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True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.

* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

**Fourth regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw continues for second day**

One urgent proposal submitted and informed to Hluttaw, eight questions answered, reports submitted, two new proposals and one bill submitted, one bill passed.

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 July—The fourth regular session of the First Pyithu Hluttaw continued for second day at Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Hluttaw Complex here today, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 413 MPs.

At the meeting, one urgent proposal was submitted and informed to the Hluttaw, eight questions answered, reports presented, two new proposals and one bill submitted, and one bill passed.

U Thein Swe of An Constituency as an urgent proposal proposed that Pyithu Hluttaw representatives should donate the three-day meal allowance provided by the Hluttaw to local people of Rakhine State for their current livelihood as they were injured and lost shelters and properties in riots in Rakhine State in June, 2012; that those who can afford to donate more and wishing to do so should contribute more; that National Races Affairs and Internal Peace-making Committee and Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Committee should dispatch a group constituted with Pyithu Hluttaw representatives to Rakhine State to learn the conditions there, and to comfort the sufferers.

The Hluttaw accepted the proposal and decided to handle it.

Regarding the proposal, the Hluttaw Speaker said he assumed that the proposal and support as regard to Rakhine State is based on sympathy and goodwill of the MPs calling for proper actions of the Hluttaw to the issue. How to resolve the issue is more important than financial assistance and goodwill and sympathy toward the sufferers. The Speaker thanked the proposer and the supporters urging the committees and commission to work utmost to convey the goodwill and sympathy to the sufferers and accomplish the measures of the Hluttaw.

(See page 8)

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives sign attendance book.—MNA

**Fourth regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw continues for second day**

Four questions answered, one bill discussed, two bills approved, two proposals submitted.

Nav Pyt Taw, 5 July—The fourth regular session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the second day at Amyotha Hluttaw Building in Hluttaw Complex here today, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 215 MPs.

Regarding the question of U Swe Aung of Yangon Region Constituency (12) about whether is a plan to upgrade Okkan from town level to township or (sub-township level), Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint replied that Okkan in Taikkyi Township, Yangon North District, Yangon Region is located beside Yangon-Pyay Highway, 18 miles from Taikkyi. Okkan enjoys a booming economy with Tabuhla Dam, Okkan sugar mill, private-owned sugarcane plantations, and fish farms, presented with such socio-economic infrastructures as home for the aged, station hospital, rural health care centres, over 100 basic education schools, government departments, police station, sports ground and self-reliant electric power supply facilities.

Upgrading of Okkan to township or sub-township requires field survey report of the Yangon Region administrator, the agreement of the Yangon Region government, and the recommendation of the Yangon Region chief minister which will be submitted to the President Office in line with procedures. The Ministry of Home Affairs would take care of the proposal upon receiving the order of the President Office to the ministry.

Regarding the question of U Htay Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency (12) about if there is a plan to repair the channel of Aungbale Dam in the north of Meiktila irrigating farmland in Thazi Township, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw replied that the channel is from Nat drainage ditch of Meiktila North Lake and is 9900 feet in length providing... (See page 9)
**Outstanding students honoured at Ministry of Hotels and Tourism**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 5 July**—A ceremony to honour the outstanding students and staff of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism for 2011-2012 academic year was held in conjunction with the cash assistance presentation ceremony for 2012-2013 academic year at the ministry this morning, with an address by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tin Hlaing.

The union minister presented K 5.94 million for 682 students and departmental heads.

Next, the Union minister gave medals of honour and cash awards to seven outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination in 2011-2012 academic year.

On behalf of the outstanding students, five-distinction winner Ma Mya Thuza Lwin spoke word of thanks. —MNA

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**Cash and kind donated for local people in Rakhine State**

Well-wishers donate cash and foodstuff for local people of Rakhine State through officials at Fire Services Department (Head Office). —MNA

YANGON, 5 July—Cash and kind donation ceremony for local people in Rakhine State who lost their homes and possessions due to various reasons took place at Maykhalang, South Okkalapa Township K 15,000 and one bale of clothes, U Thet Lwin two bales of clothes. Director-General U Tin Moe of Fire Services Department accepted the donations. Any person may dial +9567-406182/+959-8304074 and +959-42070166/+959-5126400 instead of the telephone numbers included in the tenders. —MNA

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**Signing ceremony of Country Programme Action Plan (2012-2015) held**

**Dr Kan Zaw** and Resident Representative of UNFPA Mr Mohamad Abdel Ahad exchange notes after signing Country Programme Action Plan (2012-2015).—MNA

UNFPA attended the ceremony. The UNFPA in conjunction with related ministries had implemented census and health programs in the past making a lot of cash contribution to them. The four-term Country Programme Action Plan (2012-2015) is to be implemented in the cause of reproductive health, booming population, HIV/AIDS and equality of sex in conjunction with UNFPA and related ministries, contributing 29.5 million dollars by UNFPA.—MNA

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**Zomi Congress for Democracy Party gets permission to form political party**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 5 July** — The Union Election Commission has given permission to Zomi Congress for Democracy party to establish as a political party today as the party is found to be in conformity with the rules and regulations.

The UEC has been scrutinizing allowing the applications of parties to form political parties. A 15-member body led by U Ngoal Khant Darlpar applied the UEC to establish ZCD as a political party. —MNA

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**Hall of Fire Services Department in Mayangon Township here this morning.**

On the occasion, Myanmar Tokiwa Corporation Co,Ltd donated 3,000 dozens of pencil and 2,400 dozens of colour pencil worth K 3 million, Tri Sadana Network from Thongwa Township K 152,500, An Township Association (Yangon) K 100,000, Lt-Col Ba Nyun Rodriguez Daw Thi Tha Htak family K 150,000 and one bale of clothes, U Thet Wai+ Daw May Thet Hlaing Aung K 100,000 in memory of late Ma Min Hnin Lwin Tun K 100,000, U Aung Than Win+ Daw Khan Swe Oo family K 90,000 and two bales of clothes, staff from Myanma Economics Bank (Insein) K 53,000, U Aung Kywe Nyunt+ Daw Khin Saw Oo K 50,000, Daw Tin Tin Myint (Director, Agricultural Research Department, Yangon) K 50,000, Daw Aye Aye Win from South Okkalapa Township K 15,000 and one bale of clothes and pan, Ma Ei Ei Khine K 10,000, Daw Thin Thin from Thingangyun Township one bale of clothes, Daw Nyunt Nyunt Tin (Agricultural Research Department) K 10,000, Daw Win Yi family from North Okkalapa Township two bales of clothes, Ma Myat Thidar Maung and Ma May Thet Lwin two bales of clothes. Director-General U Tin Moe of Fire Services Department accepted the donations. Officials of the department presented the certificates of honour to them and spoke words of thanks. Up to date, the donations amounted to K 227,391,816. —MNA

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**Telephone numbers changed for opening and closing, event management of SEA Games**

Nav Pyi Taw, 5 July—As the XXVII SEA Games will be held in Nay Pyi Taw this year, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointments of the following heads of service organization on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>(a) Dr Aung Min</td>
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<td>Yangon Institute of Education Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar)</td>
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<td>(b) Dr Khaing Mye</td>
<td>Recttor</td>
<td>Yangon West University Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar)</td>
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**MYANMARGAZETTE**

**Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development**

Dr Kan Zaw and Resident Representative of UNFPA Mr Mohamad Abdel Ahad exchanged notes after signing Country Programme Action Plan (2012-2015).—MNA

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**Dy Construction Minister inspects progress of roads, bridges**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 5 July**—Deputy minister for Construction U Soe Tint met staff at Thayar District Senior Engineer Office in Magway Region on 1 July.

The deputy minister inspected Aunglan township engineer office, maintenance works of Aunglan-Magway road section by Max Myanmar Co through BOT system and progress of road works in Koeinthi-Thayakak-Sanmagyi Road and Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnnya-Moythit-Kanpyar (Magway) Road. —MNA

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**Nav Pyi Taw, 5 July**—As the XXVII SEA Games will be held in Nay Pyi Taw this year, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the tenders for opening and closing ceremonies and event management matters have been advertised in the Myanma Alin, the Kyawon, the New Light of Myanmar and Myawady dailies on 4 and 5 July.

Any person may dial +9567-406182/+959-8304074 and +959-42070166/+959-5126400 instead of the telephone numbers included in the tenders. —MNA

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**Well-wishers donate cash and foodstuff for local people of Rakhine State through officials at Fire Services Department (Head Office).** —MNA

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**PERSPECTIVES**

Friday, 6 July, 2012

**Our own kith and kin**

History tells us that we were strong and even powerful to the level of winning the respect and admiration of neighbours every time we were united under the stable administration and we were weak and even vulnerable to outside interferences and armed invasions during the periods we were disunited under unstable administration.

So, it is crystal clear that national unity is the most important factor in a country like us that is a Union and home to over 100 ethnic nationalities. In fact, national unity is the foundation of political stability. And national economy grows well only when there is political stability. In this context, the government in office has been in the process of restoring peace and stability in every part of the country especially in remote border areas where internal armed insurgency lingers longer than in any other part of the Union.

We now have the Union Peace-making Central Committee chaired by the President, the Union peace-making Work Committee led by the Vice-President and other related bodies in their mission for national unity through three stages – Region/State level, Union level and Parliamentary level.

In point of fact, peace making is a delicate work needing a lot of energy and commitment as the people we are dealing with are no other persons but our own kith and kin. Even though they are holding arms pursuing the armed struggle line against the government for their own belief we must not forget that they are part of us or part of the Union itself. They are inseparable. Accordingly, the government is doing its best for national reconsolidation through the given three levels of negotiation plus positive action.

And because of the government’s sincerity and pragmatic actions almost all the armed ethnic armed groups are at the peace negotiations where appropriate options together with tolerance, understanding, sympathy, mutual respect and equality are on the table towards national reconsolidation.

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**Nav Pyi Taw, 5 July**—Jointly organized by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and UNFPA, a signing ceremony to implement the Country Programme Action Plan (2012-2015) was held at the hall of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, here, this morning.

Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw and Yangon Resident Representative of UNFPA Mr Mohamad Abdel Ahad inked it.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, responsible personnel from the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, related departments and UNFPA attended the ceremony. The UNFPA in conjunction with related ministries had implemented regulations.

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**Nav Pyi Taw, 5 July**—The Union Election Commission has given permission to Zomi Congress for Democracy party to establish as a political party today as the party is found to be in conformity with the rules and regulations.

The UEC has been scrutinizing allowing the applications of parties to form political parties. A 15-member body led by U Ngoal Khant Darlpar applied the UEC to establish ZCD as a political party. —MNA
Mexico recounts votes from over half of polling booths

In the weeks before the election, a student movement criticizing Pena Nieto and the PRI erupted, with many young voters rallying around Lopez Obrador’s campaign mostly in Mexico City where the left won a resounding victory. “There were a lot of electoral crimes, burnt and stolen ballot boxes,” said one of the protesters, Balan Onofre, 23.

The left has accused the PRI of handing out pre-paid shopping cards and other goods to voters in exchange for support, a charge the Pena Nieto campaign denies.

Lopez Obrador had asked for a recount of every vote, but the electoral institute said that just over half of all booths for the presidential race met the necessary conditions set out by a 2007 electoral law.

Electoral workers recount votes at a district office of Mexico’s Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) in Mexico City on 4 July. —Reuters

Residents gather at the site of a bomb attack in a market in the eastern Iraqi town of Zubaidiya (60 miles) southeast of Baghdad, on 4 July. 2012. —Reuters

Car bomb in Iraq market kills three, wounds many

Baghdad, 5 July—A car bomb killed at least three people and wounded many others in a busy morning market in the mainly Shi’ite Muslim Iraqi town of Zubaidiya on Wednesday, the latest attack to raise fears of a return to widespread sectarian violence.

Grocery store owner Haider Radhi told Reuters he watched a young man stop his car and get out seconds before the explosion.

“I saw wounded people and bodies on the ground. I was so scared...I started to transfer the wounded by car until the ambulances arrived in the town,” Radhi, 30, said.

Local authorities said three people were killed in the blast in Zubaidiya, about 100 km (60 miles) southeast of Baghdad. A health official said 10 people were injured while a member of the provincial council said 17 people were wounded.

On Tuesday, bombs killed at least 44 people at markets in the country and authorities said they bore the hallmarks of sectarian cartoons.

Sunni insurgents often attack Shi’ite targets to try to reignite sectarian violence that killed tens of thousands of civilians in 2006-2007.

One of Tuesday’s bombings took place near a Shi’ite mosque where pilgrims gather on their way to the nearby city of Kerbala to celebrate the birthday of two of its most important imams, al-Mahdi, this week.

Last month at least 237 people were killed and 603 wounded in attacks, mainly bombings, according to a Reuters tally, making June one of the bloodiest months in Iraq since US troops withdrew at the end of last year.—Reuters

New York City celebrates Independence Day with fireworks

New York, 4 July—New York City celebrated America’s 236th Independence Day with a firework show on Wednesday night.

The 25-minute show, which was called the 36th Annual Macy’s 4th of July Fireworks and believed to be the country’s largest of its kind, some 40,000 aerial shells were launched from four barges on the Hudson River beginning at 9:25 pm (0125 GMT Thursday).

Huge crowds gathered along the Hudson River cheered “USA USA!” while watching the fireworks.

This year’s fireworks theme was “Ignite the Night.” The score were set songs chosen by Macy’s fans including Ray Charles’ “America the Beautiful,” Les Greenwoods’ “God Bless the USA,” Maderita’s “Happiness” and Whitney Houston’s “One Moment in Time.”

The first ever Macy’s 4th of July Fireworks show occurred in 1958 at the Hudson River and remained an annual event at that location.—Xinhua

Japan regains nuclear power as first reactor resumes operations

Tokyo, 5 July—Japan ended two months without nuclear power on Thursday when the No 3 unit at Kansai Electric Power Co’s Ohi plant became the first reactor to resume supplying electricity to the grid since a nationwide safety shutdown after the Fukushima disaster.

Japan’s last working reactor was idled in early May, leaving the country without nuclear power for the first time since 1970.

The rest of the reactors had been shut for maintenance and safety checks to see if they could withstand an earthquake and tsunami similar to the one that devastated Tokyo Electric Power’s Fukushima Daiichi plant in March 2011, causing the worst atomic crisis since Chernobyl in 1986.

The government approved the restart of the No 3 and No 4 Ohi units in western Japan to avoid a possible summer power crunch. But public safety concerns over nuclear power remain deep, with surveys showing about 70 percent of voters want the country to ditch nuclear eventually. A panel appointed by parliament to probe the causes of the Fukushima disaster and assess problems with the government’s crisis response, is to issue a final report later on Thursday.

Kansai Electric, Japan’s second biggest utility, said it began generating power from the 1,180-megawatt No 3 Ohi reactor at 5 percent of capacity at 7 a.m. on Thursday (2200 GMT on Wednesday) as scheduled, four days after the unit was restarted.

The No 3 unit is expected to reach full capacity output around 9-10 July. Its sister unit, the 1,880-MW No 4 Ohi reactor, is scheduled to resume operations between 18-20 July, start power output from 21-25 July and reach full-capacity generation from 25-30 July, a company spokesman said.—Reuters

Berlin, 5 July—A 53-year-old German gunman facing eviction shot dead four people before committing suicide in an apartment block in the northern city of Karlsruhe on Wednesday, police said.

The unemployed man killed a bailiff and locksmith who tried to evict him from his flat, as well as the new owner. Police found the man’s 55-year-old partner dead in bed and said he had shot her as well.

“Special forces broke into the apartment at 11.48 after smelling something burning and found four dead bodies. One of them was the gunman,” said Karlsruhe police chief Roland Lay.

Investigators described an “execution-like scene in the three-roomed flat, which had been put up for compulsory sale in April due to payment arrears, suggesting he had planned the killings. He set fire to the carpet before shooting himself.

Ther was nothing the police could have done to avoid this tragic and terrible situation,” Gunter Spitz, the local public prosecutors’ office told a news conference.

Police found a shotgun, a pistol, two pistols, ammunition and a dummy grenade in the apartment, all of it illegally purchased, said Spitz.

The gunman, who was not named, invited the eviction team into the flat then pulled a gun on them, shooting the bailiff in the leg when he did not obey.

The locksmith was shot in the head and chest after trying to disarm the gunman, police said.

Drinking beer and smoking throughout the ordeal, the gunman eventually freed the social worker, who heard five shots after he left the apartment.

Karlsruhe, with nearly 300,000 inhabitants, is located near the French border and is home to Germany’s Constitutional Court.—Reuters

Five killed in German hostage standoff

Residents gather at the site of a bomb attack in a market in the eastern Iraqi town of Zubaidiya (60 miles) southeast of Baghdad, on 4 July. 2012. —Reuters

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CERN experiments observe new particle consistent with Higgs boson

G E N E V A, 5 July — Physicists have observed a new particle consistent with the long-sought Higgs boson, a theorised sub-atomic particle believed to confer mass, the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) announced on Wednesday. Two independent teams, ATLAS and CMS experiments, observed a new particle in the mass region around 125-126 GeV, at the level of 5 sigma certainty, the usual particle physics threshold for discovery, according to CERN.

“We’ve discovered a new particle of boson, possibly a Higgs boson, but we have to find out what kind of Higgs boson it is,” Rolf Heuer, director of CERN told reporters. Asked whether they found the last-missing ingredient in the Standard Model of physics, Heuer answered, “As a layman, I think we have it. But as a scientist, I have to say, ‘What do we have?’” He said the discovery opens the way to more detailed studies, requiring larger statistics, which will pin down the new particle’s properties.

“We have reached a milestone in our understanding of nature,” Heuer said. CMS experiment spokesman Joe Incandela said “we know it must be a boson and it’s the heaviest boson ever found.” Peter Higgs, a Scottish physicist who proposed the existence of such a particle in 1964, presented on Wednesday’s seminar and Press conference as audience. He congratulated the scientists, calling it “an occasion for celebration.”

“For me, it’s an incredible thing that’s happened in my lifetime,” Higgs said. —Xinhua

Meet the new spray-on battery that comes in a can.

NEW YORK, 5 July — Scientific American reports that a team of scientists from Rice University in Houston and the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium have been working on a “spray-on” battery that’s deployed through an aerosol can. Although the idea has a vague “They called me mad, mad!” sound to it, Scientific American says that the invention could conceivably transform any surface into a potential energy storage device. The magazine says the spray is layered like most batteries with “a positive current collector, a cathode that attracts positively charged ions, an ion-conducting separator, an anode to attract negative ions, and a negative current collector.” Team member Neelam Singh says that the technology he’s helping to develop could even lead to “paint-on solar cells” that could transform entire houses into “solar-energy capture-and-storage devices.”

Meet the new spray-on battery that comes in a can

Gartner finds tablets are (slowly) taking over for paper books and magazines

NEW YORK, 5 July — Paper-based books aren’t in any danger of becoming vinyl record-style novelties anytime soon, but Gartner says that they’re increasingly being read less frequently in favour of digital books read on tablets. Gartner analyst Carol Milanesi says that a new survey conducted by her firm shows that “more than 50 percent of media tablet owners prefer to read news, magazines and books on screen, rather than on paper.” To break it down survey, she explained that “one in three respondents used their media tablets to read a book, compared with 13 percent for mobile PCs, and 7 percent for mobile phones.”

Gartner analyst Meike Escherich says that despite the success of tablets as media consumption devices it’s unlikely that paper will go away anytime soon, although she did say that “it is clear that the ‘less-paper model’ is the new reality.” —Internet

Xbox 8 tipped as name of next-gen Microsoft gaming console

NEW YORK, 5 July — Microsoft’s next-generation gaming console may be called “Xbox 8” or perhaps Xbox Infinity, according to a recent report. The software giant recently secured a slew of Xbox-related domain names, including xbsystem.com and xboystation.com, according to the study. This entry was apparently an error as it seems to be Microsoft’s list of potential names for its new gaming console. The Xbox 8 name was introduced in the last days of E3 2012. It is said that the console will have a more powerful processor and a faster graphics card.

The Redmond-based company’s next-generation gaming console was previously thought to be called Xbox 720, following the naming scheme of its predecessor. The recent domain acquisitions have increased speculation that Microsoft may veer away from its previous naming scheme, however. The next-generation console will reportedly be six times more powerful than the current Xbox 360, and may support Blu-ray, true 1080p and native 3D output. The hardware will supposedly feature six to eight ARM A15 cores and 32MB of RAM, built into a 32GB SSD, with no external storage and the possibility of remote virtual storage.

Most current systems, by comparison, rely on complex and expensive equipment designed to trap a single atom or electron in a vacuum and then cool the entire system to absolute zero, according to the study. Scientists say that they can measure with very high efficiency and fidelity. Wegan can encode data in it, and we can store it for a relatively long time.

He added, “We believe other technical issues limit this work, so it looks feasible to increase the life span into the range of hours. At that point, a host of real-world applications become possible.” —Xinhua

Tablets are (slowly) taking over for paper books and magazines, Gartner finds. —Internet

A cotton T-shirt may one day charge your cellphone

NEW YORK, 5 July — Two engineers at the University of South Carolina conducted a research that showed a modified store-bought T-shirt can act like a supercapacitor and store an electrical charge.

“We wear fabric every day,” said Xiaodong Li, a professor of mechanical engineering at the school.

“One day our cotton T-shirts could have more functions; for example, a flexible energy storage device that could charge your cell phone or your iPad.” Li and colleagues used a store-bought T-shirt, which was then soaked in a fluoride solution and baked at a high temperature in an oxygen-free oven. Once removed, the resulting fibers were converted from cellulose to activated carbon capable of storing an electrical charge.

“We will soon see roll-up cell phones and laptop computers on the market,” Li said, according to Innovation News Daily. “But a flexible energy storage device is needed to make this possible.”

The engineer notes that the activated carbon textile acts like a supercapacitor, because they can have “particularly high energy storage densities.”

The duo coated the shirt’s fibers with a nanometer layer of manganese oxide, which greatly enhanced the material’s electricity-storing ability. “This created a stable, high-performing supercapacitor,” said Li. The team discovered the fabric capacitor could charge and discharge thousands of times with minimal loss of performance. —Internet

Harvard researchers claim new breakthrough on quantum computing

B E I J I N G, 5 June — Scientists have cracked the core problem of quantum computing that is how to create the key building blocks known as quantum bits or qubits at room temperature by turning to one of the purest materials on Earth: diamonds. A team of Harvard scientists, led by Professor of Physics Mikhail Lukin, claimed to have achieved this, according to a study in the journal Science as quoted by media reports on Wednesday.

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He added, “We believe other technical issues limit this work, so it looks feasible to increase the life span into the range of hours. At that point, a host of real-world applications become possible.” —Xinhua
Volkswagen aims to wrap up Porsche purchase on 1 August

Wolfgang Porsche aims to wrap up its long-awaited purchase of sports-car maker Porsche on 1 August, two years before a planned target date to complete the deal free of tax.

Full consolidation of Porsche’s auto-making operations in VW’s accounts will boost VW’s full-year financial result by more than 9 billion euros ($5.58 billion) plus a single common VW share, VW said in a statement on Wednesday.

“The accelerated integration will allow us to start implementing a joint strategy for Porsche’s automotive business more quickly and realize key joint projects more rapidly,” VW chief financial officer Hans Dieter Poetsch said. Full consolidation of Porsche’s auto-making operations in VW’s accounts will boost VW’s full-year financial result by more than 9 billion euros ($5.58 billion) plus a single common VW share, VW said in a statement on Wednesday.

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“Before we can say with certainty that T gondii caused the behavior changes, but often produces no symptoms as it lurks in brain and muscle cells. Women infected with a parasite spread by cat feces run a higher risk of attempting suicide, suggests a study of more than 45,000 women in Denmark published in a scientific journal this week. "We can’t say with certainty that T gondii caused the women to try to kill themselves," said Teodor Postolache of the University of Maryland medical school, senior author of the study in the Archives of General Psychiatry.

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**Cholera outbreak in northern Mali kills two**

Gao, 5 July—Two people have died and 26 others have been infected by an outbreak of cholera in the city of Gao, northern Mali, a region occupied by hardline groups, officials told AFP on Wednesday.

“Yesterday we counted 27 cases of cholera, including two deaths. This morning we had one case,” said Ibrahim Maiga, a health official from Gao hospital.

The disease has broken out in Wabaria, a southwestern suburb of Gao on the Niger river.

“We have sent someone to Wabaria today to see the cholera cases,” said Maiga.

**Iraqis face long future of fear as attacks mount**

Baghdad, 5 July—Whenever he leaves his home, Mohammed Jabbar, a young Sunni Muslim, carries his cellphone so his family can find out quickly whether he is safe if a deadly bomb attack hits. Shukrria Mahmoud, another Sunni, rarely ventures from her house because of the risk of violence that is gripping Iraq.

“A bomb attack threatens us every day, so we are living a life of fear as attacks mount,” said 40-year-old Mahmoud.

Security is of concern to all Iraqis, especially as they work around the clock to deal with 60,000 outages for its customers throughout Virginia as of noon on Wednesday.

Service for virtually all customers in Northern Virginia and the Richmond metropolitan area who lost electric service because of the extreme damage, she said.

More than 3,500 people from 18 states and Canada were working through the holiday, Rodney Blevins, a Dominion vice-president, said in a statement. The company said it had restored power to about 90 percent of its 1 million customers who had lost electric service because of the weekend storms, the biggest non-hurricane outage in the company’s history.

**Chlorine leak in Georgia, 73 taken to hospital**

**Death toll from Russia’s helicopter crash rises to four**

**File photo shows commuters boarding a train at the Orchard subway station in Singapore. Singapore’s metro system has been plagued by outdated equipment and poor maintenance for years, according to a high-level inquiry that criticised management for rushing to resume services without adequately addressing underlying problems.**

The Committee of Inquiry (COI) findings, issued late Wednesday, also said publicly listed operator SMRT did not have enough engineers of overseas maintenance.

“At face value, the maintenance branches to be grossly inadequate,” the report said.

In December, a seven-hour breakdown affected more than 12,000 commuters, including thousands trapped in trains stalled underground after a power fault hit the SMRT network’s North-South line during the evening rush hour. Internet

**More than one million in US still without power five days after storm**

WASHINGTON, 5 July—More than 1 million homes and businesses in a swath from Indiana to Virginia remained without power on Wednesday, five days after deadly storms tore through the region.

The outage meant no 4 July Independence Day holiday for thousands of utility workers who scrambled to restore lingering power outages.

Much of the damage to the grid was blamed on last weekend’s “derecho,” a big, powerful and long-lasting wind storm that blew from the Midwest to the Atlantic Ocean.

Violent weekend storms and days of record heat have killed at least 23 people in the United States since Friday. Some died when trees fell on their homes and cars, and heat stroke killed others.

102407 rehearsal

BAGHDAD, 5 July—Whenever he leaves his home, Mohammed Jabbar, a young Sunni Muslim, carries his cellphone so his family can find out quickly whether he is safe if a deadly bomb attack hits. Shukrria Mahmoud, another Sunni, rarely ventures from her house because of the risk of violence that is gripping Iraq.

“A bomb attack threatens us every day, so we are living a life of fear as attacks mount,” said 40-year-old Mahmoud.

Security is of concern to all Iraqis, especially as they work around the clock to deal with 60,000 outages for its customers throughout Virginia as of noon on Wednesday.

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DHF preventive activities launched in Mawgyun

Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Thin Tin Aye and executives, Kyaiuki Village administrator U Ohin Khin, leader of the field trip team Daw Phyu Phyu Aye and members, health staff, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association and social organizations participated in preventive measures against dengue and hygienic tasks.

Myanmar Alin

Myanmar Passport Issuance Office opens branch in Mandalay

Mandala, 5 July—The Myanmar Passport Issuance Office Branch (Mandalay) was opened on 12th Street between 65th and 66th Streets in Mandalay on 4 July. The office was opened with the aim of enabling the preventive measures against dengue hemorrhagic fever were taken in Kyaiuki Village of Mawlamyineyung Township on 28 June.

Citizenship scrutiny cards issued in Shwedagon

Shwedagon, 5 July—According to Moe Pwint-3 Plan, staff of Shwedagon Township Immigration and National Registration Department led by Head of Department U Sai Hsarn Tix of Pyay District issued citizenship scrutiny cards in villages of Paungchock Village-tract on 20 June.

In their tasks, Bago Region Hluttaw representative U Tun Tun Oo and Deputy Director of Bago Region (West) NRDR U Ko Ko Thaw fulfilled the requirements of the staff.

Tatkon Township Forest Department grows saplings

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 July—Rainy season tree growing ceremony of Forest Department in Tatkon Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council was held in the compound of Tatkon People’s Hospital (100-bed) on 4 July morning.

On the occasion, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Shwe, Deputy Director U Than Oso of District Forest Department, Township Administrator U Aye Lu and departmental personnel, Staff Officer U Hsan Myint Tun of Township Forest Department and staff, members of social organizations and local people planted 400 saplings.

Information for trafficking in person

The government is taking measures against trafficking in person with momentum.

In so doing, telephone numbers are announced to contact authorities concerned for enabling the people to actively participate in the tasks of anti-human trafficking.

These telephone numbers are 067-412555 and 067-412566 in Mandalay and 09-49555888 and 09-49555999 in Yangon.

Transport charges of commodities changed on Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek Road

Taunggyi, 5 July—Transport charges of commodities from Taunggyi of Shan State to Kengtung were fixed at one viss of compact commodity per K 125 and compact ones at K 150 in the past up to the early May.

However, the charges increased to K 160 per viss for the compact commodities and K 180 for the compact in the last week of May due to wheel/axle rules for vehicles, according to an official of Tengtung Tachilek Commodity Transport Gate.

Along Kengtung Tachilek Road, the 10-wheeled truck must carry the loads under 21 tons and the 12-wheeled vehicles about 25 tons. As the 10-wheeled vehicle has 15-17 net weight, they can carry about 4-6 tons of commodities only. The 12-wheeled car weighing 16-17 tons net can carry only 8-9 tons of commodities only, said gate supervisor U Maung Maung.

Between Taunggyi and Kengtung, the vehicles must pass eight scale gates such as Mongpun, Loilem, Namsham, Kunhing, Takeh Bridge, Mongtong, Tontial and Kengtung entrance gate.

Generally, although one ton of commodity may be charged K 1700, overloads are fixed for ten times. Therefore, the drivers do not dare carrying of overloads. However, when scales are something different in weighing, they face much difficulties, he said.

It was reported that the domestic products such as rice, kitchen utensils, coffee mix and cheroots are sent from Taunggyi to Kengtung and Tachilek and they transport back Thai-made products are transported back.

The vehicles drive two nights from Taunggyi to Kengtung and stop over at restaurants in Namsang, Haungmaung Hill Station, Tongthab and Mongtung.

In Kengtung, U Maung Maung Commodity Transport Service, Jangphaw Yadana, Chammna, Shweozi and Ngoozhai transport gate transport commodities to the customers.

Taunggyi, 5 July—Transport of commodities on Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek Road changed on 20 June. The passport must pay bank charge and K 25700 for passport service. The validity is three years for each application.

The office is being kept open from 8.30 am to 4 pm daily. The staff of the branch gives services for older persons of above 60 years and ailing persons in Mandalay who paid bank charge and K 40000 for passport service.

Sky Net channel sold to MCDC staff through installment

Mandala, 5 July—Under the arrangements of Mandalay City Development Committee, staff members of its department have the opportunity to purchase Sky Net TV channels.

They may buy one set of SD per K 5000, one set of HD per K 6000 and fee K 9900 through ten months installment system.

DTHIBA (Mandalay)

YANGON, 5 July—The talks on opportunities for Myanmar students to pursue education at international universities, chances for grasping the stipends and student visa will be given at Shwe Keinnyai advanced housing at 4.30 pm on 7 July and at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel at 4.30 on 8 July.

Plans to give talks on international education in Yangon, Mandalay 7-8 July

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Those wishing to attend the talks may dial 500054-952 of Regent Education.

Press conference on Orchestra Concert, Myanmar held

YANGON, 5 July—Arrangements are being made for formation of State orchestra at international level so as to entertain State level ceremonies, receptions and international standard concerts.

To enabling the audiences to enjoy the music of orchestra, the State orchestra will join hands with Conductor Mr Yoshikazu Fukumura of Japan and party to present Orchestra Concert, Myanmar.

With regard to the above-mentioned programmes, a press conference was held at Studio A of Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road in Yangon at 2 pm on 4 July.

Officials explained preparations for performing

entertainment at SEA Games 2013 and the ASEAN Summit in 2019.

On completion of the joint exercise, Orchestra Concert, Myanmar will be presented at the National Theatre in Yangon on 13 July and at the Auditorium of Myanma Radio and Television in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 July.

Concerning the programmes, officials said that three Myanmar songs will be presented with created presentations and other events.

YI Yi Myint+Win Win Maw
Fourth regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw...

(from page 1)

Pyithu Hluttaw has asked Amyotha Hluttaw to send back the Foreign Investment Bill under discussion at the Hluttaw to it in order that it can review the bill for the interests of the nation and its people and accepted the bill on 4 July. The Bill Committee is reported to re-submit the bill together with the amendments and recommendations of the committees and commission concerned.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin replied to three questions. Regarding to question of U Tin Htut of Zalun Constituency about if there is a plan to upgrade Zalun-Danubyu-Kyeinbinse road section on Hinthada-Yangon road to tarred facility, the deputy minister replied that the road section linking Nyawmung, Danubyu and Zalun townships in Ayeyawady Region is 35 miles and seven furlongs long. It is planned to tarmac the road in 2012-2013 fiscal year and 11 miles and six furlongs long section of the road would be the tarred facility at the end of 2012-2013 fiscal year and the remaining section would be tarmed in 2013-2014 fiscal year, asking capital expenditure from the Union government.

Ministry of Education

The proposal of U Tin Maung Win of Moeile Township in Shwepyitha Constituency over whether there is any plan as to designation of brick industry zones in the regions and states and any steps to be taken by the government for the livelihood of families of the brick industry, the deputy minister said that the government did not allow the establishment of brick industry zone but allow only brick making groups. Therefore, there is no plan for designation of brick industry zones in the regions and states. By nature, the brick industry is detrimental to environment. Globally, the brick industry is being substituted with the light sand industry with high technology. The Ministry of Industry in cooperation with entrepreneurs is engaged in the light sand industry through public private partnership (PPP).

As regards second question, the deputy minister explained that the brick industry is done in the regions and states as a traditional work, it is carried out for education and health purpose and as the families of the brick industry live near their villages they can earn their living with other jobs when the brick industry is out of season.

With regard to questions of U Sai Ngaung Hsai Hein of Myaungdaga Constituency about whether there is any plan to upgrade the road in Moeile Township into BEHS (branch) in 2012-2013 fiscal year, the deputy minister replied that there is a plan to continue building Bogale river-crossing bridge, the basic requirement for Bogale Township in Ayeyawady Region as soon as possible, the deputy minister replied that construction of the bridge started on 1 July, 2010 and so far the work has been completed by 67.5 per cent. From 2010-2011 fiscal year to 2012-2013 fiscal year, a total of K 7670 million was granted and further K 5646 million would be required for completion of the whole project. Myaungdaga Steel Factory of Myanma Economic Corporation has been instructed to manufacture steel truss for the main bridge and it is planned to finish the bridge within 2013. Measures would be taken to get the required fund and steel trusses in time.

Regarding the question of U Kyi Myint of Latha Constituency, the deputy minister replied that the Ministry of Education is in the process of implementing the four-year education promotion plan (2012-2013 to 2015-2016) with the opening of new schools and upgrading of the old ones. As there are only 102 high school students in Setse Village BEHS (branch), there is no any plan yet to upgrade it into BEHS, and efforts would be made to upgrade it to BEHS in 2013-2014 academic year.

Constituency who asked whether the Union government’s purpose of purchasing rice to keep as reserve is aimed at adjusting the market price if the price of rice increases or not, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan replied that in line with the fundamental principle of the constitution, actions were taken to purchase the rice reserves of the State in order that farmers can get profits, people can purchase and consume rice in convenience, and it can be used as necessary in case of emergency. If there is price hikes above normal in the market and other states of emergencies, the price would be adjusted to normal by supplying the market with reasonable price, which is the primary purpose of keeping reserves. If the price of rice in domestic market is stable and there is surplus, some portions of rice reserves would be exported, it is also planned.

Deputy Minister for Industry U Mya Aung replied to questions of the two Hluttaw representatives.

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As to the question of U Kyaw Myint (a) U Po Toke over there is any plan to upgrade Dawve Village BEMS in Momeik Township into BEHS (branch) in 2012-2013 fiscal year, the deputy minister replied that there are only 265 middle school students in the middle, there is no plan yet to upgrade it into BEHS (branch) and steps will be taken to able to upgrade it into BEHS (branch) in 2013-2014 academic year.

As to the reports submission sector, the report of Pyithu Hluttaw’s Public Account Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw was presented by Committee Chairman U Thurein Zaw, the deputy minister replied to the report of Pyithu Hluttaw’s Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vetting Committee by Committee member U Paik Hwe and the report of Pyithu Hluttaw’s Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vetting Committee by Committee Chairman U Thein Thein.

Those reports are to be discussed and approved on 9 July, and Hluttaw representatives who wish to discuss them are to present their names not later than 1 pm on 6 July. As to the proposals submission sector, the proposal of U Tin Maung Win of Moeile Township in ShwePyitha Constituency on drawing a law on the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Disable Persons Rights, the proposal of U Kyi Myint of Moeile Constituency on drawing a plan on contract farming between company farms owned by private farmers, farmers and import & export companies for food security, obtaining raw materials and boosting export incomes were submitted.

The proposal of U Tin Maung Win will be discussed on 9 July and Hluttaw representatives who wish to discuss it are to present their names not later than 1 pm on 6 July. The proposal of U Kyi Myint were objected by three Hluttaw representatives, and Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than suggested that the proposal should be revoked as it will not need the prescription of the government according to economic system being practiced. And the proposal of U Kyi Myint were allowed to be revoked according to his wishes. As to the bill submission sector, Vice Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw’s Education Promotion Committee Dr Mya Oo submitted the 2012 Education Research Bill and committee member Daw Nan Wah Nu read the findings over the bill by the Bill Committee.

The date to discuss the bill will be announced later and those who wish to submit the proposal on amendment are to present their names not later than 1 pm on 10 July, stating completely the para, sub-para of the Bill they want to amend.

With regard to the bill approval sector, the Bill Committee and U Win Than of Thaungna Constituency, Dr Daw Aye Myint of Shwedagon Constituency and Dr Chan Nyein of Kanbalu Constituency discussed the amendment para, sub-para on the 2012 examination board bill presented by Pyithu Hluttaw’s Education Promotion Committee at the 20th day third regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw Meeting and Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu made clarifications.

The today meeting decided to leave the heading of the Bill, the Chapter-1 heading, Para-1 (a), Para-2 (a), (b), (c), (d) and Sub-para (d) (5,9,11,12) as the amendment of Pyithu Hluttaw and the remaining amendments are to be discussed later.

The meeting came to an end at 3.50 pm and the third session continues at 10 am tomorrow.——MNA
Fourth regular session of First Amyotha ...

Officew, signboard of WAO, MCWA opened in Zabuthiri Township

LND’s allegation of wax-coated ballot papers is wrong
Secretary of LND’s Central Election Victory Team U Nyan Win charged as LND fails to follow UEC’s instructions

Nav Pyi Taw, 5 July—A ceremony to open the office of Zabuthiri Township Women’s Affairs Organization and Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held in conjunction with the signboard erecting of the dep. office of WAO and Township MCWA in Zabuthiri Township yesterday morning.

At the event, the chairperson and members of Township WAO and Township MCWA sprinkled scented water on the signboard.

In the township, the opening ceremonies of offices and putting of lobby papers were held in ward office of tract WAOs and MCWAs at the same time.—MNA
Prizes, cash assistance given to students of APBCC (Yangon North District)

YANGON, 5 July—A ceremony to honour the outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination with flying colours for 2011-2012 academic year and present cash assistance to the students for 2012-2013 academic year at the hall of Jinsen Township General Administration Department on 30 June.

At the ceremony, Yangon Region Minister for Transport U Aung Khin made a speech. After that, he presented prizes for outstanding students and cash assistance worth K 5,935,000 to the students.—Kyemon

Power lines maintained, sub-power stations built in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 5 July—With the aim of supplying electricity to the people of Mandalay District at full capacity, sub-power stations were constructed and power lines and power stations were installed in respective townships.

On 20 June, electricity was supplied to the local people through newly-built 11/04 KV and 315 KVA transformers in Aye Mya Tun Ward of Chanmyathazi Township. The local people are now delighted at using of electricity at full capacity of 220 volts. In the past, they got 110 volts of electricity.

In Mandalay District, a total of 74 11/04 KV and 315 KVA transformers have been installed for supply of electricity to the dwellers. In the past, Mandalay was facilitated with few numbers of transformers by Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise. In consequence, the local people installed transformers in their residences on a self-reliant basis. Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Experience on writers conference recounted in Tatkon

TATKON, 5 July—A ceremony to recount experiences on the First Myanmar Writers Conference was organized by Tatkon Township Writers Association of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area at Myat Phone Library on 30 June morning, attended all members of the association.

On the occasion, Secretary of the association U Maung Pu (Nyan Lin-Tatkon) acted as master of ceremonies. Patrons of the association Myat Phone (Tatkon) and U Tin Hla (Shwetin-Yu Lwin) made speeches. Representative to the conference Chairman of the association U Thein Win Myint (Myakyaung Aye Chan) explained the one decision matter, five approved matters and seven future tasks adopted by the conference.—Kyemon

31st, 57th bus lines must be ordinary lines

YANGON, 5 July—According to the media meeting on 4 July, Yangon Region All Private Bus-line Control Committee will allow buses from No 31 and No 57 lines as those of ordinary bus lines. Both two bus lines applied to take change for running themselves as special bus lines, but the two were allowed as ordinary ones.

“In line with the remarks of the Region Government, we allow them as ordinary bus lines,” said Secretary U Ba Myint of APBCC (Central). These ordinary bus lines will not change their routes. Bus Line No 31 will run from Parami Gate in South Okkalapa Township to Sanyu Cinema on Phoneyey Street in Lammadaw Township. Likewise, No 57 Bus Line runs its route from Sawbyawgagon Gate (near Kyauktawgyi Pagoda) to Yusana Garden City. Bus fares are fixed, and the routes are charged at K 50 per section.—Kyemon

MECHANICAL COURSE PROVIDED: Skilled mechanics trained youths at No 15 UD Group

YANGON, 5 July—A training session for skilled mechanics was held to train youths at the No 15 UD Group Advanced Workshop and Biawathiri Advanced Car Workshop on 30 June. The trainers studied repairing the vehicles with the application of Onboard Diagnostics (BD) technology practically and theoretically at the workshop free of charge.—Kyemon

Saplings distributed to departments, schools in Shwepyitha Township

YANGON, 5 July—The distribution of saplings to be planted in Shwepyitha Township was held at the office of Township Administrator in Shwepyitha Township on 29 July. Staff Officer U Myint and staff of the Township Forest Department presented over 20,000 saplings to departments, schools and wards.—Myanma Alin

DHF preventive measures taken in Kangyidaunt

YANGON, 5 July—In the rainy season, dengue hemorrhagic fever may occur in some towns. As preventive measures, the sanitation was strengthened across the whole town. The department led by Head of Department U Tin Tun made field trip for issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards at the Department of the Region Government, and assisted them.—Kyemon

Communication systems explained

YANGON, 5 July—Nowadays, information and technology is developing across the world day by day. In the IT age, the youths are striving for keeping abreast of the world applying new communication technology.

On 28 June, Panasonic Co handed over communication technology to the Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Than Myint, Region Minister for Forest and Energy U Kyaw Soe. By this event, Panasonic Co handed over the communication technology worth K 5,935,000 to the students and cash assistance to them. Thiha provided necessary assistance to them. Townsend FPRD

Dhama Heikman of the township in Bilindan Ward on 30 July. Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Min and Region Hluttaw representative Daw Aye Aye Khaing, Head of Department U Zaw Min Latt and Township Administrator U Thiha provided necessary assistance to them. Townsend FPRD

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On 28 June, Panasonic System Asia Pacific and TT Engineering Co Ltd jointly organized on PABX System TDA-100D at Chatrium Hotel on Natmauk Road in Yangon. Yangon Region Minister for Electric and Industry U Nyan Tun Oo made a speech and Managing Director U Myo Win Aung of TT Engineering Co explained his company. Panasonic Co handed over the communication technology worth K 5,935,000 to the students and cash assistance to them. Thiha provided necessary assistance to them. Townsend FPRD

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Dhama Heikman of the township in Bilindan Ward on 30 July. Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Min and Region Hluttaw representative Daw Aye Aye Khaing, Head of Department U Zaw Min Latt and Township Administrator U Thiha provided necessary assistance to them. Townsend FPRD

Saplings distributed to departments, schools in Shwepyitha Township

YANGON, 5 July—The distribution of saplings to be planted in Shwepyitha Township was held at the office of Township Administrator in Shwepyitha Township on 29 July. Staff Officer U Myint and staff of the Township Forest Department presented over 20,000 saplings to departments, schools and wards.—Myanma Alin

DHF preventive measures taken in Kangyidaunt

YANGON, 5 July—In the rainy season, dengue hemorrhagic fever may occur in some towns. As preventive measures, the sanitation was strengthened across the whole town. The department led by Head of Department U Tin Tun made field trip for issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards at the Department of the Region Government, and assisted them.—Kyemon

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Italian PM tells German Chancellor
Italy needs no bailout

BRUSSELS, 5 July — Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti, who has told German Chancellor Angela Merkel, that Italy doesn’t need a European bailout because it expects a budget surplus next year. But he acknowledges work still needs to be done to cut public spending, boost economic growth and create jobs.

It was the first meeting of Italian Prime Minister, Mario Monti, and German Chancellor, Angela Merkel since European leaders agreed in Brussels last week to use the continent’s bailout funds to funnel money directly to struggling banks.

The two leaders said that they would stick to a contested bond deal to help troubled euro zone economies like Italy and Spain. But Monti stressed that Italy would not be making use of the new mechanism, because it could still borrow on the debt markets.

Maurizio Martina, Italian Minister for Industry, said, “What is important for me is that these things have to happen on the basis of the existing rules. This means we have created instruments, that these instruments have been explained and that obviously if someone has doubts we can have access, we have made sure that it will go this way.”

XIAXHA

Indonesian traders “most optimistic” in Southeast Asia

JAKARTA, 5 July—Indonesian exporters and importers remain optimistic about their international trade prospects for the next six months, despite a fall in the region’s services trade mainly due to the impact of the eurozone crisis, the Jakarta Post quoting a recent HSBC survey reported here on Thursday.

HSBC Indonesia’s global trade and receivables finance head, Nimada Salih, said that 81 percent of 308 Indonesian exporters and importers surveyed said that they expected their trade volume to increase in the next six months.

“Indonesian exporters and importers still have a positive outlook on the country’s cross-border trade prospects, despite the economic crisis,” she said.

According to the survey, Indonesian traders were among the most optimistic of the respondents for the 26 countries surveyed in HSBC’s trade confidence index, said Nimada.

Indonesia scored 13.0, 17 points higher than the global average trade confidence index of 113. The exporter and importer in Indonesia were the second most confident among respondents, ranked only behind those from Saudi Arabia, which scored 137, she said.

Indonesia was the most confident in the Southeast Asia region, beating out its neighbours Singapore and Vietnam, which each scored 115, and Malaysia, which scored 111.—Xinhua

London’s Shard tower opens with empty floors, flat rents

LONDON, 5 July—Superstar architect Renzo Piano calls the European Union’s newest tallest building a “vertical city,” but with its stunning Shard tower opening on Thursday over London Bridge, demand will house the equivalent of a whole vacant neighbourhood.

The elongated glass pyramid, built atop a train station, is a scruffy neighbourhood near the Thames, will open with 26 floors of vacant office space, and developers have to fill it at a time when rents at the flats are among Europe’s lowest.

The Shard’s developers are spared from market wrath solely because the building was built with funding from the deep-pocketed royal family of Qatar, rather than a publicly listed firm, said John Bull, a property analyst at Investec.

“With the Shard’s office floors still empty, it would be panic stations if it was a listed developer behind it,” he said.

Long gone are the days in London’s commercial property market when the Foster + Partners-designed 346-metre-high building, known as “the Cheesegrater,” lettings have been mute. —Reuters

Asian nations want to sink South Korea whale hunt plan

PANAMA CITY, 5 July—South Korea on Wednesday proposed resuming whaling for scientific research, to the consternation of other Asian countries and conservationists who said it was contrary to international law.

“South Korea says whaling is a longstanding cultural tradition,” Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard said she would fight the proposal, which was made at a meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in Panama City.

Crisis critics said the move to pursue whaling in domestic waters was masqueraded on Japan’s introduction of scientific whaling after the IWC imposed a 1986 moratorium on commercial whaling.

Japan says it has a right to monitor the whales’ impact on its fishing industry. South Korea says whaling is a longstanding cultural tradition.

“Whaling activists, regularly harass Japanese vessels engaging in their annual whale hunt in the Southern Ocean off Australia and Antarctica, and the two sides sometimes clash violently. At least one activist boat has sunk in recent years.”

In Seoul, a government official said South Korea was abided by international regulations and it would be up to the IWC to assess its proposal.

“Yet it is not adequate in their assessment of the legitimacy of scientific whaling, we’ll make further preparations.”

In Novara, Italy said its fishermen were complaining that growing whale populations were depleted, causing fishing stocks, an assertion that the World Wildlife Fund said had no scientific basis.

Environment activists dismissed the term scientific whaling as a thinly veiled ruse to conduct commercial whaling.—Reuters

Plastic pollution reaches record high in northeast Pacific

VANCOUVER, 5 July—Plastic pollution off the northwest coast of North America is reaching a surprisingly high level, according to a recent study led by researchers from the University of British Columbia.

The study, published online in the Marine Pollution Bulletin journal, examined stomach contents of beached northern fulmars, a common sea bird in the area, on the western coasts of Canada and the United States.

Northern fulmars search for food exclusively at sea and retain ingested plastic for a long period of time, which made them ideal monitors for marine littering, according to the study.

The researchers examined stomach contents of 67 fulmars from beaches of the eastern Pacific north from 2009 to 2010 and found that 92.5 percent of these birds had swallowed an average of 36.8 pieces, or 0.385 gram, of plastic.

“I would have even found with 454 pieces of plastic in its stomach. Plastic ingestion in these fulmars is among the highest that has been recorded globally.”

The study found that the greatest plastic pollution was modelled on Japan’s pursuit whaling after the IWC imposed regulations and it would be abided by international regulations and it would be up to the IWC to assess its proposal.

WHO study shows stringent diet could prevent heart attacks

GENEVA, 5 July—Healthier diet could prevent deaths caused by cardiovascular diseases, a study by the World Health Organization (WHO) showed on Wednesday.

Death rates from cardiovascular disease are twice as high among people who eat diets high in saturated fats, trans fats, sugars, and salt such as processed food, junk food or canned soups, said the study. Subsequently, government policies that lower trans fats, reduce saturated fats and salt in food while encourage more fruit and vegetables could cut deaths from cardiovascular disease by 20 percent.

The study made comparative research between countries already introduced healthier food policies including Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and Britain, a country that employs no such policies. It concludes that by changing policies, Britain, with a population of 62 million, could save up to 30,000 lives each year.

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Pakistan Taliban threaten attacks after NATO supply routes deal

PESHAWAR, 5 July— The Pakistani Taliban militant group threatened to attack trucks carrying supplies to US-led NATO troops in Afghanistan after Islamabad and Washington reached a deal to open the lines.

“We will attack NATO supplies all over Pakistan. We will not allow anyone to use Pakistan soil to transport supplies that will be used against the Afghan people,” the group’s spokesman told Reuters by telephone from an undisclosed location.

NY Post editor must answer Murdoch, chimp queries

NEW YORK, 5 July— The editor of the New York Post may be forced to answer questions about his discussions with media mogul Rupert Murdoch over fallout from the newspaper’s publication of a cartoon that appeared to liken US President Barack Obama to a chimpanzee.

A federal judge in Manhattan said editor Col Allan could not invoke “editorial privilege” and avoid answering questions posed by Sandra Guzman, a former associate editor suing the newspaper for alleged employment discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, gender and national origin. Guzman, who is black and Puerto Rican, in November 2009 sued the Post and parent News Corp, saying she had been fired in retaliation for complaints over inappropriate conduct.

She also claimed to be among those who objected to the 18 February, 2009 cartoon that depicted a policeman shooting a crazed chimpanzee, a play on an actual Connecticut incident.

The cartoon referred to the recently adopted $787 billion ($501.67 billion pounds) federal economic stimulus and many people saw the chimpanzee as inappropriate conduct.

Four foreign climbers dead in accident in Switzerland

GENEVA, 5 July— Four foreign mountaineers died on Tuesday while climbing a 4,000-meter high mountain in southwest of Switzerland, local media reported. The accident occurred around 1:00pm local time (1100 GMT) as they fell several hundred meters down from the top of Lagginhorn, a mountain rising to 4,010 meters in the canton of Valais, cantonal police said.

Local media said altogether six people started climbing the summit of the mountain early Tuesday morning. One of them stopped shortly before arriving at the summit, feeling unwell, while others continued to climb and reached the summit.

However, the accident happened during their descent and the one who dropped out called the police.

The victims were all foreigners, and a formal identification procedure is under way, police said adding that the causes of the accident are not yet determined.

Rare cholera outbreak in Cuba kills three

Havana, 5 July— Three elderly Cubans died and dozens more citizens fell ill because of a rare cholera outbreak, a disease believed to have been eradicated from the island for more than a century, Cuban officials said on Tuesday.

All the three patients died in the city of Manzanillo in the southeastern province of Granma, though cholera had been detected in various parts of the island country, the Public Health Ministry said.

Each of the elderly adults, aged 95, 70 and 66 respectively, had chronic conditions in addition to the gastrointestinal infection, the ministry said.

A report by the official daily Granma blamed recent seasonal rains and contaminated local wells for the disease.

According to the ministry, about 1,000 people were receiving preventative medical treatment in Manzanillo. As many as 53, including the three who died, among around 130,000 inhabitants in the town were diagnosed with cholera.
Richard Branson sets Channel kite-surf record

British tycoon Richard Branson became the oldest person to kite-surf the Channel, a day after abandoning an attempt due to his kite being too small.

The billionaire adventurer crossed from Dymchurch, Kent, to Wimereux in northern France in three hours, 45 minutes to set a new Guinness World Record. However, Branson failed in his bid to become the fastest person of any age to cross the Channel, a record that was set by his son Sam.

“It’s great to be standing on French soil and not be surrounded by French police,” said the 61-year-old. “It’s wonderful for the family,” he added, saying it was in records in two days. I have even more respect for Sam’s world record after long myself to get across.

“The trip was far more challenging than I thought,” with 40 mph winds in the middle of the Channel and major waves. “I have to admit there were moments when I was tempted to abandon it. The wind direction was the opposite of what had been forecast. I expected to swim across but was greeted with a long, downstream kite that took considerably longer.”

Branson abandoned Saturday’s attempt at the halfway point after realising his kite was too small. “All was going fine until we reached half way across and could clearly see the white cliffs of Dover,” theVirgin entrepreneur, who had tried to set the same records two years ago, wrote on his blog.

“The chase boat then told me that I needed to go more up wind or I would collide with the white cliffs, sadly my kite wasn’t big enough, so I realised I needed to head back to France to get a larger kite.”

Branson’s first attempt to kite-surf across the Channel, in August 2010, was thwarted by strong winds and a choppy sea. The next day, the winds were too weak for the journey.

Branson has no stranger to record attempts. In 1987 he and Swedish airman Per Lindstrand became the first people to cross the Atlantic by hot air balloon, while in 1991, he was in the first balloon to cross the Pacific from Japan to Arctic Canada.

The Radisson Blu Edwardian is putting on a light show. The film commemorates the 10th anniversary of the hotel.

Carnival to present film ‘Football Rebels’ at festival

PARKS, 5 July—French football superstar turned actor Eric Cantona will present his documentary “Football Rebels” at the Sarajevo film festival that opens on 6 July, at a press conference on Wednesday. The documentary, a story of five international players and their activities off the pitch against corrosive influence on sport and society, is directed by Gilles Perez and Gilles Roiff and will be shown on 11 July.

Eric Cantona speaks at the Global Sport Forum on 8 March

Barcelona.—INTERNET

Spain’s former footballer Eric Cantona speaks at the Global Sport Forum on 8 March.

British tycoon Richard Branson, 61, celebrates in Wimereux, northern France, after he succeeded in crossing the English Channel (Folkestone-Wimereux) by kite-surf. Branson became the oldest person to kite-surf the Channel, a day after abandoning an attempt due to his kite being too small.

Between 1995 and 1998 he, Lindstrand and US adventurer Steve Fossett tried to travel nonstop around the world by balloon.

Although he hurt his back, Branson was delighted to have crossed the Channel after travelling nonstop for 24 hours. "It was a wonderful experience," he said.

Branson said he would be back to attempt the record in a few months.

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Pele says 1970 Brazil side more gifted than Spain

Spanish soccer star Cesc Fabregas, who has just helped the Spanish team win the European Championships title, will Thursday come and play in an Indonesian soccer friendly match, organizers said here on Wednesday.

BERNARD LINBORG, one of the organizers, said the team of Fabregas and His Friends will play a match against an Indonesian Selection team. He added Fabregas will come to town in the match, but his friends players have not been finalized.

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Spanish Fabregas to feature in Indonesian soccer friendly

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Murray grinds down Ferrer, Federer shines

LONDON, 5 July — Brick by brick, Andy Murray chiseled his way through a Spanish wall to reach the Wimbledon semi-finals while Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic simply demolished outclassed opponents on Wednesday to set up a mouth-watering first meeting on grass. Murray endured an afternoon of hard labour against David Ferrer, eventually edging a step closer to becoming Britain’s first male singles finalist at the grasscourt slam since 1938 with a grinding 6-7, 7-6, 6-4, 7-6 victory. The fourth seed, who hit back impressively after being a point away from at worst a set deficit, has added the bonus of not having to face Rafael Nadal in the semi-finals. With the twice former champion long since departed, it will be the imposing frame of Jo-Wilfried Tsonga standing in his way after the Frenchman beat German Philipp Kohlschreiber 7-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-2. Before Murray’s energy-sapping win over seventh seed Ferrer, Federer treated Britain’s Prince William, his wife Kate, and a host of former greats such as Andre Agassi and Rod Laver, to a vintage display of shot-making to thrash Mikhail Youzhny.

More of procession than a tennis match, a supreme Federer bathed in shafts of sunshine, won 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 to record a 14th win in 14 meetings against the unfortunate Russian. Not even some words of comfort from the Royal Box could save Youzhny. “I asked Andre (Agassi) what I should do,” said the hapless Youzhny who must have been tempted to scratch the word “help” into the French Open hallowed turf having etched “sorry” into the French Open clay during a beating by Ferrer last month.

Defending champion Djokovic had a few anxious moments against Florian Mayer, the second German in the last eight, as he reacquainted himself with outdoor tennis after playing his three previous matches under Centre Court’s roof. Once he recovered from an early break, however, the top seed found his rhythm to claim a dominant 6-4, 6-1, 6-4 victory. — Internet

Death toll of gas reservoir blast in Afghan capital rises to eight

KABUL, 5 July — The death toll from Wednesday’s propane gas reservoir explosion has risen to eight, a health official said Thursday.

“The death toll of a gas reservoir explosion which broke out in Pul-e-Charkhi industrial park east of Kabul late Wednesday has raised to eight killed and 83 other injured,” a spokesman for the Afghan Public Health Ministry Ghalam Sakhi Gargar told Xinhua.— Xinhua

Second World Media Summit begins in Moscow

Moscow, 5 July — More than 300 representatives from 213 media outlets in 102 countries gathered in Moscow on Thursday for the second World Media Summit.

Among the attendees were leaders of major news organizations such as the host ITAR-TASS News Agency, the Xinhua News Agency, The Associated Press, BBC, Thomson Reuters, NBC, Al-Jazeera, Kyodo News, and the Middle East News Agency (MENA).

Vitaly Ignatenko, director general of ITAR-TASS and co-chairman of the summit, told Xinhua that the Moscow WMS, under the theme of “Global media: meeting challenges of the 21st century,” would offer all participants a rare chance to exchange ideas on media challenges in the young century. The three-day event will explore the transformation of traditional media under pressure from new media and the Internet, media survival models in the current economic crisis, journalistic ethics in a hyper-dynamic world, and cooperation between media organizations, businesses and governments.

In October 2009, the first WMS was started by nine leading media organizations — the AP, BBC, Google Inc, ITAR-TASS, Kyodo News, News Corp., Thomson Reuters, Turner Broadcasting System, Inc, and Xinhua.—Xinhua

Weather forecast for 6th July, 2012

Afghan police officers run at the site of a burning gas reservoir in Afghan capital Kabul 4 July, 2012. A reservoir of liquid gas caught fire in Paktia Kot area in eastern part of Kabul city on Wednesday. Interior Ministry spokesman Sedig sediqi said. — XINHUA
Concrete road commissioned into service in Tegyigon Village of Zabuthiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 5 July—The opening ceremony of the concrete road to Tegyigon Village of Zabuthiri Township was held at the archway of the road, attended by member of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area U Kan Chau, members of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, heads of departments, town elders and social organization members.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Myo Aung, Zabuthiri Township Administrator U Win Maw and town elder U Win Htay formally opened the road.

The road, 14 feet wide and 2800 feet long, was upgraded to the concrete for better transport of the local people.

Senegal picks up four points from opening two World Cup matches

DAKAR, 5 July—Joseph Koto has been appointed full-time coach of Senegal for the rest of their 2014 World Cup qualifying campaign, the national football federation said on Thursday.

Koto was put in charge on a temporary basis after the dismissal of Amara Traore in February following a poor African Nations Cup competition for the team.

Senegal picked up four points from their opening two World Cup Group J matches last month - a home win over Liberia and a draw in Uganda.

In April, Senegal appointed Pierre Lechanteur, a former Nations Cup winner, as coach only for the March 24 Nations Cup clash with France.

Former international Koto is also coach of the under-23 side who will compete this month in the men’s football tournament at the London Olympics.

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (5-7/2012)

Launglon (3.43) inches
Kawhthoung (2.76) inches
Putao (2.56) inches
Monghsat (2.28) inches
Dawei (2.28) inches
Yangon (Mingaladon) (2.25) inches
Zaungtu (2.16) inches

Appointment of U.S. Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of HE. Mr. Derek J. Mitchell as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. Derek J. Mitchell holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Virginia in 1986 and obtained a Master of Arts degree in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University in 1991. He is an expert in Asian Affairs. From 2001 to 2009 he served as Asia Director at the International Security Programme, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, D.C. He also served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, U.S. Department of Defence from 2009 to 2011. From 2011 to date he has been serving as Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar. He is married. — MNA

Italian PM tells German Chancellor Italy needs no bailout

Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti (L) welcomes visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel ahead of their meeting in Rome, Italy, on 4 July, 2012.

Pele says 1970 Brazil side more gifted than Spain

Spain’s national soccer team players celebrate their Euro 2012 victory on a stage in downtown Madrid on 2 July, 2012.

Copa America could include CONCACAF

Uruguayan national soccer team players Diego Perez (L) and Edison Cavani celebrate with the cup at the Centenario stadium in Montevideo, after winning the Copa America tournament in 2011.

Murray grinds down Ferrer, Federer shines

Roger Federer of Switzerland runs to hug a return to Mikhail Youzhny of Russia during their men’s quarter-final tennis match at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London on 4 July, 2012.