmers to regrow rice in the flood-hit regions. Farmers should make efforts in re-growing paddy using the most suitable way that comes from their experience, urged

Local from Kywetalin Village in Kayan Township U Khin Hlaing expressed words of thanks. The ceremony came to an end. The President cordially greeted those present on the occasion.

The President arrived at the temporarily relief camp in Dakkhinayama Yekyaw Monastery in Kayan Township, where he comforted the flood-hit victims with K 10 million, foodstuff, provisions and exercise books.

A total of K 48.21 million— K 2.78 million for purchasing rice and K 45.429 million for eight relief aids— has been provided by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to the victims in Yangon Region.

The President offered offertories to Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Sumana of the monastery.

The President and his entourage left for Yangon in a motorcade.

MNA



President U Thein Sein cordially greets those present at the ceremony.—MNA

the people taking it as its prime objective. In building stability of the State, it has been initiating reforms and making contacts to ensure participation of all for political stability while negotiating with armed groups for building with all the groups in near future with genuine goodwill and patience.

To improve the socio-economic life of the people, the government has been striving for development of the agricultural sector and agricultural sector plays a vital role in national incomes, more attention should be paid to it. The President said that at the time when the farmers completed rice planting, plantation were flooded. There would be time limit for

the President.

An industrialized country is needed to be set up for the country to be a rich one. As the government is too weak in technological assistance, capitals and human resources to build an industrialized one, it is making endeavours to get foreign investments to overcome those obstacles. In building an industrialized country, the government is making efforts for creating job opportunities and accepting big foreign investments in exporting value added products, heavy industries, IT and telecommunication.

In conclusion, he said that the people must go hand in hand with the government in implementing the above-mentioned processes to get fruitful results.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and for Labour U Aung Kyi presented K 89.09 million for paddy strains to be grown in the damaged farmlands to the Region Chief Minister.



President U Thein Sein provides flood victims with aids at relief camp in Dakkhinayama Yekyaw Monastery in Kayan Township.

MNA

Stipends and prizes...

(from page 16)

certificate of honour to U Okka Aye who donated ten sets of computer and one air conditioner for the school.

After that, the Region Chief Minister, Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Win Hlaing, Director-General U Myo Nyunt of No. 2 Basic Education Department, the Region Education Officer, members of the School Board of Trustees and the Headmistress presented medals and prizes to outstanding students.

After the ceremony, the UEC Chairman and the Region Chief Minister cordially greeted those present on the occasion and inspected works carried for greening the school's environs and teaching and learning classrooms. The pass rate of No 15 BEHS in 2011-2012 academic year is 61.26 per cent with one six-distinction winner, four five-distinction winners, ten four-distinction winners, 12 three-distinction winners, 22 two-distinction winners and 31 one-distinction winners totalling 80 distinction winners.—MNA



Union Minister for SWRR and for Labour U Aung Kyi hands over paddy seeds to Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.—MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein giving guidance.
(News on page 1)
MNA



President U Thein Sein providing the flood victims with relief aids at the temporary relief camp, Dahkhinayama Yekyaw Monastery in Kayan Township. (News on page 1)—MNA

SEA Junior Men's Volleyball C'ship 2012 continues



Myanmar (A) plays against Thai for the fourth day of the 17th South East Asian Junior Men's Volleyball Championship 2012.
MNA

YANGON, 25 Aug—The 17th South East Asian Junior Men's Volleyball Championship 2012, supervised by Control Committee President Mr Shanrit Wongprasert of SEA Volleyball Association and volleyball umpire representative Songsak Charconpong and organized by Myanmar Volleyball Federation, continued for the fourth day at National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna of Thingangyun Township, here, this morning.

Myanmar A beat Thailand 3-0 with 25-18, 26-24 and 25-21 results in the first match, whereas

Indonesia trounced New Zealand 3-0 in the second match with 25-23, 25-17 and 25-12 results.

The championship continues tomorrow at the same venue.

In the next fixtures, Thailand will meet with Indonesia in the first match and Myanmar A with Myanmar B in the second match.

Vietnam will play against New Zealand in the third match.

Third place match will be held at the same venue at 11 am on 27 August and the final match at 1 pm.

MNA

Myanmar Hockey Federation President YCDC member U Htin Zaw Win speaking at opening of Sky Net Cup Men's Hockey Championship-2012.—NLM



Cash, rice donated to Mary Chapman's School for the Deaf, Islam homes for the aged

YANGON, 25 Aug—Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, accompanied by personnel from the all

At Mary Chapman's School for the Deaf, the Union minister handed over K 1 million and 10 bags of rice and wellwishers also

home for the aged women in Thingangyun Township at 4pm and donated K 1 million and 10 bags of rice for the Islam homes for the aged men



Union Minister Thura U Myint Maung making donations to Islam home for the aged.

MNA

religions friendship association, donated cash to the Mary Chapman's School for the Deaf and Islam homes for the aged in Yangon.

Students entertained the donors with dances and songs. The Union Minister and party went to Islam

and women. Afterwards, Member of the executive committee of the home, U Aung Thein spoke words of thanks.—MNA

Sky Net Cup Hockey Championship 2012 kicks off

YANGON, 25 Aug—Sky Net Cup Men's Hockey championship 2012 was opened at the Theinbyu Artificial Turf Hockey Pitch here at 3.30 pm today.

The championship was jointly organized by Myanmar Hockey Federation and Shwe Than Lwin Media Co Ltd and it was formally opened by U Htin Zaw Win, President of Myanmar Hockey Federation and Member of Yangon City Development Committee.

It was also attended by Yangon Region ministers U Than Myint, U Aung Khin, Dr Myint Thein, Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik and members of the executive committee of Myanmar Hockey Federation.

Before the competition, students of Basic Education High School No 2 of Latha Township entertained the spectators with pom-pom dances.

The President of Myanmar Hockey Federation delivered an opening address.

After the opening ceremony, Yangon Command team played with Theinbyu youth team in the debut.

The championship will go until 8 September.

Theinbyu youth team and the teams representing the Yangon Command, the Defence Services (Air), the Central Command, No 11 Light Infantry Division, the Defence Services (Navy), Myanmar Police Force, the Northern Command will participate in the championship.—NLM



People work in concert at sanitation, fumigation in Kamayut

KAMAYUT, 25 Aug—The sanitation and fumigation were held in conjunction with the educative talks at Pyi Yeik Mon and Hsinmalaik

Highway Bus Terminal Housings in Ward 6 of Kamayut Township on 22 August.

At the ceremony, the staff of Township General

Administration Department, the executive officer of Township Development Affairs Committee and staff, the head of Township Health Department and staff, ward administrators and local people in addition to members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade participated in the sanitation and fumigation.

The works were supervised by Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Thu Zaw of District Administration Department and Township Administrator U Ye Tun Aung who attended to the needs.

Myanma Alin



Rural development undertaken in Monghsat

MONGHSAT, 25 Aug—The talks on rural development and poverty alleviation was held in Meikyan, Juelu, Pabaw and Hsankan villages of Monghsat Township on 14 August.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Naing Aye and party attended to the need of rural development and poverty alleviation, supply of water and power, and upgrading of roads.—Myanma Alin

Farmers trained to operate agricultural machinery

KYAUkse, 25 Aug—The agricultural machinery operating course for farmers, organized by Agricultural Mechanization Department was opened at the hall of the department in Kyaukse of Mandalay Region on 15 August, attended by Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than and officials.

At the ceremony, Deputy Commissioner U Ohn

Than of District General Administration Department made a speech. Head of District AMD U Khin Maung Myint explained the purpose of opening the training course.

The training course was conducted with Greaves brand 13.5 Hp tractors, 40 Hp New Holland brand tractors and HP 110 combine harvester KS9300 for five days.

Myanma Alin

Two-storey building handed over in Yekyi Township

YEKYI, 25 Aug—A ceremony to hand over Zartiman two-storey

building to education department was held at Basic Education High School Branch in Kwinthonsint Village of Yekyi Township in Ayeyawady Region on 12 August.

At the ceremony, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Tin Soe formally opened the new building.

Next, wellwisher Col Hla Tin (Rtd)-Daw Htar Htar and family handed over documents related to the new school building to officials of the Ministry of Education.

The building is 140 feet long and 30 feet wide RC type.—Myanma Alin



FOURTH NOURISHMENT WEEK LAUNCHED: The nourishment week activities were held in Waw Township on 22 August. Ferrous sulphate tablets, vitamin A and iodized salt were distributed at Waw Township People's Hospital on 22 August.—MYANMA ALIN

Saplings planted in Myaungmya Township



MYAUNGMYA, 25 Aug—Myaungmya Township Forest Department of Ayeyawady Region held the rainy season tree growing ceremony at Basic Education High School No. 2 in Yedwin Yegan Village beside Myaungmya-Kontha Road in Myaungmya Township on 18 August.

Township Administrator U Ko Ko Latt, Staff Officer of Township Forest Department U Moe Zaw Aung and staff, departmental personnel, members of social organizations, teachers, students and local people participated in cultivation of 400 teak saplings and 1200 eucalyptus plants.—Myanma Alin



FIRE DRILL EXERCISED: The talks on fire preventive measures and fire drill were held at Basic Education High School No 1 in Kyimyindine on 21 August. After Head of Township Fire Services Department U Than Htet Aung had given talks on danger of fire, Headmistress Daw Nu Nu Yi and students participate in fire drill.—MYANMA ALIN

Woman drowned in drain

MAUBIN, 25 Aug—A woman was drowned in drain as Maubin-Twantay road was flooded in Maubin on 21 August.

Daw Hla Hla Win, 41, of Sagaing Village, Maubin

Township, drowned into the drain on side of the road while he was waded through the flood.

Maubin Police Station is investigating the cause.

Kyemon

New transport services launched in Taunggyi

TAUNGGYI, 25 Aug—Alinyaung General Trading Cooperative Ltd launched the light truck and tuk-tuk line in front of Ayethaya Industrial Zone in Taunggyi of Shan State on 19 August.

Shan State Minister for Electric and Industry U Sai Tun Yin and officials formally launched the new transport service.

The new bus line operates its service with 30 light trucks along Industrial Zone-Ayethaya-Taunggyi route and with 30 tuk-tuk along Industrial Zone-Ayethaya-Thitpinhtaung route from 6 am to 6 pm daily.

Myanma Alin



District News

Crime and Accidents

Four dead in head on collision in Thaketa

YANGON, 25 Aug—Four people have lost their lives and three were injured following a head-on collision between a mini-bus and a super roof van.

It happened around 9 pm on 19 August on the Shgukhintha Road in Thaketa Township.

Thet Naing Htoo, the driver of the van, Ko Zaw Latt, U Chit Tin and one woman died on the spot on the scene.

Three injured are not in critical condition.—Kyemon

Two killed in crash between motorcycle, car

YANGON, 25 Aug—Two men were killed a motorcycle-car crash on Yagon-Pathein Road at about 2 am on 27 July.

Kyaw Thura of Phankha village, Ngathaingchaung Township, was driving a motorcycle carrying Htein Lin, 22, and collided with the back side of the truck which stopped on the road was unloading goods without giving signals. The two victims killed on the scene.

Patheingyi Police Station No 2 has charged the driver of the truck which broke the traffic rules.—Kyemon

Two arrested for using poison to catch fish

NGAPUDAW, 25 Aug—Two men have been arrested for fishing with the use poison at the Village of Chaungphyay, Kyauktalon Village-tract, in Ngapudaw Township.

Acting on a tip-off, the local authorities inspected Nyo Htay, 30, and his brother Tin Aye, 33, fishing in the creek near the village and arrested them while fishing with the use of poison. Action is being taken against them under Section (pa) 67/2012, Section 47 by Ngapudaw Police Station.

Kyemon

IAEA gets no deal with Iran on bomb research suspicions

VIENNA, 25 Aug — The UN nuclear watchdog and Iran failed on Friday to strike a deal aimed at allaying concerns about suspected nuclear weapons research by Teheran, a setback in efforts to resolve the stand-off diplomatically before any Israeli or US military action.

A flurry of bellicose rhetoric from some Israeli politicians this month has fanned speculation that Israel

might hit Iran's nuclear sites before the US presidential election in November. Tensions rose another notch on the eve of Friday's talks between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) when diplomatic sources said Iran had installed many more uranium enrichment centrifuges at its Fordow underground site.

While the new machines

are not yet operating, the move reaffirmed Iranian defiance of international demands on it to suspend enrichment and may strengthen the Israeli belief that toughened sanctions and concerted diplomacy are failing to make the Islamic Republic change course. "The discussions today were intensive but important differences remain between Iran and the UN that prevented agreement," Herman Nackaerts, the IAEA's chief inspector, told journalists after about seven hours of talks with an Iranian delegation in Vienna. "At the moment we have no plans for another meeting."

Little headway appeared to have been made on the IAEA's most urgent request - access for its inspectors to the



Iran's
International
Atomic
Energy
Agency
(IAEA)
ambassador
Ali Asghar
Soltanieh.
REUTERS

Parchin military site where the agency believes Iran has done explosives tests relevant for developing a nuclear weapons capability. Iran's ambassador to the Vienna-based IAEA, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, said that "undoubtedly some progress" was made but that differences remained. "Because it is a very complex issue... issues related to national security of a member state are something very delicate," the veteran Iranian diplomat said.

"But I have to say that we are moving forward... and we

are going to continue this process so that we at the end of the day will have a framework agreed by both sides." Soltanieh had said before the talks began: "Both sides are trying to bridge the gap." The diplomatic sources who revealed the expansion of centrifuge capacity at Fordow also said satellite imagery indicated Iran had used a brightly coloured tent-like structure to cover a building at Parchin, increasing concern about a possible removal of evidence of illicit past nuclear work there.— Reuters

Cuba receives humanitarian aid from US NGO

HAVANA, 25 Aug — Cuba received 100 tons of humanitarian aid on Friday from a US non-governmental group (NGO) opposed to its country's embargo on the Caribbean nation.

The four shipping containers and five vehicles of assistance, including educational materials and medical supplies, were collected by the Pastors for Peace movement from the United States and Canada.

The Pastors for Peace movement was founded in 1992 by US Baptist minister Lucius Walker, who led the efforts until his death in 2010. Besides its efforts against the Cuba blockade, the group also helps Haiti and others in need.

According to Cuban authorities, the US blockade affects particularly the sectors of health and education, with economic losses estimated at over 975 billion US dollars besides "uncountable human damage."— Xinhua



International
Atomic
Energy
Agency
(IAEA)'s
chief
inspector
Herman
Nackaerts.
REUTERS

Typhoon alert remains high in east China

HANGZHOU, 25 Aug — China's east coast remains on alert on Friday as a pair of typhoons threaten to wreak havoc.

Typhoon Bolaven, the 15th typhoon of the year, was gaining force on Friday and was forecast to reach the East China Sea on Sunday, the weather bureau of Zhejiang Province said in a Press release on Friday night.

It said the Zhoushan Islands were on high alert of the typhoon. Bolaven was located at 21.7 north latitude and 133.2 east longitude at 2 pm, packing winds of 41.4 meters per second and moving northwest at 15 km per hour,

it said.

Local authorities in Zhoushan have warned citizens to be on guard against the typhoon and banned fishing boats from going out to the sea.

Meanwhile, typhoon Tembin, whose centre was in seawater off Taipei on Friday afternoon, threatened to soak the eastern Fujian Province over the weekend, the local meteorological station said.

It said gales were already sweeping at 24.5 metres per second in Fujian's coastal areas on Friday, and could intensify in the coming two days.

A direct ferry service between Fujian's Pingtan to

Taipei will be suspended for three days from Saturday to Monday.

Tembin struck southern Taipei on Friday, toppling trees, overturning vehicles and dumping rains that swelled rivers and flooded homes and farmlands.

China's National Marine Environmental Forecasting Centre also warned the public of the dual typhoons on Friday, raising the alert level to yellow. Earlier this month, dual-typhoons "Damrey" and "Saola" left eight people dead and forced the evacuation of about 1.3 million residents in the coastal regions as of 5 August.— Xinhua

Breivik trial ends, but issues remain

OSLO, 25 Aug — With the verdict handed down on Friday at the Oslo District Court, all the dust around the case occurred on 22 July, 2011 in which 77 people lost their lives is hoped to settle down eventually so that this nation of five million could put the tragedy behind and move on.

The perpetrator, Anders Behring Breivik, a 33-year-old Norwegian, was sentenced to 21 years in prison for the bombing attack at the government quarter in Oslo and the subsequent shooting on Utoeya island some 40 kilometers west of the Norwegian capital on 22 July, 2011.

That is the maximum

punishment the mass killer could have under Norwegian law but many believe that he will spend the rest of his life behind the bars in the Ila prison on the suburb of Oslo.— Xinhua



Norwegian mass killer Anders Behring Breivik (R) arrives in the court room at Oslo Courthouse on 24 Aug, 2012.— XINHUA

Yellow River risks flood peak

BEIJING, 25 Aug — Water levels of three reservoirs along the Yellow River's Inner Mongolia reach have exceeded their flood control levels.

The water now flows at a speed of 3,000 cubic meters per second, nearly three times the norm. 58 high risk sections have been reinforced, and 20,000 people evacuated.

Two-thirds of the 73,000 hectares of farmland along the river have been submerged.

The flood control department says the water level may continue to rise, leading to complete destruction of crops across all of the affected land.— Xinhua



Low-altitude airspace to open up across China from 2013

SHENYANG, 25 Aug — China will relax a ban on the use of low-altitude airspace across the country starting 2013, air traffic authorities said on Thursday. A series of reforms will be carried out in the coming 5 to 10 years to create an independent airspace market with some government guidance, said Zhu Shicai, an official with the state air traffic control commission.

Zhu made the remarks at the 2012 China Low-altitude Economy Summit, a two-day event that opened on Thursday in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province.

"The upcoming reforms will clear some major obstacles in the opening up of China's low-altitude airspace," Zhu said. "In particular, it will simplify application procedures for the use of low-altitude airspace by general aviation flights, including private jets."

China has launched related pilot projects in its northeastern and central-southern regions, as well as seven pilot cities, including Tangshan near Beijing, Xi'an, Qingdao, Hangzhou, Ningbo, Kunming and Chongqing, where airspace



below 1,000 meters is open to general aviation flights.

The country will further open up its low-altitude airspace nationwide in the coming decade in order to stimulate the growth of the fledgling general aviation industry, said Zhu. Zhu said new regulations concerning airspace planning and management, as well as simplified application procedures for general aviation flights, will be issued this year. China's low-altitude airspace is controlled by the Air Force and the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC).

Private flights currently need to go through time-consuming and complicated procedures to fly in low-altitude airspace, which has hampered demand for private jets.

In case of an emergency, many private jet owners prefer to take civil aviation flights or fly illegally rather than wait for their applications to be approved — which often comes far too late. In November 2010, the

State Council and the Central Military Commission jointly decided to open up part of the country's low-altitude airspace for the first time.

The central government said in its 12th Five-Year Plan for the 2011-2015 period that it will promote the general aviation industry's development and reform the airspace management system, as well as increase the efficiency of the allocation and utilization of airspace resources.

"The new policies will make it easier and faster for general aviation flights to get the green light to use low-altitude airspace," Zhu said. The move will hopefully bring about a boom in China's general aviation industry, which could in turn fuel the country's economic growth, he said.

However, general aviation is a highly specialized industry involving hefty investment and high risks, said Yang Fengtian, an academic at the Chinese Academy of Engineering and president of Shenyang Aerospace University.

"The government should play a leading role in policy-making and industry regulation," said Yang. "In the meantime, it should draw diverse capital to foster the industry and build a sound industrial chain to ensure its sustained growth."

Xinhua

LatAm countries to pursue independent strategies in drug fighting

MANAGUA, 25 Aug — Police chiefs from Latin American countries agreed on Thursday to pursue an anti-drug strategy that does not depend on international aid, Nicaraguan police chief said. Police chiefs of the region were in the Nicaraguan capital Managua to attend the 31st meeting of the Commission of Police Chiefs and Directors from Mexico, Colombia, Central America and the Caribbean.

Aminta Granera, head of Nicaragua's National Police, said the officials agreed "not to depend on international aid" in carrying out crime fighting and anti-narcotics strategies. "The regional security strategy of the Central American Integration System (SICA) already has the funds for its eight priority projects. Nevertheless, the police agencies are not going to depend on international

help," said Granera.

However, Granera stressed that countries around the world should share the responsibility for the current climate of violence afflicting the region.

The police chiefs are working on a series of initiatives to fight organized crimes and drug cartels, said Granera, adding their task was to make criminal groups "shake" from fear.

Xinhua



People visit the 2012 Shandong Automobile Industry Exhibition held in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, on 22 Aug, 2012. The auto exhibition kicked off at the Qingdao International Exposition Centre on Wednesday. The number of vehicles registered in Shandong has passed 20 million till the end of 2011.— XINHUA

Mexican Navy dismantles 15 alleged crime-related radio networks

MEXICO CITY, 25 Aug — Mexican Navy has dismantled 15 communication networks allegedly used by organized crime groups in the Gulf Coast states of Veracruz and Tamaulipas, Mexico's Naval Secretariat (Semar) said on Thursday.

The navy uncovered 13 illegal radiofrequency facilities and found a cache of devices like transmitters and antennas on the top of Cofre de Perote, an extinct volcano in Veracruz, said Semar.

In two other operations in Tamaulipas, the navy dismantled two communication facilities used by the notorious Los Zetas drug trafficking group. Semar also found a 50-metre high antenna located along the Monterrey-Nuevo Laredo Highway.

No one was arrested in any of the operations. In other anti-drug operations from December 2006 to 19 Aug 2012, the navy dismantled 824 laboratories producing synthetic drugs, discovered and secured 3,817 clandestine airstrips, and confiscated 538 aircraft.

Xinhua



Rescuers remove an injured person at the accident site after a carpet factory building under construction collapsed in Yulin City, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, on 22 Aug, 2012. —XINHUA

Two dead, three buried in construction site collapse

XI'AN, 25 Aug — A collapse in a construction site in northwest China's Shaanxi Province on Wednesday has left two workers dead, local authorities have said.

As of 3 pm, three people were still buried in the debris after the accident happened at about 10 am at a carpet factory building under construction in Yulin City, trapping 18 workers, according to the city government. Rescuers pulled 15 workers out of debris, two of whom died later while the rest sustained slight injuries, and the rescue work is still going on. The cause of the accident is being investigated.— Xinhua

US domestic terrorism remains threat: expert

WASHINGTON, 25 Aug — A string of recent shootings including a bloody attack at a Wisconsin Sikh temple underscores that domestic terrorism remains a threat in the United States, said a US expert on Thursday. "Domestic terrorism in the United States is a cyclical phenomenon," argued Scott Stewart, vice president of tactical intelligence at Stratfor, a global intelligence company, in an analysis released on the group's website. "The intense political polarization that has occurred in recent years in the United States, the widespread distrust of the government on both the extreme right and the extreme left, and the current election-year rhetoric will further inflame political passions," he said. "This means that the

current cycle of domestic terrorism plots and violence is likely to continue for at least the next several months."

On 5 August, Wade Page opened fire on the congregation of a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, in the US state of Wisconsin, killing six people and wounding three others. "Though Page killed himself and did not leave any evidence explicitly listing his motives for the attack, his long association with the white supremacist movement was clearly a factor in his target choice," said Stewart. Less than two weeks later, Floyd Corkins shot and wounded a security guard in the lobby of the Family Research Council's office in Washington DC, after a guard blocked him

from entering the office.

Corkins allegedly targeted the organization because of its support for Chick-fil-A amid controversy over statements made by the fast food chain's founder regarding gay marriage. The next day, an off-duty sheriff's deputy was shot and wounded while working as a security guard outside New Orleans, Louisiana. A vehicle associated with the incident was spotted at a nearby trailer park, and two other deputies were ambushed and killed by a trailer's occupants. Seven people have been arrested in connection with the shootings. News reports indicate that the group was associated with the sovereign citizen movement, which the Federal Bureau of Investigation bills an anti-government extremist group.

Internet

Balkans region hit by worst drought in decades

This 22 Aug, 2012 photo shows the almost dried out Bistrica river in western Kosovo town of Prizren. Fires are raging, rivers are reduced to a trickle, crops are dry, wells are empty and hydropower plants are shutting down production. After the harshest winter in decades, the Balkans is now facing its worse drought in 40 years.—INTERNET



BELGRADE, 25 Aug — Wildfires are destroying forests, rivers are being reduced to a trickle, crops are wilting on the scorched farmland and electricity supplies are running low. After the harshest winter in decades, the Balkans region in the southeast of Europe is now facing its hottest summer and the worst drought across the area in nearly 40 years, officials say.

The record-setting average temperatures — which have been steadily rising for years because of global warming, according to scientists — have ravaged crops, vegetables, fruit, and power production in a region that already is badly hit by the global economic crisis. This year, farmers all over the Balkans are turning to the heavens for help. "This is lost," Ljubisav Tomic, a Serbian farmer said, pointing to his corn field, yellow and dried out with cracks in the soil. "Only God can help us, only heaven can save us." In Bosnia, Ajsa Velagic prays to Allah before offering potatoes at the market in Sarajevo, the capital.

The 64-year-old said, "There are no large

ones, the drought is killing everything." Adding to the troubles are dozens of wildfires, also fueled by the extreme heat. Blazes have destroyed hundreds of acres of forests and bush in Bosnia, Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro. Some of the fires raging on the border between Serbia and Kosovo are beyond control because of minefields left over from the war over the former Serbian province in 1999.

Potato crops and corn farms are among the worst hit by the drought as irrigation systems in the former Yugoslavia, built under communism, remain clogged and out of date, leaving most of the farmland at nature's mercy. The drought in the Balkans is being compared to a similar disaster now under way in the United States, with the economies such as Russia likely to profit by exporting food, wheat and other crops to the Balkan states. Because of the drought's effect on livestock, analysts forecast a sharp increase in the retail price of meat and milk, adding to the hardship of one of Europe's poorest regions.— Internet

Tropical Storm Joyce forms, stays in open Atlantic

SAN JUAN, 25 Aug — Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands braced for torrential rains on Thursday as Tropical Storm Isaac whipped up waves as high as 10 feet (3 metres) in the Caribbean and threatened to become a hurricane that could take a shot at Florida just as Republicans gather for their national convention.

Some flooding was reported in eastern and southern regions of Puerto Rico as the storm approached.

US forecasters said Isaac will likely turn into a Category 1 hurricane by Friday as it nears the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

It was expected to weaken a little while heading over their island and Cuba.

The storm was projected to head toward Florida as a hurricane by Monday, but the US National Hurricane Centre in Miami said some forecast models show it could go further west into the Gulf of

Mexico, so "significant uncertainty remains about the threat Isaac poses to Florida."

Isaac was centred 200 miles (320) kilometres south-southeast of Puerto Rico late Thursday morning, with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph (65 kph). It was moving west at 15 mph (24 kph) according to the Hurricane Centre.

The system has slowed down, and as a result, the island will see more rain, said Ernesto Morales, forecaster with the National Weather Service in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

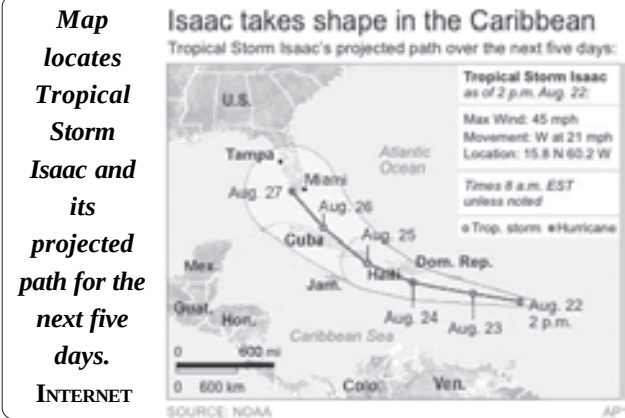
This is not the moment to become complacent," he said.

The US territory has opened 428 shelters, and 50 people have taken refuge, said Gov. Luis Fortuno. Some 4,000 people were without power and more than 3,000 without water.

Schools and government offices remained closed Thursday, but the governor said it was safe for people to go to work if they needed to.

However, he warned everyone to stay away from beaches and swollen rivers.

Internet



Caged big cats stuck on Paraguay border 2 months



A tiger sits in a cage in Puerto Falcon, Paraguay, on the border with Argentina, on 24 Aug, 2012.

Imagine being stuck in a cage for two months while going through customs. That's the border limbo 16 tigers and lions have faced in Paraguay because Argentine officials refuse to approve their paperwork for

re-entry.

The nine Bengal tigers and seven African lions belong to an Argentine circus that performs in the Paraguayan capital each August.

Their owner, Oswal Wasconi, brought them back for this year's circus only to learn that a new law in Paraguay bans live animal acts at circuses.

With no chance of performing, Wasconi tried to ship his big cats back to Argentina. But then they got stuck at the border.

Estela Gomez, director of Paraguay's wildlife agency, said the animals all have good-health certificates, but their entry to Argentina was blocked by officials demanding more information about the protected species.

Aides to Argentina's quarantine office director,

Raul Castelli, said he was in a meeting and could not explain the holdup.

After inquiries from *The Associated Press* on Friday about the cats' plight, Gomez said her ministry decided to move the big cats two by two to the Asuncion zoo, "so that they can live in some comfort and not in a strange area."

Pa woman, 72, robbed twice in a single day

Police say a western Pennsylvania woman had her checkbook stolen and as she went to the police station to report the crime, her purse was swiped.

Seventy-two-year-old Harriet Sweger says she was first robbed by a woman who bumped into her and grabbed her checkbook at a grocery

A mountain lion in a casino? Don't roulette out

An underage mountain lion has been caught after trying to slip into a casino in downtown Reno, Nev., ahead of the breakfast rush.

Nevada Department of Wildlife spokesman Chris Healy says the young male cat's behavior was "almost the equivalent of being a stupid teenager." Healy says coming-of-age cougars often end up where they shouldn't



In this photo released by the Reno Police Department on 24 Aug, 2012 showing a tranquilized mountain lion that wandered into a downtown Reno entertainment plaza and hid under a stage.

after being chased out of a territory by adults.

Guests at Harrah's reported seeing the 100-pound cat trying to walk into the casino Friday morning. When the animal couldn't negotiate the revolving door, it hid under an outdoor stage

in a nearby plaza.

State wildlife officials tranquilized the roughly 2-year-old cat and plan to release it into the wild after tagging it for participation in a University of Nevada, Reno study. No injuries were reported.

News Album

Rufus Wainwright weds fiancé Jorn Weisbrodt

NEW YORK, 25 Aug—Musician Rufus Wainwright has tied the knot. Publicist Bianca Bianconi confirmed Wainwright and Jorn Weisbrodt were married in a ceremony on Thursday.

People reports the 39-year-old musician and the artistic director of the Luminato Festival were married by close friend and artist Justin Vivian Bond in a ceremony in Montauk on Long Island.

Wainwright and Weisbrodt have a 1-year-old

daughter together in a parenting partnership with Lorca Cohen, daughter of Leonard Cohen. Wainwright and Weisbrodt were engaged in 2010.

People says a number of celebrities attended the wedding, including Alan Cumming, Julianne Moore, Yoko Ono and Sean Lennon, Antony Hegarty, Lou Reed, Carrie Fisher and producer Mark Ronson, who also assisted with DJ duties during the reception.—*Internet*



Singer Rufus Wainwright, left, and boyfriend Jorn Weisbrodt

Disgraced Galliano stripped of France's top honour

LONDON, 25 Aug—Disgraced British designer John Galliano has been stripped of the Legion d'Honneur, the top French medal he was awarded in 2009 for services to haute couture.

Galliano, 51, will no longer have the right to wear the medal following its withdrawal under a decree signed by President Francois Hollande which was published in France's official journal on Thursday.

The former artistic

director of fashion house Dior was convicted last year of hurling anti-Semitic insults at patrons of a Paris bar.

Galliano blamed the outburst on drink and drug problems and went into rehab for two months. He has since kept a low profile, but recent unconfirmed reports suggest he is considering moving to Los Angeles.

Dior have replaced him with Belgian designer Raf Simons.

Internet



British designer John Galliano in 2007

Cameron Crowe moving forward with "Beautiful Boy"



LOS ANGELES, 25 Aug—"Beautiful Boy," a long-gestating film adaptation of David Sheff's *New York Times* best-seller "Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey Through His Son's Addiction," is moving forward, an individual close to the project told *TheWrap*.

Crowe is looking to direct the film after he completes an untitled romantic comedy set up last month at Sony.

Crowe's script is a "meditation" on both "Beautiful Boy" and the related memoir written by Sheff's son, Nic Sheff, about his own experience on drugs,

"Tweak: Growing Up on Methamphetamines."

Paramount optioned the rights to both books in 2008, the year they were published, and had first considered Steven Zaillian to write the script for producer Plan B. Plan B is now producing with New Regency. Paramount is no longer involved.

"Beautiful Boy" refers to the song John Lennon wrote for his son Sean in 1980. David Sheff was inspired to have his own family after conducting the last major interview with Lennon before he was assassinated in New York in 1980.

Internet

Suri cruises to millions in "TomKat" divorce: report

LOS ANGELES, 25 Aug—Katie Holmes walked away without a payment or alimony in her divorce with Tom Cruise, but the couple's six-year-old daughter, Suri, stands to receive \$400,000 annually in child support until she turns 18, celebrity website TMZ.com reported on Friday.

Citing sources familiar with court documents filed by the former couple, whose divorce was finalized earlier this week, TMZ said the "TomKat" pre-nuptial agreement blocked Holmes from receiving any portion of the 50-year-old actor's \$250 million fortune.

But Cruise will make child-support payments over the next 12 years that add up to \$4.8 million, or \$33,333.33 a month. TMZ also reported that Cruise must pay Suri's medical, education and extracurricular expenses.

Cruise's attorney declined to comment on the

report, and a lawyer for Holmes did not respond to *Reuters'* request for confirmation.

Holmes, 33, surprised Cruise in late June when she filed for divorce from the "Mission: Impossible" star



Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes

after a nearly six-year marriage. Cruise was in Iceland shooting a movie at the time.

The divorce, which took less than two weeks to settle, captivated the world and prompted questions about whether Suri will be raised in the Church of Scientology, with which her father has long been closely associated.

Reuters

Usher gains sole custody of two children

LOS ANGELES, 25 Aug—An Atlanta judge on Friday awarded R&B singer Usher primary custody of his two sons with ex-wife Tameka Foster Raymond, according to a person with knowledge of the ruling.

Usher had been seeking sole custody of Usher V, 4, and Naviyd, 3, while his ex-wife wanted to maintain joint custody and receive an increase in child support payments.

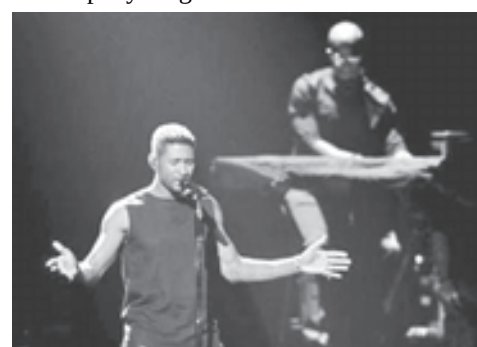
The long custody battle had been marred with public mud-slinging on both sides as each party alleged the other

was an unfit parent. Tragedy also struck in July when Foster Raymond's 11-year-old son Kile Glover - Usher's stepson - died after suffering a brain injury during a jet-ski accident.

One source who was not authorized to speak on the record confirmed the judge's ruling and said "it's been a long and difficult process for everyone." Representatives for the "Yeah!" singer declined to comment on the ruling or the court proceeding.

Usher filed for divorce from Foster in 2009 after less than two years of marriage.

Reuters



Usher performs at the 2012 BET Awards in Los Angeles on 1 July, 2012. REUTERS

Fallen 'King' Abraham out to prove a point

BERLIN, 25 Aug—Former middleweight champion Arthur Abraham admits he has a point to prove when he challenges world super middleweight belt-holder Robert Stieglitz on Saturday.

Abraham, 32, is facing retirement if he loses the world title bout in Berlin.

Having held the IBF middleweight belt from 2005 to 2009, Abraham made 10 successful defences before losing three of his four bouts during the Super Six super-middleweight bouts when he

stepped up a division.

Having fought his way back to claim the European WBO super-middleweight title earlier this year, Abraham takes on compatriot Stieglitz for the world crown and says he will let his fists do the talking.

"Actions speak louder than words and I am going to answer all questions inside the ring," he said as he looks to live up to his 'King Arthur' moniker with a record of 27 knock-outs in 34 wins and three defeats.

"From this point onwards, every fight is going to be a last chance for me. But I will grab it with both hands. No matter if the fight goes the distance or not - I will prove a point."

Stieglitz will be defending his title for the seventh time having first won it three years ago.

"I feel great and I am going to defend my title," said the 31-year-old champion, who boasts 23 knock-outs in 42 wins with two defeats.

"My preparations have



Former middleweight champion Arthur Abraham.—INTERNET

been going extremely well."

The fight promises to be interesting: Stieglitz has great technique, but Abraham is known for his powerful punches.

Internet

Premier League club Sunderland sign Wolves striker Fletcher

LONDON, 25 Aug—Premier League club Sunderland signed Scotland striker Steven Fletcher from Championship side Wolves on Friday.

Fletcher agreed a four-year contract after Wolves accepted an improved offer from Sunderland boss Martin O'Neill. "It has been no secret that we needed to strengthen our attacking options and Steven has a

proven track record of scoring goals," O'Neill told Sunderland's website. Even though Wolves were relegated from the Premier League last season, Fletcher still impressed and got on the scoresheet 12 times.

He scored the same amount the season before, to make it 24 goals for the club in 45 starts. That prolific form made Fletcher the top target for O'Neill as he looked

to bolster his attack following the departures of Nicklas Bendtner and Asamoah Gyan.

"I'm delighted. I've just come from the training ground and I'm delighted it's all gone through," O'Neill added.

"I think Steven will be terrific for us. He's capable of scoring goals and linking play which is very important to us and I think now at 25 years of age he's got room to improve and really get better."

Xinhua



Scotland striker Steven Fletcher from Championship side Wolves.—INTERNET

Kvitova wins, Wozniacki retires in New Haven

NEW HAVEN, 25 Aug—Caroline Wozniacki's New Haven winning streak ended at 20 Friday when the four-time defending champion retired from her semifinal match with Maria Kirilenko because of a knee injury.

Wozniacki, who injured the right knee in her quarterfinal win on Thursday, called for the trainer right after dropping the first set 7-5 to the 25-year-old Russian.

"I could feel it from the start," she said. "But, you know, it just started to get a bit worse. I decided to stop because if you don't feel a hundred percent, you can't compete at a hundred percent. It's better to let it rest. I wasn't

going to win this match anyways if I'm not on a hundred percent fit level."

Kirilenko, the seventh seed, will face second-seeded Petra Kvitova on Saturday. The 2011 Wimbledon champion beat Italy's Sara Errani, 6-1, 6-3 on Friday night.

Using a serve that hovered at about 108 mph, and powerful returns, Kvitova needed just 24 minutes to win her first set. She then broke Errani in the first game of the second set and cruised from there, closing the match out with another service break.

"She serve more than me, she hit more than me," Errani said. "(It) was like for me inside



Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic.—INTERNET

like, 'No way.'

Kvitova has already clinched the US Open series championship, winning her first title of the year in Montreal and reaching the semifinals of Cincinnati before her run here. She's 41-11 in matches this year.—Internet

Champions Dortmund down Bremen to open 50th season

DORTMUND, 25 Aug—Defending champions Borussia Dortmund kicked off the 50th season of the Bundesliga on Friday with a 2-1 home win over Werder Bremen thanks to goals from Germany stars Marco Reus and



Dortmund's Polish striker Robert Lewandowski (C-L) and Werder Bremen's defender Clemens Fritz (C-R) vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match.—INTERNET

Mario Goetze.

Dortmund and Bremen contested the first Bundesliga match back in 1963 and it was the same pair who opened the 2012/13 season on Friday night at Borussia's sold-out Signal Iduna Park Stadium in front of 80,645 spectators. New signings opened the scoring for both clubs as Reus fired home in the first-half for Dortmund, while Bremen's Czech Republic defender Theodor Gebre Selassie headed the equaliser 15 minutes from time.

But Goetze grabbed the winner for the hosts just three minutes after coming off the bench. "The way it happened didn't impress me or a few others, but the most important thing was to start with the three points," said Dortmund defender Mats Hummels. Reus said he was just delighted to have made his debut.—Internet

New Zealand teen Ko shares LPGA lead

WELLINGTON, 25 Aug—New Zealand golf prodigy Lydia Ko fired a second-straight four-under par 68 on Friday to seize a share of the second-round lead with Chella Choi at the LPGA's Canadian Women's Open. Ko, a 15-year-old South Korean-born New Zealander who won the US Women's Amateur crown a fortnight ago, shared the lead with Choi on eight-under 136, three shots in front of their nearest rivals.

She played without a bogey on the Vancouver Golf Club course and birdied three holes in a row starting at the par-three 12th, then added a fourth birdie at 17 to gain her share of the lead. In January Ko won the New South Wales Open in Australia at the age of 14 to become the youngest player to win a professional tour event.

"I'm just here for the experience," Ko said. "But the professionals, on the other hand, it's about how much money they're going to get by each placing."

Choi, 22, had eight birdies in a bogey-free eight-under par 64. "I'm very happy," said Choi, who had been hindered by a sore shoulder on Thursday. "I don't know how I made the putts." Club member Brian Alexander served as Ko's caddie, and she appreciated having the local knowledge.

Alexander, a real estate developer, said he gave Ko advice about the course in practice rounds this week, but she has been making her own decisions during the tournament.

Internet



Amateur Lydia Ko of New Zealand smiles as she leaves the 15th green during round two of the Canadian Women's Open at The Vancouver Golf Club on 24 August in Coquitlam, Canada.—INTERNET

International Sports

Chelsea seal swoop for Wigan's Moses

LONDON, 25 Aug—Chelsea finally completed their swoop for Wigan forward Victor Moses on Friday after the Nigeria international passed a medical and agreed personal terms with the European champions.

The Blues had seen four bids for Moses rejected by Wigan chairman Dave Whelan during the course of a fractious transfer saga that had lasted since the end of last season.

Whelan had infuriated Chelsea by speaking publicly

about the negotiations in a bid to drive up the price.

But Chelsea boss Roberto Di Matteo got his man at the fifth attempt after Wigan confirmed on Thursday that they had accepted an improved offer, believed to be around £9 million, for the 21-year-old.

"Chelsea Football Club is delighted to announce the signing of Victor Moses from Wigan Athletic," a statement on the club's website confirmed.

Chelsea didn't

announce the length of the contract for Moses, who joined Wigan from Crystal Palace in 2010 and rose to prominence after a series of impressive displays for the Latics last season.

Moses, who scored eight times in 74 league appearances for Wigan, caught the eye again in the Latics' 2-0 defeat against Chelsea in the Premier League last weekend.

While he clearly has vast potential, Moses will have to raise his game to an even higher level at Stamford Bridge, where he will compete with the likes of Eden Hazard, Juan Mata, Daniel Sturridge and Marko Marin for a place in Di Matteo's starting line-up.

At international level, Moses played for England from schoolboy up to the Under-21 team, but has opted to represent Nigeria at senior level and made his debut in February against Rwanda.

Moses was Di Matteo's second signing in just a few hours, following his capture of Marseille's Spanish right-back Cesar Azpilicueta for £7 million.—Internet



Fulham's US midfielder Clint Dempsey (L) vies with Wigan Athletic's English midfielder Victor Moses (R) in April.—INTERNET

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

- (26-8-12 09:30 am ~ 27-8-12 09:30 am) MST
- * News
 - * 12 Ascendants in September 2012
 - * News
 - * Road to 27th SEA GAMES (Cycling)
 - * Orchid Garden
 - * News
 - * A Memorable Trip
 - * News
 - * Daily Life of a Toddy-palm Climber
 - * News
 - * MI People's Celebrities
 - * MARUHAN Japan Bank Opens Representative Office in Myanmar
 - * News
 - * World Tourist Tin Tin Sein's Adventures
 - * News
 - * International Education Exhibition
 - * News
 - * Perfect Combination of Art & Nature
 - * Myanmar Movie "(Nay Kyaut Khe) An Undaunted Guy"

MYANMAR TV

(26-8-2012) (Sunday)

- 7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:50 am
3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:05 am
4. (38) Phyar Mingalars
- 8:20 am
5. Teleplay (Health)
- 8:30 am
6. Selected Songs For 19th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions (2012) (Maha Gita Classical) (Basic Education) (Level Men & Women)
- 12:30 pm
7. How It's Works
- 2:35 pm
8. Songs Programme
- 4:10 pm
9. Musical Programme
- 4:20 pm
10. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
- 4:35 pm
11. Song Of National Races
- 4:40 pm
12. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Chemistry)
- 4:55 pm
13. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:15 pm
14. Sing & Enjoy
- 6:20 pm
15. Teleplay (Htar)
- 6:50 pm
16. Tamyethnar Takwetsar
- 8:00 pm
17. News
 18. Cartoon Series
 19. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 26th August, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	32/90	26/79	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
2	Kayah	28/82	20/68	Scattered rain or thundershower	(100%)
3	Kayin	30/86	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
4	Chin	21/70	18/64	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
5	Upper Sagaing	38/100	25/77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
6	Lower Sagaing	33/91	22/72	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
7	Taninthayi	28/82	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
8	Bago	31/88	25/77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
9	Magway	33/91	26/79	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
10	Mandalay	35/95	27/81	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
11	Mon	32/90	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
12	Yangon	32/90	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
13	Rakhine	33/91	23/73	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
14	Southern Shan	27/81	20/68	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
15	Northern Shan	31/88	21/70	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
16	Eastern Shan	30/86	22/72	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
17	Ayeyawady	31/88	25/77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	33/91	24/75	Isolated rain or thundershower	(100%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	32/73	23/73	One or two rain or thundershower	(100%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	35/95	27/81	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 scattered in Kachin and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Yangon and Taninthayi Regions. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (4.25) inches, Kawthoung (3.54) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) and Launglon (3.15) inches each, Dawei (2.92) inches and Billa (2.72) inches.			
Bay Inference		Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.			
State of the Sea		Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthyai Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.			
Outlook for subsequent two days		Likelihood of increase of rain in the Lower Myanmar areas.			

Lyon drop first points with Evian stalemate

LYON, 25 Aug—Lyon missed the creative spark of injured playmaker Yoann Gourcuff on Friday as they dropped their first points of their new campaign with a 1-1 draw at modest Evian. Lyon had won their two opening games but fluffed their lines as only a Michel Bastos equaliser 16 minutes from time saved their blushes after Cedric Barbosa had given Evian the lead on 57 minutes with a neat volley.

Bastos had only minutes earlier replaced Lisandro when he pounced with a direct freekick which flew through a poorly organised wall. Wins over Rennes and Troyes had taken Lyon to the summit on goal difference after thrashing Troyes 4-1 but Gourcuff sustained a knee ligament injury in that game and he faces three months out of action.

Lyon, champions seven years in a row between 2002 and 2008, finished a disappointing fourth last term and have brought in only one new player — Serbian defender Milan Bisevac, from Paris Saint-Germain — in the transfer window.



Lyon's Brazilian midfielder Michel Fernandes Bastos (3rdL) is congratulated by teammates after scoring a goal during the French L1 football match Evian vs Lyon. —INTERNET

Following the two dropped points Lyon - who earlier announced the six million euros transfer of defender Aly Cissokho to Valencia - could now be overhauled at the weekend by Marseille, Bastia and Bordeaux.—Internet

NATO airstrike kills 12 militants in Afghanistan

KABUL, 25 Aug — A NATO airstrike in eastern Afghanistan targeting a group of insurgents near the Pakistani border killed at least 12 militants on Friday, the international military coalition said. Pakistani intelligence and Afghan officials said Mullah Dadullah, the self-proclaimed leader of the Pakistani Taleban in Pakistan's Bajur tribal area was killed, although they offered conflicting reports on the exact location of the strike. NATO could not confirm that a senior militant had been killed.

Coalition spokesman Maj Adam Wojack said the attack took place late Friday afternoon in Kunar province near the Pakistan border, killing 12 militants. Conflicting reports out of the rugged and remote regions along the Afghan-Pakistan border are common shortly after an attack. Kunar provincial official Aslam Gul Mujahid said the airstrike killed 20 people, including Dadullah. Pakistani intelligence officials

said Dadullah and 19 others were killed, but they said the airstrike took place in Pakistan's Bajur region, just across the border from Kunar.

The Pakistani intelligence officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media, said the strike occurred after a cross-border attack by Pakistani Taleban militants who came from Afghanistan. Jahangir Azam Khattak, a local Pakistani government official, said dozens of militants attacked a Pakistani post manned by anti-Taleban militiamen in the Salarzai area of Bajur. He said six militants were killed and four tribesmen were wounded. Two Pakistani militiamen also were killed, local tribesmen said on condition of anonymity out of fear for their safety.

The Pakistani intelligence officials said the militiamen and army soldiers fought the militants for hours but eventually repelled the attack. —Internet

NLM-ner Joke

The World's first Profession

A doctor, and engineer, a rabbi and a lawyer were debating who was the world's first professional.

The Doctor said "It must have been a doctor. Who else could have helped with the world's first surgery of taking a rib from Adam to create Eve, the first woman.

"No," said the rabbi. "It must have been a rabbi, since the Lord needed someone to help preach his message to Adam and the world.

"Wait," Said the engineer "The world was created in 6 days from nothing.

Do you know what a master engineering feat that must have been to create the whole world into an organized civilized place from utter chaos?"

"And WHO created the chaos?" said the lawyer.

Sakhalin film festival to witness clashes between Western, Eastern culture

VLADIVOSTOK, 25 Aug — Sakhalin International Film Festival opened on Friday in southern Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk city of Russia's Sakhalin Province, RIA Novosti news agency reported. The six-day film festival aims to provide a platform for Asian and Western cultures to meet and interact with each other, create an opportunity for the public to meet with elites from the West and the East, and seek common grounds between high technology and rich traditions.

Filmmakers from Russia, France, China, Iran and Japan will compete in the festival. Their films will be judged by an authoritative international jury consisting of a Tokyo FILMeX festival director and famous Russian actors. The festival's non-competition programme will stage a retrospective screening of classic Asian and Russian animation, including those by Hayao Miyazaki, the grand master of Japanese animation.

Viewers will also get a chance to see recent award-winning films in major international film festivals as well as documentary films about famous contemporary artists' life and work. The festival is to close with Japanese director Takashi Miike's "Hara-Kiri: Death of a Samurai," the first 3D film screened at the Cannes Film Festival.— Xinhua



Passengers walk at the Urumqi South Railway Station in Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 23 Aug 2012. The station sends over 40,000 passengers every day during the summer travel peak.

XINHUA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives guests from Johns Hopkins University

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug— Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham received a delegation led by Professor Dr Karl Jackson from Johns Hopkins University at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 2 pm today.

Also present at the call together with Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo, Deputy Education Minister U Ba Shwe, Deputy Health Minister Dr Win Myint and departmental heads.

At the call, they cordially discussed matters related to sector-wise cooperation for development in technology exchange, education, health and human resources.

MNA

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Prof Dr Karl Jackson of Johns Hopkins University at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace.

MNA



Stipends and prizes presented to outstanding students of Chanayethazan BEHS No. 15

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug— The government is making all-out efforts for environmental conservation and improvement of education standard for future generation. At a time when the government is extensively engaged in the creating of learning opportunities, all the education staff and teachers are to try hard for improvement of their teaching skills as a national concern, said U Tin Aye, Chairman of Union Election Commission at a ceremony to present stipends and prizes to outstanding students who passed the matriculation exam for 2011-2012 academic year with flying colours held at No 15 Basic Education High School, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region this morning.

The UEC Chairman continued to say that as human resources development plays an important role in ensuring national development, widening the horizons of students who are the future of the nation is of paramount importance. Only when there is unity plus development of education, will the building of a peaceful, modern and developed nation be possible.

The pass rate of No 15 BEHS in 2011-2012 academic



Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye presents prize to headmistress on behalf of outstanding teachers of Chanayethazan BEHS No 15.

MNA

year is 61.26 per cent with 80 distinction winners including one six-distinction winner. Although there was a slight decline in the pass rate when compared with that of last year, its achievement should be acknowledged, he added. He called on parents, teachers and students to cooperate in education, and stressed the need for teachers to train and

nurture students to become intellectuals and technocrats in accordance with the national education promotion programmes.

Afterwards, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint addressed outstanding students who passed the exam with flying colours and outstanding teachers capable of teaching students to secure

over 60 per cent pass rate.

Next, The UEC Chairman presented prizes to one six-distinction winner and one five-distinction winner and outstanding teachers.

On behalf of the UEC Chairman Patron of the School Board of Trustees, the headmistress presented a

(See page 8)

Corrigendum

Please read Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint receives Japanese guests instead of Amotha Hluttaw on page 16 of NLM issued on 24 August 2012. Error is regretted.—Ed.

Soccer-Van Persie nets trademark strike in United win

LONDON, 25 Aug—Robin van Persie superbly smashed in his first Manchester United goal on his first start in a 3-2 Premier League win at home to Fulham on Saturday.

Former Arsenal man Van Persie, a substitute for United's opening 1-0 loss at Everton last Monday, fired in a trademark volley on 10 minutes to cancel out Damien Duff's shock early opener for Fulham.

United then took control with Japan's Shinji Kagawa scoring on his home debut and Rafael heading the third before a bizarre Nemanja Vidic own goal for Fulham in a nervous second half where Wayne Rooney was stretchered off after starting on the bench.—Internet



Pick that out: Robin van Persie scores his first goal for Manchester United.
INTERNET

Everton continue good form with win at Aston Villa

LONDON, 25 Aug—Everton have backed up their opening weekend win over Manchester United with a solid performance to beat ten man Aston Villa 3-1 at Villa Park today. Steven Pienaar kicked things off early with a brilliant finish to put the Toffees a goal up inside three minutes, curling his effort into Shay Given's top left corner from outside the area.

The second Everton goal came just after the half-hour mark when Marouane Fellaini, who destroyed United on Monday night, again rose above his marker to send a powerful header home from Phil Jagielka's rightwing cross although Given should have a lot better.

Internet