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Cooperative means working together with others towards common goal

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint met staff from the departments under the ministries and responsible persons from region cooperatives, breeding and fisheries firms at Cooperatives University (Sagaing) yesterday.

The union minister discussed matters on sector-wise development of firms.

In meeting with faculty members led by the principal of Cooperatives University (Sagaing), he fulfilled the requirements of the University and left necessary instructions.

The Cooperatives College (Sagaing) was upgraded to Cooperatives University (Sagaing) with the aim of turning out scholars who can lead cooperative societies said the union minister. He also called for forming cooperative society system, instead of working individually to promote development of Sagaing region.

Cooperative means working together with others towards a common goal. That's why students are to try to become a good cooperator always sharpening their skills and trying their utmost to be equipped with a sense of cooperation with others, he noted.

Breeding of milch cows on a manageable contributes much to a booming business in Koneywa, Kyaukse, Aungthar and Ywathit villages in Sagaing Region while breeding of milch cows can help produce a lot of milk which is of great

benefit for health, he said.

The union minister said that the milk processing plant will be built in the village in Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region in the near future and it will be able to produce high



Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint delivering an address in meeting with faculty members from Cooperatives University (Sagaing).—MNA

quality milk. The village would be a model village among ones in Sagaing Region sooner. Based on the situation, the village would become a milch zone and its products will be delivered to neighbouring villages. The disbursement of loans

True patriotism

- * It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- * Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

will help those villagers form multi-village cooperatives societies. Koneywa, Kyaukse, Aungthar, Ywathit villages will surely become breeding model villages as well as cooperatives villages.—MNA

Myanmar Airways signs first MoU on Joint Operation for ground handling services

YANGON, 18 Aug—Myanmar Airways under the Ministry of Transport and UAE-based Dnata Co Ltd signed the first MoU on Joint Operation for ground handling service in Myanmar, at the Chatrium Hotel here yesterday.

It was attended by Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, departmental heads of the departments under the ministries, Managing Director of Myanmar Airways U Than Tun, general manager and officials concerned, as well as Senior Vice-President Mr. Derek Swan and officials from Dnata Co Ltd and distinguished persons.

The Union Minister delivered a speech at the event. He said that Myanmar Airways had been established since 1948 and now it turned 64 years. The cooperation with Dnata Co would give them international experiences in the field. The airways in neighbouring countries are achieving success in their works due to their bilateral cooperation. The MoU proved energetic efforts of the staff who



Signing ceremony of MoU on Joint Operation for ground handling services between Myanmar Airways under the Ministry of Transport and UAE-based Dnata in progress.—MNA

upgraded the Myanmar Airways to an Airway industry. After Myanmar Airways Managing Director and Senior Vice-President of Dnata Co had shared their opinions, the Union Minister, the managing director and the Senior Vice-President signed the MoU.

It was known that most of State-owned airways

become airway industry that gives regular incomes by making investments in ground handling services. Myanmar Airways is now giving ground handling services to seven international airlines. Myanmar Airways and Dnata Co serve for another coming airlines.

MNA

Fire brigade members make voluntary tasks in Yangon General Hospital

YANGON, 18 Aug—A total of 550 auxiliary fire brigade members led by head of Yangon Region Fire Services Department carried out clearance of grass and bushes, proper flow of drains in the compound of Yangon General Hospital this morning.—MNA

Verdant Tuyin hill, sublime Zedi and pleasant Lake

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Workshop on Development of Communication and Information Technology held in Mandalay



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National Level Seminar on Energy and Electric Sectors Development held



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Van Persie signs for Manchester United

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Robin van Persie (right) is looking forward to challenging for trophies with Manchester United.

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 19 August, 2012

A significant landmark

We are gearing up with intensified efforts for the 27th Southeast Asian Games as the opening date of the regional sports events in 2013 is just about 15 months away from now. Sportsmen and sportswomen of our country are undergoing intensive training sessions under the instructions of their respective coaches with their conviction of doing best for the country.

All the people of the country also have high hopes for our athletes having full confidence in them that they will bring honour to the nation at the Games we hold for the third time. We have already hosted the SEA Games for two times during which we won 35 gold and 57 gold respectively and took the first place in medal tally in both events.

So, we are optimistic that this time again our boys and girls will bag a large number of medals improving the image of our motherland through fair and square wins.

Anyhow, our sportspersons have true spirit that means winning is not matter most, but to do their best. And for the host country, standing high in the medal tally is not enough. Actually, hosting a regional, continental or international event is to show the visitors how efficient and skillful the host can handle such a large occasion.

The State has been assisting in whatever it can and the federations are also striving for whatever possible results. The training of sportsmen and sportswomen can be categorized into two parts, physical and mental trainings, both of which need considerable support. In addition to intensive training at home, international experience is instrumental.

It is everyone's aspiration to enjoy glorious days somehow. Self-determination, diligence and endurance are requirements for writing history. So the coming SEA Games will be our opportunity for achieving a significant landmark in our course of sports standard development.

National Level Seminar on Energy and Electric Sectors Development held

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—National Level Seminar on Energy and Electric Sectors Development was held at the Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 yesterday morning.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min, Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Union Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Soe, electric and industrial ministers from region and state governments, region Hluttaw representatives, energy and electrical technicians, entrepreneurs from organizations and companies, heads of department and officials.

Making speech on the occasion, Union Minister U Than Htay said that the seminar is the second of its kind being held for development of energy and electric sectors, adding that his ministry is actively engaged in hydropower, wind power, solar energy, coal, natural gas and geothermal sectors. With this end in view, work is well underway to form the National Energy Management Committee. The energy consumption of the country is small when compared with that of other countries. The government is in the process of inviting private sectors to participate in energy and electric sectors.

Next, Union Minister U Zaw Min said that the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 is taking steps to implement projects capable of linking with national grid



Union Minister for Electric Power No 2 U Khin Maung Soe speaking at National Level Seminar on Energy and Electric Sectors Development.—MNA

under the management of the relevant region and state governments. He added that in the process, officials from the ministry held meetings with the respective Hluttaw representatives, entrepreneurs and technicians and minutes of the meetings have already been sent to the ministry. The relevant region and state governments are to coordinate with companies desirous of making investments in the distribution of power by medium and small power plants that do not link with the national grid.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe spoke, saying that the government is making efforts for the promulgating of Rural Electrification Act

for power supply in rural regions. He noted that the National Electricity Plan is to be drawn in line with the National Energy Policy for long-term and short-term power supply after forming the National Energy Management Committee. For power generation, various kinds of energy resources are to be managed in a systematic manner. Only then, will supply and demand be struck. The minister stressed the importance of those present on the occasion to hold a cordial discussion with the constructive suggestions in the interest of the State and people.

After that, electric and industrial ministers from region and state governments, private

companies, entrepreneurs and energy and electric technicians took part in the discussions.

Later, directors-general and deputy directors-general from the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 and the Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 also took part in the discussions.

At the meeting, distribution of power through firm power line system, participation of private sectors, assistance to be provided by the government in private sectors, implementation of reliable policies, reducing electricity losses, and electric meter bill were discussed.

MNA

Bago Region Chief Minister meets JICA personnel

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win on 16 August attended the opening of Bago Region Bureau of Special Investigation on Thameinbayan Road in Oktha Myothit of Bago.

In the afternoon, the Region Chief Minister delivered an address at the coordination meeting with Japan International Cooperation Agency at the hall of the Bago Region Government.

Also present on the occasion were Mr Hideki Yoneyama and party of JICA, Bago region ministers and departmental officials.

MNA

Basic Spoken English and Basic Computer Course conclude

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—The concluding ceremony of Basic Spoken English and Basic Computer Course, jointly organized by Yangon Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Yangon Region Women's Affairs Organization, was held at the ILBC in Tamway Township, Yangon East District, this morning.

Present on the occasion were Patron of Yangon Region Women's Affairs Organization Daw Khin Thet Htay, Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe, the Chairperson of Region Women's Affairs Organization and members, teachers and students of ILBC.

A total of 67 students took the training course that lasted 13 weeks.—MNA



Recently, Daw Khin Phyu of FMI City on Ayethaya Road in Hlinethaya Township donated K 200,000 to repair retaining walls of Ayechan Aungmyin Pagoda through Joint-Secretary of Hninzigon Home for the Aged U Nyi Nyi Lwin.—NLM



Firefighters hold back flames threatening towns in Idaho, California

SAN DIEGO, 18 Aug— Firefighters in Idaho's Boise National Forest held the line on Friday against a week-old blaze closing in on a small mountain resort, while evacuation orders were lifted for two communities menaced by lightning-sparked flames in Southern California.

The so-called Trinity Ridge blaze on the edge of the Rockies and a cluster of wildfires northeast of San Diego had posed two of the most immediate threats to populated areas among dozens of fires raging out of control in recent days across the sun-baked western United States.

No major injuries or loss of life of residents have been reported in the region during the week. One US Forest Service firefighter was killed on Sunday by a falling tree.

The Idaho blaze has scorched more than 72,000 acres of sagebrush and timber east of Boise since it erupted seven days ago when a utility vehicle caught fire, destroying a rental cabin and six non-residential buildings in its path.

Authorities said earlier this week they feared the blaze would overrun the small town of Featherville, prompting some residents to flee on Wednesday night as flames crept to within four miles of

the community.

Shadows cast by a giant pall of smoke from the blaze cooled temperatures on the ground, helping firefighters slow the advancing flames and giving them more time to create defensible space in and around the town.

A contingent of more than 1,000 fire personnel focused much of their work on cutting additional fire breaks, clearing brush away from buildings and setting up sprinkler systems. They took similar measures in the nearby town of Pine.

Authorities estimated the two enclaves together were home to about 1,000 year-round residents and



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

vacationers.

As of Friday, officials estimated that blaze, while still growing in all directions, was now at least two to three days away from invading Featherville proper, fire information officer Lisa

Machnik said. The fire burned through a smaller, outlying community north of Featherville, but protective measures taken for a handful of buildings there prevented damage to them.—Reuters

Scores of houses damaged by strong quake in eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 18 Aug — A number of houses in Sigi district and Parigi Mauntong district were damaged after a 6.2- magnitude shallow quake jolted Central Sulawesi of Indonesia on Saturday, local official said.

"The reports I got say that many houses in Sigi district and Parigi Mauntong district have been damaged, but we still do not know the exact figure yet," Holi Setiawan, head of the Emergency Unit of the Disaster Management and Mitigation Agency in Central Sulawesi told Xinhua over phone from there.

Identification of the impact of the quake was underway, he said.

The quake struck at 16:41 pm Jakarta time (0941 GMT) with the epicenter at 27 km southwest Parigi Mauntong of Central Sulawesi and with the depth at 10 km under land, an official of the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency told Xinhua.

The intensity of the quake was felt at 3 to 4 MMI (Modified Mercalli Intensity) in Palu town of Central Sulawesi, the official said.—MNA/Xinhua



Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (L) gives the National Flag to a member of the National Flag raisers troop during a celebration of Indonesia's 67th independence anniversary at the Presidential Palace in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 17 Aug, 2012.—XINHUA

Light plane carrying Philippine interior secretary crashes

MANILA, 18 Aug — An aircraft carrying Philippine Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo crashed on Saturday afternoon in Central Philippines, his aide were rescued, but the secretary and two pilots were still missing, local media said.

A five-seat light plane carrying Interior and Local

Government Secretary Jesse Robredo crashed near the airport in Masbate, a city in Central Philippine Province of Masbate, according to the website of ABS-CBN, a local TV station. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) confirmed the report in a statement, saying Mr. Robredo was on a plane from Cebu to Naga, whose pilots sent a distress call to Masbate airport at about 5 p.m., requesting for an emergency landing.

However, the plane did not make it to the airport and crashed in the nearby Masbate

Bay, the statement added.

The ABS-CBN said in a later report that Robredo's aide, identified as Jun Abrizado, has been rescued from the crash site, and pinpointed the location of the crash site. It is said that besides Robredo, there were three other people on the plane 2 pilots and Jun Abrizado. Masbate City Vice Governor Vince Revi said in the report that search and rescue operations were ongoing, but he has yet to determine the status of Robredo and the other passengers.

MNA/Xinhua

Four killed, 12 injured as blast hits police vehicle in W Afghanistan

HERAT, 18 Aug—At least four civilians were killed and 12 others including three policemen were injured on Saturday morning when a bomb targeted a police vehicle blasted in western Afghan province of Herat, an official said.

"A bomb was placed under a small bridge and was detonated when a police vehicle was running the area in Shindand District bazaar at around 8:00 am local time on Saturday, leaving the casualties," a provincial government spokesman,

Mahyoddin Noori, told Xinhua.

He said the injured were shifted to a district hospital and an injured policeman was in critical condition.

He blamed Taleban insurgents for the attack.

The Taleban-led insurgency has been rampant since the militant group launched an annual spring offensive dubbed "Al-Farooq" from May against Afghan and NATO-led troops stationed in the country.

The Taleban insurgents has warned the civilians to

stay away from official gatherings, military convoys and centres regarded as the legitimate targets by militants besides warning people against supporting government and foreign troops. A total of 1,145 civilians were killed and 1,954 injured in conflict — related violent incidents and attacks in the first six months of 2012, a 15 percent decrease in overall civilian casualties compared with the same period in 2011, according to a UN report released in capital Kabul on 8 August.—Xinhua

People gather near a damaged bus at the blast site in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on 17 Aug, 2012. At least three people were injured and 25 others were injured when a bomb hit a bus in Karachi on Friday afternoon, reported local Urdu TV channel DAWN. XINHUA



NATO drone strike kills up to 50 militants in eastern Afghanistan: police

ASADABAD, 18 Aug — About 50 militants were killed on Saturday afternoon when a NATO pilotless plane carried out an attack in Afghanistan's eastern province of Kunar, the police said.

"The drone targeted four suspected vehicles in the Shinallai area of Chapa Dara district at around 1 pm local time on Saturday, killing 50 militants, including 13 insurgent's local commanders," police chief of the district, Najibullah

Khan, told Xinhua.

Khan said a Taleban shadowy police chief for the district named Hattiqullah and another Taleban leader named Turabi were among the killed.

The Taleban insurgent group, which launched in May this year's spring offensive against Afghan and NATO forces, has yet to make comments.

The Kunar province bordering Pakistan, has seen increasing militancy despite continued military

operations there.

Separately, a soldier with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) lost his life in an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan on Friday, the ISAF confirmed on Saturday.

Currently over 130,000 NATO-led ISAF troops have been serving in Afghanistan since the Taleban regime was toppled in late 2001.

In another development, militants killed the head of a district prison in the

country's southern province of Helmand on Saturday afternoon. "Head of Gereshek district's prison, Ismail Khan, was killed when a sticky bomb attached to his vehicle went off near the prison compound at around 1 pm local time shortly after he get in his car," police chief of the district, Guli Khan, told Xinhua.

Earlier, Saturday a bomb explosion hit the vehicle of a local elder named Mohammad Ali, killing his driver and injuring four others including Ali in Nahrin district of northern Baghlan province.

MNA/Xinhua



Algerian boys watch the forest fire in the province of Medea, 80 km south of Algiers, Algeria, on 17 Aug, 2012. Since early June, forest fires broke out in 18 provinces of Algeria, devastating some 20,000 hectares forest till now.—XINHUA

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

Scott's wrecked ship Terra Nova found off Greenland



The Terra Nova carried Scott's party on their ill-fated expedition to the Antarctic.— INTERNET

LONDON, 18 Aug — The wreck of the ship that carried Captain Robert Scott on his doomed expedition to the Antarctic a century ago has been discovered off Greenland. The SS Terra Nova was found by a team from a US research company. Scott and his party set off from Cardiff aboard the Terra Nova in 1910 with the aim of becoming the first expedition to reach the South Pole. The ship had a life after the polar trek, sinking off Greenland's south coast in 1943.

It had been on a journey to deliver supplies to base stations in the Arctic when it was damaged by ice. The Terra Nova's crew was saved by the US Coast Guard cutter Southwind. On arriving at the geographical South Pole in January 1912, Scott and his party discovered they had

been beaten to it by a Norwegian team led by Roald Amundsen. The polar team led by Scott died on their return journey from the pole; their bodies were found by a search party eight months later. Their endeavour became popularly known as the Terra Nova expedition.

A crew from the Schmidt Ocean Institute discovered the Terra Nova whilst testing echo-sounding equipment aboard its flagship vessel — the R/V Falkor. One of the scientists noticed an unidentified feature during sonar mapping of the sea bed. Team members then noted that the 57m length of the feature matched the reported length of the Terra Nova. Technicians dropped a camera package called Shrimp to just above the presumed wreck to film

it. Camera tows across the top of the target showed the remains of a wooden wreck lying on the seabed.

Footage from the Shrimp also identified a funnel lying next to the ship. Taken together, the features of the wreck closely matched historical photos of the Terra Nova, leading to the identification. Brian Kelly, an education officer from the Discovery Point museum in Dundee, where the ship was built, told the Daily Record newspaper: "The Terra Nova has such a story." She went through a lot in her lengthy history and really was the pinnacle of Scottish wooden shipbuilding. "It is incredible that one of the most famous ships in history has been found 100 years after the race for the pole and in the year commemorating the event."

INTERNET



A camera package called Shrimp was sent down to film the wreck.— INTERNET

'Maser' source of microwave beams comes out of the cold

LONDON, 18 Aug — Researchers have shown off a microwave-emitting version of the laser, called a maser, that works at room temperature. Masers were invented before the laser, but have languished in obscurity because they required high magnetic fields and difficult cooling schemes. A report in Nature outlines a far simpler version using a crystalline material and no cooling or magnets. The resulting intense microwave beams could be used in applications ranging from medical diagnostics to astronomy. Masers were borne of an idea first postulated by Albert Einstein: that in some materials, energy could be pumped in and concentrated

into a beam of electromagnetic waves oscillating in synchrony. The first maser — an acronym of microwave amplification by stimulated emission of radiation — was built in 1953, and later masers were used, for example, in the first transatlantic television broadcast. But researchers carried the work on, coaxing materials to amplify visible light instead of microwaves, earning three of them the 1964 Nobel prize in physics.

These "lasers" reached complete ubiquity as simple designs for them were perfected and applications for them proliferated. However, the relative complexity of masers has relegated them to niche applications. Masers remain in use — in a form much like those of the early prototypes — in applications such as atomic clocks and as the amplifiers for the minuscule communication signals coming from space probes. Now researchers at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) and Imperial College London in the UK have completely revamped the way

"masing" is done, by carrying it out in a crystal of material called p-terphenyl that is infiltrated by chains of five-sided molecules called pentacene. Their radically new design uses yellow light from a commercially available medical laser to "pump" energy in, producing synchronised microwaves at room temperature and in air, with no need for strong magnets or complex cooling and vacuum schemes.

Mark Oxborrow of NPL, lead author of the paper, called the design "a new type of electronic device" whose applications may, like the laser itself, stretch far beyond those imaginable in these early days. The key value of masers lies not in their ability to produce a useful beam as lasers do, but to carry out the amplification process in a particularly clean way, without adding much noise. That is why they are used to detect the tiny signals coming from space missions as distant as the Voyager probes, billions of kilometres away.



A simple crystal called doped p-terphenyl removes the need for much of masers' complexity.

INTERNET

Canon recalls cameras over skin rash substance worry

LONDON, 18 Aug — Canon is recalling some of its digital cameras after it emerged a chemical reaction involving the device's rubber grip could cause a skin rash. The EOS 650D range contains a substance which, when exposed to humidity, reacts to produce a substance known as "zinc bis". Zinc bis turns the camera's rubber grip white and in rare cases can cause irritation. Camera owners are being offered a free repair. Canon has warned people that contact with the affected cameras may cause an allergic reaction, such as a rash, on skin and as a precautionary measure users should wash their hands to prevent spreading the reaction to their eyes.

It is understood that 68,200 cameras suffered the manufacturing glitch, although when asked by the BBC Canon would not confirm this number. "Canon has identified a quality issue on a limited number of EOS 650D units, which causes the exterior rubber grip used on the camera body to turn white after a period of time," the company said in a statement. "This issue does not affect image quality or camera performance in any way, however we are currently in the process of updating

affected stock models before sale." Any customers who may be affected are advised to visit Canon's customer support site, where further instructions regarding our repair procedure are provided.

The company said the faulty batch in question contained a "higher than usual" level of a substance used to "vulcanize" the rubber grip, a process which makes it harder and stronger. In certain conditions — such as when gripped by hot hands — the resulting chemical reaction produces zinc bis (dimethyldithiocarbamate).

Canon would not confirm whether any customers had reported being adversely affected by the flaw. The EOS 650D — also known as Rebel T4i or

Kiss X6i in other markets — was the first Canon digital single-lens reflex (DSLR) camera to feature a touchscreen LCD screen.

The recall covers some models that were mostly manufactured in June this year. The company has provided a simple tool which allows users to enter their camera's serial number and see if their device is in the affected batch.

"We offer our sincere apologies to customers who have been inconvenienced by this," the company added. "Canon strives to provide the highest quality products to our customers, and we spare no effort in our quality management to make sure our customers use our products with confidence."

INTERNET



The problem has only affected a particular batch of the Canon EOS 650D camera.

INTERNET



Masers are still in use by NASA to listen in to far-flung space probes.

INTERNET

Microwaves pass through many materials that light cannot, such as clouds and skin, meaning that beyond telecommunications and space applications, maser-enabled systems could outperform medical diagnostics or detectors for explosives.

"Perhaps the one application that is most relevant is more sensitive forms of body scanners," Dr Oxborrow told BBC News. "Sensitivity matters with body scanners, because detecting a tumour before it metastasizes is so useful."

INTERNET

iOS and Android are stomping on Sony and Nintendo's portable game businesses

NEW YORK, 18 Aug — Why spend money on a mobile gaming platform when you can play lots of high-quality games on your tablet? That's the reality that portable game console manufacturers Sony and Nintendo have to deal with as Android and iOS tablets have become powerful enough to host some high-quality games such as "Infinity Blade."

As Fortune reports, the latest research from Flurry Analytics shows that Android and iOS devices last year accounted for 58% of all mobile gaming revenues in the United States while the Sony PlayStation Vita and the Nintendo 3DS accounted

for just 36% of mobile gaming revenue in the US. For some perspective, consider that back in 2009 Nintendo alone accounted for 70% of all mobile US gaming revenue.

Fortune also quotes Cowen analyst Doug Creutz, who says that smartphones and tablets have been instrumental in leading to growth of the mobile gaming industry.

"We believe that consumer preferences may be switching decisively to mobile games, given that game quality is similar, if not better, and mobile games have the added advantage of being playable at any time, anywhere," he wrote.

INTERNET



iOS and Android are stomping on Sony and Nintendo's portable game businesses.

INTERNET

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, on 14 Aug, 2012. — REUTERS



Wall Street hits four-month high, boosted by Germany, Cisco

NEW YORK, 18 Aug — The S&P 500 closed at its highest level since early April on Thursday after comments from German Chancellor Angela Merkel that appeared to support the European Central Bank's efforts to fight the region's debt crisis, while Cisco Systems jumped after it raised its dividend. The Nasdaq outperformed the market after Cisco shares jumped nearly 10 percent and Apple Inc shares hit a new closing high of \$636.34, while broad gains across most S&P 500 sectors offset a gloom from Wal-Mart Stores Inc. The day's gain was the first significant move since a 2 percent gain on 3 Aug. Since then, the S&P 500 has been moving mostly higher, but in a slow motion.

today is the fact that people realize that we are now really in an upward trend. We faced resistance but for over a week, we moved higher slowly without a significant pullback. That is what's pulling people in, although volume remains low," said Frank Gretz, market analyst at Wellington Shields & Co in New York. "Some say we are climbing the 'wall of worry.' I think we are climbing the wall of low expectations. Because nobody is expecting anything good, it is easy to move up on any news."

Merkel said ECB chief Mario Draghi's vow to do all that is necessary to defend the euro is in line with what European leaders have been saying. Some traders took that as a sign Germany may be

drawing nearer to backing purchases of sovereign bonds of troubled European nations such as Spain. Facebook Inc fell to a new low of \$19.69 as shares hit the market after the expiration of a lockup period, which had prevented sales by some insiders. The stock ended down 6.3 percent at \$19.87. Cisco Systems Inc rose 9.6 percent to \$19.02 after the company said it would hike its dividend 75 percent after surprisingly strong results late Wednesday. The dividend increase countered a gloomy outlook from Cisco on the debt crisis and recession in Europe.

But gains were capped as Wal-Mart shed 3.1 percent to \$72.15. The world's largest retailer posted a bigger-than-expected jump in quarterly profit but forecast full-year earnings that could fall short of Wall Street expectations. Thomson Reuters data shows that of the 468 companies in the S&P 500 that have reported earnings through Thursday morning, 68 percent beat analysts' expectations, about the same rate as over the past four quarters.

Earnings were the bigger driver given the economic data was largely in line with

forecasts. The number of Americans filing new claims for jobless benefits edged higher last week although the gauge of a longer trend fell close to a four-year low, indicating a slowly healing jobs market. But housing starts unexpectedly dropped 1.1 percent last month as the industry continues to have trouble finding its footing despite some recent signs of life in the sector. The S&P capped its longest string of gains since December 2010 on 10 August, boosted by expectations of more stimulus from central banks in the United States and euro zone in September to stimulate their respective economies.

Retailer Sears Holdings Corp reported a quarterly loss in line with Wall Street estimates as lower expenses offset weak sales. Shares rose 6.5 percent to \$60.29. Dollar Tree fell 1.8 percent to \$49.11 after the discount retailer posted second-quarter earnings and forecast quarterly earnings and sales below analysts' expectations. About 5.82 billion shares traded on the New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange and Nasdaq on Thursday, well below last year's daily average of 7.84 billion. — Reuters



The sign of a Chevron gas station is pictured in Encinitas, California on 28 July, 2011. — REUTERS

Chevron appeals Brazil ban, seeks oil field restart

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 Aug — Chevron, the No 2 US oil company, has appealed against an injunction banning it and its drilling contractor Transocean Ltd from operating in Brazil while civil and criminal charges over an oil spill last November are judged. The company is also looking to restart output at the site of the spill, the Frade offshore field northeast of Rio de Janeiro, Chevron press spokesman Kurt Glaubitz said in an e-mailed response to questions from Reuters.

Chevron shut down operations there in March after more oil was found in surrounding waters. Prosecutors are seeking nearly \$20 billion in damages for the spill and have charged 17 Chevron and Transocean executives with crimes that carry jail terms of up to 31 years. Chevron denies criminal wrongdoing and says the proposed damages are

excessive. The accident leaked about 3,000 barrels, less than one thousandth of BP's 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster in the United States, with Chevron saying the source of the spill was contained in four days.

"Chevron's response to the incident was implemented according to the law, industry standards and in a timely manner," Chevron said in a statement. "Monitoring of the incident area shows no discernible environmental impact to marine life or human health. No oil has reached Brazil's coast nor any other country." The Brazilian prosecutor, Eduardo Santos de Oliveira, who won the injunction has called the November spill and later unexplained leaks in the area one of the worst ecological disasters in Brazil's history and is seeking the country's largest ever civil damages.

Reuters

Research on mice boosts hopes for 'male Pill'

HOUSTON, 18 Aug — Groundbreaking work with lab mice has boosted hopes for a male contraceptive pill, researchers in the United States reported on Thursday. A compound initially sketched as a candidate for blocking cancer has been found to stop sperm generation in mice, they said. Once the drug was halted, the rodents recovered fertility and were able to sire perfectly healthy offspring.

"If you stop the drug, there's complete reversibility," said Martin Matzuk, director of the Centre for Drug Discovery at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. The drug is known by its lab name JQ1, after a chemist, Jun Qi, who devised it, initially with the idea of disrupting a cancer-causing gene called BRD4. But it has also been found to inhibit proteins called bromodomains, one of which, BRDT, plays a key role in generating sperm in the testes.

By latching onto BRDT, JQ1 reduces dramatically both the number and quality of sperm, effectively leaving the

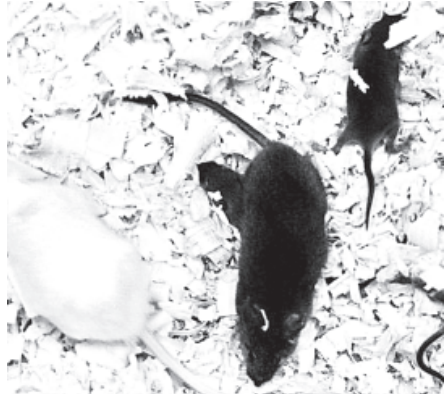
mice infertile. One of the attractions of JQ1 is that it is a small molecule, meaning that it can sneak through the physical barrier between blood vessels and specialised sperm-making cells in the testes. Large molecules cannot do this, a problem that has thwarted work in the past.

Male contraception is limited to the condom or vasectomy, so an easy-to-use reversible option is badly

needed. JQ1 is unlikely to be the desired outcome by itself "because it also binds other members of the bromodomain family," explained Matzuk.

However, the data is proof of principle that BRDT is an excellent target for male contraception and provides us with useful information for future drug development." The study appears in the US journal *Cell*.

Internet



Groundbreaking work with lab mice has boosted hopes for a male contraceptive pill, researchers in the United States reported on Thursday. — INTERNET

GSK drug halves attacks in hard-to-treat asthma

LONDON, 18 Aug — An experimental drug for treating severe asthma from GlaxoSmithKline nearly halved the number of attacks suffered by patients with a hard-to-treat form of the disease in a clinical study, boosting hopes for its commercial success. Britain's biggest drugmaker — already a world leader in respiratory medicine — said as a result it planned to move the new drug into final Phase III development before the end of 2012.

The injectable antibody treatment mepolizumab is designed to help a small group of people with asthma in which white blood cells called eosinophils cause inflammation of lung airways. It reduces the number of eosinophils by inhibiting an immune system signaling chemical called interleukin-5.

Ian Pavord from Britain's University Hospitals of Leicester National Health Service Trust, who led a mid-stage study of the medicine, said it was a potentially

important advance for patients for whom conventional treatment was inadequate. "It seems to be a safe and effective treatment option for patients with eosinophilic asthma that is associated with frequent flare-ups, and may reduce the need for conventional treatment with oral corticosteroids that can have serious side effects including osteoporosis, high blood pressure and impaired growth in children," he said. Pavord's findings from the Phase IIb trial, which was funded by GSK, were published in *The Lancet* medical journal on Friday and will be presented at the European Respiratory Society annual congress next month. Severe refractory asthma only affects around 4 percent of patients with the disease, so the drug may not become a major seller for GSK but could consolidate the group's strong grip on the market for lung drugs.

"Mepolizumab is one of a number of medicines in GSK's respiratory pipeline and highlights our commitment to

develop a broad respiratory portfolio which meets the needs of different patient populations," a company spokesman said. The year-long study involving 621 patients found that the rate in patients on mepolizumab of clinically significant exacerbations — defined as episodes requiring oral corticosteroids or a hospital visit — was around half that of those on placebo.

But while monthly intravenous injections of the drug cut attacks they failed to produce consistent improvements in symptoms or lung function, suggesting that this aspect of the illness might require different treatment.

Simone Hashimoto and Elisabeth Bel from the University of Amsterdam, who were not involved in the research, said in an accompanying commentary that the overall results were "very promising". GSK is also assessing the drug as a treatment for Churg-Strauss syndrome, a rare systemic autoimmune disease.

Reuters

Townsfolks sickened after Peru toxic spill

SANTA ROSA DE CAJACAY, 18 Aug—It began with a loud pop like a tire bursting. A toxic cocktail of copper concentrate laced with a periodic-table's mix of volatile compounds then shot skyward. The pipeline that carries slurry at high pressure from Peru's most productive mine 188 miles (302 kilometers) to its desert coast had sprung a leak at a pumping station in this village of poor farmers. It was 9:15 am.

Abraham Balabarca, who was building a house nearby, ran to the station with others to try and halt the flow. But the door was chained and bolted. The security guard had no key. By the time someone pried open the lock with a crowbar, the town was shrouded in a toxic cloud.

In the next days, about 350 villagers would be treated for headaches, respiratory tract bleeding, nausea and vomiting, according to the mayor's office. At least 69 were children.

Three weeks after the leak spilled 45 tons of slurry into

the town of Cajacay, spreading toxic dust that left 42 people hospitalized for up to 11 days, the copper mine's owner, Antamina, has said little about the accident, and been silent about the slurry's chemistry.

Environmental protection has traditionally been lax in Peru, where mining has been the engine of a decade of average 7 percent annual growth that has made the Andean nation a darling of investors. But an anti-mining backlash has been growing in the country. In the past three months, eight Peruvian civilians have been killed in anti-mining protests that have dominated the country's political agenda, prompting the resignation of two prime ministers.

Immediately after the 25 July spill, many in this community of 410 pitched in at the request of Antamina's director of community relations to help stop the slurry from reaching a nearby river. They isolated the mucky mixture using absorbent cloth

provided by Antamina, using no protective gear, or masks or gloves. Balabarca said it stank like a common insecticide.

"Everyone helped and got their hands dirty," said community president Hilario Moran, "without knowing the concentrate was contaminat-



ed." Nancy Damian, who is seven months pregnant, sat on the stoop of her adobe home overlooking the pumping station more than a week after the spill. She said she had spent four days in the hospital, fainting and vomiting constantly. "My head still hurts and at night my stomach tightens and it feels like the

In this 31 July, 2012 photo, workers at the Antamina copper mine, wearing white uniforms, clean the river in Cajacay, Peru. A pipeline carrying copper concentrate laced with volatile compounds burst open on 25 July.

INTERNET

baby is going to come," she said.

Her twin 7-month-old nephews and 17-month-old son, Tony, were also still sick to their stomachs. Tony, she said, has lost 3 pounds (1.4 kilograms) since the spill and now weighs 25 1/2 pounds (11.5 kilograms).

Internet

Tel Aviv readies underground parking lots as bomb shelters

TEL AVIV, 18 Aug—The Tel Aviv Municipality has prepared 60 subterranean parking lots as bomb shelters in case of missile attacks from Israel's foes.

A total area of 850,000 square metres would be able to house up to 800,000 people, city officials told reporters on Wednesday.

The development comes against a backdrop of increasing acute reports and analyses in the Israeli media over the prospect of military strike on Iran's nuclear enrichment facilities, and the extent of possible retaliation by either Teheran or Hezbollah.

A report in July revealed that the city was largely unprepared in case of an attack on the home front, and that the existing 241 shelters would only be able to contain up to 40,000 people — only tenth of the

city's population.

The municipality said the additional facilities were certified by a private engineering company and met the standards set up by the Home Front Command for protected, fortified areas.

The underground lots are mostly situated beneath shopping malls, as well as at the city's sprawling central bus station.

Additionally, authorities have prepared plans for evacuating central urban areas in the event of a rocket barrage in the country's densely-populated business and cultural centre.

In a recent report, local Channel 10 television news quoted official sources as saying that an attack on Iran would prompt the firing of 50,000 missiles on Israel in response.

Xinhua

Climate change driving Australian fish south

CANBERRA, 18 Aug—Australian scientists said on Friday there was now "striking evidence" of extensive southward migration of tropical fish and declines in other species due to climate change, in a major ocean report card.

Compiled by more than 80 of Australia's leading marine experts for the government science body CSIRO, the snapshot of global warming's effects on the island continent's oceans warned of "significant impacts".

"Climate change is already happening;

widespread physical changes include rapid warming of the southeast and increasing flow of the east Australia current," the report said.

"There is now striking evidence of extensive southward movements of tropical fish and plankton species in southeast Australia, declines in abundance of temperate species, and the first signs of the effect of ocean acidification on marine species with shells."

The report described southeast Australia as a "global warming hotspot", with the contraction south

and strengthening of southern hemisphere winds causing the eastern current to become more intense and also warmer.

"A range of species including plankton, fish and invertebrates are now found further south because of the enhanced transport of larvae and juveniles in the stronger (current) and the high rate of regional warming," it said.

Sea snakes were declining and warmer beaches were changing turtle breeding habits and seabird and marine mammal feeding and mating, it added.

Coral reefs had experienced increasing thermal bleaching in the past 30 years and that was projected to become more frequent and severe, "leading to chronic degradation of most coral reefs by the middle to late parts of the century."

Though there were some "concerning findings", project leader Elvira Poloczanska said there were some positives, with new research suggesting that certain tropical fish species were better equipped to adapt to warming than previously thought.—Internet



Australian scientists said on Friday there was now "striking evidence" of extensive southward migration of tropical fish and declines in other species due to climate change, in a major ocean report card.—INTERNET

Tropical storm heads for landfall on Mexican coast

VERACRUZ, 18 Aug—After forming close to shore, Tropical Storm Helene headed north along Mexico's Gulf coast on early Saturday posing a threat to areas where thousands of people were still recovering from flooding spawned last week by Hurricane Ernesto. The US National Hurricane Centre said Helene sprang up on Friday then weakened to barely tropical storm strength by nighttime, but its forecast said the storm could strengthen again before making an expected landfall on Saturday.

Helene had maximum sustained winds of 40 mph (64.37 kph) and was moving northwest at 7 mph (11 kph) late on Friday. It was centered about 65 miles (105 kilometers) east of Tuxpan.

Landfall was predicted for the northern part of Veracruz, a lush coastal state with hundreds of towns and villages sitting along streams and rivers that can swell dangerously in heavy rain. Many were evacuated as Ernesto approached last week, and flood damage made some 10,000 people homeless. Mexico's government declared a state of emergency in more than 100 population centres in Veracruz and was providing them with emergency aid.—Internet

Oracle fined \$2 mn for off-books payments in India

SAN FRANCISCO, 18 Aug—Software and systems giant Oracle was fined \$2 million on Thursday to resolve charges that its India subsidiary kept a multi-million dollar off-books slush fund.

The Securities and Exchange Commission said it had filed charges in San Francisco District Court accusing Oracle of violating the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act by not preventing the subsidiary from setting up the \$2.2 million fund.

The money, which came out of the receipts from sales to Indian government agencies over 2005-2007, "was eventually used to make unauthorized payments to phony vendors in India", the SEC said in a statement.

The SEC did not allege that bribery had taken place, but suggested it was the possible purpose for payments to these ostensible vendors.

"In fact, none of these storefront-only third parties provided any services or were included on Oracle's approved vendor list," it said.

"The third-party payments created the risk that the funds could be used for illicit purposes such as bribery or embezzlement."

Oracle neither admitted nor denied the allegations, but the SEC said it voluntarily disclosed the problem, had cooperated with the investigation and had fired employees involved in the misconduct.

But the company was fined for poor internal controls and poor supervision of its India subsidiary.



"Through its subsidiary's use of secret cash cushions, Oracle exposed itself to the risk that these hidden funds would be put to illegal use," said SEC San Francisco official Marc Fagel.

"It is important for US companies to proactively establish policies and procedures to minimize the potential for payments to foreign officials or other unauthorized uses of company funds."

Internet

Software and systems giant Oracle was fined \$2 million on Thursday to resolve charges that its India subsidiary kept a multi-million dollar off-books slush fund.—INTERNET

Int'l machinery expo starts in Cambodia to boost industries

PHNOM PENH, 18 Aug—The second Cambodia-International Machinery Industrial Fair kicked off here on Friday, aiming at promoting the development of industries, officials said.

More than 200 exhibitors from 20 countries and regions have been displaying the international leading brands of industrial equipment in textile and garment, footwear and leather, fabrics and garment accessories, plastics and rubber, printing and packaging, food processing, medical and pharmaceutical equipment, and agriculture-related machinery, said Judy Wang, president of Yorkers Trade and Marketing Service of Hong Kong, which organized the event.

The exhibitors are from Cambodia, China, Czech, Germany, China's Hong Kong, China's Taiwan, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Vietnam, she said.—Xinhua

Verdant Tuyin hill, sublime Zedi and pleasant Lake

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Stretch out your legs from Bagan to a distance of about 7 miles to the south, you would be enthralled to sight the three objects of amazing beauty-forested Tuyin hill range, sacred Zedi and emerald green Lake. They are not only physically connected but also historically associated with Bagan.

After King Anawrahta [1044-1077 A.D] brought from Suvanna Bhumi [Thaton] canonical Texts of Buddhism [Tipitaka inscribed on palm leaf] with the help of Primate Shin Araham, Theravada Buddhism took roots and flourished in Bagan kingdom. Relations with Buddhist countries far and near were established through religious and cultural exchanges. When Anawrahta received from King Dhatusena of Theingo (Lankadipa) a replica of the sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha, he multiplied five replicas, that were enshrined, one in each of the five zedis at five different places, where his royal mount, white Elephant knelt down to indicate auspicious sites. The three sacred Tooth Relic zedis at Bagan are (1) Shwezigon (2) Tantkyi Taung Zedi on the hill range across the River opposite to Bagan and (3) Lawkananda zedi on a promontory at the old jetty of Bagan. The fourth Tooth relic zedi is on the summit of Tuyin hill and the fifth on the summit of Pyet Khaywei Mountain of nearly 5000 feet high at a distance of about 150 miles in Kyaukse District, north-east.

Like Lawkananda Zedi, Tuyin Taung Zedi has octagonal terraces with 32 elephant statues at the base. A good mortar road winds up smoothly to the spacious precinct. As you circumbulate clockwise the zedi you never miss the spell-binding panoramic view of sky space, mountain scape ground scape and water scape touching the horizon. Cool breeze caresses you with the fragrance of wild flora it wafts along. Sometimes unexpected precipitations came down from sailing dark clouds.

Local people call it "Ta Ywin Taung" literally meaning "spade hill". But there are three inscribed stone pillars sheltered in a shed near the zedi. The middle pillar's inscription bears the word "Tuyin". Also in the stone inscription set up on the summit has a line which runs thus

"On the Tuyin hill, Nga Yeit Thin donated one stupa and 4 pes of farm Land."

The Sulamani Stone Inscription also has a line with the word "Tuyin" hill:-

"When His Majesty visits to the east of Tu-yin hill..." So from these inscriptional evidences we learn for sure that the original name was Tu-yin.

Tu-yin hill range is a sand stone range, which geologists

say is 25 million years old. Pieces of stone with prints of floral fossils are discovered, some of which are on display in Bagan Site museum. Between some boulders at the hill range are noticed prints of leaves and plants of some 25 million years ago.

The legend of Shwezigon Pagoda, Bagan says that the monument was built of stone not brick. Stones of different shapes and sizes were hewn at the quarries of Tuyin hill range. Teams of Buddhist devotees by turn, lined up under the shady trees, along the distance between quarries at Tuyin hill and the construction site at Bagan. Hewn stones were carried and passed on by hand. We find old quarries at Tu-yin hill range. But as to the "human chain" which transported stones to the construction site in Bagan, covering a long distance of 7 miles sounds tall tale—hard to believe.

In 1975, an earthquake of over 7 Richter scale shook off 40 major monuments and tumbled down many minors. Restoration teams, including the writer, went up by bamboo scaffoldings the damaged buildings. To our surprise and delight are find only stones no brick were found in the debris and in the remaining structure of Shwezigone. Besides, an enormous circular alloy object shaped like a frying pan was found covering the relic chambers inside the pagoda. Pieces of metallic plates with inscriptions recording the previous earthquakes and the names of the donors who restored the monument. Bagan archaeologists had painstakingly traced that human chain transportation between Tuyin quarries and the construction site in Bagan. So it is now beyond any shadow of doubt that all stones used in Bagan monuments were hewn at the quarries of Tu-yin hill range and were transported to construction sites by chains of human hands.

Bagan lies in the dry zone of central Myanmar and it receives scanty rain. That is generally accepted climate and geography. But in good monsoon Bagan enjoys heavy down pour. Perhaps through sub-terranean streams and springs and also occasional floods of the River Ayeeyawaddy, flora and fauna including local humans get enough water to survive. In monsoon, little falls and pools are formed on the slopes and at the foot of the hill range, especially on the west side. In the heyday of Bagan, Tuyin hill range must have been quiet a green range, as supported by references in stone inscriptions of the time.

In the reigns of King Narapati (1174-1210 AD) and King Kya Swa (1234-1250 AD) Bagan enjoyed a long period of peace and prosperity. Therefore religious learning and

scholarship in Buddhism rose to an unparalleled height. The court was not merely a palace but it also became a learning centre for royal family and all countries. Religious writings of some merits were produced. Pali grammar "Sadaniiti" by a learned monk Aggavamsa and two treatises by King Kya Swa himself "Sadaniiti" and "Paramatha bindu" earned great repute in Buddhist world of the time.

And today these scholarly works are in use. King Kya Swa abdicated throne for his scholarly pursuit of Pariyatti.

It was Kya Swa who dammed the famous Mya Kan (Emerald Lake) on the western slopes of Tuyin Hill range. From the precinct of the sacred Tooth Relic Zedi on the summit we get an aerial view of that Lake in summer. But in monsoon, the entire environment is emerald green. Rain water and springs combine to create falls and brooks. King Kya Swa saved and stored water in the dam he built with a strong dykes for use in day season. An unknown poet of the time left to generations a very well composed verse which became a land mark in the history of Myanmar literature. It runs thus

<p>မြကန်သာ မြကန်သာတောင်ကျချောင်းတော၊ ရေဝင်းပြေးလှည့်၊ ရေအေးကြည့်စွာ၊ ကန်ပိုင်မာလျက်၊ ကြာပေါင်းထုံ၊ ငှက်မျိုးစုံသည်၊ ဘုံဝတီသာ၊ နန္ဒာလေလော၊ တူစွာဟူစွာ။</p>	<p>Pleasant Emerald Lake Pleasant Emerald Lake Fed by a brooks from the hill cascades. Cool and clear is its water With a strong in intact dyke thither. Fragrant lotus flowers abound Different feathered winged creatures around. Hark! Is it the Lake Nanda of the celestial Realm Tavatimsa? Yes, looks like it.</p>
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We learn from Bagan stone inscriptions that this Emerald Lake supplied water for cultivation of crops and upkeep of orchards in the surroundings. During the time of the winter's change, the Department of Archaeology and the Department of Irrigation cooperated to repair and renovate Emerald Lake for water supply for the local population. After some years, water in the lake ran off and the Lake is silting. It found that due to some deposits, the bottom of the Lake has become porous. The upcoming development projects should include historic Emerald Lake.

District News

Surprise check performed at motorcycles in Zabuthiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—With the aim of minimizing traffic accidents, the educative talks on traffic rules are being conducted in Nay Pyi Taw weekly while the authorities concerned are discharging surprise checks for vehicles whether they abide by traffic rules.

On 13 August, SIP Kyaw Zaw Aung, Cpl Cho Zaw and L/Cpl Zaw Tun Naing of Zabuthiri Traffic Inspection

Team and Deputy Assistant Head of APBCC (Local) U Thet Oo performed surprise checks at motorcycles in front of Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital on Pynmana-Taungnyo Road of Zabuthiri Township.

They inspected driver licences, motorcycle wheel tax and wearing of helmets and took action against traffic rules breakers.

Myanma Alin



Talks on fish resources given in Thongwa

YANGON, 18 Aug—With the aim of conserving fish resources and boosting fish production, Thongwa Township Fisheries Department and Township General Administration Department jointly organized the educative talks at the hall of the Township GAD on 15 August.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Kyaw Thung made a speech. Head of Township Fisheries Department U Zaw Than gave talks on do's and don'ts for fishing industry to prevent depletion of fish resources.

After that, pamphlets on fishery technology and prevention against fish and prawn diseases were presented to attendees.

Myanma Alin

Fingerlings released into rivers, creeks in Minhla, Monyo

THAYAWADY, 18 Aug—With a view to increasing fish resources and boosting fish productions, Monyo and Minhla Township Fisheries Departments released fingerlings into creeks and rivers at Htanbingon Bridge of Ngayangahsu Village-tract in Monyo Township on 12 August morning.

On the occasion, Head of Monyo Township General Administration Department U Min Naing Aung, Head of

Minhla Township GAD U Phyo Thu Maung, Head of Monyo Township Fisheries Department Daw Than Than, Head of Minhla Township Fisheries Department U Zaw Myint Naing, in-charge of Okpo Township Fishing Camp U Than Naing and staff, township level departmental personnel, members of social organizations and marine entrepreneurs released over 358,000 fingerlings into the rivers and creeks.

Myanma Alin





Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint attends contracts signing ceremony between Public Works and Swiss Singapore Overseas Enterprise Pte, Ltd, IPL Pte, Ltd, Export Trading Commodities Pte Ltd and Lookeast Business Solutions Pte Ltd.—MNA

Contracts to purchase 30000 metric tons of asphalt signed

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint delivered an address at the signing ceremony of contracts between Public Works and Swiss Singapore Overseas Enterprises Pte Ltd, IPL Pte Ltd, Export Trading Commodities Pte Ltd and Lookeast Business Solutions Pte Ltd to purchase 30000 metric tons of 80/100 grade asphalt at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Construction yesterday.

On behalf of four companies, Chief

Representative Mr PD of Swiss Singapore Overseas Enterprises Pte Ltd spoke words of thanks.

Managing Director U Kyaw Lin of Public Works signed contracts with Chief Representative Mr PD of Swiss Singapore Overseas Enterprises Pte Ltd, Chief Operating Officer Ms Theresa of IPL Pte Ltd, Director Mr Maheshkumar Raajibhal Patel of Export Trading Commodities Pte Ltd and Director Mr Shyamal of Lookeast Business Solutions Pte Ltd. Purchase of tar contracts

is aimed at maintaining old tarred road including 24311 miles and four furlongs long tarred roads and 279 bridges of above 180 feet long built by Public Works. The contracts are to purchase 60000 metric tons of tar in 2012-2013 financial year. For the first 30000 metric tons of tar, a total of 12000 tons of tar will be bought from Swiss Singapore Overseas Enterprises Pte Ltd and 6000 tons each from IPL Pte Ltd, Export Trading Commodities Pte Ltd and Lookeast Business Solutions Pte Ltd.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—Communication sector of Myanmar must upgrade 3G to 4G. Efforts are to be made for applying 4G at SEA Games and ASEAN Chairmanship. As Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications had faced many limitations in taking responsibilities of all communication services and did not give full services to the customers. Coordination on reform systems was made among National Economic and Social Advisory Council of the President, International Telegraphs, Communications, World Bank and Myanmar Investment Commission that observed reforms in communication sectors of neighbouring countries. Communication sector must have competitiveness under law and rules to create the better services meeting international standard at fair prices. The participants in the meeting are to seek the way to give better communication services to the people, said Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun at the Workshop on Development of Communication and Information Technology at the city hall in Mandalay yesterday.

Next, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint delivered an address.

At the workshop, 11 local and foreign resource persons discussed reforms in telephone sectors and postal service

Workshop on Development of Communication and Information Technology held in Mandalay



sector, soonest emergence of firm communication rules and development of ICT.—MNA

Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun makes a speech at the Workshop on Development of Communication and Information Technology.—MNA

Farmers, businessmen urged to change mind set to improve productivity



Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint meets with chairmen and officials from brokerages, responsible persons of merchants associations, entrepreneurs and farmers from Magway Region.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—Myanmar farmers and agro business men should change their mind set, using quality seeds and shifting to modern farming methods, in the face of competitive market, said Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint.

At the meeting with farmers and merchants in Magway Region at the hall

of Brokerage in Magway yesterday, the Union minister also stressed the need for reducing transition costs for agricultural products to help gaining competitive advantage.

The farmers in central Myanmar has benefited from tax exemption on peas and pulses, sesame and grounds which are mainly grown in

the region, he added.

The government has exempted the commercial tax on import of agriculture-related items such as fertilizer, pesticide, farming equipment and machinery.

The Union Minister also stressed the need for upgrading oil mills and for establishment of commodity exchange markets to benefit

the businessmen and farmers.

During the meeting, personnel from Magway Region Chambers of Commerce of Industry Association discussed the measures to be taken by the authority in an attempt to boost the crop production in the region and current hindrances to the agricultural sector in the region.—MNA

MWAF clarifies its plans to ministries

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Thet Thet Zin and members, Patron of Union Civil Services Board Daw Htar Ei Hlaing and members, Chairperson and members, female staff and staff's families attended the clarification ceremony of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation's procedures at the assembly hall of Union Civil Services Board, here, yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, the President of MWAF explained emergence of MWAF and its background history, aim and constitution. After that, General Secretary Daw Mya Mya discussed formation of departments and working groups, duty and functions, and tasks being undertaken and then replied to queries raised by those present.

Similarly, Patron of Ministry of Home Affairs WAO Daw Khin Ye Mon and members, female staff and staff's family attended the similar ceremony at the Ministry of Home Affairs. Secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs WAO Dr Daw Thet Nwe Oo reported on the constitution of Ministry of Home Affairs WAO.—MNA

Strong earthquake jolts outside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—A strong earthquake of magnitude 6.1 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Sulawesi, Indonesia) about 2280 miles southeast of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 4 hrs 11 min 54 sec M.S.T this evening, announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA

Ward administrator elected in Kyimyindine Township

YANGON, 18 Aug—A ceremony to elect ward administrator for Wayonseik-Ayeywa West Ward of Kyimyindine Township, Yangon West District, Yangon Region, was held at Maha Withokdayon Monastery in Wayonseik Ward.



The supervisory committee elected 10-house representatives at Wayonseik Monastery and Ayeywa West Dhammayon on 14 August.

The 10-house representatives held the election of ward administrator at Wayonseik Maha Withokdayon Monastery on 15 August, with an address

by Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Thu Zaw of Yangon West District General Administration Department. The 10-house representatives elected the ward administrator through secret voting under the law, supervised by supervisory committee members, the deputy commissioner and Township Administrator U Kyaw Ye Thway.

The election of ward administrator was the first ceremony of its kind in Yangon Region. Next, the deputy commissioner donated K 100,000 and school textbooks to Wayonseik Basic Education Middle School Branch through members of the School Board of Trustees.

Myanma Alin

Talks about taxation held in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 18 Aug—Mohnyin Township Internal Revenue Department of Mohnyin District in Kachin State held the educative talks on taxation at Aung San Hall of Basic Education High School No 1 in Mohnyin on 14 August morning.

It was attended by middle school students.

Head of Mohnyin Township Internal Revenue Department U Han Thein explained facts about tax management.

Myanma Alin

Loans disbursed to agriculture, livestock breeding cooperative societies



MAUBIN, 18 Aug—A ceremony to disburse loans to agricultural and livestock breeding cooperative societies was held at the hall of Basic Education High School in Kyaungya Model Village of Maubin Township in Ayeyawady Region on 11 August morning.

Staff Officer of Maubin Township Cooperative

Department U Thet Naing explained the purpose of disbursement.

Staff Officer U Thet Naing and Township Cooperative Syndicate U Soe Myint presented K 6.13 million to Nyein Chan Livestock Breeding Cooperative Society and Lin Zarni Agricultural Cooperative Society.

Myanma Alin

District News

Taxation talks given to students in Monyo

MONYO, 18 Aug—The taxation talks was held at the hall of Basic Education High School in Monyo Township on 8 August afternoon.

The talks were organized by Monyo Township Internal Revenue Department of Bago Region.

On the occasion, Headmaster U Aye Kyaw of Monyo BEHS made a speech.

Head of Township Internal Revenue Department U Khin Swe explained taxation matters being undertaken by the township IRD.

Later, pamphlets on taxation and books were distributed to the attendees.

Myanma Alin

Tachilek BEHS gets new school building

TACHILEK, 18 Aug—A ceremony to open the extended building of Basic Education High School was held in Tachilek of Shan State (East) on 3 August.

Shan State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myo Tun, Shan State Education Officer U Aung Win and Deputy Commissioner U Thet Lwin formally opened the new building. The State Minister and Additional State Education Officer U Khun Sein Myint made speeches.

Member of the School Board of Trustees U Bo Cho explained the purpose of constructing the new building. In-charge of the construction committee U

Nay Myo handed over documents related to the building to Township Education Officer Daw Htay Htay.

After that, Shan State Minister for Development Affairs U Tu Maung presented prizes awarded by the Shan State Chief Minister to outstanding students in the matriculation examination and officials awarded the other students.

The new school building, 170 feet long and 30 feet wide, is RC type two-storey structure built at a cost of over K 100 million including K 70 million by the Ministry of Education.

Myanma Alin

Cookery contest marks Nourishment Week

YANGON, 18 Aug—Mingaladon Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association of Yangon North District and Township Health Department jointly organized the cookery contest to mark the nourishment week at the hall of Shwenatha Model Village of Mingaladon Township on 13 August morning.

MCWAs from Kontalabaung, Thingangyungyi, Paungku, Padamyay, Shwenatha and Pearl villages participated in the contest.

The township medical officer and health staff members inspected food hygiene and vitamin and presented first prize to Padamyay Village, second to

Paungku Village and third to Pearl Village.

They also fed refreshment to 32 children and 15 expectant mothers.

Myanma Alin



Multiplier librarian course conducted in Bilin Township

BILIN, 18 Aug—Bilin Township Information and Public Relations Department opened the multiplier librarian course No 1/2012 at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 4 August morning with the aim of turning out skillful librarians.

Staff Officer Daw Khin Saw Lin of Thaton District

Information and Public Relations Department explained the purpose of opening the librarian course and emergence of libraries meeting five-point standard.

Head of Bilin Township IPRD Daw Aye Myo Myo San and TV technician-3 Daw Zarni Phyo Wai gave lectures on librarian tasks.

Myanma Alin



New bus line runs from Dagon Myothit (East) to Sule

YANGON, 18 Aug—The buses that were left in the World War ran from Ward 13 of Dagon Myothit (East) Township to Thayetaw of Thingangyun Township.

At present, 13 Daewoo buses are on test to run its route along Ward 13 to Sule through Department Store, Bailey, Nandawun Market, Goodliff and Shwegondine. Due to applauses of passengers from Dagon Myothit (East) Township, the busline will be added with more buses.

Bus fare is fixed at K 50, K 100 and K 150 per passenger, and the route from the start to the end is fixed at K 200 per passenger.

The new bus line is No 36 green.—Kyemon



FLOODS PREVENTION TAKEN: A demonstration on prevention against floods in 2012 monsoon was held No 3 outpost of Ayeyawady-Hinthada embankment 25/1 (Hsantan) in Zalun Township of Hinthada District on 7 August. Staff Officer U Aung Swe of Township Irrigation Department performs demonstration on protection of embankment.—MYANMA ALIN

Miss World beauty queens in China desert city

ORDOS, 18 Aug—Beauty queens from all over the planet made final preparations to compete for the Miss World title on Saturday in a Chinese mining city on the edge of the Gobi desert. A total of 116 contestants — the highest number ever — were scheduled to don their finest evening gowns and swimwear for the evening contest, which is watched annually by around a billion people around the globe.

This year it takes place on the arid and sparsely populated steppes of Inner

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

Reigning Miss World Ivian Sarcos of Venezuela will hand over her crown in the futuristic Ordos stadium, which sits alongside a vast town square dedicated to the mighty Mongolian warrior Genghis Khan.

The city has grown rich over the last decade on the back of a coal mining boom that has transformed it from a sandstorm-afflicted

backwater into one of the wealthiest places in China.

The boom triggered a frenzy of building in the city, but the local government has been unable to fill the vast tower blocks that have sprung up, earning it the title of China's biggest ghost town.

The beauty queens have been in China rehearsing for nearly a month, soaking up traditional Mongolian culture by churning yoghurt in a nomad's yurt and donning local dress to climb a sand dune, according to Miss World's website.—Internet

Miss World contestant, Lebanon's Sonia Lynn-Gabriel (C), prepares prior to a rehearsal for the final ceremony at a hotel in the inner Mongolian city of Ordos, on 17 August. More than 100 beauty queens from around the globe have descended on the northern Chinese mining city ahead of the Miss World final, taking place on Saturday.—INTERNET



Ethiopia gets Africa's first Boeing 787 Dreamliner

ADDIS ABABA, 18 Aug—Ethiopian Airlines received Africa's first Boeing 787 Dreamliner on Friday, making Ethiopia the only country aside from Japan to operate the innovative aircraft.

"As a continent this shows how much we are making progress as Africans... competing on the global stage and changing our image," Ethiopian Airline CEO Tewolde Gebremariam told reporters at Addis Ababa's Bole International Airport.

The plane arrived from Dulles airport in Washington, DC, home to the largest Ethiopian diaspora population globally.

State-owned Ethiopian Airlines — Africa's fastest growing carrier — has purchased ten 787 Dreamliners from Boeing. Each has an official list price of some \$207 million, although airlines rarely pay such figures, especially for bulk orders.

It is expected to operate the aircraft on routes throughout Africa and Europe, including Accra, Lagos, Rome and London.

Tewolde said the delivery of the Dreamliner, dubbed "Africa First," is an achievement for all of the continent. The aircraft is constructed with lightweight

carbon, as opposed to heavy aluminium found on other planes, consuming 20 percent less fuel.

Transport Minister Deriba Kuma said the delivery of the 787 was especially notable given the financially strained climate.

"This achievement of Ethiopian Airlines is all the more remarkable given the very bad global context for the airline industry," he said.

Despite the fanfare at the landing ceremony, Deputy Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn said the country expects greater achievements from the airline in the future.—Internet

New EU data out on Friday showed the eurozone logging a record trade surplus and bumper cash earnings in what some analysts said was evidence that austerity and structural economic reforms pay off.



Record eurozone trade surplus, analysts divided on outlook

FRANKFURT, 18 Aug—New EU data out on Friday showed the eurozone logging a record trade surplus and bumper cash earnings in what some analysts said was evidence that austerity and structural economic reforms pay off.

However, the devil in the detail for others was a huge depreciation year-on-year in the real-terms value of the single currency and darker signals from more recent Chinese trade data — with a prolonged recession still tipped into next year.

The Eurostat agency said

the 17-nation eurozone's surplus in the trade of goods surged to 14.9 billion euros in June (\$18.4 billion), the highest since the European Union began collating numbers in 1999.

The preliminary headline figure was up from just 200 million euros for the same month in 2011. Seasonally-adjusted exports rose by 2.4 percent compared to May, while imports remained stable.

At the same time, the European Central Bank in Frankfurt announced that the eurozone's current account

surplus grew to 12.7 billion euros in June from 10.3 billion in May. The current account on the balance of payments, which includes imports and exports in both goods and services plus all other current transfers, is a closely tracked indicator of the ability of a country or area to pay its way in the world.

It is crucial for the long-term confidence of investors and trading partners. "The eurozone is on the right track," said analyst Christian Schulz at Germany's Berenberg Bank.—Internet



A Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft does a flyby at the Farnborough Airshow, Hampshire, in this 18 July, 2010.

INTERNET

Italian police capture top fugitive mafia boss

ROME, 18 Aug—Italian police on Friday captured a most wanted boss of the Neapolitan mafia "Camorra," ANSA news agency reported.

Francesco Matrone, also known as "The Beast" was captured near the city of Salerno, in southern Campania region, during an anti-mafia operation involving over 100 police officers and a helicopter. The 65-year-old boss, on the run for double murder and other crimes, was

on the interior ministry's list of nine most-dangerous fugitives after escaping custody in 2004. According to a government report released earlier this week, during the last 12 months police have arrested more than 2,000 mafia members, and seized over 4 billion euros (4.9 billion US dollars) of mafia assets across Italy. A total of 22 town councils have also been dissolved for mafia infiltration.

Nearly 90 percent of the anti-mafia operations were conducted in the southern regions of Sicily, Campania, Calabria, Puglia and Lazio, whose capital is Rome, and in northern Lombardy, of which the capital is Milan, the report said.

One of the oldest and largest criminal organizations in Italy dating back to the 18th century, Camorra has gained increasing political and economic power in recent years.

Xinhua

Israel finds rocket shrapnel near Egypt border

JERUSALEM, 18 Aug—Israeli forces discovered the remnants of a rocket on Friday near the border with Egypt, two days after two explosions shook the area in a suspected cross-border shooting.

A military spokesman said "the remains of a rocket were found in the hills near Eilat", a southern Red Sea resort town wedged between Jordan and Egypt.

The site where the shrapnel was found was closer to the Egyptian frontier, which has grown tense with a rise in rocket strikes and other violence since Israel's ally, Hosni Mubarak, was toppled by a popular revolt last year.

There were no casualties in Wednesday's rocket fire. The last attack took place on 16 June, also causing no casualties. Eight Israelis were killed in a roadside ambush from Egypt's Sinai peninsula a year ago.

Egypt has launched a crackdown against suspected Islamist militants in Sinai since an 5 August attack on a military position that killed 16 Egyptian troops, by gunmen Israel killed after they subsequently stormed the Israeli border.

Egypt is one of two Arab countries to have signed a peace treaty with Israel, in 1979.

Reuters

Spain's Ferrovial to sell BAA stake to Qatar Holding

LONDON, 18 Aug—The Spanish construction group Ferrovial said on Friday it will sell off a further 10-percent stake in British airport operator BAA which controls London's Heathrow airport.

Ferrovial said in a statement that it will sell 10.62 percent of BAA's holding company FGP Topco to the investment fund Qatar Holding for 478 million pounds (607 million euros, \$750 million).

Ferrovial currently controls just under half of BAA, which runs several British airports and was bought by a consortium including the Spanish firm in 2006.

It said other stakeholders

in the holding company had sold smaller shares to the Qatar fund, giving it a 20-percent stake in BAA overall and leaving Ferrovial with 39 percent. The total value of these various stakes sold to Qatar amounts to 1.14 billion euros, it said.

The latest sale is subject to approval by European competition authorities and is due to be completed this year. Ferrovial aims "to ensure that Heathrow retains its position as one of the best infrastructure assets in the world," Ferrovial chief executive Inigo Meiras said in the statement.

"The transaction further strengthens Ferrovial's liquidity situation, providing it with notable

flexibility to undertake investments in infrastructure and services projects," the statement said.

Ferrovial in 2011 sold a 5.88 percent stake in BAA to US investment fund Alinda.—Internet



The British Airways check-in area at Heathrow airport. The Spanish construction group Ferrovial said on Friday it will sell off a further 10-percent stake in British airport operator BAA which controls London's Heathrow airport.—INTERNET



A boy joins a performance with a band during the 2012 Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, Canada, on 17 Aug, 2012. Founded in 1879, the Canadian National Exhibition is one of the largest fairs in Canada. This year's event started on 17 August and will last 18 days.
XINHUA

China, United States cooperate on smoking control in workplaces

BEIJING, 18 Aug—China and the United States have established the Sino-US Partnership on Smoke-free Workplaces, pledging cemented efforts regarding tobacco control in workplaces.

The partnership was announced in a joint statement issued by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Department of Health and Human Services of the United

States (HHS) on Friday. The two sides pledged to boost bilateral cooperation in the field within both the public and private sectors.

The two sides hope to draw more attention to the dangers of tobacco and improve the health of employees by controlling smoking in workplaces, the statement said.

The MOH and HHS,

along with key partners, will recruit participants, including government offices and enterprises, to join the partnership in order to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke in public places, the statement said.

The joint statement said tobacco use is a leading cause of death in both China and the United States.

Over 1 million people in

Swiss experts arrive in Iran for quake relief aid

TEHERAN, 18 Aug—A group of experts from Switzerland has arrived in Iran to conduct a study on Iran's recent earthquake.

Switzerland has dispatched a four-member assessment team to Iran in the wake of two powerful earthquakes which shook the northwestern province of East Azerbaijan last Saturday, said Press TV.

The team will survey the damages incurred by the twin tremors, and will work with Iran's Red Crescent Society to distribute food and medical supplies to quake-stricken people, said the report.

The Swiss team will also provide quake survivors with tents, blankets and field kitchens, according to the report.

Twin powerful earthquakes of 6.2- and 6-magnitude which hit Iran's northwestern region last Saturday and left at least 306 dead and over 3,000 injured.—Xinhua

China and an estimated 443,000 people in the United States die from tobacco-related diseases each year, according to the statement.

Chinese government included a public smoking ban in the country's 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015) issued last March.

China's top legislature is also actively preparing for tobacco control legislation, as a smoking ban for indoor public places issued last year has been deemed ineffective.

Xinhua



Visitors watch a car on 2012 Jiangsu (Nanjing) International Auto Show in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 17 Aug, 2012. The 5-day international auto show, displaying a total of 800 cars of 60 brands, opened here on Friday.—XINHUA

White House studying potential oil reserve release

WASHINGTON, 18 Aug—The White House is "dusting off old plans" for a potential release of oil reserves to dampen prices and prevent high energy costs from undermining sanctions against Iran, a source with knowledge of the situation said on Thursday.

US officials will monitor market conditions over the next few weeks, watching whether gasoline prices fall after the 3 September Labour Day holiday, as they historically do, the source said. It was too early to detail the size of any release from the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve and other international stockpiles if a

decision to proceed was taken, the source said.

Oil prices have surged in recent weeks, with Brent crude prices closing in on \$120 a barrel, up sharply from below \$90 a barrel in June. The United States and other Group of Eight countries studied a potential oil release in the spring but shelved the plans when prices dropped.

As prices rise again, US officials were now collecting information from the market about potential needs and studying futures, production numbers and data on Iranian oil exports.

"The driving force in this is both impact on the economy

and impact on the Iran sanctions policy," the source said, noting that Washington



Gasoline drips off a nozzle during refueling at a gas station in Altadena, California, on 24 March, 2012.
REUTERS

did not want rising oil prices to create a windfall for Iran while international sanctions were having an effective impact on its crude exports and

revenues. The United States has not yet held talks with international partners about a coordinated move.

Reuters

Algae bloom kills nearly one million fish in Mexico Gulf

HOUSTON, 18 Aug—Officials of the US state of Texas said on Friday algae bloom, known as red tide, has killed nearly 1 million fish in the Gulf of Mexico.

According to reports by local TV channel ABC13, the estimate was made by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department after finishing a flyover on Thursday in the Galveston bay.

Tens of thousands of dead fish, mostly menhaden, were washed ashore on Sunday on Galveston, an island in the Gulf of Mexico, and water samples collected on Monday confirmed it was the red tide that killed the fish.

Parts of the Galveston Bay have been closed for shellfish harvesting due to the red tide, which can cause respiratory problems. Last year, a red tide covering most of the Texas Gulf Coast and Galveston Bay forced the closure of oyster beds.

The red tide of low-to-moderate concentrations last year arrived in August and lasted until February, but killed no fish.

Xinhua

German troops can be deployed on home soil, court rules

BERLIN, 18 Aug—Germany's armed forces can carry out combat operations on home soil in case of a threat of "catastrophic proportions", the country's highest court ruled on Friday.

However troops cannot be mobilized against demonstrators, the constitutional court said. The military had previously only been able to act in a similar way to the police in domestic disaster situations but will now be able to use combat weapons.

"This only affects exceptional situations of catastrophic proportions," the court said in its ruling. "The deployment of armed forces and the use of specific military defence mechanisms is only permissible as a last resort in such an emergency situation," the court said.

Germany has had a strained relationship with the military since the Nazi period, when the armed forces had to swear an oath of allegiance to Hitler, and could therefore be manipulated for political purposes.

The judges said the ruling, which was in response to complaints from two federal states, did not affect its 2006 decision that it is unlawful to shoot down a hijacked passenger plane.

Reuters



Visitors look at a sculpture of straw during the 11th China (Changchun) International Agriculture-Food Expo in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province, on 17 Aug, 2012. During the expo, various sculptures featuring the agriculture attracted many visitors.
XINHUA

German Pirates pursue state for buying Swiss bank data

BERLIN, 18 Aug—Members of Germany's upstart Pirate Party said on Friday they had filed charges against the finance minister of North Rhine-Westphalia over the state's purchase of leaked Swiss bank data in order to pursue tax evaders.

NRW, Germany's most populous state, has bought several CDs of bank data on German taxpayers from whistleblowers, dividing opinion at home and heightening strains with Switzerland.

"We suspect that (Norbert) Walter-Borjans and everyone assigned to the case has committed a crime," said Pirate Party regional lawmaker Dirk Schatz, one of four party members who pressed charges against the minister.

Schatz, whose party's main policy is to champion broader Internet freedom and data privacy, said the offence involved might have been violation of data protection.

A spokesman for Duesseldorf's prosecutors said similar charges had been dismissed in the past because of lack of evidence that a crime had been committed.

NRW prosecutors said last week they were pursuing tax evaders who secretly stashed cash in Switzerland, after obtaining new bank data from a presumed whistleblower.

Their action is likely to strain ties between Germany and Switzerland, which has sharply criticized previous purchases of leaked bank data by officials in the same state.

In part to prevent such

purchases, Berne struck a deal with Berlin in April to levy taxes on German assets in Swiss accounts, but the agreement could easily unravel.

The Social Democrats (SPD), Germany's largest opposition party, of which Walter-Borjans is a member, has promised to veto the deal in its current form, while a spokesman for the Swiss government has said it will not be renegotiated.

The Pirates' NRW parliamentary group, formed when the party won enough votes to enter the regional parliament for the first time this year, distanced themselves from the charges pressed by Schatz and said party members were divided over the issue.

Reuters

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

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

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

2. Application forms of open tenders may be taken out from Office No. 7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, from 09:30 to 16:30 hour from (20-8-2012) to (5-9-2012) during week days.

3. The open tender are submitted to Office No. 7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, in the presence of the members of the tender committee from 09:30 to 16:30 hr on (6-9-2012). The tenders, later than the designated date, will not be considered.

4. Forms of open tender and detailed Information may be inquired by following address.

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

**Nepali capital set to operate
night bus service**

KATHMANDU, 18 Aug—Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) has completed all the preparation for operating night metro bus service in major routes in the capital city from Friday.

KMC and Federation of Nepalese National Transport Entrepreneurs Association will operate some 14 buses on trial basis from 8 pm to 11 pm local time to facilitate commuters, said an official of KMC. As per the plan, two buses will be operated in each route while four buses will run around Ring Road.

KMC also informed that at least one police would be deployed and a camera would be fixed on each bus to ensure security during the service.

Police will also patrol the given routes through Quick Response Team and Control Room Vehicle.

With the operation of night buses, night commuters who face difficulties in reaching their destinations in absence of reliable means of public transportation except expensive taxis in the capital city will be benefited from the service.—Xinhua

One boy dead, another missing in Yosemite river



In this 20 July, 2011 file photo, a hiker takes a photo from the top of Vernal Falls in Yosemite on 20 July, 2011.—INTERNET

FRESNO, 18 Aug—A 10-year-old boy died and his 6-year-old brother was missing after they were swept away along a popular but treacherous boulder-strewn stretch of the Merced River, Yosemite National Park officials said on Thursday.

The two victims were part of a family visiting from Southern California that was hiking near the Vernal Fall Footbridge. Group members were cooling off in the river on Wednesday when a

current carried the boys away.

The older boy was pronounced dead around 3 pm on Wednesday. Park visitors were able to pull him from the river about 150 yards downstream, but efforts to resuscitate him failed.

Authorities were still searching for the younger boy, who is presumed dead. His mother was hospitalized after being pulled from the river with a back injury, park spokeswoman Kari Cobb said. "She went into the river

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PHILIP VOYNO (033)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHILIP VOYNO (033) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.8.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**Here's \$100m, now catch
those drug smuggling
ultralights**

NEW YORK, 18 Aug—US Customs and Border Patrol is spending big—just under \$100 million—to combat drug smugglers who use small aircraft worth only a few thousand dollars each to ferry narcotics into the US.

Last week the CBP awarded SRCtec, a New York-based research and development company, a \$99,955,087.00 contract for a real-time detection system that is specifically designed to pick out ultralight aircrafts, slow-speed rudimentary manned planes that have a very small radar signature, on America's southern border.

The contract award ended a year-long search for a way to spot ultralights loaded with narcotics—a tactic lawmakers said is being employed more and more in recent years by drug smugglers hoping to buzz back and forth over border fences undetected. Ultralights are easy-to-use aircraft—often little more than an airframe and engine—that can be bought online or constructed at home from kits for a few thousand dollars. Ultralights do not require a pilot's license. In May 2011, The Los Angeles Times reported that in the previous fiscal year, ultralights—sometimes with armed pilots—had entered US borders illegally at least 228 times, double the number compared to the year before that.—Internet

**Americans rate
computer
industry
best, oil & gas
sector worst**

WASHINGTON, 18 Aug—Americans give the computer industry the most positive rating out of 25 business and industry sectors, while the oil and gas industry and the federal government earn the lowest ratings, finds a poll released on Thursday.

The computer industry gets a 73 percent positive rating, followed by restaurant industry's 59 percent, Internet industry's 55 percent, retail industry's 53 percent, farming and agriculture's 52 percent, and grocery industry's 51 percent, according to the Gallup's Work and Education survey. At the bottom of the list, the oil and gas industry gets the highest negative rating at 61 percent, followed by the federal government's 60 percent and banking sector's 53 percent, the poll finds.

Internet

**Iran's top leader urges
rebuilding quake-hit area**



An Iranian girl carrying vegetables donated by a man after the earthquake in Varzaqan in northwest Iran, on 15 Aug, 2012. The twin quakes, which left 306 dead and over 3,000 injured, were followed by dozens of aftershocks in the following days in the region.—XINHUA

TEHRAN, 18 Aug—Iran's top leader is urging the reconstruction of the northwestern region hit by deadly twin earthquakes last weekend. State TV showed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei visiting the ruins of a village on Thursday that was heavily damaged by the quakes.

Khamenei told a gathering of village residents that the area could have a better future if they cooperate with the government and each

other. Official reports say authorities have already provided shelter to more than 70,000 in the region, where the 6.4 and 6.3 magnitude quakes that hit on Saturday killed 306 and injured more than 4,000 people.

Iran is located on seismic fault lines and is prone to earthquakes. In 2003, some 26,000 people were killed by a 6.6 magnitude quake that flattened city of Bam.

Xinhua

**Pakistan air man dies after
audacious base assault**

KAMRA, 18 Aug—A second airman died of injuries sustained in an audacious assault on a key Pakistani air base, raising the overall death toll from the attack to 11, the military said on Friday.

Heavily armed militants dressed in fatigues and wearing suicide vests stormed the base on Thursday, sparking heavy clashes that killed one security official and nine attackers at PAF Base Minhas in the northwestern town of Kamra.

Air Force spokesman Tariq Mahmood told AFP that a second air man had died in hospital on Friday morning

as a result of injuries from the assault.

The Pakistani Taleban claimed what was the worst attack on a military base for more than a year, reviving concerns about the safety of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal.

PAF Minhas, in Punjab Province and only 60 kilometres (35 miles) northwest of Islamabad, has been attacked twice before, but on previous occasions the militants had not managed to penetrate the compound.

Its aeronautical complex assembles Mirage and, with Chinese help, JF-17 fighter jets.—Internet



Pakistani firefighters leave the Minsas Air Force base after the completion of a commando operation against armed militants in Kamra on 16 Aug, 2012.

INTERNET

Dead clown's money to heirs vanishes

Four bank drafts worth \$80,000 mailed to beneficiaries of a Canadian clown who died last year have disappeared in the postal system, the clown's executor said.

Lorraine Pearce, 66, worked professionally as Buttercup the Clown until she died of cancer early last year. She bequeathed about \$80,000 to four friends in the Toronto area, the *Toronto Star* reported.

Earlier this year, her executor, Mary Chmiel obtained bank drafts and then mailed them to the beneficiaries using Canada's

Post's next-day, computer tracked service.

However, the drafts never arrived and *Canada Post* says there's no record of where they went.

Chmiel said the post office investigated for several days before calling to say the four envelopes were considered lost and the case was closed.

She contacted her member of Parliament and the post office reopened the investigation hours later, the *Star* said.

Meanwhile, the bank that issued the drafts said it can't re-issue the drafts until Canada Post officially declares the drafts lost.

The investigation into the clown's vanishing money was continuing, the report said.



"Smoke" the donkey, adopted by retired US Marine Colonel John Folsom, is seen in this undated handout photo taken by Folsom at an unidentified location in Iraq and released by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

News Album

Dog rescued from atop mountain

Animal authorities in Colorado said they are deciding whether to return a dog left on top of a mountain to the owner who left her there.

The German shepherd,

Smoke, donkey mascot for US Marines in Iraq, dies in Nebraska

Smoke, the Iraqi donkey whose journey from a desert battleground to a peaceful retirement in the United States captured the attention of the world, has died in Nebraska.

Smoke became lethargic and died this week after frolicking with miniature horses at Miracle Hills Ranch and Stable north of Omaha. Smoke had served as an equine therapy animal to help veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Smoke's Facebook page has friends from around the

world.

Smoke was taken in by US Marines after he showed up malnourished and wounded at Camp Taqaddum in Anbar Province in 2008. Regulations prohibited keeping the donkey, but Marine Colonel John Folsom of Omaha, then commander at the camp, found a Navy psychologist to designate Smoke as a therapy animal because he reduced stress among Marines.

The donkey learned to walk into offices and open

desk drawers to find apples, carrots and other treats planted there by Marines. Deployed dads sent their children pictures and stories of Smoke.

US Army troops who relieved Marines at the camp turned the donkey over to a local sheikh. Folsom, now retired, tracked down the donkey and cut through layers of red tape to bring him to Nebraska last year. He said Smoke may have died of colic.

"He was a great little donkey," Folsom said.

blisters and he was responsible for getting a young hiker off the mountain before the arrival of an oncoming storm. He said officials told him it was too risky to send a crew for the dog and he was forced to leave town for his job.

'Lorax' leads DVD sales, rental charts

LOS ANGELES, 18 Aug—The animated family flick "Dr Seuss' The Lorax" is the top-selling DVD and Blu-ray and No 1 rental in the United States, Rentrak said on Thursday. Coming in a No 2 on the DVD and Blu-ray sales



Actor Danny DeVito, the voice of *The Lorax* in the animated motion picture fantasy "Dr. Seuss' The Lorax" arrives for the premiere of the film at Universal Studios Hollywood in Universal City, California on 19 February, 2012.—INTERNET

roster for the week ending on 12 August is "Hatfields & McCoy's," followed by "The Three Stooges" at No 3, "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" at No 4 and "Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol" at No 5.

Rounding out the top tier are "21 Jump Street" at No 6, "American Reunion" at No 7, "Wrath of the Titans" at No 8, "Grimm: Season One" at No 9 and "Mirror Mirror" at No 10.

The No 2 DVD and Blu-ray rental for the week ended 11 Aug is "Lockout." "American Reunion" is No 3, "Silent House" is No 4, "The Three Stooges" is No 5, "21 Jump Street" is No 6, "Get the Gringo" is No 7, "Friends with Kids" is No 8, "Wrath of the Titans" is No 9 and "Casa De Mi Padre" is No 10.—INTERNET

Young Elvis tribute artists keep the flame burning

MEMPHIS, 18 Aug—Elvis Presley was long dead when he entered the life of Victor Trevino for ever. "I was in my living room," the 27-year-old professional Elvis tribute artist — please, don't call them impersonators — recalled on Thursday, the 35th anniversary of the sudden death of the king of rock 'n' roll at the age of 42.

"My parents played 'Teddy Bear' forme, and then they had me perform the song at a talent show when I was elementary school — I was like in the fourth grade," or about 10 years old, he told *AFP*.

"I had my glasses on. I slicked my hair back. I had khakis on, and a little blazer

and pink shirt and penny loafers. I always liked to perform." As Elvis Week winds down, after a moving candlelight vigil on Wednesday at Presley's sprawling Graceland estate, the spotlight is turning onto the unusual thespians who dedicate their lives to mimicking a pop-culture icon on stage.

Twenty-nine of them, from Australia, Britain, Canada, Japan and the United States, are vying for top honours in the sixth annual Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest. The finals take place on Saturday. Most of the 29 were children when Presley died, but a handful — like Trevino, from Fort Worth, Texas, and fellow contestant



Elvis Presley tribute artist Victor Trevino, 27, of Fort Worth, Texas, poses with wife Chloe Trevino during an Elvis Week event in Memphis, Tennessee, on 16 Aug, the 35th anniversary of the death of the rock 'n' roll icon.

INTERNET

Eli Williams, 24, from Delta, British Columbia, Canada — had not yet been born. They are the relative newcomers to Elvis fever.

"I kind of caught it myself when I was 17 in high school," the bespectacled Williams told *AFP*, "and it just took a life of its own." —INTERNET

Sobbing Rihanna recalls confusion of Chris Brown beating

LOS ANGELES, 18 Aug—A sobbing Rihanna has told Oprah Winfrey she felt protective of boyfriend Chris Brown after he beat her up more than three years ago and was concerned that everyone would think of him as a monster.

The "Umbrella" singer, in a rare emotional TV interview set to air on Sunday detailing her thoughts about the highly publicized 2009 assault, told Winfrey that the days and weeks after incident left her confused and ashamed.

"It was embarrassing, it was humiliating," Rihanna told Winfrey in the interview, excerpts of which were released on Thursday. "I lost my best friend. Everything I knew switched, switched in a night, and I couldn't



Rihanna performs at the Hackney Weekend festival at Hackney Marshes in east London, on 24 June, 2012.

REUTERS

control that. "It was a weird, confusing space to be in. Because as angry as I was — as angry and hurt and betrayed — I just felt like he made that mistake because he needed help. And who's going to help him?"

"Nobody's going to say he needs help. Everybody's going to say he's a monster, without looking at the source. And I was more concerned

about him," she added.

Rihanna, now 24, was left battered and bruised from the beating by Brown in Los Angeles on the eve of the Grammy Awards in February 2009.

Brown, 19 at the time and a rising R&B singer, pleaded guilty to assault and was sentenced to five years probation, community service and domestic violence counseling.

He publicly apologized, but his career and public image took a dive. Brown's career has since recovered, and he won his first Grammy award earlier this year for the hit album "F.A.M.E".

Rihanna has rarely opened up emotionally in public about the events of that night.

Reuters



Musician Elton John speaks during an interview in Washington on 23 July, 2012. John was in town to speak at the AIDS 2012 conference.

REUTERS

Bass player for Elton John found dead of apparent suicide

LOS ANGELES, 18 Aug—Robert Wayne Birch, a backup musician and bass player for Elton John, was found dead in the Los Angeles area on Wednesday of an apparent suicide resulting from a gunshot wound to the head, officials said.

Los Angeles County Assistant Coroner Chief Ed Winter said Birch's body was found after 1 am PDT (0800 GMT) in a community of the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles.

The case is "being investigated as a possible suicide," Winter said.

Birch, who also played saxophone, worked as the bass player in John's band starting in the early 1990s, opening the door for Birch to play with other famous musicians and bands such as Billy Joel, Keith Emerson, and The Replacements.

Reuters

Underwood, Paisley to host CMAs

NASHVILLE, 18 Aug—Singers Brad Paisley and Carrie Underwood are to serve as hosts of the CMA Awards for a fifth time this fall in Nashville, ABC announced on Wednesday.

The network is to air the presentation live from the Bridgestone Arena on 1 November.

"I think I can speak for both of us when I say that we are extremely excited to be back for a fifth year hosting the CMA Awards," Underwood said in a statement.

"Each year we work harder so that we can help present the best show possible."

"We are excited," said

Paisley. "I think you walk out there with people expecting a certain thing now and that's a great place to be. I think they know who we are. They know what we do up there together and we've become something different together than we are separately I think, which is fun." —INTERNET



Carrie Underwood performs on the NBC Today Show at Rockefeller Center in New York City on 15 Aug, 2012.—INTERNET

Van Persie signs for Manchester United



Robin van Persie (right) is looking forward to challenging for trophies with Manchester United.

INTERNET

LONDON, 18 Aug — Manchester United have completed the signing of Arsenal striker Robin van Persie on a four-year deal for an undisclosed fee. Van Persie is eligible to make his debut for his new club against Everton on Monday evening and is Sir Alex Ferguson's third signing of the summer for United, after Nick Powell, from Crewe Alexandra, and Shinji Kagawa, from Borussia Dortmund. The 29-year-old leaves Arsenal after eight seasons at the club, having joined from Feyenoord in May 2004. The Netherlands international has scored 96 goals in 194 Barclays Premier League appearances.

Last season Van Persie claimed the Barclays Premier League Golden Boot and helped the north London side finish third in the division after top-scoring in the Barclays Premier League with 30 goals in 38 matches. "Robin is a world-class striker with a proven record in England and in European football," United's manager Sir Alex Ferguson told the club's official website. "His talents need no introduction to our fans—he has scored a number of goals against us in some classic battles with his former club. His movement, finishing and all-round ability are outstanding."

Van Persie said: "It's an

honour to sign for Manchester United. I am looking forward to following in the footsteps of so many great strikers, bringing my experience and playing my part to help the team compete for the biggest trophies in the game. I can't wait to get started." As far as former United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel is concerned, the transfer of the club's new No 20 has given Ferguson's side a huge advantage for the new campaign. Speaking at the Barclays Premier League Trophy Tour in Manchester Schmeichel told premier-league.com:

"The Manchester City and United squads were very, very even going into yesterday, and then there was the game-changing signing of Robin van Persie." He was player of the year last season, he scored 30 plus goals, he is full of confidence. He is a fantastic finisher. "I am not comparing him to Ruud van Nistelrooy but he is the same kind of person. He doesn't miss a lot of chances. "If he can deliver that kind of level he is going to score many, many goals and many, many goals is the difference—we have already seen that last season." — *Internet*

Serena Williams upset, Venus reaches Cincy semis

MASON, (Ohio), 18 Aug — Only one of the Williams sisters is heading to a semifinal, and it's not the one with the long winning streak. Serena Williams lost that—and her cool—at the Western & Southern Open. Williams had her 19-match streak snapped by Germany's Angelique Kerber on Friday, a 6-4, 6-4 defeat that marked the first time she'd even lost a set since her title at Wimbledon. The third-longest winning streak of her career didn't end quietly. She flung her racket at the ground, picked it up and slammed it on the court again as the second set slipped away. "I probably need a break," she said.

While Serena fumed over missed shots, older sister Venus had another jump-for-joy day. She reached the semifinals of a tournament for the first time this season by beating Samantha Stosur 6-2, 6-7 (2), 6-4. On the men's side, Novak Djokovic and Juan Martin del Potro won in straight

sets, setting up a rematch of their bronze medal match at the Olympics. Del Potro won that one. After all of her summer success on Wimbledon's grass, Serena Williams is having a tough time getting readjusted to hard surfaces. One of the best stretches of her career included single and doubles

winning the last few weeks have caught up with her. "She's played so many matches since Wimbledon," Venus Williams said, as her sister struggled on the court. "I don't think anyone has played as many matches and played as successfully as her."

"I think some rest is in order for her." Wearing an Olympics shirt after her match, Serena Williams agreed she needs a little time to get recharged for the US Open. "I'll be better in New York, I promise," she said.

First, she's going to stick around to watch her sister's resurgence. Venus Williams raised both arms and jumped—kicking up her heels—after winning a three-setter for the third time in the tournament, an indication she's learning to manage an immune system disorder that leaves her tired. She'll play China's Li Na in the semifinals. "For me and everything that's gone on in my life, it's a huge achievement and I want to take it further," Venus Williams said.

Internet



Williams sisters

gold medals at the Olympics in London.

She came into Friday's match with a 64-4 record in the summer hard-court season over the last two years. Against Kerber, her game fell apart. She missed so many easy shots that after she hit an overhead that landed in the court, she smiled and raised her arms in mock triumph. Her sister

International Sports

Djokovic to face Del Potro again, Federer wins

MASON, (Ohio), 18 Aug — World number two Novak Djokovic has a shot at revenge against Juan Martin del Potro, who ended the Serb's medal hopes at the London Olympics, when the two clash in the Cincinnati Open semifinals on Saturday. World number one Roger Federer, who dealt with American Mardy Fish 6-3, 7-6 in some style, will play his Swiss Davis Cup team mate Stanislas Wawrinka in the other semi.

Djokovic, who lost to former US Open winner Del Potro in the Olympic bronze medal match less than two weeks ago, enjoyed a routine 6-3, 6-2 victory over 12th seeded Croatian Marin Cilic on Friday to advance. "It was my best match so far here in this tournament and came in

the right moment, really," Djokovic, who had an easy passage through to the last eight after Russian Nikolay Davydenko retired injured during their match, told reporters.

"I had the biggest challenge today with Cilic who



Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a return shot to Marin Cilic of Croatia during their quarter final round match in the Cincinnati Open tennis tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio, on 17 Aug, 2012. — *REUTERS*

has been playing well the last couple of months and I played a really good match." The five-times grand slam winner may have added incentive on Saturday given Serbia's Davis Cup semi-final loss to Argentina last year in which Djokovic retired against Del Potro.

"All these losses made me stronger and, yes, they are difficult, especially when you're playing for a country and when you're in Olympic Games and we're fighting for bronze medal," said Djokovic. "He won that match. It happens. It's a sport. You lose, you win, but the most important thing is to try to move on and become even better and even stronger from those experiences and try to win." — *Reuters*

Nadal unsure he will recover for Davis Cup

MANACOR, (Spain), 18 Aug — Rafa Nadal said he must fully recover from a nagging knee problem known as Hoffa's syndrome before returning to competition and was a doubt for next month's Davis Cup semi-final against the United States. Spain's world number three has not played since suffering a shock second-round Wimbledon defeat by lowly ranked Czech Lukas Rosol in June. He missed the Olympic Games and on Wednesday he withdrew from

the US Open. "The important thing is to recover well and come back when my knee is a hundred percent perfect," Nadal told *Reuters* television in an interview in his hometown of Manacor in Mallorca. "We'll see if I will be ready for Gijon, for the Davis Cup. My goal, my dream is to be there if the captain has confidence in me, but it always depends on the captain and the knee." Due to his aggressive style of play, Nadal has suffered a string of physical

problems during his career, including a foot injury in 2005 and more recently with his knees. He pulled out of the 2008 Tennis Masters Cup with tendinitis, and a year later the same complaint led to him missing the chance to defend his title at Wimbledon.

Reuters



Spain's Rafael Nadal gestures between television interviews, during which he detailed reasons for pulling out of the US Open, in Palma de Mallorca, on the island of Mallorca on 17 Aug, 2012. — *REUTERS*

Dempsey refuses to play for Fulham again

LONDON, 18 Aug — United States international Clint Dempsey has refused to play for Fulham and is seeking a transfer to a Champions League team, the Premier League club's coach Martin Jol said on Friday. Dempsey was linked to Liverpool last month after Reds coach Brendan Rodgers admitted during a preseason tour of the US and Canada that the Merseyside club had inquired about him.

However, no deal was forthcoming from Liverpool's US owners, the Fenway Sports Group, which also owns the Boston Red Sox.

Asked if the attacking midfielder would face Norwich in Saturday's first league match of the season, Jol said: "Clint is not involved. ... Clint told us that he wanted to leave and that he wasn't ready to play for this club anymore."

The problems follow a superb season for the 29-year-old midfielder, who had 23 goals in 46 games to become Fulham's top scorer.



United States international Clint Dempsey

He joined the west London club in 2007 and is the highest scoring American in the Premier League with 50 goals. "The Fenway Group put on their website that Clint signed for Liverpool. But I can assure everyone there was no firm bid from Liverpool, so I have to say it was quite a problem for us," Jol said in reference to a hastily withdrawn report from FSG's website at the start of the preseason tour.

"Clint feels he needs a move, that he wants a move and that was probably Liverpool," Jol said. "But Liverpool did their business, bought other players, but no Clint. So we've ended up in a situation with Clint here at Fulham, but he's not committed to the club." Jol clearly thought Liverpool was to blame for putting Fulham in a difficult position.

"We'll have to wait and see what happens, but it's a sad situation for us and it's almost embarrassing," the Dutchman said.

Internet



Jimmy Walker

Walker shoots 62, takes 1-shot lead at Wyndham

GREENSBORO, 18 Aug — Jimmy Walker left the booming, highlight-reel drives to his playing partner. A low score was good enough for him. Walker shot an 8-under 62 on Friday to take the lead at 12-under 128 after two rounds in the Wyndham Championship.

Defending champion Webb Simpson (63) was one stroke back. First-round leader Carl Pettersson (68), Tim Clark (67), Sergio Garcia (63) and rookie Harris English (64) were at 10 under.

Tim Herron matched the tournament record with a 61, but was still nine strokes back. Play was halted for 1 hour, 17 minutes late in the day when a system of thunderstorms passed through the central North Carolina Triad.

Walker, who began the day four strokes back, had eight birdies in compiling one of the best two-day scores in event history. — *Internet*

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

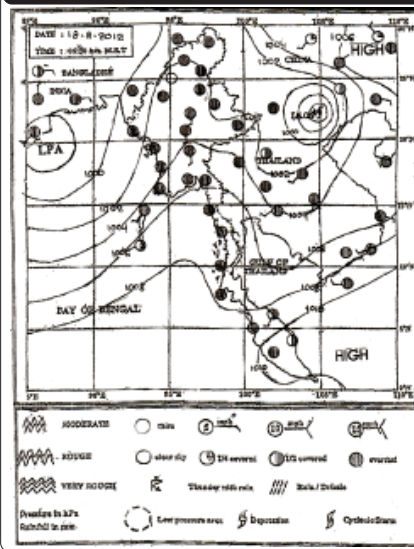
MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
(19-8-12 09:30 am ~ 20-8-12 09:30 am) MST

MYANMAR TV
(19-8-2012)(Sunday)

- * News
- * Road to 27th SEA GAMES (Wushu)
- * News
- * Cultural Reflection of Six Myanmar Eras
- * News
- * ASEAN Economic Communication (AEC) Workshop
- * News
- * News Tid-Bits
- * MI People's Celebrities
- * Charity Feast By Taw Win Family Co. Ltd
- * News
- * Food Trip (Episode-3) (Part-I)
- * News
- * Distinguished Donation of King Dhamma Ceti
- * News
- * Mid-Year Review 2012 Workshop
- * Myanmar Movie "Never Say Goodbye"

- 7:00 am 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:25 am 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:40 am 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:05 am 4. (38) Phyar Mingalars
- 8:25 am 5. "Road to 27th SEA GAMES"
- 11:00 am 6. Martial Song
- 11:10 am 7. Musical Programme
- 11:15 am 8. Round Up Of The Week's TV Local News
- 12:20 pm 9. How It's Works
- 12:45 pm 10. Myanmar Movie
- 4:25 pm 11. Instrumental Music
- 4:30 pm 12. Songs Of National Races
- 4:55 pm 13. Teleplay (Health)
- 5:15 pm 14. Sing & Enjoy
- 6:40 pm 15. Tamyethnar Takwetsar
- 8:00 pm 16. News
17. Cartoon Series
18. TV Drama Series
19. New Melody

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 19th August, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	32.90	25.77	Widespread rain or thundershowers (RH)	(100%)
2	Kayah	26.79	20.68	Widespread rain or thundershowers (RH)	(100%)
3	Kayin	25.77	21.70	Widespread rain or thundershowers (RH)	(100%)
4	Chin	19.66	14.57	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (RH)	(100%)
5	Upper Sgawng	30.86	25.77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (RH)	(100%)
6	Lower Sgawng	36.97	27.81	Scattered rain or thundershower	(100%)
7	Tanintharyi	27.81	21.70	Widespread rain or thundershowers (RH)	(100%)
8	Bago	27.81	22.72	Widespread rain or thundershowers (RH)	(100%)
9	Magway	29.84	24.75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (RH)	(100%)
10	Mandalay	34.93	26.79	Widespread rain or thundershowers (RH)	(100%)
11	Mon	28.82	23.73	Widespread rain or thundershowers (RH)	(100%)
12	Yangon	29.84	21.70	Widespread rain or thundershowers (RH)	(100%)
13	Rakhine	27.81	21.70	Widespread rain or thundershowers (RH)	(100%)
14	Southern Shan	22.72	18.64	Widespread rain or thundershowers (RH)	(100%)
15	Northern Shan	32.90	21.70	Widespread rain or thundershowers (RH)	(100%)
16	Eastern Shan	31.88	22.72	Widespread rain or thundershowers (RH)	(100%)
17	Ayeyawady	27.81	23.73	Widespread rain or thundershowers (RH)	(100%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	31.88	23.73	Isolated rain or thundershower	(80%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	29.84	21.70	Some rain or thundershower	(100%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	34.93	26.79	One or two rain or thundershower	(80%)

During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Lower Sgawng Region and Kayah State, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kachin and Shan States, fairly widespread in Upper Sgawng, Bago and Yangon Regions, Chin and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy fall in Bago Region and Mon State and isolated heavy falls in Yangon Region. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Khamm (3.25) inches, Mawlamyine and Zangha (3.18) inches each, Nyaung-U (3.15) inches and Madaya (3.07) inches.

According to the observations at (12:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Signals with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain in the Upper Myanmar areas.

Multiplier librarian course concludes in Hlinethaya Township

HLINEHAYA, 18 Aug—Hlinethaya Township Library Supervisory Committee of Yangon Region and Township Information and Public Relations Department jointly held the concluding of the multiplier librarian course No 1.2012, with the sponsorship of World Vision of the township, at the hall of the Township IPRD on 7 August afternoon.

The staff officer of District IPRD and heads of Township IPRDs gave theoretical and practical lectures to the trainees. Next, Staff Officer Daw Khin Thida Oo of the District IPRD, Deputy Head of Township General Administration



Department Daw Nyein Nyein Oo and Head of Township IPRD U Htein Lin awarded prizes to the outstanding trainees. Later, completion certificates were presented to 69 trainees.—Myanna Alin

Chelsea enters season with new players, a new attacking style and confidence

LONDON, 18 Aug—Since being rebranded from the UEFA Champions Club Cup to the UEFA Champions League in 1992, no club has ever repeated as European champions—not even Lionel Messi's Barcelona. But Marko Marin believes Chelsea is in a good position to make history after defeating Barcelona and Bayern Munich en route to winning Europe's stop prize last season. "Yeah, [I believe Chelsea can repeat]," the Blues' new midfielder told Goal.com. "The team changed a lot, but there's a lot of high quality here."



Chelsea enters season with new players, a new attacking style and confidence.—INTERNET

Marin is one of the major additions to Chelsea this summer, joining Eden Hazard and Oscar as the club's newest key members. But while the Premier League team certainly improved its roster, veteran Frank Lampard points out that other contenders have boosted their squads as well. "Every year is very tough and we had an amazing year last season. We will try our best to do it and of course, it's a possibility but every other team will be stronger," Lampard explained. "Barcelona will be strong

again, Real Madrid will be strong and you have the Italian teams so every year it's very tough."

It isn't a blunder by the team's scouting department that Hazard, Oscar and Marin are versatile attacking midfielders, as Chelsea is looking to transition from a defensive style to an entertaining strategy that values ball movement and possession. While previous managers have struggled in making Chelsea into an attacking side, Roberto Di Matteo appears set to change the way things are done on the pitch. The Italian, who coached the team last season

on an interim basis after the departure of Andre Villas-Boas, gets offended when analysts point to Chelsea's negative tactics as the reason why it won the Champions League title.

"I think you need to correct your thinking on that," Di Matteo said during a press conference when Goal.com asked if Chelsea is transitioning from a defensive style to an offensive one. "Aside from a few matches, there were plenty of games where we put up a lot of goals." Part of Matteo's feisty response is due to the fact that prior to his promotion as interim manager at Chelsea,

he was known primarily as a defensive coach.

A few years ago, he led his West Brom side to promotion with one of the most aggressive attacking styles in English football. In fact, Matteo was controversially fired from the club due to its midseason defensive woes.

Matteo clearly has a lot of pride in his offensive philosophy, and Chelsea players can already see that the team is looking to change its strategy this season. "We have some young players with very good technical ability, very attacking with a lot of flair," Frank Lampard told reporters during Chelsea's recent US tour. "Hopefully, if we can get the balance right and help them get into the team, we can have a successful season."

Gary Cahill agreed with Lampard and believes both Marin and Hazard have adjusted well to the team so far. "I think they've bedded in really well and it can take a while you first come to a new club and get used to new players," Cahill told Goal.com. "They've looked really promising, really sharp. I think we'll just go from strength to strength."

Internet

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal	0 - 0	Sunderland
Fulham	5 - 0	Norwich
QPR	0 - 5	Swansea
Reading	1 - 1	Stoke
West Brom	3 - 0	Liverpool
West Ham	1 - 0	Aston Villa

"Our deepest sympathy on the loss of Dr Khin Ohn Than. We know she will always reside in our hearts.
May her soul rest in peace."
Mr Gunkul Dhumrongpiyawut + Ms Sopacha Dhumrongpiyawut Gunkul Engineering Public Co., Ltd

"Our deepest sympathy on the loss of Dr Khin Ohn Than. We know she will always reside in our hearts.
May her soul rest in peace."
S. Sabanayagam, Managing Partner Excel Power Switchgear, India

Drive Safely

Union Education Minister visits Yankin Education College

YANGON, 18 Aug— Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye inspected construction of a building for Yankin Education College in Yankin Township today.

Daw Khin Wai Myint, Principal of the college, and Assistant Lecturer U Kyaw Win Maw Tun reported to the Union minister on the budget for the construction of the three-storey building and its design.

The Union Minister called on producing qualified teachers at the college and inspected the site chosen to construct the building.—MNA



Union Education Minister Dr Mya Aye inspects site for construction of three-storey building at Yankin Education College.—MNA

Third day of Special Session 1/2012 for First Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw continues



Third day special session 1/2012 of Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug— Third day of Special Session 1/2012 for First Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw was held at the meeting hall of the Region Hluttaw Office at 10 am yesterday, attended by Region Hluttaw Speaker U Hsan Hsint, 69 Region Hluttaw representatives and 12 special invited guests.

At the meeting, six questions were raised and replied.

In discussion session, discussions made

concerning Inyegyí natural wetland in Kyonpyaw Township, prosecution of farmers from Hleseik village in Kyonpyaw Township, blockage of water, change of water course and use of vacant lands in Thabyu village and Taungnangon village-tract in Danubyu Township and field trip reports for growing summer paddy and water supply.

The region Hluttaw speaker sought the approval of the Hluttaw and discussed 10 points of assessments by

legislative committee and law scrutiny committee. The region Hluttaw speaker submitted to approve the report concerning extension tasks under 2012-2013 capital expenditures for development affairs committees in Ayeyawady Region.

Region Deputy Hluttaw Speaker Dr Htein Win submitted reorganizations of Hluttaw National Races Affairs Committee and Social, Culture, Sports and Human Resources Development Committee to the

Hluttaw.

The Hluttaw approved the submission and the third-day of special meeting 1/2012 came to an end at 4.30 pm.

MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (18-8-2012)

Khayan	(3.23) inches
Mawlamyine	(3.18) inches
ZaungTu	(3.18) inches
Nyaunglebin	(3.15) inches
Mudon	(3.07) inches.

Tune-up volleyball match on 18 Aug

YANGON, 18 Aug—As part of preparations to achieve success of Myanmar selected volleyball teams in the XXVII SEA Games, Myanmar selected men's volleyball team will play against New Zealander men's volleyball team in the tune-up match at the National Indoor Stadium(1), here, at 2 pm tomorrow.

Despite fixing the date for the match on 18 August, the tune-up match was postponed due to flight error of the New Zealander team.

The New Zealander men's volleyball team arrived here by air this morning. The team was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Myanmar Volleyball Federation.—MNA



Arrival of New Zealand selected volleyball team seen at Yangon International Airport. MNA

Liverpool suffer losing start, Arsenal held in Premiership



West Bromwich Albion's Claudio Jacob (L) challenges Liverpool's Luis Suarez during their English Premier League soccer match at The Hawthorns in West Bromwich, central England, on 18 Aug, 2012.—INTERNET

LONDON, 18 Aug— Liverpool crashed to a miserable 3-0 defeat at West Brom in Brendan Rodgers' first Premier League match as Reds boss, while Arsenal started life without Robin van Persie with a dour 0-0 draw against Sunderland on Saturday.

Rodgers took over from Kenny Dalglish after Liverpool finished eighth last season, their worst final position for 18 years, and on the evidence of a shocking result at the Hawthorns the former Swansea manager still has plenty of work to do.

Rodgers, who gave debuts to new signings Joe Allen and Fabio Borini and left unsettled striker Andy Carroll

on the bench, might have feared the worst when he saw Zoltan Gera blast Albion into the lead with a stunning 43rd-minute strike.

Pepe Reina kept Liverpool in the match when he saved Shane Long's woeful second half penalty after Reds defender Daniel Agger was sent off for a professional foul.

But Albion won another penalty in the 64th minute and this time Nigerian striker Peter Odemwingie stepped up to blast home.

And Romelu Lukaku, on

loan from Chelsea, rubbed salt into Liverpool's wounds when he marked his West Brom debut with a 77th-minute strike.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger must have been concerned that the Gunners failed to break down Sunderland at the Emirates Stadium in the first game since Dutch striker van Persie's £24 million move to Manchester United.

But the new boys were underwhelming, with Giroud missing the best chance of the

afternoon.

West Ham enjoyed a winning return to the top flight as Sam Allardyce's side beat Aston Villa 1-0 at Upton Park in Paul Lambert's first game as Villa boss.

The Hammers, promoted via the Championship playoffs, took the points when Kevin Nolan side-footed home in the 40th minute from Ricardo Vaz Te's assist despite Villa claims the West Ham striker was offside before he laid on the goal.

Internet