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Sunday, 17 August, 2008

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Indonesian President

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug—On the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, which falls on 17 August 2008, His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye felicitates Indonesian Vice-President

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug—On the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, which falls on 17 August 2008, His Excellency Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Jusuf Kalla, Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein sends felicitations to Indonesia

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug—On the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, which falls on 17 August 2008, His Excellency General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia.—MNA

Prime Minister receives Ambassador of Commonwealth of Australia

YANGON, 16 Aug—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Ambassador of Commonwealth of Australia to the Union of Myanmar Ms Michelle Su-Wen Chan at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthta here at 4 pm today.

Also present on the occasion together with the Prime Minister were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister for For-

eign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Director-General of the Government Of-

fice Col Thant Shin and Director-General of Protocol Department under

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Kyaw.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Ambassador of Commonwealth of Australia to the Union of Myanmar Ms Michelle Su-Wen Chan.—MNA

Four political objectives

- * 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

- * 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

- * 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

Weather Forecast for 17-8-2008

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area:

Isolated rain.

Degree of certainty is (80%).

Yangon and neighbouring area:

One or two rain.

Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring area:

Isolated rain.

Degree of certainty is (80%).

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 17 August, 2008

Drug abuse control, a national duty

The problem of narcotic drugs has become a global issue. Successive Myanmar governments worked out the problem of narcotic drugs with own resources.

If a society is under the threat posed by narcotics, the danger of the drugs will destroy the lifestyle and push the drug addicts into miseries. The abuse of narcotic drugs invites grave dangers and HIV/AIDS and other diseases, and the drug addicts will lose their goals.

Now, narcotic drugs are posing grave dangers to both developing and developed countries. As such, the entire people have to harmoniously participate with national awareness in the tasks to guard against the danger of narcotic drugs.

Myanmar is making all-out efforts to ward off the dangers of narcotic drugs through two strategies and three tactics. The 15-year plan for eradication of narcotic drugs has been launched since 1999-2000, and now the plan has been in the fourth year of the second five-year plan.

Committees for Drug Abuse Control at all levels have been formed to expedite narcotic drugs elimination tasks that cover the entire nation including rural areas.

In the process, it is required to carry out drug elimination tasks at home and in cooperation with the international community. The memoranda of understanding Myanmar has signed with regional and sub-regional countries have showed considerable success.

The people are, therefore, exhorted to take part in the drug abuse control tasks in order that the entire mankind is free from the dangers of narcotic drugs.



Deputy Minister for SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for F&R Col Hla Thein Swe accept 1,800 sets of lamp-posts worth 6.5 million Baht.—EP NO-2

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

Minister for Mines inspects Tin Smelting Plant

YANGON, 16 Aug — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Managing Director of Myanma Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe inspected Tin Smelting Plant in Thanlyin Township yesterday.

The factory manager reported on production of tin and targets for the fiscal year. The minister fulfilled the requirements.

The minister inspected the production, repair of the building, vegetable patch and repair of housing quarters.

The minister also inspected salt milling factory and rehydration salt factory in Tharkayta Township.

MNA

Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Indonesian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug — On the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, which falls on 17 August 2008, His Excellency U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr N Hassan Wirajuda, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw meets officials, members of social organizations and townsenders in Mansi.—COMMUNICATIONS

USDA Secretariat member performs regional development tasks in Shwegu, Mansi

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug — Secretariat member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw gave instructions on extended installation of telephone lines at Shwegu Digital Auto Exchange on 8 August.

Next, the Secretariat member met with officials, members of social organizations and townsenders at the office of USDA in Shwegu and fulfilled the requirements.

On 9 August, the Secretariat member met with officials, members of social organizations and townsenders at the office of USDA in Mansi, and presented cash for regional development tasks. He also presented cash assistance for building houses to U Metonaw, a track and field legend in Asia.

Next, the Secretariat member inspected installation of cables and arrival of communication equipment for Mansi Auto Exchange and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

EGAT of Thailand donates 1,800 sets of lamp-posts for rehabilitation in storm-hit areas

YANGON, 16 Aug — Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand under the Ministry of Energy of Thailand and its partner companies Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Holding Public Co Ltd donated 1,800 sets of lamp-posts worth 6.5 million Baht for rehabilitation in storm-hit areas at Sedona Hotel, here, yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board Col Khin Maung Soe accepted the donation and presented souvenirs to the donors.

Governor of EGAT Mr Sornbut Sarntijaree explained the purpose of the donation. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint thanked the donors.—MNA

Talks on environmental issues by Microbiology Society, MMA

YANGON, 16 Aug — Under the auspices of the Microbiology Society, Myanmar Medical Association, the Department of Microbiology, University of Medicine (1), Yangon, will hold a symposium on 'World Crises - Energy, Food and Water' at Auditorium (A), Myanmar Medical Association, Theinbyu Road, from 9 am to noon on 23 August, 2008.

The speakers will be Professor/Head Dr Kyi Kyi Thinn, Professor Dr Wah Win Htike and Associate Professor Dr Kyu Kyu Win.

All those interested (medical and non-medical) are invited to attend. Registration can be made from 10 am to 4 pm at the Department of Microbiology, University of Medicine (1), Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, or on-site on the day of the symposium.—MNA

Russia signs up to Georgia truce

Moscow, 16 Aug—Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has signed a ceasefire agreement with Georgia after receiving it in Moscow.

The deal calls for all military activity to stop and for troops from both sides to pull back into pre-conflict positions. The deal was signed on Friday by Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili.

But Russian forces remain deep in Georgian territory, and correspondents say many obstacles remain in the way of full implementation of the peace deal.

At stake is the future of Georgia's breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

US-backed Georgia has vowed it will not accept any loss of its territory, but Russia insists that following the recent violence, residents are unlikely to want to live in the same state as Georgians. The crisis, which



began nine days ago, saw Georgian forces launch a surprise attack to regain control of South Ossetia, only to be decisively repelled by Russian forces.—Internet

Russia defies US in troop pullout

SOCHI/TBILISI, 16 Aug—Russia defied US demands for an immediate pullout of its troops from Georgia on Saturday, saying extra security arrangements needed to be put in place before a withdrawal could begin.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, working from the Black Sea resort of Sochi, added his signature to a French-led peace plan already endorsed by Georgia and by leaders of its two rebel regions.

But Medvedev also

ordered “extra security measures” in the conflict zone. His Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the withdrawal of Moscow's forces would depend on those measures, whose nature was not made clear.

The agreement drafted this week authorises Russian forces to proceed with “additional security measures on a temporary basis” while awaiting the arrival of international peacekeepers — which requires passage of a UN Security Council resolution.—Internet



People disembark after travelling by boat on a flooded road, about 25 km (16 miles) east of Laos' capital Vientiane, August 16, 2008. The Mekong, which flows 4,350 km (2,700 miles) from the glaciers of Tibet to the rice-rich delta of southern Vietnam, hit 13.68 metres (44.88 feet) in Vientiane on Thursday, trouncing a high of 12.38 metres (40.61 feet) recorded in 1966, the worst floods in living memory.—INTERNET

Official: Lao flooding not danger for Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 16 Aug — The current flooding in Laos wouldn't cause any serious danger for Cambodia, although the two neighboring countries share water from the Mekong River, English-Khmer language newspaper the Cambodia Daily Saturday quoted an official as saying.

“The water (here) hasn't risen (to those levels in Laos) and there is nothing to be worried about,” said Nhim Vanda, vice president of the National Committee for Disaster Management .

He had contacted his equivalent department in Laos for information about rising water levels and then became confident that the problems there wouldn't extend downstream to

Cambodia, he said.

Cambodia was well insulated from rising water levels in Laos because of the number of lakes available here for any excess water to drain into, he said.—Internet

Brazil's navy seizes weapons of pirates

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 Aug — A Brazilian navy troop seized a motorboat full of weapons on Thursday in Guarujá area, in the southeastern Sao Paulo state, official sources said on Friday.

The motorboat, which belonged to a group of pirates, was seized with three 12-millimeter carbines, a nine-millimeter submachine gun, a 40-millimeter pistol and some ammunition on board, said the commandant of Sao Paulo state's Port Authority, Afranio de Paiva Moreira Junior.

The pirates were robbing ships when they encountered a navy patrol. The five men on the boat jumped into the sea and swam to the shore to

escape, said Moreira Junior.

“The weapons are similar to those described by victims of recent robberies in this area,” he said.

The Port Authority

called the Federal Police to help investigate the case. Four boats were reportedly robbed in the Santos Bay, southeast of Sao Paulo, in February and March this year.

Internet

Winner of the Miss Indonesia beauty contest Zivanna Lethisa Siregar (C) celebrates with other contestants during the pageant's final in Jakarta on 15 August, 2008. Thirty-three contestants from 38 provinces in Indonesia took part in the pageant.—INTERNET



Seven dead, 50 injured in Colombia bomb blast

BOGOTA, 16 Aug — A bomb explosion has killed seven people and injured more than 50 others in northwestern Colombia, police said on Friday.

The explosion occurred Thursday night in front of a discotheque in central Ituango in Antioquia province.

The injured, of whom 14 were in critical condition, were taken by helicopter to Antioquia's capital Medellin early Friday morning.

Police said the armed group "El Pajaro," supposedly a faction of the rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), was responsible for the attack.

A person connected to the blast has been detained, the provincial police commander said.

Three dead, four injured in shooting in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 Aug — Three people were killed and at least four others injured overnight in a shootout between the police and drug dealers in Rio's Vigario Geral shantytown, local police said on Friday.

According to the police, a local resident and two drug dealers died and the four injured have been taken to the Hospital.

Car bomb kills nine, wounds 40 north of Baghdad

TIKRIT, 16 Aug — A car bomb went off at a busy parking lot and a marketplace in a Shiite town in Iraq's Salahudin province on Friday, killing at least nine people and wounding 40 others, a provincial police source said.

A booby-trapped car detonated at sunset at the main parking lot and popular marketplace in the town of Balad, some 80 km north of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.



Police use water cannons to disperse a rally against US beef imports in Seoul. South Korean police hosed protesters with water laced with blue dye and mobilized specially-trained plainclothes officers to break up an anti-government demonstration late Friday and early Saturday.—INTERNET

California to build world's biggest solar power plants

LOS ANGELES, 16 Aug — California's largest utility company has signed deals to build the world's two biggest solar plants that would supply electricity to 250,000 homes and reestablish the United States as the global leader in solar power, officials said on Friday. Pacific Gas and Elec-

tric (PG&E), which is based in San Francisco and serves most of northern California, will use the two massive solar facilities to help it meet state requirements to generate 20 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2010, according to chief executive and senior vice president Jack

Keenan.

"This commitment not only moves us forward in meeting our renewable goal, it's also a significant step forward in the renewable energy sector," Keenan said in a statement.

Xinhua

Georgia signs cease-fire agreement

TBILISI, (Georgia), 16 Aug — Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili has signed a cease-fire agreement, which the US said means Russian troops must begin withdrawing.

The office of French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who brokered the agreement, said Russian President Dmitry Medvedev also had confirmed Russia's cooperation.

"His country will sign a cease-fire accord with Georgia and scrupulously respect all agreements, including a troop withdrawal," Sarkozy's office said.

Fighting that started last week has died down in the region, but Russian forces remain. The warfare raged for several

days until Sarkozy's diplomatic efforts helped lessen the violence. Sarkozy undertook the role because he holds the rotating presidency of the European Union.

Internet

Caribbean countries to create economic union in 2011

HANAVA, 16 Aug — Caribbean countries of Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada have agreed to form an economic union in 2011, said news reaching here from Puerto Espana, the capital of Trinidad and Tobago.

The reports said officials from the four countries signed on Thursday an understanding memorandum at a meeting in Puerto Espana.

Under the memorandum, the four countries also expected to realize political integration in 2013.

Xinhua



Mexican tenor Ramon Vargas, Korean-born soprano Ju Su-mi, Russian baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky and the US soprano Renee Fleming (from L to R) sing together during the World-Class Superstars Concert for welcoming Beijing Olympic, at the Great Hall of the People, in Beijing, on 14 Aug, 2008. —XINHUA

Overseas students feel more at home

BEIJING, 16 Aug — China has the fifth highest number of overseas students in the world, Ministry of Education officials said yesterday.

Only the US, UK, France and Germany play host to more international students.

China has drawn more than 1.23 million students from abroad since launching its reform and opening up in the late 1970s, Vice-Minister of Education Zhang Xinsheng told

a press conference.

"More overseas students are opting for long-term, formal education in China in a wide range of subjects, from language and culture to science, engineering and medicine," Zhang said. "They are from developing and developed countries both."

"With a good social environment, fast economic growth and upgraded quality of education, China has become

more attractive for foreign students."

The number of overseas students studying in China reached a record 195,000 last year, up 20 percent from 2006, according to ministry figures.

China has signed mutual diploma recognition contracts with 33 countries, including the UK, France, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and Russia.

Xinhua



Giant photographs of women cover the walls of homes in Providencia slum in Rio de Janeiro, on 15 Aug, 2008. A French photographer who identifies himself as JR is exhibiting portraits of women whose loved ones were killed by police as part of his project entitled 'Women are Heroes.' —INTERNET

One Turkish soldier killed in landmine blast

ANKARA, 16 Aug — One soldier of the Turkish security forces was killed when he stepped on a landmine in southeastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Saturday.

Private Halil Gunes died when he stepped on the landmine, planted by the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), in Semdinli town of Hakkari province, according to the report.

Meanwhile, the Turkish security forces killed three PKK rebels in a clash in southeastern province of Batman, a

statement posted on website of the Turkish General Staff said on Friday.

In other operations, one PKK member surrendered to security forces in southeastern Sirtak province and one PKK member was captured in eastern province of Van.

The PKK, listed by the United States and Turkey as a terrorist group, took up arms in 1984 with the aim of creating an ethnic homeland in southeast Turkey. About 40,000 people have been killed in the over-two-decade conflict.

Xinhua

China's hotel, catering retail sales rises 24.3% in the first seven months

BEIJING, 16 Aug — China's hotel and catering industry saw its retail sales rise 24.3 percent in the first seven months over the same period last year, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said on Friday.

The growth rate was 6.5 percentage points higher than the same period last year, said the MOC on its website.

Retail sales of the country's hotel and

catering industry amounted to 837.49 billion yuan (about 120 billion US dollars) between January and July, accounting for 14 percent of the nation's total domestic retail sales during the same period.

China's retail sales of consumer goods in the first seven months of this year was 5.9672 trillion yuan, up 21.7 percent, compared with 15.5 percent growth rate recorded over the same period of last year.

Foreign hotel and

catering enterprises established 399 new branches in China during the January and July period, down 18.2 percent over the same period last year, while contract value rose 4.3 percent to 1.71 billion US dollars.

The country's hotel and catering industry reaped 116.8 billion yuan in July alone, representing an increase of 26.5 percent over the same month last year, according to the MOC.—Xinhua



Foreigners watch silk reeling performances at a silk store in Xiushui Market (Silk Street market), a popular tourist market, in Beijing, capital of China, on 13 Aug, 2008. —XINHUA

Swiss exports

more chocolate to China

GENEVA, 16 Aug — Exports of Swiss chocolate products to China have increased dramatically in the past seven years, the official Swissinfo news website reported on Friday.

Exports to China rose from just two tons in 2001 to 308 tons last year, according to figures from Chocosuisse, the association of Swiss chocolate manufactures.

This represents an increase in value to 2.1 million Swiss francs (about 1.9 million US dollars) from only 57,000 Swiss francs (about 51,800 US dollars) seven years ago. Chocosuisse said China imports primarily premium chocolate from Switzerland. Only a small segment of consumers can afford the products.

Xinhua



A boy looks at a jade suit sewn with gold thread from Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-25 AD) during the exhibition "Chinese Memory-treasures of a 5000-year Civilization" at the Capital Museum in Beijing, on 12 Aug, 2008. —XINHUA

Troops to be sent to Brazil's Rio to provide security for municipal elections

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 Aug — Brazil's Superior Electoral Court has unanimously adopted a decision authorizing the sending of military troops to Rio de Janeiro to provide security for municipal elections slated for early October, local daily "O Globo" reported

on Friday.

The troops would not be deployed in the entire city, but only in areas where crimes like drug dealing and militia-related violence were rampant, according to Carlos Ayres Britto, chief of the Regional Electoral Court.

The army troops will

work with local and federal police to ensure that candidates are able to conduct their campaigns freely in all parts of the city. They will also provide security for booths in voting areas.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Over three dozen militants killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 16 Aug — The US-led Coalition forces and Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have eliminated more than three dozens of militants over two days of fierce fighting in southern Afghanistan, said a Coalition statement released here on Friday.

Several groups of militants engaged ANSF and Coalition forces reconnaissance patrol with machine guns, RPGs (Rocket Propelled Grenade) and small arms, the statement said.

ANSF and Coalition

forces returned fire with small arms and called in close air support destroying multiple enemy's vehicles and their fighting positions, it said.

The combined force also seized several RPGs, weapons, hundreds of rounds of ammunition and a large opium cache, it added.

"Two Afghan villagers were wounded by shrapnel from an air strike," it said, "no ANSF, Coalition forces, civilian casualties or additional wounded were reported."

Xinhua

Eight killed in train collision in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 16 Aug — Eight people were killed and 32 others were seriously injured when two trains collided in Lampung province of Sumatra Island in

Indonesia on Saturday morning, said Suwarno, an official of the provincial railway station.

The accident occurred at 7:30 Jakarta time near Labuan Ratu station at Kedaton town of the province when a passenger train of Sriwijaya from Palembang, the capital of South Sumatra province, struck a train carrying coal from Tarahan town of South Lampung province, said Suwarno.

"Eight people were killed and 32 others were

seriously wounded," he told Xinhua from the province.

All those injured were rushed to nearby hospitals such as Imanuel and Abdul Muluk hospitals, said Suwarno.

The official said that an initial information revealed that the cause of the accident was the failure of brake system.

Train is a favorite cheaper transport mean in the country which is homed by over 230 million population.

Xinhua



Manuel Uribe, better known as 'Meme', right, who weighs around 310 kilograms (700 pounds) is carried on a trailer holding his specially designed bed on a trip to a lake in Monterrey, northern Mexico, on 10 Aug, 2008. —INTERNET

Nation will face tighter job market

BEIJING, 16 Aug — The domestic job market will face growing pressures over the next few months as global economic problems cut employment in a number of sectors, a top labor official said yesterday.

“Employment remains a major difficulty in terms of overall social development, and it faces huge pressures,” Hu Xiaoyi, Vice-Minister of Human Resources and Social Security

Hu Xiaoyi told a news conference at the Beijing International Media Centre.

About 20 million people join the workforce every year in China, which continues to have a labor surplus, he said.

Growing global economic uncertainties in the first half of this year and the pressure brought by a rising yuan on foreign trade have led to job cuts in a number of sectors, Hu said.

Internet

Suspected Somali pirates seize Thai cargo ship

BANGKOK, 16 Aug — Suspected Somali pirates have seized a Thai cargo ship in the Gulf of Aden, one of the world’s most lawless and dangerous shipping lanes, although all 28 crew on board were so far unharmed, the vessel’s owner said on Friday.

Thor Star Shipping said it first became concerned on Tuesday when the *MV Thor Star* deviated from its intended route to deliver a cargo of plywood to the port of Aden in Yemen, and repeated calls to the ship went unanswered.

The hijackers made contact the following day and confirmed that the all-Thai crew were “safe and well”, the company said, adding that the ship was now believed to be sailing down the African coast to a port in or near Somalia.

A surge of hijackings for ransom by pirates based out of the lawless Horn of Africa nation has made the area one of the world’s most dangerous shipping zones. In most cases, hostages are treated well in anticipation of large ransoms.

MNA/Reuters

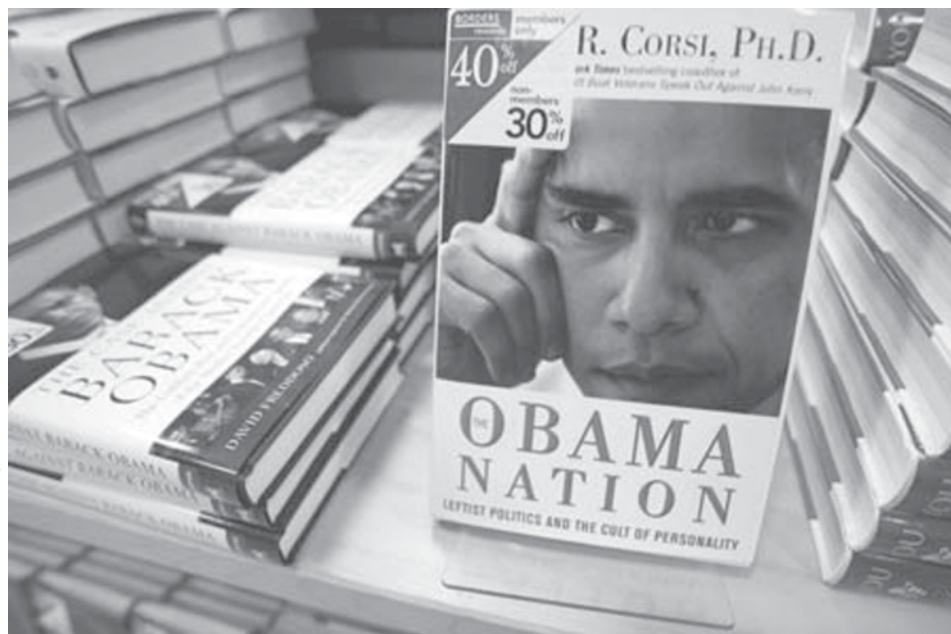
Bus plunge kills 11 in central China

BEIJING, 16 Aug — A bus carrying 34 passengers veered off a mountain road and plunged into a ravine in central China on Friday, killing at least 11, the official *Xinhua* news agency said.

The accident happened in Mianchi county in Henan Province, *Xinhua* said.

“Seven people were killed on the spot and four others died while being treated,” it said. “The condition of the other 23 passengers, who were hospitalized, was not known.”

MNA/Reuters



A copy of "The Obama Nation" by author Jerome Corsi is displayed on a book store shelf in New York 15 Aug, 2008. The author who put Democratic Sen. John Kerry on the defensive over his military record during his 2004 presidential run has turned his attention to 2008 White House hopeful Barack Obama with a new bestseller. "The Obama Nation" tops *The New York Times* bestseller list amid accusations that some of author Jerome Corsi's assertions are nothing more than lies and politics at its worst. —INTERNET

Pakistan Army kills 462 militants in tribal region

ISLAMABAD, 16 Aug — The Pakistani security force has killed 462 militants in its 10-day long military operation in northwestern Pakistan's tribal region, said a provincial governor on Friday.

But 22 security personnel have also been

killed during the operation in Bajaur tribal agency, said Owais Ahmed Ghani, governor of North West Frontier Province (NWFP).

Ghani made the remarks while attending a Press conference in NWFP capital Peshawar,

which was broadcast live by private Dawn TV channel.

Pakistan's security forces started its operation against local militants in Bajaur agency on August 6 when the militants ambushed an Army vehicle. —MNA/Xinhua

NEWS ALBUM



The undated photo shows the black and white twins that have been born to a mixed-race couple in Germany.

Hairy Insects Use Bubble "Lungs" to Stay Underwater

Of the hundreds of insect species that rely on air bubbles to dive underwater, *lungs* to stay submerged for long periods, according to new research that describes how insects manage the feat.

Scientists have known since the 19th century that when aquatic insects dive underwater, they trap an air layer similar to a thin bubble around their bodies and use this air supply to breathe.

The new study is the first to describe exactly how the insects' air layers work, said Steven Vogel, a biology professor at Duke University who was not involved with the paper.

“You might say, with only mild hyperbole, that our understanding [of the bubbles] is now complete,” Vogel said. —Internet

Japanese man wins eating competition

A small but enthusiastic Singapore crowd got its first taste of professional eating as the sport's two titans, Takeru Kobayashi and Joey “Jaws” Chestnut, made their debut in the city-state.

About 300 competitive eating fans roared as local favorite Kobayashi of Japan slammed home 5 kg of grilled Singaporean chicken “satay” in 12 minutes in Sunday's contest. California's Chestnut was a distant second, munching down 4 kg.

“I've followed Kobayashi's career on YouTube, so it's really exciting to see him in person,” said Ricky Chen, a 31-year-old graphic designer.

The professional eating circuit, known as Major League Eating, was organizing its first contest in Asia, one of about 80 competitions a year in which “gurgatators” wolf down foods such as grits, sticks of butter, oysters, jalapenos and cow brains, all the while hoping to avoid the dreaded “reversal.”



This combo photo shows *Polypterus senegalus* (L) and a design of fish scale armour.



Jittarat Wongsomboon of Thailand takes part in a Ripley's International Laughing Contest in the Thai resort town of Pattaya. Jittarat, 55, won the contest on Saturday after laughing continuously for 12 minutes and 26 seconds and hit a peak volume of 110 decibels.

Fish scales referable to future armour

Researchers said the design of fish scales may refer to the future armour, media reported on Monday.

A team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which studied scales from *Polypterus senegalus*, said fish scales design deflects the pressure of crunching bite from predators, forcing cracks to run in a circle around the penetration site and preventing them spreading through the entire scale.

“Many of the design principles we describe — durable interfaces and energy-dissipating mechanisms, for instance — may be translatable to human armor systems,” MIT's Christine Ortiz, who led the study, said in a statement.

EP No. 2 Minister receives Malaysian guests

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint received Managing Director Mr Azizan Abd Rahman of TNB Repair & Maintenance SDN BHD Co and party of Malaysia at the minister's office, here, on 13 August.

They held discussions on repair and maintenance of natural gas-fired power stations.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Myint and officials.

MNA

Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport meets

YANGON, 16 Aug—Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport held its work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of Yangon Command yesterday evening with an address by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint.

In his opening speech, Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint dealt with matters on enforcement of traffic

rules and secure and smooth transport.

Officials from universities and colleges, departmental officials and chairmen of private bus lines reported on matters related to ferrying of students, enforcement of traffic rules and arrangements for ensuring safety of the people.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the commander.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects logs at Myaysi rafting station in Ottwin.

FORESTRY



Forestry Minister inspects saw mills

YANGON, 16 Aug – Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung looked into production process of timber, functioning of engines and sawn timber at No. 88 Sawmill in Taungoo, Bago Division yesterday. After hearing reports presented by officials, the minister gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister and party inspected Myaysi rafting station in Ottwin Township.

At the briefing hall of the station, officials reported on works and the minister gave necessary instructions.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung met Sayadaw Dr Guna Yadana of Maha Karuna Buddhist Association of Singapore at the head office of Myanma Timber Enterprise yesterday and held discussions on donation for storm victims in Bogale Township.

MNA

Deputy Education Minister views School Health Week activities

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug – Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min together with officials of No. 3 Basic Education Department viewed School Health Week activities at basic education schools in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township on 11 August.

First, the deputy minister and party first visited No. 2 BEHS where they viewed the school health exhibition being staged as part of School Health Week. Next, they inspected school health

activities. He also visited Myoma No. (6) Basic Education Post-Primary School and Myoma No. 1 BEHS and inspected school health activities.

Yesterday accompanied by Director U Myint Shwe of No. 3 Basic Education Department and officials, the deputy minister went to Magyibin Village BEMS (Branch), Bo Min Yaung Ward BEMS and No. 2 BEHS in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township and inspected school health activities.—MNA

Notice to mariners issued

YANGON, 16 Aug – The Petronas Myanma Oil Co joint venture with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise will conduct oil exploration at MF-1 oil well of M-12 of Mottama offshore blocks with the use of drilling platform Naga-1 from 15 August to 15 October 2008.

The location of MF-1 oil well is at North Latitude 13 degree, 11 minute and 6.943 second and East Longitude 96 degree, 51 minute and 3.457 second.

The Fisheries Department issued an announcement that all vessels large or small must stay away from four kilometers radius of the area in which the exploration will be conducted.—MNA

Prizes presented to winners in 7th Performing Arts, Anyeint, Drama and Magic Competitions

YANGON, 16 Aug— Prize-presentation ceremony of the 7th Performing Arts, Anyeint, Drama and Magic Competitions of Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare under the Ministry of Defence was held at No. 3 Mobile Public Relations Unit this morning.

Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung, Col Nyo Win of the Ministry of Defence, senior military officers of Mandalay

Station, officials of the University of Culture (Mandalay), judges and artistes attended the ceremony.

Prize winners in respective contests were given awards by the officials and prize-winning troupe in Drama contest and No. 3 Mobile Public Relations Unit awards by the deputy commander.

After that, prize-winning artistes entertained the guests with songs and dances.—MNA

Information Subcommittee for Organizing Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions meets

YANGON, 16 Aug—Work coordination meeting of Information Subcommittee for organizing Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at Myanma Radio and Television, here this morning.

Chairman of the Subcommittee Director-General U Khin Maung Htay

of MRTV, committee members and officials attended the meeting.

The chairman made an opening speech, calling for timely completion of the tasks to be done by the committee.

Next, those present reported on work progress and the chairman gave concluding remarks.—MNA



Director-General U Khin Maung Htay addresses work coordination meeting of Information Sub-committee for organizing Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets Ambassador of Commonwealth of Australia to the Union of Myanmar Ms Michelle Su-Wen Chan. (News on Page 1)—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

USDA youths honoured for voluntary services

YANGON, 16 Aug—Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association hosted dinner here yesterday in honour of USDA youths from states and divisions who participated in rehabilitation tasks in storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division.

The dinner was attended by Secretary-General of the USDA U Htay Oo, member of the Secretariat (Youth affairs in-charge) U Thein Zaw, CEC members U Aung Thein Lin and U Maung Pa, officials of the USDA Headquarters, secretaries and executives of State and Division USDAs and youths.

Secretary-General of the USDA U Htay Oo and CEC member (Yangon



Secretary-General U Htay Oo addressing ceremony to host dinner in honour of USDA youths from states and divisions who participated in rehabilitation tasks in storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division.—MNA

Division in-charge) U Aung Thein Lin spoke on the occasion.

On behalf of the youths, Executive of Kawkareik District

USDA U Mahn Nyein Aung, recounted experiences on their

participation in rehabilitation of storm-hit areas. The USDA youths

participated in rehabilitation tasks in twelve groups in villages in Labutta, Ngapudaw, Dedaye and Bogale Townships.—MNA

Briefing on introducing Spring Board 4 Myanmar and presenting ICDL certificates held

YANGON, 16 Aug— With the sponsorship of Ocean Gate Education Services, a briefing on introducing

Spring Board 4 Myanmar and presenting ICDL (International Computer Driving License) was held at the Myanmar Info-Tech

here today.

Chairperson of Myanmar Computer Industrialists Association Daw War War Tun made an opening speech. Next, CEO of Spring Board 4 Asia Mr Colin Glass gave talks on ICDL and Vice-Chairperson of OGES Daw May Phyu Thwe explained the opening of ICDL training courses in Myanmar.

Chairman of OGES U Htin Aung Khaing and guests presented ICDL certificates to those who had completed the courses and prizes to outstanding trainees.

After that, U Htin

Aung Khaing and Mr Colin Glass signed an agreement on work cooperation. Executive Officer U Thein Soe explained the salient points of Spring Board 4 Aisa.

Training Courses on ICDL certificates have been conducted since 2007, and Spring Board 4 Myanmar will conduct more such training courses along with other professional courses. And those interested are to contact the office of Spring Board 4 Myanmar, No 355, Theinbyu Road, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon (Tel 380130).—MNA

Supreme Court holds tree planting ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—The rainy season tree planting ceremony of the Supreme Court was held at the designated place of the Supreme Court yesterday morning.

Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Deputy Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo together with directors-general, directors and service personnel participated in the ceremony.

They planted 600 saplings at the ceremony.—MNA



Chairman of Ocean Gate U Htin Aung Khaing and CEO of Spring Board 4 Asia Mr Colin Glass sign agreement.—MNA

Ceremonies to mark Fullmoon Day of Wagaung held

YANGON, 16 Aug – Organized by the Board of Trustees of the Shwedagon Pagoda, a ceremony to offer 84,000 flowers to the Buddha Images in commemoration of Fullmoon Day of Wagaung was held on the platform of the pagoda this morning.

Board of Trustees of the Pagoda together with members of religious associations offered 'soon' and 84,000 flowers to the Shwedagon Pagoda, Buddha Images and Padmya Myatshin Buddha Image, and organized blood donation ceremony.

The Board of Trustees of the Thiri Mingala Kaba-Aye Pagoda organized a similar ceremony at the prayer hall of the Pagoda.

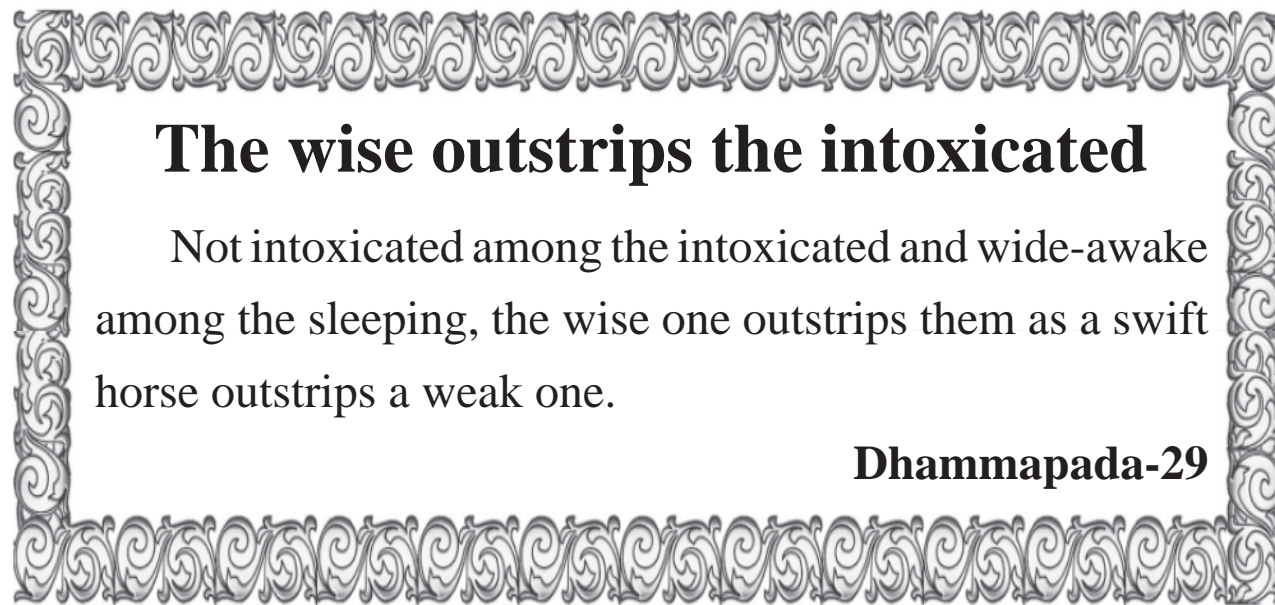
At the dhammayon of Botahtaung Pagoda, Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Kaba-Aye Maha Gannayon monastery Bhaddanta Nannisara and Joint-Secretary Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Maha Withokdayontaik Thahtaydan monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Manitasiri delivered sermons.—MNA

Flowers offering ceremony on platform of Shwedagon Pagoda on fullmoon day of Wagaung in progress.

MNA

Dhamma recitation ceremony at Thiri Mingala Kaba-Aye Pagoda on the fullmoon day of Wagaung in progress.

MNA



The wise outstrips the intoxicated

Not intoxicated among the intoxicated and wide-awake among the sleeping, the wise one outstrips them as a swift horse outstrips a weak one.

Dhammapada-29



Entries invited for Independence Day colour photo contest

YANGON, 16 Aug – The 61st Anniversary Independence Day commemorative colour photo contest entitled 'Peaceful modern Myanmar' will be held.

The entry must be 10x14 inch size and the handsome prizes will be given to the winners. The entry photos are to be sent to Director (Production) U Aye Kywe of Information and Public Relations Department No 228, Theinbyu Street, Botahtaung Township not later than 25 September.—MNA

Talks on Data to Knowledge on 23 August

YANGON, 16 Aug— Talks on Data to Knowledge will be given by the Executive Members of Myanmar Computer Professionals Association at Myanmar Info Tech in Hline Township, here from 9.30 am to noon on 23 August.

Interested persons may take part in the talks and for detail information dial 652276 No 4, Hall 4 of MCPA office.—MNA

Meeting for sending pilgrims to Bodh Gaya held

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug — Work coordination meeting for sending pilgrims to India and Nepal was held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs, here, yesterday with an address by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko

gave a supplementary report and Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana explained itineraries. Officials reported on work to be done for pilgrimages.

Starting from late September, 2008, pilgrimages will be made, it is learnt. —MNA

Talks on knowledge about weather to minimize losses caused by natural disasters

With a view to enabling the people to have awareness of weather, an educative talk was held at the hall of Myanmar Fisheries Federation on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township of Yangon at 2 pm on 9 August. At the talks, Director-General U Tun Lwin of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology discussed the matter.

In his talks, U Tun Lwin said there remained many tasks in the aftermath of the storm that hit some regions during the first week

**Article: Moe Myint Lin Let
Photo: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)**

department concerned issue warnings in time, lack of preparations will not benefit the local people. So, all the people are to carefully listen or pay attention to the storm warnings and make preparations," Director-General U Tun Lwin noted.

He continued to say, "The people have to participate in dissemination of knowledge about



Director-General U Tun Lwin of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology gives talks on natural disasters.

of May in Myanmar. Especially, the people lacked knowledge about natural disasters and proper preparations for encountering the natural disasters, he said.

He stressed the need of the people to observe the weather news presented by media. He added that media are to issue the weather news as quickly as possible. In addition, he said that the warning must be issued in time.

Actually, natural disasters may occur at any time. As such, it is necessary to make preparations, take care, and make studies with wide scope of knowledge. Everybody has to have the knowledge about weather and climate.

"The people must have knowledge about weather and natural disasters. For example, the storm surge is not a regular tidal wave, and it may affect lives and property," explained Director-General U Tun Lwin.

It is true. When the storm occurs, the eye of the storm may appear at the centre. These are cyclonic storms with greater wind speed. Therefore, the people have to realize the term the eye of the storm.

"The warnings on weather news concerning the storm, overflow of rivers, torrential rains and floods are issued in time. The people in the respective regions have to observe the warning with high level of awareness. Although the

weather. With regard to the natural disasters, many educative talks are to be organized. The more knowledge about natural disasters the people know, the less damage and loss there will be."

However, all the people have to collectively practice how to react in times of emergency and natural disasters.

Director-General U Tun Lwin said, "Actually, preventive measures cannot be taken against severe natural disasters. Therefore, knowledge is to be disseminated to the local people to have relief from the natural disasters. Furthermore, systematic arrangements are to be made for prevention against the dangers. Moreover, it is necessary to provides systematic training to them."

At the talks, the storms that had hit Myanmar, occurrence of storms and their nature were explained. He further clarified points related to storm Marlar, its size, the origin of the storm Nargis and its stages to hit Myanmar, with the use of satellite photos, and then replied to the queries raised by those present.

The talks were also attended by factually members and students of BA (Journalism) Course being jointly conducted by the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of education.

Translation: TTA

Myanma Alin: 10-8-2008

Male yogis receive higher ordination

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug—Altogether 43 male yogis who practiced meditation at the 26th 15-day meditation camp opened at Shwepyiaye Mahasi Yeiktha of Phayagyi Tawya Kyaung in New Pankhin Ward, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, received higher ordination on 6 August evening with the sponsorship of Kammathanacariya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhammapala.

A total of 97 yogis— 43 men and 54 women— practised meditation at the camp and newly ordained yogi monks went round for alms in new Paunglong Pankhin Ward.—MNA

Yangon Division WAO presents wheel chairs, organizes educative talks



Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Kyin Myaing donates wheel chairs to hospitals and pagodas in four Districts in Yangon Division.—MNA

YANGON, 16 Aug—Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization organized a ceremony to present wheel chairs donated by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation yesterday at the meeting hall of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Office. Educative talks were also held.

It was attended by the patron of Yangon Division WAO, the chairperson of Yangon Division WAO and executives, members of district/township WAOs and guests.

Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Kyin Myaing delivered an address and presented wheel chairs to the hospitals and pagodas in four districts.

Next, Dr Daw Lay Khaing of Yangon Division WAO gave talks on obesity and related diseases. Patron Daw Kyin Myaing presented gift to Dr Daw Lay Khaing.—MNA

Nutritious food for school children

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug —To mark the School Sanitation Week, a ceremony to give nutritious food to over 1000 school children was held at Nay Pyi Taw No. 3 Basic Education Middle School, here, today. District Education Officer U Hla Htoo, Headmaster U Win Zaw and teachers took part in the activity.

As an activity of School Sanitation Week, giving health educative talks, carrying out sanitation and measuring body weight and height were performed from 11 to 15 August.

MNA



Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

同一个世界 同一个梦想 One World One Dream



News &
Photos
by
Xinhua



Zhang Ning of China celebrates for a point while competing against teammate Xie Xingfang at the women's singles gold medal match during the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games badminton event, in Beijing, China, 16 Aug, 2008. Zhang Ning won the match 2-1 and grabbed the gold medal of the event.



Andrey Vorontsevich (C) of Russia rebounds during the match Russia vs Australia in men's preliminary round group A of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Basketball event in Beijing, China, 16 Aug 2008. Australia beat Russia 95-80.

Medal Standings (16-8-2008)

Sr	NOC Name	G	S	B	T	Sr	NOC Name	G	S	B	T
1	China	27	13	7	47	32	Ethiopia	1			1
2	United States	16	16	22	54	33	India	1			1
3	Germany	8	5	5	18	34	Jamaica	1			1
4	ROK	7	9	4	20	35	Thailand	1			1
5	Australia	7	8	10	25	36	Hungary		4	1	5
6	Japan	7	5	5	17	37	Kaakhstan		3	3	6
7	Britain	7	3	7	17	38	Sweden		3		3
8	Italy	6	5	5	16	39	Belarus		2	6	8
9	Russian Fed.	5	8	8	21	40	Turkey		2	1	3
10	Ukraine	5	2	5	12	41	Austria		1	2	3
11	France	3	1	10	22	42	Algeria		1	1	2
12	Slovakia	3	1		4	43	Colombia		1	1	2
13	Czech Republic	2	3		5	44	Kyrgyzstan		1	1	2
14	New Zealand	2	1	2	5	45	Slovenia		1	1	2
15	Romania	2	1	2	5	46	Servia		1	1	2
16	Switzerland	2		3	5	47	Uzbekistan		1	1	2
17	Spain	2		1	3	48	Ecuador		1		1
18	Georgia	2		1	3	49	Estonia		1		1
19	Cuba	1	3	4	8	50	Trinidad/Tobago		1		1
20	Zimbabwe	1	3		4	51	Vietnam		1		1
21	Netherland	1	2	4	7	52	Armenia			5	5
22	Azerbaijan	1	2	2	5	53	Denmark			2	2
23	Norway	1	2	1	4	54	Chinese Taipei			2	2
24	DPRK	1	1	3	5	55	Argentina			1	1
25	Canada	1	1	1	3	56	Croatia			1	1
26	Mongolia	1	1		2	57	Egypt			1	1
27	Poland	1	1		2	58	Lithuania			1	1
28	Brazil	1		4	5	59	Mexico			1	1
29	Indonesia	1		3	4	60	Tajikistan			1	1
30	Bulgaria	1		1	2	61	Togo			1	1
31	Finland	1		1	2	Total:		130	130	156	416



Rebecca Adlington of Great Britain celebrates during the final of women's 800m freestyle at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in the National Aquatics Center, also known as the Water Cube in Beijing, China, 16 Aug, 2008. Rebecca Adlington won the gold medal in a new world record with 8 minutes 14.10 seconds.



Oleksandr Petriv of Ukraine competes during Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Final of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Shooting event in Beijing, China, 16 Aug, 2008. He won the gold medal in the event.

At least 9 killed in S Philippines clashes

MANILA, 16 Aug — The death toll from clashes in the southern Philippines between government troops and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) forces has risen to nine, the country's disaster-relief agency said on Saturday.

Besides the fatalities, 22 persons were wounded while 113 houses were burned during the fighting, which started last weekend in the country's southern region of Mindanao, said the National Disaster Coordinating Council in a statement.

At least 24,623 families or 164,973 persons from 64 villages in three provinces had been affected, while 66 evacuation centers now host 6,467 families or 32,335 persons.

On the other hand, diseases have begun to "rear their heads" in some evacuation centers in the province of North Cotabato, where most of the clashes took place.

The diseases include fever and cough, headache, loose bowel movement, acute bronchitis, viral influenza, urinary tract infection, and infectious diarrhea, according to the statement.—*Internet*

Shell Refining Q2 profit more than doubles in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 Aug — Shell Refining Co (Federation of Malaya) Bhd more than doubled its second quarter net profit thanks to a 281 million ringgit (84.38 million US dollars) after-tax stockholding gain in Malaysia, local media reported on Friday.

However, refining margins could fall in the third quarter due to lower demand for its products, the *New Straits Times* said.

Shell Refining operates an oil refinery with a capacity of 156,000 barrels per day in Port Dickson, Malaysian central state of Negri Sembilan. It processes crude oil into products like petrol and diesel.

"These results represent a satisfactory performance, mainly due to our continued strong operational performance," its chairman Saw Choo Boon said in a statement on Thursday.

Shell Refining made a net profit of 357 million ringgit (107.21 million US dollars) for the quarter to June 30, 2008 versus 168 million ringgit (50.45 million US dollars) in the same quarter a year ago.—*Internet*

Rice in Georgia for peace talks

TBILISI, 16 Aug—US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrived in Georgia on Friday for talks with President Mikheil Saakashvili on formalizing a French-negotiated ceasefire to the South Ossetian conflict.

The plan calls for the withdrawal of Moscow's forces but allows limited Russian peacekeeping patrols until outside observers arrive.

Moscow has already agreed in principle to the deal and the self-styled presidents of Georgia's breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia have signed it.

"A few days ago (French) President (Nicolas) Sarkozy got agreement on the six points from the Russians and then from the Georgians," Rice told reporters on her plane before arrival.

"And there was agreement on these points as a set of principles. It now needs to be a formal ceasefire, and that's what we're working on." She said the French had been able to clarify those points from their notes from the negotiations. "I'm going to now talk to President Saakashvili about the clarifications that the French have provided," she said. She said her discussions would not deal with resolving the conflict over South Ossetia or the second breakaway region, Abkhazia, situated on the Black Sea coast.—*MNA/Reuters*

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P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 17 August 2008

US Navy charges camp guards with prisoner assault

BAGHDAD, 16 Aug — Six sailors working as prison camp guards in Iraq face courts martial for abusing detainees, some of whom were sealed in a cell with riot control gas, the US Navy said on Thursday.

Seven other sailors were given non-judicial punishments over the incident, which took place at Camp Bucca, the vast desert camp in southern Iraq where the US military houses 18,000 of its 21,000 prisoners.

"Two detainees suffered minor abrasions as a result of the alleged assaults, eight others were confined overnight in a detainee housing unit which was sprayed with riot control agent and then the ventilation secured," the Navy said. The courts martial will begin at Camp Bucca within the next 30 days, the statement said.

MNA/Reuters

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PHU MY VOYNO (805 S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHU MY VOYNO (805 S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.8.08 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE SHIPPING CO.,LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Angola ruling party criticizes Human Rights Watch

LUANDA, 16 Aug — Angola's ruling MPLA on Thursday rejected charges by Human Rights Watch that it was intimidating the opposition ahead of September elections and accused the group of interfering in its internal affairs.

The New York-based human rights group, in a report on Wednesday, also accused Angola's Government of meddling in the electoral commission and said such behaviour threatened the chances of a fair ballot on 5 September.

"(Human Rights Watch) should not interfere in the internal matters of Angola," MPLA spokesman Norberto dos Santos told Reuters on Thursday. "What they said in the report is offensive and has no basis of truth. We know Human Rights Watch hatred towards the Angolan people. All that I ask is that they stop interfering with the electoral process."

MNA/Reuters

Iraqi troops take over from withdrawn Georgians

BAGHDAD, 16 Aug — Iraqi troops have taken over the checkpoints guarded by Georgian soldiers who pulled out of Iraq to rush home for the conflict with Russia, the US military said on Friday.

The US military transported the 2,000-strong Georgian contingent back home because of the conflict with Russia over the separatist region of South Ossetia which erupted last week. The Georgians — until their departure the biggest foreign contingent in Iraq after the United States and Britain — were mainly deployed in Iraq's southern Wasit Province, manning checkpoints near the border with Iran.

"Right now, the Iraqi soldiers have taken over the responsibility of the traffic control point," 2nd Lieutenant Charlie Hines, US military liaison with Iraqi forces at the base in the area, said in a report released by the military.

MNA/Reuters

Violence drives 3,000 Mexican families to US

MEXICO CITY, 16 Aug — Drug-related violence and murders have forced some 3,000 families from the northern Mexican city of Ciudad Juarez to emigrate to the United States this year, a US political scientist said on Friday.

Antonio Payan, professor of political science at the University of Texas, said most of these families were middle-class and had moved to the United States for safety reasons.

The Juarez mayor, Jose Reyes Ferriz, admitted he "knew about some families that had left to live in El Paso, the sixth-largest city in Texas, due to the violence", but he did not have the statistics.

MNA/Xinhua

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GATI PRESTIGE VOYNO(16)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI PRESTIGE VOYNO (16) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.8.08 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S GATI COAST TO COAST**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Stress makes allergies worse and last longer

NEW YORK, 16 Aug — Psychological stress and anxiety can make seasonal allergy attacks worse and linger longer, according to research presented on Thursday at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in Boston.

"People may be setting themselves up to have more persistent problems by being stressed and anxious when allergy attacks begin," Dr Janice Kiecolt-Glaser, professor of psychology and psychiatry at Ohio State University in Columbus interviewed with Reuters Health ahead of the meeting. To gauge how stress and anxiety affect allergy sufferers, Kiecolt-Glaser and colleagues recruited 28 men and

women with a history of hay fever and seasonal allergies to participate in a laboratory study.

On different days, the volunteers were subjected to a low-stress condition — reading quietly from magazines — and to much more stressful conditions — giving a 10-minute, videotaped speech in front of a group of "behaviour evaluators" and solving math problems without paper or pen in front of the group and then watching their videotaped performance.

The researchers assessed participants' levels of stress and anxiety and performed standard skin prick allergy tests before and right after the stressful events, as well as the next day.

MNA/Reuters

About 50 killed in separate Somalia attacks

MOGADISHU, 16 Aug — Almost 50 people were killed in Somalia after separate roadside bombs targeting allied Ethiopian and government troops went off and led to retaliatory attacks, residents said on Friday.

In one clash on Friday afternoon, Ethiopian troops opened fire on civilians on a road out of Mogadishu when an explosion occurred in the middle of their convoy. "I heard a big explosion and a vehicle in an Ethiopian convoy exploded," said Abdurahman Adan, who lives alongside the road out of the capital to the southern town of Afgooye.

"Ethiopian soldiers in the convoy started to shoot indiscriminately. I ran away, but when I came back half an hour later, I saw 38 people had died and 16 injured." Adan said some of the dead had been passengers on buses that travel the route.

Another local resident, Hawa Abdi, said a relative was wounded during the incident. She saw five people that had died from the attack and 20 others who were hurt. "We wanted to reach Mogadishu's big hospital but we are unable to pass the streets because the road is closed," she said.

MNA/Reuters



Gardeners design a giant flower carpet to form a floral decoration at Brussels' Grand Place, on 14 August, 2008. The design requires about 700,000 flowers to create, according to event organisers.—INTERNET

US scientists discover new bird species in Gabon

WASHINGTON, 16 Aug — Scientists at the US Smithsonian Institution have discovered a new species of bird in African country Gabon, that was, until now, unknown to the scientific community, according to the international science journal *Zootaxa* published on Friday.

The newly found olive-backed forest robin (*Stiphornis pyrrholaemus*) was named by the scientists for its distinctive olive back and rump.

Adult birds measure 4.5 inches (about 11.4 cms) in length and average

18 grams in weight. Males exhibit a fiery orange throat and breast, yellow belly, olive back and black feathers on the head. Females are similar, but less vibrant. Both sexes have a distinctive white dot on their face in front of each eye.

To ensure that the specimens were a new species, geneticists at the Smithsonian's National Zoo compared the DNA of the new specimens to that of the four known forest robin species. The results clearly showed that these birds were in fact a separate and distinct species. —*Internet*



A male olive-backed forest robin is examined in the hands of Brian Schmidt, the Smithsonian ornithologist who discovered the species during a biodiversity study in Gabon. A red-breasted bird discovered by accident in the forests of Gabon is a new species, US scientists said on 15 Aug, 2008.

INTERNET

Research potatoes may hold key to Alzheimer's treatment

WASHINGTON, 16 Aug — A virus that commonly infects potatoes bears a striking resemblance to one of the key proteins implicated in Alzheimer's disease (AD), and US researchers have used that to develop antibodies that may slow or prevent the onset of AD, according to the 15 Aug *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

It said researchers from Case Western Reserve University reported that they used this concept on an amyloid-like protein found in potato virus (PVY).

They injected PVY into mice followed by monthly

boosters for four months. The researchers found that the mice produced strong levels of antibodies that could attach to amyloid beta protein both in solution and in tissue samples of Alzheimer's patients.

Studies in mice have demonstrated that vaccinations with the amyloid beta protein (believed to be a major AD contributor) to produce antibodies can slow disease progression and improve cognitive function, possibly by promoting the destruction of amyloid plaques. Some early human trials have likewise been promising, but had to be halted due to the risk of autoimmune encephalitis.

One way to make Alzheimer's vaccinations safer would be to use a closely-related, but not human, protein as the vaccine, much like cowpox virus is used for smallpox immunizations.

The research team note that potato virus is a fairly common infection that poses no risk to humans (many people have probably eaten PVY infected potatoes).

Internet

Internet

Destruction of Amazonian jungles slow down in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 Aug — Destruction of the Amazonian tropical jungles in Brazil dropped by 60 percent in July, compared with June, Brazilian Environment Minister Carlos Minc said on Friday.

An official announcement is yet to come, pending the processing of further data, he told reporters.

A drop of 60 and 70 percent in illegal felling was registered in July compared with the same period of previous year, he said.

The deforestation in the Amazonian region was reduced to 870 square km (87,000 hectares) in June

this year, which amounted to the destruction of an area as big as a soccer field every minute, Minc said.

The National Institute of Special Investigations under the Science and Technology Ministry used two sets of satellite images to identify the devastated areas. Minc attributed the slower pace of deforestation to shifting

the focus to curb wood transportation in the Amazonian region by the National Institute of Environment.

Now the prosecutors of the environment institute are focusing their attention on major highway crossings in the region, ensuring effective control over routes for trucks transporting wood.

Internet

Internet



A foreign photo reporter works at the Silk Street Market, a popular tourist market selling goods with Chinese characteristics, in Beijing, capital of China, on Aug. 14, 2008. As more and more foreign athletes, officials and tourists visit the market during the Beijing Olympics, reporters of different media from across the world also gather here to interview the visitors. —Internet

Man who gave up smoking gets chance to attend Games

BEIJING, 16 Aug — A Beijing man who has vowed to give up smoking was given a free ticket to watch the men's volleyball on Saturday night.

The reward came courtesy of anti-smoking campaigner Xiong Wei who on Aug. 10 placed an advertisement in the Beijing News offering free Olympic tickets to 10 smokers who promised to quit, *China Daily* reported.

Xiong told *China Daily* on Thursday that he received 132 applications within 40 hours of his ad being placed.

Applicants were asked to enter the "competition" by e-mailing their names, occupations and who they worked for — for reasons of public supervision — and smoking history. The 10 winners — all of whom have good educational backgrounds — were those who set out the most convincing quitting strategies, Xiong said. "It was difficult picking the winners, because all of the applicants seemed so sincere," he said. —*Internet*

Three Gorges project generates 250 bln kwh of electricity

YICHANG, 16 Aug — China's Three Gorges hydropower project has generated 250.4 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity as of Friday since its first turbine began production in July 2003.

The amount is around 8 per cent of the country's total electricity consumption in 2006, which stood at 2.82 trillion kwh.

The hydropower project currently had 24 turbines in operation with an actual generating capacity of about 15.5 million kwh, according to the the China Three Gorges Project Corporation.

MNA/Xinhua



A girl holds her brother as she sits outside her shelter at a refugee camp in Kabul on 15 Aug, 2008 —INTERNET

SPORTS



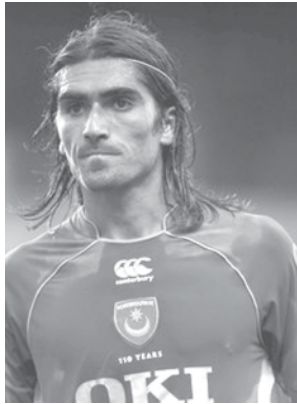
China's Xu Li, in red, wrestles with Colombia's Jackeline Renteria during their women's freestyle 55 kilogram match at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China on 16 Aug, 2008.—INTERNET

Mendes clinches Gers move Midfielder set to make debut on Saturday against Hearts

LONDON, 16 Aug — Rangers have confirmed the £3million signing of Pedro Mendes from Portsmouth on a three-year contract.

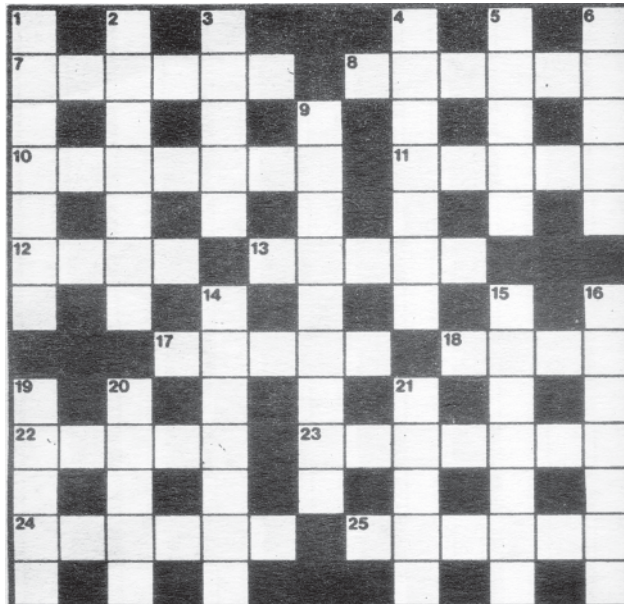
Mendes has completed his move to Ibrox in time to be available for Saturday's SPL match at home to Hearts.

The Portuguese midfielder had been wanted by Gers boss Walter Smith earlier in the summer, but his Pompey counterpart Harry Redknapp appeared reluctant to lose Mendes.—INTERNET



Pedro Mendes

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 7 Glorify
- 8 Mob
- 10 Black and white horse
- 11 Unit of length
- 12 Give out
- 13 Paris river
- 17 Female
- 18 Hint
- 22 Discovered
- 23 Team's batting period
- 24 Breathe out
- 25 Emphasis

DOWN

- 1 Helicopter (sl.)
- 2 Receive under a will
- 3 Wall painting
- 4 Concord
- 5 Lessen
- 6 Precious stone
- 9 An end rail (anag.)
- 14 Venetian boat
- 15 Bed covering
- 16 Keep at it
- 19 Bid
- 20 Duke's territory
- 21 Join

Fergie - Blues are main danger United boss thinks Chelsea will be nearest rivals

LONDON, 16 Aug — Sir Alex Ferguson admits he expects Chelsea to be the biggest threat to their Premier League defence this coming season.

Ferguson conceded Arsenal and Liverpool both look good, but it is Chelsea he thinks will be their main danger.

The Manchester United chief feels The Blues' experience is the main reasoning behind them being the pick of their nearest rivals. "Arsenal had a great run last season until they got injuries in March, while Liverpool have signed Robbie Keane and one or two others," said Ferguson.

"But Chelsea are the most experienced and they might be our biggest threat."

But Ferguson remains confident his side could again do the UEFA Champions League and Premier



Sir Alex Ferguson

League double.

"We don't need to get much better to achieve what we did last season but the challenge for us is to improve," he said.

"You would think with young players like Anderson, (Cristiano) Ronaldo, (Wayne) Rooney and Nani we have the capacity to do that.

"I am expecting a natural progression and there is no doubt in my mind this team will win championships long after I have left.—INTERNET

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

(16-8-2008)

Arsenal	1 - 0	WBA
Bolton	3 - 1	Stoke City
Everton	2 - 3	Blackburn
Hull City	2 - 1	Fulham
Middlesbrough	2 - 1	Tottenham
Sunderland	0 - 1	Liverpool
West Ham Utd	2 - 1	Wigan Athletic

Rafa - Barry saga not my fault

LONDON, 16 Aug — Liverpool manager Rafa Benitez has hit back at critics who hold him responsible for the ongoing Gareth Barry transfer saga. Benitez has been blamed for causing speculation as Liverpool attempt to prise £18million-rated Barry away from Aston Villa.

However, the Liverpool boss insists he has had no

contact with Villa since discussing the midfielder's possible transfer with his opposite number, Martin O'Neill, in April.

"I will try to be very clear over the (Barry) situation. Everyone has been talking and it seems that the blame is put on me," said Benitez.—INTERNET



Rafa Benitez

Scolari urges England to make Terry as captain

COBHAM (England), 16 Aug — New Chelsea coach Luiz Felipe Scolari urged England to re-appoint John Terry as captain on Friday.

England coach Fabio Capello, who has tried several skippers including Terry, Rio Ferdinand and Steven Gerrard since taking over earlier this year, will announce his permanent selection before Wednesday's friendly against Czech Republic at Wembley.

"It would be a fantastic choice if he made John Terry captain," Scolari told reporters ahead of Chelsea's Premier League opener against Portsmouth at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

"He is captain of Chelsea and I think he must again captain England. He helps the manager and the players by saying the right things on and off the field."

Central defender Terry had been England skipper under Steve McClaren, who was Italian Capello's predecessor.

Scolari, who took over as Chelsea coach from Israeli Avram Grant in the close-season, will pin his goal hopes on France striker Nicolas Anelka against FA Cup winners Portsmouth with Ivory Coast international Didier Drogba out injured.

MNA/Reuters



Walid Cherif (L) of Tunisia fights Lee Ok-sung of South Korea during their men's flyweight (51kg) round of 16 boxing match at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games on 16 August, 2008.—INTERNET



Dinara Safina of Russia reacts during her women's singles semifinal tennis match against Li Na of China at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games on 16 August, 2008. INTERNET

Canadian sprinter Johnson sues ex-lawyer

TORONTO, 16 Aug — Disgraced Olympic sprinter Ben Johnson has filed a 37-million-Canadian-dollar (34.9-million-US-dollar) lawsuit in Canada against the estate of his former lawyer for allegedly stealing his wealth and failing to protect future earnings, the *Toronto Star* newspaper reported on Friday.

Johnson claims the late Ed Futerman made unauthorized payments from his trust account to pay bills and 20 per cent commissions to a hairdresser who was recruited by the lawyer to act as the sprinter's sports agent, the *Star* reported.

MNA/Reuters

Daw Tin Tin

Yodayatet Village, Kyaunggon Township
83 years

Beloved daughter of (U Tun Hla Kyaw-Daw Sein Ou) of Ngathaingyaung; 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

Boys more likely than girls to outgrow asthma

NEW YORK, 16 Aug— Boys may be more likely than girls to have childhood asthma, but they are also more likely to grow out of it during adolescence, a new study shows.

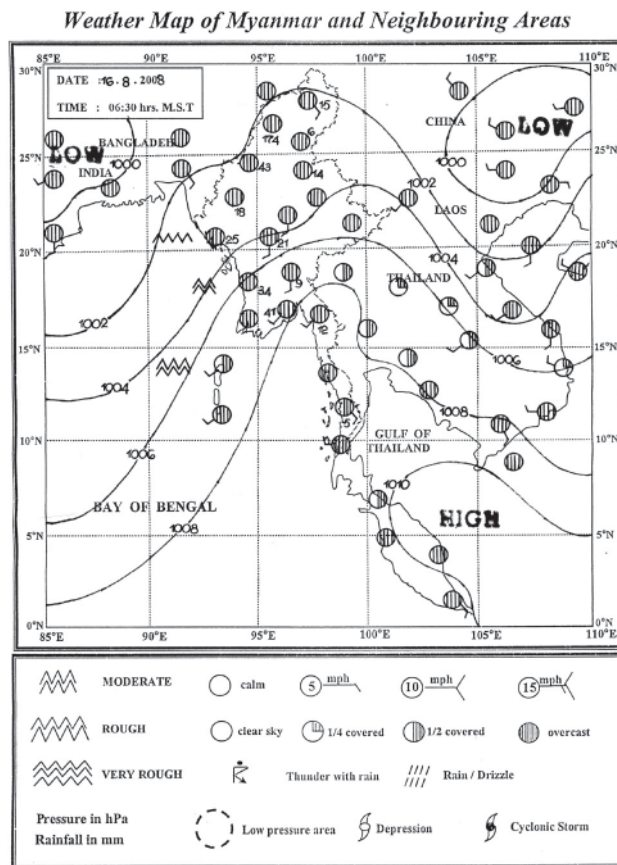
Results of the study released on Friday help solve the mystery of age and sex differences in the natural history of childhood asthma, the lead researcher told *Reuters Health*. "Persistence of airway responsiveness — commonly referred to as twitchy airways — is a major

reason why asthma in girls may persist (or develop) past the onset of puberty," Dr Kelan G Tantisira, of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, told *Reuters Health*.

It's known that the incidence of asthma around early school age is higher in boys than girls, whereas the incidence in adolescence and adulthood is higher in females than males, the researcher explained.

In addition to symptoms, twitchy or over-reactive airways are one useful marker for the development of asthma. Upon exposure to certain asthma triggers like pollen, dog or cat dander, cold air or histamine, an asthma-tic's airways are much more likely to constrict than those of a person without asthma.

MNA/Reuters



Two soldiers from NATO force killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 16 Aug— Insurgents killed two soldiers from NATO-led forces in an attack in eastern Afghanistan on Friday, the International Security Assistance

Force (ISAF) said. Afghanistan has seen a surge in violence this year as the hardline Islamist Taliban steps up its campaign of guerilla attacks, backed by suicide and roadside bombs to overthrow the pro-Western Afghan Government and drive out foreign troops.

"Two ISAF service members died as a result of wounds suffered during an IED strike and small arms fire attack on their patrol in eastern Afghanistan today," ISAF said in a statement.—MNA/Reuters

Flood News (Issued at 12:30 hrs MST on 16-8-08)

According to the (11:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin river at Hpa-an is (880) cm and it has exceeded by (130) cm (about 4.3 ft) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level for the next (5) days.

According to the (11:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung river at Madauk is (1161) cm and it has exceeded by (91) cm (about 3 ft) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level (1070) cm for the next (5) days

According to the (11:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Bago river at Bago is (931) cm and it has exceeded by (21) cm (about 0.7 ft) above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level (910) cm during the next (24) hrs.



Sunday, 17 August
View on today

7:00 am

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော် ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တပ္ပါဠိတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy Exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- လှပံ့ရှားပုံပြင်စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်

7:50 am

- Musical programme

8:00 am

- အတိုးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

- Nice and sweet song

8:20 am

- မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား

8:30 am

- International News

8:45 am

- အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

11:00 am

- Martial song

11:10 am

- Musical programme

11:25 am

- Round up of the week's TV local news

11:40 am

- ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင် အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

12:00 pm

- မြန်မာ့ဒီယိုဇာတ်လမ်း

"ဒေဝရဲ့ သစ်သီး" (ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ထွန်းအိန္ဒြာပို၊ ခိုင်နှင်းစေ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ - မောင်နန္ဒ)

1:55 pm

- Musical programme

2:00 pm

- Dance of national races

2:25 pm

- အတိုးပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:30 pm

- ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈)ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ

2:45 pm

- International News

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:10 pm

- Musical programme

4:20 pm

- အတိုးပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:30 pm

- Song for uphold National Spirit

4:40 pm

- Musical programme

4:45 pm

- ဧရာဝတီအလှတစ်ပါး

5:10 pm

- ဆိုကြမယ် ပျော်ကြမယ်

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- Musical programme

6:45 pm

- အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

6:55 pm

- Musical programme

7:10 pm

- "ရွှေမင်းသားလေးချစ်ပုံပြင်" (အပိုင်း-၂၃)

8:00 pm

- News

- International news

- Weather report

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "လှယောင်ဆောင်သော ရွှေငါးနတ်သမီးလေး" (အပိုင်း-၁၄)

