Supreme Court of the Union plants saplings

NAV Pyi Taw, 22 June—The monsoon tree growing ceremony was held in the environs of the Supreme Court of the Union, here, this morning.

Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo planted a teak sapling.

Next, judges of the Supreme Court of the Union, the director-general and officials and staff grew saplings. The Chief Justice of the Union, judges of the Supreme Court of the Union and departmental heads viewed growing of saplings. They cultivated 500 saplings at the ceremony. MNA

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs receives Special Envoy of President of ROK

NAV Pyi Taw, 22 June—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Mr Hong Joon-Pyo, Special Envoy of President of ROK.

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin receives Mr Hong Joon-Pyo, Special Envoy of President of ROK—MNA

Cash, foodstuffs, clothes donated for local people of Rakhine State

NAV Pyi Taw, 22 June—At the office of Relief and Resettlement Department of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (Head Office), here, wellwishers donate cash, foodstuff and clothes for the local people of Rakhine State who lost possessions and property in the current situations.

U Zaw Min Win-Daw Nan Aung and family donated K 100,000, staff families of the Ministry of Science and Technology K 178,500 and clothes, hats and instant noodles worth K 226,050, U Thaw Zin, U Nay Win, U Tin Moe Win and U Aung Aung K 55,000 on 19 June. Col Aye Ko (Rtd)-Daw Hla Hla Aye and family donated K 500,000, Daw Hlaung May Kyaw K 50,000 on 20 June. Daw Ma Ma Lay (Assistant Lecturer)/(Rtd)(GTI Insein, Toungoo) donated K 500,000 and Thabyegon (Vegetable) Market rice, detergent power, slippers and clothes worth K 278,500 on 21 June. Sayadow U Nandamala of Dhamma-cariya Pariyatti Monastery of Masoeyein Ward in Pyinmana donated men’s and women’s wares worth K 400,000, faculty members of Ministry of Science and Technology K 30,000, clothes and one box of medicines, Ma Giy and family K 10,000, Myat Pan Taw (Assistant Lecturer) (Rtd) of (Insein, Toungoo) donated K 10,000, Myat Pan Tawwin Family clothes and foodstuff worth K 320,000, Ministry of Science and Technology clothes worth K 47600, Ministry of Labour clothes worth K 16500 and First Private Bank Ltd clothes worth K 14000.—MNA

Ronaldo inspires Portugal to reach quarterfinal at Euro 2012

Photo taken on 21 June, 2012 shows a classic mechanical clock during the Hong Kong Jewellery and Gem Fair held at the convention and exhibition center of Hong Kong, south China.

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Ferrer beats Sijsling to reach UNICEF Open semifinals

HANOI, 22 June — The US Navy’s research vessel, Roger Revelle, docked at Tien Sa Port in Vietnam’s central Da Nang city on Friday morning, beginning its eight-day visit trip to the city, reported Vietnam News Agency on Friday. The mission was made under a cooperative programme on oceanic research of the South China Sea and interaction of the sea and mainland between the Vietnam Ministry of Science and Technology and the US Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), according to the report. During their stay, 28 US officers and sailors will provide training courses for Vietnamese scientists and researchers in oceanic studies in service of the latter’s oceanic research and management. The vessel is scheduled to depart on 29 June. Roger Revelle belongs to the US Navy and is run by the Scripps Oceanic Institute of the University of California in San Diego. The ship is equipped with modern facilities for oceanographic research.

Vietnamese port

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Xinhua
A triple increase in per capita GDP

The State after adopting the fifth five-year short-term plan will carry out the task of reviewing and drawing the 30-year plan. In addition, it will keep on drawing the National Development Plan till it becomes a Comprehensive Development Plan through development and poverty alleviation plan, human resources development plan, investment plan, trade sector development plan, industrial development plan, financial and currency sector development plan, regional plans and sector-wise plans.

As the government is doing its job well, Union ministries and Region and State governments on their part should give priority more to People-Centered Development than to the GDP growth in increasing per capita income, individual household income, and socio-economic development while bringing in real development on the ground through systematic schemes.

Based on nation’s current economic situation, the Planning Commission will discuss the five-year short-term plan (draft) from fiscal 2011-2012 to 2015-2016 bearing in mind the nearest possible degree of future progress in drawing it. During the five-year period, the government has projected a 7.7 percent annual average GDP growth based on 2010-2011 market prices; a decrease of agricultural sector ratio in GDP from 36.4 percent to 29.2 percent; and an increase of industrial sector ratio in GDP from 26.0 percent to 32.1 percent and of services sector ratio from 37.6 percent to 38.7 percent respectively; and a 1.7-fold rise in per capita GDP when compared with the base year.

Although we have projected a 1.7-fold per capita GDP increase in the fiscal 2015-2016 based on GDP growth rate calculations, our aspired goal is a triple increase in per capita GDP. Especially we will strive to fulfill the basic needs of our people to witness a real GDP. Especially we will strive to fulfill the aspired goal is a triple increase in per capita GDP increase in the fiscal 2015-2016 base year.

A ceremony to form Dawei District livestock breeding Organization, was held at Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of Taninthayi Region, on 20 June. At the ceremony, deputy commissioner U Kyaw Swe of Dawei District delivered a speech on the occasion. Head Dr Khin Kyaw Swe of Dawei District, President U Than Aung of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of Taninthayi Region, gave greetings.

Chairman Dr Khin Shwe of MCEA extended greetings. The organization chairman Dr Maung Ni of MCEA presented gifts to the members of the livestock breeding group. After that, livestock breeding organization formed in Dawei District.

UCSB holds tree-planting ceremony

Union Civil Services Board held a tree-planting ceremony 2012 at the office here this morning, in the presence of Chairman of UCSB U Kyaw Thu and members U Khin Maung Aye, Dr Win Myint, Dr Myint Aung, Dr Kyaw Kyaw Hnyu, U Soe Oo, Directors-General of the departments, Chief of staff, officials concerned and staff.

Chairman U Kyaw Thu presented plants to the Directors-General and head of office to grow at designated places, and planted a teak plant following those present. After that, the Chairman and members looked around the planting activities. This year monsoon tree-planting ceremony includes perennial trees, flowery plants and shady trees.

Rakhine State Chief Minister inspects relief camps in Rakhine State

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin together with State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Aung Kyaw Min and officials concerned on 20 June morning looked around progress of stability in Rakhine State. They inspected the displaced persons at Thechaung Village, who were receiving medical treatment by the health ministry. In the evening, he comforted household members at the Thingangyi Buddhawmaw Monastery, and then paid close attention to the activities for clearance of damages at the lands razed by fire in Thayathu and Myothaikyi Wards in Sitway.

Dy Sports Minister encourages sports teams partaking in Champion Challenge Cup

First prize to Yangon Region team, second to Mandalay Region and third to Bago Region. Deputy Minister presented champion shields to Yangon Region Men’s Fustal team and Bago Region Women’s Fustal team.

Livistock breeding organization formed in Dawei District

Sports Training Camps inspected

Chairman Dr Khin Shwe of MCEA extended greetings. Then, the Ambassador made a speech and Vice-Minister Mr Han Man Hee spoke words of honour. Afterwards, department-officials of ICAK explained matters related to the construction works in ROK. Later, the Chairman of MCEA presented gifts to the Ambassador, the Vice-Chairman, and the First Secretary of ICAK.

MCEA and ICAK host dinner in Karawaik Palace

According to the friendship programme between Myanmar and Korea, Mr Aung Aung Myint, Minister of Construction, Myanmar, and Mr Aung Myint Aung Hlaing, President of MCEA, held dinner at Karawaik Palace on 20 June evening.

Chairperson of UCSB U Kyaw Thu plants a teak sapling in 2012 rainy season tree growing ceremony, MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 June—Director U Aye Myint Kyu enjoyed Fustal training camp in Fustal Tournament held at U Aye Myint Kyu yesterday.

After the final match, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu explained organization’s qualifications of the sports camps. They inspected the planting activities. This year monsoon tree-planting ceremony includes perennial trees, flowery plants and shady trees.

Chairman of Union Civil Services Board U Kyaw Thu plants a teak sapling in 2012 rainy season tree growing ceremony, MNA

YANGON, 22 June—According to the friendship programme between Myanmar and Korea, Union Minister for Social Affairs Dr Aung Kyaw Min and officials concerned on 20 June morning looked around progress of stability in Rakhine State. They inspected the displaced persons at Thechaung Village, who were receiving medical treatment by the health ministry. In the evening, he comforted household members at the Thingangyi Buddhawmaw Monastery, and then paid close attention to the activities for clearance of damages at the lands razed by fire in Thayathu and Myothaikyi Wards in Sitway.

Chairman of Union Civil Services Board U Kyaw Thu plants a teak sapling in 2012 rainy season tree growing ceremony.

Chairman of Union Civil Services Board U Kyaw Thu plants a teak sapling in 2012 rainy season tree growing ceremony, MNA

Htay, U Soe Oo, Directors-General of the departments, Chief of staff, officials concerned and staff.

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China pledges support on UN sustainable development

RIYADH, 23 June — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here on Thursday that his country will continue to support the United Nations in its leading role in promoting sustainable development. When meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the sidelines of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 summit), Wen said the meeting should send a positive and clear signal on the promotion of international cooperation on sustainable development.

The principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities” should be upheld, and every country should choose its own development path, he said, referring to this as the leader. The Rio+20 summit should also give priority to implementing the Millennium Development Goals on poverty reduction, and to harmonizing the relationships between economic development, social progress and environmental protection, he said.

On Syria, Wen urged the international community to back the mediation efforts by joint UN and Arab League special envoy Kofi Annan and the UN Supervision Mission in Syria. He also called on all Syrian parties to respect recent UN resolutions and Annan’s six-point plan in order to end violence and avoid civilian casualties. The Syrian government should respond to the popular appeals for reforms, thus creating conditions for a political and peaceful solution to the 16-month crisis, he said.

Ben said China has made remarkable contributions to global economic recovery. South-South cooperation and sustainable development are of particular importance.

Appreciating China’s efforts to seek a political settlement of the Syrian crisis, especially its support to Annan’s peace mission, the UN chief hoped the international community could send a clear message to all Syrian parties of the need to cease violence and seek a political solution.

The United Nations is willing to strengthen cooperation with China on peaceful settlement of regional hot spots, maintenance of world peace and stability as well as promotion of international cooperation on development.

Ban said.

New Greek coalition gov’t sworn in

ATHENS, 22 June — The new Greek pro-bailout coalition government was sworn in on Thursday evening, aiming to revise the tough terms of international bailout deals keeping the debt-laden country afloat since 2010 without endangering its place in the euro. The 39-member cabinet, led by conservative New Democracy (ND) party leader Antonis Samaras, is the result of a power-sharing agreement among three parties reached after Sunday’s parliamentary elections.

Jointly with the socialist PASOK party and Democratic Left junior partners that did not appoint party officials of their own for ministries portfolio, bureaucrats, the ND-led coalition government is supported with a wide parliamentary majority in the 300-member legislature. “This is a government of unity and we mean it,” Prime Minister Samaras stressed in statements to the press outside the Presidential mansion in Athens, before chairing the first cabinet meeting at the parliament.

In his first decision as prime minister, he announced that the salaries of all ministers serving in the new government will be reduced by 30 percent. Banker Vassilis Rapanos, Chairman of the country’s largest bank, the National Bank of Greece, and head of the Greek Bank Association was appointed at the key post of Finance Minister. He is due to be sworn in later this week, once statements to the press outside the Presidential mansion in Athens, before chairing the first cabinet meeting at the parliament.

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Ministers of Greece’s new coalition government wait before their swearing in ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Athens on 21 June, 2012. Greece named a new cabinet to end two months of political deadlock on Thursday. — Xinhua

Afghanistan still world’s main source of asylum seekers

KABUL, 22 June — Afghanistan is still the leading source of asylum seekers in the world, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), now known simply as the United Nations Refugee Agency. A press statement released by the UNHCR office here on World Refugee Day on Wednesday says that “although some 5.7 million Afghan refugees have returned home since 2002, Afghanistan is still the main origin of asylum seekers.”

The UNHCR said that a quarter of the refugees that it is now assisting originate from Afghanistan, adding that Pakistan and Iran continue to be the two main refugee-hosting countries for 95 percent of Afghan refugees. This means some 1.7 million Afghan refugees are in Pakistan and nearly one million in Iran. In addition to this, it is estimated that there are more than 2 million unregistered Afghan refugees now living in Pakistan and Iran. The rate of refugees returns from Iran and Pakistan has declined remarkably in the past two years. So far in 2012, according to the UNHCR, only 34,000 refugees have returned home.

The war-weary Afghans, especially youngsters who were born or have lived at home in or neighbouring countries, are eager to leave for industrialized nations, particularly European countries, United States, Canada and Australia. More than 30,000 Afghans, according to reports, applied for asylum in developed nations in 2011. Many of these youngsters prefer to migrate to peaceful and developed countries by paying huge bribes to human traffickers and risking long and perilous journeys.

A Mexican marine escorts Jesus Alfredo Guzman Salazar, left, during his presentation to the media in Mexico City, on 21 June, 2012. Mexican marines detained Jesus Alfredo Guzman Salazar, 26, one of the sons of Mexico’s most-wanted drug kingpin, Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman Loera, leader of the powerful Sinaloa cartel. — EFE

Russian air force completes strategic drill

MOSCOW, 22 June — The Russian Air Force’s strategic, intercepting and special units have completed a strategic exercise over the eastern part of the country, the Russian defense ministry said on Thursday. “The crews of the Tu-95SM bombers worked out suppressing the anti-aircraft defense of the convicts as the strategic targets,” Air Force spokesman Vladimir Deryabin told reporters.

During their flights over the neutral zone of the Pacific Ocean, the Russian planes were watched by US F-15 fighter jets, he noted. The MiG-31 fighters and A-50 airborne warning and control system aircraft also conducted escorting exercises, he added.

According to Deryabin, participants of the exercises received air refueling four times during the drills, with the A-50 and MiG-31 aircraft staying in the air for up to 8 hours and the bombers for 17 hours. The exercise, involving some 30 aircraft and over 200 servicemen, was held from Tuesday to Thursday, said the spokesman.

Xinhua

Mexican captures son of most-wanted drug lord

MEXICO CITY, 22 June — Mexican authorities captured a son of the country’s most-wanted drug kingpin Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman on Thursday in northwestern Mexico, the Navy said in a statement. Marine troops took Jesus Alfredo Guzman Salazar in custody early Thursday in Zapopan, a small town near Guadalajara, the capital of Jalisco state.

Both he and his father are wanted on drug-trafficking charges.

Guzman Salazar, 26, was accompanied by another person and the two were flown to the organized-crime division of the Attorney General’s Office (Siedo) in Mexico City, according to the statement. The US Treasury Department has imposed financial sanctions against Guzman Salazar’s mother Maria Alejandrina Salazar Hernandez, and his two other brothers, Ivan Archivaldo Guzman Salazar and Ovidio Guzman Lopez.

Jesus Alfredo Guzman, Mexico’s most-wanted drug lord and founder of the Sinaloa cartel, had been captured by Mexican authorities and jailed in a maximum security prison in Jalisco. He escaped in January 2001 by hiding in a laundry truck.

Xinhua
Apple fined in Australia for misleading iPad advertising

SINGAPORE, 22 June—Apple Inc (AAPL.O) was fined $25 million by an Australian court on Thursday for misleading advertising of its latest iPad.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) took legal action against Apple in March, after the computer and gadgets maker rolled out the first wave of new iPad tablets in the Australian market.

The competition watchdog accused Apple of misleading customers with the description of its new iPad, which said it was compatible with 4G mobile data network when it was not.

The court determined Apple had implied “that an iPad with Wi-Fi + 4G could connect directly to the Telstra LTE mobile data network in Australia, which it could not do,” according to the verdict emailed to Reuters by the regulator.

Apple “engaged in conduct that was liable to mislead the public,” it said.

A spokesperson for Apple in Sydney could not be reached immediately for comment on Thursday.

Apple has already promised to roll all the features of its new iPad in Australia to offer them a refund and agreed to post warnings that its new iPad is “not compatible with current Australian 3G/LTE networks and 4G/3G/EDGE with Telstra’s (TLSAX.O) network operates on a different frequency to the 4G on Apple’s new iPad.

Apple rolled out the first wave of new iPad tablets on 16 March.

Evidence of cattle milked 7,000 years ago

BRESTOL, 22 June—Chemical analysis of pottery shows the first evidence that inhabitants of Saharan Africa used cattle for milk nearly 7,000 years ago, British researchers say.

Scientists from the University of Bristol said an analysis of fatty acids extracted from pottery excited from an archaeological site in Libya showed dairy fats were processed in the vessels.

Around 10,000 years ago the Sahara was a wetter, greener place that today and that prehistoric people who lived a semi-sedentary life, using pottery, hunting wild cereals, the researchers said.

Then, around 7,000-5,000 years ago as the region became more arid, the people adopted a more nomadic, pastoral way of life and cattle became more important, they said.

While engraved and painted rock art found widely in the region showed people milking — until now.

“Already know how important dairy products such as milk, cheese, yogurt and butter, which can be repeatedly extracted from an animal throughout its lifetime, were to the people of Neolithic Europe, so it’s exciting to find proof that they were also significant in the lives of the prehistoric people of Africa,” researcher Julia Dunne said in a Bristol release on Wednesday.

The findings also provide a background for understanding the evolution of the gene for lactose intolerance that appears to have arisen once prehistoric people started consuming milk products, she said.

Mission to study ‘dark energy’ gets OK

PARIS, 22 June—European space officials said on Wednesday they have given the go-ahead for a mission to explore the universe for dark energy and dark matter.

The European Space Agency’s Euclid mission has received final approval from its ESA’s Science Programme Committee to move into the full construction phase, leading to a launch in 2020, a release from ESA’s Paris headquarters said on Wednesday.

This formal adoption of the mission is a major milestone for large scientific community, their funding agencies and also for European industry,” ESA Director of Science and Research.

Robotic Exploration Alvardo Gimenez Canete said.

Euclid will use a 4-foot-diameter telescope and near-infrared camera/spectrometer to map 3-D distribution of as many as 2 billion galaxies and dark matter associated with them, spread over more than one-third of the whole sky, ESA officials said.

Scientists say they hope the mission can help answer one of the most important questions in modern cosmology — why is the universe expanding at an accelerating rate, rather than slowing down due to the gravitational attraction of all the matter in it?

Astronomers still do not know what force could cause this cosmic acceleration.

Forget megapixels; meet a gigapixel camera

DURHAM, 22 June—By synchronizing 98 cameras in a single device, US researchers say they’ve developed a gigapixel camera that can create images with unprecedented detail.

Electrical engineers at Duke University and the University of Arizona report the new camera has the potential to capture up to 50 gigapixels of data, or 50,000 megapixels. Most consumer digital cameras, by comparison, are capable of taking photographs with sizes ranging from 8x0-40 megapixels.

The multiple cameras provide resolution five times better than 20-20 human vision over a 120-degree horizontal field, researchers said.

“Each one of the microcameras captures information from a specific area of the field of view,” Duke engineer David Brady said. “A computer processor essentially stitches all this information into a single highly detailed image.”

“In many instances, the camera can capture images of things that photographers cannot see by themselves but can then detect when the image is viewed later.”

The prototype camera is 21/2 feet square and 20 inches deep, but the researchers said they believe that within five years, as camera components become miniaturized and more efficient, gigapixel cameras should be available to the general public.

Surprising ice find in lunar crater

GREENBRIER, 22 June—NASA says a lunar orbiting spacecraft’s data indicates ice may up as much as 22 percent of the surface material in a crater on the moon’s south pole.

Scientists using light from the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter’s laser altimeter, for example, of Shackleton crater and found it is brighter than those of other nearby craters, consistent with the presence of small amounts of ice, NASA reported on Wednesday.

“The brightness measurements have been puzzling us since two summers ago,” Gregory Neumann of NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Md., said. “While the distribution of brightness was not exactly what we had expected, practically every measurement related to ice and other volatile compounds on the moon is surprising, given the cosmically cold temperatures inside its polar craters.”

The results provide the possible evidence of ice, the study of Shackleton revealed a remarkably preserved crater, relatively unused since its formation more than 3 billion years ago, NASA said.
Asian stocks fall on darker outlook for global growth

Polio eradication drive imperiled by funding shortfall

Reliance Industries falls on KG D6 reserve estimate
**S Korea's rare earth imports from China surge in May**

SEOUL, 22 June — South Korea's rare earth imports from China surged last month due to a fall in import prices, customs data showed on Thursday.

South Korea purchased a total of 92 tonnes of rare earth materials from China in May, up 71.3 percent from a month earlier, according to the Korea Customs Service (KCS).

Around 48.5 percent of South Korean imports of rare earth materials in May came from China, down 1.1 percentage point from the previous month.

The unit price of rare earth materials imported from China dropped 27.1 percent on-month to 41.58 US dollars per kilogram last month, contributing to the country's higher dependence on China.

Rare earth materials, including scandium and yttrium, are key components for modern-day technologies such as hybrid electric vehicles and liquid crystal display (LCD) and other high-tech products.

Rare earth imports from Japan jumped 53.3 percent on-month to 69 tons in May as import prices declined 28.2 percent to 39.88 dollars per kilogram last month, contributing to the country's higher dependence on China.

In May, South Korea imported a combined 190 tons of rare earth materials, up 75.3 percent from the previous month, according to the customs office.

Meanwhile, imports of some rare metals also increased in May on an on-month basis. Inbound shipments of manganese, cobalt, lithium, indium and chrome expanded 5.4 percent, 30.6 percent, 57.2 percent, 1.7 percent and 35.7 percent respectively last month.

**US Commerce Secretary resigns after traffic accident**

WASHINGTON, 22 June — US Commerce Secretary John Bryson has resigned after being involved in a traffic accident, and US President Barack Obama praised him as an effective leader, the White House said on Thursday.

"Last night I accepted the resignation of John Bryson as Secretary of the Department of Commerce. I want to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to John for his service over the past months, and wish him and his family the very best," US President Barack Obama said in a statement.

"As Secretary, John fought tirelessly for our nation’s businesses and workers, helping to bolster our exports and promote American manufacturing and products at home and abroad," Obama said.

"John has proven himself an effective and distinguished leader throughout his career in both the public and private sectors, from his success in the business world to his work leading on issues in the renewable energy industry," Obama added.

**China’s deep-sea submersible begins third dive in Mariana Trench**

ABOARD XIANGYANGHONG 09, 22 June — The Jiaolong, China’s manned deep-sea submersible, on Friday made its third dive into the Mariana Trench, the deepest part of the world’s oceans. "The mission of the sea dive test is to find problems and solve them before the submersible is put to practical use," said Liu Xincheng, the on-scene party chief. The vessel set a new national record by reaching the depth of 6,965 meters under the sea in the second dive on Tuesday, surpassing the previous 6,671-meter-record in the first dive last Friday.

"The adjustable ballast system was enabled to drain away water normally in the second dive, which hindered the submersible from cruising working on fixed-point and hovering," Liu Feng, the on-scene commander, told Xinhua. "We will recheck the adjustable ballast system of the vessel and continue to verify more than 200 indices and functions," he said.

The dive, started at 7 am local time (2100 GMT Thursday), is expected to reach as deep as 6,960 meters.

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Indonesian officers destroy grams of marijuana, heroin and ecstasy pills on Thursday to welcome the coming World Anti-Narcotics Day, which falls on 26 June.

**Picasso painting sold for 13.4 m dollars at London auction**

LONDON, 22 June — Pablo Picasso’s "Femme Assise" (Seated Woman) was sold for 13,445,709 US dollars at an auction held by the world’s leading art business Christie’s on Wednesday evening.

The painting of the Spanish painting master, formerly owned by a private American family that bought it from the artist himself, reached $13,445,709, well above the estimated $10 million.

The painting is the third highest priced work from Christie’s in 2012 and will enter an international private European collection.

"Quality, rarity and considered pricing were key to the successful results of this evening’s sale,” said Jay Vincze, International Senior Director and Head of The Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale with Christie’s London.

Nearly every one of the top 10 lots was offered on the open market for the first time in 20 years or more, and in some cases for the first time in up to three generations.

“There were particularly notable prices for surrealists works, reflecting the current fervor for this field which has steadily grown since Christie’s pioneering standalone sale in 2001,” Vincze said. The second highest price at auction was given to “Les jours gigantesques” (The Titanic Days) by Belgian surrealist artist Rene Magritte for 11.33 million dollars.

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WASHINGTON, 22 June — US Northeast is facing record heat on Thursday for a second day, with temperatures across the region on the rise.

In Washington, the mercury touched 95 degrees Fahrenheit (about 37.2 degrees Celsius) at 2:34 pm according to observers at Reagan National Airport, breaking the record for the day.

The capital city is hardly alone. All across the region, records have been shattered. In Boston, temperature reached 96 degrees Fahrenheit, surpassing a previous record set for the date in 1949. In New York City, the reading in Kennedy International Airport was 97 degrees F, breaking the old record of 95 degrees. Nantucket, Hartford and Burlington all saw new records set for the day.

Thursday was the second day when temperatures in the northeast soared above 90 degrees. Residents flocked to pools and beaches, while many cities opening up cooling centers to deal with the heat.

In New York, Mayor Michael Bloomberg urged residents to seek air-conditioning, drink plenty of water and check on friends and neighbours.

The city has opened 455 air-conditioned cooling centers through Thursday, with extended hours, at places including senior centers, Salvation Army community centres and public libraries. Cooling centers were also opened in cities such as Detroit and Baltimore, according to local reports.

**Sri Lanka seeking info on capsized boat allegedly carrying Sri Lankans**

COLOMBO, 22 June — Sri Lankan authorities are awaiting for further information on the fate of the people aboard a boat that capsized off Australia’s Christmas Island as reports said most of the 200 people onboard were Sri Lankan illegal asylum seekers.

External Affairs Ministry spokesman Sarah Diasanaike told Xinhua that the Sri Lankan embassy in Indonesia and the Sri Lankan High Commission in Australia were monitoring the situation and were awaiting confirmation if those on board were indeed Sri Lankans.

Up to 200 illegal asylum seekers were on board the vessel, which was on its way to Australia, when it capsized on Thursday.

The Australian media quoted West Australian Police Commissioner Karl O’Callaghan as saying about 40 people were spotted on the upturned hull, others were in waters and up to 75 may be dead. Ships from both Australia and Indonesia were dispatched to the scene to rescue those who survived and recover the bodies.

"We have seen through the footage of them that maybe Sri Lankans but we still don’t have an official confirmation," Diasanaike said. Hundreds of Sri Lankans, mostly minority Tamils, have over the years managed to reach Australia by boat to seek asylum with most of them claiming conditions are home are not safe for them.

**People cool off at a fountain in Battery Park in New York, the United States, on 20 June, 2012. According to the National Weather Service, in New York City’s Central Park, the temperature was 93 degrees (34 Celsius).**
**Unborn Tomorrow**

It is human nature to desire to know what’s in store for him in the future. This desire has prompted him to study ways of probing into the realm of the unknown yet unborn. Thus a vast field of study was developed thousands of years ago to unravel the mysteries of the universe and the destiny of mankind. There were many predictions and prophecies handed down through the centuries for man to marvel, some proving to be right and many proved to be wrong. For example there was the dream of King Kosala, sixteen in number which occurred during the lifetime of Lord Buddha Gautama, the Supreme Self-Enlightened One. Then there was the prediction prophecized in the Book of Nostreadumas (1530-1566), written on numerous events to come centuries ahead of time. Another seer, an American woman Jean Dickinson foresaw correctly about John F. Kennedy’s impending assassination.

The ancient civilizations of the Middle East in the kingdom of Greece, Egypt, Babylonia, Sumeria, Assyria, the Roman Empire, and the Far Eastern kingdoms of China and India had developed this occult science such as astronomy, astrology, tarok, palmistry, alchemy and the philosopher’s stone, the magic crystal ball, telepathy, ESP etc. They also taught that planets, stars in the zodiac, sun and moon dictate the destiny of mankind on earth.

In modern times fortune telling, palm reading, telepathy, crystal ball gazing, were practised professionally to help satisfy the desire of inquiring minds especially women who want to know beyond the present on every aspect of life. Thus in Myanmar and other neighbouring countries of Asia we find astrologers, palmists, seers, sadhus, fakirs, bodhaws, mediums etc who work on human weakness and bring semblance of relief or otherwise.

The astrologers are the most common sight in Myanmar. Their habitat are mostly in the corridor stalls of pagodas around the country where they customarily establish their practice because the pagodas are where the pilgrims use to visit all year round especially in the open season from all parts of the country. The most frequented pagodas around the country where they customarily visit are Taungpyone, Min Nyi-Naung. The more famous are the two prince brothers Taunggyone, Min Nyo Naung. Annual festivals are held at Taunggyone in Madaya around Wagaung(August), and also at Ratanabon, Amarapura, a very boisterous affair indeed.

Winners awarded in essay contest

**DISTRICT NEWS**

**Agricultural loans disbursed to local farmers**

KAWKAREIK, 22 June—Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank of Kawkareik Township in Kayin State held a ceremony to disburse agriculture loans for cultivation of monsoon paddy in 2012 on 15 June.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Aung Myint Tun, Bank branch manager U Thein Myint, Supervisor U Saw Yi Soe and staff disbursed K 50,000 per acre to 42 farmers. The bank has K 10.5 million of land under which was disbursed to the farmers.

Before 15 June, Kawkareik Township Bank branch had disbursed K 40000 per acres of farmers with the previous year rate. That is why arrangements are being made to add K 10,000 each to those borrowers. A plan is under way to disburse loan K 330 million to the farmers this season.

**By Ba Than**

by Ba Than

The Township Administrator, the staff officer of Township Cooperative Cooperative Department, Secretary of Yangon Region Cooperative Union U Tin Myint, Chairman of Township Cooperative Syndicate U Aung Hla, Township Education Officer U Maung Maung Toe and Head of Basic Education High School No. 1 U Soe Min presented prizes to the outstanding students.—**Myanma Alin**

**Unborn Tomorrow...**

There is yet another occult world, that of supernormal art (vijjā). High devotion to occult practices such as alchemy to perfect the philosopher’s stone (padashin), mantras, ritual perfection in search of longevity of life and elixir of youth and achieve supernormal powers to command and guide the destiny of human beings. They are commonly known as Bodaws and hold their disciples with hypnotic devotion. Special offerings are made with a large enamel or steel bowl with three bunches of green bananas, one green coconuts with stem, betel leaves, lephet, evangia sprigs, jasmine garlands etc, called as “katau-pwe”.

Delivering prophetic predictions are not confined only to humans alone as was found out during the FIFA Africa World Cup 2010. Along with the din of Vuvuzelas, the Waka-waka song and dance of Shakira, Octopus Paul born in UK and lived in Germany rose to meteoric fame by correctly predicting the winner of all the last eight matches one day before it was kicked. In the final match between Netherlands and Spain Paul chose Spain which proved to be correct.

Paul was appointed Goodwill Ambassador of UK. Octopus normally live for two years. Born in 26th January 2008, he died in 26th October 2010. Myanmars who believe in afterlife and reincarnation commented that Paul might have been a footballer or bookie in the previous human life, well versed in the wiles of football. Now that 2012 Euro Cup now kicking, and FIFA World Cup 2014 only two years away, let us wait and see who emerges as the new predictor from the animal world.

The desire to know about tomorrow had haunted man through human history. It will continue to haunt man in the future to come, in the unfilled search for supreme vision, and elixir of life. I still remember the verses ‘Rubaiyat’ of Persian Poet Omar Khayyam lectured by the late scholar Dr Htin Aung, and one verse has special significance to this life’s philosophy:

> Ah fill the Cup, what boots it to repeat,
> When time is slipping underneath our feet;
> Unborn tomorrow, dead yesterday,
> Why fret about them, if Today be sweet...*****

**Kyaunggon Township**

**YANGON, 22 June—**As a gesture of hailing the Myanmar Women’s Day, the Township Forest Department organized the tree growing ceremony along the approach road to Yuyakhol Bridge in Yuyakhol Village of Kyaunggon Township in Pathein District on 16 June morning.

The Township Administrator, township level departmental officials, the head of township forest department and staff together with local people planted 270 saplings.—**Myanma Alin**

**BGG to hold fourth monsoon golf tournament**

YANGON, 22 June—Bayint Naung Golf Group will organize the fourth monsoon golf tournament at Pan Haing Golf Course on 13 July.

All members of the group are invited to attend the opening of the tournament. Those wishing to take part in the tournament are to contact U Khin Han (Chairman), Tel: 09-5114700, U Khin Maung Zin (Secretary), Tel: 01-705623, and Joint Secretary U Nay Lin (097307466).—**Myanma Alin**
Ministry of Transport honours outstanding students

NAY PYI TAW, 22 June—The prize presentation to outstanding students in 2011-2012 academic year and the stipend presentation for 2012-2013 academic year of the Ministry of Transport was held at the hall of the ministry this morning.

Union S&T Minister receives Australian guests

NAY PYI TAW, 22 June—Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint received Dean, Faculty of Engineer Prof Graham Davies and party of University of New South Wales at the ministry, here, this morning.

Union Education Minister meets Indonesian Ambassador and party

NAY PYI TAW, 22 June—Chairman of Micro-Finance Development Supporting Committee Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun addressed the committee’s meeting (3/2012) at the ministry here this morning.

More aids for relief camps in Rakhine State arrive in Sittway

NAY PYI TAW, 22 June—More aids provided from every corner of Myanmar for relief camps in Rakhine State arrived in Sittway this morning by Tatmadaw aircraft.

Micro-Finance Development Supporting Committee meets

NAY PYI TAW, 22 June—Committee Secretary Managing Director U Hein Lin of Myanma Micro-Finance Supervisory Enterprise reported on applications for license to run micro-finance businesses.

Office of Auditor-General of the Union holds rainy season tree-planting ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 22 June—At the ceremony, departmental heads and officials planted teak saplings at designated places. The Auditor-General of the Union and heads enjoyed the tree-growing of staff. A total of 350 saplings were planted at today ceremony.

Committee for drafting Vacant Land, Fallow Land and Virgin Land Management Rules (draft), Farmland Rules (draft) meets

NAY PYI TAW, 22 June—The seventh meeting of Working Committee for drafting Vacant Land, Fallow Land and Virgin Land Management Rules (draft) and Farmland Rules (draft), was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on 20 June, with an address by Committee Chairman Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Thaing.

The deputy minister said that it was important for the Committee to follow the President’s guidance.

After that, Director-General U Myint Swe of Settlement and Land Records Department presented the report on amendments to Vacant Land, Fallow Land and Virgin Land Management Rules (bill), and those present committee members discussed their respective sectors. The deputy minister urged the members to give suggestions, and it will be sent to the Union Attorney-General Office after making finishing touches.
Prizes, stipends provided to offspring of Construction Ministry’s Staff

NAV PYI TAW, 22 June—The Ministry of Construction held the prize presentation for outstanding students in 2011-2012 matriculation examination and stipend presentation at the ministry, here, this morning.

It was attended by Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Deputy Ministers U Soe Tint and U Kyaw Lwin, departmental heads, officials, parents and prize winning students.

First, the Union Minister made a speech on presentation of the prizes to the outstanding students and stipend presentation.

He gave prizes to Maung Kaung San Hein, Ma Toe Ekarl Haiing and Maung Tin Htoo Aung who won six distinctions each in the matriculation examination in 2011-2012 academic year. Deputy Ministers U Soe Tint and U Kyaw Lwin also awarded five-distinction and four-distinction winners. Officials presented prizes to other distinction winners.

Next, the Union Minister presented stipends for students through Head of Office U Kyaw Win, Deputy Managing Director (Admin) U Kyi Win Oo of Works and Public Works and Director-General U Maung Maung Ohn of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development.

Today’s ceremony, the ministry honoured 339 outstanding students in 2011-2012 academic year.

Winners awarded in Pencak Silat event of Army Champion Challenge Cup

Yangon, 22 June—Jointly organized by Ministry of Sports and Recreation and Myanmar Martial Arts Federation, the prize presentation for Pencak Silat event of the Army Champion Challenge Cup 2012 was held at Theinbyu sport ground in Mingalag Taungnyunt Township here yesterday.

The principal of Myanmar Martial Arts Federation, the joint secretary and executive presented prizes to the winners in the 40-45 kilos event, 45-50 kilos event, 50- 55 kilos event, 55-60 kilos event, 65-66 kilos event, 65-70 kilos event, 70-75 kilos event and 75-80 kilos event. Chairman of the Tatmadaw Martial Arts Committee Lt-Gen Han Min Aung presented best sportman award to Aye Win Oo of Taunggyi (Taunggyi club), Deputy Director U Chankut of Sports and Physical Education Department, third and second prizes to Bandwela and Bayinnayunma clubs.

Vice-President of the federation U Ye Myint gave championship trophy and cash award to Kyaunthitla Education Foundation.

Relief aids transported to locals of Rakhine State

Yangon, 22 June—Wellwishers are doing relief aids to local people who have lost houses and properties due to the unrest and violence in Rakhine State. Relief aids—800 bags of rice, 77 packages of Calsons cracker, 250 boxes of date palm jam, foodstuffs, clothes, medicines and stationery donated by wellwishers to Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Restitution were transported to Rakhine State by ship through Batathaung jetty in Botahtaung Township, here, this afternoon. Deputy Director-General U Ko Ko Haiing of Fire Services Department and Director U Kyaw Thura supervised it and 15 auxiliary fire brigade members from Yangon Region participated in it.

A ceremony to donate cash and foodstuffs was held at Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township, here this morning.

Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister Yangon Mayor U Ma Hla Win and wife Daw Khin Aye Nwe family donated K0.15 million; U Than Tun of MTK Trading Co., Ltd., 100 boxes of Coffee mix and two packages of cloth worth K0.218 million; staff and family of Lawkarat Cafe and Golden Star Restaurant, K 50,000, one plate of cloth, one box of stationery worth from Japan, K0.15 million; Ingyinnmy, Thuzar Kyaw and Ma Cho Aye (Tourists guide), K 30,000; U Tin Maung Oo (Tourist guide), K 50,000; U Tin Moe + Daw Khin Cho Than (Htoo Schnatte traditional musical enterprise), 10 dozens of traditional medicine worth K 70,000; U Htin Aung Kyi-Daw Khin Thanda Oo, two bundles of cloth; U Win + Daw Aye Aye Kyi family, K0.05 million; Daw Khin Soe Soe family, three packages of cloth; Daw Thet Trading Co., Ltd, 100 packages of cloth; Daw Khin Soe Soe family, three packages of cloth; U Myint Min, K0.11 million; Daw Khin Ma Nu Win and Ma Aung Thinzar, two packages of cloth; U Tin Win + Daw Tin Yi family, K 2500, one blanket and one mosquito net; Finance Department of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board (YESB) (Head office), K0.1 million; U Than Tun Daw Hla Aye (Weiza Real Estate), K 0.1 million; Insein Yawma mosque board of trustees, K0.15 million; Captain Aung Kyaw Moe + Daw Htaw Htaw Han family, K0.1 million; Captain Aung U Maung Dun Tan + Daw Hla Hla Aye (Real Estate), K 0.1 million; and Daw Khin Soe Soe family, K0.1 million.

Moreover they contributed K 25000 to No. 37 Basic Education Primary School for installing electric machines, K100000 to No. 12 Basic Education Primary School for building two bathroom. The responsible persons accepted the donations.

Union Mines Minister receives Maruben Corporation GM

Union Mines Minister receives Maruben Corporation GM

NA PV TAW, 22 June—A ceremony for donation of school uniforms, stipends, books and stationery by Maruben Corporation was held at No. 21 Basic Education High School in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay this morning with an address by Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Haiing.

Next Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Win Haiing, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Ko Gyi, in-charge Director-General U Myo Nyunt, Region Education Officer U Soe Myint Tun and responsible persons and donor Daw San San Soe of Maung Maung Si (Sithu Myanmar) Education Foundation donated school uniforms, stipends, books and stationery, slippers and bags worth K105,120 to 16 students from No. 38 Post Primary School and 32 students from No. 21 Basic Education High School, totaling 48 students. Moreover they contributed K 20000 to No. 37 Basic Education Primary School for installing electric machines, K100000 to No. 12 Basic Education Primary School for building two bathroom.

Wellwishers present cash and foodstuffs for local people of Rakhine State through officials of Fire Services Department (Head Office).—MNA

School uniforms, stipend, and stationery donated in Mandalay Region

NA PV TAW, 22 June—A ceremony for donation of school uniforms, books and stationery by U Kyi Win Oo of Public Services Department (Head Office) U Kyaw Win, Deputy Managing Director (Admin) U Kyi Win Oo of Works and Public Works and Director-General U Maung Maung Ohn of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development.

Today’s ceremony, the ministry honoured 339 outstanding students in 2011-2012 academic year.

MNA

Slight earthquake hits 180 miles southeast of Mandalay

NA PV TAW, 22 June—A slight earthquake at magnitude 3.8 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about 25 miles southeast of Kunyang) hit about 180 miles southeast of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 09 hrs 52 min 20 sec MST today, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA

MNA

MNA

MNA

MNA

MNA
Literary talks mark Myanmar Women’s Day

YANGON, 22 June—As a gesture of hailing the Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July 2012, the literary talks, organized by Yangon Region Women’s Affairs Organization, was held at U Ba Lwin Hall of Basic Education High School No 2 in Dagon Township of Yangon West District on 18 June. Patrons of Yangon Region WAO Daw Khin Thet Hny made a speech. Writer Myinmu Maung Naing Moe talked about poem in life and in poem, writer Kyaw Kyu Thin on nursery of gardener and writer Ledwinta Saw Chit on Myanmar women and Myanmar tradition. It was attended by members of region and district WAO and Maternal and Child Welfare Association and guests. —Myanma Alin

School uniforms, stationery presented to students

MEIN, 22 June—The ceremony to present school uniforms and stationery to offspring students of vendors and slow-moving vehicle drivers, organized by Township Development Affairs Committee, was held at General Administration Department of Township GAD in Nyaunglebin Township on 6 June morning. Township Administrator U Khin Maung Aye made a speech. The Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee explained the purpose of presenting school uniforms and stationery. Later, the township administrator and departmental officials presented school uniforms and stationery worth K 701,900 to 192 students. —Township GAD

Banking accountancy course kicks off

TOUNGOO, 22 June—The banking accountancy course No 1/2012 of Bago Region was opened at Toungoo Bank branch on 11 June. Manager of Bago Region U Thein Pe made a speech. District Manager U Nyunt Swe explained the purpose of conducting the training course. Trainees from bank branches in Bago Region (East) are attending the two weeks course.—Myanma Alin

Books donated to YanggyiU Library in Einme Township

EINME, 22 June—A ceremony to donate books to YanggyiU Library was held in Intami Village of Einme Township in Myaungmya District on 10 June. At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Yazar Win made a speech. Staff Officer Daw Hla Kyi of Myaungmya Township expressed the purpose of growing library. Chairman of the library U Kyaw Shwe accepted the donations. The library was built at a cost of K 2.1 million by the State and the people. At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Yazar Win, Staff Officer Daw Hla Kyi of Myaungmya District IPRD and Intami Village administrator U Kyaw Shwe formally opened the library.—Township IPRD

National Workshop on Human Trafficking Prevention commences

YANGON, 22 June—Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control of Myanmar and UNIAP jointly opened the National Workshop on Human Trafficking Prevention at Summit Parkview Hotel, here on 21 June, with an address by member of Advisory Committee to the President U Sit Aye. The ceremony was attended by members of the Advisory Committee to the President Daw Khin Mio Myint, Director of Transnational Crime Department of Myanmar Police Force Police Col Ralayn Hmon, departmental officials and officials of UNIAP, UNICEF and NGOs. Altogether 36 trainees attended the workshop.

Vehicles of Chin State high demand

HAKA, 22 June—The vehicles small and large with the loads of vegetables from Haka, Falam, Tiddim and Thantlang of northern Chin State flow into vegetables brokerage in Tartan Ward on Bogysoke Road in Taungbula Ward of Kalay daily. Vehicles are put on sales at the brokerages in Kalay at fair prices through wholesale and retail systems. Due to high demands, the bags of vegetables are unloaded from the trucks for sales immediately.

Vegetables are high demands in Kalay, Kalewa, Mawlaik, Paunggyin, Homalin and Ikkami of Sagaing Region, Namtaw, Wickhana, Mawlamyine, Hpaungpya, Phakant, Tawmaw and Lonkhin of Kachin State. The vegetables are transported by tuk-tuk or truck to the market in Kalay. Then, the products are transported to the townships upstream Chindwin River by watercraft.—Myanma Alin

Books donated to YaunggyiU Library

YAUNGGYI, 22 June—Books donated to YaunggyiU Library were presented to YaunggyiU Library in Yaunggyi Township in Minbu District on 11 June. Staff Officer Daw Tin Tin Win of Myawaddy Township in Myawaddy District presented school uniforms and stationery worth K 701,900 to 192 students. —Township IPRD

writers association reconstituted in nyaunglebin township

NYAUNGLEBIN, 22 June—A ceremony to reconstitute Nyaunglebin Township Writers Association was held at the hall of Township Administration Office on 13 June morning. Deputy Head of Department of Township General Administration Department Daw San San and Chairman of Township Writers Association Dr Myint Than (Nyaunglebin) gave addresses. Nyaunglebin Township Writers Association was constituted with Chairman Dr Myint Than (Nyaunglebin), Vice Chairman U Thein Aung (Thein Aung Oo), Secretary U Nai Lin (Reportor Nay Lin), Treasurer U Hein Htet Aung (Thitsa Ayeik-Nyaunglebin) and member U Thein Nyunt (Peinazlak Thein Nyunt). Dr Myint Than (Nyaunglebin) was chosen as Representative to the conference.—Myanma Alin

Trees planted in Thegon Township

THEGON, 22 June—The trees planted in Thegon Township Forest Department of Pyay District in Bago Region marked the 2012 World Environment Day in the compound of Basic Education Primary School in Wyahtauunggon Village on 5 June. At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Aung Kyaw made a speech. Head of Township Forest Department U Kyaw Min Thant explained the purpose of growing saplings and distribution of saplings in the township.

The township administrator, departmental officials, students, members of NGOs and local people planted 1500 saplings.—Township Forest

Pailethwe hybrid paddy purchased

PYINMANA, 22 June—A total of 164 farmers put 269 acres of farmlands under Pailethwe paddy in Meizagon Village-tract of Pyinmana Township and produced 52231 baskets of paddy.

Ayeza Hkha Co purchases paddy at 100 baskets per K 400,000 and has so far bought 40,000 baskets of paddy. In Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, plan is under way to purchase Pailethwe summer paddy in remaining townships.

Essay contest hails International Cooperatives Day

YANGON, 22 June—Hailing the International Co-operatives Day, Kamayut Township Cooperative Syndicate organized the essay contest at Basic Education High School No 3 on Nanathaw Road in Ward 6 of Kamayut Township on 15 June morning. It was attended by Staff Officer Daw Tin Tin Win of Township Cooperative Department, Township Education Officer Daw Hla Kyi, Head of Township Cooperative Syndicate U Maung Maung Ohn and contest organizing committee members. Altogether 20 students at high school level are taking part in the contest.—Myanma Alin

Pyinmana Township and produced 52231 baskets of paddy.
**One police officer dead, two injured in Algeria terror attack**

**ALGERS, 22 June—** One Algerian police officer was killed and two others injured on Thursday in a terror attack in downtown Bouira Province, 120 km east of Algiers.

Citing security sources, the local TSA news website reported that the three Judicial police officers were in a mission near the prefecture headquarters when the armed militants were shooting them holding a Renault Master vehicle.

The militants fled away, while the three police officers were transferred to hospital for medical treatments.

Security services have opened an investigation to determine the circumstances of this attack.

In August 2011, militants attempted to perpetrate terror attacks near the prefecture headquarters of Bouira, as security service managed to define a bomb deposited near a cafeteria.

**S Korea’s productive population to shrink 20 pct by 2040**

**SEOUL, 22 June—** South Korea’s productive population will shrink 20 percent in 2040 compared with the data for 2010 amid aging population and lower childbirth, the statistical agency said on Friday. The country’s productive population aged 15-64 reached 35.98 million, or 72.8 percent of the total population, in 2010, according to Statistics Korea.

The figure was up from 12.27 million 30 years earlier.

The statistical agency estimated the productive population will start reducing after peaking in 2016, and S&P 500 Indexes on 80.2 percent level of the 2010’s productive population, in 2040. The population aged 65 and over stood at 5.45 million, or 11 percent of the total population, in 2010, the agency said, expecting the elderly aged over 65 to surge to around 11 million 30 years later. The country, which became an aged society in 2000, was forecast to be an aged society in 2018, before being a super-aged society in 2026.

Societies whose proportion of the population aged 65 and over surpasses 7 percent, 14 percent and 20 percent are called aging society, aged society and super-aged society each. The old age dependency ratio, or the ratio of those aged over 65 to productive population aged 15-64, advanced to 15.2 percent in 2010 from 6.1 in 1980, according to the agency. The ratio was estimated to surge to 57.2 in 2040, weighing on younger workers who participate in economic activities.

Meanwhile, the nation’s fertility rate, gauging the total number of children born by a woman of childbearing age, dropped to 1.23 in 2010 from 2.12 in 1983, but the rate will start rising in 2030 to 1.25 percent in 2040, the agency reported.

**Qantas fears Etihad rise could see it ‘go under’**

**SYDNEY, 22 June—** Qantas fears Etihad’s rise could see it “go under” if Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways is allowed a greater stake in rival carrier Virgin Australia, a report said on Friday.

A specialist trader gives out a price on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on 21 June, 2012.— Reuters

**Wall Street suffers worst loss in three weeks**

**NEW YORK, 22 June—** Stocks posted the worst day in three weeks on Thursday on mounting evidence that slowing manufacturing growth worldwide threatened corporate profits.

Shares of energy and materials companies led declines as commodity prices fell. Crude oil prices fell by below $80 a barrel for the first time since October and the S&P energy sector index lost 4 percent. Investors said weak overseas demand was responsible for the decline in those industries.

Stocks’ slide was accelerated by a bullish call from Goldman Sachs, which recommended clients build short positions in the broad S&P 500, ahead of 2.7 percent.

The investment bank cited the Philly Fed’s mid-Atlantic factory index, which fell to minus 16.6 in June, an eight-month low, and optimism from Wall Bank Index, fell 2.3 percent amid expectations Moody’s credit rating service would announce downgrades in the banking industry.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 291.55 points, or 1.96 percent, at 12,573.04.

The Standard & Poor’s 500 Index was down 20.19 points, or 2.23 percent, at 1,325.30. The Nasdaq Composite Index was down 71.36 points, or 2.44 percent, at 2,859.09. The day’s decline was the worst since June 1 when the S&P 500 fell 2.3 percent.

**Crashes fuel uprash in Japan over US aircraft**

**TOKYO, 22 June—** Recent crashes involving the US military’s latest transport aircraft are fueling an upsurge in Japan that could threaten plans to deploy them to the southern island of Okinawa by the end of the year.

A Japanese government source on Okinawa and in another city likely to host the Osprey aircraft, US officials were to brief Japanese government representatives in Washington on Friday. The Osprey craft can fly like a helicopter or an airplane and has been used in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq, a crash in April killed two Marines and another last week injured five airmen.

Japan’s top government spokesman said last week the plan to deploy the aircraft to Japan this year couldn’t go forward until Tokyo received assurances of its safety.

While saying the US takes Japan’s concerns seriously, a Pentagon spokesman on Thursday said the US stands by the aircraft. “The Osprey is a highly capable aircraft with an excellent operational safety record,” Pentagon spokesman said. “But coming just as Washington and Tokyo were finalizing plans to send to the first Ospreys to Okinawa — where the US military footprint is a always a sensitive political issue — the accidents could not have happened at a worse time.”

In hopes of easing longstanding complaints that Okinawa bears too much of the burden of hosting the US troops in Japan, the two governments in April announced that about 9,000 US marines and the near 13,000 Marines there will be moved elsewhere. — Internet

**Chinese airline to begin Wuhan-Bangkok direct flights**

**WUHAN, 22 June—** China Southern Airlines will launch direct services on 5 July between the city of Wuhan in central China’s Hubei Province, and Thailand’s Bangkok.

Three round-trip flights will take off every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, according to a Thursday statement from the airline’s Hubei branch. The Wuhan-Bangkok flight will take off from Wuhan at 11:40 pm and arrive in Bangkok at 3:00 am local time.

The Bangkok-Wuhan flight will take off from Bangkok at 4:50 pm local time and arrive in Wuhan at 7:40 am. China Southern Airlines also plans to start offering five round-trip weekly flights between Wuhan and Singapore to accommodate booming outbound tourism during the summer season. — Xinhua

**A foreign visitor learns to make Zongzi, a pyramid-shaped dumpling made of glutinous rice wrapped in bamboo or reed leaves, in Beijing, China’s capital, on 21 June, 2012.**—Xinhua

**Australia’s Qantas has warned the government it could ‘go under’ if Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways is allowed a greater stake in rival carrier Virgin Australia, a report said.**
Emerging markets drive change in New Zealand tourism industry

Wellington, 22 June — New Zealand tourism operators are taking greater responsibility for adapting their products and services for emerging markets such as China, according to a new report by a New Zealand university and the tourism industry.

Private sector tourism operators were doing more to improve their business outlooks in the face of continuing challenges, said the State of the Tourism Sector 2012 report by the Tourism Industry Association New Zealand (TIA) and Lincoln University published on Tuesday.

Professor of Tourism at Lincoln University, David Simmons, said there had been a shift among respondents towards a more active stance over the last 12 months.

“This is resulting in more interest in networking and collaboration as a way to build the industry collectively,” Simmons said in a statement. TIA chief executive Martin Snedden said respondents interviewed for the report had identified a range of opportunities, including cruise tourism, the conference and incentive markets, and the government-backed New Zealand Cycle Trail.

There was also an acceptance that visitor markets were changing quickly with the greatest growth coming from new markets like China, and operators needed to adapt their products and marketing to meet the demands of new and niche markets, Snedden said in the statement. TIA members are facing a range of challenges, including the continuing impacts of the global financial crisis, recovery from the Christchurch earthquakes and the need to adapt to changing visitor markets,” Snedden said.

“Working in partnership with government, we can ensure that tourism continues to grow its contribution to New Zealand’s economy,” according to Statistics New Zealand, the tourism statistics agency.

According to Statistics New Zealand, the government statistics agency, 2.61 million overseas visitors arrived in New Zealand in the year to the end of April, up 4 percent from the April 2011 year. The largest increases were in visitors from Australia (up 41,300), China (up 38,600) and Malaysia (up 14,600). — Xinhua

More rockets fired into southern Israel from Gaza

Jerusalem, 22 June — Two more rockets fired into southern Israel from the Gaza Strip landed in the coastal area of Ashkelon city on Thursday, Israeli media reported. The attack, which caused no casualties and damages, was the latest in the conflict between Israel and Hamas, who rules the Gaza Strip. Early Thursday, two rockets were reportedly landed in southern Israel despite talks of a truce between the two sides. One rocket was intercepted by Israel’s Iron Dome rocket-defence system.

On the same day, Israel lodged an official complaint with the United Nations over rocket fire into southern Israel from the Gaza Strip in the past several days. Israeli Ambassador to the UN Ron Prosor complained to UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon that “attacks of about one million Israelis are paralyzed” by the rocket fire, The Jerusalem Post reported. Prosor was quoted as saying that “as long as Israel’s southern communities will not know quiet, it will not be quiet in Gaza.”

Since confrontations broke on Monday, more Qassam rockets have been launched to Israel from the Gaza strip and four Israeli citizens have been injured in the fire exchange. According to Palestinian sources, at least eight people died in the coastal strip, six of them were Israeli militants, while two children have been killed during Israel’s air strikes. — Xinhua

Drought hits Yellow-Huai regions, affects agricultural production

Beijing, 22 June — China’s drought relief authority said on Thursday the severe drought parching the Yellow River and Huai River regions has affected normal agricultural production.

As of Thursday, 77.61 million mu (5.17 million hectares) of arable land in Hebei, Shandong and Inner Mongolia have been suffering drought conditions, according to a statement on the website of the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters. The drought has also left 4.28 million people and 4.85 million heads of livestock without drinking water, the statement said.

The Yellow River and Huai River regions, including parts of Shandong, Jiangsu, Anhui, Hehai and Shaanxi, have received below-average rainfall since the beginning of June, disrupting agricultural production in those areas. The drought relief authority called on local governments to intensify drought relief efforts and take measures to minimize the extreme weather’s effects on the farming industry, according to the statement.— Xinhua
**Michelle Obama makes surprise cafe visit**

The manager of a Las Vegas coffee shop said she expects an uptick in business following a surprise visit from first lady Michelle Obama.

Ria Farmer, 19, manager of Sunrise Coffee, said the first lady dropped by for two small passion fruit iced teas before her Tuesday rally at the Henderson Convention Centre, the Las Vegas Sun reported.

Farmer said it had been a slow day Tuesday before 3:30 pm, when she was informed the shop would be receiving a special visitor.

"We were excited, and no one knew what to expect," Farmer said.

Farmer said Obama discussed the weather with her, chatted with her fellow customers and posed for some cellphone pictures before continuing on to the rally.

The manager said on Tuesday remained slow after Obama left, but the visit boosted her shop’s popularity on social media sites.

"Just judging by how many comments people will see online," she said. "I have friends from out of state texting me saying, ‘Dude, Michelle Obama was at your coffee shop.’ So hopefully there will be an increase in business.

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**Mel C upset with Olympic play list**

**LONDON, 22 June—**Former Spice Girl Melanie Chisholm, also known as Mel C, is upset because their tracks have not been mentioned in the Olympic play list, which has 86 songs.

The 38-year-old says she would be disappointed if Spice Girls are not included in the ceremony.

"I don’t know exactly where this list has come from, and obviously sometimes come out that aren’t quite right," mirror.co.uk quoted Mel C as saying.

"But I’d really upset if the Spice Girls weren’t included in the Olympics, whether it be the opening or closing ceremonies or any other playlists, because I think we absolutely represented Britain in the 1990s," she added.

The playlist includes names like David Bowie, Oasis, Sugababes, Arctic Monkeys, Duran Duran, Blur and Coldplay.—Internet

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**Roulette wheel hits seven 19s in a row**

**LONDON, 22 June—**The shipping department workers —18 men and two women — took a $160.3 million instant payoff, reports the Las Vegas Sun.

"A lot of times we get nothing," Al said.

"But not this time" chimed in one co-worker.

The Gazette said at least 11 of the winners, ages 35-64, indicated they intend to retire from their jobs at Quaker Oats. Al said the members of the group rely their privacy.

"Obviously, we don’t want people knocking at our doors. We’re common people, simple people.

"We don’t want the limelight. I don’t want this, but I’m here," Al told reporters.

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**Actor Daniel Radcliffe plays drunk in new video**

**LONDON, 22 June—**Actor Daniel Radcliffe, who revealed his battle with drinking last year, has played a drunkard in a new music video.

The “Harry Potter” star plays a drunk in a deserted bar in Slow Club’s new video.

"We’d known Daniel was a fan and found this pretty cool, but then we met him, he went to hang out and chat, and now we have him in our video," said Taylor.

“Daniel is one of the most energetic and exciting people to be around and has been committed to getting the video right and for that we are so in awe. He made us realise how lazy we all are when it comes to videos,” added Taylor. — Internet

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**Meditation makes Russell Brand happier**

**LONDON, 22 June—**British comedian Russell Brand says meditation has helped him become a happier man.

"But not this time" chimed in one co-worker.

Brand’s divorce with estranged wife singer Katy Perry to be finalised in July, added.

"Beyonce thought this would be the perfect way to show Jay how much of a great dad he is," thesun.co.uk quoted Brand as saying.

"Of course I went through a divorce, which isn’t good

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**New Album**

**Former Spice Girl Melanie Chisholm**

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**Justin Bieber honoured with special day**

**NEW YORK, 22 June—**Teen sensation Justin Bieber has been honoured with a special day called the Justin Bieber Appreciation Day. A city official said it will be celebrated on 19 June every year.

The 18-year-old attended a record signing on Tuesday at an electronics store in Manhattan where he was visited by the Manhattan Borough President Scott M Stringer, reports dailystar.co.uk.

According to arnny.com, the borough official handed the pop star a framed certificate to mark the special day and made reference to Bieber’s new album, “Believe.”

"This proclamation is on behalf of the 1.6 million people who live in Manhattan, and it’s very exciting to have Bieber here with us. I don’t give proclamation unless I believe," said Stringer.—Internet

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**Beyonce Knowles buys Jay-Z private plane**

**LONDON, 22 June—**Singer Beyonce Knowles has bought a 25-million-pound aircraft— Bombardier Challenger 850, to gift it to her husband Jay-Z on Father’s Day.

"Beyonce thought this would be the perfect way to show Jay how much of a great dad he is," thesun.co.uk quoted Brand as saying.

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**Axl Rose falls on stage, again!**

**PARIS, 22 June—**Singer Axl Rose experienced his second stage fall in less than a month when he crashed on the floor during a performance here.

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**Twenty co-workers at the Quaker Oats Co plant in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, call themselves “The Shipping 20,” claimed a $241 million Powerball jackpot on 13 June.**

The-lucky lottery players, looking to protect their privacy, are expected to become the first jackpot winners to take legal steps to keep their full names from being revealed publicly, the newspaper said.

Their spokesman, AL61, said he bought the tickets for the group, who have been pooling their money for about a decade. They’re habit wasModifier to be revealed: to buy $100 worth of Powerball tickets whenever the jackpot got above $150 million.

"A lot of times we get nothing," Al said.

"But not this time" chimed in one co-worker.

The Gazette said at least 11 of the winners, ages 35-64, indicated they intend to retire from their jobs at Quaker Oats. Al said the members of the group rely their privacy.

"Obviously, we don’t want people knocking at our doors. We’re common people, simple people.

"We don’t want the limelight. I don’t want this, but I’m here," Al told reporters.

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Ronado inspires Portugal to semifinal at Euro 2012

WARSZAWA, 22 June — The Czech Republic failed to turn back the clock and repeat their fifth successive Euro final. We were efficient in attack and defending always created more chances than the opponent. They dominated the first 20 minutes, but we countered the second half and simply played much better," said Portugal’s head coach Paulo Bento.

With the third victory in their fifth successive Euro quarterfinal, Portugal will take on either Spain or France in the semifinals in Warsaw, on 21 June, 2012. «Nozze»

Czech striker Baros ends international career

BARCELONA, 22 June — Czech striker Milan Baros ended his international career after the Czech Republic were eliminated from Euro 2012. Czech team spokesman Jaroslav Kolar told AFP on Friday. "He only said to me, don’t say anything to the locker room, I can’t quote him," Kolar said shortly after midnight as the team were digesting Thursday’s 1-0 quarter-final loss to Portugal in Warsaw that sent them home.

"The other players and the coaching board both expressed that last five minutes. It was pretty long and it was pretty emotional," Kolar added. The 30-year-old Galatasaray striker scored 41 goals in 31 games for his country since his debut. He did not score at Euro 2004, but five goals at Euro 2008, where the flat-filled Czech team reached the semi-finals, made him the tournament’s top scorer.

Baros won the Championships League with Liverpool in 2005, but his form has slumped since then, with the player featuring as often on the gossip pages as on the sports pages. He gradually fell out of favour with Czech fans and earned criticism from media, but remained the first-choice striker for Czech coach Michal Bilek at Euro 2012. Baros had scored for the Czechs when the Czechs lost their opener against Russia 4-1, but he fought on to finally hear his name chanted by fans after both the 1-0 victory against Poland in the group and the quarter-final against Portugal.

Ferron beats Sjöstrom to reach UNICEF Open semi finals

DENMARK, 22 June — David Ferrer routed Igor Sjostrom of the Netherlands 6-0, 6-1 on Thursday to reach the UNICEF Open quarter-finals, on 23 June, 2012. "He was really strong in every aspect of his game," said Ferrer.

On the women’s side, Kim Clijsters of Belgium beat the UNICEF Open semi-finalist Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia 6-2, 6-1 in a match that he had built up by rain. It was Clijsters’ third win of the tournament, providing a boost after she had been sidelined most of the season due to injuries. She next plays Urszula Radwanska of Poland, who defeated Sofia Arvidsson of Sweden 6-0, 4-6, 6-1. Ferrer will play in the quarter-final against the winner of the match between Kristina Mladenovic and Lesia Tsurenko of Ukraine, which is scheduled for Thursday.

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Heat and low humidity are also a concern at the 1,150-acre wildfire burning near Lake George, which is 57 percent contained. Conditions are so dry that sparks from bullets hitting targets can ignite wildfires.

Heat and low humidity are also a concern at the 1,150-acre wildfire burning near Lake George, which is 57 percent contained. Conditions are so dry that sparks from bullets hitting targets can ignite wildfires. Authorities are investigating whether recreational shooting sparked the fire near Lake George.—Internet

Lee Chong-Wei topped from top No 1 badminton ranking

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 June — Injury-hit Malaysian badminton hero Lee Chong-Wei has surrendered his world number one ranking to arch-rival Lin Dan of China after nearly four years at the top.—Internet

Malaysia’s Lee Chong-Wei, pictured during a match played in New Delhi, in April. Lee has surrendered his world number one ranking to arch-rival Lin Dan of China after nearly four years at the top.—Internet

Hart looking forward to meeting hero Buffon

In a photo made on Tuesday, 19 June, 2012, and made available on Wednesday by the Colorado National Guard, firefighters from the Monument, Colo., fire department march to dinner at sunset in a base camp near the High Park wildfire about 15 miles west of Fort Collins, Colo. — Reuters

In a photo made on Tuesday, 19 June, 2012, and made available on Wednesday by the Colorado National Guard, firefighters from the Monument, Colo., fire department march to dinner at sunset in a base camp near the High Park wildfire about 15 miles west of Fort Collins, Colo. — Reuters

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Weather forecast for 23rd June, 2012

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
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In control of the situation and seems like a likable person. He’s calmly in control and makes the big saves when required.”

Hart said he was most impressed by Buffon’s game-management, consistently rejecting the flamboyant option if a more straightforward choice is available.

“He doesn’t go looking for action, which is key goalkeeping-wise,” Hart said.

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Union Hotels and Tourism Minister meets officials of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services

NAV PYI TAW, 22 June—Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan this morning held a meeting with the incharge of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services (NAV Pyi Taw Head Office), PyinOoLwin, Kengtung, Chaungtha and MraukU branches including Shan State (South and North), at the meeting hall of the ministry here this afternoon. He said that necessary measures are to be taken in order to generate more money than before. Managers and staff are to carry out marketing effectively. Hotel managers are to make supervision for generating more money and cutting expenses.

Those present respectively reported income expenditure account and profit and loss account of the hotels to the Union Minister. After that, Managing Director U Hla Htay and Deputy Minister U Htay Aung gave supplementary reports.—MNA

Union Religious Affairs Minister receives Ven Mon Tak of ROK

NAV PYI TAW, 22 June—Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thuura U Myint Maung met a delegation led by Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Ven Mon Tak of the Republic of Korea and party, at his office, here this morning.

At the call, they cordially discussed promoting cooperation of religious affairs between two countries, promotion and propagation of Theravada Buddhism and enhancing amity.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Moe Zaw Shwe of Religious Affairs Department, Director-General U Khang Aung of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, head of office U Myint Oo and officials. —MNA

US-made six generators arrive at Myanmar Industrial Port

Photo shows uploading of six generators imported via Indonesia onto vehicles at Myanmar Industrial Port.—MNA

US-made six generators arrive at Myanmar Industrial Port

YANGON, 22 June—Yangon City Electricity Supply Board Joint-Secretary U Tun Tun Swe, on behalf of the Union Minister for Electric Power No.2, made closed supervision on uploading six generators imported via Indonesia onto vehicles at Myanmar Industrial Port on Strand Road in Ablon Township, here, this morning.

Those 1.8 MVA generators are of Caterpillar type made in USA and imported by MSP Tractors Pte,. Ltd. This morning, they arrived at Myanmar Industrial Port by voyage No. 181 Morotai vessel.

Among six generators, two will be transported to Mandalay, one each to Monywa, and Pyay and the remaining two are to be used in Yangon. —MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No.31/2012
4th Waxing of First Waso, 1374 ME
(22 June, 2012)

Four Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Representatives substituted

According to the request made in accordance with Section 33 of Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law to substitute four Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Representatives nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in first multiparty democracy general election held on 7 November 2010, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted four Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Representatives stated hereunder in Notification No.3/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011 with personnel shown against them.

Chin State Hluttaw
(1) BC 28267
Major Thet Lwin
(2) BC 33483
Major Aung Zay Nyein
Sagaing Region Hluttaw
(3) BC 29408
Major Zaw Htet
(4) BC 25550
Captain Thein Tun Oo
Mon State Hluttaw
(1) BC 34724
Major Officiating Tin Aung Moe
(2) BC 21082
Major Kyaw Min Htut
(3) BC 28034
Major Zaw Lin Aung
(4) BC 28267
Captain Thein Tun Oo
Rakhine State Hluttaw
(1) BC 29408
Major Zaw Htet
(2) BC 25550
Major Aung Zay Nyein
(3) BC 28034
Major Zaw Lin Aung
(4) BC 28267
Captain Thein Tun Oo

Myanmar Women’s Day commemorative signboard erected in Bahan Tsp

YANGON, 22 June—Hailing Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3rd July, a ceremony to erect signboard of Myanmar Women’s Day organized by Yangon Region Women’s Affairs Organization was held near U Htaung Bo roundabout in Myoma ward of Bahan Township, here, this morning.

Patrons of Region WAO Daw Thin Thin Mya and Daw Khin Aye Nwe and Chairperson Daw Thaung Mya cut the ribbon to open it. After that, Patron of Region WAO Daw Thin Thin Mya and Daw Khin Aye Nwe and

Lee Chong-Wei toppled from top No 1 badminton ranking

Roulette wheel hits seven 19s in a row