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Sunday, 2 September, 2012

Our Three Main National Causes

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

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Vietnamese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Sept—On the occasion of the 67th Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, which falls on 2 September 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Truong Tan Sang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.—MNA

President U Thein Sein felicitates Vietnamese Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Sept—On the occasion of the 67th Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, which falls on 2 September 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham felicitates Vietnamese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Sept—On the occasion of the 67th Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, which falls on 2 September 2012, Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Madame Nguyen Thi Doan, Vice-President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.—MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun felicitates Vietnamese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Sept—On the occasion of the 67th Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, which falls on 2 September 2012, U Nyan Tun, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Madame Nguyen Thi Doan, Vice-President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.—MNA

Union Sports Minister calls for pulling off victory in XXVII SEA Games



Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan discusses tasks to achieve victory for Myanmar in XXVII SEA Games.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Sept—Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan met deputy directors-general, directors and personnel of Sports and Physical Education Department, responsible officials, coaches and managers of respective sports at Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Sports Training Centre this morning to discuss measures to be taken for clinching victory in XXVII SEA Games.

The Union minister in his speech said it is projected to organize at least 28 sports to at most 32 sports categories in XXVII SEA Games with over 370 gold medals. It is required to make all-out efforts to be able to notch up over 100 gold medals as the host country. He promised to fulfil all the requirements of the tentatively selected athletes.

He called for recruitment of new blood from sports and physical education institutes in Yangon and Mandalay and organizing friendlies at home and abroad to broaden the experiences of athletes. He demanded comradeship among all the personnel concerned to secure victory in XXVII SEA Games.

MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (1-9-2012)

Taungup	(8.54) inches
Kyeikmaraw	(6.29) inches
Mudon	(4.02) inches
Sittway	(3.51) inches
Haka	(3.34) inches
Mawlamyine	(3.30) inches
Ye	(3.27) inches

Almost all the schools opened in Ayeyawady Region

PATHEIN, 1 Sept—Due to heavy rains and overflow of rivers in Ayeyawady Region, some schools were closed in a short-term period as of 3 August.

Two Basic Education High Schools, one BEMS and 56 BEPSs totalling 59 in Pathein Township, three BEMSs, 37 BEPSs totalling 40 in Kangyidaung Township, six BEHSs, five BEMSs and 62 BEPSs totalling 72 in Kyaunggon Township, one BEHS, two BEMSs and 19 BEPSs totalling 22 in Kyonpyaw Township, one BEHS, one BEMS and 33 BEPSs totalling 35 in YeKyin Township, two BEHSs, 5

BEMSs and 54 BEPSs totalling 61 in Thabaung Township, 4 BEPSs in Laymyethna Township, 4 BEPSs in Nyaungdon Township, one BEMS and 16 BEPSs totalling 17 in Pantanaw Township and one BEHS and 19 BEPSs totaling 20 in Danubyu Township were closed from 3 August to 26 August.

A total of 467 schools temporarily suspended academic tasks at 12 Townships in the Region till 21 August. A total of 132 schools of two townships were reopened on 25 August, and almost all the schools on 29 August. Remaining schools will be opened soon. So, the officials concerned said that the students will be taught with substitute teaching programme.—Kyemon

Spacecraft on lookout for ice on the moon



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Moscow's Hotel Metropol sold at auction



PAGE 6

Tottenham sign Dempsey, Lloris

Fulham's US midfielder Clint Dempsey (L)



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PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 2 September, 2012

Productive working condition

Man works either for survival or self-actualization. It is fair to say work is the universal identity of mankind. In fact, life is a pleasant blend of work and social intercourse.

A bad workman always blames his tools, there goes a saying. But, what then if the employer fails to provide the employees with proper equipment?

Pleasant working condition contributes performance and productivity. Retention of competent employees is as important as customer retention in modern business concept especially in service industry as no bad workman would offer quality service to them, when faced with the negligence of the management.

Though computerization has been introduced to a large number of government departments so far, staff personnel are lacking in computer literacy required for effective operation. The lack of training plus low-poke technology of computers has been hindrance to their performance, suffering from hour-glass syndrome.

Along with greater transparency and media freedom, incompetency and corruption of civil servants have come under the widespread criticism on media. In fact, the practice of fakelaki has long been deeply rooted in the system. While some do this simply because of greed, some do this because ethics do not fill their stomachs.

Operational effectiveness calls for competence of the management and skills of workers plus good tools. Otherwise, one swallow does not make the summer.

Stimulant tablets worth K 2.4 million seized

YANGON, 1 Sept—A combined team comprising members of Kalay District Police Force together with witnesses searched Pajero with number plate 7B... driven by Shwe Win, 35 and Thein Zaw Oo, 35 ay Kabani Gate in North See Village of Kalay Township at 8 am on 19 August.

The team seized 2,410,000 tablets of pseudo-ephedrine, 16 kilos of ephedrine powder and K 1.5 million. North See Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against Shwe Win and Thein Zaw Oo of Industrial Zone in Kalay under Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Kyemon

You've approved me as a recipient of donations.....

How much is your contribution?

Hmm!

...Ward Administrator



Hla Htut Oo

Union A & I Minister views plantations, scientific paddy plantations in Pyinmana Township

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Sept—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing inspected arrival of groundnuts strains, maize strains and new soy bean strains from China at farmer's educative farm of Ngalaik irrigated area here this morning.

The Union Minister viewed growing of groundnuts and soy bean plantations.

The Union Minister looked into readiness for harvesting of 110-day Basmati paddy plantation, thriving of 30-day groundnuts plantation and 50-day paddy plantations.

The Union Minister accompanied by Chairman Mr Dhanin Chearavanont and party of CP Group from Thailand went to Ahlyinlo Village of Pyinmana Township where they viewed thriving of 440-acre monsoon paddy plantation and discussed matters related to development of paddy crops and



Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Chairman Mr Dhanin Chearavanont of CP Group of Companies of Thailand view 440-acre monsoon paddy plantation in Ahlyinlo Village.

MNA

cooperation tasks in technology, investment opportunity of CP Group between CP Group of Thailand and Agriculture Department.

They then observed 100-acre Basmati paddy plantation of KMA Company and made discussion about constructions of modern rice

mills, corn crops and advanced corn-based plant, sugarcane and sugar plants between CP Group and the ministry.

The Union Minister called for officials to share experiences from producing quality stains and growing marketable crops besides providing paddy to farmers before they start growing

cold-season crops. The Union Minister urged the officials to invite foreign companies which are rich in technology and capital amount to make investment in agriculture sector based on Win-Win Practice for job opportunities and earning more income for farmers of the nation.

MNA

New school building opened in Singu Township



PyinOoLwin District on 31 August morning.

Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing, Region Education Officer U Soe Myint Tun and Chairman of School Board of Trustees U Chit Oo formally opened the new school building.

Chief Minister of the region U Ye Myint unveiled the signboard of the school and visited there.

They then viewed students at the classrooms.

Tamalan building is two-storey brick building which is 100 feet long and 30 feet wide.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Sept—A ceremony to open Tamalan School Building was held in

conjunction with the handing over of the school building to the Education

Department at Letpanhla Basic Education High School in Singu Township of



PRIZES PRESENTED: Under the supervision of All Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Organization and Border and Hilly Region Missionary Sasana Nuggaha Association, Yangon Region Sasana Nuggaha Association held the second Dhammaçakka and Anattalakkhana Suttas Recitation at the Dhammayon of Mingala Market in Bahan Township recently. Bahan Township Administrator U Kyaw Thu Zaw presents prizes to the winners in the recitation.—MYANMA ALIN



In memory of late U Saw Linn, Daw Kyi Kyi May and siblings, Col San Lin (Rtd) (PRPW) and family of Mayangon Township donated K 100,000 to fund of Hninzigon Home For the Aged through member of executive committee U Kyaing Myint recently.—NLM

UN chief defends Iran visit, says pushed for change

DUBAI, 1 Sept—United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has defended his controversial visit to Iran, saying on Friday that he had used this week's trip to push hard for human rights and transparency from Tehran over its nuclear programme. "I believe in the power of diplomacy and I believe in dialogues and I believe in engagement. This is exactly what I did during my visit to Teheran," Ban told Reuters on a stopover in Dubai before flying back to UN headquarters in New York.

While conceding he had not always been satisfied with

the responses of Iranian leaders he spoke to this week, he rejected accusations by the United States and Israel that he had been playing into Teheran's hands by attending an international summit which Iran used to raise its diplomatic profile. "I think that it should not have been controversial," he said. "As a secretary-general of the United Nations, I have a mandate to engage with all the member states of the United Nations."

Making the first visit by a UN chief to Iran since his predecessor travelled there six years ago, Ban attended

the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, a group of 120 mostly developing nations. Among these were senior ministers from Syria's embattled government who, he said, agreed to consider his request for greater access for international aid workers. Isolated by international economic sanctions imposed over its nuclear programme, and unpopular among many states for its support of President Bashar al-Assad in Syria's civil war, Iran used the NAM summit to present an image of diplomatic power—to its own people, as well as the rest of the world.



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon speaks during an interview with Reuters after his arrival to Dubai from Teheran, on 31 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS

Before the summit, Washington made clear that it wanted Ban to boycott the event. "Iran is going to manipulate this opportunity

and the attendees to try to deflect attention from its own failings," a State Department spokeswoman said.

Reuters

US-Israeli military exercise to be smaller than first planned

WASHINGTON, 1 Sept—A US-Israeli ballistic missile exercise postponed until this autumn will involve fewer US military personnel than initially planned, the Pentagon said on Friday, but it rejected a media report portraying the decision as a sign of US mistrust.

The exercise is being planned amid rising war talk in the Israeli media and reports that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Ehud Barak are debating a unilateral attack on Iran to knock out its nuclear installations. Washington has cautioned Israel against going it alone. "Austere Challenge-12 remains the largest-ever ballistic missile defence exercise between our nations and a significant increase from the previous event in 2009," said Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Jack Miller, a Pentagon spokesman. "The exercise has not changed in scope and will include the same types of systems as planned. All deployed systems will be fully operational with associated operators," Miller said.

Reuters



US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (R) participates in an arrival ceremony at Rarotonga International Airport in Rarotonga, on 30 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS

RAROTONGA, 1 Sept—The United States will buttress security partnerships across the Pacific as it strengthens

ties with island nations, but also hopes to work more closely with China as Beijing expands its own influence in

Clinton says US can work with China in Pacific

the region, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said on Friday.

Clinton arrived in the tiny Pacific outpost of the Cook Islands for this year's Pacific Islands Forum, part of Washington's effort to woo nations across the Asia-Pacific which are increasingly coming under China's shadow. Clinton told the gathering, which represents 16 independent and self-governing states ranging from Australia and New Zealand to smaller islands such as Tuvalu and Nauru, that the United States was in

the region for the long haul.

But she also played down growing perceptions of a US-China rivalry in the region, declaring "the Pacific is big enough for all of us" and dismissing the notion that expanded US activity was "a hedge against particular countries." "We think it is important for the Pacific Island nations to have good relationships with as many partners as possible, and that includes China as well as the United States," Clinton told a news conference with New Zealand Prime Minister John Key.

"We want to see more international development projects that include the participation of China," Clinton said, citing disaster relief, maritime security and preserving bio-diversity. "We think that there's a great opportunity to work with China and we're going to be looking for more ways to do that," she said. China's Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai is also attending the Pacific forum and told reporters Beijing's presence in the Pacific was not about geopolitical influence.

Reuters

Merkel seeks Chinese concessions in solar row

TIANJIN, 1 Sept—Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Friday that Germany had no interest in starting a trade war with Beijing over solar exports to Europe, but stressed that China must take action to address distortions to fair competition in the sector. Beijing was also forced to defend its rare earths exports policy on the second and final day of Merkel's China trip, with Premier Wen Jiabao saying China was not intentionally holding back exports amid a supply squeeze that has driven up prices.

China accounts for more than 90 percent of the global supply of rare earths—essential for the defence, electronics and renewable-energy industries. During a visit to Wen's home city of Tianjin, just outside of Beijing, Merkel made clear that China needed to make concessions if it wanted to prevent EU action over the solar spat. The European Commission has until next Friday to decide whether to launch an investigation into a complaint brought by European solar firms and people familiar with the case believe it may well go ahead and do so.

On Thursday, Merkel told reporters after talks with Wen that she favoured negotiations over confrontation in the

matter, comments that were welcomed by the Chinese premier but stoked concern in the European industry. But on Friday she appeared to row back on her conciliatory tone, saying Chinese solar firms needed to recognize that subsidies, such as bottom-rate bank loans, distorted competition and violated European law. "We are not out of the woods yet," she said. "My plea is that everyone be transparent, that they lay their cards on the table about how they produce."

Last month a group of European solar companies, led by Germany's SolarWorld, filed an anti-dumping complaint against Chinese rivals with the European Commission. Chinese solar firms have called on the Chinese government

to retaliate if Brussels decides to act on the complaint. The United States imposed duties on solar panel imports from China in May after a similar initiative led by SolarWorld there.

"Chancellor Merkel's comments may not be all that it takes to prevent (trade) Commissioner Karel De Gucht from opening the investigation," Vasiliki Avgoustidi, associate director at Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP in Brussels, said. In the last few years, Western solar firms have accused Chinese peers of receiving lavish credit lines to offer modules cheaply in Europe while protecting their own market. Almost 60 percent of China's solar exports, worth \$35.8 billion, were shipped to the EU last year.—Reuters



German Chancellor Angela Merkel (R) visits a stand in the Food Street in the city of Tianjin, just outside of Beijing, on 31 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS

Enrique Pena Nieto (L) speaks with Jose Alejandro Luna Ramos, president of the Federal Electoral Tribunal (TRIFE), after Nieto received the certificate confirming he won the presidential election, in Mexico City on 31 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS



Mexico's Pena Nieto confirmed president-elect, rival defiant

MEXICO CITY, 1 Sept—Mexico's electoral tribunal confirmed Enrique Pena Nieto as president-elect on Friday, but his rival refused to accept defeat and held out the possibility of further protests that could hamper reform efforts.

The tribunal threw out an attempt to overturn the election result by leftist leader Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who had accused Pena Nieto of laundering money and buying votes in the July election. Centrist Pena Nieto, 46, will be sworn in on 1 December and has pledged a raft of fiscal, labor and energy reforms, which Lopez Obrador is likely to resist. "It's time to start a new chapter of responsible work

for Mexico and unity," Pena Nieto said in an address at the court following the ruling. "Let's work together for the reforms that Mexico needs."

He said he would announce his transition team in the coming days and would set out reforms aiming to improve governmental transparency and battle corruption in the weeks ahead. Lopez Obrador, whose supporters blocked many of Mexico City's main thoroughfares for weeks after he narrowly lost the 2006 election, rejected the judges' decision. "I cannot accept the tribunal's ruling, which has declared the presidential election valid," he told reporters, calling for a rally in Mexico City's main square on

9 September. "Then we will determine what happens next." Lopez Obrador did not specify the steps he was considering but his words recalled the disruptive protests of 2006.

"Civil disobedience is an honourable duty when directed against the thieves of the hope and happiness of the people," the silver-haired 58-year-old said. A former mayor of Mexico City, Lopez Obrador accused Pena Nieto and his Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) of buying 5 million votes with illegal funding and plying voters with presents ranging from supermarket gift cards to fertilizer, cement and livestock.

Reuters

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

NASA mission yields data bonanza

PASADENA, 1 Sept—A jackpot of newly discovered supermassive black holes and hot, dusty galaxies are in the latest data from NASA's WISE mission, the US space agency says.

The Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer mission has revealed millions of black hole candidates across the

universe and about 1,000 even dustier objects thought to be among the brightest galaxies ever found, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif, reported on Thursday.

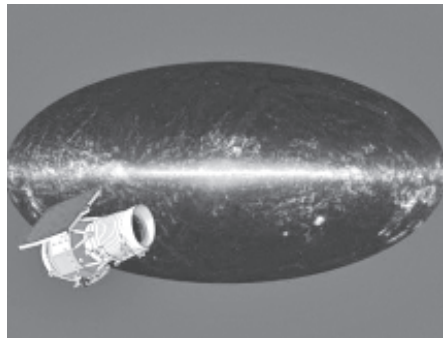
These powerful galaxies, burning brightly with infrared light, are nicknamed hot DOGs (for Dust-

Obscured Galaxies), JPL said.

That wasn't all the WISE mission has turned up, researchers said.

"WISE has exposed a menagerie of hidden objects," said Hashima Hasan, WISE programme scientist at NASA Headquarters in Washington. "We've found an asteroid dancing ahead of Earth in its orbit, the coldest star-like orbs known and now, supermassive black holes and galaxies hiding behind cloaks of dust."

The WISE mission has scanned the whole sky twice in infrared light, completing its survey in early 2011, and all data from the mission has been released publicly, allowing astronomers to dig in and make new discoveries, NASA said.—*Internet*



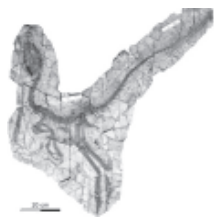
Dinosaur made meals of early birds

EDMONTON, 1 Sept—Fossil evidence suggests a feathered but flightless dinosaur was able to snag and consume smaller flying dinosaurs, Canadian paleontologists say.

A University of Alberta paleontology team has found the fossilized remains of three flying dinosaurs in the belly of a raptor-like predator called *Sinocalliopteryx*.

Sinocalliopteryx was about 6 feet long and roughly the size of a modern-day wolf, a U of A release said Wednesday. The creature's flying meals were three *Confuciusornis*, one of the earliest birds with a crude version of a modern bird's skeleton and muscles. Such primitive birds were probably limited to slow takeoffs and short flights, the researchers said. *Sinocalliopteryx* may have used stealth to stalk the flyers, they said.

"*Sinocalliopteryx* didn't have wings or the physical tools needed to be an adept tree climber," U of A paleontology student Scott Persons said.—*Internet*



A fossil of *Sinocalliopteryx gigas*.

Spacecraft on lookout for ice on the moon

BOSTON, 1 Sept—US scientists say NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter shows ice patches could make up 5 percent to 10 percent of material in the shaded walls of a crater.

Using a radar instrument on the orbiter, astronomers have estimated the amount of ice likely to be found inside the permanently shadowed

Shackleton crater located near the moon's south pole, Boston University researcher Bradley Thomson, who led the research, and colleagues reported in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*.

Observations indicate an enhanced radar polarization signature consistent with the presence of small amounts of



Artist's impression of the LRO orbiting the moon.

ice in the rough inner wall slopes of the crater, researchers said.

"The interior of this crater lies in permanent shadow and is a 'cold trap'—a place cold enough to permit ice to accumulate," Ben Bussey of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory said.

The findings support the long-held belief that areas of permanent shadow inside polar craters are sites of the potential accumulation of water—although not in any large amounts, the researchers caution.

"Inside the crater, we don't see evidence for glaciers like on Earth," Thomson said. "Glacial ice has a whopping radar signal, and these measurements reveal a much weaker signal consistent with rugged terrain and limited ice."—*Internet*

Radiation belt mission launch successful

CAPE CANAVERAL, 1 Sept—NASA says the launch of a mission to study Earth's radiation belts went off smoothly on Thursday, putting two scientific probes into orbit.

The Radiation Belt Storm Probes are in orbit after a successful launch atop a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket at 4:05 am EDT from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, the space agency said.

Two previous launches were postponed for technical reasons and for weather consideration at the launch site. "I'm very happy to report that we have two happy spacecraft on orbit," said Rick Fitzgerald, RBSP project manager from the John Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, which is managing the



mission for NASA.

"Many thanks to ULA and Launch Services Programme for getting us on orbit, giving us a great ride and injecting us in exactly the orbit that we wanted to be in."

The twin RBSP spacecraft will fly in separate

orbits throughout the inner and outer Van Allen radiation belts that encircle the Earth to study the sun's influences on the behavior of the radiation belts, which in turn can impact life on Earth and endanger astronauts and spacecraft in orbit, NASA said.—*Internet*



Sony tablet takes aim at Microsoft Surface

NEW YORK, 1 Sept—Sony says it's entering the Windows 8 tablet arena with the VAIO Duo 11, a slide-out tablet with a keyboard that is part tablet and part notebook.

The Duo 11 is seen as a direct competitor for Microsoft's upcoming Surface tablet in both configuration and price, Slash Gear reported on Thursday.

Most Duos will feature Intel's Core i7-3517U processor although a few lower-power, lower-price CPU

options are expected to be available.

RAM options are 4 gigabytes and 8 gigabytes with 128 or 256 gigabytes of storage through solid state drives.

An 11.6-inch display, a stylus for input and front and rear cameras round out the hardware specs.

Expected in late October, Sony is remaining mum on any pricing policies, Slash Gear said.

Internet

World's leading consumer electronics fair kicks off in Berlin

BERLIN, 1 Sept—World's leading trade show for consumer electronics and home appliances IFA opened doors to the public here on Friday, bringing an in-depth look at the latest trends in the fast-pacing digital revolution.

Organizers said the amount of display space for this year's show broke a record with the number of exhibitors standing at 1,439, showing signs that the consumer electronics industry is resilient to the lingering European debt crisis and global economic slowdown.

With increasing demands from both regular attendees such as Siemens

and various new runners in the industry, IFA had to add several temporary halls in its exhibition area. Last year, orders at the fair totaled more than 3.7 billion euros (4.6 billion dollars).

"For the industry and the trade, this is the ideal time of the year to prepare for the Christmas period of peak business," Christian Goeke, Chief Operating Officer of Messe Berlin, organizer of IFA, "more than ever before the industry has decided to focus on presenting its innovations and product debuts at IFA."

Gadget fans may have too many things to see at the show, as exhibitors present a

wide range of new products and innovations, from ultrabook, tablet PC, to smartphone and 3D television.

Lenovo of China introduced three new Android IdeaTab tablets, providing smarter and thinner tablet designs with a variety of multimedia functions at attractive prices.

The company, labeled as the fastest growing PC vendor worldwide, also demonstrated its new super-light Thinkpad X1 Carbon ultrabook, which is the lightest 14-inch laptop currently on the market at 1.36 kilograms.

Samsung of South Korea

released its latest Android platform-based Galaxy Note 2, with a 5.5-inch HD screen and 8.0 megapixel camera, heating the atmosphere of competition with its main rival Apple Inc, which is expected to unveil its new iPhone 5 in mid-September.

Samsung has just lost a 1-billion-dollar lawsuit with Apple this week when a court in California, the United States, ruled that Samsung violated Apple patents in the design of its some smartphones.

Sony of Japan introduced a Bravia TV receiver with an 84-inch screen and 4K HD resolution, and three new smartphones

in the Xperia series.

Panasonic of Japan made its public debut at the IFA of its 103-inch 3D plasma display, the world's largest at the moment.

Rainer Hecker, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the GFU, another organizer of IFA, told reporters that despite eurozone debt crisis and global uncertainties, the increase of worldwide consumer electronics sales would reach 1,100 billion dollars, two percent more than last year. The most impressive jump in the industry is 3D televisions, with a growth of 117 percent, followed by tablet PCs and smartphones, which climb 68 percent and 62 percent respectively, Hecker added.—*Xinhua*

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

Cellphones AIDS tests studied in S Africa, S Korea

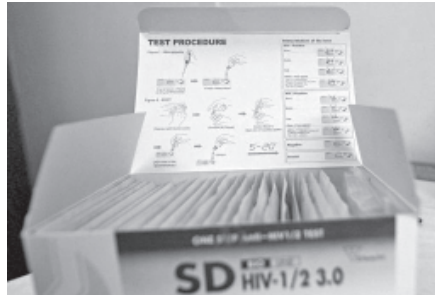
PRETORIA, 1 Sept—South African and South Korean researchers are working on making a smartphone capable of doing AIDS tests in rural parts of Africa that are the worst hit by the disease, a researcher said on Friday. The team have developed a microscope and an application that can photograph and analyse blood samples in areas far from laboratories to diagnose HIV and even measure the health of immune systems.

“Our idea was to obtain images and analyse images on this smartphone using applications,” said Jung Kyung Kim, a professor in biomedical engineering at Kookmin University in South Korea. The gadget, called Smartscope, is a small 1-millimetre (0.04-inch) microscope and light which clips over a smartphone’s camera.

A standard chip with a blood sample then slides into the gadget in front of the microscope. Next, a special phone programme photographs the sample and analyses the cells.

The team hopes that trials in clinics may start next year, Kim told *AFP*. A different prototype developed in the United States takes tests in the field that need to be sent to a computer for analysis. But the Smartscope will itself be able to do a CD4 cell count—a measure of white blood cells, which determines when treatment starts.

“Its basic function is to count those CD4 cells for diagnosis,” said Kim. The new technology is destined for AIDS treatment



An HIV rapid test kit in Nairobi in March 2012. South African and South Korean researchers are working on making a smartphone capable of doing AIDS tests in rural parts of Africa that are the worst hit by the disease, a researcher said on Friday.—INTERNET

in remote communities in South Africa and Swaziland, where clinics often don’t have the technology to do these tests effectively. Almost six million South Africans are infected with HIV, while a quarter of Swazi adults carry the virus. “In community health mobile technology is not a gimmick. It becomes an essential part of access,” said Professor Jannie Hugo, who heads the family medicine department at the University of Pretoria, the partner in the study.—*Internet*

Consumer confidence rises but outlook still grim

survey’s barometre of current economic conditions rose to 88.7 from 82.7, the highest since January of 2008.

Buying was bolstered by price discounts and low interest rates, the survey found. But the biggest source of optimism was tied to success in trimming debt. “Rather than citing income changes, consumers were more likely to cite favourable shifts in the amount of their outstanding debt and the value of their assets,” survey director Richard Curtin said in a statement. However, the survey’s gauge of consumer expectations fell to 65.1 from 65.6, the lowest level since December of 2001. Half of those questioned said their financial situation was worse than it was five years ago and the majority anticipated no wage gains during the year ahead, the survey showed. A separate survey earlier this week from the Conference Board showed consumer confidence hit its lowest level since November, partly due to higher gasoline prices. Economists still expect the Federal Reserve to try to boost growth with more monetary stimulus. But while Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke said a weak labour market was a grave concern and that the bank would act if needed, he gave no indication in a speech on Friday that such action was imminent.—*Reuters*



NEW YORK, 1 Sept—Consumer sentiment hit a three-month high in August as households chipped away at outstanding debt, though Americans were pessimistic about the future, a survey showed on Friday. Separate reports on the manufacturing sector painted a mixed picture, with factory orders rising by more than expected in July but Midwest business activity slipping in August. Manufacturing had been at the vanguard of the country’s recovery from the 2007-2009 recession but has lost momentum in recent months as economic difficulty in Europe and beyond has sapped overseas demand for US products. US consumers, though, were in a slightly better mood this month. The Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan’s final reading on overall consumer sentiment for August rose to 74.3, its highest since May. The

20 percent of US smoking, half of 1940s

PRINCETON, 1 Sept—Twenty percent of US adults said they smoked a cigarette in the past week, matching what the Gallup poll found in 2009 was the lowest level on record.

Gallup’s annual Consumption Habits survey said this year’s and 2009 smoking levels were less than half what the smoking rate was in the 1940s. Eighty-one percent of US adults said obesity was an extremely or very serious societal problem, up from 69 percent in 2005. In fact, US adults are more worried about obesity than smoking. Americans also said low-fat diets were better than low-carb: 63 percent of Americans said a diet low in fat is more beneficial to one’s health, while 30 percent believe low-carb is the better option.

The annual survey also

found US adults spent an average \$151 a week on food. This increases to \$180 a week for high-income Americans and falls as low as \$127 a week for low-income US adults. Americans were also spending less on food now than in the past, when

adjusting for inflation, Gallup said.

The Gallup poll was based on telephone interviews of 1,014 US adults conducted 9-12 July. It has a margin of error of 4 percentage points.

Internet



This FDA image released on 21 June, 2011 shows one of the new proposed cigarette warning labels.—INTERNET

Citibank schemed with firm to hide its woes: Ex-Dewey partner

NEW YORK, 1 Sept—A former Dewey & LeBoeuf partner who has been accused by Citibank of defaulting on a loan is making a provocative countercharge: He claims the bank participated in a “fraudulent scheme” to help a few leaders of the now defunct law firm hide Dewey’s dire financial situation from him and the broader partnership.

In a 23-page motion filed in New York federal court this month, former Dewey partner Steven Otilar argues that he and other partners were “fraudulently induced” into signing up for a Citibank loan programme that financed their capital contributions to the firm. The motion was filed in response to a request made by Citibank in May for summary judgment. In its lawsuit, Citibank argues that Otilar has no legal grounds to claim he doesn’t owe payment on the loan.

Otilar is believed to be the only former Dewey partner to have been sued for defaulting on his loan, though it could not be determined why he may have been singled out.

If the court denies Citibank’s motion for summary judgment, the case could move to discovery and then a trial. That would open a new, contentious chapter in Dewey’s wind-down, legal experts say. If the judge grants Citibank’s motion, Otilar could pay back the loan or appeal the ruling.

Otilar’s allegations against Citibank are based on an unusual legal argument that the bank had a fiduciary duty to alert him to Dewey’s shaky financial situation—but it is not the first time such claims have been made.

In September 2011 two partners from the bankrupt Washington law firm Howrey sued Citibank in San Francisco Superior Court, accusing the bank of fraud for granting capital loans when it knew Howrey was foundering. A jury trial is scheduled for December.

Reuters



Thalidomide maker issues apology

LONDON, 1 Sept—A British charity representing families hurt by the drug thalidomide in the 1950s and 1960s said the company apology was not enough.

German company Grunenthal Group issued its first apology in a half-century saying it regretted the consequences of the drug—used to combat morning sickness—that led to the births of children without limbs or with shortened limbs during the 1950s and 1960s, *The Guardian* reported.

Harald Stock, Grunenthal’s chief executive, said the company had failed to reach out “from person to person” to the victims and their mothers over the past 50 years. “We also apologize for

the fact that we have not found the way to you from person to person for almost 50 years. Instead, we have been silent and we are very sorry for that,” Stock said at a dedication of a memorial to commemorate the victims of thalidomide in the German city of Stolberg, where the company is located. “We ask that you regard our long silence as a sign of the silent shock that your fate has caused us.”

Freddie Astbury, the head of the Thalidomide Agency UK, said the apology was rejected as insufficient and the Grunenthal Group was only apologizing because of court proceedings brought by thalidomide victims in Australia, and it needed to

“put their money where their mouth is” rather than simply express regret, *The Guardian* said. “If they are serious about admitting they are at fault and regret what happened, they need to start helping those of us who were affected financially,” Astbury, who was born in Chester, England, in 1959 with no arms and no legs after his mother took the drug, told *The Guardian*. “Being disabled is very expensive and thalidomide people need help and care, and adaptations to their cars and homes.”

Astbury said there were 458 people living in Britain who were affected by the drug, but for every thalidomide baby who lived there were 10 who died.—*Internet*

Togo pirates release hijacked ship with Russian crew

ATHENS, 1 Sept — Pirates in Togo have released a tanker with 24 Russian crew on board after siphoning off part of the gas oil cargo, a spokesman for the ship's Greek company said on Thursday. "The ship has been released and the crew are safe," said the representative on behalf of Athens-based Golden Energy Management. "It is now en route to a safe destination," he added.

The pirates hijacked the Energy Centurion on Tuesday after exchanging fire with security forces, the International Maritime Bureau said. The company said it believed over 3,000 tonnes of fuel had been removed. "They did not ask for ransom, booty is what they were after. They also took the crew's valuables," said the company representative, who declined to be identified.

The Isle of Man-flagged vessel was seized 17 miles off the coast of the Togolese capital Lome, where it had reportedly been anchored, said Noel Choong, head of the IMB's piracy reporting centre. The hijackers exchanged fire with a Togo navy patrol boat that answered a distress call but managed to elude the patrol by steaming off aboard the tanker, Choong said. The Malaysia-based IMB has repeatedly warned ships plying the Gulf of Guinea to be vigilant and called on authorities to step up patrols, last year saying the region was emerging as a new piracy "hot spot". The area has seen at least 36 attacks, including several hijackings, kidnappings and killings, so far this year. — *Internet*



This handout photo released in January 2012 by the Danish Navy allegedly shows hostages and pirates aboard a suspect pirate ship, off the coast of the Horn of Africa. Pirates in Togo have released a tanker with 24 Russian crew on board after siphoning off part of the gas oil cargo, a spokesman for the ship's Greek company said on Thursday. — INTERNET

Bolivia's natural gas sales to Brazil, Argentina up 44 pct

LA PAZ, 1 Sept — Bolivia's natural gas sales to Brazil and Argentina increased by 44 percent year-on-year during the first seven months of 2012, Bolivia's National Institute of Statistics said on Thursday.

From January to July, gas exports of the country reached about 2.92 billion US dollars, up from 2.03 billion dollars a year earlier, giving a major boost to the country's revenues.

Bolivia saw an outstanding hydrocarbon revenues this year as a colder than usual winter in South America has driven up the demand starting in May, said Edwin Alvarez, director of National Contract Management at Bolivia's state-owned oil company YPFB. According to official figures, hydrocarbon sales continued to be Bolivia's biggest exports in the first seven months this year, representing 49.89 percent of the total. YPFB plans to invest 2.45 billion dollars to increase its production of natural gas and liquid hydrocarbons to satisfy domestic demand and exports, Alvarez said.

Xinhua

Chicago soybeans up, corn and wheat down on profit taking

CHICAGO, 1 Sept — Chicago corn and wheat futures fell on Thursday on traders' profit taking, while soybeans futures rose as concerns about the effects of Hurricane Isaac boosted trading.

The most active corn contract for December delivery sharply lost 5 cents, or 0.61 percent, to close at 8.085 US dollars per bushel. December wheat declined 2.75 cents, or 0.3 percent, to settle at 9.03 dollars per bushel. November soybeans jumped 10.5 cents, or 0.6 percent, to close at 17.635 dollars per bushel. According to Chicago Merchandise Exchange, December corn ended the day slightly lower after trading in positive territory midsession. Profit taking took over late in the session as traders evened up positions ahead of Friday's speech by the US Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke.

Export sales added pressure to gains after sales were reported below market expectations. Total net weekly export sales for corn came in at 134,800 tons. Sales of 468,000 tons are needed each week to reach the USDA forecast. The slow sales pace suggests international buyers have shifted needs to other origins or are using more wheat in feed rations.

December wheat traded slightly lower on the day after wheat futures trended lower into the close as profit taking from earlier gains took over. November soybeans traded higher on the day and made new contract highs.

Xinhua

Cars drive past Moscow's Metropol Hotel on 30 Aug, 2012. — INTERNET



MOSCOW, 1 Sept — Michael Jackson slept there. Vladimir Lenin harangued Bolsheviks there. Over the past century, the Hotel Metropol has seen the extremes of Russian life, from

Moscow's Hotel Metropol sold at auction

austere revolutionary fervor to flashy pop indulgence. The

privatization programme. The buyer was Azimut, a major Russian hotel chain that rented the Metropol from the Moscow city government, Russian media reported.

Moscow, with a perpetual shortage of hotel rooms and a business culture that adores ostentation, is an attractive market for high-end hoteliers and the Metropol offers plenty of curb-flash. Situated catty-corner from the Bolshoi Theater and an easy stroll from Red Square, the location is prime for any guest who wants to feel in the very center of the city's heaving action. It's one of Moscow's most distinctive buildings as well, a cheery Art Nouveau

confection in a city where buildings mostly seem to glower. Although at six stories it's one of the city centre's more low-rise structures, it stands out with sinuous curves, friezes of women en deshabille and bands of brightly coloured majolica tiles. Several elaborate mosaics top the building, the most noted being Mikhail Vrubel's "Princess of Dreams," showing a dying knight sailing through a crashing sea to a vision of his beloved.

Then, there's the historical cachet. When it opened in 1901, it was a paragon of Russians' growing prosperity and confidence, but 17 years later took on a far different role. — *Internet*

Another flight grounded after threatening message

BEIJING, 1 Sept — A Shenzhen Airlines flight was diverted to an airport in central China's Wuhan city where it landed safely after receiving a threatening message on Thursday evening, the company said in the early hours of Friday morning.

Flight ZH9706, from Xiangfan city in Hubei Province to Shenzhen, landed at Wuhan Tianhe International Airport at 11:22 pm out of concern for passenger safety, the carrier said in a special announcement via its official microblog account at Sina Weibo (e.weibo.com/shenzhenair). The announcement did not elaborate what the message was, which was received at 10:29 pm when the aircraft was in the air. Police have intervened to investigate, the company said.

This is the second similar incident in China's civil aviation industry in a week. An Air China flight from Beijing to New York returned to the Beijing Capital International Airport after receiving a threatening message on Wednesday evening. No abnormalities were detected on the flight, which departed for New York hours later. No results of the investigation have been disclosed. — *Xinhua*

US to allow Shell to begin prep work for drilling in Arctic

ANCHORAGE, 1 Sept — Royal Dutch Shell (RDSa.L) will be allowed to begin some "limited" drilling in Alaska's Chukchi Sea, the US government said on Thursday, a move the company hailed as a step forward in its long-delayed effort to tap Arctic oil. The US Interior Department said Shell will be permitted to begin preparatory work in the



Chukchi, but cannot drill to areas containing oil until the government certifies its oil spill containment system.

Without that containment system, the department has said it will not allow Shell to drill for oil in the Arctic. "At this point we don't know what exactly is going to happen with Shell and whether they are going to be able to complete a well in the Arctic this year," Interior Secretary Ken Salazar told a conference call with reporters. Shell's Arctic drilling plans had appeared on track to begin this year but it has run into delays. The company has spent \$4.5 billion so far in its effort to explore for oil and gas off Alaska's coast.

In addition to seeking modifications to its air-quality permits from the US Environmental Protection Agency, Shell is also still working to get its oil-spill containment barge, the Arctic Challenger, approved by the Coast Guard. Shell's vice president for Alaska Pete Slaiby said the government's decision to allow some drilling was "exciting". He said that even if Shell's activities this year were limited to top-hole drilling, that would be an important accomplishment. "This is really important to begin to establish confidence that we can do this right," Slaiby told reporters in Anchorage.

"All this work on top holes is clearly going to help us, as well as put real wind in our sails for 2013." Facing delays, Shell has asked the government to extend its oil drilling season in the Chukchi beyond the September 24 deadline currently in place. Without an extension, the chances of completing a well this year are slim, Slaiby said.

Reuters



A contestant presents a costume of Mongolian ethnic group during the China final of the 52nd Miss International in Chifeng, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 30 Aug, 2012. The champion Wang Yuyao of the China final will compete in the world final of the Miss International Beauty Pageant held in Japan in October.

XINHUA

Union level crossroads or Assessment of Union level definition

Dr Malar Aung
Pro-Rector
Yangon East University

The “verdict passed by the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union dated 28 March, 2012” printed in 16 August, 2012, issue of state-owned Kyemon Daily and “the President’s message in response to the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker’s message” that the 21 August, 2012, issue of the same paper reflect accountability, rationality and reliability of the President in exercising authorities vested in him. It is an example of charismatic leadership that is found commonly in Heads of State/Government.

The levels of prescribed laws in any country are defined by hierarchy of laws. Constitution which is also called Mirror of the Laws of the Land is supreme above all other legislations. In any countries it is not common that the constitution in practical is amended easily.

Only Courts of Law and assigned Tribunals are entitled to define ambiguous wordings in any enacted laws of the particular country in legal arena.

Lodging complaints at the courts and tribunals means that the verdict passed by these courts and tribunals will be accepted according to both judicial procedures and litigation practices.

For example, it was regarded that whatever verdict of The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea had been agreed to accept since the territorial waters dispute between Myanmar and Bangladesh was brought to the tribunal. No public criticism could be directed at the tribunal for neither win nor lose.

The Hierarchy of Government Organizations, institutions that perform the duties of the State, has to be defined Hierarchy of Responsibility to function well.

I would like to assess causes that led to ambiguousness in Hluttaw laws of three chambers.

I would like to demonstrate the organizational structure of three chambers formed with people’s representatives in chart.

In common sense, the level of the three Hluttaws in the oval shape in chart can be seen clearly.

(1) **Pyidaungsu Hluttaw** which is a combination of the **Pyithu Hluttaw** and **Amyotha Hluttaw** is the highest in terms of accountability.

(2) **Four Hluttaw Committees and Affairs Committees** formed by Pyithu Hluttaw with representatives only should be “**Pyithu Hluttaw level committees**”.

(3) **Four Hluttaw Committees and Affairs Committees** formed by Amyotha Hluttaw with representatives only should be “**Amyotha Hluttaw level committees**”.

(4) “**Joint Committee**” formed by the two Hluttaws is only responsible for cases that are equally subject to two Hluttaws.

(5) Formed either by Pyithu Hluttaw or Amyotha Hluttaw, commissions and organizations are formed with both Hluttaw representatives and citizens.

As Citizen members are not elected representatives but just outsiders from the circle of accountability to the Hluttaw, the commissions and organizations formed with these persons shall not be regarded as Union level organizations.

The above-mentioned facts are proved by Laws and regulations of three Hluttaws.

(1) There is only one provision in **Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law** for formation of organizations which are merely **Pyithu Hluttaw** and **Amyotha Hluttaw**.

There is no provision for formation of **committees, commissions and organizations**, except that of two Hluttaws.

Therefore, it would be required to review whether referring of **Pyidaungsu Hluttaw** in the phrase “**Union level agencies mean committee, commission and board formed by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha**

(c) **Commissions and boards**—These can be formed either with Hluttaw representatives or suitable citizens.

Explanation (1) **Four committees and affairs committees formed by two Hluttaws are established under organizational rules (for example, tenure) or hierarchy of capacity or responsibility. This means setting the level of those agencies.**

Explanation (2) **Commissions and boards are formed with Hluttaw representatives and suitable citizens organizational rules (for example, number of member, duties and power, rights and tenure). This establishment raises a question—Who will be the responsible person for the sake of outsiders?**

However, the phrases in provisions of relevant laws of three Hluttaws, Section 2 (f) of **Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law** Chapter (1), Section 2 (f) of **Pyithu Hluttaw Law** Chapter (1) and Section 2 (f) of **Amyotha Hluttaw Law** Chapter (1) can be concluded as the major cause of ambiguity in defining the level of respective agencies. The exact provision is as follows:

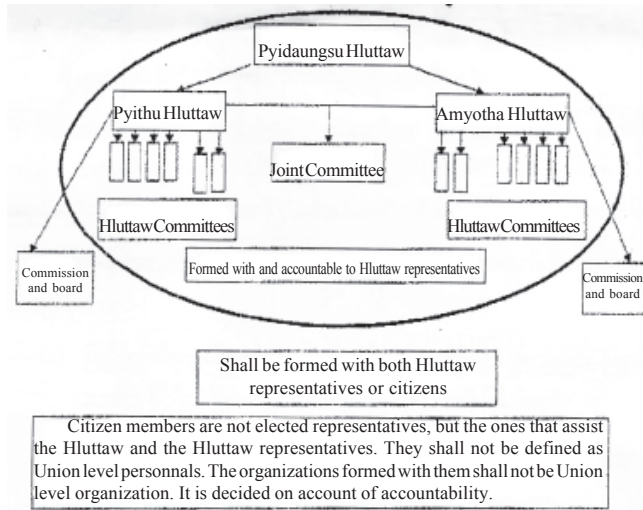
“**Union level organization means Union government, National Defence and Security Council, Finance Commission, Supreme Court of the Union, Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, Union Election Commission, Auditor-General of the Union and Union Civil Services Board formed under the constitution as well as committee, commission and board formed by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw.**”

The above-mentioned paragraph should be amended and/or revoked as it is contrary to the constitution as well as to the objective condition under the decision of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union. Debate and resolution on amendment or abrogation of the existing law at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw might be appropriate approach to produce acceptable result.

The decision of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union is final and conclusive under **Section 324 of the Constitution and Sections 23 and 25 of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law**. In addition it takes effect on place concerned (to the Hluttaw as in current case). The current debates within the Hluttaw has led to **Contempt of Court**.

Proposer and seconder MPs demanding the members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union to resign and to admit wrong, are those who are required to **observe responsibilities, ethics and principles** prescribed in **Sections 8 and 10 of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law, Sections 9 and 11 of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Law**.

In reality, members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union reasonably pointed out the objective condition of the Hluttaw under the law. The wrong parts of the Hluttaw laws must be fixed paying respect to the decision of the constitutional tribunal. Therefore, those personalities are irreplaceable scholars.



Hluttaw” prescribed in **Article 2 (f) of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law** is correct or not.

(2) Again, **Pyithu Hluttaw Law and Amyotha Hluttaw Law** prescribe establishment of Hluttaws and Hluttaw agencies. With respect to establishment of Hluttaw agencies,

(a) **Four Hluttaw committees and commissions** formed as necessary—These committees are constituted with Hluttaw representatives of Hluttaw concerned.

(b) **Joint committees**—These committees are constituted with Hluttaw representatives of two Hluttaws.

Gold entrepreneurs contribute to regional development in Kawlin

KAWLIN, 1 Sept—Mohnan, Thayetchin and Mudein villages in western area of Kawlin Township faced erosion of banks at roads and bridges annually. So, students used motor boat for crossing the waterways to go to Okkan Village Basic Education High School (Branch).

To be able to overcome the difficulties, the local

people are constructing the roads and bridges on a self-reliant basis with the contribution of gold entrepreneurs.

In the rainy season, the region faced high prices of commodities based on higher transport charges due to using motor boats to cross the creeks.

On completion, new roads and bridges will ease

the difficulties and contribute much to poverty alleviation of the local people from western part of the township.—*Myanma Alin*

Story telling, extempore talks and poem recitation contests held

THAYAWADY, 1 Sept—Jointly organized by Thayawady District Information and Public Relations Department and

Monsoon paddy cultivated in Mobailuk Sub-Township

MOBAILUK, 1 Sept—A ceremony to grow monsoon paddy on the farmland of U Hsa Hsay was held in Mobailuk Sub-Township of

Naga Self-Administered Zone of Sagaing Region on 16 August morning.

At first, Sub-Township Administrator U Aung Moe

Education High School in Thayawady District on 26 August morning. The Staff Officer of District IPRD presented prizes to Pebingon BEPS of Thonze that stood first in the three contests.—*Myanma Alin*

Lwin, Sub-Township Manager of Agriculture Department U Zaw Win, Head of Settlement and Land Records Department U Tint Lwin and staff of Agriculture Department presented quality paddy strains to the local farmers.

The local farmers grew monsoon paddy through good agriculture pattern.

Myanma Alin

District News

Business Support Center launched in Yangon



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and officials and the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar and Japanese officials cut ribbon to open the ceremony.
MNA

YANGON, 1 Sept—Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) launched Business Support Center Yangon at Sedona Hotel, here, yesterday evening, with an opening speech by Chairman of JETRO Mr. Hiroyuki Ishige.

On the occasion, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe made a speech citing that Myanmar has had friendly ties with Japan for a long time. He was glad to hear that Japanese businessmen are very willingly to make heavy

investments in various sectors of Myanmar, one of its neighbouring countries. The conclusion of his speech pointed out the newly-opened center would surely support in strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries and in helping investment increase.

After that, Japanese Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Takashi Saito extended greetings and then councillor Mr Aimoto read out the message sent

Union Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Vietnamese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Sept—On the occasion of the 67th Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, which falls on 2 September 2012, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Pham Binh Minh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

MNA

by Japanese Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry Mr. Yaki Edano.

The Chief Minister, Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate of Trade U Tint Lwin, the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar, the JETRO Chairman, Councillor of the Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry and Executive Managing Director of JETRO (Yangon) Mr. Masuhi Takahara cut the ribbon to open the ceremony.

MNA

Primary School upgraded to BEMS Branch in Myitkyina

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Sept—A ceremony to upgrade No. 3 Basic Education Primary School to BEMS Branch was held in Dungan Village of Arlam Village-tract of Myitkyina Township on 30 August morning.

On the occasion, Kachin State Minister for Social

Affairs Daw Bauk Ja and State Education Officer U Chit Swe formally opened the school.

Chief Minister of Kachin State U La John Ngan Hsai pressed the button to unveil the signboard of the school.

The Chief Minister donated K 2 million for

extended construction of the school building. He then inspected maintenance of Myitkyina-Sumprabum Road in 8th-Mile Village and the site for construction of the water tank for supplying water to Shweset Ward and PaLaNa Village.

MNA

Region Chief Minister on tour of development tasks in Myeik Township

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Sept—Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko on 27 August morning attended the opening of Advanced Tailoring Course No. 32 and Basic Tailoring Course No. 61 at the Women's Vocational Training School in Myeik.

The Chief Minister then inspected construction of private school in Kanphya Ward, Jivitadana Sangha and Nun Hospital in Yapon Ward and the site for Coal-Fire Power Plant in Lukluk Village.

In the afternoon, he met



departmental officials, members of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Myeik District and

entrepreneurs at Kyun Yadana Hall of Myeik District General Administration Department.—MNA

Scholarship for medical students

YANGON, 1 Sept—Yazar Lin Family of U Aye Kyaw and wife Daw Aye Aye Myint has cleared a way out for students who aced 2012 matriculation exam only to meet financial challenges to join Universities of Medicines, offering "Yazar Lin University of Medicine Scholarship".

The programme which started since 2008-2009 academic year is set to grant scholarships to eight students in its fifth year. The

potential freshers of Universities of Medicine (1) and (2) (Yangon), University of Medicine (Mandalay) and University of Medicine (Magway) are eligible to apply for the scholarship. Scholarship winners will receive K 50,000 monthly since the first month at the university till they graduate.

The applicants may submit CV, an application mentioning the reasons for applying for the scholarship, two passport-size photos, copy of grade

list, recommendation of headmaster of the school where the student sat for the matriculation exam, copy of citizenship scrutiny cards of parents, copy of household registration certificate, recommendations of township administrator and township police station, contact address and phone number to No (50), Kan Yeik Tha (3) street, Finger Lake FMI City, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon, not later than 30 November, 2012.

MNA

New ward administrator elected through secret voting

YANGON, 1 Sept—A ceremony to elect ward administrator was held in Pathein Nyunt Ward of

Mingala Taungnyunt Township of Yangon East District on 21 August.

At first, the Township

Administrator selected five townselders for supervising the elections.

The township administrator and the township law officer gave lectures on the townselders.

On 26 August, representatives of 10-house groups were elected in line with the rules and regulations under the arrangement of the supervisory group.

On 27 August evening, representatives of 10-house groups elected the ward administrator through secret voting.

Myanma Alin



Sky Net Cup 2012 Men's Hockey Tournament continues



YANGON, 1 Sept—Jointly organized by Myanmar Hockey Federation and Shwe Than Lwin Co, the Sky Net Cup 2012 Men's Hockey Tournament continued at Theinbyu Hockey Artificial Turf this afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Sports U Thuang Htaik enjoyed the hockey match.

Among the spectators were Vice-Presidents of Myanmar Hockey Federation U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing and U Zaw Win, General Secretary U Khin

Maung Latt and executive.

In the match, Theinbyu Youth team routed Central Command team 4-1. Tomorrow fixture: Defence Services (Air) will play against SMART at 2 pm and Yangon Command will compete with Central Command.—NLM

International Basic Wrestling Course 3-14 Sept

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Sept—Myanmar Wrestling Federation will manage competition of its athletes in the XXVII SEA Games to be

hosted by Myanmar.

On 5 September to 14 September, the wrestling training course will be opened at the Thuwunna Indoor

Stadium. Any enthusiasts may dial 421718126 and 095188224 for further information.

Myanma Alin

Fingerlings released into paddy fields



THAYAWADY, 1 Sept—With the aim of ensuring sufficiency of food consumption of rural people, a ceremony to release fingerlings into the paddy fields was held in the paddy field of farmer U Hla Win in Ngaphyugale Village-tract in Thayawady Township on 23 August.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner U Hla

Myo of District General Administration Department, Head of District Fisheries Department U Sein Myint, departmental heads, members of Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association, local farmers released 195,000 fingerlings into 390 acres of paddy fields.

Myanma Alin

Myanmar, Cuba emphasize promotion of bilateral trade

YANGON, 1 Sept—Cuban Ambassador Mr Lazaro Murrera Martinez met President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung and General Secretary Dr Myo Thet at the office of the federation, here, on 27 August afternoon.

They discussed promotion of bilateral trade, foreign investment, financial and human resources, oil and natural gas, and attendance of Myanmar delegation to International Trade Expo to be held in Cuba.

Myanma Alin

Nourishment Week launched in Hmawby Township

YANGON, 1 Sept—Organized by Yangon North District Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the World Breastfeeding Week and Nourishment Week were launched at the hall of Hmawby Township General Administration Department on 28 August morning, with an address by Chairperson of Yangon North District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Hnin Thanda Oo.

Next, Deputy Head of Yangon Region Health Department Dr Kyaw Win explained plans for realizing the World Breastfeeding Week and Leader of Yangon Region Nourishment Control Group Dr Khin Myitta Moe San on facts about nourishment week.



Chairperson of Yangon Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Thaug Mya and officials presented prizes to the winners in the quiz and model mother award winners.

Next, they presented vitamin-A tablets to children under five and refreshment and iodized salt to expectant mothers.

Chairperson of Hmawby Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Than Shwe presented membership application to Chairperson of Region MCWSC Daw Thaug Mya. Later, they presented refreshment and cash assistance to the mothers at the delivery room of the Township MCWA.

Myanma Alin

District News

Transform to mechanized farming discussed

YANGON, 1 Sept—The workshop to transform to the mechanized farming was held at No. 35 tractor station of Htaukkyant in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, on 28 August.

Head of Yangon Region Agricultural Mechanization Department U Ko Ko explained transform to mechanization process, use of machinery from the

ground works to the storage stage, uplift of proficiency of mechanics, giving of services and construction of production roads. Members of Region/District/Township Agricultural Coordination Committees, agriculture companies, agricultural machinery companies and officials attended to the needs of the local farmers.

Myanma Alin



Alleviation of poverty undertaken in Mawgyun



MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 1 Sept—With the aim of ensuring alleviation of poverty in Mawlamyinegyun Township of Ayeyawady Region, Aung Phyto Si microfinance service company Ltd of Mawlamyinegyun disbursed loans to its members on 28 August.

Managing Director U Thein Win, Director Daw Myo Myo presented K 50,000 each to 25 members of Ward 2.

The company has disbursed K 5.15 million to 102 members in Myoma

Ward 2 on 28 August, and K 2.75 million to 55 members of Ward 12 and Ward 13 on 21 August.—Myanma Alin

AVC Technical Seminar 2012 opened

YANGON, 1 Sept—Asian Volleyball Confederation, Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Volleyball Federation jointly organized the AVC Technical Seminar 2012 (Block and Defence) at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna of Yangon on 30 August.

It was attended by officials of Sports and Physical Education Department, the general secretary of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation,

the vice-president, the general secretary and executives of Myanmar Volleyball Federation, the secretary of Defence Services Volleyball Committee and guests.

Course Director Profk Nai Chang extended greetings.

Vice-President of MVF U Thein Win gave an opening address. Altogether 37 trainees attended the training course.

MNA



Crime News

Electric detonators worth K 32.1 million seized in Nawngkhio

Hsipaw, 1 Sept—Members of Lashio Special Anti-Drug Squad of Shan State (North) and members of Nawngkhio Police Station, acting on tip-off, searched Tun Aung, 27, son of U Aik Lin of Myole Ward in Hsipaw at 7.30 pm on 27 August at the mile post No. 80/4 to Nawngkhio before departure for

Mandalay. A total of 33800 electric detonators worth K 32.1 million from 26 boxes were seized from Super Custom 8/... driven by Tun Aung of Hsipaw.

Nawngkhio Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against the crime brokers under law.

Myanma Alin



PRIZES AWARDED: The prize presentation for outstanding students was held at Basic Education Middle School No. 4 in Hlinethaya for 2011-2012 academic year on 30 August. Photo shows outstanding students, teachers and Headmistress Daw Khin Khin Nwe.—MYANMA ALIN

Medical services provided to flood victims in Kyaunggon

KYAUNGON, 1 Sept—Recently, floods hit Kyaunggon Township, and so local flood victims need health care services and relief aids.

On 25 August, the head of Township Health Department and health staff gave health knowledge to the local people in Hleseik Monastery and provided health care services to 159 local people.

To be able to provide health care services, Region Health Department, Myanmar Medical Association (Pathein), Thudamma Theingi Daw Ohnma Lwin of Bio Plus purified drinking water, natural groundnut oil, Guardian U Sein Win and family, and Ko Win Myint-Ma Baby family of Yangon donated medicines worth K 1.6 million.

Myanma Alin

Afghanistan still a 'tough fight': Obama



US President Barack Obama waves after delivering remarks inside the 1st Aviation Support Battalion Hangar at Fort Bliss, Texas.—INTERNET

FORT BLISS, (Texas), 1 Sept — US President Barack Obama on Friday told soldiers headed for Afghanistan they still faced a "very tough fight" but pledged to end the war as "responsibly" as he halted conflict in Iraq. As his aides lambasted his Republican foe Mitt Romney for failing to mention the Afghan war or

soon, his thoughts turned to America's longest war. "I know that some of you will be deploying later this year. I've got to tell you the truth, this is still a very tough fight," Obama said. "You know this. You carry it in your hearts, the memory of comrades who made that ultimate sacrifice, including six heroes from Bliss who gave their lives on that awful day last month."

The six troops killed in an attack in July became the latest of more than 2,000 US soldiers to die in Afghanistan, including more than 200 this year, according to a count published on the icasualties.org website.

"Just as in Iraq, we are going to end this war responsibly. Next year, Afghans will take the lead for their own security. In 2014, the transition will be complete," Obama said.

White House and Obama campaign aides meanwhile on Friday expressed disbelief that Romney did not mention the war in Afghanistan, one of America's greatest foreign policy challenges, in his 45 minute speech in Tampa, Florida. "I was surprised not to hear mention of the 70,000 men and women who are serving in Afghanistan, executing a mission that is profoundly important to America's national security in a conflict that was the direct result of an attack on the United States by al-Qaeda," White House spokesman Jay Carney said.

Obama praised troops from Fort Bliss for fighting to quell the insurgency which erupted in Iraq after the US invasion in 2003 and said their sacrifice had enabled him to effect a US withdrawal. "You helped pull Iraq back from the abyss," Obama said.

Internet

Japan, N Korea aim for higher-level talks soon

BEIJING, 1 Sept — Japan and North Korea hope to soon hold talks which could cover Pyongyang's past abduction of Tokyo's citizens, a Japanese official said on Friday after three days of preparatory discussions in Beijing. The two will iron out final details to conduct higher-level talks in the Chinese capital at "as early a time as possible", said the official, who under briefing rules could only be described as connected to Japan's foreign ministry.

This week's results would be taken back to Tokyo and Pyongyang for further discussion, he said, and the two would work to "hold broad talks with issues of concern to both sides on the agenda", possibly in September. Japan intended to strongly pursue the abduction issue at the future discussions, which would be classified as inter-governmental talks, he said. This week's encounters, by contrast, were conducted by low-level diplomats and were characterised by the official as "matter-of-fact", "frank" and "preparatory".—Internet



North Korean diplomats arrive for talks with their Japanese counterparts at the Japanese Embassy in Beijing on 29 August.—INTERNET

Iran rejects IAEA charges over Parchin military base

TEHERAN, 1 Sept — Iran on Friday rejected allegations in a new International Atomic Energy Agency report that it was frustrating UN inspection of a suspect military site by apparently scrubbing it clean. "These statements have no technical basis. Anyone who has expertise in this area knows that these statements are mere pretexts and that one cannot clean a site" of nuclear work, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi told the ISNA news agency.

The restricted report, seen by AFP on Thursday, says the IAEA's ability to inspect Parchin has been "significantly hampered" by the clean-up. It repeated its suspicions that the base might have been used for experiments using conventional explosives to design a nuclear warhead, and stressed that Iran has repeatedly refused access to the site on the grounds it was a non-nuclear facility.

The IAEA report also said Iran has doubled its uranium enrichment capacity at an underground nuclear facility in Fordo by



Iran rejected allegations in a new report that it was frustrating UN inspection of a suspect military site by scrubbing it clean.

INTERNET

installing more than 1,000 new centrifuges, although they have not been put into operation. The IAEA said it was still "unable to provide credible assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran, and therefore to conclude that all nuclear material in Iran is in peaceful activities."— Internet

Two Gazans injured in Israel airstrike: medics

GAZA CITY, 1 Sept — Two Palestinians were wounded on early Saturday morning, medical sources in the Gaza Strip said, as Israel launched airstrikes at training camps in the enclave. A spokesman for Gaza's medical and emergency services said two civilians, aged 40 and 25, were injured when an Israeli fighter jet attacked a training camp for Hamas's military wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, northwest of Gaza City.

A separate air-raid targeted a training camp of Al Ahrar, a small movement close to Hamas. There were no casualties in that attack. A statement from the Israeli army confirmed that its "aircraft targeted two terror activity sites in the northern

Gaza Strip. Direct hits were confirmed." "The sites were targeted in response to the continuous rocket fire towards southern Israel," noted the statement.

The sorties come less than a day after a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip on early Friday struck a house in southern Israel, damaging its roof and leaving one woman requiring

treatment for shock. Another rocket struck in the Ashkelon region on Friday morning without causing casualties or damage. A Salafist group claimed responsibility for firing the two rockets. They were the latest in a string of rockets fired from Gaza in the past week to have been claimed by the hardline Islamists.

Internet

Hamas policemen inspect a huge crater and debris after an Israeli airstrike on a Hamas security site outside the Bureij Refugee Camp in central Gaza Strip in 2010.—INTERNET



In this photo taken on 29 Aug, 2012, a plain clothes Nicaraguan police officer stands between two vans bearing the logo of Mexican news channel Televisa, confiscated from a group of Mexican nationals posing as journalists, in Managua, Nicaragua.

INTERNET

Big cash seizure puts light on Nicaragua drug role

MANAGUA, 1 Sept — Most days the only vehicles on Highway 15 are battered trucks shuttling grain, coffee beans and cooking oil through the lush, mountainous highlands on the Honduras-Nicaragua border. Then one recent morning, a convoy of six vans cruised down the two-lane road. All were emblazoned with the logo of the world's largest Spanish-language television network, Televisa, and inside were 18 Mexicans with press badges, high-definition video cameras, microphones and a satellite dish.

Nicaraguan police were waiting. Acting on an anonymous tip from Honduras, officers pulled over the vans and after two days of investigation determined the occupants were falsely posing as employees of Televisa's news division. Hidden beneath the sound boards and screens in three of the vans, officers found black gym bags stuffed with \$9.2 million in cash. The 20 August seizure has pulled back the curtain on Nicaragua's role as a conduit between South American cocaine producers and the Mexican drug cartels that move their product into the United States.

It also shows how the gangs are resorting to ever-more inventive ways to move their profits out of the US as authorities crack down harder on suspicious bank transfers and other relatively easy ways of moving money. "It's been a case that has drawn our attention. We are studying the way organized crime is operating," said Nicaragua's National Police spokesman, Fernando Borge. "Organized crime is powerful and has many resources and it will try in every different way to get across our country." Nicaraguan police say the cash was destined for Costa Rica, where the fake journalists planned to pay for a load of drugs that had been smuggled into the United States.— Internet

Israelis say UN report strengthens Iran warnings

JERUSALEM, 1 Sept — Israeli officials said on Friday that a new United Nations report adds credibility to their warnings about Iran, as tensions grow between the Jewish state and its allies over how to tackle Teheran's suspect nuclear programme. The report by the UN nuclear agency, which emerged on Thursday, concluded that Iran had stepped up the installation of centrifuges capable of making weapons-grade material in an underground bunker at its Fordo underground facility, safe from most aerial attacks.

The UN report also said Iran has effectively shut down inspections of a separate site — the Parchin military complex —



In this 22 Aug, 2012 photo, an Israeli woman talks on the phone after collecting gas masks for her family in a shopping mall in Jerusalem.— INTERNET

suspected of being used for nuclear weapons-related experiments, by shrouding it from spy satellite view with a covering. It drew rapid criticism from Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi, who said on Friday the assertion about Parchin "does not make any technical sense." Iran denies the West's claims that it is seeking to develop weapons but its government makes no secret that it sees expansion of its nuclear programme as a right.

An Israeli official said that the UN report "confirms what Prime Minister (Benjamin) Netanyahu has been talking about for years now, that the Iranian nuclear programme is designed to achieve a nuclear weapon." He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters. Israel has been weighing unilateral military action against Iranian nuclear facilities amid faltering international efforts to persuade Teheran to scale back its uranium enrichment, a process that would be key to bomb-making.

The United States opposes Israeli strikes. The strain between Washington and its longtime Israeli ally has been on full display this month, with a top US military officer, Gen Martin Dempsey, twice speaking out against a go-it-alone strike.— Internet

Venezuela restarts two refinery units after blast

CARACAS, 1 Sept — Workers have restarted two key production units at Venezuela's biggest refinery after an explosion a week ago that killed nearly 50 people, sparked a huge fire and halted operations at the facility, state oil company PDVSA said on Friday. Firefighters battled for days to put out burning storage tanks. None of the production units were

affected, but were temporarily taken off line at the 645,000 barrel per day Amuay refinery, which is part of the second-biggest refinery complex in the world.

"Operational activities have resumed safely and gradually," PDVSA said in a statement, adding that two crude distillation units with a combined capacity of 160,000 bpd were now running, and

that a third was due to restart soon. It said other smaller processing units, including ones that make naphtha and kerosene and have a combined capacity of about 58,000 bpd, were also operating normally. The authorities are investigating what may have caused a gas leak that led to Saturday's pre-dawn blast. In addition to those killed, the explosion wrecked about 200 nearby homes. The accident was the global oil industry's most deadly in recent years, nearing the toll of a fire that killed 56 people in 1997 at India's Visakhapatnam refinery. Experts say PDVSA might have to run Amuay's restart process more slowly than normal following the blast, while workers continue to clear debris, cool the area affected by the blaze and check the system for any more leaks or other problems.—Reuters



Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at a storage tank at Amuay refinery in Paraguaná on 28 Aug, 2012.—Reuters

Russia's Putin calls for Stalin-style 'leap forward'

NOVO-OGARYOVO, 1 Sept — Russia needs a "leap forward" to rejuvenate its sprawling defence industry, President Vladimir Putin said on Friday, harkening back to the ambitious industrialization carried out by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin in the run-up to World War Two. "We should carry out the same powerful, all-embracing leap forward in modernization of the defence industry as the one carried out in the 1930s,"

Putin told his Security Council, without mentioning Stalin by name. Stalin, who ruled the Soviet empire with an iron fist for 27 years, is blamed for the death of about six million people but also is praised by many Russians for winning the war and industrializing the country. Putin made renewed industrialization a priority during his third term in the Kremlin which started in May amid the largest protests of his 12-year rule. He conceded

that the defence industry, once the heart of the Soviet economy, was in tatters. "Unfortunately, many of our enterprises are technologically stuck in the previous century," Putin said, complaining about poor discipline at plants working on state defence orders.

In the 1930s Soviet leaders transformed a rural country devastated by civil war into an industrial superpower, using terror and



Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke on Friday left the door wide open to a further easing of monetary policy.—Reuters

JACKSON HOLE, 1 Sept — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke on Friday left the door wide open to a further easing of monetary policy, saying the stagnation in the US labour market was a "grave concern," but he stopped short of providing a clear signal of imminent action.

His stark language gave a temporary lift to US stocks, but economists walked away from the Fed chairman's remarks still divided over whether the central bank would launch a fresh round of bond purchases at its upcoming meeting in

Bernanke says Fed ready to act but short on specifics

September. Bernanke said the Fed had to weigh the costs as well as the benefits of more monetary stimulus, although he hinted the costs were likely worthwhile. "As we assess the benefits and costs of alternative policy approaches ... we must not lose sight of the daunting economic challenges that confront our nation," Bernanke said at the Kansas City Fed's annual Jackson Hole symposium.

"Taking due account of the uncertainties and limits of its policy tools, the Federal Reserve will provide additional policy accommodation as needed to promote a stronger economic recovery and sustained improvement in labour market conditions in a context of price stability." That was a somewhat weaker hint of policy easing than the minutes of the Fed's last

policy meeting had delivered, but Bernanke's dour economic assessment left few doubts where his sympathy lay.

"The stagnation of the labour market in particular is a grave concern not only because of the enormous suffering and waste of human talent it entails, but also because persistently high levels of unemployment will wreak structural damage on our economy that could last for many years," Bernanke said. Financial markets seesawed in the wake of Bernanke's comments. US stocks closed roughly where they were before Bernanke spoke, but yields on US government bonds hit a three-week low in anticipation of Fed action and the US dollar fell against both the euro and the yen.—Reuters



Russian President Vladimir Putin gestures while speaking at an award ceremony in the Kremlin in Moscow on 29 Aug, 2012.—Reuters

time, the government will take over control of the plant and shoot all the rascals there."—Reuters

87 insurgents killed in operations in Afghanistan

KABUL, 1 Sept — About 87 Taliban insurgents have been killed in operations in different Afghan provinces, the Afghan Interior Ministry said on Saturday. "Afghan police and army, backed by the NATO-led coalition forces, carried out 11 military operations in Kabul, Nangarhar, Laghman, Logar, Ghazni, Paktia and Nimroz provinces, killing 87 armed Taliban insurgents within the past 24 hours," the ministry said in a statement.

Eight other suspects were detained, the statement added. They also found and seized weapons, the statement said, without saying if there were any casualties on the side of security forces. The Taliban insurgents, who have been waging an insurgency of more than one decade, have yet to make comments.

Afghan forces and some 130,000 NATO-led coalition troops have intensified cleanup operations against Taliban and other militants throughout the country recently but the insurgents in retaliation responded by carrying out suicide attacks and roadside bombings.

At least six civilians were killed and six others injured when two Taliban suicide bombers targeted the entrance of a joint Afghan-NATO force base in Sayyidabad district of eastern Wardak Province on earlier Saturday.

Xinhua

executions to impose strict discipline at new plants built across the vast country. Putin's top defence industry official Dmitry Rogozin posted on his Facebook page a copy of a 1940 letter from Stalin to gun factory managers and accompanied it with a sarcastic warning: "Such methods of improving discipline also exist". Stalin's letter to the managers said: "I give you two or three days to launch mass production of machinegun cartridges... If production does not start on

Obama to visit hurricane-damaged Louisiana amid campaign events

WASHINGTON, 1 Sept — US President Barack Obama will visit the state of Louisiana next Monday to survey the damage done by Hurricane Isaac this week, which was now downgraded as a tropical storm, said the White House on Friday, when his challenger Mitt Romney detoured to the state.

The president will leave for a campaign event in Toledo, Ohio first next Monday, skip another one before paying a visit to Louisiana, announced the White House spokesman Jay Carney aboard Air Force One as Obama flew to Texas on Friday to address US troops. During the stay in the hard-hit state of Louisiana, Obama will meet with local officials, assessing the impact of Isaac which made landfall in the state on Tuesday night as a hurricane, and weakened to a tropical storm on Wednesday and was further downgraded to a tropical depression on Thursday. The announcement came shortly after Republican presidential nominee Romney's campaign announced he would visit Louisiana on Friday, between two previously announced campaign stops. Romney accepted the nomination on Thursday night at the Republican National Convention held in Tampa, Florida. Both campaigns' announcement came days after Isaac cut path through northern Gulf coast around the 7th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's arrival in the region. Through the whole week, Isaac caused heavy rains, howling winds and serious inland flooding, pushing thousands of residents to evacuate from their homeland.

The southern US states of Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama have been on high alert against the threat of Isaac since last weekend. Also, Florida, Louisiana and Alabama have declared states of emergency, fearing that Isaac might repeat the disaster that Hurricane Katrina brought to the Gulf coast just seven years ago. Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and the Gulf Coast on 29 Aug, 2005, killing 1,836 people and causing property damage estimated at 81 billion US dollars. It was the costliest natural disaster, and one of the five deadliest hurricanes in the history of the United States.—Xinhua

Thousands return home after Philippines quake, tsunami warning lifted

GUIUAN, (Philippines), 1 Sept — Tens of thousands of people on a central Philippine island returned home on Saturday after a tsunami alert was lifted following a 7.6 magnitude undersea quake, as local authorities began work to repair damages to public infrastructure.

The earthquake 91 miles off the town of Guiuan on Samar island on Friday killed one person and caused only minor damage, but prompted the US Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre to issue a tsunami warning.

Philippine authorities ordered thousands of people living in coastal villages to evacuate, but on Saturday those that had fled to higher grounds were returning home, said Conrado Nicart, governor of Eastern Samar Province. "We've sent out our engineers and repair teams to inspect roads, bridges and public buildings," Nicart told radio, adding the earthquake caused minor infrastructure damage.

"Our people were reporting cracks on roads and

municipal gymnasiums, and approaches on a bridge near Mercedes town were also damaged but remained passable to light vehicles."

The tsunami warning was initially issued for the Philippines, Japan, Indonesia, Taipei, Papua New Guinea and other islands in the Pacific including the US state of Hawaii. Small waves of about 16 cm (6 inches) did hit a southern Philippine island, the seismology agency said.

"It was really scary, that was the strongest earthquake

I felt in my life," Alice Cabacaba, a 50-year-old mother of four, told Reuters from her small canteen in Guiuan town, saying she was watching television when jolted by the tremor.

"Everything was shaking and falling down. Our television was broken. After the shaking, I gathered my children and we fled to a safer place because our house is near the beach. Everybody was praying, children were crying and all are panicking."—Reuters



Science research specialist monitors computer data on the recorded earthquake at the Seismology agency office in Quezon City, Metro Manila on 31 Aug, 2012.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MOROTAI VOY NO (186)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (186) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.9.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 CMA CGM

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (313)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (313) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.9.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Kenny Melkin, left, helps his wife Becky navigate through floodwaters from Hurricane Isaac as they make their way to see their flooded home in the West End Park neighbourhood along Lake Pontchartrain, on 31 Aug, 2012 in New Orleans.—INTERNET

Isaac renews old debate about Louisiana levees

IRONTON, 1 Sept — When Hurricane Isaac whirled into the Gulf Coast this week, the federal levee system protecting New Orleans did its job. But the patchwork of floodwalls shielding subdivisions outside the city and rural fishing and farming communities was no match for the drenching storm. As the cleanup began on Friday, an old debate grew more urgent: Is it worth billions of dollars to build better levees in areas that are sparsely populated and naturally flood-prone?

Since Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Army Corps of Engineers has backed away from the idea of extending protection across much of south Louisiana, citing doubts about whether improved levees would work and whether the money could be better spent elsewhere. None of that sits well with locals, who feel abandoned. "Each time you have a hurricane, you are going to spend enormous amounts of money on search and rescue, rebuilding churches, schools, everything, just like right here in Ironton," said Charles J Ballay, district attorney of Plaquemines Parish, as he rode atop an airboat looking for stranded residents. "This was a Category 1 storm and look at what it has done."

The town baseball field was a lake, water lapped inside living rooms and children's toys bobbed in the high water. Not far away, ranchers tried to save a herd of cattle that stood neck-deep in the flood. About 1 million people in coastal Louisiana live outside the massive levee system that protects greater New Orleans, and almost all of them are at risk of flooding during a major storm.— *Internet*

29 die as speeding Nigerian buses crash, burst into flames

LAGOS, 1 Sept — Two speeding buses on Friday collided head-on and burst into flames killing at least 29 people and injuring 16 others in northern Nigeria's Yobe state, police and an official said. The crash was the latest tragedy to befall travellers on Nigeria's perilous roads, plagued with accidents due to a combination of reckless driving, overloading and poor maintenance.

"Two Toyota Hiace Buses... travelling in opposite directions had a head-on collision and thereafter went off in flames. Twenty nine persons — eleven of them burnt beyond recognition —



Motorists queue during a traffic jam at Mile 2 bus stop in Lagos in 2010. INTERNET

have so far been confirmed dead," national police spokesman Frank Mba said in a statement. The accident occurred in the state's Nengere area, the statement added. The injured were taken to a hospital in the nearby city of Potiskum. The head of the road safety commission in Yobe, Usman Masari, told AFP both drivers

had been speeding. He described both buses as 18-seaters, but drivers routinely cram extra passengers into vehicles to maximise their income per journey. A similar crash killed 33 people near Potiskum in 2010, when two commuter buses collided and caught fire. The police statement lamented

the "incessant" accidents on Nigeria's highways, considered among the most dangerous in the world. Police urged Nigerians to avoid "speeding, over loading and flagrant disobedience of road traffic laws and regulations".

More than 17,000 people died in about 31,000 road accidents across Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, between 2007 and 2009, according to the federal road safety agency's 2010 report, the most recent published. Last month, an oil tanker tipped over as it tried to avoid three oncoming vehicles.

Petrol began spilling out of the truck and locals rushed to the scene to collect free fuel. The petrol then caught fire, burning more than 100 people to death.— *Internet*

AMR, US Airways say evaluating potential merger

NEW YORK, 1 Sept — American Airlines parent AMR Corp and US Airways Group Inc have signed a non-disclosure agreement as they evaluate a potential merger that would create an airline that rivals leader United Continental Holdings Inc in scope. The two carriers said on Friday they agreed to share confidential information, work with bankrupt AMR's creditors committee, and not talk to third parties about any terms of their possible combination.

American has also signed non-disclosure agreements with other parties, according to a memo the company sent to managers on Friday. It did not identify the other parties, but Bloomberg and the Associated Press on Friday reported that British Airways parent

International Airlines Group also signed a non-disclosure accord with American. Representatives of IAG could not immediately be reached for comment. IAG, a member of the oneworld global alliance of which American is a part, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The company had said earlier this month that it may consider taking a stake in American.

Many analysts consider US Airways to be the leading contender for AMR, which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in November. Combined, US Airways and AMR had \$37 billion in revenue in 2011, about equal with United Continental, the world's biggest carrier. American Airlines initially said it would prefer to emerge from

bankruptcy on a stand-alone basis, but has grudgingly responded to pressure from creditors to consider a merger as its best option for competing with United Continental and Delta Air Lines Inc, which are themselves the products of mergers.

A source familiar with the situation said the non-disclosure agreement is fairly restrictive as it prevents US Airways from discussing specific terms of a combination with third parties including labour unions and private equity firms that might be interested in a stake, or other airlines. US Airways, which declined to comment beyond the news release, has been aggressively campaigning for a merger with AMR.

Earlier this year, US Airways won the backing of three unions that represent American ramp workers, pilots and flight attendants by promising to preserve thousands of jobs post-merger. US Airways, based in Tempe, Arizona, has also reached out to Fort Worth, Texas-based American's creditors and has spoken with US lawmakers about the possibility of a tie-up with American.— *Reuters*



This 17 Nov, 2010 file picture shows the 2012 model year Ford Focus during its debut at the LA Auto Show in Los Angeles. Ford Motor Co said on 31 Aug, 2012 its Focus small car is on track to become the best-selling car in the world this year, trumping the Toyota Corolla. INTERNET

Ford on track to beat Toyota with best-selling car

RAYONG, 1 Sept — The stylish and nimble Ford Focus is on track to unseat Toyota's aging Corolla to become the world's top-selling car, according to Ford. The company says it sold 489,616 Focus sedans and hatchbacks globally in the first half of 2012, besting the Corolla by almost 27,000. The Focus has several advantages, says Aaron Bragman, an automotive industry analyst for IHS Global Insight. It is newer, features better handling and styling, has superior technology and a much nicer interior than the Corolla. "I'd rank it superior to the Corolla in pretty much most ways," says Bragman.

But Toyota isn't conceding the title. It has

disputed Ford's numbers, saying its car is still on top when you include Corollas sold under other names. Hatchback versions of the Corolla are sold as the Auris in Europe and Matrix in the US. Toyota also sells the Corolla Verso, a van-like vehicle that Toyota has traditionally counted as a Corolla, says spokesman Mike Michels. Including all the models, Toyota sold 603,840 Corollas in the first half, beating the focus by about 114,000, Michels says.

Toyota is working on a new version of the Corolla which is expected to go on sale next year, although the company hasn't made it official. Ford made the announcement at its assembly

plant in Rayong, which opened in May to build the Focus.

The Thailand plant, which is one of Ford's most advanced, has the capacity to produce 150,000 cars per year for sale in Thailand, Vietnam, Australia and other countries in the region. Ford's recently revamped Focus is sold in more than 100 countries worldwide. It's a strong seller in the US, where Focus sales were up 31 percent in the first half of the year compared with 2011. But the Corolla is still king in the US, where it outsold the Focus by nearly 27,500 in the first half of the year.

The Corolla could still pass the Focus as the global top-seller this year, Bragman said.— *Internet*



A US airways plane takes off behind an American Airlines jet at Ronald Reagan National Airport in Washington on 23 April, 2012.— REUTERS

World's shortest man, woman meet for photo

Guinness World Records, based in London, said the world's shortest man and the world's shortest woman met for the first time for a photo shoot.

The recordkeeping organization said 21.5-inch-tall Chandra Bahadur Dangi, 72, of Nepal and 24.7-inch-tall Jyoti Amge, 18, of India met for the first time, which also

marked the first time in history the holders of the shortest human records have met, to shoot promotional photos for "Guinness World Records 2013," the 57th edition of the record book.

"It was an extraordinary moment. They're both such incredible individuals. Everyone knew this was a special moment. The atmosphere was magical," Marco Frigatti, an official Guinness World Records adjudicator who took part in the photo shoot, said in a release.

Guinness said Amge will visit Britain on 13 Sept to take part in festivities for the release of the 2013 record book.



News Album

Whale vomit chunk worth thousands



Ambergris.

The family of a British 8-year-old who found a chunk of whale vomit on the beach said the find could be worth more than \$60,000.

Charlie Naysmith, of

Christchurch, England, said he discovered the chunk of ambergris at Hengistbury Head and took it home. His family researched the object and found out it is worth

between \$16,000 and \$63,000, the *Daily Echo* of Southampton, England, reported.

The boy's father, Alex Naysmith, said experts were working to determine the exact worth of the item.

"He is into nature and is really interested in it. We have discovered it is quite rare and are waiting for some more information from marine biology experts," he said.

Experts said ambergris, which is created in the intestines of a sperm whale and comes out in vomit, is prized for its ability to prolong the scent of perfume.

MTV cancels 'Jersey Shore'

NEW YORK, 1 Sept—MTV says the upcoming sixth season of its reality show "Jersey Shore" will be its last.

Production has wrapped and the fresh run of episodes is to begin airing in October, *The Hollywood Reporter* said on Thursday.

The show about a group of party people in their 20s living it up at a New Jersey

beach house and travelling to Italy has been a ratings hit for the cable network. No reason was given for the cancellation, but some of the show's stars have publicly expressed their wishes to settle down and/or sober up.

MTV recently renewed its "Jersey Shore" spinoff "Snooki & JWoww" for a second season.—*Internet*

TV Personalities *Ronnie Ortiz-Magro, Vinny Guadagnino, Sammi 'Sweetheart' Giancola, Deena Nicole Cortese, DJ Pauly D, Jenny 'JWoww' Farley and Nicole 'Snooki' Polizzi* (L-R).—*INTERNET*



Michael Keaton ropes 'RoboCop' role

LOS ANGELES, 1 Sept—Michael Keaton has signed on for a supporting role in the Hollywood remake of the science-fiction classic "RoboCop," director Jose Padilha announced. The MGM and Columbia Pictures production will also star Joel Kinnaman, Gary Oldman and Samuel L. Jackson.

"Michael is the final addition to the amazing cast we have assembled for this film, and it is so great to have the last puzzle piece in place," Padilha said in a statement. "It is thrilling that everything has come together to bring this innovative new vision of



Director and actor Michael Keaton

'RoboCop' to life. We've got a great script, a great cast, some killer ED-209s, and can't wait to get Alex Murphy back on the streets."

The *Hollywood Reporter* said former "House" star Hugh Laurie had been in talks to play the evil boss of Omnicorp — the company

that turns dying Detroit police officer Alex Murphy into the cyborg RoboCop — but he passed on the role last week, paving the way for Keaton's hiring.

Keaton's films include "Mr. Mom," "Gung Ho," "Johnny Dangerously," "Batman," "Beetlejuice," "Clean and Sober," "The Paper," "Speechless" and "The Other Guys."

"RoboCop" was a critical and box-office success in 1987. Peter Weller played the title character in the original film and a sequel. Kinnaman will play the part in the remake.

Internet



TV Personalities Bill Rancic and Giuliana Rancic

Kristen Stewart's mom files for divorce

LOS ANGELES, 1 Sept—Jules Stewart, the mother of actress Kristen Stewart, has filed for divorce from her husband, John, in Los Angeles County Superior Court, records show.

TMZ said Jules Stewart, a writer and director, began the process 17 August to legally end her 27-year marriage to John, a TV producer and stage manager. She cited irreconcilable differences as the reason for the split and noted the date of her separation from John as 15 June, 2010.

Kristen Stewart recently broke up with her longtime beau and "Twilight" co-star, Robert Pattinson, after she admitted she cheated on him with her married "Snow White and the Huntsman" director Rupert Sanders.—*Internet*



Actress Kristen Stewart

Sofia Vergara confirms engagement

LOS ANGELES, 1 Sept—Colombian-born actress Sofia Vergara has finally confirmed weeks-old reports, saying she is engaged to businessman Nick Loeb.

"I haven't started planning anything because everything has been very recent," Vergara told *Celebuzz* this week. "I just planned a very big birthday — my 40th birthday in Mexico. More than 100 people came and celebrated with me and my family, closest friends and co-workers from 'Modern Family.' I am kind of, you know, working a lot — I just started the 'Modern Family' season — so I don't know yet [when I will get married]. No plans."



Actress Sofia Vergara and her boyfriend, businessman Nick Loeb

The celebrity news Web site said Loeb proposed to Vergara as they toured the Mayan ruins in Chichen Itza during her birthday trip to Mexico last month.—*Internet*

Bryan Cranston, Catherine O'Hara to guest on "30 Rock"

LOS ANGELES, 1 Sept—Watch out, Jack Donaghy; Heisenberg's coming your way, and you know how he deals with rival alpha males.

"Breaking Bad" star Bryan Cranston will guest-star on "30 Rock" this season, along with Catherine O'Hara, NBC told *The Wrap*. O'Hara and Cranston will play the mother of NBC page-turned-janitor Kenneth Parcell (Jack McBrayer) on an upcoming episode.

"30 Rock" returns for its seventh and final season of 13 episodes on 4 October.

Cranston recently took part in another NBC sitcom, albeit behind the camera. The actor directed an episode of

"The Office" earlier this month. "Free meth for The Office! (look who's directing...)." "Office" star Rainn Wilson announced via his Twitter account, posting a picture of himself and Cranston on set.

TV Guide first reported the news of Cranston and O'Hara's "30 Rock" casting.

Internet



Actor Bryan Cranston

GMA's Robin Roberts' mother dies

NEW YORK, 1 Sept—"Good Morning America" host Robin Roberts left on medical leave a day early to see her ailing mother in Mississippi before her mother died, ABC News reported.

Lucimarian Tolliver Roberts, 88, died on Thursday evening, the network announced.

Roberts had planned to leave the show on Friday for

treatment for a rare blood disorder. She left a day early to visit her mother, who had appeared on "Good Morning America" several times as a guest, ABC affiliate WXYZ-TV, Detroit, reported.

Roberts is scheduled to start treatments next week for a bone marrow transplant from her sister, Sally-Ann, CNN reported.

"There's a point that



This undated photo released by ABC shows "Good Morning America" co-host Robin Roberts, right, with her mother Lucimarian Roberts on the set in New York.—*INTERNET*

really resonates with me when I think about this time of my life. Life provides losses and heartbreak for all of us, but the greatest tragedy is to have the experience and miss the meaning," Roberts said on Thursday. "I am determined not to miss that meaning, because through it I have discovered that I have been given many gifts, gifts that will carry me through this difficult time."

Internet

Bill and Giuliana welcome baby

DENVER, 1 Sept — Reality TV stars Bill and Giuliana Rancic announced on Twitter Thursday their first child has been born via gestational surrogate in Denver.

Edward Duke Rancic was born on Wednesday, People.com reported.

The birth to a gestational surrogate means the baby is the Rancics' genetic offspring.

"The 'Duke' has landed! Edward Duke Rancic was welcomed into the world last night at 7lbs 4oz," Bill Rancic tweeted. "G & I feel blessed beyond words... We did it!"

Giuliana has suffered numerous health issues in recent years. She had a miscarriage in 2010, underwent fertility treatments to try to get pregnant again, then had a double mastectomy last year as part of her treatment for breast cancer.

The Rancics star on Style Network's, "Giuliana & Bill."

Internet

Tottenham sign Dempsey, Lloris

LONDON, 1 Sept—Tottenham signed Fulham forward Clint Dempsey for an undisclosed fee in a surprise last-minute move on Friday just moments before the transfer window closed.

"We are delighted to announce that we have

Tottenham boss Andre Villas-Boas gate-crashed the Dempsey chase after selling Dutch midfielder Rafael van der Vaart to Hamburg for around £10 million earlier on Friday.

Meanwhile Spurs also sealed a deal for Lyon

club, who paid Lyon £8 million to sign the 25-year-old French international.

"We are delighted to announce that we have reached agreement with Olympique Lyonnais for the transfer of goalkeeper Hugo Lloris," a statement on the club's website confirmed.

Lloris revealed he moved to Tottenham because he believes they are capable of returning to the Champions League next season.

"I am here because I believe in Tottenham," he said. "I think everything is OK for the future of Tottenham."

"They have great team, great players, and a great coach so everything is all right, I think, to win a place in the Champions League next year. "Now we have to prove that on the pitch and I am ready to give it my all for the club and for the fans."

Internet



Fulham's US midfielder Clint Dempsey (L)

reached agreement with Fulham for the transfer of Clint Dempsey," Tottenham said in a statement on their website.

The United States international joined the north London club after Liverpool and Aston Villa were unable to complete a deal for the £7 million-rated star.

Fulham thanked the 29-year-old in a statement on their website: "Clint was a very influential player for Fulham over a number of seasons and the Club thanks him for his contribution and wishes him well for the future."

goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

Lloris agreed a four-year contract with the north



Lyon's French goalkeeper Hugo Lloris

Sharapova continues to blaze trail at US Open

NEW YORK, 1 Sept—Maria Sharapova continued her imperious march through the draw at the US Open as she crushed American college player Mallory Burdette 6-1, 6-1 on Friday.

The French Open champion needed just 58 minutes to send world number 252 Burdette packing.

"I expected her to play a big, solid match," said Sharapova, the 2006 US Open champion. "She came out, she has pretty huge groundstrokes, and she likes to go for it."

"She's certainly somebody who could be dangerous if you give her the time to do what she likes to do."

Burdette, a 21-year-old wild card entry into the tournament, did not have time to do much of anything as she was swept off the court in 58 minutes.

Sharapova, who has lost just seven games in her first three matches, now plays Russian compatriot Nadia Petrova, a 6-4, 7-5 winner over Czech Lucie Safarova.

Despite missing the

hardcourt run-up to Flushing Meadows, Sharapova is playing as well as anyone in the women's draw.

"I didn't know too much going into this event because I hadn't played on hard in a few months," she said. "That made me extra focused, and I wanted to really get going from the beginning and be aggressive."

"Took a little bit of a break after Wimbledon and went home. I kind of recharged a little bit. Certainly feel a lot more energy than I did maybe after the French (Open)."

Sharapova said Petrova has "been playing really good tennis." —Reuters



Maria Sharapova, of Russia

Packed crowds and controversy at the Games

LONDON, 1 Sept—Packed crowds on Friday greeted the first day of athletics at the Paralympics but the jubilant mood was overshadowed by a mix-up that saw the wrong athlete awarded a gold.

There was controversy, too, at the Velodrome, where the British favourite in the men's C4/5 1km time-trial angrily protested a decision not to allow him to restart after slipping at the start.

The day had started off well, with nearly 80,000 people packed into the Olympic Stadium in east London roaring T54 wheelchair racers around the track in the women's 5,000m heats to the astonishment of athletes. There were few spare seats for the evening session, which notably saw Ireland's Jason Smyth — who trains with US sprint star Tyson Gay — lower the men's T13 100m world record to 10.54secs in qualifying.

The woman who set the first world record at the venue during a test event back in May, British wheelchair racer Hannah Cockcroft, also gave home fans reason to cheer by clinching the women's T34



Seung-Yul Noh of South Korea tees off on the 15th hole during the first round of the Deutsche Bank Championship at TPC Boston in Norton, Massachusetts.

REUTERS

NORTON, 1 Sept—Tiger Woods produced a stunning surge in the opening round of the Deutsche Bank Championship on Friday but was overshadowed by 21-year-old South Korean Noh Seung-yul, who rocketed to a one-shot lead.

Noh tore apart the TPC Boston course with a bogey-free nine-under-par 62 that left him one shot clear of American Chris Kirk in the second of the PGA Tour's four FedEx Cup playoff events.

South Korea's Noh upstages Tiger at Deutsche Bank

Woods, Jeff Overton and Ryan Moore were tied in third place after the American trio shot matching 64s while world number one Rory McIlroy and American Bryce Molder were a further shot back. Woods had earlier set the Boston crowds alight with a birdie blitz reminiscent of his glory days.

The 14-times major champion played his first eight holes in two-under par before carding six consecutive birdies to lead by as many as four shots at one stage.

"I played really well today. I hit a lot of good shots, and on top of that I putted well at the same time... it was a nice little combination," said Woods, who made five birdies from 12 feet or longer. "I hit the ball well enough to probably shoot maybe one or two more."

Woods, the 2006 champion at this event, played the back nine first and wasted little time making a move.



Tiger Woods of the US

After his tee shot at the par-three 11th landed 12 feet from the hole, Woods coolly drained the birdie putt for some early confidence on the greens. Two holes later Woods sank a 19-footer that put him at two-under par.

He came within inches of an eagle from 42 feet on the 18th but took the birdie, the first of six on the trot, including a 12-footer on his 11th hole and a 15-footer on his 12th.

Reuters

Chelsea's Essien on loan to Real Madrid

LONDON, 1 Sept—Chelsea midfielder Michael Essien joined Spanish champions Real Madrid on a season-long loan, the west London club confirmed in a statement on their website.

The 29-year-old Ghana international will rejoin former Blues boss Jose Mourinho, who brought him to Stamford Bridge in 2005, at the Bernabeu.



Michael Essien of Chelsea throws his shirt to fans during the game in July 2012 in Miami Gardens, Florida.

INTERNET

The combative midfielder made 247 appearances for Chelsea over seven seasons, scoring 25 goals and twice winning the club's goal of the season award.

He also helped the club to two Premier League titles, four FA Cups and last season's Champions League title.

Internet

British teen Robson posts another upset at US Open

NEW YORK, 1 Sept—Laura Robson dissolved into giggles at a reference to British boy band One Direction.

Yes, she's definitely 18. She also has beaten two former Grand Slam champions at the US Open, and will face another in her next match.

The British teen beat 2011 French Open winner Li Na in the third round on Friday, two days after she ended the career of four-time major champ Kim Clijsters. Next up: Sam Stosur, who happens to be the defending champion.

"I have had a fairly tough draw, haven't I?" Robson said with the smile of a player racking up confidence.

Ranked 89th, Robson had never been past the second round of a major tournament or knocked off a top 10 opponent before this year's Open. Now she's done both, after eliminating the ninth-seeded Li 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-2.

Robson put her hands to her head in I-can't-believe-this joy after the Chinese star returned her serve long on

the final point.

"I have had lots of tough matches against some very experienced opponents, so the way that I see it, it was time to start winning a few of them," Robson said.

Stretching before the match, Robson noticed a tweet from English soccer star Wayne Rooney wishing her luck.

Except he called her "Laura Robinson." Rooney later faulted predictive text for the gaffe, which didn't seem to dent Robson's self-assurance. —Internet



Laura Robson of Britain

International Sports

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(2-9-12 09:30 am ~ 3-9-12 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * 12 Sign Ascendants in September 2012
- * News
- * Road to 27th SEA GAMES (Takewondo)
- * News
- * The Chillies Journal Launch Party
- * Workshop on ICT Development in Myanmar
- * News
- * Advanced Technology for Quality Transport
- * News
- * "MI People's Celebrities" Wine Su Khine Thein
- * Lavish Gifts of Sister land Company limited
- * News
- * "Travelling in Shan Mountain Ranges" Inle Phawngdaw Oo Pagoda Festival (Part-1)
- * News
- * Promising Future for Myanmar Citizens
- * News
- * Changing Character of Monsoon
- * Myanmar Movie "Love Upon Each Other"

MYANMAR TV

(2-9-2012) (Sunday)

- 7:00 am
 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
 - Uppatthandi Paritta
- 7:25 am
 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:50 am
 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:15 am
 4. (38) Phyar Mingalar
- 8:25 am
 5. Selected Songs For 19th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions (2012) (Oldies & Mono Classical) (Amateur (Second) Division Level) (Men)
- 8:55 am
 6. "Road to 27th SEA GAMES"
- 11:10 am
 7. Musical Programme
- 12:30 pm
 8. How It's Works
- 12:50 pm
 9. Myanmar Video Feature
- 4:20 pm
 10. Song Of National Races
- 4:30 pm
 11. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Oriental)
- 4:45 pm
 12. Documentary
- 5:00 pm
 13. Sing & Enjoy
- 6:40 pm
 14. Tamayethnar Takwetsar
- 8:00 pm
 15. News
 16. Cartoon Series
 17. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 2nd September, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	32.90	24.75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
2	Kayah	32.90	20.68	Isolated rain or thundershower	(100%)
3	Kayah	28.82	21.70	Widespread rain or thundershowers (HI)	(100%)
4	Chin	25.75	15.59	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
5	Upper Sagaing	30.86	22.73	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
6	Lower Sagaing	30.100	27.81	Isolated rain or thundershower	(100%)
7	Tamutthayi	26.79	21.70	Widespread rain or thundershowers (HI)	(100%)
8	Bago	30.86	24.75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
9	Magway	35.95	26.79	Scattered rain or thundershower	(100%)
10	Mandalay	30.100	27.81	Scattered rain or thundershower	(100%)
11	Mon	28.81	22.72	Widespread rain or thundershowers (HI)	(100%)
12	Yangon	29.84	21.70	Widespread rain or thundershowers (HI)	(100%)
13	Rakhine	30.86	22.72	Widespread rain or thundershowers (HI)	(100%)
14	Southern Shan	27.81	18.64	Scattered rain or thundershower	(100%)
15	Northern Shan	32.90	20.68	Scattered rain or thundershower	(100%)
16	Eastern Shan	33.91	22.72	Scattered rain or thundershower	(100%)
17	Ayeyawady	32.90	22.72	Widespread rain or thundershowers (HI)	(100%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	33.91	24.75	Isolated rain or thundershower	(100%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	29.84	21.70	Some rain or thundershower	(100%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	30.100	27.81	Isolated rain or thundershower	(80%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today

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

State of the Sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of increase of rain in lower Myanmar areas.

Agricultural Machinery Operating Course kicks off

NATTALIN, 1 Sept—The Agricultural Machinery Operating Course No 1/2012 was opened at the hall of Township Agricultural Mechanization Department in Nattalin Township of Thayawady District in Bago Region on 25 August morning.

In-charge of the Region AMD U Khin Maung Zin and Head of District AMD U Kyaw Thauang explained the purpose of opening the training course.

Next, Administrator of the township U Zaw Lwin discussed the purpose to transform from manual to mechanized farming. Staff Officer of the Township AMD U Khin Maung Win read the discipline of the course.

Altogether 149 trainees from 82 village-tracts attended the 10-day course.—*Myanma Alin*



Martinez 'itching' to make Bayern debut

MUNICH, 1 Sept—Bayern Munich host VfB Stuttgart in their opening home league game of the season on Sunday with new signing Javier Martinez, the Bundesliga's most expensive player, eager to make his debut.

"I'm itching to get started, I would like to help the team as soon as possible," he said in Thursday's press conference as Bayern unveiled their new star, who is reported to have cost 40 million euros (US\$51m). The 23-year-old Spain midfielder signed a five-year deal with Athletic Bilbao and is set to play alongside Germany star



Players of German first division Bundesliga take part in a training session in the southern German city of Munich on 29 August, 2012. Bayern Munich host VfB Stuttgart in their opening home league game of the season on Sunday.—INTERNET

Bastian Schweinsteiger in the defensive midfield role. But Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes put the brakes on any euphoria when asked if Martinez would make his

debut Sunday at the Allianz Arena.

"Javi must first have some quiet, he has been integrated into the team, that is an important process," said Heynckes. "There are a lot of expectations on him and it's not so important at the moment whether he plays on Sunday."

"What is more important is that he gets to know us." Bayern enjoyed an impressive start to the season last Saturday with a 3-0 win at newly-promoted Greuther Fuerth, while Stuttgart suffered a 1-0 home defeat to Wolfsburg thanks to Dutch striker Bas Dost's 90th-minute winner.—*Internet*

Suicide bombing kills at least six Afghans at NATO base

KABUL, 1 Sept — A suicide bombing at a large NATO military base in central Afghanistan killed at least six Afghan civilians around dawn on Saturday, officials said.

A spokesman for NATO's International Security Assistance force said there were no ISAF casualties.

"A suicide bomber on foot detonated near the gate of the base in Sayedabad, Wardak province, opening the way for a truck suicide bombing that followed him," provincial government spokesman Shahidullah Shahid told AFP. "Together they have killed six local civilians, wounded four civilians and two intelligence personnel. There might be other casualties as well but I don't have information about them," he said.

A witness said a small bazaar near the base was "totally destroyed" by the huge explosion. Many civilians work on or near NATO bases and bazaars often spring up to cater for them. A spokesman for Taliban insurgents claimed responsibility for the attack in a text message to AFP.

The United Nations says 1,145 civilians were killed and 1,954 wounded in the war in the first six months of this year, with the United Nations blaming 80 percent of the deaths on insurgents.



File photo shows an Afghan soldier standing guard in the village of Sayedabad.—INTERNET

Eight die, 46 missing as boat capsizes off Guinea



Fishing pirogues are pictured off the coast of Senegal in 2003.

CONAKRY, 1 Sept—Eight people died and 46 were missing after a boat capsized off the coast of Guinea on Friday, a paramilitary police source said. The source, speaking on condition of

anonymity, said the bodies of "seven women and a little boy younger than 10-years old" had been recovered from the water after the pirogue—a flat-bottomed boat—capsized. The information was confirmed by police outside a Conakry hospital where the bodies had been sent.

The gendarme said a total of 58 people were on board the boat which capsized a few minutes after setting off for Kassa Island several kilometres from the capital Conakry. "The pilot of the boat was doing his first voyage," the source explained. Another paramilitary police officer speaking shortly after the accident took place said many women and babies had been aboard the pirogue, a canoe-like boat used by fishermen and for transport.

The pirogue had the capacity to seat around 20 people and capsized "under the weight of the passengers and their goods," he said, also asking not to be named. Four people had been pulled from the water alive. A similar accident in the beginning of the year left about 20 people dead when a boat capsized on the way from Conakry to Freetown in neighbouring Sierra Leone.—*Internet*

Selected Myanmar men's volleyball team leave for Vietnam

YANGON, 1 Sept— Selected Myanmar Men's Volleyball Team on 29 August evening left here by air for Vietnam to compete in 3rd AVC Men's Cup to be held from 1 to 7 September. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Vice-President U Thein Win and officials of Myanmar Volleyball Federation.

Selected Myanmar Men's Volleyball Team comprised Mr Zhang Qun as Head Coach and former selected Myanmar volleyball player U Ye Myint as assistant coach and U Myo Min Zaw (Ministry of Home Affairs) as head trainer.

Selected Myanmar players are Aung Thu (Ministry of Defence), Ye Min Aung, Do Maeni Ko, Aung Myat Tun, Kyaw Kyaw Htwe (Ministry of Home Affairs), Win Tun Oo (Ministry of Sports), Sai Nyi Lay (Ministry of Immigration and Population), Yan Lin Aung, Ye Naung Tun, Nay Lin Aung and Khwechar Maung (No. 2 Heavy Industries of Ministry of Industry).

3rd AVC Men's Cup 2012 includes 8 teams and is divided into two groups. Group (A) teams are Myanmar, Korea, Japan and Vietnam and Group (B) teams are Ireland, India, Australia and China.—MNA

Customs staff donate blood for 27th time

YANGON, 1 Sept—As a gesture of hailing Myitta Akhadaw Day, altogether 31 staff of Customs Department collectively donated blood for the 27th time at No. 2 Military Hospital (500-bed) today.

On the occasion, Director U Kyaw Win of Customs Department donated blood bags and laboratory equipment worth K 100,000 to Commandant of the hospital Brig-Gen Sein Lin.—MNA

Myanmar sports officials leave for Thailand

YANGON, 1 Sept—President of Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation Dr Khin Maung Tun, Vice-President U Win Zin Oo and General Secretary U Sai Zaw Zaw left here by air this morning to attend the Notice of 2nd PROTEM Committee Meeting of Southeast Asia Muay Federation-SEAMF

to be held in Bangkok of Thailand on 2 September.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Sports and executives of Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation.—MNA

Multiplier Librarian Course opened

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Sept— The opening ceremony of Multiplier Librarian Course was held at Myatwunthit library in Ahlyinlo Village of Zabuthiri Township, here,

on 29 August morning. Deputy Head of District Information and Public Relations Department Daw Aye Aye Khaing talked about durability of library

and donated 300 copies of publications for village library. After that, the Deputy Head of District IPRD, Head of Zabuthiri Township IPRD and the librarian shared knowledge about librarian science to 50 trainees.

Kyemon

Myanmar's Policy on Social and Economic Development on 8 Sept

YANGON, 1 Sept—Hanns Siedel Foundation of Germany and Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry will jointly organize the talks at Mingala hall on the first floor of UMFCI, here, at 9 pm on 8 September.

The talk is entitled "Myanmar's Policy on Social and Economic Development".

Those wishing to attend the talks may enlist at International Relations Department of the federation, dialing 214344 to 21349, extension: 120 and 122, not later than 6 September.—MNA

Raising of bund at Kyaukse Lake undertaken

YAMETHIN, 1 Sept—Kyaukse Lake was built near Kyaukse Village of Pyawbwe Township of Yamethin District by damming Samon Creek.

The bund is 13500 feet long and 20 feet high. It can store 6250 acre-feet of water. The lake is installed with three conduits to benefit 4306 acres of farmlands. With the passage of time, the lake has now silted up.

Assistant Director U Khin Zaw of Meiktila Township Irrigation department managed to raise the bund of the lake and construct the retaining walls. Staff Officer U Aung Ko Min and staff with the use of heavy machinery are engaged in the tasks. At present, the construction works have been completed by 80 per cent.—Myanma Alin

Annual General Meeting of MCPA on 8 Sept

YANGON, 1 Sept—Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Computer Professionals Association will be held at conference hall of MICT Park in Hline Township in Yangon at 2 pm on 8 September (Saturday), and the MCPA's members will be invited.

Members of the association wishing to ask questions and give suggestions may send questions through letter or e-mail, not later than 4 September.

At the meeting, the talks entitled "Situation Analysis and Future Trends for IT Professionals" will be given. For detailed information, may browse www.mcpamyanmar.org and dial 01-652276 and 09-73088300.

Kyemon

Myitta Akhadaw Day observed at Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 1 Sept—The ceremonies to mark Myitta Akhadaw Day was held at the prayer hall on the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Wagaung at 5 am today.

Staff of the Pagoda Board of Trustees offered meals, lights, flowers, water and fruits to the pagoda.

They offered flowers to four Buddha images at each archway and Padamyia Myetshin Buddha Image on the upper terrace.

They donated day meals to Ovadaçariya Sayadaws at Yaungdawphwint Prayer Hall. In the afternoon, they organized the Myitta Akhadaw Day at the ancient Buddha images prayer hall.—MNA

World's shortest man, woman meet for photo

PAGE 13



British teen Robson posts another upset at US Open

PAGE 14

Laura Robson of Britain



Martinez 'itching' to make Bayern debut



PAGE 15

Vaccination injected to animals in Ayeyawady Region

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Sept—A veterinarian team led by Deputy Director-General Dr Aung Gyi of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department made field trips to eight townships of Ayeyawady Region from 23 to 29 August to be able to provide health care of buffalos and cows in the flood-hit areas.

The team gave vaccinations to 2464 buffalos and cows

With eight-page supplement on 2012 Social Security Law and Law Amending 1955 Government Housing (Expelling) Act attached.

in Kyaunggon Township, 802 in Kangyidaunt Township, 165 in Yekyi Township, 587 in Athok Township, 179 in Ngathaingyoung Township, 577 in Thabaung Township, 85 in Pathein Township, totaling 4859, 829 pigs, 140 goats, six horses and six dogs.

Myanma Alin

Carroll fits in quickly as West Ham thump Fulham

LONDON, 1 Sept—England striker Andy Carroll made an immediate impact for new club West Ham United in a 3-0 Premier League demolition of Fulham on Saturday, showing he could prosper in the capital after an ineffective spell with Liverpool.

The burly frontman, who joined on a season-long loan on Thursday, played a part in West Ham's opening goal and caused the west London side plenty of problems before he was substituted in the second half with a tight hamstring.

Fitting in immediately with West Ham's direct approach, Carroll flicked a long ball on to Ricardo Vaz Te who in turn found Kevin Nolan to score after just 53 seconds at Upton Park.

West Ham cruised to victory after New Zealand international defender Winston Reid and Matt Taylor added further first-half goals.

England, already without the injured Wayne Rooney, will hope Carroll makes a quick recovery with 2014 World Cup qualifiers looming away against Moldova on Friday

and at home to Ukraine four days later.

Fulham introduced new signing Dimitar Berbatov for the second half and the Bulgarian striker, who moved on transfer deadline day on Friday from Manchester United, made a lively start although his new side finished well beaten.—Reuters



West Ham United striker Andy Carroll seen on his debut during the Premier League match between West Ham United and Fulham at the Boleyn Ground, Upton Park, in East London.

INTERNET