Laotian Prime Minister Mr. Thongsing Thammavong and party tour Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July—The visiting Laotian delegation led by Prime Minister Mr. Thongsing Thammavong visited a high-yield paddy strain research farm in Nay Pyi Taw Pobbathiri Township this morning. They were welcomed there by Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, deputy ministers and departmental heads.

The Union A & I Minister explained to Laotian Prime Minister Mr. Thongsing Thammavong and party that the farm was established with the aim of distributing seeds of high-yield strain paddy providing scientific agricultural methods; and that researches on scientific agricultural methods are being conducted at the farm and modern farm equipment is being manufactured at home for mechanized farming.

(See page 8)
PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 13 July, 2011

Myanmar-Lao friendly relations improving

Myanmar maintains friendly ties with her neighbours, regional countries and global family members. In particular, it boosts cooperation and exchange reciprocal visits of State leaders with neighbours and other ASEAN countries.

A delegation led by Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic Mr. Thongsing Thammavong arrived at Nay Pyi Taw the other day on a goodwill visit to Myanmar. A meeting between President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and the Lao Prime Minister took place at the President Office in Nay Pyi Taw the same day.

President U Thein Sein in his speech said he believed that the State visit would fortify existing friendly relations and cooperation between the two neighbours; that Myanmar honoured and praised the Lao government and the people for recent successful election and formation of a new government in Laos; and that he congratulated the Lao Prime Minister on his re-election.

Laotian Prime Minister Mr. Thongsing Thammavong said that he firmly believed that the new government under President U Thein Sein’s leadership would bring fruitful results to the Myanmar people and take greater contribution to international and regional peace, stability and cooperation for development.

The two sides held talks about bilateral relations, security cooperation along Mekong Basin, border region peace and stability, seeking ways to promote bilateral trade, and exchanged views on bilateral cooperation in culture, tourism industry, religious affairs and education, mutual cooperation in international and regional issues and ways to promote the existing friendly relations.

The two neighbouring countries have established diplomatic ties for over 50 years. Good neighbourly relations, fine traditions and friendship between the two countries are improving. Visits of leaders of the two nations will further strengthen bilateral friendly relations and are a force behind boosting bilateral cooperation in various sectors.

Immunology Course for Doctors

YANGON, 12 July — Under the auspices of the Microbiology Society of Myanmar Medical Association, the Department of Microbiology of University of Medicine (1), Yangon will organize an “Immunology Course 2011” at Auditorium (B) of MMA on Theinbyu Street here on the weekends of 16, 17, 23, 24 and 30 July from 12:30 to 4 pm.

Head of Department/Professor Daw Kyi Kyi Thin, Professor Dr Daw Wah Win Htike, Associate Professor Dr Kyu Kyu Win, Associate Professor Dr Cho Cho Oo and Associate Professor Dr Mon Mon will give lectures at the course.

Those interested may enquire and register at the Department of Microbiology, UM (1) between 11 am and 3 pm. — MNA

Myanmar delegation arrives back from ROK

Myanmar delegation led by Member of Union Civil Service Board Dr. Myint Aung seen at Yangon International Airport on their return from ROK. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July — A donation ceremony took place at Basic Education Middle School in Pantone Village, Thayet District in Mindon Township on 8 July morning.

Township Information and Public Relations Department made the donation for the school’s library.

Township IPRD donated a total of 50 magazines and journals, U Maung Tun of the Cooperatives

People’s Desire

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

Myanmar, Lao to cooperate in construction works

Myanmar delegation led by Member of Union Civil Service Board Dr. Myint Aung participated in Public Affairs and Administration Programme at Central Officials Training Institute of the Republic of Korea from 26 June to 9 July.

On their tour, the delegation visited a training centre, a district office, factories and cultural sites. The delegation arrived back on 9 July.

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July— A goodwill delegation led by Minister for Public Works and Transport of Lao People’s Democratic Republic Mr. Sommad Pholsena called on Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, at the Minister’s office here yesterday.

At the call, both sides frankly discussed matters related to Mekong River crossing Bridge that links between Laos and Myanmar and construction works to be carried out.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin, Special Officer Thura U Sein Thaung, Managing Director U Kyaw Lin of Public Works, Director-General U Aung Win of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development, Deputy Managing Directors and departmental officials. — MNA

Slight earthquake recorded

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July— A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.8 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar, near the Wan Mong Village, Mongshu about 155 miles East of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 16 hrs 55 min 07 sec M.S.T today. — MNA

Department, 25 journals, and Manager U Zaw Lin of Myanmar Agricultural Bank, 30 journals. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July— A slight earthquake recorded.
Three bodies found, 11 people wounded in Iraq's violence

BAGHDAD, 12 July—Beheaded bodies of three brothers were found in western Iraq on Monday, while 11 people wounded in a car bomb attack on a police patrol in northern the country in the day.

Police found the bodies of a Sunni cleric and two of his brothers, who were kidnapped ten days ago by gunmen wearing police uniforms in the City of Rutbah, some 375 km west of Baghdad, a local police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The bodies were handcuffed with bullets holes in the heads and chests, and their heads were separated, the source said.

Militant attacks continue in the once volatile Sunni Arab area in west of Baghdad that stretches through Anbar Province to Iraq's western borders with Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

In a separate attack, a car bomb went off near a police patrol in the City of Yuz Khurmatu, some 170 km north of Baghdad, damaging two police vehicles and wounding 11 people, including two officers and three policemen, a local police source told Xinhua.

Violence and sporadic high-profile bomb attacks are common in the Iraqi cities despite the dramatic decrease of violence over the past few years.—\textit{Xinhua}

Brother of Afghan president killed

KANDAHAR, 12 July—Ahmad Wali Karzai, a brother of Afghan President Hamid Karzai and one of the most powerful men in southern Afghanistan, was killed on Tuesday, apparently by one of his bodyguards, officials said.

“I confirm that Ahmad Wali was killed inside his house,” said Zalmay Ayoubi, spokesman for the governor of Kandahar province, where Ahmad Wali Karzai lived and was head of the provincial council. Abdul Ghafar Sayedzada, head of the counter-terrorism department at the Interior Ministry said that the killing was probably the work of someone from Ahmad Wali Karzai’s inner circle.

“It appears Ahmad Wali Karzai has been killed by one of his bodyguard, and there was nobody from outside involved,” he told Reuters. Ahmad Wali had survived at least one other assassination attempt in recent years. A half brother of the president, Ahmad Wali was a critical power-broker who helped shore up his brother’s influence in volatile southern Afghanistan.—\textit{MNA/Reuters}

Blast in bus kills 10 near Pakistani capital

RAWALPINDI, 12 July—A blast in a passenger bus killed at least 10 persons Tuesday in Rawalpindi near Pakistani capital Islamabad, local media reported. Nature of the blast was not clear and TV channels reported that gas cylinder may have caused the explosion.

The bus with 30 people onboard caught fire after the blast and 10 passengers died of burn wounds. Correspondents at the scene said they said they had counted 10 bodies. Several were injured and were shifted to hospitals by the police rescue teams. TV footage showed the burnt body of the bus and the rescue teams were collecting bodies of those dead.—\textit{MNA/Xinhua}

US drone strikes kill 45 suspected militants in Pakistan

MIRANSHAH, 12 July—At least 45 suspected militants were killed by missiles launched by US drone aircraft in Pakistan’s northwest in less than 24 hours, local intelligence officials said on Tuesday, one of the largest death tolls to date in the controversial air bombing campaign.

The attacks started on Monday night, when remotely piloted drones fired nine missiles into a militant compound and at a vehicle in North Waziristan, killing 25 suspected insurgents, local intelligence officials said.

Another strike hours later in South Waziristan killed five suspected militants. Then on Tuesday morning, a drone fired two missiles at another compound in North Waziristan. “The missiles were fired as militants sitting in a vehicle were entering into a house used by them as a hideout,” an intelligence official said, adding that 15 militants were killed in the strike. “The house is on fire.” There was no independent confirmation of the death tolls, and militants often dispute official death figures.—\textit{MNA/Reuters}

24 Afghan de-miner hostages set free

FARAH, 12 July—The armed groups who abducted 28-de-miners in Farah Province 695 kilometres west of capital city Kabul on Wednesday set free 24 of them Monday after killing four of them, an official said.

“Taqaddal incited the killings and released 24 de-miners today in Dillaram District,” spokesman for provincial administration Naqizullah Farahii told Xinhua.

Without blaming any group for the abduction, Farahii said all the mine sweepers were released without any ransom being paid, adding mediation of local elders led to the release of the hostages.

Four bodies of the de-miners were found on Saturday.

However, earlier Farah’s police chief Syed Mohammed Roshani said the Taleban militants of involvement in the abduction, saying the militants killed four de-miners on Saturday after kidnapping them.

An Afghan policeman searches a passenger at a checkpoint in Kabul, Afghanistan on 11 July, 2011.—\textit{Xinhua}

Gummen abduct two US citizens, Filipino relative in S Philippines

ZAMBOANGA CITY, 12 July—A mother and son, both US citizens, and a Filipino relative, who were on brief vacation, were abducted by heavily armed gunmen in an island off the coast east of this city at pre-dawn Tuesday, police and civilian officials said.

The victims were identified as Gerfayeath Usman Lunsingh, 50, her 14-year old son Kevin Erick Lunsingh, both US immigrants; and her nephew Romnick Pebrero, a native of Malamawi Island, Basilan Province.

The two immigrants were on vacation in Tictaban Island when they were abducted from their newly built rest house about 3 am Tuesday, according to the island village chairman Hadji Atang Mohammad Nur, who reported the incident to police authorities. The village official identified the two immigrants through their passports, who were staying in the area since they arrived for their vacation. —\textit{Xinhua}

In this photo, Afghan President Hamid Karzai, second from right, is met by his half brother Ahmad Wali Karzai, left, in Argandab district of Kandahar province, south of Kabul, Afghanistan. —\textit{INTERNET}
Single spacewalk left for NASA’s shuttle era

CAPE CANAVERAL, 12 July—It’s the last spacewalk of the shuttle era. But it will be conducted by a pair of space station residents.

Astronauts Michael Foxxum and Ronald Garan Jr will venture out Tuesday to retrieve a broken ammonia pump outside the International Space Station. They will stow the pump aboard the docked shuttle Atlantis, so it can be returned to Earth for evaluation. The two will also install a robotic refueling experiment on the 245-mile-high outpost.

Only four astronauts are flying aboard Atlantis. It’s the smallest crew in decades — too small, in fact, to have had time to train for this spacewalk. That’s why the job was handed over to the space station crew.

The 13-day flight by Atlantis is the last for NASA’s 30-year shuttle programme.—INTERNET

Filters seen as greenhouse gas weapon

TALLAHASSEE, 12 July—US researchers say biofilters could treat methane venting into the atmosphere from passive landfill vents and reduce its impact on global warming.

Researchers writing in the International Journal of Environmental Engineering say organic matter rotting in smaller, older landfill sites generates a slow trickle of the potent greenhouse gas, amounting to about 2 or 3 kilogrammes per day per vent. Tapping or capturing this slow stream of the gas is not viable technologically or economically, they say, although methane has a global warming impact 21 times greater than carbon dioxide and must be considered when attempting to balance the climate change books.

Old landfills typically have passive gas vents that simply release the gas into the atmosphere, but US researchers say methane oxidation is a better alternative to venting of landfill methane.

The researchers tested two biofilter designs capable of oxidizing methane gas into carbon dioxide and water by using so-called methanotrophic bacteria, microbes that digest methane. Both types of filter, a radial model and a vertical type, were effective in converting methane, they said, providing a significant oxidation rate.—INTERNET

EA Scrabble lets iPhone play with Android

NEW YORK, 12 July—US videogame titan Electronic Arts (EA) on Monday released a version of word game Scrabble that people can play together whether they are using Apple devices, Android gadgets, or Facebook.

Scrabble Free broke from the pattern of limiting adversaries to folks using similar operating platforms, such as iPhone versus iPad or Android smartphone versus a tablet computer also running on the Google-backed operating software.

Scrabble Free was available as a no-cost download at Android Marketplace.

“We really are kind of obsessed right now about how to tear down boundaries of entry to some of these games,” according to EA Interactive senior vice president Chip Lange.

It makes sense that StumbleUpon is investing in its mobile apps — like most web companies, mobile is its fastest growing area. A video conference in progress in Madrid, 2010. Companies are struggling to manage a rising tide of video use in workplaces, with employees expecting business networks to adapt to whatever mobile gadgets they prefer to use.—INTERNET

StumbleUpon launches new iPad app with “social bar”

WASHINGTON, 12 July—Web discovery tool StumbleUpon launched a revamped iPad app on Tuesday features the service’s first “social bar.” The new bar creates a section on each “Stumbled” page that highlights a user who also liked the page. If someone who you follow on StumbleUpon liked the page, his or her avatar might show up there.

If not, now might be the point when StumbleUpon says, the company has received a lot of feedback from users who also want to see what their friends are liking. The new feature is a response to that feedback, and one that could expand to include more than one featured “liker” or extend to other StumbleUpon platforms. Though the only new functionality, the social bar is just one small mended for you” list. Photo thumbnails for your interests and the people you who are following have replaced a “recommende for you” list. Quick links to photos, videos and news have replaced a long sidebar of categories. And you can now swipe to stumble instead of hitting the button, which is not an easy feat considering the data involved in the personal recommendation process.

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Researchers Tomu H Hisakado, Harry Tom, Allen Mills and David Cassidy have found a new way to produce positronium. —INTERNET

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EA Interactive senior vice president Chip Lange said while providing an early glimpse at the game. “The vision is to get people into games in a quick, easy way,” he added.

EA is expanding its Origin game social network into a hub from which users can play with friends regardless of what kind of gadgets they have, according to Lange. “Origin is the technology at EA that is focused on connecting everything we do,” Lange said.

Scrabble Free connects players “cross-platform” through Origin or Facebook, according to EA.—INTERNET
Smoking during pregnancy may predispose kids to heart trouble

SYDNEY, 12 July—Children born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy have lower levels of “good” HDL cholesterol, which may increase their risk of heart attack and stroke later in life, a new study suggests. Australian researchers looked at 405 healthy 8-year-old children and found that those whose mothers smoked during pregnancy had HDL levels of about 1.3 millimoles per liter (mmol/L), compared to a normal level of 1.5 mmol/L in children whose mothers didn’t smoke.

It’s not known how smoking during pregnancy lowers HDL levels in children. The study was published 21 June online in the European Heart Journal.

“Vitamin D may help prevent Alzheimer’s disease,” study leader David Celermajer, a professor of cardiology at the University of Sydney, said in a journal news release.

He and his colleagues noted that rates of smoking by pregnant women are still high — about 15 percent in most Western nations. This means their findings could prove important in efforts to prevent heart disease.

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Cisco could eliminate as many as 10,000 jobs

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 July—Networking equipment company Cisco Systems Inc could eliminate as many as 10,000 jobs, or about 14 percent of its workforce, to revive profit growth, Bloomberg said, citing two people familiar with the matter. As many as 7,000 jobs would be eliminated by the end of August, the people told the agency. Cisco is also providing early-retirement packages to about 3,000 workers who took buyouts, according to Bloomberg.

Early on Monday, Reuters reported that Cisco may slash about 5,000 jobs to meet Chief Executive John Chambers’ goal of slashing costs by $1 billion. Reuters had cited

A new cigarette health warning from the FDA.—INTERNET

Sleep apnea linked to blood vessel disorders in study

BIRMINGHAM, 12 July—Obstructive sleep apnea, a condition that causes pauses in breathing during sleep, plays a role in blood vessel abnormalities and should be treated to prevent potentially fatal heart conditions, a new study suggests. About 15 million adults in the United States have obstructive sleep apnea, according to the American Heart Association.

The condition may cause changes in blood vessel function, cutting blood supply to the heart in otherwise healthy people. Blood vessel dysfunction has been linked in previous research to cardiovascular disorders. For the study, published 11 July in Hypertension, researchers monitored blood vessel function in 108 healthy people.

The participants were divided into three groups: those with moderate or severe obstructive sleep apnea without high blood pressure, those with high blood pressure but no sleep apnea, those with neither sleep apnea nor high blood pressure.

The researchers found that among those with sleep apnea, blood supply and function improved after the participants received 26 weeks of continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) using a device that holds the airway open during sleep.

“The findings should change how doctors treat patients with obstructive sleep apnea,” study author Dr Gregory YH Lip, a professor of cardiovascular medicine at the University of Birmingham in England, said in a journal news release.—INTERNET

Retailers, cash rich, to spend on IT

CHICAGO, 12 July—Retailers have cash on their balance sheets and nearly half of 100 top retail executives said they are planning to spend it on technology, a survey said on Tuesday. Forty-seven percent of executives said they will be investing primarily in Calendar year 2012 in analytical tools to improve company growth, expansion and planning. The survey, conducted in May and June by audit, tax, and advisory firm KPMG LLP, showed that 72 percent of the retailers said they have a great deal of cash on their balance sheets.

Fifty-six percent of them said they only expect a modest improvement in the economy, revenue, and hiring in 2012. The outlook beyond 2012 does not appear promising either: 40 percent of the survey respondents said they don’t expect a full economic recovery until 2013-2014 or later.

And of the 100 retail executives, 23 percent said headcount would never return to prerecession levels.

According to Mark Larson, KPMG global retail leader, retailers and their suppliers will spend money on analytical tools to examine the enormous amount of data captured online and at the cash register.

“Analytics says let’s use emerging technology to do a deep dive into that data to make it useful,” he said.

Business

Health

Cisco could eliminate as many as 10,000 jobs


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INTERNET

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Sleep apnea linked to blood vessel disorders in study

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“The findings should change how doctors treat patients with obstructive sleep apnea,” study author Dr Gregory YH Lip, a professor of cardiovascular medicine at the University of Birmingham in England, said in a journal news release.—INTERNET

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MLF to help expedite tasks for rural development and poverty alleviation

YANGON, 12 July—Patron of the Myanmar Library Foundation Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan held a meeting with Chairman of the foundation U Maung Maung, Vice-Chairman U Nyunt Swe, executives and officials at the foundation in the Printing and Publishing Enterprise on Theinbyu Road in Botahtaung Township here yesterday morning.

The foundation chairman reported on registration of the foundation, amount of cash and publications donated to the foundation, funds of the foundation, trips to the libraries to enable them to meet the five standards of a library, provision of periodicals to village libraries in villages where there are no libraries yet, distribution of pamphlets and video plays for public knowledge of the foundation’s functions, programmes to keep rendering assistance to village libraries, post-literary campaign, and ongoing plans to improve socioeconomic status for rural people.

Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Htut gave accounts of publishing buildings, publications and furniture for establishment of more libraries, plans to organize meetings between officials from Regions and States and officials of the foundation for sustainable development of libraries, arrangements for donating publications and cash, and the foundation’s distribution of free publications. The executives of the foundation presented supplementary reports.

For his part, the patron called for field trips to the 55,755 libraries across the nation to render special assistance to the libraries that meet the five standards and upgrade the libraries that have not met the five standards yet, giving first priority to establishment of libraries, second priority to post-literary programmes and third priority to provision of publications in spending the foundation’s funds, supervising tasks systematically including auditing programmes, mobilizing active participation of townships in the tasks for sustainable development of libraries, conducting courses for libraries, multiplier programmes, seeking ways and programmes to be launched first in townships in Regions and States with potential for setting up fund-raising systems for raising funds of the foundation, educating the public about the functions of the foundation through the media for their participation, and organizing the people to contribute more donations, systematic plans for raising the foundation’s funds. He elaborated on the need of the foundation to take part more broadly in education, health and human resource development of rural development to expedite the tasks being carried out by the government for rural development and poverty alleviation. He noted that all are to work in concert with contributions by the four major sources: the government and local authorities; local people, well-wishers and NGOs; the Information and Public Relations Department; and the foundation.

Also present on the occasion were Managing Director of the Myanna Motion Picture Enterprise U Aung Myo Myint, and heads of Yangon Region and District IPRDs.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan delivers a speech in meeting with officials of Myanmar Library Foundation.—MNA

Myanmar, Thai businessmen meet

YANGON, 12 July—Myanmar and Thai entrepreneurs met at the office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 5 July. President U Win Aung of the federation extended greetings and Secretary General Mrs Chayyartaw village-tract on 7 July.

Atchakar Sibunruang of Thailand Board of Investment made an introductory speech. Next, Thai businessmen and Myanmar entrepreneurs held discussions on mutual cooperation and investment.—MNA

Monsoon tree-planting ceremony held in Myinmu Township

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July—Under the supervision of Myinmu Township General Administration Department, monsoon tree-planting ceremony, jointly organized by Dry Zones Greening Department and Forest Department, was held at a plantation of Chayyartaw village-tract on 7 July.

A total of 3060 saplings were planted at the ceremony.—MNA

Jade, Gems, Pearl Special Sales 2011 continues

Managing Director of Myanma gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and central committee members supervised gems merchants bidding for jade lots.

Likewise, Mani Yadana Jade Hall was packed with visitors and jewellery shoppers. The special sales winds up tomorrow and 120 jade lots have been sold out through competitive bidding system, so far.

Union Minister U Thein Htaik views sale of jade lots through competitive bidding system at Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July—Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales 2011 organized by Central Committee for Myanmar Gems continued at Mani Jade Hall near Myanmar Gems Museum here this morning, Patron of the central committee Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik viewed local and foreign gems merchants purchasing jade lots through competitive bidding system.

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Pragmatic approaches to rural development and poverty alleviation

Po Tha Aung

Rural populace constitute the majority of the population not only in Myanmar but also in most countries. Rural people engage in agricultural farming and raising farm animals. They live in poverty. In Myanmar, 70% of the population reside in rural areas, the majority of whom live at or below the poverty line.

Today, issues of poverty alleviation have become an agenda of the United Nations and the global community. From the political point of view, North America and Europe witnessed industrial countries practising capitalism. The exercise of industrialism and capitalism was followed by colonialism. Taking full advantage of technological upper hand, those countries built seagoing vessels and colonized many countries in South America, Africa, southeastern Asia, southern Asia and the Middle East. They unfairly exploited natural resources and products of their colonies. Therefore, the peoples of the colonies were under the yoke of colonialism. That was the reason why rural farmers got involved in anti-colonialist campaigns, independence struggles and revolutions.

Having a look back to the history of human beings (world history), the majority of world people became slaves in the feudal age. In the age of landlordism, the majority of world people became farming slaves. And in the colonial age, the majority of world people became dust-cheap labourers and slaves of colonialists.

Myanmar people fell under the subjugation of British colonialists and withstood oppression, tyranny and unfair taxes for more than 100 years. Therefore, workers staged Oilfield Workers’ Uprising and peasants, Myanmar Era 1300 Peasants’ Uprising as the colonialists’ treatment became intolerable.

Myanmar peasants (rural people) existed on agricultural farming with conventional farming methods. British colonialists imported Chettiyars from India. They lent the imported Indians money at the monthly interest rate of three kyats in every 100 kyats. The Indians lent money to rural farmers, urban wage earners, vendors and lowly-paid servants at the monthly interests of 20 to 40 kyats in every 100 kyats. In some years, crops failures occurred due to climate changes or pests, peasants were unable to settle the loans with high interests, and pay tenant fees to the land owners. Then, Chettiyars filed lawsuits against borrowers. Farms, cattle, farm equipment and houses of farmers were seized and auctioned.

Such British companies as Steel Brothers and Boolinger Pool bought farmers’ agricultural produce at lowest prices, and exported the crops, thus making substantial profits. In consequence, the whole life of the Myanmar farmers was a constant battle against poverty. At that time, a basket of paddy was sold only for five annas, and Myanmar people had to use Indian currency Rupee. One Rupee is equal to 16 annas. So, three baskets of paddy were sold for less than one kyat. It culminated in the Myanmar Era 1300 Farmers’ Uprising led by traditional medical practitioner Supannaka Galhua Raja Galon Saya San (a member of General Council of Buddhists’ Association led by U Soe Thein).

In the post-independence period, the nation saw the civil war owing to different dogmatisms, mushrooming political parties, so many factions, and rebellions. Rural people could not work well. They had to depend completely on the rainfall to grow crops. There were no dams for agricultural purposes. They suffered landlords’ exploitation up to 1960. Only after the Tatmadaw took up State responsibilities, the nation came to witness stability and peace. It built about 270 dams and large numbers of roads, railways and bridges for swift commodity flow.

It adopted the five tasks for rural development and reclaimed millions of acres of vacant lands for agricultural purposes. Then, farmers could launch mixed- and multiple-cropping patterns, and the nation saw signs of mechanized farming.

The 7-6-2011 issue of the Mirror Daily carries a news story with the headline “According to statistics, poverty rate in Myanmar declines remarkably, poverty rate stood at 32% in 2004-2005, poverty rate reduced to 26% in 2009-2010”.

At the National Workshop on figures and data collected jointly in 2010 by the Planning Department under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF, and Sweden International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development and for Livestock and Fisheries U Tin Naing Thein disclosed that poverty rate in Myanmar fell from 32% to 26%.

The Union government led by President U Thein Sein that emerged in accordance with State Agreement on the 21st Century and Socialism, restored stability and peace, reduced the poverty rate from 32% to 26%, and the people launched the eight tasks for rural development and poverty alleviation.

Meeting (1/2011) of the Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation took place at the President Office in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 June 2011. On the occasion, President U Thein Sein in his speech said that about 70% of the country’s population of about 60 million were rural residents; that the majority of the poor lived in rural areas; that the previous government laid down the five tasks for rural development to improve the socioeconomic status for needy people in rural areas; and that so success was achieved to some extent in building sound foundations in education, health, transportation, and supply of clean water and irrigation water.

The Workshop on Rural Development and Poverty alleviation adopted eight tasks: development of agricultural productivity, development of livestock breeding and fisheries, development of small-scale rural productivity, development of microfinance institutions, development of cooperative tasks, development of rural socio-economy, development of rural energy, and environmental conservation.

Regarding the plan of action to reduce poverty, President U Thein Sein said that according to the statistics on basic needs of households collected jointly by the UNDP and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, poverty rate in Myanmar had dropped from 32% to 26%; that however, to meet the goal (1) of the UN Millennium Development Goal, poverty rate was to be halved by 2015; that therefore Myanmar’s poverty rate would have to be reduced to 16% by 2014-2015; that in order to implement those tasks effectively, the Union level central committee, work committees and Region/State level work committees had been formed; that the central committee would adopt and supervise policies; and that for the Union level work committee, Union ministers would take charge of a task each and support the region and state level rural development and poverty alleviation committees, which would have to take practical measures.

And Region and state level work committees are to go down to 330 townships and 82 sub-townships and accomplish the tasks in cooperation with the rural people who really want to work in their own areas and public interests.

The meeting of the Central Committee held on 20 June 2011 passed a frame of Action Plan for rural development and poverty alleviation. Union ministers from respective ministries reported on how they would implement those ministry-wise. It is therefore safe to say that enough arrangements for rural development and poverty alleviation have been made.

The term of the Action Plan is from 1 July 2011 to 31 December 2015.

To achieve the Action Plan, societies will be formed with congenial persons in townships and villages. The societies will be transformed into cooperatives societies with bottom up initiative, not with top down policy. So, there will be smooth relations between superiors and subordinates.

Detailed programmes have been laid down to carry out the eight tasks in combination. The previous (Tatmadaw) government restored stability and peace, built national unity and improved infrastructures. It also built inter-village roads, roads linking rural and urban areas, Union highways and roads. They serve as sound foundations for rural development and poverty alleviation. Now, the people have launched a good start to implement the tasks. If rural people do their bit in the tasks with a sense of obligation, their dreams of development and poverty alleviation will come true sooner than on schedule.
LAOTIAN PRIME MINISTER... (from page 1)

Next, the Laotian delegation led by Prime Minister Mr. Thongsing Thammavong viewed round thriving high-yield paddy strain plantation and high-yield sugarcane plantation on a motorcade.

Laotian Prime Minister Mr. Thongsing Thammavong and party visited Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw where they were welcomed by Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung and members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees and others.

Afterwards, the Laotian delegation led by Prime Minister Mr. Thongsing Thammavong observed marble paintings depicting the Buddhahood and paid homage to the Jade Buddha Image.

LAOTIAN PRIME MINISTER... (from page 1)

Next, Laotian Prime Minister Mr. Thongsing Thammavong presented cash donations to the Pagoda through the Union Religious Minister who presented a picture of the Pagoda to him.

The Laotian Prime Minister and party also visited the White Elephants Shed in the compound of the Pagoda.

On his arrival at Myanmar Gems Museum, Laotian Prime Minister Mr. Thongsing Thammavong signed the visitors’ book.

The visiting Laotian delegation led by Prime Minister Mr. Thongsing Thammavong left here for Yangon this morning. They were seen off at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and officials.
Uppatasanti Pagoda Ovadacariya Sayadawgs give Ovada

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July—A ceremony to take Ovada from Uppatasanti Pagoda Board of Trustees Sayadaws was held at Sasana Beikman in the precinct of the pagoda here this evening.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Ovadacariya of Uppatasanti Pagoda Board of Trustees Nikaya Nayupadesakyuang Musoein Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Badayanta Tejosoarabhivamsa and Ovada Sayadaw and Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Mayor U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, members of the pagoda board of trustees, and departmental heads.

The congregation received Five Precepts from the Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Next, Patrons of Uppatasanti pagoda Board of Trustees Union Minister U Thein Nyunt and Union Minister Thura U Myint Maung supplicated religious affairs.

Ovadacariya Sayadaws of Uppatasanti Pagoda Board of Trustees: the Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and SSMNC Secretary Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jakdadhaja Bhaddanta Keminadasami delivered Ovadakatha.

The Union ministers and the attendees presented offerings to the Ovadacariya Sayadaws, and the Secretary of SSMNC delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of the merits gained for the donation.

Yangon Region eyes micro credit schemes development

YANGON, 12 July — Yangon Region work committee for rural development and poverty alleviation held a coordination meeting on development of micro credit schemes in the region today. To get financial assistance, micro credit schemes has played an important role in implementing the eight tasks for rural development and poverty alleviation, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe said at the meeting held at Yangon Region Government Office.

The tasks have been carried in the region as from 1 July, 2011, he added. Chairman of the central cooperative association limited U Khin Maung Aye reported on the schemes and replied queries raised by participants of the meeting.

Measures for efficient use of electricity and gas coordinated

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July—A work coordination meeting on use of natural gas by State-owned factories and plants took place at Ministry of Industry-2 here this afternoon.

Chairman of the Myanmar Industrial Development Committee Union Minister for Industry-2 U Soe Thein said that the world have paid growing attention to energy efficiency, energy saving, energy conversation, and recycling of waste emergency. By 2020, present energy consumption rate must be reduced to some extent, he noted, calling for energy management for efficient use of energy.

Union Minister for Electric Power-1 U Zaw Min said that the nation has potential for increasing production of electric power from 1200-1600 million to 8400 million kilowatts a day; and that it will be more convenient for enterprises if they run at night as electricity consumption is lower at night than in daytime.

Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay said that in 2009-2010 fiscal year, the nation’s gas demand was 571.71 million cubic feet, but it could be fulfilled by 231.44 million cubic feet; and that the nation will produce only 420 million cubic feet of gas.

Deputy Minister for Electric Power-2 U Aung Than Oo dealt with electric power consumption and supply in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and remaining Regions and States, and programmes for expeditious use of electric power.

The attendees reported on demand of electric power and gas in departments, State-run factories and workshops.

The committee chairman said that strategically, new power plants will be built near the northern part of Myanmar that has source potential, and ways should be sought for energy efficiency, energy saving, energy conversation, and recycling of waste emergency.

5th Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament goes on

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July—The 5th Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament continued the first round matches at the designated places today.


Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, officials concerned, staff and families enjoyed the football match at No.2 Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground.


Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe giving speech at work coordination meeting for poverty alleviation and rural development.

Uppatasanti Pagoda visits Shwedagon Pagoda.
NAV PiTaw, 12 July—The Myanmar War Veterans Organization held the first-day session of its conference (2011) at its Headquarters in Dekkhinathiri Township, here, this morning.

Presiding over the first session, Chairman of the Central Organizing Committee of MWVO Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo said that the Central Organizing Committee was reconstituted on 20 April 2011 according to Notification (26/2011) of President Office. The conference is in its fourth time. In reforming the committee, the President Office laid down seven tasks. The Central Organizing Committee has adopted the five sectors to implement the five tasks: national politics, State defence and security, economy, social affairs and welfare, and community welfare services.

At the township level, subcommittees that have been formed as township organization committees are the most fundamental to realization of the goals of MWVO.

In conclusion, he called for upholding the 12 objectives of the nation and the people’s four desires as a national duty, and Our Three Main National Causes as the national political path, serving as a national defence force working with congenial organizations for further integrating MWVO, and choosing suitable businesses according to the regions, climate patterns and natural resources for raising funds. He noted that MWVO will achieve greater success in pursuing its goal if Region/State supervisory committees and township organizing committees share duties systematically.

Capt Maung Toe (Retd) from Katha Township in Sagaing Region tabled a motion in connection with increased pension rates according to Notification 106/2011 dated 30-6-2011 of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue. It was seconded by Capt Kyaw Thet Maw (Retd) from Kawthoung Township in Tanintharyi Region.

The morning session was chaired by Central Organizing Committee Member Maj-Gen Ngwe Tin, and the afternoon session, by Central Organizing Committee Member Maj-Gen Than Soe.

Central Organizing Committee Secretary (1) Vice-Adjutant-General Col Than Oo read the report of the Central Organizing Committee. Respective representatives reported on progress in implementing tasks of Regions and States to the conference.

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NAY PiTaw, 12 July.—Chairman of Myanmar National Sport Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan met Secretary of World Chess Federation Mr Leong Chee Weng Ignatius, at National Stadium (1) in Thingangyun Township here this afternoon. At the call, they discussed development of Myanmar Chess.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan met Secretary of World Chess Federation Mr Leong Chee Weng Ignatius.---MNA

MNA

YANGON, 11 July — Members Daw Khin Phyu Shwe and Daw Mi Phyo Thi Win of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association left for Indonesia on 8 July, to attend of “The ASEAN+6 International Youth Camp 2011” being organized in Lomok of Nusa Tenggara Barat Province of Indonesia from 9 to 13 July.

They were seen off by executives and members of MWEA at Yangon International Airport.---MNA

MWEA members leave for Indonesia

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MNA

Chairman of the Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo delivering speech at first-day session of its conference 2011.—MNA
Two train derailment within 1 day, more than 300 casualties

BEIJING, 12 July—There’ve been two derailments in India within a span of 24 hours. A suspected explosion on the led a passenger train to run off its tracks in northeastern India’s Assam State. Another tragedy within a day. A powerful explosion ripped along stretches of tracks and caused the derailment of the Guwahati-Puri Express, which was travelling from Guwahati, the state capital of Assam to Puri in India’s eastern Orissa State. Anil Kumar Saxena, Officer of Indian Northern Railway, said, “Sunday night at 8:20, near Rangia division of the North East Frontier Railway around 10 kilometres away from the Rangia station, the train had just left the station, and it had travelled around 8 to 10 kilometres when we received information of a bomb blast on the track and because of that eight carriages of the train derailed.” Rescue operations are in full swing.

B’desh crash kills 53 schoolboys after football match

CHITTAGONG, 12 July—A bus carrying scores of Bangladeshi schoolboys celebrating a football match victory against another school plunged off a hill road on Monday killing at least 53, police said. The accident happened at Mirersarai, 240 kilometres (150 miles) southeast of the capital Dhaka, near the port of Chittagong. Survivors told reporters at the hospital that the children were in a happy mood, singing and dancing, when the bus crashed 50 feet into a flooded ditch. The weather was cloudy after days of rain. Police and witnesses said that as many as 80 children between eight and 12 were on board. Local official Giasuddin Ahmed said 53 bodies had been recovered and 15 injured boys were taken to hospital, including 10 in critical condition.—MNA/Reuters

Death toll of Russian ship sinking rises to 65

MOSCOW, 12 July— The Russian Emergency Situations Ministry has confirmed early Tuesday that at least 65 were killed in Sunday’s ship sinking in the Volga River. A ministry spokesman told Interfax news agency that as of 9:30 am Moscow time (0330 GMT), a total of 65 dead bodies have been lifted from the sunken cruise ship “Bulgaria,” which was heavily overloaded with some 200 passengers than its capacity limit of 120. The spokesman said rescuers and divers continued searching in the wreckage. According to the Russian Transport Ministry, the 56-year-old ship was not allowed to transport passengers and the shipowner did not acquire a license for the voyage.

UK author jailed for criticizing ‘Singapore’s use of death penalty’ freed

LONDON, 12 July — A British author has been freed from a Singapore prison after serving time for contempt of court over his book that insulted the judiciary in Singapore. Alan Shadrake, 76, was sentenced to six weeks in jail and fined 20,000 dollars for scandalizing the judiciary in his book Once a Jolly Hangman: Singapore’s use of death penalty. He is on a plane going to London,” said Ravi, adding that Shadrake had been treated at the prison hospital for a slipped disc.

Spiked soda kills NorCal teenager

SANTA ROSA, 12 July — A Northern California teenager died and three friends became violently ill after sharing a soda at a weekend sleepover party, authorities said. The 14-year-old girl was pronounced dead on the floor after being found unresponsive on the floor of her Santa Rosa home, Sonoma County sheriff’s deputies told The San Francisco Chronicle. Investigators said all four girls had become sick the night before. They told the dead girl’s mother they suspected they were suffering food poisoning. “However, it was learned that the victim had passed around a soda that had a yet-to-be-determined substance mixed in it,” Sheriff’s Lt Steve Brown said. Official asked the parents of the other three girls to take them to a hospital to be checked out. The names of the girls were not released.—Xinhua

Tower crane collapse kills three in N China

HOHhot, 12 July — Three workers were killed and another one injured after a tower crane collapsed at a construction site of a residential building in Bayan Nur City, north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Sunday morning. The regional work safety watchdog said that the accident happened at 10:30 am at the building site of Jiankang Xinjiayuan residential community. The cause of the accident is under further investigation. —Xinhua

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Gold hoard found in French cellar

Paris, 12 July — A French couple have found a hoard of gold coins worth at least 10,000 euros ($14,000) in the cellar of their home in the town of Millau. They were working on their drains when they dug up 34 coins in a little clay pot, French media said. The coins date from 1595 to 1789, said a local coin expert who evaluated them. The most valuable is a double louis, or 100,000 euros at auction, according to a local coin expert who examined them.

Ten decapitated bodies found in Torreon, Mexico

Mexico City, 12 July — The decapitated bodies of three women and seven men have been found in an abandoned lorry in the northern Mexican city of Torreon, police say. One head was found on the windshield. The others were dumped by the roadside, along with threatening messages. They were found after a night of violence across northern Mexico.

National Security Spokesman Alejandro Poire attributed the beheadings to a battle between two drug gangs, the Zetas and the Sinaloa cartel. Police said the 10 had probably been killed a few days back, as the bodies were showing signs of decomposition. During the previous night at least 40 people were killed in suspected drug-related violence. Mr Poire said the government was not letting up in its fight against the drug cartels. "The violence won't stop if we stop battling criminals," he said. In January, the government of President Felipe Calderon said more than 34,000 people had been killed in a four-year offensive against drug gangs. The figure is believed to have risen considerably since then.

Why do Americans die younger than Britons?

Washington, 12 July — Living in the world's richest country comes at a price, and it's measured in life years. Men in the US are on average aged 75 when they die. That is 1.5 years younger than men in the UK and 3.5 years younger than men in Australia, says a new study. American women live on average to just under 81 - about three years younger than the average Australian woman.

While life expectancy in the US continues to improve, says the report by researchers at University of Washington in Seattle and Imperial College, London, it is not increasing as quickly as in other Western countries, so the gap is widening. "The researchers suggest that the relatively low life expectancy in the US cannot be explained by the size of the nation, racial diversity, or economic factors," says the document, which ranks the US 38th in the world for life expectancy overall.

Many thanks to those attended honourable & distinguished

The agreement was reached for the matter of the proposed sale contract of two Jade Lot No. 601/602 between Thidar Mya Nann Jade & Gems Excavation & Marketing Co., Ltd and U Kyaw Kyaw Hein. For the above matter, the press conference was held at City Star Hotel on 28th June 2011.

On behalf of chairman U Hla Tun, I, myself, U Kyaw Kyaw Hein would like to express my sincere thanks to those attended honourable & distinguished journalists and guests.

Thidar Mya Nann Jade & Gems Excavation & Marketing Co., Ltd

Parameters in the life expectancy gap between the US and Australia

The report produced by researchers at the University of Washington in Seattle and Imperial College, London, found a number of parameters in the life expectancy gap between the US and Australia.

1. Physical activity

US adults have fewer opportunities to engage in physical activity compared to Australian adults. This is due to factors such as urbanization, changes in transportation, and the availability of recreational facilities. While Australia has a culture of physical activity, such as jogging and cycling, the US has a more sedentary lifestyle.

2. Obesity

Obesity is a major contributor to reduced life expectancy in the US. The obesity rate in the US is higher than in Australia, which has a lower rate of obesity. The US has a culture that emphasizes weight loss and health, whereas Australia has a more relaxed approach.

3. Smoking

Smoking is another factor that contributes to reduced life expectancy in the US. While smoking rates have decreased in the US, they remain higher than in Australia. The US has a culture that emphasizes the negative effects of smoking, whereas Australia has a more relaxed approach.

4. Diet

The US diet is high in sugar, fat, and salt, which contribute to chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. The US has a culture that emphasizes unhealthy eating, whereas Australia has a more healthy eating culture.

5. Alcohol consumption

The US has a culture that emphasizes alcohol consumption, whereas Australia has a more moderate approach to alcohol. The US has a higher rate of alcohol-related deaths, which contributes to reduced life expectancy.

6. Access to healthcare

The US has a more fragmented healthcare system, which makes it more difficult for people to access healthcare. The US has a culture that emphasizes individual responsibility for health, whereas Australia has a more collective approach.

7. Income

The US has a larger income gap than Australia, which contributes to reduced life expectancy. The US has a culture that emphasizes individual success and wealth, whereas Australia has a more collectivistic approach.

Correction


Ryan O’Neal sues over Andy Warhol Farrah Fawcett art

Los Angeles, 12 July — Actor Ryan O’Neal is being sued by the University of Texas over the ownership of an Andy Warhol portrait of his late long-time companion, Farrah Fawcett.

The university has asked a Los Angeles judge to order the Oscar-nominated star to hand over the painting it claims the actress bequeathed its Austin campus. O’Neal’s spokesman said the portrait was one of two Warhol made of the Charlie’s Angels star in 1979. Arnold Robinson added the legal action was “completely ridiculous”. The university had hired investigators to track down the Warhol portrait. However, its whereabouts was discovered after O’Neal’s current reality TV show revealed it to be hanging above his bed at his Malibu home.

In a statement, Mr Robinson said the university had known for more than a year that the actor had the painting, which is thought to be worth $30m (£18.7m). O’Neal claims his portrait of Fawcett is one of two Andy Warhol created.

Fighter plane collision at RAF Duxford show investigated

London, 12 July — An inquiry has begun after two classic US fighter planes collided during an air display show in Cambridgeshire. One of the planes, thought to be a P-51 Mustang, plummeted to the ground after the aircrafts’ wings touched, forcing the pilot to parachute to safety.

The pilot of the other plane, a Skyraider, went on to land safely, after the military aircraft took to the air during the Flying Legends show. No-one was injured in the accident during the show, near RAF Duxford. Mark Brown, a pilot from Westminster who was watching the show, said he saw a “large chunk” of the Skyraider’s wing torn off in the collision.

“The violence won’t stop if we stop battling criminals,” he said. In January, the government of President Felipe Calderon said more than 34,000 people had been killed in a four-year offensive against drug gangs. The figure is believed to have risen considerably since then.

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Gator caught in Boca Raton

Boca Raton, Fla, residents were surprised to find a 7-foot alligator roaming the city’s Country Park neighbourhood, officials say.

Word about the gator spread fast, WPTV of West Palm Beach, Fla, reported Sunday. “Nobody can visit us,” lamented 10-year-old Camillo Villegas.

When police arrived, they set up a perimeter, while Bryan Mudd, an alligator control agent with the Division of Fish and Wildlife, began to creep up behind the reptile.

“Once you get his mouth taped, he’s pretty much safe,” said Mudd, adding “You drag it you let it get tired so when it’s tired it’s easier to handle. I let it beat itself up.”

Alligators that are over 5 feet long are processed for their meat and hide, and thus was the fate of this big guy.

Halle Berry left shaken after intruder ‘jumped privacy wall’ at her home

LONDON, 12 July—Halle Berry was left shaken after she spotted an intruder jumping over a privacy wall around her home.

According to TMZ com, Berry, 44, called up the police after she saw the intruder lurking around her front yard, the Daily Mail reported.

But by the time her security team and other people run outside, the intruder, believed to be a stalker or a photographer, had jumped back over the wall.

The Los Angeles police responded to the scene and are investigating the incident.

Jennifer Lopez’s mum told her she could even be US President

LONDON, 12 July—Jennifer Lopez has said that her ‘exuberance and love of music’ come from her mother, who taught her that she could do anything that she wanted to do - even be President of the United States.

Born in the Bronx, a poor area of New York, Lopez was virtually broke to us when we were young.

“Those basic values were drummed into my head: ‘Be good. Work hard. Do the right thing. Don’t hurt anybody.’”

“My exuberance and love of music came from my mum. Home alone at night, I’d entertain us. Mostly things from her own childhood, like The Shirelles, The Ronettes and The Supremes.

“She’d sing. We would act out plays or watch musicals. She loved the movie West Side Story and knew it by heart. I think maybe Mum was a frustrated entertainer and I am living her dream.”

Halle Berry

Lil Wayne’s ex plans to open charity for teen moms

LONDON, 12 July—Singer Lil Wayne’s ex-fiance Nivea is launching her own charity to provide support and guidance to troubled teen mothers.

The R&B singer, best known for her singles “Don’t Mess With My Man” and “Laundromat”, is launching her own charity to provide support and guidance to troubled teen mothers.

“Nivea is launching her own charity to provide support and guidance to troubled teen mothers,” contactmusic.com quoted the 29-year-old as saying.

“They’re just sitting in shelters, waiting ‘til they can get a job so they can take care of a baby or two that they have and it’s the most depressing thing,” she added.

Robber wrote about crime in diary

Authorities in Britain say a man who denied being involved in an armed robbery was convicted after making a note of the crime in his diary.

Police said Jonathan Ochola, 21, initially denied helping Rashad Delawala steal $795 from the Ladbrokes gambling facility in Southsea, England, in June 2010, but he changed his tune when police found a diary entry from the same date reading, “Go Portsmouth robbery happens,” The (Portsmouth) News reported Monday.

“When we found the diary we thought it was quite unusual. You don’t normally get a good piece of evidence like that,” Detective Constable Mel Sinclair said. “But he was foolish enough to put it in his diary and he said in his interview that it was stupid.”

Ochala was convicted on a robbery charge in Portsmouth Crown Court.

Jennifer Lopez and her mother Guadalupe when first living in Hollywood.

“My mother, Guadalupe, taught me all about clean living. I have never taken a drug, never smoked a cigarette and do not drink at all. My mother embedded it all in

Police find burglar through dog

Police in Centralia, Wash, say they apprehended a burglary suspect after his dog was found at the scene of the crime.

While investigating a string of burglaries that took place in the city Sunday, police found a pit bull left behind at one crime scene, Seattle’s KOMO-TV reported.

One of the investigating officers recognized the dog as belonging to a 19-year-old man. Police officers went to the man’s home, and allegedly saw some of the stolen items. They later returned with a search warrant and found more items that were reported stolen.

The man was arrested and booked into the Lewis County Jail on residential burglary charges.

Jennifer Lopez and her mother Guadalupe

‘Harry Potter’ villain Tom Felton planning rapper career!

LONDON, 12 July—Actor Tom Felton, who plays villain Draco Malfoy in ‘Harry Potter’ movie, is set to entertain his fans as a Snoop Dogg-style rapper.

Felton is aiming for a music career now that the schoolboy wizard’s adventures are at an end. The 23-year-old, who has clinched a recording deal with an independent label, revealed: “I was thinking of doing some N-Dubz-style stuff. I am looking to get into the grime rap UK scene.”

“I’m going to change my image— backward caps, the lot,” the Sun quoted him as saying. He cited Dappy out of N-Dubz as his inspiration but said: “It’s still under wraps so I can’t really talk about it.”—Internet

The New Light of Myanmar Wednesday, 13 July, 2011
Cisse to sign for Lazio

Rome, 12 July—French striker Djibril Cisse will sign for Lazio from Greek side Panathinaikos on Tuesday, according to reports here Monday. Cisse will earn a reported 2.1 million euros a year, while Lazio will pay a fee of six million euros ($8.4 million), according to Italian news agency Ansa.

The player, 29, who was the top scorer in the Greek top flight in each of his two seasons with Panathinaikos, becomes Lazio’s seventh summer recruit. He is due to arrive in Rome Tuesday to undergo a medical before signing a four-year contract.

Europea League hopefuls Lazio earlier agreed a deal with Lithuania defender Marius Stankevicius of Sampdoria. The club have already captured German striker Miroslav Klose (Bayern Munich), as well as Italian international goalkeeper Federico Marchetti (Cagliari), Albania midfielder Lorik Cana (Galatasaray), Bosnian full-back Senad Lulic (Young Boys Bern), and French-born full-back Abdoulay Konko (Genoa). — Internet

French international striker Djibril Cisse

Tiger ‘announcement’ actually news about agent

NEW YORK, 12 July—There was no major announcement from Tiger Woods on Monday, no matter what the hours of frenzied speculation online said. Late Sunday, Golf Channel promoted that it would release some news involving Woods on Monday morning.

That turned out to be word that his agent, Mark Steinberg, was joining Excel Sports Management. But before that, Steinberg had cut the rumors buzzing around the Internet that the golfer was about to make a big announcement about himself.

Cyclists ride towards Saint Flour during the 9th stage of the Tour de France cycling race on 208 kilometres (129 miles) starting in Issoire and finishing in Saint Flavre, central France, on 10 July. 2011. — Internet

6-year-old Illinois girl quietly sinks hole in one

BLOOMINGTON, 12 July—A 6-year-old golfer sank a hole in one on a course in central Illinois and calmly walked back to her cart. Why such a quiet reaction? Reagan Kennedy’s father had told the Bloomington girl not to make a lot of noise on the course.

But 13-year-old Cheyenne Bregoud says she told her younger sister that a hole in one was the one time a golfer could be excused for making a little noise. The (Bloomington) Pantagraph reports that Kennedy made the 85-yard shot on the third hole at The Links at Ireland Grove last week.

Mother Erin Kennedy says her husband starting to put a golf club in Reagan’s hands when she was only 2. Reagan Kennedy says she’s now working toward her ultimate golf goal — beating her father.

Tiger Woods

Steinberg told The Associated Press on Monday: “There’s an erroneous report that he’s making an announcement, but he’s not.” Woods said last Tuesday he would skip this week’s British Open because of “minor injuries” to his left leg that haven’t fully healed, the second straight major he will miss. Steinberg left IMG in May.

Argentina swamp Costa Rica in Copa America

CÓRDOBA, 12 July — A reborn Argentina swamped Costa Rica 3-0 on Monday to reach the quarter-finals of the Copa America in style courtesy of a brace from Sergio Aguero and another from Angel Di Maria.

A $4,000 strong crowd gave Argentine forward Lionel Messi (pictured, R) a huge ovation following his team’s 3-0 win over Costa Rica in the Copa America at the Mario Kempes stadium in Córdoba.—INTERNET

Spain recalls World Cup triumph one year on

MADRID, 12 July—Spain is on Monday celebrating the first anniversary of their World Cup final victory against the Netherlands at Soccer City in Johannesburg. “11 July last year was an extraordi- nary day that will never be forgotten,” said Spain coach Vicente Del Bosque. Del Bosque was speaking at the inauguration of the “Exposicion de la Seleccion Espanola”, a riverside walkway in Madrid where thousands of fans of La Roja gathered to celebrate the World Cup triumph.

“3 year on I feel just as happy as I did that night, knowing that we achieved exactly what we went to South Africa to do. “It is a source of great satisfaction to know that we finally won the World Cup for Spain 80 years after the competition came into being.” Madrid’s decision to officially recognise the national team’s achievement comes after a weekend in which ceremonies have been held across the country and huge swathes of media coverage have been given over to re- remembering what happened that night in Johannesburg.—INTERNET

Spain’s coach Vicente Del Bosque holds up the trophy during the award ceremony following their 2010 FIFA World Cup match against the Netherlands in 2010. — INTERNET
Weather forecast for 13th July, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region/States</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Forecast Percent</th>
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<td>26/79</td>
<td>Isolated rain or thundershower 80%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>20/68</td>
<td>Isolated rain or thundershower 80%</td>
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A village road is covered with volcanic ash from the eruption of Mount Soputan in Tombat, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, Sunday, on 3 July, 2011.—Intrawnet

Erupting volcano forces 1,000 to flee in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 12 July—Nearly 1,000 residents have fled two villages near an Indonesian volcano that has been erupting this week and has a history of violent explosions. Disaster management official Warsito said 977 people from Kaskasen and Kinilow villages evacuated Tuesday to a school in the district town of Tomohon.

Mount Lokon has been at the highest alert level since Sunday and has had small eruptions daily. People were urged to stay up to 2.2 miles (3.5 kilometres) away from the 5,741-foot (1,750-metre) volcano. The mountain in north Sulawesi province is one of about 129 active volcanos in Indonesia.—Internet

CONDOLENCES

Daw Ahmar (a) Daw Itwe Kyi (Sagagu Ahmarlay)

Deepst sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family of the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wyuna Maung Lwin and wife Daw Lin Lin Tin on the sudden demise of their beloved mother Daw Ahmar (a) Daw Hwe Kyi (Sagagu Ahmarlay - Independence Mawgun Award Winner - Second Class) on 9-7-2011 in Yangon at the age of 83 years.

Dr. Myint Han-Honorary Consul

Yangon General Consulate

Asleep in Jesus

Daw Nyunt Zin (a) Mrs. Daisy Boey

Aged (87) years

Mrs. Daisy Boey, daughter of (U Pho Nyan-Daw Kyin), beloved wife of (Mr. Pakyeng Boey), beloved mother of Daw Khin Khin Aye (Pamela) (Loi Hein), (U Kyaw Win/Alan-Daw Si Si Nyunt, Daw Ym Yin Aye (Catherine) M.P.F, Daw Phyu Phyu Aye (Pircilla) (UNMIS, Sudan), Daw Dr Hla Hla Aye (Caroline) (ex-Director MOH) - ex-Bishop Zothan Mawia (Methodist Church, L/M), Daw Cho Cho Aye (Angela) WHO, Dr Peter Boey, Dr Roland Boey-Dr Khan Than Myint, grandmother of Hilary, Bruno, Christo, Grace (Loi Hein), Theodore, Christopher, Timothy was called to her Heavenly Home at Cardiac Care Unit, Yangon General Hospital at 10:40 am on Monday 11.7.2011. Funeral service will be held at Methodist English Church, 63, Alanpya Pagoda Road on 15.7.2011 (Friday) at 09:30 am and then will be entombed at All Christian Denominations Cemetery (Wayaway) at 11.30 am. Friends and relatives please kindly accept this as the only intimation. The bereaved family
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People’s Desire</th>
<th>VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RFA, DVB-generating public outrage</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles</td>
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Visiting Laotian Prime Minister Mr. Thongsing Thammavong and party tour Yangon

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe greets Prime Minister of Lao People’s Democratic Republic Mr. Thongsing Thammavong at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Yangon, 12 July—The visiting goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of Lao People’s Democratic Republic Mr. Thongsing Thammavong arrived here from Nay Pyi Taw by special flight at 11:55 am today. The Laotian delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and ministers and officials of Lao PDR Embassy.

The Laotian guests, together with Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu, Director-

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (12-7-2011)

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<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Gwa</td>
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<td>Kanbalu</td>
<td>1.34 inches</td>
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