

Four political objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order* National reconsolidation* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution	Four economic objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples	Four social objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation
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Law Amending the Ports Act promulgated

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — The State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar promulgated the Law Amending the Ports Act (The State Peace and Development Council Law No. 5/2008) on 15 August, 2008.
The full text of the Law Amending the Ports Act is as follows:-

Union of Myanmar
The State Peace and Development Council
The Law Amending the Ports Act
(The State Peace and Development Council Law No. 5/2008)
The 14th Waxing of Wagaung 1370 ME
(15 August, 2008)

The State Peace and Development Council hereby enacts the following Law:

1. This Law shall be called the Law Amending the Ports Act.
2. The expression “British” contained in sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Ports Act shall be deleted.
3. Clause (3) of sub-section (1 A) of section 6 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
“(3) If any person disobeys any rule made under clause (p) of sub-section (1), he shall be punishable for every such offence with fine not exceeding one hundred thousand kyats.”
4. Sub-section (2) of section 8 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
“(2) If any person wilfully and without lawful excuse refuses or neglects to obey any lawful direction of the conservator, after notice

thereof has been given to him, he shall, for every such offence, be punishable with fine not exceeding ten thousand kyats, and in the case of a continuing offence with a further fine not exceeding ten thousand kyats for every day during which, after such notice as aforesaid, he is proved to have wilfully and without lawful excuse continued to disobey the direction.”

5. Sub-section (2) of section 10 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
“(2) The owner of any such timber, raft or other thing shall be liable to pay the reasonable expenses of the removal thereof, and if such owner or any other person has without lawful excuse caused any such obstruction or impediment, or causes any public nuisance affecting or likely to affect such free navigation or lawful use, he shall also be punishable with fine not exceeding ten thousand kyats.”
6. Sub-section (2) of section 13 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
“(2) Any master or other person offending against the provisions of this section shall, for every such offence, be punishable with fine not exceeding ten thousand kyats.”
7. Sub-section (2) of section 15 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
(See page 8)

USDA Secretary-General gives instructions on agricultural work

YANGON, 15 Aug — Accompanied by departmental officials, Secretary-General U Htay Oo of the Union Solidarity and Development Association attended a ceremony to collectively plough the fields and transplant monsoon paddy on 5 acres of farmer U Han Myint in Nyaunglain village, Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Division on 10 August.

The Secretary-General and party viewed land preparation and transplanting, fertilizer and paddy strains displayed by Myanma Agriculture Service, methods for removing salt water from the fields, and gave instructions on boosting agricultural production.

Later, the Secretary-General and party visited Shinsawmyat Pagoda in Labut Taloat village (South) and donated alms and provisions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pannateja and members of the Sangha there.

(See page 9)



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo views monsoon paddy ploughing and transplanting ceremony in Labutta Township. —MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 16 August, 2008

Build a new democratic nation through concerted efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw

Stability of the State, strong economy and development of human resources are indispensable for building a new and modern nation. The government is making relentless efforts for all-round development of the nation, while fulfilling such basic requirements.

With a view to forging national unity and strengthening friendship among the national brethren the government has been building a large number of infrastructures in transport, economic, education and health sectors.

At present, there are 213 dams and reservoirs and 235 bridges, 180 feet and above long, the length and breadth of the nation. Those bridges form a network of transport routes running from east to west and from south to north, thereby contributing much to development of the agriculture, economic and transport sectors.

The government has laid down and is implementing an array of economic plans with the active participation of the entire national people. As a result, the entire people are now enjoying the fruits of peace, stability and development.

Nowadays, the government is in the process of building a new, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, the national goal, upholding Our Three Main National Causes. The nation has already approved the State constitution that is appropriate to a new nation.

At a time when national unity has been consolidated and community peace and tranquility and the rule of law have been restored at the unprecedented level, the government, the people and the Tatmadaw are to make continued efforts for the emergence of a new democratic nation.

Auditor-General's Office holds work coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug— A work coordination meeting of the directors of State/Division Account's Office was held at the meeting hall of the Auditor-General's Office, here, this morning, with an address by Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung. It was also attended by the director-general of Auditor-General's Office, the deputy directors-general, the directors of states and divisions and officials.

Next, the Auditor-General presented awards to outstanding offspring of staff through the directors of states and divisions. The Auditor-general heard reports presented by the directors of states and divisions and the director-general, and gave necessary instructions.

MNA

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

EP-2 Minister inspects electrical engineer offices, Thayagon main sub-power station

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint on 11 August visited Indagaw Electrical Engineer's Office in Indagaw where he met employees of the office.

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint called for making more efforts not to lose electric power and collection of tax.

The minister arrived at Bago Division (East) Electrical Engineer's Office where he heard reports by

officials. At 230/33/11KV 30 MVA Thayagon main sub-power station, officials reported to the minister on functions of the main sub-power station and construction of main sub-power station and SwitchYard.

Next, the minister inspected construction of sub-power station, tasks of Control Room, installation of transformers in SwitchYard, installation of power grids and batteries in the power station.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun meets UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Daniel B Baker, UNDP Resident Representative Mr Bishow Parajuli and party. (F & R)

Paddy fields in Taninthayi Divison, Mon State, Kayin State inundated but no damage or loss

YANGON, 15 Aug—Taninthayi Division, Mon State and Kayin State were in flood due to torrential rains that caused swelling of rivers and creeks since 8 August, leaving many acres of paddy fields inundated.

Altogether 5,310 acres of monsoon paddy in Dawei, Launglon, Thayetchaung and Yebyu Townships of Taninthayi Division, 22,330 acres of monsoon paddy in Bilin, Kyaikhto and Ye Townships of Mon State and 49,276 acres of monsoon paddy in Hpa-an, Hlaingbwe, Kawkareik and Kyain-seikkyi Townships of Kayin State were under water.

As a matter of prevention, the respective agriculture supervisory committees have been in readiness for acquisition of paddy nurseries and paddy strain seeds in the event of flood as well as the already-established paddy plantations in high land for the paddy fields that used to be cultivated late due to flooded water.

However, it is learnt that there was no damage to paddy fields in those regions as flooded water subsided on 13 August.—MNA

F&R Minister meets UN Resident Representatives

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug—Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun received Resident Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Mr Daniel B Baker and UN Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Mr Bishow Parajuli and party at the minister's office, here, this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein and officials. — MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

Venezuela blames US for Georgia-Russia conflict

CARACAS (Venezuela), 15 Aug—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is accusing the United States of masterminding the current conflict between Georgia and Russia. A statement from Chavez's government alleges the conflict was "planned, prepared and ordered" by Washington in an "incitement of violence."

It gives no evidence to support those claims.

Venezuela is a close ally of Russia, which it says has acted to protect local residents from "unacceptable acts of violence" perpetrated by Georgian troops.

Venezuela's statement on Thursday saluted steps toward peace in South Ossetia, saying Russia's stance has been in line with international accords.

President Bush has demanded that Russia respect Georgian sovereignty and territorial integrity.—*Internet*

Afghan blast kills three in US-led coalition

KABUL (Afghanistan), 15 Aug—An explosion targeting international troops on a foot patrol in southern Afghanistan killed three members of the US-led coalition Thursday, the coalition said. The coalition did not release any details about the attack, including the troops' nationalities or the location of the blast. American forces make up the vast majority of the

coalition, which includes special forces units and soldiers who train Afghan army and police forces. The 40-nation NATO-led force operates under a separate command.

Southern Afghanistan is the center of the Taliban-led insurgency. The last three months have been the deadliest for international troops in Afghanistan since the 2001 US led invasion.

A record number of US and NATO troops are in Afghanistan around 65,000 exposing more soldiers than ever to increasingly lethal Taliban bombings and ambushes.

More than 3,200 people have died in violence countrywide so far this year, according to an *Associated Press* tally of figures provided by Afghan and Western officials.—*Internet*

Obama grants unity vote on Clinton's White House bid



US Democratic presidential candidate Illinois Senator Barack Obama and former candidate Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY)

WASHINGTON, 15 Aug—Democrats Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, vowing to heal wounds still festering from their White House scrap, agreed on Thursday to submit her name to a vote at this month's nominating convention.

The symbolic vote will allow the former first lady's supporters to have their say at the 25-28 August convention in Denver, and then the party can move on to take the fight to Republican John McCain,

the erstwhile rivals said.

But it could also bring lingering tensions bubbling back to the fore, with pro-Clinton groups angered at her primary loss already planning to rally in Denver ahead of Obama's coronation on 27 August.

"I am convinced that honoring Senator Clinton's historic campaign in this way will help us celebrate this defining moment in our history and bring the party together in a strong, united fashion," Obama said in a joint statement.

—*Internet*

EU: Euro economy shrinks in second quarter

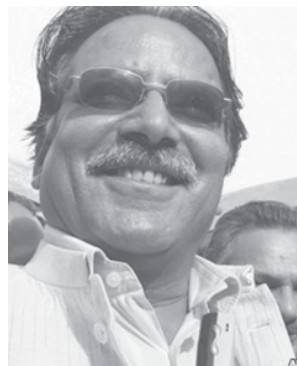
BRUSSELS (Belgium), 15 Aug—Euro-zone growth braked sharply in the second quarter as major economies Germany, France and Italy shrank, EU statistics showed Thursday, with high fuel and food prices holding back consumer spending. Growth in the 15 economies that share the euro currency contracted by 0.2 percent from the first quarter, expanding just 1.5 percent from the same period a year ago, the EU statistical agency Eurostat said in a first estimate that it may change at a later date.

Germany, the region's largest economy, shrank 0.5 percent in April-June from the previous quarter with France and Italy both down 0.3 percent. German growth dropped for the first time in nearly four years. The world's biggest exporter had so far weathered the economic storm brewing in Europe despite high inflation hitting spending at home and a slowing world economy and a strong euro hurting exports to the US.—*Internet*



Pedestrians walk past a giant euro logo in front of the European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt, western Germany, Europe has swung towards recession, with the eurozone economy shrinking for the first time and inflation hovering at a record high as the sharp global downturn takes hold, new figures showed on 14 Aug, 2008.—INTERNET

Maoist chief elected as Nepal's new PM



KATHMANDU, 15 Aug—Lawmakers elected a Maoist who led a decade-long insurgency against the Hindu monarchy as Nepal's new prime minister on Friday, marking the Himalayan nation's radical change

into a democratic republic.

Pushpa Kamal Dahal, the chief of once-feared Maoist guerrillas who still uses his nom de guerre Prachanda, won 464 votes out of 577 ballots cast in a special Constituent Assembly vote after weeks of political battles.

Lawmakers hugged a beaming Prachanda, who said: "I am very excited at this moment". Outside the assembly, hundreds of Maoist supporters danced, many waving hammer-and-sickle flags.

The election opens the way for the formation of a

new government, capping a peace process that ended a civil war in which more than 13,000 people died since 1996.

Prachanda defeated Sher Bahadur Deuba, a three-time former prime minister from a centrist party. Prachanda, a former agricultural science teacher, is seen as a strong leader by his colleagues, who say he has infused loyalty and discipline among his followers. The Maoists control 227 seats in the assembly that currently has 595 members.—*Internet*

Sri Lanka: Tens of thousands flee fighting

COLOMBO, 15 Aug—Tens of thousands of civilians have fled their homes in northern Sri Lanka in recent weeks as the military ramped up its offensive against the Tamil Tiger rebels' heartland, international aid groups said.

New fighting between the two sides killed 27 rebels and two government soldiers, while air force helicopters attacked rebel bunkers in the embattled northern region on Friday, the military said.

For months, the two sides faced each other over relatively static front lines, but the military broke through in the past few weeks, capturing a series of rebel bases and large chunks of territory.

Between 55,000 and 75,000 people have been displaced by the fighting over the past 2 1/2 months and as many as half of them are living under trees and tarps.—*Internet*

Engine panel falls off Qantas jet in flight

SYDNEY, 15 Aug — An engine access panel fell off a Qantas Airways jumbo jet en route to Singapore from Melbourne, Australia, on Friday, the latest in a string of incidents for the airline.

Inspectors conducting a routine check in Singapore on the Boeing 747-400 noticed the small panel had become detached, a Qantas spokeswoman said.

"This had absolutely no flight safety implications," said the spokeswoman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, as is customary.

The panel — which is used by engineers to access various parts of the engine for inspections — was replaced, and the flight continued on to London after a delay of about six hours.

The airline has been plagued by problems since an explosion on one of its planes forced an emergency landing in Manila last month. Since then, another plane was forced to return to Adelaide because of an issue with its landing gear, and a Boeing 767 returned to Sydney soon after takeoff when air traffic controllers saw fluid streaming from a wing.—*Internet*

Gannett to cut 1,000 newspaper jobs: memo

SAN FRANCISCO, 15 Aug—Gannett Co Inc (GCI.N) plans to eliminate 1,000 positions from its local newspapers around the US because of declining advertising and circulation revenue, and may cut more if those conditions persist.

The largest US newspaper publisher said the cuts equal about 3 percent of the positions in its Community Publishing unit, according to a memo obtained by *Reuters* on Thursday. The unit accounts for the vast majority of the company's newspapers, except for USA Today.

About 600 people probably will be laid off as part of the cuts, the memo said. The remaining cuts will come from retirements, resignations and other vacancies that will go unfilled.

—*Internet*

Chinese tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka grow 7.3% in first half of 2008

COLOMBO, 15 Aug — Tourist arrivals from China to Sri Lanka grew by 7.3 percent in the first half of 2008 over the same period a year ago, Sri Lanka’s national carrier SriLankan Airlines said on Thursday in a statement.

Figures from the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority showed that the island attracted 5,383 Chinese tourists for the first half of 2008, comparing with the 5,016 Chinese tourists recorded

in the same period of 2007.

The increase came as Sri Lanka’s tourist arrivals dropped 0.2 percent to 224,363 in the first six months of 2008 from the same period of last year.

SriLankan Airlines is closely supporting the government’s drive to promote Sri Lanka as a tourist destination to the Chinese people as the Chinese tourism market is being viewed as one of the fastest growing markets.

The government-

owned SriLankan Airlines serves China with thrice-weekly flights to Beijing, and another three to Hong Kong.

The statement said the airline actively participated in several travel fairs in China this year, including the Beijing International Tourism Expo and the Guangzhou International Travel Fair.

The airline also co-organized a workshop for travel agents in the Chinese capital Beijing in June.—Xinhua



A man pulls a cart as he walks along sculptures of Roses of Sharon covering the fences of Gyeongbokgung palace in Seoul on 12 Aug, 2008. The decoration was installed to commemorate Liberation Day on 15 August. The Rose of Sharon is the national flower of South Korea.—XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Dutch banking giant ING benefits from ABN Amro turmoil

BRUSSELS, 15 Aug— Dutch banking and insurance group ING has increased its share in the Dutch corporate market following the battle among several big international banks last year to acquire ABN Amro, another large Dutch bank, Dutch paper Financieel Dagblad reported on Thursday.

ING said on Wednesday the interest results of its wholesale division have risen by almost a third in the second quarter this year compared to a year ago, the report said.

Despite an offer by British bank Barclays, ABN Amro was finally bought by the consortium of Royal Bank of Scotland, Dutch-Belgian financial services company Fortis and Spain’s Banco Santander for 70 billion euros (104.14 billion US dollars) last year. ABN Amro was then split among the three purchasers.

The fall of ABN Amro made way for ING. ING had since been involved in a number of large transactions such as the takeover of employment agency Vendior by Randstad.

Meanwhile, the bank has scarcely been affected by the credit crisis.

Xinhua



Foreign tourists are attracted by Chinese snacks at the Donghuamen night fair in Beijing, capital of China, on 13 Aug, 2008. The night fair selling more than 100 kinds of delicious snacks from across China, has become an attraction to foreign tourists during the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.—XINHUA

Brazilian energy giant to buy US company’s assets in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 15 Aug — Ultrapar Participacoes, a Brazilian fuels and petrochemicals group, has agreed to buy US Chevron Texaco’s fuel distribution assets in Brazil for 1.16 billion reais (716 million US dollars), Ultrapar said on Thursday.

The deal will give Ultrapar 23 percent stake in the Brazilian market in this sector with over 5,000 service stations throughout the country.

Ultrapar will be allowed to use the Texaco brand for up to three years in the South and Southeastern regions, and for five years in the Northern, Northeastern and Midwestern regions. —Xinhua

Wall Street drops after downbeat economic data

NEW YORK, 15 Aug — Wall Street opened lower Thursday, after the US government reported another surprising jump in consumer prices.

The US Labor Department posted that the consumer price index climbed 0.8 percent in July, which is twice as much as anticipated and brings inflation to its highest annual pace in 17 years. The core index, excluding food and energy prices, rose by 0.3 percent last month, also more than projected.

The Labor Department also reported that applications for jobless benefits dropped 10,000 to 450,000 last week. However, the reading was a smaller decline than had been expected and left the four-week average for claims at the highest level in six years.

Light, sweet crude fell 81 cents to 115.19 US dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The Dow Jones fell 38.75 to 11,494.21.

Broader indexes also went lower. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index fell 6.26 to 1,279.57, and the Nasdaq dipped 4.78 to 2,423.84.—Xinhua



A model stands at a sports car at the 2008 Dalian International Auto Industry Exhibition held in Dalian, a coastal city in northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 14 Aug, 2008. More than 800 cars from 400 enterprises will be shown at the exhibition, which opened on 14 Aug.—XINHUA

UAE gas company records 31% growth in revenue in first half 2008

ABU DHABI, 15 Aug — Dana Gas of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced on Thursday that its revenue from oil and gas production reached 581 million dirhams (158.31 million US dollars) in the first half of 2008, up 31 percent over the same period of 2007.

The Sharjah-based Dana Gas, the largest private natural gas company in the Middle East, recorded 306 million dirhams of EBITDA(earnings before interest, depreciation and depletion and income tax) (52 million dollars) in the first six months of 2008, up 60 percent compared with 191 million in the 2007 period, according to a statement by the company.

“This year is of great significance to Dana Gas, as we build on a healthy financial position, with the start up soon of our major projects in both the UAE and northern Iraq, which will provide a major boost in propelling Dana Gas to the next level and add significant value to our shareholders,” the company’s executive chairman Hamid Jafar said. —Xinhua



A child plays in the rain outside a corridor at the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, capital of China, on 14 Aug, 2008. Beijing witnessed a heavy rainfall on Thursday afternoon. — XINHUA

Colombian gambling houses allegedly bombed by FARC

BOGOTA, 15 Aug — Bomb blasts at two facilities of a Colombian gambling company on Thursday were set off by guerillas in retaliation for unpaid extortion money, the company has alleged.

Representatives of the company “Apuestas Ochoa” said two of their facilities in Quindio state, 100 km west of the capital

Bogota, were totally destroyed, though nobody was hurt.

“There were two low-power explosive devices, supposedly set up by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC),” they said.

“This is the result of not paying extortion

money to this illegal armed group.”

The explosions took place early morning Thursday. Apuestas Ochoa is the most popular gambling firm in Quindio.

Similar attacks occurred at two other Apuestas Ochoa gambling houses last year, police said.

Internet

Obama now has two million donors

WASHINGTON, 15 Aug — US Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama’s campaign announced on Thursday that it has reached a new milestone of 2 million individual donors. The presumptive Democratic nominee, harnessing the power of the Internet like no candidate before him, has been smashing all presidential fund-raising

records.

He had brought in about 340 million US dollars by the end of June.

Since Obama is by passing public financing—while his Republican rival John McCain will accept about 84 million dollars in public money for the fall campaign—he will need to keep up the cash-raising pace.

“Today we achieved

something amazing—2,000,000 donors owning a piece of this campaign,” the message says on Obama’s contributor website.

McCain, meanwhile, sent a fresh fund-raising appeal to his supporters on Thursday, saying he needs money to spend before September when he will be under public funding limits.—*Internet*

Retail sales register record growth in Brazil in first half of 2008

RIO DE JANEIRO, 15 Aug — Brazil’s retail sales registered a record growth of 10.6 percent in the first half of 2008, according to a study released on Thursday by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE).

The study showed all sectors had an increase in retail sales in the first half of 2008. The communication equipments and office supplies sector had the highest increase

up to 30.9 percent, and the vehicles sector increased 22.3 percent.

In June, retail sales grew up 1.3 percent from May, and 8.2 percent up from the same month of 2007. The accumulated rate for the past 12 months reached 10.1 percent.

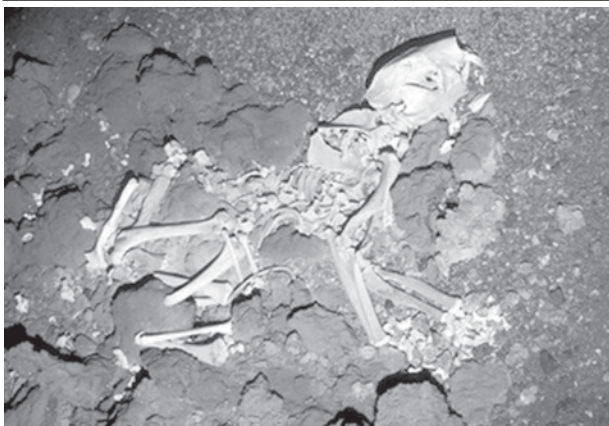
The revenues grew up 2.5 percent in June, and 15.9 percent in the first half of 2008. The accumulated growth rate for the past 12 months was of 14.5 percent.

Nine out of 10 sub-sectors registered an increase in sales volume in June. Among those, fuel and lubricant had the highest increase of 2.1 percent.

According to BIGS Services and Trade Coordinator Reinaldo Pereira, the rise in workers’ average incomes, a higher credit supply and more job opportunities have contributed to the positive figures.

Internet

NEWS ALBUM



Prehistoric giant animals killed by man, not climate: study

The chance discovery of the remains of a prehistoric giant kangaroo has cast doubts on the long-held view that climate change drove it and other mega-fauna to extinction, a new study reveals.

The research, published this week in the US-based journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, argues that man likely hunted to death the giant kangaroo and other very large animals on the southern island of Tasmania.

The debate centres on the skull of a giant kangaroo found in a cave in the thick rainforest of the rugged northwest of Tasmania in 2000.

Scientists dated the find at 41,000 years old, some 2,000 years after humans first began to live in the area.

Stone Age graveyard reveals “green Sahara”

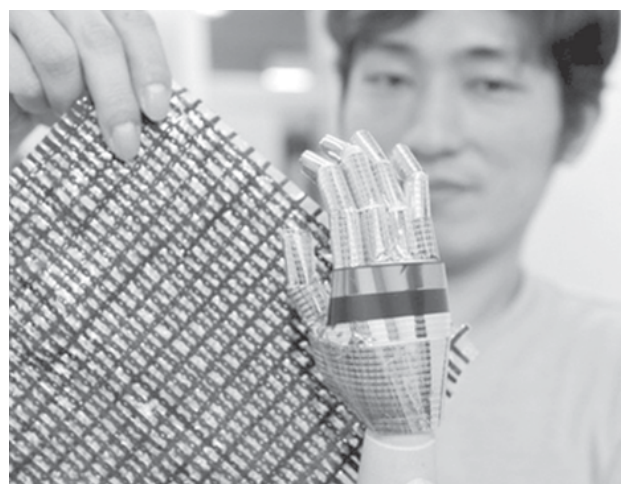
The largest Stone Age graveyard found in the Sahara, which provides an unparalleled record of life when the region was green, has been discovered in Niger, an international team of archaeologists led by University of Chicago Professor Paul Sereno reported here on Thursday.

The remarkable archaeological site, dating back 10,000 years and called Gobero after the Tuareg name for the area, was brimming with skeletons of humans and animals—including large fish and crocodiles. Gobero is hidden away within Niger’s forbidding Tenere Desert.

The discovery of the lakeside graveyard—representing two successive human populations divided by more than 1,000 years—is reported in the Sept issue of *National Geographic* magazine and the on 14 Aug issue of the journal *PLoS ONE*.



Geographic bioarchaeologist Chris Stojanowski of Arizona State University (R) takes a close look at fragile clam shells buried alongside the skeleton of an adult woman, who is radiocarbon-dated as 6,000 years old, in the Sahara in Tenere Desert, Nigeria, in this undated photograph.



Japan’s Tokyo University researcher Tsuyoshi Sekitani displays an elastic sheet containing carbon nano tubes which conduct electricity at his laboratory in Tokyo.

Mekong hits highest level in at least 100 years

Four people have been killed in flooding and landslides in Laos, where the Mekong river has hit its highest level in at least 100 years after several months of unusually heavy rain, officials said on Friday.

The communist government and private citizens in the landlocked Southeast Asian country have been rushing to complete a 2.5 metre (8 ft) wall of sandbags to stop water inundating the capital, Vientiane.

Police have closed roads leading to the riverbank to make it easier for trucks delivering sandbags, the official *Vientiane Times* reported.

“We’ve been fighting very hard day and night for four days, but after today the water level should recede,” government spokesman Yong Chanthalangy told *Reuters* in Bangkok.

American Airlines, European carriers in transatlantic flights tie-up

LONDON, 15 Aug—American Airlines, British Airways and Iberia of Spain said on Thursday they had signed a commercial agreement to co-operate over flights between North America and Europe to help overcome soaring fuel costs.

The three-way deal also comes as airlines worldwide seek to take advantage of the newly launched “open skies” agreement that has loosened restrictions on carriers flying between the United States and Europe. American Airlines,

British Airways and Iberia on Thursday filed for worldwide anti-trust immunity from the US Department of Transportation over their tie-up, adding that they would also notify European Union regulators.

The three companies already form part of oneworld, an alliance comprising ten global airlines working to cut overheads. But the new deal was aimed at widening the scope to run more cost-efficient operations.

Oneworld said that it “warmly welcomed and strongly supports the application for anti-trust immunity.”

It added in a statement: “Anti-trust immunity between oneworld’s transatlantic partners would enable them to unlock even more of oneworld’s potential, enabling us to operate under the same rules as our alliance competitors” SkyTeam and Star.

Internet



A shopper browses the eggs section at a Wal-Mart store in Santa Clarita, California, on 1 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Consumer prices up sharply, job market softens

WASHINGTON, 15 Aug — US inflation hit a 17-year high last month, underscoring the pressure on Americans who face soaring gasoline and food costs while their job prospects dim and incomes shrink.

A series of bleak reports on Thursday spotlighted the dilemma faced by Federal Reserve policymakers who have little room left to lower inter-

est rates to help a weak economy and are hoping for price relief to avoid the need to raise rates soon to tamp down inflation.

The Labor Department said its Consumer Price Index, the most commonly used inflation gauge, rose 0.8 percent in July and year-over-year jumped 5.6 percent, the strongest 12-month advance since January 1991 when the

first Gulf War was under way. Costlier energy and food helped push prices up at double the rate economists had expected last month, but since then oil prices have begun to decline. Some analysts said July might mark the worst of inflation pressures, but others noted the price gains hit a wide array of goods from clothing to airfares and cigarettes.—Internet

Three killed, 25 missing as bus plunges into roadside canal in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 15 Aug—At least three were killed and 25 others were missing after a bus plunged into roadside canal in Bangladesh’s northwestern Bogra district on Thursday evening, private news agency UNB reported. Three bodies in the sunken bus, which was carrying some 70 people of a bridal party, has been recovered, the report said.

About 25 passengers, including the bride and bridegroom, were reported missing. Others were rescued or swam to safety.

Survivors were quoted as saying that the bridal party of some 70 people, including women and children, was returning with bride from Baithabhangra to adjacent Birsaralia village in Kirtania of Bogra district, about 197 km northwest of the capital Dhaka. —Internet

Female suicide bomber kills 18 Iraqi pilgrims

BAGHDAD, 15 Aug—A female suicide bomber on Thursday killed at least 18 Shiite pilgrims on their way to the holy city of Karbala, an Iraqi police source said.

The attack, near the town of Iskandariya, some 60 km south of Baghdad, also wounded 75 people, the source said on condition of anonymity.

Thousands of pilgrims were traveling to the holy city of Karbala, about 110 km south of the capital, to commemorate the birth in the 9th century of the Imam Muhammad al-Mahdi, last of 12 most revered Shiites Imams.

The suicide blast was the most critical after three female attackers killed more than 24 and injured over 62 on 28 July during a Shiite pilgrimage gathering in Baghdad. Violence has dramatically dropped in Iraq, the US military said, hitting a four-year low. —Internet

Passenger train collides with car in Hungary

BUDAPEST, 15 Aug — A passenger train collided with a car near Gyongyos, North Hungary, on Thursday afternoon, killing all the five people in the car.

The Hungarian News Agency MTI reported that the accident happened when the car was attempting to cross the tracks at a point where there was no built-up road crossing, and the train engine ploughed into the car and carried it for several hundred metres.

The report said all the victims were members of a family, two of them were adults, three of them teenage boys, and one of the five was still alive when emergency services arrived but died in the helicopter transporting him to the hospital.

Internet

23 dead in 24 hours in escalation of Mexican violence

CIUDAD JUAREZ (Mexico), 15 Aug — At least 23 people died in the most violent 24 hours in recent years in the northern Mexican state of Chihuahua, police and officials said on Thursday.

The grim toll included nine people slain during a prayer service.

A gang armed with

AK-47s sprayed the mass in a drug rehabilitation center with bullets late Wednesday in the border town of Ciudad Juarez, killing eight patients and their minister, police said.

At least five people were seriously injured in the shooting, as violence escalated in Mexico’s northern border regions,

where drug gangs are fighting for territory.

After the shooting, the assassins left the scene and calmly passed a group of security forces, who did nothing to detain them, said a statement from the municipal office of public security, quoting witnesses.

Internet



A criminologist shows different types of rifles used by local drug traffickers at the Criminology Laboratory, in May, in the state of Chihuahua. —INTERNET

Netflix shipping centres slammed by problems

SAN FRANCISCO, 15 Aug — Netflix Inc said on Thursday that major technical problems over the past three days have severely limited the number of DVDs it could send out.

The unspecified problems affected all of the Los Gatos-based company’s 55 shipping centres and marked the biggest disruption in service since Netflix launched its DVD-by-mail subscription business nine years ago.

Normal shipments from the online DVD rental leader were expected to resume on Friday, according to Netflix spokesman Steve Swasey.

The company was able to send out some discs on Wednesday, but shipped none on Tuesday and wasn’t able to ship discs for much of the day Thursday, Swasey said.—Internet

Commander and USDA CEC member meet social organizations in Sittway Township

YANGON, 15 Aug—Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association (Rakhine State In-charge) Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe gave speeches at the ceremony held at Township hall of Sittway in Rakhine State

to meet with departmental officials, townsenders and social organizations of Sittway Township and to donate cash for regional development on 10 August.

Afterwards, Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe presented K 5 million for rural development tasks, one set of portable microscope worth K 3 million and 550 bags of cement to Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye.

Next, Director U Than Myint of Asia World Co donated K 36.7 million for construction of Basic Education Primary School on Kyaunggyi Street in Sittway Township through the Rakhine State Education Officer (Admin) U Than Htay and the minister books, journals, magazines and clothes to Secretary of Rakhine State USDA U Oo Kyaw Yin.

MNA



No death and injury of people and cattle in floods

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — Due to torrential rains, rivers and creeks overflowed at some areas of Kayin, Mon and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Bago, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions on 12 August. Some households were evacuated to the safe places and some schools were temporarily closed. It was reported that although some farmlands were flooded, there was no death and injury of people and cattle.

The water level of Thanlwin River in Hpa-an rose to 910 cm at 6 am on 12 August, but it fell to 905 cm at 8.30 pm. A total of 156 people of 32 households from some low-lying wards were moved to the safe places. Likewise, 254 people of 52 households in Duiyinseik Village of Thaton Township were evacuated due to overflow of Donthami Creek, 185 people of 38 households in Kyaikto Township were moved to the safe places due to the overflow of a river. In Mingin Township of Sagaing Division, 57 people of 14 households were evacuated to the safe places because the landslide occurred due to bank erosion of Potonlon Creek. In Bogyikon Village of Madaya Township, 90 people of 17 households

were moved to the safe places due to landslides at the bank of Ayeyawady River. Due to high-tide at Letpangon Village of Twantay Township, 105 people of 37 households were evacuated to the safe places.

Chinnikon Basic Education Post-Primary School in Ward 22 of Toungoo was inundated and it was temporarily closed from 12 to 14 August. Due to overflow of Athok Creek, 12 BEPSs were temporarily closed in Yekyi Township. Likewise, four BEPSs in four villages in Taikkyi Township were temporarily closed due to torrential rains.

Due to heavy rains in Lwelon and Yanglao village-tracts in Kengtung Township, 168 acres of farmlands were inundated.

At present, people of households from some areas where the flood receded returned to their original places. Workers of Public Works are repairing ravaged road sections. Local authorities, social organization members and officials are providing necessary assistance for the victims, and arrangements are being made for repair of roads and re-opening of the schools.—MNA

Objectives of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

1. Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
2. Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
3. Keeping genuine patriotism based on national solidarity alive and dynamic
4. Turning out younger generation who will continue to safeguard the national culture and character

Workshop on Reduction of Maternal and Under 5 Mortality held

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — Jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and United Nations Population Fund, a

Workshop on Reduction of Maternal and Under 5 Mortality was held at the meeting hall of the ministry, here, this morning with an opening address by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo.

The deputy minister stress the need for sharing experiences of maternal, infant and child health care with professionals, improvement of maternal health and a collaborative effort on reduction of Under 5 mortality.

Acting Director-General Dr Maung Win of Health Department presided over the workshop. UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Daniel B Baker, Director (Public Health) Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay, Deputy Director (Maternal and Child Health) Dr Daw Theingi

Myint, Professor Dr Daw Than Than Tin of University of Medicine (1) and Deputy Director-General Dr Soe Myint reported on reduction of maternal and under 5 mortality.

In the afternoon session, Deputy Director-General Dr Soe Myint presided over the workshop. Deputy Director (Maternal and Child Health) Dr Daw Myint Myint Than, Professor Dr Pe Thet Khin of University of Medicine (Mandalay), Deputy Director (Nutrition) Dr Daw Myint Myint Zin and Director (Health Education) Dr Khin Maung Lwin explained matters on maternal and child health and those present took part in discussions.

The workshop continues tomorrow.

MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye accepts K 5 million presented by USDA CEC member Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe.

MNA

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo addresses Workshop on Reduction of Maternal and Under 5 Mortality.

MNA



Law Amending the Ports Act promulgated

(from page 1)

- “(2) If the master of the vessel, or any person in possession or occupation of the building or place, without lawful excuse, refuses to allow any such person as is mentioned in sub-section (1) to board or enter such vessel, building or place in the performance of any duty imposed upon him by this Act, he shall for every such offence be punishable with fine not exceeding twenty thousand kyats.”
8. Sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “(2) Any master refusing or neglecting to comply with such requisition shall be punishable with fine not exceeding fifty thousand kyats and any seaman then under his orders who, after being directed by the master to obey the orders of the conservator or port-officer for the purpose aforesaid, refuses to obey such orders, shall be punishable with fine not exceeding two thousand five hundred kyats.”
9. Sub-section (2) of section 19 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “(2) If any person offends against the provisions of this section, he shall for every such offence be liable, in addition to the payment of the amount of damage done, to fine not exceeding two hundred thousand kyats, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.”
10. Section 20 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “*Wilfully loosening vessel from moorings.* 20. If any person wilfully and without lawful excuse loosens or removes from her moorings any vessel within any such port without leave or authority from the owner or master of the vessel, he shall, for every such offence, be punishable with fine not exceeding twenty thousand kyats, or with imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.”
11. Sub-section (2) of section 21 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:-
- “(2) Any person who by himself or another so casts or throws any ballast or rubbish or any such other thing or so discharges any oil or water mixed with oil, and the master of any vessel from which the same is so cast, thrown or discharged, shall be punishable with fine not exceeding fifty thousand kyats, and shall pay any reasonable expenses which may be incurred in removing the same.”
12. Section 22 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “*Graving vessel within prohibited limits.* 22. If any person graves, breams or smokes any vessel in any such port contrary to the directions of the conservator, or at any time or within any limits at or within which such act is prohibited by the Government he and the master of the vessel shall for every such offence be punishable with fine not exceeding fifty thousand kyats each.”
13. Section 23 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “*Boiling pitch on board vessel within prohibited limits.* 23. If any person boils or heats any pitch, tar, resin, dammer, turpentine, oil, or other such combustible matter on board any vessel within any such port, or at any place within its limits where such act is prohibited by the Government, or contrary to the directions of the conservator, he and the master of the vessel shall for every such offence be punishable with fine not exceeding twenty thousand kyats each.”
14. Section 24 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “*Drawing spirits by Un-protected artificial light.* 24. If any person, by an unprotected artificial lights, draws off spirits on board any vessel within any port subject to this Act, he and the master of the vessel shall for every such offence be punishable with fine not exceeding twenty thousand kyats each.”
15. Sub-section (2) of section 25 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “(2) A master offending against sub-section (1) shall be punishable for every such offence with fine not exceeding twenty thousand kyats.”
16. Sub-section (2) of section 26 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “(2) A master offending against sub-section (1) shall be punishable for every such offence with fine not exceeding twenty thousand kyats.”
17. Section 27 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “*Discharge of firearms in port.* 27. If any person, without lawful excuse, discharges any fire-arm in any port subject to this Act, or on or from any pier, landing-place, wharf or quay thereof, except a gun loaded only with gunpowder for the purpose of making a signal of distress, or for such other purpose as may be allowed by the Government, he shall for every such offence be punishable with fine not exceeding five thousand kyats.”
18. Section 28 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “*Penalty on master omitting to take order to extinguish fire.* 28. If the master of any vessel in which fire takes place while lying in any such port wilfully omits to take order to extinguish the fire or obstructs the conservator or the port-officer, or any person acting under the authority of the conservator or port-officer, in extinguishing or attempting to extinguish the fire, he shall be punishable with imprisonment not exceeding six months, or with fine not exceeding one hundred thousand kyats, or with both.”
19. Sub-section (2) of section 29 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “(2) If any person offends against the provisions of sub-section (1), he shall be punishable with fine not exceeding ten thousand kyats.”
20. Sub-section (2) of section 30 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “(2) If any person offends against sub-section (1), he shall for every such offence be punishable with fine not exceeding ten thousand kyats and shall pay any reasonable expenses which may be incurred in repairing any injury done by him to the bank or shore.”
21. Sub-section (3) of section 31 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “(3) If any vessel, except in case of urgent necessity, enters, leaves or is moved in the port contrary to the provisions of sub-section (1) the master of the vessel shall for every such offence be punishable with fine not exceeding twenty thousand kyats, unless upon application to the proper officer the master was unable to procure a pilot, harbour-master or assistant of the port-officer or harbour-master to go on board the vessel.”
22. Sub-section (2) of section 32 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “(2) The master of such a vessel who, having been required by the conservator to comply with the provisions of sub-section (1), neglects or refuses, without lawful excuse, so to do for the space of seven days after such requisition, shall be punishable with fine not exceeding fifty thousand kyats.”
23. Sub-section (2) of section 39 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “(2) A master failing without lawful excuse to make such report within the time aforesaid shall for every such offence be punishable with fine not exceeding ten thousand kyats.”
24. Clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 41 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “(b) If the owner or master or such person neglects or refuses to produce the register or otherwise to satisfy the conservator as to what is the true tonnage of the vessel in respect of which the port-dues are payable, he shall be punishable with fine not exceeding ten thousand kyats, and the conservator may cause the vessel to be measured, and the tonnage thereof to be ascertained, according to the mode of measurement prescribed by the rules for the time being in force for regulating the measurement of vessels, and in such case the owner or master of the vessel shall also be liable to pay the expenses of the measurement.”
25. Sub-section (2) of section 51 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “(2) If the master of a vessel arriving as aforesaid offends against sub-section (1), he shall be punishable for every such offence with fine not exceeding one hundred thousand kyats.”
26. Section 53 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “*Penalty on pilot disobeying provisions of this Chapter.* 53. Any pilot in charge of a vessel who disobeys, or abets disobedience to, any of the provisions of this Chapter, shall be punishable with fine not exceeding fifty thousand kyats for each instance of such disobedience or abetment, and, in addition, shall be liable to have his authority to act as a pilot withdrawn.”
27. Section 54 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:
- “*Penalty for disobedience to rules and orders of the Government.* 54. If any person disobeys any rule or order which the Government has made in pursuance of this Act and for the punishment of disobedience to which express provision has not been made elsewhere in this Act, he shall be punishable for every such offence with fine not exceeding ten thousand kyats.”
- (See page 9)

Law Amending the Ports Act promulgated

(from page 8)

28. Sub-section (2) of section 57 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:

“(2) Whenever any person is liable to pay any sum, not exceeding one hundred thousand kyats, as expenses or damages under this Act, any Magistrate, upon application made to him by the authority to whom the sum is payable, may, in addition to or instead of any other means for enforcing payment, recover the sum as if it were a fine.”

29. Sub-section (1) of section 62 of the Ports Act shall be substituted as follows:

“Hoisting unlawful colours in port.

(1) If any vessel belonging to any citizen of the Union of Myanmar, or sailing under the colours of the Union of Myanmar, hoists, carries or wears within the limits of any port subject to this Act, any flag, jack, pennant or colours, the use whereof is prohibited by rules made under this Act, the master of the vessel shall for every offence be punishable with fine not exceeding five thousand kyats.”

Sd/. Than Shwe

Senior General

Chairman

The State Peace and Development Council

MNA

USDA Secretary-General ...

(from page 1)

Secretary-General U Htay Oo presented school uniforms and cash assistance to the students of the village.

In the evening, the Secretary-General and local authorities provided clothes, blankets, kitchen utensils worth over K 30,000 and 300 rice bags for storm victims through the chairmen of Ward

PDCs at Ywaynadi hall in Labutta.

At Bayintnaung hall, the Secretary-General held a discussion with officials of division, district and township agricultural coordination committees for cultivation of monsoon paddy in storm-hit villages.

Out of 3,692,830 acres of monsoon paddy, Ayeyawady Division has

had 3,358,568 acres under monsoon paddy for 2008-2009 cultivation season. Arrangements are to be made for growing 365,000 acres of monsoon paddy in Labutta Township and remaining 95,000 acres are being put under monsoon paddy.

For timely cultivation of monsoon paddy in Labutta Township, the fields are being ploughed with the use of 910 power-tillers from nine townships in the division.—MNA

Minister inspects production of spare parts for machinery

YANGON, 15 Aug—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected production of import-substitute machinery parts and repairing of machinery at workshops under the Irrigation Department in Hmawby on 12 August.

In the meeting with officials concerned, the

minister called for making efforts for production of import-substitute machinery parts to be used in agricultural machinery and for production of machinery to be used in hydropower plants.

During the visit to the workshop for heavy machinery, the minister inspected repairing of machinery, production

process of spare parts for machinery, making sluice gates valves of and machinery parts for generators.

There are nine workshops across the country under Irrigation Department. Out of 103 damaged heavy machinery, 95 have been repaired and sent to dam construction projects.—MNA

Outstanding students awarded in Bhamo

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw attended the prize presentation ceremony for outstanding students and USDA membership application presentation ceremony in Bhamo on 9 August.

The minister awarded outstanding stu-

dents and Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun gave cash awards to teachers.

Headmaster U Tin Aung of Bhamo BEHS No. 1 handed over 1,670 membership applications of basic education schools in Bhamo Township to Secretary of Kachin State USDA U Ra Wam Jon.

The minister presented 100 CI sheets each and 100 bags each of ce-

ment to Manmalin BEHS (Branch) and Thabyegon Affiliated BEHS and one set of computer to Sintkin BEMS.

At Bhamo District USDA, the Secretariat Member met executives of the district USDA, social organization members and townsenders and attended to the needs. Next, the minister inspected D-Amps cellular system control room at Bhamo Auto-exchange.—MNA

Special Refresher Course No. 16 for Police Officers concludes

YANGON, 15 Aug—Special Refresher Course No. 16 for Police Officers under the Ministry of Home Affairs concluded at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township, this morning.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, members of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Hla Myint Oo and U Win Aung,

Rector of CICS (Phaunggyi) U Win Maung, directors-general of MPF and departments were present at the conclusion ceremony. The deputy minister made a speech, presented awards to outstanding police officers and completion certificates to the trainee leaders.

A total of 245 police officers attended the four-week course.

MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw awards outstanding students.—CPT

Cash donated to storm victims

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — To provide health care services to storm victims, Myanmar Medical

Association (Mandalay) donated K 1 million and Myanmar surgeons in Australia K 5 million to

the Executive Committee of the MMA (Central) yesterday.

MNA



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe speaking at conclusion ceremony of Special Refresher Course No. 16 for Police Officers.—HOME AFFAIRS

Seminar for IT enthusiast youth at Conference Hall of Myanmar Info-Tech

Nowadays, information technology is widely applied in every country. All the developed countries are making better use of IT. As such, the youth are to keep abreast of the progress of information technology and to gain experiences.

A plan was set to organize a seminar on IT that will be beneficial to the youth at the conference hall of Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Township, Yangon, from 9 am to 12 noon on 16 August (Saturday).

Daw Nang Thinn Swe, a responsible person of the organizing committee, explained matters related to the seminar to the news crew of the Myanma Alin Daily. She said, "The seminar will be organized by Myanmar Information Technology Pte Ltd for development of information and communications technology. The discussions will be held with the topics for the youth on choice of IT and benefits of IT. IT professionals from Cambridge ICT of Malaysia and responsible persons of Myanmar Professional Education Center (MPEC) will take part in

the discussions."

At the seminar, facts about Diploma in Software Engineering and Diploma in Business IT will be introduced to the youth for the study of IT.

Daw Nang Thinn



"It will be directly beneficial to the youth in their work."

U Ye Yint Win, Software Professional

Swe explained that arrangements are being made for providing of IT subjects, job opportunities for IT enthusiasts on completion of studies and prospects for further studies at international level.

The seminar will also discuss the topic on suitable subjects for the youth who have passed matriculation examination wishing to become software engineer. Moreover, the seminar will provide valuable knowledge to the youth wishing to engage in IT related businesses.

In an interview, U Ye Yint Win, software

**Article: Maung Maung Myint Swe
Photos: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)**

professional-cum-Managing Director of Biz Soft, said, "In the country, only few numbers of software professionals are at work. Youth lack good ability to do their works. The seminar will be beneficial to the youth because it will introduce



"Further studies will be the best."

U Win Htein Win, Computer Professional

the diploma courses designed to provide these requirements. If the practical works can be arranged for the youth, it will be the best. Actually, the youth should attend the seminar."

Likewise, computer professional-cum-Managing Director of Gusto Company U Win Htein Win also made clarifications. He said, "The youth wishing to join the IT world have to study more. Completion of one or two training courses

will not be enough. They must try to the best of their abilities to gain the IT knowledge. Pursuing of respective subjects at the diploma courses that might provide knowledge, skills and job opportunity to the youth are the best. Therefore, the youth are to seek the knowledge by taking part in the discussions."

Hence, youth are free to attend the seminar jointly organized by



"Diploma in Software Engineering and IT will be introduced to the youth."

Daw Nang Thinn Swe, responsible person of MIT

Myanmar Information Technology Pte Ltd and Cambridge Technology Pte Ltd and it will be a great chance for the IT enthusiast youth.

**Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin:
14-8-2008**

Minister inspects development tasks in Shaukchaung village tract, Mawlamyinegyun Tsp



Minister Col Thein Nyunt presents award to a student in Mawlamyinegyun Township. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug—Member of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt made an inspection tour of Ngwezinyaw village of Shaukchaung village tract in Mawlamyinegyun Township on 11 August.

At the briefing hall of Housing Project of A1 Construction Group, the minister met with 21 fishermen from Ngwezinyaw village where the State provided fishing boats and fishing nets and then inspected 90 newly-built houses out of 150 in Ngwezinyaw village.

Next, the minister chose sites to build the village monastery and schools and then handed edible oil, dry noodle, clothing, personal goods, tinned fish and packets of rehydration salt to those who are living at the newly-built houses.

Afterwards, the minister attended a ceremony to honour the students who had passed the 2007-2008 matriculation examination with distinctions held at Mawlymyinegyun No. 1 Basic Education High School and then made a speech. Prizes worth K 1.5 million were awarded outstanding students.

Next, the minister looked into progress in extension of Wizaya and Boyanpyay roads, repair of circular road and two wooden bridges on Yamonna road, paving Padonma earth road, construction of Chanmyathaya market, paving U Ottama gravel road, erecting of lamp-posts being carried out by Mawlamyinegyun Township Development Affairs Committee.

MNA

Ancient artefacts excavated in Thazi Township

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug—The Archaeological, Natural Museum and Libraries Department under the Ministry of Culture unearthed ancient artefacts on bronze age and iron age near Kanthitgon Village on Chaukhwe Village-Samon Dam section of Thazi-Thabyewa Road in Bwechar Village-tract, Thazi Township, Meiktila District, Mandalay Division, in June 2008.

Foreign archaeologists once considered that in the early history, Myanmar was transferred from Stone Age into the Iron Age without flourishing of bronze culture. That thesis was proved wrong when many artefacts were excavated in such regions as Nyaungkan, Myin-U Hle, Hnawkan and Kukkokha that provided evidences of bronze culture in the country. And that was supported

by the artefacts found in Kanthitgon Village.

Among the ancient objects found in Kanthitgon Village are a complete body with its head turning to the direction of west and eight complete bodies with their heads turning to the east along with some incomplete sets of bodies. There was also a tradition that dead bodies of pet animals were buried. Archaeological research was carried out in eight different places simultaneously, and the findings showed that the first and second bodies were buried at the same place. The bodies were all ages, child, middle age and old age.

The artefacts found in Kanthitgon Village included not only weapons of the Bronze Age but also that of the Iron Age. The artifacts of the Bronze Age were bronze

arrow heads, bronze spears, bronze wire bundles, Khamauk (bamboo hat)-shape bronze cups, bronze floral works with letters "Ka" and "Ya" in combination embodied on them, stone beads, bone beads, different sizes of pots and plates, pots with four handles, and small pots with long necks. Seven iron spears were found. Iron artefacts were also found in Hnawkan, Myin-U Hle (Mahlaing), Htonebo (Pyawbwe), Ywahtin, Myohla (Yamethin), Nyaunggon (Meiktila), Kukkohla (Wundwin) and Hanlin (Shwebo). bodies were buried together with bronze and iron weapons.

The artifacts are an evidence of transition from bronze culture to iron culture in Myanmar.

MNA



News &
Photos
by
Xinhua



Nastia Liukin of the United States performs on the floor during gymnastics artistic women's individual all-around final of Beijing 2008 Olympic Games at National Indoor Stadium in Beijing, China, 15 Aug, 2008. Liukin claimed the title of the event with a score of 63.325.



Viktor Ruban of Ukraine releases the arrow during the men's individual final of archery against Park Kyung-Mo of the Republic of Korea at Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China, 15 Aug, 2008. Ruban defeated Park and claimed the title in this event.

Medal Standings (15-8-2008)

Sr	NOC Name	G	S	B	T	Sr	NOC Name	G	S	B	T
1	China	26	9	6	41	28	Hungary		4	1	5
2	United States	14	13	19	46	29	Kazakhstan		3	2	5
3	Germany	8	2	4	14	30	Zimbabwe		3		3
4	ROK	6	9	3	18	31	Sweden		2	1	3
5	Italy	6	4	4	14	32	Turkey		2	1	3
6	Japan	6	4	3	13	33	Belarus		1	3	4
7	Australia	5	7	8	20	34	Austria		1	2	3
8	Russian Fed.	3	8	8	19	35	Algeria		1	1	2
9	France	3	8	7	18	36	Kyrgyzstan		1	1	2
10	Britain	3	2	3	8	37	Norway		1	1	2
11	Spain	3	1		4	38	Slovenia		1	1	2
12	Ukraine	3		4	7	39	Uzbekistan		1	1	2
13	Czech Republic	2	2		4	40	Colombia		1		1
14	Georgia	2		1	3	41	Vietnam		1		1
15	Cuba	1	3	4	8	42	Armenia			5	5
16	Netherlands	1	2	4	7	43	Brazil			4	4
17	Azerbaijan	1	2	1	4	44	Indonesia			2	2
18	DPRK	1	1	3	5	45	Chinese Taipei			2	2
19	Romania	1	1	2	4	46	Argentina			1	1
20	Mongolia	1	1		2	47	Bulgaria			1	1
21	Poland	1	1		2	48	Croatia			1	1
22	Switzerland	1		3	4	49	Denmark			1	1
23	Spain	1		1	2	50	Egypt			1	1
24	Finland	1		1	2	51	Lithuania			1	1
25	Ethiopia	1			1	52	Mexico			1	1
26	India	1			1	53	Tajikistan			1	1
27	Thailand	1			1	54	Togo			1	1
Total:		103	103	126	332						



Cao Lei of China tries a lift during women's 75kg group A competition of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games weightlifting event in Beijing, China, 15 Aug, 2008. Cao Lei set the new Olympic record of women's 75kg snatch with 128 kg.



Li Jia Wei of Singapore competes during women's team semifinal 2 between Singapore and South Korea of Beijing 2008 Olympic Games table tennis event at PKU Gymnasium in Beijing, China, 15 Aug, 2008. Singapore beat South Korea 3-2.

Dozens of inmates on the run after Nepal jailbreak

KATHMANDU, 15 Aug — Forty-eight prisoners, including some linked to armed rebel groups, were on the run on Thursday after a mass breakout from a jail in southeast Nepal, officials said.

One prisoner was killed when guards shot at the fleeing inmates, who escaped from the jail in Siraha, 150 kilometres (95 miles) southeast of Kathmandu, during an evening roll-call on Wednesday. "Like bees in a hive, the prisoners poured over the guards as soon as they opened the gate for the roll-call," said Nar Bahadur Khadka, a senior official of the Siraha District office.

A total of 54 inmates escaped but five were quickly recaptured, as well as the one prisoner who was killed.

MNA/Reuters

Oil falls over \$2 a barrel on profit taking

LONDON, 15 Aug — Oil fell more than two US dollars a barrel on Thursday, erasing most of Wednesday's gains, as faltering prospects for global economic growth prompted traders to take profits. Concerns about the security of energy transit routes through the Caucasus have provided some support, although analysts said the mood is still predominantly bearish.

US data on Wednesday showed a fall in crude and gasoline inventories after a number of precautionary refinery closures in response to Tropical Storm Edouard.

US crude was down

2.10 US dollars at 113.90 US dollars by 1625 GMT, off a high of 117.42 US dollars hit earlier in the session. London Brent fell 1.01 US dollars to 112.46 US dollars.

Oil prices rose on Wednesday after US Government data showed crude stocks in the world's top energy consumer

dropped by 400,000 barrels last week, while gasoline inventories fell by 6.4 million barrels.

The fall in gasoline stocks was much larger than analysts' expectations of a 2.1-million-barrel decline. Distillate stocks also unexpectedly fell.

MNA/Reuters

Bus crash kills 15, mostly children in India

BANGALORE (India), 15 Aug — A bus skidded off a rain-drenched road and plunged into a river in southern India on Thursday, killing 13 children and two adults, police said.

Locals rescued 14 children from the swirling river, but divers were still looking for seven others.

The accident happened after the driver lost control of the bus in heavy rains at the port city of Mangalore in Karnataka State, police said. — MNA/Reuters

Olmert rejects return of any Palestinian refugees

JERUSALEM, 15 Aug — Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has told Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas that Israel will not allow the return of any Palestinian refugees as part of a future statehood deal, Olmert's office said on Thursday.

The rare official statement was issued in response to reports Olmert proposed absorbing 2,000 refugees per year for 10 years as part of an agreement to establish a Palestinian state in most of the occupied West Bank and all of the Gaza Strip.

"The Prime Minister never offered to absorb 20,000 refugees in Israel. The Prime Minister again reiterates that under any future agreement, there will not be any return of Palestinian refugees to Israel in any number," Olmert's office said. There was no immediate comment from Palestinian officials.

MNA/Reuters



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P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 16 August 2008

A Chinese cleaning worker cycles past a fire-wrecked taxi in Beijing on 14 Aug, 2008. — INTERNET

Missile false alarm goes off in central Japan

TOKYO, 15 Aug— A missile attack warning went off in local government offices in central Japan on Wednesday, but officials realized it was a false alarm before disaster teams were mobilized.

"This is information about a ballistic missile attack," a broadcast from the central government's Fire and Disaster Management Agency had said, with a red light blinking.

The warning turned out to be a test, accidentally broadcast to 20 government offices in Aichi prefecture because a volume switch had been left on. "We were worried at first, but a correction was broadcast before we could panic," a disaster management official for the prefecture said.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnamese, Indian firms to invest \$5B in steel complex

HANOI, 15 Aug—India's Tata Steel, the world's sixth biggest steel maker, and two Vietnamese state corporations will pour five billion US dollars into developing a steel complex in Vietnam's central Ha Tinh Province, local newspaper *Vietnam Economic Times* reported on Thursday.

Under a deal signed by Tata Steel, the Vietnam Steel Corporation and the Vietnam National Cement Corporation on Wednesday, they will build the complex with an annual capacity of 4.6 million tons of steel products in three phases with the first two phases lasting from 2008 to 2013. The complex is predicted to reach its full annual capacity of 4.6 million tons by 2015, when it employs some 20,000 people. Vietnam's total demand for steel products is estimated at 15-18 million tons in 2015, and 20-22 million tons in 2020, the newspaper quoted Dau Van Hung, general director of the steel corporation, as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

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P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 16 August 2008

Drive with care

Australia launches campaign to stop copper theft

CANBERRA, 15 Aug—The theft of 4.2 kilometres of copper powerline in mountains near Sydney two months ago and thousands of other robberies prompted Australia on Thursday to launch a national effort to stop metals thieves.

Despite copper prices falling about 20 per cent from a record high set last month, thieves of semi-precious metals have created havoc across Australia since late last year, with more than 2,000 incidents reported to police. "Copper theft is not only dangerous to thieves involved. It's also putting the public's life at risk too by shutting down power supplies, trains and phone lines," national Home Affairs Minister Bob Debus said in a statement.

World copper prices have more than doubled since 2004 as demand soars in China and India, despite recent reversals. Copper hit a six-month low of 7,150 US dollars per ton in London on Tuesday for the benchmark three-month contracts. —MNA/Reuters

Van, Olympic bus collision kills two in Beijing

BEIJING, 15 Aug—Two people were killed and four others, including two Olympians, injured in a collision between a local cargo van and a bus from the Beijing Olympics fleet, an official announced here on Thursday.

The two slightly injured passengers on the bus were athletes representing Croatia, while the four people on the van, two killed and two wounded, were all Chinese, said Wang Wei, spokesman of the Beijing Organizing Committee of the 29th Olympic Games (BOCOG), at a Press conference held in the Games' Main Press Centre (MPC). The accident occurred at a crossroad at around 2 pm. Wednesday, when the Olympic bus, carrying two Croatian athletes, one Croatian coach, one volunteer and several other members of the Canadian and Australian delegations, was travelling from the Olympic Village to Shunyi, a suburban district of Beijing where the Olympic canoeing venues are located, said Wang.

All six injured were rushed to the hospital, where two succumbed to injury later. — MNA/Xinhua



Commander says Iran's Naval forces to protect Gulf

TEHERAN, 15 Aug—Commander of Iran's Navy Forces Habibollah Sattari said on Wednesday that Iran's naval forces are fully ready to protect the entire Gulf, the official *IRNA* news agency reported.

Sattari told reporters on the sidelines of his visit to a naval base in Sirjan, a city in southern province of Kerman.

The forces will defend the territory of the country as well as the sea borders powerfully, the report quoted Sattari as saying. He also said the country's naval forces are controlling and closely watching all movements in the region now.

The United States and its allies have accused Iran of trying to develop nuclear weapons under the cover of a civilian nuclear programme. Iran has denied the US charges and insists that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only.

The Bush Administration has said it focused on diplomacy to try to resolve Iran's nuclear issue, but has insisted it will take "no option off the table". Some observers believe that it is possible that the United States and Israel would attack Iranian targets for Teheran's suspicious nuclear programme.

MNA/Xinhua

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

Smoking doubles stroke risk in younger women

WASHINGTON, 15 Aug—Younger women who smoke have more than double the risk of stroke compared to nonsmokers, with the heaviest smokers among them having nine times the risk, according to a US study published on Thursday.

The research assessed stroke risk in women 15 to 49 years old who smoked cigarettes. Current smokers were 2.6 times as likely to have a stroke than women who never smoked, according to researchers led by Dr John Cole of the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore.

Women who smoked



A cigarette lies in ashtray in front of a pub in Bensheim early on 30 July, 2008.—INTERNET

the most faced the highest increased risk, said the study, published in the American Heart Association's journal Stroke. For example, women who smoked 21 to 39 cigarettes a day had a risk of stroke 4.3 times higher than a nonsmoker, while those who puffed at least two packs a day —

40 cigarettes — had a stroke risk 9.1 times higher than a nonsmoker.

It has been known for a long time that smoking increases the risk of stroke, along with many other health dangers such as lung and other types of cancer, lung disease and heart disease.

But Cole said less was known about how stroke risk was affected by the number of cigarettes a person smokes.

Strokes typically occur in people older than this study population but the research demonstrated that, even in younger women, stroke risk is greatly increased.—*Internet*

Argentina investigates deaths of vaccine kids

BUENOS AIRES, 15 Aug—Argentine authorities are exploring a possible link between the deaths of 14 children and an experimental vaccine they were taking in a clinical trial run by GlaxoSmithKline.

Argentina's food and drug administration is investigating whether the deaths are tied to the Synflorix vaccine, said an agency official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the case.

The drug, designed to fight pneumonia, ear infections and several other pneumococcal

diseases, was manufactured by the London-based GlaxoSmithKline PLC, the world's second-largest drug maker.

A US spokeswoman for Glaxo, Sarah Alspach, said the company is not attributing the deaths to the experimental vaccine, which is being tested in three Latin American

countries and in other countries around the world.

An independent board monitoring participants' safety recommended that the Latin American trials be temporarily suspended "which they were in late June" but then gave its OK for tests to resume, she added.—*Internet*

Pollution killing 21,000 Canadians this year: report

OTTAWA, 15 Aug—Air pollution this year will kill more than 20,000 Canadians, the Canadian Medical Association said on Wednesday in a report.

The research on the human costs of pollution and pollution-related diseases estimated that around 21,000 people in Canada will die from breathing in toxic substances drifting in the air this year.

By 2031, short term exposure to air pollution will claim close to 90,000 lives in Canada, while long-term exposure will kill more than 700,000, the report said.

"Ontario and Quebec

residents are the worst hit Canadians, with 70 percent of the premature deaths occurring in Central Canada, even though these two provinces comprise only 62 percent of Canada's population," the report said. Not all the blame for air pollution falls on Canada, however.

"Canada gets a fair bit of pollution from the American midwest, which drifts north, comes across through Ontario and continues right on through to Quebec," CMA legal advisor Ted Boadway told reporters at the report's presentation.

Internet

Half of overweight adults may be heart-healthy

CHICAGO, 15 Aug—You can look great in a swimsuit and still be a heart attack waiting to happen. And you can also be overweight and otherwise healthy.

A new study suggests that a surprising number of overweight people "about half" have normal blood pressure and cholesterol levels, while an equally startling number of trim people suffer from some of the ills associated with obesity.

The first national estimate of its kind bolsters the argument that you can be hefty but still healthy, or at least healthier than has been believed.

The results also show that stereotypes about body size can be misleading, and that even "less voluptuous" people can have risk factors commonly associated with obesity, said study author MaryFran Sowers, a University of Michigan obesity researcher.

"We're really talking about taking a look with a very different lens" at weight and health risks, Sowers said.

In the study, about 51 percent of overweight adults, or roughly 36 million people nationwide, had mostly normal levels of blood pressure, cholesterol, blood fats called triglycerides and blood sugar.

Almost one-third of obese adults, or nearly 20 million people, also were in this healthy range, meaning that none or only one of those measures was abnormal.

Internet

Researchers find gene link to colon cancer: study

WASHINGTON, 15 Aug—US researchers have discovered a genetic trait that shows the strongest link yet to colorectal cancer, the number-two cancer killer in the United States, according to a study published on Thursday.

If a person inherits this gene, his or her risk of getting colon cancer is 50 percent higher than the the six percent risk in the general population, said the research by doctors at Northwestern University, published in the journal Science.

"This probably accounts for more colorectal cancers than all other gene mutations discovered thus far," said Boris Pasche, a lead author of the paper.

The trait, which has been named TGFBR1 ASE, results in decreased production of a key receptor for TGF-beta, the most potent inhibitor of cell growth, the findings said.

With less of this vital protective substance to inhibit cell growth, colon cancer can more easily develop, it said.

Internet

Doctors debate when to declare organ donors dead

NEW YORK, 15 Aug—A report on three heart transplants involving babies is focusing attention on a touchy issue in the organ donation field: When and how can someone be declared dead?

For decades, organs have typically been removed only after doctors determine that a donor's brain has completely stopped working. In the case



Rob and Mary Ann Apmann play with their 21-month-old son Zachary at The Children's Hospital in Aurora, Colo, on 13 Aug, 2008. Zachary is one of three babies who got heart transplants using a non-traditional approach.—INTERNET

of the infants, all three were on life support and showed little brain function, but they didn't meet the criteria for brain death.

With their families' consent, the newborns were taken off ventilators and surgeons in Denver removed their hearts minutes after they stopped beating.

The hearts were successfully transplanted, and the babies who got the hearts survived. "It seemed like there was an unmet need in two situations," said Dr Mark Boucek, who led the study at Children's Hospital in Denver. "Recipients were dying while awaiting donor organs. And we had children dying whose family wanted to donate, and we weren't able to do it."

The procedure—called donation after cardiac death—is being encouraged by the federal government, organ banks and others as a way to make more organs available and give more families the option to donate.

Internet

Malaysia's advertising market rises 22% in first half

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Aug—Malaysia's advertising market grew 22 percent during the first half of the year to 2.9 billion ringgit (873.49 million US dollars), driven by strong growth in terrestrial television (TV), point-of-sale, radio and newspapers, local media reported on Thursday.

However, the industry is not likely to continue to grow at a similar rate for

the remaining 2008 due to a tougher business environment brought on by soaring oil prices and a slower global economy, the *New Straits Times* quoted Nielsen Advertising Information Services as saying.

"(Nevertheless) upcoming events such as the 2008 Beijing Olympics and local festivals will help support a good growth for

the entire 2008," Nielsen Media executive director Andrea Douglas said in a statement here on Wednesday.

The growth for the first half of 2008 was driven by the flow from last year of new products and service launch campaigns, local market-ing events such as the general election and Euro 2008, Douglas said.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

A record-tying start for Heintz, Laird at Wyndham

GREENSBORO (NC), 15 Aug— Bob Heintz isn't concerned about playing his way into next week's FedEx Cup playoffs. Of more pressing concern is simply keeping his spot on the PGA Tour.

Heintz and rookie Martin Laird got off to a good start at the Wyndham Championship, matching the course record Thursday with 7-under 63s at Sedgefield Country Club to share the lead after the first round of pro golf's last event before the start of the FedEx Cup playoffs.

They joined three other players who previously shot 63s at the Donald Ross-designed course ó nobody had done it since Gary Player in 1970, although the pros haven't played Sedgefield since 1976 ó and surpassed the venue's opening-round record by one stroke.

Garrett Willis birdied his final five holes to join Scott Sterling, Tim Clark and Carl Pettersson one stroke back at 64. Steve Marino, Bob Sowards, Ken Duke and Scott McCarron were two strokes behind at 65.—Internet



Bob Heintz watches his tee shoot on the seventh hole during the first round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament, on 14 Aug, 2008, in Greensboro, NC.—INTERNET

Roddick narrowly averts upset to reach ATP quarter-finals

WASHINGTON, 15 Aug— American Andy Roddick saved two match points to avoid an upset by the slimmest margin en route to a 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/2) win over unseeded Eduardo Schwank at the Legg Mason Tennis Classic.

The 25-year-old defending champion struggled against world number 56 Schwank in their two hour, 43 minute second-round match on Thursday.

Roddick built a 4-1 lead in the third set but then stumbled, losing the next four games and eventually facing the match points in the 500,000 dollar event.

Each player hammered 12 aces as Roddick had difficulty returning Schwank's serve.—Internet



Andy Roddick celebrates a point against Eduardo Schwank of Argentina during the Legg Mason Tennis Classic at the William HG FitzGerald Tennis Center, on 14 August, in Washington DC, Roddick 4-6, 6-4, 7-6.—INTERNET

Robinho 'wants Chelsea move', Real opposed

MADRID, 15 Aug— Brazil international Robinho is determined to join English Premiership side Chelsea but Real Madrid president Ramon Calderon does not want to let him go, Spanish media reported on Thursday.

The 24-year-old, accompanied by his agent Wagner Ribeiro, met with Calderon on Wednesday to express his desire to join Brazilian coach Luiz Felipe Scolari at Chelsea, sports dailies AS and Marca reported.

Robinho cited a lack of recognition for his talents on the part of the Spanish champions and the yearly salary which the English club are offering as his reasons for wanting to leave Real, the newspapers said.—Internet



Brazil international Robinho, seen here on 6 August, is determined to join English Premiership side Chelsea but Real Madrid president Ramon Calderon does not want to let him go, Spanish media has reported.—INTERNET

Recovering Totti plays in friendly match

ROME, 15 Aug—Roma captain Francesco Totti, who in April had an operation on his right knee, took part in a friendly match on Thursday, according to the news agency Ansa.

The Italian international came on in the second half of the game against local team Frosinone, Ansa said.

The 31-year-old is aiming to be fit for the Italian Supercup against Inter Milan on August 24, according to the sports daily Corriere dello Sport.

Totti ruptured knee ligaments against Livorno in April, ending his season prior to Roma's 2-1 Italian Cup victory against Inter but still finishing with 18 goals in all competitions.—Internet



Roma captain Francesco Totti, seen here injured in April 2008 a few days before having an operation on his right knee, took part in a friendly match on Thursday, according to the news agency Ansa.—INTERNET

Portsmouth and agent charged over Benjani transfer

LONDON, 15 Aug—Portsmouth and football agent Willie McKay were charged by the English Football Association on Thursday with breaches of rules in relation to the transfer of Benjani Mwaruwari to and from the club.—Internet



Portsmouth and football agent Willie McKay were charged by the English Football Association on Thursday with breaches of rules in relation to the transfer of Benjani Mwaruwari, seen here in February 2008, to and from the club.—INTERNET

Mutu ordered to pay 13 million pounds compensation to Chelsea

LONDON, 15 Aug—Adrian Mutu has been ordered by FIFA to pay Chelsea 13.68 million pounds (17.2 million euros) in compensation following his failed drugs test in 2004, the Premier League club announced on Thursday.

Romania striker Mutu, now at Serie A club Fiorentina, was sacked by Chelsea in October 2004 and banned for seven months after failing a drugs test for cocaine. The 29-year-old's fine is the biggest ever handed down to a footballer and was calculated by FIFA's dispute resolution chamber according to the value of the remaining period on his Stamford Bridge contract.—Internet

Romanian forward Adrian Mutu, seen here in June 2008, has been ordered by FIFA to pay Chelsea 13.68 million pounds (17.2 million euros) in compensation following his failed drugs test in 2004, the Premier League club announced on 14 Aug.



AS Roma sign Baptista from Real Madrid

MADRID, 15 Aug— AS Roma have signed Real Madrid's Brazilian forward Julio Baptista, the Spanish club announced on Thursday.

In a statement on its website, Real did not indicate the transfer fee for the 26-year-old but Roma said on their site it was nine million euros (13 million dollars). No length of contract was given on either site.—Internet

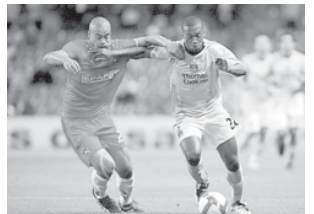
AS Roma have signed Real Madrid's Brazilian forward Julio Baptista, seen here in June 2008, the Spanish club announced on 14 Aug.



Man City home shock, Villa win in UEFA Cup

PARIS, 15 Aug—English clubs had a bitter-sweet night in UEFA Cup action on Thursday as Aston Villa won in Iceland but Manchester City face a tough task to qualify for the first round after a shock loss to FC Midtjylland.

City lost 1-0 to a Danny Olsen goal on the quarter-hour and will have to make up that ground in the second leg of their second qualifying round game in Denmark in a fortnight's time. Aston Villahad a good game at FH Hafnarfjordur in Reykjavik as Gareth Barry, now cup-tied for the Champions League should he move to Liverpool before the transfer deadline in a fortnight, got his name on the scoresheet in their 4-1 win.—Internet



Manchester City's English forward Daniel Sturridge (R) vies with FC Midtjylland New Zealand defender Winston Reid during their UEFA Cup 2nd qualifying round 1st leg at the City of Manchester stadium, Manchester.—INTERNET

Daw Tin Tin

Yodayatet Village, Kyaunggon Township
83 years

Beloved daughter of (U Tun Hla Kyaw-Daw Sein Ou) of Ngathainggyaung; daughter-in-law of (U Yan Pyay-Daw Kyin May) of Yodayatet Village; wife of (U Mya Than) of Yodayatet Village; beloved mother of Maj-Gen Wai Lwin-Daw Swe Swe Oo (Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters), U Win Swe (Secretary, All Bus-Lines Control Committee-Highway, Nay Pyi Taw)-Daw Mon Mon Kyi, U Myo Win (Assistant Head of Branch, Yangon West District Bus lines Control Committee)-Daw Hsan Hsint, U Min Aung (PACT-Myanmar, INGO)-Daw Win Win Aung (BEHS-4, Ahlon), U Myint Naing-Daw Khin Mar Cho (Yodayatet Village) and U Win Khaing-Daw San San Maw (Yodayatet Village); grandmother of 12 and great grandmother of two, Daw Tin Tin passed away at Yodayatet Village of Kyaunggon Township, Patheingyi District, at 11:42 pm on 14-8-2008, and the entombment ceremony will be held at Yodayatet Village at 1 pm on 16-8-2008.

Bereaved Family

Nigeria militants
rescue two German
hostages

ABUJA, 15 Aug — Nigeria's most prominent militant group on Thursday rescued two German hostages seized by an armed gang, an unprecedented intervention by a group that has wrought havoc on the OPEC member's oil sector.

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) said this was the first time it

had freed hostages taken by another armed gang since it launched a campaign of violence against the oil sector in early 2006.

“(MEND) concluded a successful rescue of the two German hostages and staff of Julius Berger ... from inside the heavily fortified hideout of the group that kidnapped them,” the group said in an e-mailed statement.

MNA/Reuters

Australian study says Red
Bull drink lifts stroke risk

CANBERRA, 15 Aug — Just one can of the popular stimulant energy drink Red Bull can increase the risk of heart attack or stroke, even in young people, Australian medical researchers said on Friday.

The caffeine-loaded beverage, popular with university students and adrenaline sport fans to give them “wings”, caused the blood to become sticky, a pre-cursor to cardiovascular problems such as stroke.

“One hour after they drank Red Bull, (their blood systems) were no longer normal. They were abnormal like we would expect in a patient with cardiovascular disease,” Scott Willoughby, lead researcher from the Cardiovascular Research Centre at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, told the Australian newspaper.

Red Bull Australia spokeswoman Linda Rychter said the report would be assessed by the company's head office in Austria. —MNA/Reuters

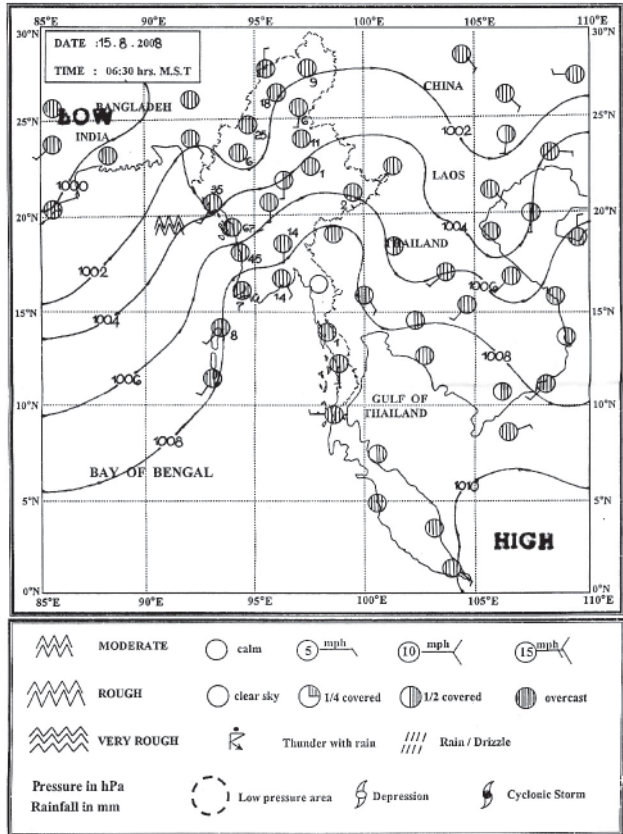
Spices may lessen
consequences of high blood
sugar

NEW YORK, 15 Aug — People with diabetes may want to start spicing up their diets, if new lab research findings prove true in humans.

In test-tube experiments, researchers at the University of Georgia, Athens, found that extracts of various herbs and spices — such as cinnamon, cloves, sage and rosemary — inhibited a damaging process that can result from high blood sugar levels. When blood sugar is high, as is chronically the case in diabetes, it can lead to the formation of substances known as AGE compounds. These compounds, in turn, cause inflammation and tissue damage, which can contribute to the clogged arteries and heart disease commonly associated with diabetes.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 15 August, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division, rain have isolated in Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Shan, Chin and Kayin States and widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukpadaung (2.72) inches, Thandwe (1.77) inches, Sittway (1.49) inches, Khayan (1.42) inches, Maungdaw (1.26) inches, Homalin, Gwa and Hinthada (1.18) inches each.

Maximum temperature on 14-8-2008 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 15-8-2008 was 69°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 15-8-2008 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 14-8-2008 was (2.5) hour approx.

Rainfall on 15-8-2008 was (0.24) inch at Mingaladon, (0.55) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.71) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (73.90) inches at Mingaladon, (83.27) inches at Kaba-Aye and (99.80) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from West at (13:30) hours MST on 14-8-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 16-8-2008: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Shan State, lower Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Kayin State, Yangon and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of decrease of rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 16-8-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-8-2008: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-8-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for Third weekend of August 2008: During the coming weekend, rain will be fairly widespread in Yangon Division and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.



Saturday, 16 August
View on today

7:00 am

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော် ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဥပ္ပိတသန္တပိဋတော်

7:30 am

- Morning news
- နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာနာယက အဖွဲ့(အဖွဲ့ဝင်) မွန်ပြည်နယ်သတို့မြို့လယ်ဝန်း ကျောင်းတိုက်ပဓာနနာယက ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ (အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ) အဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိကဓမ္မ ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော မေတ္တာအခါတော်နေ့ တရားတော်

8:15 am

- Nice and sweet song

8:30 am

- International News

8:40 am

- Islands of Phamma

8:50 am

- အဘိဓမ္မမဟာဇောတိက၊ နိုင်ငံတော်ဩဝါဒစရိယ ရွတ်ဂုံစေတီတော် ဩဝါဒစရိယညောင်တုန်း ပါဠိတက္ကသိုလ်ကျောင်းတိုက်၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းတံမှ နဝရံဥပေါသထသီလ ဆောက်တည်ခြင်း

11:00 am

- Martial song

11:10 am

- မြတ်ဘုရားရှင်၏ဝါဆိုစဉ်

11:40 am

- Round up of the week's TV local news

12:25 am

- Eternal festival

1:20 pm

- “ဆန်းကြယ်ထူးခြားပြိုင်ပွဲများ” (Telematch)

1:55 pm

- “ရဟန်းစားရသောဆွမ်းတစ်နပ်” (ဇော်လင်း၊အုံကျော်၊မြတ်သစ်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်နှင်းမိုး)

2:45 pm

- International news

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:10 pm

- အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:20 pm

- မေတ္တာသုတ်ပါဠိတော်နှင့်အနက် (မြန်မာပြန်) (ဓမ္မစကြာဝတ်ရွတ်အဖွဲ့) ပြည်သူ့ဆောက်လုပ်ရေးလုပ်ငန်း ဆောက်လုပ်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

4:35 pm

- Song for uphold National Spirit

4:45 pm

- ကြည်ညိုဦးစိုက်ဖူးလိုက်စို့တူပျော် မကွေး မြသလွန် စေတီတော်

5:05 pm

- Games for Children

5:30 pm

- မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်တွေ့

5:50 pm

- ရသပေါ်လွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- အလှူရှာမယ်လှကမ္ဘာဝယ်

7:00 pm

- သီတဂူဆရာတော် အရှင်ဉာဏိသရ၏ မေတ္တာသန္တန်တရားတော်

7:20 pm

- “ရွှေမင်းသားလေးချစ်ပုံပြင်” (အပိုင်း-၂၂)

8:00 pm

- News

8:00 pm

- International news

8:00 pm

- Weather report

8:00 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “လူယောင်ဆောင်သော ရွှေငါးနတ်သမီးလေး” (အပိုင်း-၁၃)

8:00 pm

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာမေတ္တာ ဘာဝနာပွားများခြင်းတရားတော်

Make donations to the storm victims

- ☐ Everybody may make donations freely.
- ☐ Everybody may make donations to any person or any area.

However, wellwishers are urged to avoid unsystematic donations and acts that may tarnish the image of the nation and its people.

- Certain internal and external anti-government elements, self-centred persons and unscrupulous elements are now seeking their self-interests by sending to the foreign news agencies stories about relief and rehabilitation work they have made up and shot on video.
- Storm victims are hereby warned to remain vigilant with nationalistic spirit against the deceptions of the self-centred persons and unscrupulous elements.

- ★ **Skyful liars attempting to destroy nation**
- ★ **BBC lying**
- ★ **VOA deceiving**
- ★ **RFA setting up hostilities**
- ★ **Beware! Don't be bought by those ill-wishers**



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi giving necessary instructions at coordination meeting on reconstruction in Kungyangon Township.

ENERGY

Energy Minister attends coordination meeting on reconstruction in Kungyangon

YANGON, 15 Aug — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi on 10 August attended the coordination meeting on reconstruction at the Kungyangon Township rehabilitation central control camp.

Officials reported on progress in repairing hospital, schools, rural health care branches, houses, Myoma Market and religious buildings. The minister gave necessary instructions.

At Tawpulwe

Ward, the minister viewed the land chosen for construction of houses to be contributed by Director U Kyaw Khaing of Myanma Ahla Co and inspected repairing of religious buildings in the wards.

MNA

Personal items of Pyu period, foundation of ancient building unearthed

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — The Ministry of Culture conducted research work by unearthing No. 29 mound in ancient Tagaung city in 2007-08 fiscal year.

Although the mound was excavated for the first time in 2004-05, it was incomplete research work. In the second excavation in December 2007, brick rows, earthenwares, various sizes of bricks,

tiles, conduit pipes, scraps of alms bowl, small balls of clay, earth beads, oil lamp cups, decorated pots, sherds, parts of earthen pots and cups, clay votive tablets, dolls, earthen tools used in pottery industry, earthen ear-plugs, stone items, iron wares, bronze items, parts of glazed wares, parts of bones, charcoal, ash and one coin of Indian rupee impressed with 1889 were found.

It was calculated that the mound might be a religious building according to the archaeological research.

According to the findings in research works, ancient Tagaung city was a contemporary with ancient Beikthanoe city. The Archaeology Department had unearthed and conducted research on 35 mounds from 1960-61 to 2005-06. — MNA



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INSIDE

Seminar for IT enthusiast youth at Conference Hall of Myanmar Info-Tech

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ARTICLE: MAUNG MAUNG MYINT SWE
PHOTOS: TIN SOE (MYANMA ALIN)