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Monday, 25 June, 2012

Our Three Main National Causes

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

President U Thein Sein grows Maha Bo tree at monsoon tree growing ceremony 2012 in precinct of Thatta Thattaha Pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein this morning planted Maha Bo tree at the rainy season tree growing ceremony in the precinct of Thatta Thattaha Pagoda built on Udayaramsi Hill in Pobbathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Also present at the ceremony were Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, General Hla Htay Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Union ministers, chairmen and secretaries of Hluttaw Committees, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief (Army)'s Office, deputy ministers, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, departmental heads, departmental personnel and members of social organizations.

President U Thein Sein plants Maha Bo tree in the precinct of Thatta Thattaha Pagoda built on Udayaramsi Hill in Pobbathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

MNA



Thatta Thattaha Pagoda project is being implemented on Udayaramsi Hill.

The day meals offering to members of the Sangha in commemoration of the concluding of Maha Pathana

recitation and ground breaking ceremony were held on the hillock on 17-8-2011.

After that, stake driven ceremony and ceremony to feed Dragon, Maha Bo tree growing ceremony and first

time cash donation were held on 19-8-2011.

The cornerstones laying ceremony was held on 22-9-2011 and the ceremony to enshrine religious objects into the Mula and central reliquaries

of the pagoda was held on 5-5-2012.

At the ceremonies, President U Thein Sein drove stakes at the designated place and grew Maha Bo tree.

President U Thein Sein, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing took the designated positions in the precinct of Thatta Thattaha Pagoda.

At 8.10 am, President U Thein Sein grew Maha Bo tree and sprinkled scented water on the sapling.

The Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services poured water at Maha Bo tree and sprinkled scented water on it.

Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung

Hlaing took the designated places near Musaleinda Lake called Kyeebin Lake.

Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann planted Kyeep plant (*Borringtonia acutangula*) and sprinkled scented water on it.

President U Thein Sein and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing watered the plant and sprinkled scented water on it.

After that, they took positions at the entrance to Musaleinda Lake.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing grew a Gangaw plant (*Mesua ferrea*) and sprinkled scented water on it.

The President and the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw watered and sprinkled scented water on the plant.

(See page 8)



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann plants Kyeep plant (Borringtonia acutangula) near Musaleinda Lake.

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PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 25 June, 2012

Come invest in Myanmar

Undoubtedly, Myanmar is a country blessed with rich natural resources and sits on a very strategic position sandwiched between the world's two largest economies: China and India. Facilitated by sweeping reforms being initiated by the reformist government in office, it has held wide chances of becoming the Asia's latest economic frontier.

Following lifting of most economic sanctions against Myanmar, foreign investors are packing their suitcases to visit the Southeast Asian country in pursuit of business prospects.

An amendment bill to decades-old foreign investment law, drafted by legal professionals and economists, is poised to be discussed and passed in the next Hluttaw session which starts on 4 July. Once the legislation is approved, the international businessmen will flood into the country and set footholds in the country.

What should the law stand for? The interest of its own people or the investors from abroad? It is no doubt that MPs who will discuss the law have prioritized the profit of the people than everything else since they sworn into the parliaments. But they are also in the position that they have to ensure that the law they are going to prescribe could stimulate the interest of the multinational corporations to invest in Myanmar and create a favourable investment climate.

New Myanmar Investment Summit that was held in Yangon a few days ago attracted hundreds of global investors, signaling a surge of excitement to set up their businesses in Myanmar.

The foreign direct investments could generate a large number of employment opportunities to the country's young workforce whose previous option for decent jobs is other Asian countries. Myanmar also has the experienced workforce who are employed in the neighbouring economies. For the corporations, they could profit from the young and experienced labour and rich resources. For the country, the people will get employed and enjoy increased income. The county will get necessary infrastructures from the foreign investments as well. It is a win-win situation. In this way, foreign investments could help the country rise above the poverty.

Really want to help Myanmar! Come and invest here!

MFCC holds its 23rd annual meeting

YANGON, 24 June—The 23rd Annual Meeting of Foreign Correspondents Club of Myanmar was held at Sedona Hotel here this morning.

FCCM Secretary U Han Htwe Aung reported on financial statement for approval.

As new executive committee members for 2011-2012 were elected, U Hla Htway (Nikkei Shimbun) was elected patron, U Tin Maung Aye (Asahi Shimbun) as president, Mr Zhang Yunfei (Xinhua) as vice-president (1), and U Aung Hla Tun (Reuters) as vice-president (2), U Han Htwe Aung (TV Asahi) as secretary, U Thurein Hla Htwe (Nikkei Shimbun) as joint-secretary, Daw Sint Sint Aung (Nippon TV) as treasurer (1), Daw Khin Mo Mo Myint (NHK) as treasurer (2), Dr Zaw Than (Sankei Shimbun) as auditor (1), U Nyein Chan Naing (EPA) as auditor (2), Daw Eih Eih Tin (Fuji TV) as auditor (3) and U Myat Thura (Kyodo News) as international relations officer.—NLM

Union Construction Minister inspects road/bridge construction in Bago Region

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint inspected chosen site for construction of Bago bypass Nos 1 & 2 and met engineers and staff at Bago Region Superintending Engineer's Office, calling for systematic usage of allotted machinery, spending in line with financial rules and regulations and observance of rules and laws.

The Union Minister at the briefing hall of 11-mile-long Bago bypass construction site, urged Max Myanmar Co and Shwe Thanlwin Co which are building the bypass in partnership with the Construction Ministry with B.O.T system to finish the construction works as soon as possible.

The Union Minister, while visiting the toll gate

which Max Myanmar Co is cooperating through B.O.T system on Yango-Bago road section, stressed the need to make sure trucks are not overloaded in order that road will be less damaged and commodity will flow swiftly.

MNA

Union Minister U Khin Maung Myint inspects chosen site for construction of Bago bypass Nos 1 & 2.

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Union FM felicitates Croatian Minister of Foreign and European Affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Dr Vesna Pusic, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Croatia, which falls on 25 June, 2012.

MNA

Informal education activity launched in Myitkyina

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—Chief Minister of Kachin State U La John Ngan Hsai addressed opening of non-formal education activity at Basic Education High School No (1) in Myitkyina yesterday morning.

State Education Officer U Chit Swe explained informal education activities.

Officials accepted cash donations from wellwishers. Commissioner U Min Chit Oo of Kachin State General Administration Department assigned Mohnyin Township Administrator U Sai San Win to the post of the chairman of township supervisory committee.

MNA

Yangon West District (B) team wins women's football tournament

YANGON, 24 June—The final match of Yangon Region Chief Minister's Shield Four-district Women's Football Tournament was held at the pitch of Yangon United FC in Hlaing Township here this evening. Among the spectators were Yangon

Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife, the region court judge, region ministers and their wives, deputy commissioners and township administrators and invited guests.

Yangon West District (A) team beat Yangon East District (B) team in the final clinching the shield. Responsible persons then awarded best player of the final match and best players of the tournament with medals and cash and region ministers and Daw Khin Thet Htay presented prizes to Yangon South District (A) team which won fair play award and second-place winner Yangon East District (A) team.

The region chief minister presented the trophy, replica and cash awards to Yangon West District (B) team.—MNA

Myanmar Women's Day signboard erected in Myitkyina

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—A signboard to hail Myanmar Women's Day that falls on 3 July was erected near Myothit Clock Tower in Myitkyina on 22 June morning.

At the event, wife of Kachin State Hluttaw Speaker Patron of Kachin State Women's Affairs Organization Daw Bi Nin Shin cut the ribbon to launch the signboard, and wife of Kachin

State Chief Minister Patron of Kachin State Women's Affairs Organization Daw Kan See Sai Lon pressed the button to open the signboard.

Hailing Myanmar Women's Day, Myanmar Women's Traditional Costume and hairstyle Contest was held at the town hall of Myitkyina yesterday evening, attended by Kachin State Chief Minister U La John

Ngan Sai and wife, Speaker of Kachin State Hluttaw U Yar Wam Jone and wife, Chief Justice of State High Court and wife, state ministers and officials concerned.

On the occasion, university students staged their traditional costumes and young beauties of some wards of Myitkyina showed their hairstyle.

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From Tabin Shwe Hti Road, in 34 Ward of North Dagon Myothit in Yangon, U Thaung Hlaing and Daw Than Than donate K 300,000 for fund through CEC member of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Professor Dr Daw May Win Aung Khin.—NLM

Outstanding students honoured in Kawhmu Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—A ceremony to award students who matriculated with flying colours and honour teachers who led students through matriculation exam was held at Basic Education High School of Kawhmu Township in Yangon Region yesterday, with an address by Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint.

The deputy minister awarded schools that achieved highest pass rate, five- and four-distinction winners and teachers. Next, personnel presented prizes to distinction winners and 20 fans for the schools. On behalf of the distinction winners, five-distinction winner Maung Yan Lin Htet (BEHS-Kawhmu) spoke words of thanks.

The deputy minister then inspected the progress in construction of extended classroom of the school.—MNA



Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen (R) and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Tan Dung unveil the border post during its inauguration ceremony at the terminus of the land boundary between Cambodia's Kampot Province and Vietnam's Kien Giang Province, on 24 June, 2012.—REUTERS

Cambodian, Vietnamese PMs inaugurate border pillar to mark 45th diplomatic birthday

KAMPOT, (Cambodia), 24 June— Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Tan Dung jointly inaugurated the Boundary Pillar No 314 on Sunday in order to mark the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic ties between the two neighbours. The pillar is located at the terminus of the land boundary between Cambodia's Kampot Province and Vietnam's Kien Giang Province. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Hun Sen said the Boundary Pillar No 314 was the last overland boundary mark between Cambodia and Vietnam. "After this, we will continue demarcating the maritime boundary between the two countries," he said.

The premier added that as good neighbours and the same ASEAN family, Cambodia and Vietnam are committed to building a border of peace, friendship and cooperation for the mutual interests of the two countries and peoples. Nguyen Tan Dung said the inauguration of the boundary pillar No 314 has not only reflected full peace and stronger cooperation

between Vietnam and Cambodia, but it also helped boost economics, trade and tourism between the two nations.

It was the second time that the two countries' leaders jointly inaugurated border marks. The first one was the inauguration of the border mark No 171 in Cambodia's Svay Rieng Province and Vietnam's Tay Ninh Province in 2006. Cambodia shares 1,270 kilometres of border with Vietnam to the east. To date, about 80 percent of the border demarcation has been completed and the two countries vowed to fully complete it by the end of this year.

After the inauguration on Sunday, the two Prime Ministers also co-chaired the 3rd Cambodia-Vietnam Conference on the Investment Promotion, which was held at Ha Tien, the capital city of Kien Giang Province. During the conference, the two premiers witnessed the signing of the protocol on the amendment of the agreement on the promotion and protection of investment between the government of Cambodia and the government of Vietnam.— *Xinhua*

Merkel to meet France's Hollande on Wednesday

PARIS, 24 June— German Chancellor Angela Merkel will meet French President Francois Hollande on Wednesday ahead of a key European summit, his office said on Saturday, as the two leaders try to square their differing positions on the euro zone debt crisis. "They will discuss the upcoming EU summit, the international situation and future Franco-German exchanges," the president's office said in a statement. A spokesman for the German government told

Reuters earlier on Saturday the meeting would take place.

The meeting comes on the eve of a summit that is being seen as a big moment for the embattled 17-nation euro zone which is struggling to formulate a credible response to a debt crisis that has shaken Greece and steeply pushed up borrowing costs for Spain and Italy. The summit is meant to sketch out a roadmap towards economic union and to send a message to the markets that the continent's leaders are united

and determined to do whatever it takes to restore confidence in the battered single currency. But the pre-summit mood music has not been good. A meeting in Rome on Friday saw Merkel and Hollande openly sparring over what needed to be done, with the French president and his Italian and Spanish counterparts failing to get Merkel to dilute her opposition to common euro zone bonds. At the mini-summit, Merkel also resisted pressure to use Europe's rescue funds more flexibly, but did agree to a 130-billion-euro (\$156 billion) package to revive growth.— *Reuters*

China, Uruguay pledge to deepen trade ties, legislature exchanges

MONTEVIDEO, 24 June— China and Uruguay pledged on Saturday to foster their trade ties and to step up bilateral exchanges between the two nations' legislative bodies. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao arrived in Montevideo, Uruguay, on Friday for an official visit after attending the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and a visit to the meeting's host Brazil.

While meeting with Uruguayan Vice President Danilo Astori, who is also president of the Senate, Wen said Uruguay has enjoyed political stability and sustainable economic and social advancement, and played a unique role in international and regional affairs over the recent years.



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (R) meets with Uruguayan Vice President and President of the Congress Danilo Astori in Montevideo, Uruguay, on 23 June, 2012. XINHUA

Bilateral ties, based on solid political foundation, has seen a rapid growth over the past 24 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two sides, said Wen.

China has become the second largest trade partner of Uruguay, Wen said, adding that bilateral trade and economic cooperation has already extended from the traditional commodity to automobile manufacturing,

communications, financial and agriculture. China, Wen said, is ready to maintain balanced and sustainable trade links with Uruguay, adding that China hopes to engage with the South American nation's deepwater port construction, expand investment in the country, and step up research and development cooperation, as well as people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

Xinhua



German Chancellor Angela Merkel (R) gestures next to French President Francois Hollande during a news conference at Villa Madama in Rome, on 22 June, 2012.—REUTERS

Obama urges Congress to extend student loan subsidies as deadline looms

WASHINGTON, 24 June— US President Barack Obama on Saturday urged lawmakers to stop playing politics and pass legislation to extend student loan subsidies due to expire at the end of June. "We are eight days away from nearly seven and a half million students seeing their loan rates double because Congress hasn't acted to stop it," Obama said in his weekly address.

Barring the extension, the interest rates on new federally subsidized student loans will increase from 3.4 percent, a temporary rate reduction that was enacted in 2007, to 6.8 percent from 1 July. Obama said making sure all Americans get the best education possible is

one of the most important things for the US economy. "Right now, the unemployment rate for Americans with a college degree or more is about half the national average. Their incomes are twice as high as those who don't have a high school diploma," Obama said.— *Xinhua*

China UnionPay to expand bankcard service in Europe

BEIJING, 24 June— China UnionPay Co Ltd (CUP), the country's largest bank card payment processor, announced on Saturday that it has inked cooperation agreement with NETS, a leading payment service provider in North Europe, to expand CUP's service in Europe.

The CUP and NETS will work together to expand CUP's card acceptance in more European regions, provide CUP card processing and transaction services to more European institutions and increase service quality, according to the agreement. CUP's rapid expansion of overseas card acceptance aims to better support Chinese consumers travelling overseas, as well as other CUP card holders in different countries and regions, said Xu Luode, China UnionPay president. NETS is the biggest bankcard transaction service provider in North Europe, which is a result of a merger between Norwegian Nordit AS and the holding company of the Danish company PBS in 2010.— *Xinhua*

The photo released by Pakistan's Press Information Department (PID) on 23 June, 2012 shows newly elected Pakistan's Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf (C) inspecting a guard of honour during a welcoming ceremony at the Prime Minister House in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan.—XINHUA



Israeli PM calls for strong actions against rocket attacks from Gaza

JERUSALEM, 24 June— Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday instructed security officials to act strongly to protect residents in southern Israel against rocket attacks from Gaza. Netanyahu's remarks came as the latest round of violence in the region entered the sixth day. Some 20 rockets fired from Gaza hit the area on Saturday, wounding one Israeli. Throughout the week, Gaza militants have fired over 150 rockets into Israel, wounding five people. At least 13 Palestinians were killed in Israeli retaliatory airstrikes or artillery shelling.

A truce between the two sides is expected to go into effect on Saturday night, according to local media. Israel Defence Forces officials said of the report that "quiet will be answered with quiet and fire will be answered with fire." Meanwhile, *Xinhua* report from Gaza said that a senior Islamic Hamas movement's official had already announced that a new understanding on restoring calm in the Gaza Strip with Israel had been reached on Saturday night based on the principle of calm for calm.

Xinhua

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

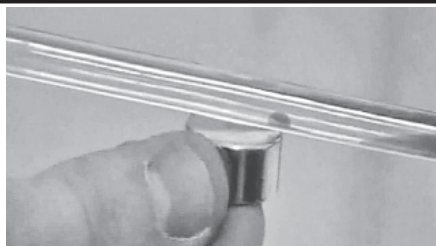
Magnetic molecules could clean oil spills

BRISTOL, 24 June — European scientists say a molecule that can make “magnetic emulsions” has the potential to revolutionize the chemical industry and could clean up oil spills.

Emulsions are blends of liquids that normally do not like to mix, like oil and water, and the researchers’ custom-made molecule acts as an emulsifier that can bring those incompatible liquids together.

But because the new molecule responds to magnetic fields, it could be put to use in cleaning up oil spills, the scientists said.

“We’re making emulsions from essentially seawater and the kind of oils that would be spilled, and we’re seeing that we can manipulate them using a magnetic field,” Julian Eastoe of the University of Bristol told BBC News, calling it “a practical application without a shadow of a doubt.”



A standard magnet can be used to pull magnetic emulsions along a capillary.—INTERNET

The molecules created by the researchers are based on metal atoms, which respond to magnetic fields.

Even in small amounts the magnetic molecules create emulsions and could be easily implemented into current industrial or cleanup applications, the researchers said.

Internet

Distant planets locked in cosmic dance

SEATTLE, 24 June—US astronomers say a bigger version of Earth is locked in an orbital tug-of-war with a much larger Neptune-sized planet around a distant star.

The planets around a star dubbed Kepler-36A occupy nearly the same orbital plane and sometimes approach within about 1.2 million miles of each other, just five times the Earth-moon distance.

“These are the closest two planets to one another that have ever been found,” University of Washington astronomer Eric Agol said. “The bigger planet is pushing the smaller planet around more, so the smaller planet is harder to find.”

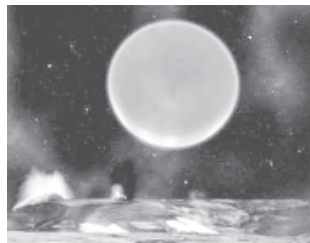
The planets are designated Kepler-36b and Kepler-36c, with Planet b being a rocky planet like Earth, though 4.5 times more massive and with a radius 1.5 times greater.

Kepler-36c, which could be either gaseous like Jupiter or watery, is 8.1 times more massive than Earth and has a radius 3.7 times greater.

The larger planet was originally spotted in data from NASA’s Kepler satellite, and researchers used a mathematical algorithm to analyze the data for a possible second planet.

“We found this one on a first quick look,” Joshua Carter of the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics said.

“We’re now combing through the Kepler data to try to locate more.” —Internet



An artist’s conception shows Kepler-36c as it might look from the surface of Kepler-36b. INTERNET

Sony, Panasonic to announce OLED tie-up next week



A man looks at Sony and Panasonic TV sets at an electronics shop in Tokyo on 15 May, 2012. REUTERS

TOKYO, 24 June—Rival Japanese television makers Sony Corp (6758.T) and Panasonic Corp (6752.T) will next week announce an agreement to cooperate in developing ways to mass produce next generation organic light emitting diode (OLED) televisions, two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters on Friday.

The two companies are in talks to develop the technology to build the

screens at more affordable prices as they look to counter competition from South Korea’s Samsung Electronics (005930.KS) and LG Electronics (066570.KS).

Japanese firms that dominated the global TV market in the 1980s and 1990s have been battered by their aggressive Korean rivals, along with weak demand for the TVs.

By combining their research and development

resources the firms are hoping to regain ground from their foreign rivals.

While Sony is developing technology to fabricate screens using sprays, Panasonic is using inkjet printer technology to make prototype OLED screens, and has invested 30 billion yen to set up a test production line at a plant in Japan, the Nikkei business daily reported earlier.

Reuters

Lenovo says no new guidance on growth forecasts

HONG KONG, 24 June—Lenovo Group Ltd (0992.HK), the world’s second largest PC maker, said on Friday it has offered no new guidance on its growth predictions, a day after a Taiwan newspaper report that it had halved its growth forecasts sent its share price tumbling.

Lenovo’s shares closed down 9.4 percent on Thursday following the report that it had halved its projection for growth in personal computer shipments. The stock was trading down 0.9 percent by 01:46 GMT on Friday in a broadly weaker market.

“Lenovo has issued no new guidance to suppliers or manufacturing partners regarding its growth estimates and we continue to be confident that we will outgrow the market worldwide,” the company said in an emailed statement.

“Lenovo has a hybrid manufacturing strategy (ODM and in-house) that is a significant competitive advantage. Accordingly business done with ODMs does not fully reflect the performance of our underlying business.” ODMs, or original design manufacturers, design and make products that are branded by other firms.

Barclays said in a report that Lenovo had reiterated its guidance for shipment growth of 15-20 percent for fiscal year 2013, following the newspaper report. Lenovo, which lags market leader Hewlett Packard (HPQ.N) in the global PC market, generally does not provide forecasts to the market. The company did not immediately respond to a request to comment on the 15-20 percent guidance figure given by Barclays.—Reuters



A Lenovo laptop computer is displayed with the latest Microsoft Windows 7 operating system at a computer store in Hong Kong on 5 Nov, 2009.—REUTERS

Acer slates Microsoft’s hardware push

LONDON, 24 June—Acer, the world’s fourth largest PC maker, has dismissed Microsoft’s (MSFT.O) chances of becoming a rival to Apple (AAPL.O) by building its own devices and urged its software partner to focus on its new operating system instead.

Microsoft announced on Monday that it would design and sell its own “Surface” tablets to showcase Windows 8 and take on Apple and Google (GOOG.O) in devices that are capturing more and more of the computing market.

It kept PC makers largely in the dark about its plans, according to sources, marking a radical departure from its previous close collaboration with its hardware partners.

Oliver Ahrens, Acer’s senior VP and president for Europe, Middle East and Africa, said Microsoft was trying to copy some of Apple’s strategy, but he was doubtful it would succeed.

“I don’t think it will be successful because you cannot be a hardware player with two products,” he said in an interview, adding that the former darling of the tech sector would also have to adapt its brand to compete with Apple.

“Microsoft is working with two dozen PC vendors worldwide, including the local guys, whereas Apple is alone, it can more or less do what it wants,” he said. “Microsoft is a component of a PC system. A very important component but still a component.”

He was also worried that Microsoft would shift resources to building a consumer hardware brand and retail operation, and in the process take its eye off the ball in making sure Windows 8 was a success for the PC industry.

“Instead of enhancing the user experience for Win 8 (...) they open a new battlefield,” he said.

“I worry that this will lead into a defocus internally for Microsoft, and then we have to suffer because we are working with their products.”

Olympic Performance

Taipei-based Acer, which ranked fourth in PC shipments in the first quarter, has had its own problems after failing to adapt to changes in the market including in particular the rise of Apple’s iPad last year, but Ahrens said the group was now getting back on track.

He said Windows 8, which does not yet have a launch date, was “extremely important” for Acer, and it would have

four or five devices tied in with its launch, including tablets and a high-definition slimline “Ultrabook” notebook.

Ahrens said the new products would be supported by an advertising campaign focused on the user experience rather than the specifications of the machines, which has been the traditional approach of PC makers.

“Acer wants to be more about value than volume,” he said, adding that the company needed to do higher end products to lift the status of the whole brand.



A man’s hand is seen on an Acer logo as he pastes a poster below at a computer mart in Taipei on 23 April, 2008.—REUTERS

Acer, an Olympics sponsor, will also be in the spotlight next month as the PC provider to the London games.

“Everything is run by Acer — the scoring systems, the internal IT,” said Acer UK managing director Neil Marshall. “It will demonstrate that we have the commercial ability to deliver this type of project.”

Ahrens said the second quarter, which ends in nine days, would see about a 50 percent rise in revenue in the Europe, Middle East and Africa region, as the group continued its recovery from the lows of a year ago.

The region accounted for 37 pct of revenue in the first quarter, according to a company presentation.

“Q3 will be more challenging because it’s a transition quarter from Windows 7 to Windows 8,” he said.

Reuters

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

India to unveil measures to check rupee's slide

KOLKATA, 24 June—India will unveil measures on Monday to arrest the slide of its currency, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said on Saturday, a day after the rupee hit a new record low against the dollar.

The partially convertible Indian currency on Friday hit a record low of 57.32 against the dollar, before the Reserve Bank of India's suspected intervention propped it up.

The rupee had hit its last record low at 56.55 on Thursday. "These are no doubts signs of weakness in the Indian economy," said Mukherjee, who is expected to resign from his post soon to contest the presidential election. "We will be able to take certain measures which will be announced on Monday, which will improve the market condition."

Traders said the central

bank likely sold \$250-300 million dollars on Friday to rescue the Indian currency.

Mukherjee said the government had discussed the situation with the central bank governor on Friday.

The rupee dropped a little over 3 percent against the dollar this week, its worst weekly decline in nine months, weighed down by mounting concerns over the global as well as India's economy.

Analysts say the rupee could continue to fall further in the near-term, dragged down by the momentum from the worsening global risk environment.—Reuters



People walk past a roadside currency exchange vendor in the old quarters of Delhi on 22 May, 2012.
REUTERS

HP may cut up to 1,000 jobs in Germany

BERLIN, 24 June—US group Hewlett Packard, the world's largest personal computer maker, may cut as many as 1,000 jobs in Germany as part of planned European-wide redundancies, WirtschaftsWoche reported, citing an unnamed staff representative.

HP is planning to cut about 8,000 positions in Europe by the end of 2014, the German magazine said, citing unnamed officials close to the company.

"As many as 1,000 jobs (in Germany) are acutely endangered," WirtschaftsWoche quoted the labour representative as saying. HP, which employs more than 300,000 workers globally, said in May the layoff of 27,000 workers, or 8 percent of its



A woman walks past the Hewlett Packard logo at its French headquarters in Issy le Moulineaux, western Paris, in this on 16 Sept, 2005 file photograph.
REUTERS

workforce, would be made mainly through early retirement and generate annual savings of \$3.0-\$3.5 billion as it exits its 2013/14 year. HP, which posted a second-quarter profit above

market estimates, aims to use cost savings from planned job cuts to drive organic growth.

HP in Germany was not available to comment.
Reuters

Fizzy drinks 'as bad for health as tobacco'

LONDON, 24 June—Sugar-packed fizzy drinks are just as dangerous to health as cigarettes, health experts have warned.

Experts want hard-hitting public awareness campaigns to attack what they say are "manufacturers' misleading promotions that distract from the health risks".

"Emerging science on the addictiveness of sugar, especially combined with the known addictive properties of caffeine in many sugary beverages, should heighten awareness of the health threat similar to the understanding about the addictiveness of tobacco products," the *Daily Express* quoted public health expert Dr Lori Dorfman as saying.

Dorfman, from the University of California, and colleagues want soft drinks companies to stop "explicitly

targeting young people" in an "aim to increase sales".

Drinking just two cans of fizzy pop a day has been shown to cause severe long-term liver damage, a condition normally the result of chronic alcohol abuse.

It can lead to victims needing a transplant because the liver cannot process the huge amount of sugar.

Too many soft drinks can potentially cause diabetes and heart damage as well as being a major contributor to obesity.

Diet drinks in particular have been shown to pile on the pounds because, even though they have fewer calories than regular fizzy pop, they can trigger the appetite to eat more.

Those who binge on diet soft drinks every day have been shown to have 70 percent bigger waists after a

decade.

"There is no comparison to be drawn between tobacco and soft drinks," a spokesman for the British Soft Drinks Association said.

"Tobacco is harmful in any quantity and any reduction in consumption is a positive step for health.

"In the case of food and

drink, it is the imbalance between calorie intake and calorie expenditure that is the cause of obesity and not the intake of calories as such, still less the intake of calories from any particular food or drink. These two situations are entirely different," the spokesman added.

Internet



A vendor sells cold drinks on the roadside in New Delhi as temperatures in Capital soared above 43 degree Celsius.—INTERNET

World first? tumour operation in womb saves foetus

LONDON, 24 June—Surgeons were able to successfully remove a tumour from the mouth of a foetus, in what has been described as a "world first" procedure.

After a scan at 17 weeks, mother Tammy Gonzalez said that she "could see a bubble" coming out of her baby's mouth. Doctors said it was a very rare tumour called an oral teratoma and there was little chance her daughter would survive. After the pioneering operation, baby Leyna was born five months later.

Doctors at the Jackson Memorial Hospital in Florida, revealed that this type of tumour was so rare that it had been seen only once in 20 years at the hospital. In the procedure, Gonzalez was put under a local anaesthetic as a needle was pushed through the protective amniotic sac around the foetus.

A laser was then used to cut the tumour from Leyna's lips. The operation took just over an hour. "When they

finally severed the whole thing off and I could see it floating down, it was like this huge weight had been lifted off me and I could finally see her face," the BBC quoted her as saying at a Press conference in Miami. She described the surgeons as "saviours". "To our knowledge, this is the first successful treatment of a foetal oral teratoma in utero," the doctors said.

Leyna Mykaella Gonzalez, who was born in October 2010 weighing 8lb 10oz, is now a healthy 20-month-old child. The only sign of her life-saving surgery is a tiny scar on her mouth.

The details have only just emerged after the operation was reported in the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

Internet



Apples found to carry most pesticides among 'dirty dozen' foods

NEW YORK, 24 June—An environmental group has singled out Apples as being the biggest carrier of insecticides. For the second year in a row, apples topped the Environmental Working Group's 'Dirty Dozen' list, which identified the most

pesticide-laden fruits and vegetables in the US.

Last year, apples knocked celery off the top spot, which this year ranks as the second biggest offender.

Sweet bell peppers were listed third in the line, according to the *New York Daily News*. In the 8th edition of the Shopper's Guide to Pesticides in Produce, researchers added kale and collard greens, which were also found to carry a highly toxic organophosphate insecticide, a toxin for the nervous system.

To come up with the rankings, the group analyzed residue testing data from the US Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration. Nectarines, blueberries, plums and cantaloupe were from both domestic and imported sources.

Meanwhile, a report from the European Food Safety

Authority published last year identified grapes, bell peppers, aubergines, peas and wheat as carrying the most pesticides across Europe.

The top pesticide-laden fruits and vegetables include:

1. Apples
2. Celery
3. Sweet bell peppers
4. Peaches
5. Strawberries
6. Nectarines-imported
7. Grapes
8. Spinach
9. Lettuce
10. Cucumbers
11. Blueberries-domestic
12. Potatoes.—Internet



Image for representative purposes. An environmental group has singled out Apples as being the biggest carrier of insecticides.
INTERNET

Health Tip: Reduce your risk of adverse drug reactions

Even over-the-counter medications can interact with food, beverages and other drugs, so it's important to take these medicines carefully.

The American Academy of Family Physicians suggests how to reduce the risk of adverse effects from OTC drugs:

- * Read the drug label carefully and only take the medication as recommended by your doctor or as instructed on the label.
- * Never take a medication with alcohol.
- * Never mix the medication with food or drink, unless your doctor says it's ok.
- * Ask your doctor or pharmacist any questions.
- * Be mindful of any drug reactions you've had before, and read the label on the current drug to look for any ingredient to which you're sensitive.
- * Don't take any OTC medication along with vitamins.

Internet

692 voluntary agreements reached at Rio+20

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 June — A total of 692 voluntary agreements were made in the main and side events of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), Rio+20 Secretary-General Sha Zukang said on Friday.

“Rio+20 is about implementation and concrete action. Here we saw that governments, UN system and major groups are committed in a serious manner. Voluntary agreements are a fundamental part of the conference’s legacy and complement to the Rio+20 official document,” Sha said at a Press conference on the last day of

the high-level summit.

He said governments cannot pursue sustainable development on their own, and they need support of private sectors and the civil society. Voluntary agreements were closed by governments, NGOs, and major groups, which include 500 companies and universities.

Governments were involved in 50 of the 692 commitments, accounting for only 7 percent of the total. Agreements involving NGOs and the UN system reached 72, and 226 agreements involved companies and industries, and 243 involved

schools and universities all over the world.

The Asian Development Bank and eight of the world’s main multilateral development banks are committed to investing 175 billion US dollars in sustainable transport systems. Fifty billion dollars will be invested in UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s Sustainable Energy for All initiative. The total amount to be invested reaches 513 billion dollars and will benefit several sectors including transportation, energy, carbon emission reduction, deserts, and climate change.

Xinhua



Palestinian security members inspect a damaged car at Hamas security building which was targeted in Israeli air raid in Gaza City, on 23 June, 2012. Israel’s military raids continued in the Gaza Strip on Saturday. — XINHUA

President Hu to visit Hong Kong for 15th anniversary celebrations

BEIJING, 24 June — Chinese President Hu Jintao will visit Hong Kong from 29 June to 1 July to attend the ceremony marking the 15th anniversary of Hong Kong’s return to the motherland, said

a statement here on Sunday.

Hu, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, will also be

present at the inauguration of the fourth Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government, to be held at the anniversary ceremony, the statement said.

Xinhua



Actors give performance adapted from the Chinese classic “A Dream of Red Mansions” on the stage in the Water Cube, one of the landmark venues of the 2008 Olympic Games, in Beijing, capital of China, on 22 June, 2012. “A Dream of Red Mansions,” written by Cao Xueqin (1715-1763) in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), tells a tragic love story against the backdrop of the collapse of a large aristocratic family. XINHUA

Gunman kills eight in SW Pakistan

BEIJING, 24 June — A gunman riding on a motorcycle has shot dead eight people and injured one in an attack on a Laundromat in southwestern Pakistan.

Saturday’s attack took place in a commercial area of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan Province. Police said the victims were from Punjab Province and were inside the laundromat at the time of the attack.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the shooting. Small separatist groups in impoverished Baluchistan often target Pakistanis from other parts of the country. The separatists want autonomy and a greater share of the money derived from the province’s natural resources like gas and oil. — Xinhua

Russians to watch London Olympics on street screens

ST PETERSBURG, 24 June — The 2012 London Olympic Games will be broadcasted on street screens in several large Russian cities, Russia’s national telecom operator Rostelecom said on Friday. Rostelecom has signed an agreement with the organizing committee of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics to set up 17 large street screens in many cities during the 2012 Olympics.

The company said it would broadcast exclusive video materials in the London

Games, including not only the competitions but also “the fans response”. The company did not specify what cities would get the open-air televised fan zones, mentioning only Moscow and Sochi as examples. According to Rostelecom, the broadcasting of London Olympics was a trail for Sochi Olympics. “In London, we have to polish and finalize the broadcasting for the Sochi Olympics,” Rostelecom head Alexander Provotorov said at the signing ceremony in St

Petersburg.

Provotorov vowed the broadcasting of the Sochi Winter Olympics must be of the “world class”. The company also planned to assemble over 25 fan zones equipped with the live broadcasting screens during the Sochi Winter Games. London Olympic Games are slated from 27 July to 12 August. Russia has set a minimum target of 25 gold medals at the games, in a bid to reach a top-three place in the medals table. — Xinhua



Passengers board a train at Hohhot Railway Station in Hohhot, capital of north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 22 June, 2012. A total of 74,000 passenger trips are expected for Hohhot Railway Station during the three-day holiday of Dragon Boat Festival this year, which lasts from Friday to Sunday. — XINHUA

Belarus stops import of Venezuelan oil

MINSK, 24 June — Belarus stopped import of oil from Venezuela in June, Belarusian First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Semashko told local media in Minsk on Friday.

Semashko said that at present, it would be advantageous for the country to buy oil from Russia. “Belarus does not buy Venezuelan oil from June. The supplies of the Venezuelan oil were a brotherhood help in the difficult time,” the official said. Belarus and Venezuela signed a deal on purchase of 10 million tons of oil in four years in 2010.

The Belarusian government then called it a big “economic success”, despite the fact that Venezuelan oil was more expensive than the oil which Russia supplies to Belarus.

In January 2012 Venezuelan oil cost 917 US dollars per ton, whereas the price of the Russian oil was 442 US dollars per ton.

Earlier Russian Ambassador to Belarus Alexander Surikov said in Minsk that imports of Russian petroleum products in Belarus had increased significantly in the past few years. It increased fourfold in 2012. — Xinhua

Suspect in US Capitol suicide bombing plot pleads guilty

WASHINGTON, 24 June — A Moroccan suspect pleaded guilty in federal court on Friday to a thwarted suicide bombing attack on the US Capitol earlier this year. Amine Mohammed El Khalifi, 29, appeared in US District Court in Alexandria, Virginia on Friday afternoon and entered the plea on charges of attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction against property that is owned and used by the United States. Under the terms of his plea agreement, Khalifi’s sentence will be fixed at between 25 and 30 years in prison. If convicted,

he could have faced a maximum penalty of life in prison. Khalifi was arrested on 17 Feb near the US Capitol carrying explosives that had been deactivated by FBI officers.

The FBI said the arrest “was the culmination of an undercover operation during which the suspect was closely monitored by law enforcement.” US Attorney Neil MacBride said after Friday’s hearing the suspect believed he was working with an al-Qaeda operative.

MacBride also stated that Khalifi’s initial targets included a synagogue and a

crowded district restaurant. Khalifi, who came to the country at age 16 and lived in Northern Virginia, was back into custody until his sentencing date of 14 Sept pending a pre-sentencing report. The US capital area, with landmarks such as the White House, the Capitol and the Pentagon in particular, has long been the target of terrorist plots. Last September, a 26-year-old US citizen was arrested and accused of plotting to bomb the Pentagon and the Capitol with a large remote-controlled aircraft filled with explosives. — Xinhua



Firefighters try to douse the fire in a shanty in New Delhi, India, on 22 June, 2012. A fire swept through a slum here on Friday, destroying hundreds of shanties where residents had collected scrap plastic and rubber for resale. No one was reported injured or killed, fire department chief AK Sharma said. — XINHUA

Afghan police kill 20 militants in 24 hours

KABUL, 24 June — Afghan police backed by the army and the NATO-led coalition forces have killed 20 armed anti-government militants over the past 24 hours, Interior Ministry said in a statement released here on Sunday.

“Afghan National Police, Afghan National in coordination with the Army and Coalition Forces have killed 20 armed insurgents over the past 24 hours during operations in Kunar, Nangarhar, Helmand and Uruzgan provinces,” the statement added.

However, it did not say if there were any casualties on the security forces. Taleban militants fighting the government have yet to comment. — Xinhua



Two Su-22 fighter jets of Poland’s Air Force fly over the Florennes base in Belgium, on 23 June, 2012. Belgium holds an international air show to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Florennes base. — XINHUA

Nature and its secret phenomena

T.S. (NLM)

The natural environment around us has plunged into a catastrophic state. But we have never noticed that the natural environment inside our body, which includes our peace of mind, is also entering the same situation, due to our boundless greed and over consumption. As the world's temperature steadily soars, the temperature inside our mind is also heating up rapidly.

Consequently, global and mental warming situation are not so different, since both phenomena are equal crucial. And they need to be cured simultaneously as internal heat can affect the external environment. We all should bear in mind that we can survive only if nature survives.

According to a prominent Buddhist monk, the major cause of global warming and other environmental problems stems from human's detrimental attitudes towards nature. "Humans fail to realize that they are part of nature. They can survive and maintain their race throughout the passage of time, simply because of nature's mercy and hospitality. Humans should be grateful to nature," suggested the monk. "Humans think that they are the master. What we commonly see in this technology-driven era is humans trying to control nature and irresponsibly exploit it," he said. And he used to say that incessant exploitation of nature happens because humans think that real happiness comes from the ability to possess a large number of material things but they are still not gratified.

They think that the more they have, the happier they are. Their success in life can be measured from the number and kind of cars they own and the price of the house, land, and other possessions they have, including money in their bank account.

With this attitude, people highly compete to consume and possess more, with consumerism as the stimulator and the capitalism as the supporter, he said.

Human greed has never been fulfilled because people still want more and more, resulting in the ceaseless destruction of nature in order to pamper their luxurious and wasteful life.

Yet, their happiness has never increased in line with their material wealth, which can be seen in the high rate of suicides and patients with mental disorders and neurosis.

"Such attitudes and consequently behaviours make people ignore and strange themselves from nature. They are even estranged from themselves. They immerse themselves in many unnecessary activities like talking on the phone almost all the time, shopping, and surfing the net. Everything they do contributes to the ruin of nature, he said.

It's no exaggeration to say that our natural environment is in crisis because our interior nature is out of balance. Deep down inside people feel alone, depressed and hopeless. That is why they are trying to indulge themselves with material things.

No matter how they succeed in transforming nature into a wide variety of consumer goods, assets and money,

humans can't be full and their soul is still empty, stressed the monk.

He pointed out that the natural environment can't be restored to its healthy state as long as humans' internal nature is still unstable. Nature teaches humans to enjoy a simple life and encourages them to embrace happiness, which derives from peace of mind, making merit, helping others and being at one with nature.

In this era of consumerism, humans greedily hunt for material happiness and along the way they fail to expose themselves to a more noble happiness. When people start controlling and reducing their desires, material happiness becomes less attractive. Happiness occurs easily when humans feel enough. And when that happens it's no longer necessary to exploit nature, he noted.

Nature is the greatest while we are just a tiny life of form. Nature teaches us to be humble and understand our real status. We are just a small part of it. When we feel humble, we will no be arrogant and we will get closer to nature. Nature conservation work is somewhat time-consuming and it is an uphill battle as long as there are selfish people who show no respect for nature.

Nature has been giving for so long, while humans have been taking. It is now time to take care of our generous provider. Given nature and its secret phenomena, we can conclude that chance may be the only explanation for what happens in life. And this is about luck and happenstance.

Wundwin holds tree growing ceremony

WUNDWIN, 24 June—The rainy season tree growing ceremony was held at the junction of Thedaw-Yonsu rural road and the inter-district road in Wundwin Township of Meiktila District in Mandalay Region on 9 June morning.

Assistant Director U Bo Bo Win of Meiktila District Forest Department, Head of Wundwin Township Forest Department U Soe Win Naing and Staff Officer of Dry Zone Greening Department presented saplings to departmental personnel and local people.

They grew 1200 saplings there.—*Myanma Alin*



Health care services for the aged provided

YANGON, 24 June—The anniversary celebration of Health Care Services for the Aged was held in Wanetchaung Station in Hmawby Township of Yangon Region on 20 June.

Region Hluttaw representative U Hla Oo, Township Administrator U Thein Myint and Head of Township Health Department Dr Kyaw Nyein made speeches.

Members of the village health committee and social organization members gave health care services to 224 older persons.—*Health*



CSC ISSUED: The head of Kyaukpadaung Township Immigration and National Registration Department and staff issued citizenship scrutiny cards to local people of Seiktein Village-tract on 19 June as part of Moe Pwint-3 Plan. They are supervised by Region Hluttaw representatives U Taing Aye and U Win Myint and Head of Myingyan Township INRD U Myint Shwe.—*MYANMA ALIN*

DISTRICT NEWS

Thabaung DAC disburses loans to 100 vendors



THABAUNG, 24 June—As part of efforts for poverty alleviation, the fourth loans disbursement was held for vendors of Thiri Shwetha Market in Thabaung Township of Ayeyawady Region on 18 June.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Tin Aung and Executive Officer U Htay Naing of Township Development Affairs Committee disbursed K 30000 each to 100 vendors at the office of Township Development Affairs Committee.—*Myanma Alin*

CASH DONATED: Education family of Basic Education High School No 1 in Twantay donated K 100,000 towards the medical fund of Mibagon Home for the Aged in Twantay recently.—*MYANMA ALIN*



Books donated to rural library in Htantabin

HTANTABIN, 24 June—A ceremony to donate books to Nay Wun Thit Library was held in Payut Village of Htantabin Township of Yangon Region on 21 June.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Mya Win made a speech.

After that, the township administrator presented K 1 million donated by State to the library committee chairman. The head of Township Information and Public Relations Department handed over 100 copies of magazines and journals donated by Myanmar Libraries Foundation to librarian U Tin Than.

The library was opened by Township Administrator U Mya Win, Head of Township IPRD Daw Khin Nyein and Village administrator U Win Naing.—*Township IPRD*



CASH DONATED: Dr U Khin Maung Win-Dr Daw Wai Wai of Diamond Showroom family donated K 2.5 million for purchase of Pulseoximeter and Defibrillator for the ambulance transport foundation of Myanmar Medical Association on 19 June. Chairman of MMA Prof U Kyaw Myint Naing and committee members accept the donation.—*MNA*

President U Thein Sein grows Maha Bo tree...

(from page 1)

Afterwards, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, General Hla Htay Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Union ministers, chairmen and secretaries of Hluttaw Committees, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief (Army)'s Office and deputy

ministers grew Gangaw plants.

Next, departmental personnel and members of social organizations cultivated Gangaw and star-flower plants.

The President, the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw and the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services viewed round participation of the attendees in growing saplings.

After that, the President viewed documentary photos of Thatta Thattaha Pagoda at the project briefing hall.

Altogether 216 saplings were grown at today's ceremony to grow trees in rainy season including Maha Bo tree and Kyee plant (*Borringtonia acutangula*).—MNA



Monsoon tree growing ceremony 2012 in progress in the precinct of Udayaramsi Hill in Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.
MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing grows Gangaw tree in front of Musaleinda Lake.
MNA

Mr. Crusher & Ms. Quench Contest held to hail Olympic Day

YANGON, 24 June— Myanmar Body Building Federation and M.G.S Beverages Co organized Mr. Crusher & Ms. Quench Contest in commemoration of the Olympic Day at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhama Road in Mayangon Township here this morning.

General Secretary of Myanmar National Sports Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu, General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaug Htaik, officials concerned of the sports federations, President of Myanmar Body-Building Federation Wunna Kyaw Htin U Hla Myint Swe, Managing Director of M.G.S

Beverages and officials and sports fun were present at the contest.

At first, after holding Region/State Champion Challenge Cup Tournament (Body-Building), the first, second and third winners were chosen from all classes.

Afterwards, the best was chosen among five winners, who stood first in five classes.

At the prize-presenting ceremony of the tournament, the deputy minister awarded first, second and third winners in 90-kilo class, DG U Thaug Htaik, those in 80-kilo class, Myanmar Body Building Federation President Wunna Kyaw Htin U Hla Myint Swe, those in 70-kilo class, and officials, those in 60-kilo and 55-kilo classes.

Deputy Minister U Aye

Myint Kyu presented the best award to Soe Moe Aung (Yangon Region) and champion shield to Yangon Region Team. After Mr. Crusher & Ms. Quench Contest had been staged, the first, second and third from the above-forty senior class of the body building contest and five victors from the Model Physique contest were chosen.

M.G.S Beverages Co Managing Director U Oo Tun awarded winners of the body building contest, and wife of M.G.S Beverages Co Managing Director Daw Moe Moe Oo awarded prizes winners from the Model Physique and designer Daw Nu Yin Pwint of Nu Yin Pwint Fashion Design presented prizes to winners from the Fitness Physique.

MNA

Sagawamyay Foundation awards outstanding students

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June— Patron of Sagawamyay Foundation Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun addressed a meeting between farming, manufacturing and odd-job workers credit association and local people at Linyaungchi Library in Letpanbin village-tract in Kyaukpadaung Township yesterday.

Secretary U Aung Hsan

Win of the association explained plans to disburse loans to rural people and to help them generate more income.

The Union minister called for concerted efforts of responsible persons and local people to alleviate poverty.

He also attended the foundation's prize presentation ceremony to outstanding students at Basic Education High

School No (1) in Kyaukpadaung Township.

The Union minister and wife Daw Khin Than Win, and officials presented prizes to outstanding students and teachers. Tun Foundation Bank Chairman U Thein Tun and townsenders of Kyaukpadaung donated cash through Chairman of the foundation working committee U Aung Kyi.

MNA

Union Transport Minister visits Yangon IWT

YANGON, 24 June— Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung met the managing director and personnel of Yangon Inland Water Transport at Ahlon Dockyard here yesterday morning.

The Union Minister clarified the future plans for the IWT as the ministry

would make reforms to four enterprises under its management, calling for organizational reform along with change in management and financial control system. He called on the managing director and the management to present the organizational structure what was appropriate for

them. He called for making profits from the services while guaranteeing social protection for staff and ensuring the convenience of passengers. The Union Minister in conclusion demanded them to turn the department into thriving enterprises.

MNA

Distinction winning students honoured in Kungyangon Tsp

YANGON, 23 June— Pyithu Hluttaw Representative of Kungyangon Township U Lun Thi awarded distinction winning students in matriculation examination in 2011-2012 academic year. Representative of Amyotha Hluttaw Dr Khin Shwe donated exercise books at Zatiman Hall of Kungyangon township, here, this morning.

At the ceremony, the representative of Pyithu Hluttaw, Chairman U Lun Thi of Resources and

Environmental Conservation Committee, delivered an address.

Later, U Lun Thi, Dr Khin Shwe and Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win and departmental officials awarded distinction winning students.

Next, U Lun Thi and U Sein Tin Win donated cash for National Composer Sayagi Min Thuwun bronze statue and construction committee.

Dr Khin Shwe presented 3520 dozens of exercise

books worth K 5.28 million to 7038 students through the Township Education Officer and donated 10 items of goods worth K 7.1 million to 142 monasteries through Chairman of Township Sasana Nuggaha Association U Sein Shwe.

On behalf of the outstanding students, four destination winner Ma May Thin Yin, Township Education Officer U Soe Liwn and Secretary U San Shwe of National Composer Sayagi Min Thuwun bronze statue and construction committee spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, U Lun Thi, Dr Khin Shwe and U Sein Tin Win recounted their experiences in respective Hluttaw.

After that, Dr Khin Shwe gave uniform to teachers. U Lun Thi, Dr Khin Shwe and departmental officials posed a documentary photo together with distinction winning students.

NLM



Clarification made on successful emergence of Myanmar monastery in Paris

YANGON, 24 June—A ceremony to clarify successful completion of Myanmar monastery in Paris of France was held in conjunction with the merit-sharing ceremony at Zabuthiri Beikman on Tadalay in Mayangon Township, here, at 1 pm today.

At first, missionary Sayadaw Sasanadhaja Dhammaçariya Maha Kammathanaçariya Kyunnatha Ashin Nandasiri administered the Five Precepts. The Sayadaw explained successful emergence of a Myanmar monastery in Paris of France.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung spoke on the occasion and the congregation shared merits gained.—MNA



Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung speaking at clarification on emergence of Myanmar monastery in Paris, France and merit-sharing ceremony.—MNA

Indigenous traditional foods sales held to hail Myanmar Women's Day

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—Taininthayir Region Women's Affairs Organization, hailing Myanmar Women's Day 2012, organized national race traditional foods sale at Dawei Town Hall yesterday noon. Daw Ekari Khaing, wife of the region chief

minister and patron of region WAO formally opened the sales.

Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko and wife then looked round the indigenous traditional food sale.

MNA

Pathein University, NITE of Japan to cooperate in biotechnological researches



Director-General of Japan National Institute of Technology and Evaluation Professor Dr Ando and party call on Deputy Education Minister U Ba Shwe.—MNA

YANGON, 24 June—Director-General of Japan National Institute of Technology and Evaluation Professor Dr Ando and party paid a call on Deputy Education Minister U Ba Shwe at Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) here this morning.

They discussed matters related to cooperation between the Japan Institute and Pathein University of the Education

Ministry in biotechnological researches, potentials for cooperation in higher education promotion works and education sectors of the two countries.

Present at the call were Director-General of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar), deputy directors-general, Professor In-charge of Pathein University Dr Nyunt Pe and personnel.—MNA

Winners in MPF Chief's Cup Chess Tournery awarded

YANGON, 24 June—Awards were presented to winners in Myanmar Police Force Chief's Cup Chess Tournament at the office of the Commander of Yangon Region Police Force yesterday.

On behalf of the Myanmar Police Force Chief, Commander of Police Battalions Control Command No (2) Police Brig-Gen Thura Bo Ni presented championship shield to Yangon Region Police Force team.—MNA

Chindwin likely to reach above its danger level in Hkamti

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—According to the (12:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Hkamti is (1203) cm. It may reach its danger level (1360) cm during the next (48) hours commencing noon today. MNA

Saplings planted in Haka hailing Myanmar Women's Day

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—A tree-planting activity was organized near Basic Education Post Primary School in Haka hailing Myanmar Women's Day yesterday morning.

Chin State ministers, state/township level departmental personnel, Patron of Chin State Women's Affairs Organization Daw Kyein Ngeik Wun and members and staff members took part in the activity, planting 900 saplings.

The state women's affairs federation patron then opened the commemorative signboard of Myanmar Women's Day which falls on 3rd July, outside Wumma Thumaung Sports Garden. The commemorative essay and poem contests were then held at No. 1 Basic Education High School. A total of 43 students—23 at BEHS level and 20 at BEMS level—participated in the contests.—MNA

Kayin State Chief Minister holds talks with state ministers, departmental officials, reps of IOM

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min held talks with state ministers, state-level departmental officials, representatives from IOM Group at the state government office on 22 June.

The state chief minister then received Professor Motoyoshi Satake of Nippon Foundation and party at the same venue.

As the commemorative signboard of Myanmar Women's Day was erected at No.4 Ward in Hpa-an yesterday, Daw Nyunt Nyunt Wai, wife of the state chief minister unveiled the signboard.

The state chief minister participated in tree-planting activity near Hpa-an Industrial

Zone on Hpa-an-Hlinebwe road. On 21 June morning, First Aid (Basic) Course No. 1/ 2012 jointly conducted by Hpa-an University Red Cross and Kayin State Red Cross Supervisory Committee was concluded at Hpa-an University convocation hall, attended by State Hluttaw Speaker U Saw Aung Kyaw Min, State Chief Judge U Saw San Lin, state ministers, the rector and professors, departmental personnel and trainees.

State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Lwin on behalf of the government presented K 300,000 million for Hpa-an University Red Cross Society.—MNA

Rainy season tree planting ceremony held in Thaton Township

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—The monsoon tree growing ceremony to mark the World Environment Day was held at University of Computer Studies in Gawt Village of Thaton Township this morning.

Mon State Minister for Transport U Tun Hlaing, State Minister for Forestry and Mines U Win Maw Oo, Pa-O National Race Minister U Khun Pe Mya, State Hluttaw representative U Thein Zaw, Director U Chit Paw of State Ministry of Forestry, Township

Administrator U Aye Naing, Staff Officer of Township Forest Department U Htay Lwin, Principal of University of Computer Studies Dr Win Htay, township level departmental personnel, chairpersons of District and Township Women's Affairs Organization and party, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association and social organization members, totalling 450 grew saplings.

At the ceremony, they planted 580 trees. MNA

Medical battalion giving medical treatment to victims at relief camps in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June— Directorate of Medical Servicemen of the

Services of the Commander-in-Chief (Army)'s Office and Servicemen of Sittway Township medical battalion have been providing medical treatment to victims at the relief camps in Rakhine State.



Servicemen of local medical battalion in Sittway fumigating relief camps in Sittway.—MNA

Today, the medical men gave medical treatment to the victims at the relief camps in U Ye Kyaw Thu Monastery and Sint Ku Monastery in Sittway, where they applied mosquito repellents near and around the camps.

Besides, the TVs are provided to the camps for recreation of victims.—MNA

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

The second best time is now.

Talks on danger of drugs given in Kengtung

KENTGUNG, 24 June—Shan State (East) Committee for Drug Abuse Control supervised the ceremony to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at Basic Education High School No. 4 in Kengtung on 11 June. Assistant Director U Sai Sam Tit of Additional Department of Information and Public Relations, IP Win Htwe of Kengtung Special Anti-Drug Squad,



Psychiatrist Dr Nyo Nyo Aung and Staff Officer Daw Myint Myint Khaing of District Law Office gave educative talks.

Similar talks were held at five BEHSs and three

universities from 11 to 14 June.—*Myanma Alin*

Experiences of Hluttaw recounted in Shwebo

SHWEBO, 24 June—Sagaing Region Hluttaw representative Dr Aung Than and officials recounted experiences of Hluttaw at Ward 2 administrative office in Shwebo on 20 June.

It was attended by townselders, enthusiasts and officials of NGOs.

Shwebo Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr Aung Than explained matters related to Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, matters related to Hluttaw affairs committees and ward and village law to the attendees.

Later, he replied to questions.

Kyemon

Firewood-saving stoves in high demand

YEDASHE, 24 June—As daily use of firewood is increasing in rural areas, firewood-saving stoves are in high demand.

The stove that can use one firewood stick is made of cement, sand and lime through proper ventilation technique.

The stove is being used in Thanbyuzayat of Mon State and then in rural areas of Yedashe Township. Such stoves will help prevent deforestation of the long run.

Kyemon



Python handed over to Yadanabon Zoological Gardens

YAMETHIN, 24 June—Senior Forester U Saw Aung Dwe and Ranger U Wai Yan Win Htut of Yamethin Township Forest Department of Mandalay Region donated a python handed over by local people to Yadanabon Zoological Gardens in Mandalay on 18 June.

The python is 12 feet and 10 inches long and 15 inches in girth. It was found at a place, four furlongs east of Chaungphyia Village of Yamethin Township.

Kyemon



Trees grown in Hline Yoma forest

TAIKKYI, 24 June—Yangon Region Forest Products Joint Venture Corporation Ltd (Head Office) held the tree growing ceremony in Block 15 of Hline Yoma forest reserve in Taikkyi Township recently.

Executive Director U Aung Min Kyaw Thu, General Manager U Thein Win and over 80 staff grew 750 saplings.

The corporation reforested 50 acres of land in rainy season in 2012-2013.—*Township Forest*



Citizenship cards issued in Kawkareik

KAWKAREIK, 24 June—In implementing Moe

Pwint Plan-3, staff of Kawkareik Township Immigration and National Registration Department issued citizenship scrutiny cards to the local people at the Dhammayon of Aung Theikdi Monastery in Nabu region of the township on 15 June.

Head of Township INRD U Nyo Nyo Than and staff issued citizenship scrutiny cards to 495 local people.

Township Immigration



MCDC to serve people through one stop service

MANDALAY, 24 June—Mandalay City Development Committee manages its tasks for convenience of customers at township administrative offices as of 12 June 2012.

Those wishing to undertake development tasks of the committee may contact the administrative office of Aungmyaythazan Township DAC on 22 Street between 87th and 88th streets, Tel: 02-36137,

Chanayethazan Township DAC on the second floor of Mingala Market between 30th and 31st streets and 72nd and 73rd streets, Tel: 02-36138, Mahaangmye Township DAC Office Maha Nwesin Sports Ground between 35th and 36th streets and between 70th and 71st streets, Tel: 02-77903, Chanmyathazi Township DAC Office, Theikpan Street, Water Supply Warehouse, Tel: 02-

36151, Pyigyidagun Township DAC Office, 3rd lane of Kywehsegan Grokeage, Tel: 02-80603 and Amarapura Township DAC Office in the compound office on Sagaing-Mandalay Road.

Urban plans and land management tasks will be carried out at the MCDC.

Kyemon

DISTRICT NEWS

SCHOOL UNIFORMS PRESENTED: A

ceremony to provide school uniforms to offspring of vendors from Zami Yadana Market was held in Kya-in-seikkyi on 15 June. Executive Officer U Khin Maung Cho of Township Development Affairs Committee presents school uniforms to students.—MYANMA ALIN



Citizenship cards issued in Dagon Myothit (East) Township

YANGON, 24 June—Staff of Dagon Myothit (East) Township Immigration and National Registration

Department of Yangon East District made a field trip to Ward 8 of the township on 20 June for implementation

of Moe Pwint-3 Plan.

Head of Township INRD U Set Shwe and staff, Ward Administrator U Hla Thein and officials issued citizenship scrutiny cards to the local people under the supervision of Yangon Region Minister for Border Affairs and Security Col Tin Win, Dagon Myothit (East) Township Region Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Htoo, Head of Region INRD U Ye Tun Oo and Head of Yangon East District INRD U Win Khaing.

Township Immigration



TRAFFIC RULES TALKED: A talk on traffic rule organized by Directorate of Road Transport was given at Basic Education High School No 1 in Kawkareik on 14 June. Deputy Head of Department U Aung Khin gives talks on traffic rules.—*DISTRICT IPRD*

Stationery, cash donated to fund of monastic education

YANGON, 24 June—A ceremony to donate stationery and cash to the funds of monastic education school was held in Ward E/A of Thingangyun Township of Yangon Region on 20 June.

The donation is aimed at donating stationery and cash to over 300 students.

At first, Township Administrator U Kyaw Lwin made a speech.

Wellwishers Haji U Tin Shwe (Polo) and Haji U Thein Win explained the purpose of the donations.

After donating stationery worth K 46,000 to the students, the wellwishers set up a fund worth K 346,000.

Myanma Alin

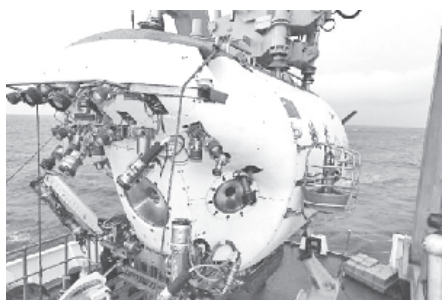
Iranian parliament speaker urges higher defence power

TEHERAN, 24 June—Iran's Majlis (parliament) Speaker Ali Larijani called for the necessity of improving the country's defence capabilities, the Press TV reported on Saturday.

"We should pay attention to defence preparedness so that our defence capabilities will meet the highest (level) as far as possible," Larijani said on Saturday in Teheran during a ceremony marking the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Day. "Our defensive efforts must conform to our country's terrain diversity as well as the enemies' (military) capacities," he was quoted as saying.

Insisting that the country's confrontation with enemies in the international scene is multifaceted, Larijani said that "in some cases our enemies engage in rogue political measures against us and in other instances they resort to other sorts of pressure to undermine our nation," according to the report. The present conditions as well as the country's national interests call for high deterrence preparedness of the armed forces, he added.

Xinhua



China's manned deep-sea submersible Jiaolong prepares to be put into water to make a fourth dive into the sea at the Mariana Trench on 24 June, 2012. China's manned submersible, Jiaolong, made its fourth dive in the Mariana Trench on Sunday morning to attempt the world's first 7,000-metre dive below the surface of the Pacific Ocean. — XINHUA

Chinese submersible refreshes national dive record by surpassing 7,000 metres

ABOARD XIANGYANGHONG 09, 24 June—Chinese oceanauts refreshed the country's dive record in a manned submersible by going deeper than 7,000 metres beneath the sea after a successful test dive in the Pacific Ocean on Sunday morning. The Jiaolong, China's manned submersible named after a mythical sea dragon, succeeded in diving 7,015 metres below sea level at around 11 am local time during its fourth dive into the Mariana Trench.

The dive started at 7 am local time on Sunday in heavy rain. The three oceanauts, namely Ye Cong, Liu Kaizhou and Yang Bo, sent greetings from the bottom of the blue sea to the three astronauts who are expected to conduct a manual docking of the Shenzhou-9 spacecraft with the orbiting Tiangong-1 lab module. "We wish for a great success of the manual docking and brilliant achievements in China's manned space and manned

deep-sea dive causes," said the oceanauts.

The oceanauts had succeeded in reaching the depths of 6,671, 6,965 and 6,963 meters in their previous three dives from 15 to 22 June, well surpassing the record of 5,188 metres last July." It has been proved during the four times of dive that the submersible is stable in function and the capabilities of the team performing the test dives are rising gradually," said on-scene commander Liu Feng.

Xinhua



People attend a ceremony to offer sacrifice to God during the Dano Festival in Gangneung, South Korea, on 22 June, 2012. The Dano Festival, a Korean traditional holiday that falls on 5th of the fifth month of the lunar Korean calendar, are celebrated this year from 20 June to 27 June in Gangneung. — XINHUA



This 17 Feb, 2012 photo shows a general view of The Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. Police say two people have been found dead in what investigators believe was a murder-suicide in a room shooting at the Beverly Hilton, just hours before the Daytime Emmy Awards are being held at the posh hotel. — INTERNET

Police: two dead at Beverly Hilton in murder-suicide

BEVERLY HILLS, 24 June—Two people have been found dead in what investigators believe was a murder-suicide at the Beverly Hilton, just hours before the Daytime Emmy Awards are being held at the posh hotel, police said on Saturday. Police responding to a report of a shooting late Friday found a man and a woman dead from gunshot wounds in a hotel room, Beverly Hills police Lt Mark Rosen said. Police would give no other details on the two people, their relationship, or the circumstances of the shooting. Police would not comment on whether the deaths were

connected to the Emmy awards. Coroner's officials had yet to begin their investigation, but said they were a man in his late 60s and a woman in her mid-50s. The luxury hotel was also the site of Whitney Houston's death in February. The singer drowned in the bathtub of her fourth-floor room, just a few hours before she was to attend record executive Clive Davis' annual pre-Grammy party in the ballroom downstairs. An HLN spokeswoman, Alison Rudnick, said the 39th Annual Daytime Emmy Awards will go on as scheduled. The cable news channel will be broadcasting live the

ceremony, which honors the best in soap operas and talk shows.

The hotel also hosts several other annual galas, including the Golden Globe Awards. Before the Friday shootings, Beverly Hills had just six homicides since 2008. Such rare cases usually draw national attention, as in the death of a Hollywood publicist who was shot while she was driving after a movie premiere in November 2010. Police say Ronni Chasen was killed in an apparent bungled robbery by a career criminal who later killed himself when approached by police.

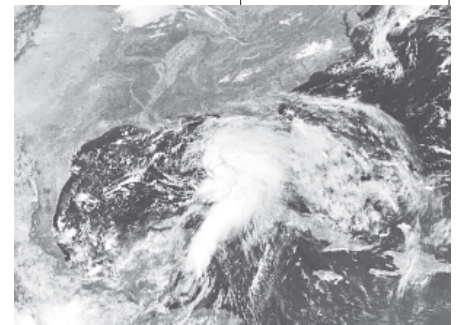
Internet

Tropical Storm Debby threatens Louisiana, Texas

MIAMI, 24 June—Tropical Storm Debby formed in the central Gulf of Mexico on Saturday and was expected to strengthen into a hurricane as it skirted the Louisiana coast and took aim at Texas, the US National Hurricane Center said. Debby covered much of the eastern Gulf and was centered about 215 miles south-southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River. The storm had top winds of 50 miles per hour (81 km per hour) and was expected to strengthen into a hurricane by Tuesday night.

The storm was nearly stationary but was forecast to start drifting north by Monday and then turn west, grazing the Louisiana coast through Tuesday and slamming into Texas late in the week. Oil and gas producers evacuated workers from oil and gas platforms and shut in production on Saturday as the weather worsened in the Gulf of Mexico, which is home to 20 percent of US oil production and 6 percent of natural gas output.

The US Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, which oversees oil and gas activity in the Gulf, said earlier on Saturday that 7.8 percent of daily oil



output and 8.16 percent of daily natural gas output were shut down. The agency's next update will be released at midday on Sunday. A tropical storm warning was issued for the Louisiana coast from the Pearl River west to Morgan City, excluding the city of New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain. Residents were warned to expect storm conditions within 36 hours.

Reuters

Fourteen mutilated bodies found outside Mexican supermarket

MEXICO CITY, 24 June—Fourteen mutilated corpses and a threatening message aimed at a drug cartel were found inside a truck in the parking lot of a supermarket in a northern Mexico City, local media reported on Saturday. Mexico's attorney general's office could not immediately confirm the reports of the grisly discovery in Mante and police officials in the crime-ridden city were not immediately available for comment.

Mexican media said the body parts belonged to 10 men and four women and the message was directed at the Gulf cartel. In a separate incident on 7 June, 14 dismembered bodies were discovered inside a truck in Mante, located in the south of Tamaulipas state, which borders Texas and is one of the bloodiest battlegrounds in Mexico's drug war. More than 55,000 people have been killed in the conflict since President Felipe Calderon sent in the army to fight drug gangs shortly after he took office in December 2006. — Reuters

Mexico admits mistake in high-profile drug case

MEXICO CITY, 24 June— Mexico on Friday admitted it had mistakenly claimed to have captured a son of Mexico's most wanted drug lord, Joaquin "Shorty" Guzman, which the ruling party had hailed as a major victory in its war on cartels. Mexican marines seized the man on Thursday outside Guadalajara and flew him to Mexico City, where they paraded him in front of the media and identified him as Jesus Alfredo Guzman, alias "El Gordo" or "The Fat One."

The man's lawyer, Veronica Guerrero, told a news conference earlier on Friday her client's real name was Felix Beltran and that he was an innocent car dealer. The federal attorney general's office said late on Friday the man arrested was indeed Beltran, without giving any further details. The mix-up is a major embarrassment for the government, which has been heavily criticized for failing to contain the violence and flow of drugs since President Felipe Calderon sent in the

military to fight the cartels shortly after taking office in December 2006.

Marines said they apprehended the man with an arsenal of rifles, pistols and grenades and about \$160,000 in cash. Javier Oliva, a political scientist from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, said the snafu showed how poor the coordination is between US intelligence agencies as well as their cooperation with Mexican counterparts.

Reuters



Elodia Leon (C), mother of Felix Beltran who was detained by Mexican marines on Thursday, talks to reporters during a news conference in Guadalajara on 22 June, 2012. REUTERS

Utah wildfire evacuees allowed to return to homes

SALT LAKE CITY, 24 June—About 2,300 Utah wildfire evacuees were allowed to return to their homes on Saturday evening after officials determined the blaze no longer posed a threat to them. The decision came after the fire had burned Friday within a quarter mile of some homes in Saratoga Springs and Eagle Mountain, about 40 miles south of Salt Lake City, Bureau of Land Management spokeswoman Teresa Rigby said. No homes have burned, she said, and fire officials were comfortable with the decision to lift the evacuation order after seeing

how the 9-square-mile blaze behaved Saturday afternoon during high winds and high temperatures. "The fire itself is still active but it no longer is a direct threat to homes," Rigby told *The Associated Press*. "Most of the fire is up on the mountain at this time and not near the subdivisions."

The evacuation order, imposed on Friday, affected nearly 600 homes and roughly 2,300 residents, according to an updated count released on Saturday by fire officials.

Winds pushed some of the fire back on itself on Saturday afternoon, Rigby

said, and crews managed to put out "hot spots" closest to homes.

The fire that officials believe was started on Thursday by target shooters was 30 percent contained on Saturday evening, with full containment expected on Tuesday. Crews also were battling a 16,500-acre brush fire on high desert near the town of Delta in central Utah. The human-caused fire was 60 percent contained Saturday evening, BLM spokesman Don Carpenter said, and had burned no homes after breaking out Friday.—Internet



Photo taken on 13 May, 2012 shows sea birds flying at the Grand Isle State Park, Louisiana, the United States. Two years after the worst oil spill in history, fishermen, scientists, and environmentalists up and down the US Gulf Coast warn that the disaster may be far from over.—XINHUA

World leaders pledge new steps toward global sustainability

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 June — World leaders pledged new measures to lead the world toward a more sustainable future on Friday here, as they ended a three-day development summit after adopting an outcome document. In the landmark document, entitled *The Future We Want*, 191 member states recalled pledges made at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, vowing to eradicate poverty,

advance social equity and ensure a sustainable future for Planet Earth. Closing the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the leaders renewed their commitments to global sustainable development and vowed that the world will have to change its growth model based on unsustainable consumption and production.

"It has been a successful

conference," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said at the closing ceremony. "I welcome the adoption of the outcome document."

The text of the 53-page document followed protracted and intense negotiations that the UN chief once called "painfully slow," and was agreed by the member states just one day before the summit opened on Wednesday.—Xinhua



Smoke rises in the background as a motorist drives down Larimer County Highway 74W as a wildfire continues to burn near Livermore, Colo., on 23 June, 2012. Authorities sent out 992 evacuation notices Friday due to the wildfire burning on more than 100 square miles in northern Colorado as winds pick up.—INTERNET



Cat, mouse live in harmony. XINHUA

490 out of world top 500 companies invest in China

BEIJING, 24 June — A senior commerce official said on Friday that so far, 490 out of the world top 500 companies have invested in China and established more than 1,600 R&D centres and regional headquarters.

Transnational corporations have kept investing more in China since the

country adopted the policy of opening up to the outside world in the late 1970s.

The companies have been playing an increasingly important role in boosting the nation's economic development, Gao Hucheng, a vice commerce minister, said at a meeting.

Foreign-invested firms

have reaped great benefits from this huge market. Sales of these companies exceeded 33 trillion yuan (5.24 trillion US dollars) in China in 2010 alone, Gao said, adding that the nation has become a safe haven and a main source of income for many foreign-invested firms during the international

financial crisis.

Meanwhile, China has stepped up its investment in other parts of the world. By the end of 2011, China's outbound direct investment topped 380 billion US dollars.

There were more than 18,000 Chinese-funded companies operating in 178 countries and regions at the end of last year, with total assets reaching approximately 1.6 trillion US dollars, Gao said.

Xinhua

Sichuan Airlines launches inaugural flight to Vancouver, enters N American market

VANCOUVER, 24 June — Sichuan Airlines flew into the Vancouver market, on its inaugural flight on Friday, becoming the first carrier to link western China with Canada.

For the Chengdu-based carrier, the Vancouver line designed to be three times a week, which includes a stopover in Shenyang, is its eighth international route and first foray into the North American market.

The carrier's entry into the Canadian market comes at an opportune time as

Chinese visitors to the country have increased dramatically after it received Approved Destination Status (ADS) from China in June 2010. Last year, its first full year of the ADS, 242,000 Chinese travellers visited Canada.

The Canadian Tourism Commission is forecasting the number of Chinese arrivals to jump 21.3 percent this year and 25.2 percent in 2013.

With Sichuan Airlines entering a crowded Vancouver market that is

already serviced by Air China, China Eastern and China Southern, in addition to Hong Kong carrier Cathay Pacific and Air Canada, the availability of more flights would only foster greater tourism and business travel, said Canadian International Trade Minister Ed Fast. "For me as a trade minister, it's really important that we allow business between Canada and China to take place in a more expedited manner," said Fast, who is also the Asia-Pacific Gateway minister.

Xinhua

Suicide second leading cause of death among young Indians

NEW DELHI, 24 June— Suicide has become the second leading cause of death among the young in India, a British research has revealed. The research on suicide mortality in India, published in Britain's prestigious *The Lancet* journal on Friday, has pointed out that more than half the total suicide deaths in women and 40 percent of suicide deaths in men in this country occur between the ages of 15 and 29. "Suicide kills nearly as many Indian men aged 15-29 as transportation accidents and nearly as many young women as complications from pregnancy and childbirth," lead author Vikram Patel of London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine said.

He added "Suicide is the cause of about twice as many deaths as HIV-Aids and about

the same number as maternal causes of death in young women." Interestingly, four of India's most prosperous states in the south — Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala — recorded 42 percent of suicide deaths in men and 40 percent of self-inflicted fatalities in women in 2010.

The four southern Indian states constitute nearly 22 percent of the country's population.

Strange it may sound, but farmer suicides, highlighted much in the India media, account much less deaths as compared to individuals in other professions, according to the research. "Suicide deaths in unemployed individuals and individuals in professions other than agricultural work were, collectively, about three times greater than they were in agricultural workers," the authors said.—MNA/Xinhua

Boy carries 'homeless' sign as punishment

A Maryland man said he made his 12-year-old son carry a sign proclaiming him to be "homeless" because he failed to call home as instructed.

Kevin Burks of Waldorf said he made his son, Kenny, carry a sign up and down his street on 18 June reading, "Homeless, Won't Listen to Parents," because he failed to call home as instructed when spending the night at a friend's house, WRC-TV, Washington, reported.

"All he has to do is check in at 8:30," Burks said. He said Kenny did not call until 9 pm.

"I pay for his clothes, his shoes, the roof over his head, his safety and everything he has," Burks said. "My thing is if you want to be your own adult, you'll sit outside and be your own adult."

Burks said he supervised his son during the punishment, which lasted from 9:15 am until 5 pm, and gave him meals and breaks every 2 hours.

A police officer responded when neighbours complained, and Burks said the officer complimented him on his creative discipline.



Photo shows a boy, Kenny, carry a sign up and down his street Monday reading, "Homeless, Won't Listen to Parents," because he failed to call home as instructed when spending the night at a friend's house, WRC-TV, Washington, reported.

Man charged for defrauding drug test

An Illinois man was charged with defrauding a drug screening test after allegedly handing over toilet water instead of urine, authorities said.

Brian J Uchwat, 29, of Schaumburg, showed up at the McHenry County Sheriff's Office to take a drug screening test on 20 June as ordered by his probation officer, the *Daily Herald*, Arlington Heights, Ill, reported.

Authorities said when it came time for Uchwat to take a urine test, though, he provided a sample of water he collected from a toilet.

The McHenry County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division was notified of Uchwat's test. He was then arrested and transported to the McHenry County jail.

Court Services Director Phil Dailing said any attempt by a person on probation to tamper with a court-ordered urine test is considered a serious matter.

Authorities did not say when Uchwat is scheduled to appear in court or why he was ordered to have a drug screening in the first place.

Scottish marchers told no swords allowed

Participants in a march to commemorate the Battle of Bannockburn, the great Scottish victory of 1314, have been told to leave swords and axes at home.

The Stirling Council, which has jurisdiction in the nearby village of Bannockburn, said weapons were banned during the short march to the battle site, The *Daily Telegraph* reported.

But the National Trust for Scotland, which owns the battlefield, said weapons would be allowed on the field. Participants would have to leave them in their cars while marching through the village and then retrieve them.

The Scottish Republican Socialist Movement, which organized this year's march, expected several hundred participants. Many were expected to be costumed as soldiers in Robert the Bruce's army. The Bruce defeated King Edward II of England on 14 June, 1314, one of many battles fought to preserve Scotland's independence.

News Album

Jennifer Hudson joins cast of 'Smash'



Jennifer Hudson performs at the Revlon Concert for the Rainforest Fund at Carnegie Hall in New York City on 3 April, 2012.

INTERNET

UNIVERSAL CITY, 24 June—Actress-singer Jennifer Hudson is to appear in a multi-episode arc on Season 2 of the Broadway-themed drama series

"Smash," NBC said.

Hudson will portray Veronica Moore, a Tony Award-winning Broadway star who impacts the lives of Karen, played by Katharine McPhee, and Ivy, played by Megan Hilty, the network said.

"We're thrilled to have Jennifer Hudson coming to 'Smash,'" Robert Greenblatt, chairman of NBC Entertainment, said in a statement Friday.

"This series is a showcase for some of the best musical talent in the business and that's a fitting description for Jennifer Hudson. Her

character will represent someone who reached their Broadway dream but also paid a price for it."

Executive producer Steven Spielberg said: "First 'Dreamgirls,' now 'Smash.' I have no doubt Jennifer will continue to deliver even more inspiration to the audience responsible for giving us a second season on NBC. It's wonderful to be reunited with her at DreamWorks Television and NBC."

Hudson won an Oscar for her work in the movie musical "Dreamgirls."

Internet

Emma Stone opens about battle with panic attacks

LOS ANGELES, 24 June—Actress Emma Stone says she began having panic attacks when she was eight but with the help of therapy and her decision to pursue acting as a teen, she managed to work through it.

"I was just kind of immobilised by it. I did not want to go to my friends' houses or hang out with anybody, and nobody really understood," she reveals in the latest issue of *Vogue* magazine, reports online.com.

"Being on stage gave me a sense of purpose. I wanted to make people laugh. Comedy was my sport. It taught me how to roll with the punches. Failure is the exact same as success when it comes to comedy because it just keeps coming. It never stops," she said.

However, the 23-year-



Actress Emma Stone

old says the occasional attack does happen from time to time, like while working on her most recent film, "The Amazing Spider-Man."

"I think I felt really out of control of my surroundings," she said.

Internet

I am not dating Demi Moore, says Joe Manganiello

LONDON, 24 June—"True Blood" actor Joe Manganiello has dismissed reports that he is the new man in Demi Moore's life, insisting that he only spent three minutes talking to her at a film premiere.

The 35-year-old actor,

Charlie Sheen in 'Machete Kills'

LOS ANGELES, 24 June—Actor Charlie Sheen has been cast as the US president in director Robert Rodriguez's "Machete Kills".

Rodriguez shared the news on his Twitter page and wrote: "I just cast Charlie Sheen in 'Machete Kills' as the president of the United States! Who better? More soon."

The film is a sequel to the 2010 action film "Machete", reports

contactmusic.com.

The film's cast also includes Sofia Vergara, Jessica Alba, Zoe Saldana and Michelle Rodriguez.

Internet



British artist/director Sam Taylor-Wood and actor Aaron Johnson attend the "BFI London Film Festival Awards" at LSO St Lukes in London on 26 Oct, 2011.

INTERNET



Actor Charlie Sheen

contactmusic.com.

The film's cast also includes Sofia Vergara, Jessica Alba, Zoe Saldana and Michelle Rodriguez.

Internet

Taylor-Wood and Johnson marry in UK

LOS ANGELES, 24 June—Director Sam Taylor-Wood and actor Aaron Johnson announced on Friday they have married in Somerset, England.

Taylor-Wood, 45, and Johnson, 22, have been dating since 2009 and have two children together. They met when Taylor-Wood cast the actor in her directorial debut "Nowhere Boy."

The couple told E! News they were wed on Thursday and will now both use the name Taylor-Johnson.

Taylor-Wood also has two children from her previous marriage to art dealer and gallery owner Jay Jopling.

Internet

Brad Pitt buys graffiti art

LONDON, 24 June—Actor Brad Pitt has bought three pieces from new graffiti artist Bambi — a canvas of Prince William and his wife Duchess Catherine, one of Queen Elizabeth and another picture of Amy Winehouse.

"There is a lot of buzz about Bambi at the moment. As Brad's here with the family for up to two years, it makes sense to fill the house with art by British artists," a source told thesun.co.uk.

The artist's work is similar to Banksy.

"He already has a Banksy, which he bought



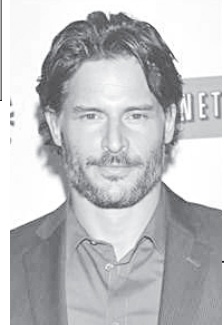
Actor Brad Pitt

for 1 million pounds at an auction here, but shipped it to Los Angeles," added the source.—Internet

you played a stripper. I play a stripper..." and we had a three-minute conversation about exchanging stripping notes.

"Geez, they will print anything and once it's on the Internet there's no fact checking, everybody just prints off of everybody else's articles... It's amazing," he added.—Internet

'True Blood' actor Joe Manganiello



"(She's a) lovely woman... She was in Striptease and I was like, 'Hey,

Alonso scores twice to gift Spain 2-0 win over France



Xabi Alonso (R) of Spain vies with Franck Ribery of France during their quarterfinal match at the Euro 2012 football championships in Donetsk, Ukraine, on 23 June, 2012. — XINHUA

DONETSK, (Ukraine), 24 June—Xabi Alonso's powerful header and penalty kick helped World Cup and Euro champions Spain beat France 2-0 in the Euro 2012 quarterfinals here on Saturday night. In the 19th minute, France's two right-backs were beaten by Jordi Alba, from Andres Iniesta's pass, and Alba pulled out a perfect chipped cross to Alonso at the far-post to head home. In injury time, Anthony Revellere tackled down Pedro in the box to concede a penalty.

Alonso sent keeper Hugo Lloris the wrong way to seal the win.

It was Alonso's 100th international cap and he was named the Man of the Match. Spain had never beaten France in the World Cup and Euro Championship history. They broke the jinx tonight and extended their unbeaten run in the competitive games to 18 after they lost 1-0 to Switzerland in the 2010 World Cup group stage. Spain coach Vicente del Bosque said after the match, "We want the possession of ball to create scoring chances. We are in control most of the time."

Spain almost dominated the duel with their accurate passes and crosses. They boasted 60 percent of ball possession in the first half and 55 percent in full time. "I don't want to talk about a particular player. It is good work of the whole team," Bosque noted. Bosque reverted to his strikerless starting formation, replacing Fernando Torres with Cesc Fabregas in his only

change from the win against Croatia. France made four changes and started with two right-backs in Reveillere and Mathieu Debuchy, although neither could prevent Alba supplying Alonso with a telling cross.

France had barely tested the Spanish defence and Karim Benzema wasted a 25-yard free-kick by lofting it so high over the bar that Yohan Cabaye took over for the next one. The Newcastle midfielder did much better, forcing Iker Casillas into a smart one-handed save just



Olivier Giroud (C) of France heads the ball during their quarterfinal match against Spain at the Euro 2012 football championships in Donetsk, Ukraine, on 23 June, 2012. — XINHUA

under his crossbar. While France sent on Samir Nasri and Jeremy Menez in the 65th minute, Spain introduced Pedro and Torres, who would have combined to double the lead after another beautifully-crafted attack had Koscielny not been on hand with another timely interception.

France coach Laurent Blanc said at the post-match press conference, "Spain's left wing is stronger. We planned to stop them on this side. They had only one cross from this side in the first half. But they scored." "We watched a lot of videos. We want to put them under pressure, but they earned the lead in 20 minutes," Blanc added. "We have less ball possession. It is very difficult to create chances, the clear-cut chances in particular," he admitted. Spain will take on Portugal, who edged the Czech Republic 1-0, in the semifinal. Bosque said, "It will be a difficult match against Portugal. They have two days more to rest."

Xinhua

China's Li Na hopes to do better this year at Wimbledon



Li Na

LONDON, 24 June — China's first Grand Slam champion Li Na said here on Saturday that she hopes to do better this year than her second round loss in last Wimbledon. The 30-year-old shocked the world by breaking through at the French Open to win her first major title, becoming the first Grand Slam singles winner in Asia. "I still remember after French," she said. "I was this year feeling more free, because last year I come in and I just feel always someone following me and I couldn't do so many things for my private time. So now just back to normal," she said. "If you always feel someone looking [at] you, security next to you, you didn't feel very comfortable. Now I can do much practice as I can. I can concentrate on the court."

This year, Li has made the quarterfinals or better at six of

her nine tournaments and progressed to the Round of 16 at both the Australian Open and the French Open. Things have steadied for her both on and off the court as she looks to begin her Wimbledon campaign against Ksenia Pervak. She's looking forward to improving on her tough second round exit last year to eventual semifinalist Sabine Lisicki. That was a match that could have gone either way (Lisicki won 8-6 in the third) but Li insists she no longer dwells on that disappointment. "I like to say last year I got a lot of confidence come to Wimbledon but I didn't do well, so I wish this year I can do good," she said.

"You really couldn't always think about what you doing the last year, because right now one year already. Time can change everything." The one thing time doesn't change is the unpredictable British weather. When asked for her first memories of Wimbledon, Li couldn't help but laugh. "I mean, the weather, of course. Every year is the same. Some days with rain are coming we have to wait, and sometimes we have to come to the court straightaway," she said. "And strawberries and cream," she said. "I have to eat, otherwise I miss something." — Xinhua



Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo

PARIS, 24 June—As well as he plays at the Euros, Portugal star Cristiano Ronaldo cannot escape from the shadow of the absent Leo Messi, his rival for the title of 'best player in the world'. Messi has been acclaimed as the best there is three times to once for Ronaldo but their ongoing battle for supremacy is an interesting sideshow in the Real Madrid versus Barcelona battle while both are additionally constantly reminded that, unlike Pele and Diego Maradona they have never won an international title.

Lip-reading supporters of the beautiful game maintain that Ronaldo shouted out "Messi" after his goal against the Czechs — though the former insists that on the

Di Stefano leans towards Ronaldo in Messi debate

contrary he was simply dedicating his effort to his son Cristiano Junior. He did, however, note amid criticism of his first two performances here that Messi was "this time last year exiting the Copa America" with hosts Argentina in the quarter-finals.

Former Real star Alfredo di Stefano has now entered the debate, telling Portuguese daily *Diario de Noticias* he is with Ronaldo in the who is best argument.

"I have not seen all the Euro 2012 action but Cristiano Ronaldo is having a fantastic tournament. He scored a really great goal against the Czech Republic. He is a very complete player — a striker who is there to score goals," said the Argentina-born Real legend. Yet Di Stefano admits he has a special reason to give Ronaldo the nod — and not necessarily on grounds of talent. "Messi and Cristiano are two huge players but I

want to single out as the best in the world a player from Real Madrid," he explained. Real defender and Portugal star Pepe, who is a close friend of Ronaldo, also makes his colleague his number one.

"Cristiano is the boss. He always wants to improve and give the maximum and he has shown again he is the best in the world — not just of this world either — I'd say he is out of this world, an extraterrestrial." Former Portugal striker Nuno Gomes is another who backs his compatriot. "We hope Portugal get to the final and that Cristiano Ronaldo continues to beat records. By the end of his career he will have beaten all the records there are — he is really the best player in the world," insisted the former Benfica star. Messi, currently back in Argentina, has meanwhile tried to skirt around the debate of which of the two is better.

"I have nothing to say," he said diplomatically -

although he did say he wanted Spain — who the Portuguese could meet in the semis — to win the tournament. "I have to admit I am not really following the Euros and I don't have a clear favourite but I'd like Spain to win given all the friends I have over there." Ronaldo says in any case that if he does edge Messi out the next time the Ballon d'Or is awarded it will not be because of his Euro 2012 showing. "I don't think this will have an influence on the Ballon d'Or," he forecast. — Internet



Argentina's Lionel Messi

Rex Hospital Open. "I stayed in San Francisco with my family and friends after missing the cut last week because we had rented a house through Sunday. We went sightseeing on Saturday and I really didn't want to do that. I finally went back out to the golf course on Sunday and that just made me madder for the way I played there at Olympic the first two days (10-over). — Internet

International Sports

Herman maintains lead at PHS Wichita Open

WICHITA, (Ka), 24 June — Jim Herman left a few out on the table on Saturday. He just hopes the cupboard is full late tomorrow afternoon at Crestview Country Club. Despite strong, gusting winds and temperatures soaring into the upper 90s, Herman, still motivated by his poor play at last week's US Open, forged a three-under-par 68 on Saturday that allowed him to maintain a two-stroke advantage over



Casey Wittenberg's 63 has him two clear of the field in Wichita. — INTERNET

first-round leader Casey Wittenberg through three rounds of the 2012 Preferred Health Systems Wichita Open.

Herman, the overnight

leader in the event, is currently just outside The 25 on the 2012 official Nationwide Tour money list at No. 28. He didn't make his first birdie in Round 3 until sinking a 20-foot putt at the par-4 5th hole. However, he three-putted from 70 feet for bogey at the par-3 8th hole to record his only blemish of the week that ended a bogey-free run on the Nationwide Tour at 50 consecutive holes dating back to the final round of The

Ashton Eaton sets world record in decathlon

EUGENE, (Ore), 24 June — Ashton Eaton likes to compare decathlons to life — the ups and downs, the good and bad, the setbacks and comebacks. Over two dreary days that finally closed with a bright ray of sunshine, Eaton found out just how good life can be. He's the world-record holder in the decathlon, the cream of the crop in the hallowed and history-filled event that has long identified the world's greatest athlete. Needing a personal best in the grueling finale, the 1,500 metres, to get the record, Eaton came through Saturday night in the US Olympic trials, running the last event in 4 minutes, 14.48 seconds to finish with 9,039 points and beat Roman Sebrle's 11-year-old mark by 13 points.

"It's like living an entire lifetime in two days," Eaton said. "It doesn't mean that much to the rest of the world, but to me, it's my whole world. To do the best that I possibly could in my world makes me pretty happy." Eaton joined the likes of Bruce Jenner, Dan O'Brien, Bob Mathias and Rafer Johnson among the Americans who have held the

world record. He did it on the 100th anniversary of the first Olympic decathlon — and many of the American greats who have made history in the event were on hand to watch Eaton. "I thought he showed some real courage," Johnson said. "He hung in there and figured out a way to win. He was brilliant in everything he did."

He won seven of the 10 events and did most of it in terrible weather — drizzle, rain, cold and then, finally, sunshine as he got ready for the final 1,500-metre push. "It's like the 11th event," runner-up Trey Hardee, the defending world champion, said about the weather. — Reuters



Decathlete Ashton Eaton gets ready for start of decathlon 110m hurdles at the US Olympic athletics trials in Eugene, Oregon on 23 June, 2012. — REUTERS

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

- (25-6-12 09:30 am ~ 26-6-12 09:30 am) MST**
- * News
 - * The Great Shwedagon Pagoda (Arts & Craft)
 - * News
 - * Myanmar Traditional Instruments 'Myanma Drum'
 - * News
 - * National Races from Shan State "Gon Shan and Li Shan"
 - * News
 - * Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Episode-9)
 - * News
 - * Housing Living & Automobile Exhibition 2012
 - * News
 - * Culture Stage
 - * News
 - * Mesmerising Scenes or Images of Japan (Part-1)
 - * News
 - * Myanmar Movie "Loud Speaker"

MYANMAR TV (25-6-2012) (Monday)

- 7:00 am**
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:25 am**
2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:40 am**
3. Nice and Sweet Song
- 8:00 am**
4. Song Of National Races
- 8:20 am**
5. Songs for International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- 4:10 pm**
6. Dance Variety
- 4:30 pm**
7. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Psychology)
- 4:50 pm**
8. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 5:00 pm**
9. Myanmar Language
- 5:20 pm**
10. Songs for International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- 5:35 pm**
11. Documentary
- 6:20 pm**
12. Sing & Enjoy
- 8:00 pm**
13. News
14. World's Stars
15. TV Drama Series
16. India Drama Series

Super-charged Hamilton ready for European Grand Prix



Lewis Hamilton celebrates on the podium after winning the Canadian Grand Prix on 10 June. Hamilton said he was "super-motivated" to produce another strong performance this weekend as he aims to extend his lead in the world championship.—INTERNET

PARIS, 24 June — Canadian Grand Prix winner Lewis Hamilton said he was "super-motivated" to produce another strong performance this weekend as he aims to extend his lead in the world championship. Thanks to his emphatic win in Montreal, the 27-year-old McLaren driver heads to the European Grand Prix with a two-point lead in what has been the sport's most extraordinary start to a season with seven different drivers winning the opening seven races.

That means the top four drivers are separated by just nine points, and Hamilton is

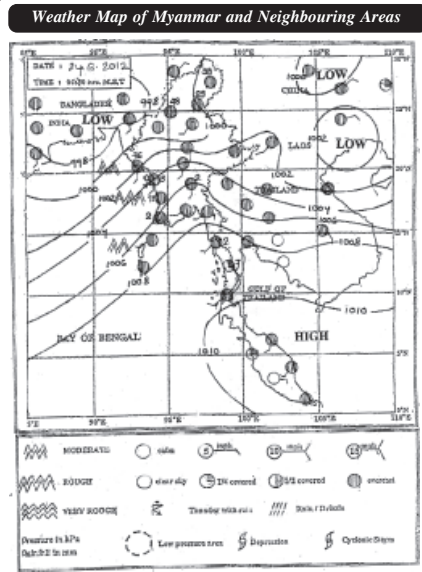
well aware of how tight things are and how much of a threat second-placed Fernando Alonso of Ferrari and Red Bull drivers, Sebastian Vettel and Mark Webber, pose to his title hopes.

However, although the maturing Englishman will be hoping to become the first driver to win two races this season, he remained level-headed and believes consistent driving, rather than wins, will be the key to winning the championship. "While it's always pleasing to be leading the championship, I'm only two points ahead of Fernando which is nothing, particularly when there is a handful of really strong drivers all separated by a couple of points, so there's still everything to play for," said Hamilton.—INTERNET



Afghan villagers gather near a house destroyed in an apparent NATO raid in Logar Province, south of Kabul, Afghanistan on 6 June, 2012. Afghan officials and residents say a pre-dawn NATO airstrike aimed at militants in eastern Afghanistan killed civilians celebrating a wedding, including women and children.

INTERNET



Weather forecast for 25th June, 2012

S. No.	Temperature (°C)		Forecast	
	Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	27/81	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers (80%)
2	Kayah	28/82	20/68	Scattered rain or thundershowers (80%)
3	Kaym	30/86	22/72	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (80%)
4	Chin	19/66	16/61	Widespread rain or thundershowers (80%)
5	Upper Sgawing	28/82	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers (80%)
6	Lower Sgawing	36/97	26/79	Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
7	Tanintharyi	33/91	24/75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (80%)
8	Bago	33/91	26/79	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (80%)
9	Magway	33/91	25/77	Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
10	Mandalay	34/93	27/81	Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
11	Mon	32/90	25/77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (80%)
12	Yangon	33/91	24/75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (80%)
13	Rakhine	30/86	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers (80%)
14	Southern Shan	24/75	17/63	Scattered rain or thundershowers (80%)
15	Northern Shan	28/82	21/70	Scattered rain or thundershowers (80%)
16	Eastern Shan	28/82	23/73	Scattered rain or thundershowers (80%)
17	Ayeyawady	33/91	25/77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (80%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	34/93	25/77	One or two rain or thundershowers (80%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	33/91	24/75	Isolated rain or thundershowers (80%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	34/93	27/81	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in the Lower Sgawing and Magway Region, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Chin and Rakhine States, fairly widespread in Tanintharyi Region and Kachin State, scattered in Upper Sgawing and Bago Regions, Mon State and isolated in the remaining Region and States with regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Upper Sgawing Region and Chin State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukse (9.06) inches, Palewa (4.72) inches, Hkamti (3.43) inches and Sitawu (3.39) inches.

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

State of the Sea: Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar water.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Davis, Thatcher tied for lead at Travellers golf

CONNECTICUT, 24 June— Brian Davis and Roland Thatcher, who are both chasing their first victories on the USPGA Tour, were tied for the third-round lead at the \$6 million Travellers Championship. Englishman Davis fired a six-under 64 to reach 12-under 198 after 54 holes. He is level with Thatcher who shot a five-under 65. "It was one of those things where you had the rhythm, you were playing and you just kept going," Davis said of his front nine. "We hit the back nine and the wind's picked up, and all of a sudden it was two groups on every tee coming in. Sort of lost some momentum a little bit."

Davis rolled in six birdies with a 29 on the front nine. Thatcher had a one-shot lead on the back nine but missed a seven-foot par putt on the 17th hole that set him back. He had three consecutive birdies during one productive stretch of his round. "It's been a really good three rounds, obviously one more to go, and it's really packed leader board up there," Thatcher said. The tournament was hit by stormy weather on Friday which resulted in half the field not finishing the second round. The players returned early on Saturday and the event is now back on schedule after some players had to play 36 holes in one day. Nine players shot 65 or

better as the players took advantage of soft conditions. "It played longer, softer, but we didn't have any mud



Brian Davis during round three of the 2012 Travelers Championship on 23 June. Davis and Roland Thatcher, who are both chasing their first victories on the USPGA Tour, were tied for the third-round lead at the \$6 million Travellers Championship.—INTERNET

balls, so that was nice," said Will Claxton, who shot a 69. John Rollins, James Driscoll and Stuart Appleby were two strokes adrift of the leaders. Defending champion Fredrik Jacobson shot even par to remain at nine under. He managed a round of even-par 70 on Saturday and is tied for sixth place with five others. Jacobson led the event after 36 holes. Three-time major winner Pádraig Harrington (65), Matt Kuchar (66), Tim Clark (66), Charley Hoffman (67) and Claxton are also at nine under. Four of the last six winners of the Travelers Championship have been first-time winners on the USPGA Tour.—INTERNET

Four NATO service members killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 24 June— NATO says four service members have died in southern Afghanistan in the past two days.

The alliance says one service member died in an insurgent attack and another in a bomb blast on Saturday. The two other service members died on Sunday in a traffic accident in the south.

The coalition did not

identify the nationalities of the dead or give further details. NATO forces usually wait for individual nations to identify their dead.

Separately, the coalition says a NATO helicopter made a forced landing in the south on Saturday. It said no one was killed and that initial reports said there was no enemy activity in the area.

INTERNET

Afghan villagers gather near a house destroyed in an apparent NATO raid in Logar Province, south of Kabul, Afghanistan on 6 June, 2012. Afghan officials and residents say a pre-dawn NATO airstrike aimed at militants in eastern Afghanistan killed civilians celebrating a wedding, including women and children.

INTERNET

Double leg amputee scales Mount Kilimanjaro

DODOMA, 24 June—A double leg amputee has pulled himself up Africa's highest mountain, disproving doctors who said he would never be a functioning member of society."

Spencer West, 31, lost his legs as a child after a genetic disorder — sacral agenesis — paralyzed the lower half of his body.

But he didn't let that stop him: the resident of the Canadian city of Toronto arrived at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, some 6,000 metres (19,700 feet) above sea level, on Tuesday, calling it an incredible personal feat.

"Reaching the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro was the most mentally and physically challenging thing I have ever done, but in doing so, it reinforced the powerful message of believing in yourself, and believing in



This handout photograph obtained on 22 June, from Free the Children shows double amputee Spencer West after ascending Mount Kilimanjaro on 19 June, in Tanzania. West, 31, of Canada, lost the use of both legs at the age of five.—INTERNET

others," West told AFP from Nairobi, Kenya.

"Physically, it was challenging because I climbed the majority of the mountain on my hands, which put a lot of stress on my shoulders and arms," he said, estimating he hoisted himself up 80 percent of the way.—INTERNET

President U Thein Sein felicitates Croatian President

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ivo Josipovic, President of the Republic of Croatia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Croatia, which falls on 25 June, 2012.—MNA

President sends message of felicitations to Croatian PM

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Zoran Milanovic, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Croatia, which falls on 25 June, 2012.—MNA

YANGON, 24 June—A Myanmar delegation led by Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint arrived back here by air at 5.50 pm today after paying goodwill visits to Lao People's Democratic Republic at the invitation of President of the National Assembly Madame Pany Yththout and to Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the invitation of Chairman of National Assembly of the SRV Mr Nguyen Sinh Hung.

Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and party were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, chairmen, secretaries and members of Amyotha Hluttaw Committees, Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Aung, Lao PDR Ambassador Mr Nilahath Shyarath, Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Chu Cong Phung and departmental officials.

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives Chairman of National Race Committee U Hsai Paung Nup, member of Public Accounts Committee U Baran Shaung, members of Hluttaw Rights Committee U Hsan Yel and U Saw Taw Pale, member of Monetary and Revenue Committee U Ha Shein Bwe, member of Economic and Commerce Committee U Htay Win, member of Education, Health and Cultural Committee U Hla Thein and officials of the Hluttaw who accompanied the Speaker also arrived back on the same flight.—MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint arrives back from Lao PDR, Vietnam



Myanmar delegation led by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint being welcomed back by officials at Yangon International Airport.
MNA

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, attends tree growing ceremony to mark Myanmar Women's Day 2012

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham partaking in tree-planting ceremony to hail Myanmar Women's Day-2012.
MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation organized tree growing ceremony hailing the Myanmar Women's Day 2012 in the precinct of Yanaungmyin Shwelethla Pagoda in Lewe of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area at 8 am today, attended by Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

Also present on the occasion were Patrons of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, President Dr Thet Thet Zin, CEC members and members.

At first, Daw Nan Shwe Hmon planted a tree at the designated place.

Next, Patrons of MAAF, President Dr Thet Thet Zin and CEC members grew trees at the designated places.

Later, Daw Nan Shwe Hmon and party viewed round cultivation of perennial trees and flowery plants by MAAF members and the attendees.—MNA

Myanmar Women's Day billboards opened

NAY PYI TAW, 24 June—Hailing Myanmar Women's Day, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation unveiled Myanmar Women's Day billboards at various sites here this morning.

The ceremonies were attended by patrons of MAAF, President Dr Thet Thet Zin, CEC members and members.

The patrons formally opened the billboards near Thabyegon roundabout in Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Township and Gangaw flower roundabout in Dekkhinathiri Township and the chairperson unveiled the boards.—MNA

Sharapova comes back down to earth at Wimbledon

LONDON, 24 June—After the stellar delight of winning the French Open to complete a career grand slam, Maria Sharapova has come back down to earth at Wimbledon, scene of one of her greatest disappointments a year ago.

"I was walking around for three days with the biggest smile," Sharapova told a Wimbledon news conference on Saturday, recalling her Roland Garros triumph a fortnight ago. "Then I got here and I better get back to reality."

Reality meant getting used to grass again, and learning from the experience of losing to Czech Petra Kvitova in last year's Wimbledon final, said Sharapova, world number one since her Paris victory.



Maria Sharapova of Russia reacts after winning Sara Errani of Italy during their women's singles final match at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris 9 June, 2012.

INTERNET

"As tough as it is to lose grand slam finals, probably one of the toughest things for a tennis player, it's really about getting yourself back out there and improving and hoping for another chance," the Russian said.—Internet

Alonso scores twice to gift Spain 2-0 win over France



Xabi Alonso (R) of Spain vies with Franck Ribery of France during quarterfinal match at Euro 2012 in Donetsk, Ukraine, on 23 June.

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Davis, Thatcher tied for lead at Travellers golf

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