Establishment of diplomatic relations discussed, two bills sent back by the President along with remarks submitted, one proposal discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—Third day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 1 pm today, attended by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 618 MPs.

At the session, the establishment of diplomatic relations discussed, two bills sent back by the President along with his remarks explained and one proposal discussed.

U Hla Myint Oo of Pyinmana Constituency, U Win Htein of Meiktila Constituency, Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No. 1, U Nyan Lin of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No. 3 discussed the establishment of diplomatic relations presented by the President which was discussed by two representatives yesterday. They discussed that it was observed that the establishment of diplomatic relations with foreign countries contributed to economic, social and defence development of the country. They absolutely believed that the current condition was the best time to march towards a democratic country with the strength of local and foreign countries. The UN Secretary-General said in his address at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, nowadays, the world needed Myanmar’s participation so as to face the global challenges. Thus, the establishment of diplomatic relations was much more appropriate usual. So, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should agree it.

With respect to it, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint said that Myanmar had opened embassies in 34 countries, three offices, three Consulates and 37 joint offices. And Myanmar had established diplomatic relations with 71 countries and appointed the Ambassadors there. It had diplomatic relations with 103 countries. So, the number of countries would reach 111, including eight new countries. (See page 8)

Friendly basketball match continues

YANGON, 17 July— With the leadership of Ministry of Sports, Myanmar Basketball Federation organized a friendly basketball match between Vision Sports women’s basketball team from US and Myanmar youth basketball team of MBF at gymnasium in Aung San Sports complex here yesterday afternoon. At the match, Myanmar youth team beat Vision Sports women team 47-43.

The second day match will continue at 2 pm tomorrow.—MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (17-7-2012)

Maungtaw (4.92) inches
Myitkyina (4.53) inches
An (3.47) inches
Kyauktaw (3.39) inches
Mrakau (2.87) inches
Shwegyin (2.80) inches
Nyaungtebin (1.92) inches
Taungup (1.85) inches
Mudon (1.85) inches
Hkamti (1.69) inches

Bogyoke Aung San Museum

YANGON, 17 July—Bogyoke Aung San lived his residence on Bo Cho Road (former Tawarlain Road) in Bahan Township, here, from May 1945 to 19th July, 1947.

All accessories that he used when he was alive have been kept systematically by the Ministry of Culture. These are shown as a museum of Bogyoke in order that people and observers can study them.

This museum of Bogyoke was opened for only Martyr’s Day in the past. Now it is opened for all days except Mondays, Tuesdays and gazetted holidays from 10 am to 4 pm. The admission fees for men is K 300 and monks, nuns, and children K 100. As a special programme, it opens for all Martyrs’ Day without paying no charges from 8 am to 4 pm.—MNA

65th Martyrs’ Day to go out live

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—The 65th Martyrs’ Day will be broadcast live through the MRTV, the MRTV-4 and the Skynet as of 8 am on 19 July.

The annual Arzarni Day or the Martyrs’ Day will be held at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum in Yangon.—MNA

Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw speaker receives American guests

Coordination meeting on rehabilitation of the displaced persons in Rakhine State held

Representatives seen at third day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

MNA
Coordination meeting on rehabilitation of the displaced persons in Rakhine State held

NAV P'TAW, 17 July—Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay attended a coordination meeting on the rehabilitation of the displaced persons in Rakhine State at Rakhine State Government Office in Sittway of Rakhine State, this morning.

It was attended by Deputy Ministers U Phone Swa and U Kyaw Kyaw Win, the State Ministers, departmental heads, group leaders of UN agencies and INGOs and representatives from WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNDP, CARE, Myanmar, MSF, Danish Refugee Council, Save the Children, Malteser International, USAID and CDN, led by resident representative of UNOCHA Coordinator Office Ms Barbara Mazur.

At the ceremony, the Union Minister explained the aids programme, priority given to the reconstruction of housing, water supply and other facilities. The representatives presented the reports on humanitarian aids to the evacuees, difficulties, their cooperation with the State government, survey of local people’s needs and results, international donation and short-and long-term multifaceted development. After the ceremony, the Union Minister, accompanied by the resident representatives and officials, looked round Sittway by cars. In the afternoon, the Union Minister also attended a review meeting on completion of rescue and rehabilitation, construction of new temporary rescue camps, water supply and sanitations. After that, he inspected site for construction of Satrokya creek-crossing bridge and rescue camps.

E-Learning Centre handed over in PyinOoLwin

Technological University (Yadanarpon Cyber City)

NAV P’TAW, 17 July—Under ASEAN-Korea Cyber University Plan, the handing over of e-Learning Centre was held at Technological University (Yadanarpon Cyber City) in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region, attended by Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint, the Mandalay Region Social Affairs Minister, the Korean Ambassador to Myanmar, the KOICA resident representative, directors-general of the ministry, rectors, professors, technicians of ROK and HEO and the KOICA representative of UNOCHA Coordinator Office Ms Barbara Mazur.

A workshop on education (2/2012) held

NAV P’TAW, 17 July—A workshop on education (2/2012) of the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 was held at the ministry, here this morning, with an attendance of U Union Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min.

The union minister said the staff were sent to foreign countries to obtain Master degrees through scholarship in order to enhance development of human resources and to become skillful generations in the future.

He also urged them to go abroad and joined short-and-long term courses and attend workshop and seminars which are related to the ministry as well as to attend workshop on technology, other training and management courses, financial and computer courses in local areas.

That’s why holding the fifth workshop on education is the turning out of these results. In workshops they can exchange their views that will be beneficial for the staff and department.

In today’s workshop six scholars read their six papers. Next the union minister urged them to be proficient and reliable persons for the department.

Daw Nu Wah Phyo, Staff Officer (Civil) of Hydropower Administration Department read out paper on Public Relations, U Min Khaing, Director (Civil) of Hydropower Implementation Department on Fourth International Conference on Water Resources and Renewable Energy Development in Asia (Asia 2012), Daw Thwe Thwe, Deputy Director (Account) of Hydropower Administration Department on Financial Statement Analysis, U Nyo Myo Win, Director (Civil) of Hydropower Implementation Department on Proposition: Impacts Mitigation Measures From Development of Low Head Hydropower Scheme Experience Based on 4th TSC Meeting, U Min Lwin (Staff Officer-Civil) on Improvement and Maintenance Skills for Photovoltaic and Other Renewable Energy Power Generation System, Dr Win Myint, Deputy Superintendent Engineer (Mechanical) of Hydro-power Supply Enterprise on Best Management Practice in Energy Power Plant—Malaysia Experience.

Next the staff and visitors asked questions.

Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint and officials attending handover of e-Learning Centre.—MNA

Afterwards, the Union Minister, the Region Social Affairs Minister, the Korean Ambassador, the director-general, KOICA resident representative and the principal formally opened the e-Learning centre and sprinkled scented water onto it.

After the handover ceremony, the Union Minister and those present viewed the main lecture hall of the Technological University (Yadanarpon Cyber City).
Large cache of Crusader gold found off Israeli coast

More than 100 gold coins were found hidden in a partly burned pottery vessel at the Apollonia National Park, where archaeologists say the former Crusader town of Apollonia-Arsuf once thrived.—ISRAELI EMBASSY/ Y. ANGON

Jerusalem, 17 July—One of the largest gold treasures ever to be discovered in Israel was uncovered last week at an archaeological dig near Herzliya. The treasure, worth more than $100,000, is estimated at a value of more than $100,000.

The coins were found hidden in a partly burned pottery vessel at the Apollonia National Park, where archaeologists say the former Crusader town of Apollonia-Arsuf once thrived.—ISRAELI EMBASSY/ Y. ANGON

Russia floods spur calls for emergency warnings

Moscow, 17 July—Russia’s government faces growing pressure to install a new emergency warning system and improve weather forecasting after survivors complained that little was done to prevent scores of people being killed by floods in the south of the country.

Survivors said no flood warnings had been issued before a huge wave through Krymsk, the worst-hit town in the Krasnodar region near the Black Sea, early on 7 July. The death toll in the region was 171 and many homes were destroyed.

“In fact, we should start from scratch a new system of collecting information and data which is not based on outdated methods and systems,” Igor Chistyakov, a hydraulics professor, told reporters. “We must make sure that the local authorities have all the data and can really act on the basis of them.”—Reuters

Volunteers sort and pack clothes and food for people who were affected by the recent floods in Krasnodar region, at a humanitarian help point at the youth centre of Zhelezodorozhny district in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk on 12 July, 2012.—Reuters

Anger in India after floods leave 109 dead, 400,000 homeless

Pazhanna, 17 July—India’s annual monsoon has claimed 109 lives since rains started in June and left at least 400,000 people homeless in the northeastern state of Assam, in a tragedy experts say was made worse by corruption and poor management of the Brahmaputra River.

A senior member of the Assam Human Rights Commission, a government body, told Reuters it suspects millions of dollars meant for flood control were siphoned off by state water department officials in the last five years. The commission has demanded a high-level investigation by the government.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who represents Assam in the upper house of parliament, called the floods the worst in recent times and promised $1,000 to each victim’s family in compensation. Critics say that much of the money will evaporate.

“Corruption is rampant before and after a flood,” said Arup Misra, a prominent environmental activist in the state and a professor at Assam Engineering College. “Some officials eagerly wait for floods as they could make money on repairing of embankments and relief distribution.” Over the past 60 years, successive governments have built levees along most of the length of the volatile Brahmaputra, which is Assam’s main river and is fed by Himalayan snow melt and some of the world’s heaviest rainfall.

Experts say these embankments are both criminally under-maintained and a discredited form of flood management.—Reuters

US Navy fires on fishing boat near UAE; one killed

Dubai/Washington, 17 July—One person was killed and three others injured on Monday when a US Navy ship fired at an approaching fishing boat off the United Arab Emirates, but officials did not immediately blame terrorism or cite an Iran-link to the still-murky incident. Why the boat approached the US warship, the USNS Rappahannock, was still unclear.

US officials said the US Navy said the small motorboat ignored repeated warnings to halt its approach before a security team fired rounds from a .50-caliber machine gun.

Even small boats dwarfed by the size of the US vessel can still pose a threat. Two suicide bombers rammed an explosives-laden boat into the US Cole in 2000, blowing a massive hole in its side and killing 17 US sailors.

But the incident was also a reminder of how quickly confrontation can turn deadly in the Gulf, where tensions with Iran have triggered military buildups by the United States and its allies.

Those killed and injured in Monday’s incident weren’t Iranians and it was unclear whether the incident may have been a mere misunderstanding. The US embassy in Baghdad was closed on Monday.

The US Justice Department said the USNS Rappahannock was on routine operations in the waters off the UAE and was within its rights to defend itself.

Launches were also scheduled for 26 July, 1 Aug, 13 Aug, 30 Aug and 19 Sept, as Russia plans to send a set of communication satellites from the Baikonur cosmodrome in southern Russia to space. They will be put into orbit by carrier rockets Proton-M, Soyuz U and Soyuz FG rocket.

“Proton-M, Soyuz U and Soyuz FG rocket launches will be conducted as scheduled,” a spokesman of the Russian space agency said, answering a question about the possibility of delays.

Russia plans eight more rocket launches this summer

Moscow, 17 July—Russia plans to launch eight space rockets by the end of this summer, Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin confirmed on Monday.

“We rather intensively increase the pace of launches from Baikonur and Plesetsk (space centers),” Rogozin told Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev at a cabinet meeting, a day after Russia sent three astronauts to space.

According to Rogozin, who is in charge of the country’s military-industrial department, a monitoring satellite for natural resources will be launched atop a Soyuz-FG rocket on Sunday. The satellite will also work as an early warning monitor for natural disasters.

“This is especially important, taking into account the tragic situation in southern Russia,” Rogozin said, referring to the recent floods in southern Krasnodar territory that have claimed more than 70 lives.

Launches were also scheduled for 26 July, 1 Aug, 13 Aug, 30 Aug and 19 Sept, as Russia plans to send a set of communication satellites from the Baikonur cosmodrome in southern Russia to space. They will be put into orbit by carrier rockets Proton-M, Soyuz U and Soyuz-2A, according to Rogozin.

On 28 July, a Rocket-MD will be launched from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in northern Russia. On 15 Aug, a rocket will also be launched also scheduled.—Xinhua

The US Navy supply ship USNS Rappahannock maintains station as it prepares a replenishment at sea in this US Navy photo handout photo taken in the South China Sea on 21 March, 2012.—Reuters

A fisherman carries his newborn baby as he takes his boat to a hospital, through a flooded street during “World Population Day” in Kolkata on 11 July, 2012.—Reuters

NATO soldiers killed in an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan, while a roadside bomb hit a van in the border town of Spin Boldak, in Kandahar Province, killing five civilians, said Ahmad Faisal, the provincial governor’s spokesman. Insurgent attacks across their reach from their traditional strongholds in southern and eastern areas of Afghanistan to northern parts of the country once considered relatively safe.

Also on Monday, two Afghanistan have jumped 10 percent in three months as a severe winter damaged poppy crop harvests and caused fighter-farmers to pick up guns earlier than last year, said German Brigadier-
**Microsoft revamps Office for tablets, Internet**

**SAN FRANCISCO, 17 July** — New versions of Microsoft’s word processing, spreadsheet and email programs are now available for touch-based tablets, and emphasize Internet storage to reflect an industry-wide shift away from the company’s strengths in desktop and laptop computers. The new offerings appear designed to help Microsoft retain an important source of revenue as more people access documents from mobile devices.

The new Office suite will also enable Tablets to extend its franchise into the smartphone market with rapidly growing tablet sales.

**INTERNET**

**Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer, Kirk Koenigbauer speaks at a Microsoft event in San Francisco on 16 July, 2012.** Microsoft unveiled a new version of its widely used, lucrative suite of word processing, spreadsheet and email programs on Monday, one designed specifically for tablet computers and Internet-based storage in mind.

The new programs will store documents online through Microsoft’s SkyDrive service by default, meaning users will have to change settings to store documents on their own computer. The programs will also remember settings, including where you last left off in a document, as you move locations.

The Internet-based services approach is one Google has been promoting with its own suite of similar programs, threatening Microsoft’s dominance. This is the most ambitious release of Office that we have ever done,” CEO Steve Ballmer said Monday in unveiling the new Office in San Francisco. A preview version of the new Office suite is being made available online at http://office.com/preview. Microsoft Corp isn’t saying when it will go general release or what the price will be. Those details will be sold in the fall. Microsoft will continue selling the package as standalone software that can be installed on computers, but the company expects the bulk of users will opt for Internet-based version, which comes with automatic updates for a recurring subscription fee.

Like versions of the new Office include:

- Inking, which lets you use a stylus to write on a device’s screen. Handwritten notes are converted automatically to text.
- Integration with Yammer, a social network for businesses, and with Skype, a video chat service. Microsoft agreed last month to buy Yammer for $1.2 billion, while Microsoft spent $8.5 billion to buy Skype last year.
- Bing Maps will be part of the new Outlook email program. If there’s an address in an email, just tap it to get directions.
- A “touring” mode on Word will make it easier to read word-processing documents on a tablet or e-reader. That mode will make the document look more like a book page. You can also embed video into Word documents, or share a document directly on Facebook. — Internet

**Microsoft’s SkyDrive service can be used to store documents online through its SkyDrive service by default, meaning users will have to change settings to store documents on their own computer.**

**China manned sub may dive in South China Sea 2013**

**QINGDAO, 17 July** — The Jiaolong manned submersible will open a new deep-sea mission in the South China Sea in 2013, a commanding officer of Jiaolong said on Monday. The sub, named after a mythological dragon, will be launched on day of Qingdao in eastern China’s Shandong Province on Monday after making a record dive of 7,020 meters below sea level in the Pacific Ocean’s Mariana Trench during a 44-day test mission.

Liu Fei, field commander and chief scientist is applying to take part in next year’s mission.

“Jiaolong is well known but some have still a question mark on whether we can go to 7,000 meters below sea level,” Liu said.

**Internet**

**A Google homepage is displayed on a Motorola Droid phone in Washington on 15 Aug. 2011. Reuters**

**Google’s hardware makeover to get uneasy welcome on Wall Street**

**SAN FRANCISCO, 17 July** — Wall Street has a long-running love affair with Google the search engine. But it will feel the same way about Google the hardware maker? Google on Thursday will report quarterly results for the first time since closing its $12.5 billion acquisition of smartphone maker Motorola in May. Google’s purchase of Motorola, as well as ongoing uncertainty about the global economy, mean that Google suddenly looks a lot less familiar, and less predictable, to many investors — a fact that will underscored in the company’s second-quarter report. “This is the first quarter that Motorola is going to be consolidated into our results, and it’s going to be messy,” said BGC Partners analyst Jeff G Guillen.

The absence of Chief Executive Larry Page from the conference eye, due to an unspecified ailment that has caused him to have “lost his voice,” hasn’t helped buoy investor confidence as the company faces a critical juncture. Shares in Google are down roughly 14 percent from their 52-week high of $70.25. Google is an “execution story,” which is why it’s so amusing that Larry now has an illness that’s not defined,” said BGC’s Guillen. “He set the company down this path and now there’s nothing he can do... If he becomes sick in the middle of it and can’t put as much energy into it as he’d like to, that’s a risk.”

**NASA’s Mars rover may be in for blind landing**

**CAPE CANAVERAL, 17 July** — NASA’s new Mars rover is heading for a risky do-or-die touchdown next month to assess conditions for life on the planet, but the US space agency may not know for hours whether it arrived safely, managers said on Monday. That’s because the satellite that NASA was counting on for real-time coverage of the Mars Science Laboratory’s descent into Gale Crater, located near the planet’s equator, was sidelined last month by a maneuvering system glitch.

Managers were able to recover the satellite, but it is now in a different orbit than intended, which may make it unable to view and record the rover’s seven-minute descent and landing. Two other spacecraft orbiting Mars will begin monitoring the the rover’s arrival, but one records data for later playback and the other won’t be aligned to see the landing area.
Ford to slash 15 percent of workforce in Australia

MELBOURNE, 17 July — Ford Motor Co’s (NYSE:F) Australian unit announced plans on Tuesday to cut up to 440 jobs, or about 15 percent of its workforce, and slash production by almost 30 percent to cope with a slide in popularity of its top model, the Falcon. Australian car manufacturers have enjoyed solid sales over the past year despite a subdued economy, although Ford’s sales have laggardly improved. In addition, the regimen is estimated to cost around $14,000 per year, making it out of reach of many. “Truvada alone should not be used to prevent HIV infection,” said Debra Birnkrant, director of the division of antiviral products at the FDA. “Truvada as PrEP represents another effective, evidence-based approach that can be added to other prevention methods to help slow the spread of HIV.” The FDA said Truvada should be used as “part of a comprehensive HIV prevention strategy that includes other prevention methods, such as safer sex practices, risk reduction counseling, and regular HIV testing.”

US approves first-ever pill for HIV prevention

New York, 17 July — The first-ever daily pill to help prevent HIV infection was approved on Monday by US regulators for use by healthy adults who are at risk for getting the virus that causes AIDS. Truvada, made by Gilead Sciences in California, has been on the market since 2004 and was approved by the Food and Drug Administration for a new use as a tool to help ward off HIV, in combination with safe sex and regular testing. The pill as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) has been hailed as a breakthrough to help prevent AIDS experts as a potent new tool against human immuno-deficiency virus, while other health care providers are concerned it could encourage risky sex behavior. The regimen is estimated to cost around $14,000 per year, making it out of reach of many. “Truvada alone should not be used to prevent HIV infection,” said Debra Birnkrant, director of the division of antiviral products at the FDA. “Truvada as PrEP represents another effective, evidence-based approach that can be added to other prevention methods to help slow the spread of HIV.” The FDA said Truvada should be used as “part of a comprehensive HIV prevention strategy that includes other prevention methods, such as safer sex practices, risk reduction counseling, and regular HIV testing.”

IMF cuts global growth forecast as emerging economies slow

Washington, 17 July — The International Monetary Fund on Monday cut its forecast for global economic growth and warned that the outlook could dim further if policymakers in the euro zone do not act with enough force and speed to quell their region’s debt crisis. In a mid-year health check of the world economy, the IMF said emerging market nations, long a bright spot, were being dragged down by the economic turmoil in Europe. It said a drop in exports in these countries would combine with earlier policies meant to prevent overheating and slow growth more sharply than hoped.

You can take a beating during the summer, notably from the high heat and sun exposure. The American Podiatric Medical Association suggests how to protect your tooties during the hotter months: * Always wear shoes or sandals, even at the beach or pool. Avoid going barefoot. * Spread sunscreen over the tops of your feet, your heels and your toes. Reapply after getting out of the water. * To help reduce sweating, in the feet, drink plenty of water throughout the day. * Frequently stretch, wiggle and flex your legs, toes and feet to help promote circulation.

Trans fat ban made fast food a bit healthier in NY

WASHINGTON, 17 July — It’s possible to make a fast-food lunch a bit healthier even without skipping the fries. New York City now has hard evidence that its ban on trans fat in restaurant food made a meaningful dent in people’s consumption of the artery clogger and wasn’t just replaced with another bad fat. The findings being published on Tuesday have implications beyond heart health, suggesting another strategy to curb the nation’s obesity epidemic fueled by a high-calorie, super-sized environment.

Consider: Americans get more than a third of their daily calories from foods prepared outside the home. By year’s end, the Food and Drug Administration hopes to finalize long-awaited rules that would make many restaurant chains post the calorie counts of their products right on the menu. Maybe the guilt would make you forego the french fries for a salad. Maybe not. Now contrast New York’s trans-fat ban — later copied by more than a dozen other state and local governments — with a law in the Netherlands that didn’t put all the onus on the consumer to do the right thing. “By making the default option the healthier choice,” everyone benefits regardless of their nutrition awareness or interest, said Alice Lichtenstein, a nutrition specialist at Tufts University, who wrote in a commentary on the research. “The regulation may serve as a model for future successful public initiatives.” There are good fats and bad fats. Trans fats are widely considered the worst kind for your heart, gram-for-gram more harmful than its better known cousin, saturated fat. Small amounts occur naturally in some meat and dairy products.
Underwater Archaeology of Myanmar

Underwater Archaeology is the study of human life, behaviour and culture using the physical remains found in fresh water, salt water or buried beneath water logged sediments. Underwater archaeology is the study of the human past found submerged in the water. The interest in maritime finds was awakened by the discovery of ancient ship wrecks and aircraft wrecks, remains of structures created as links to the past. For example, in the Baltic sea in 1782, the wreck of the Royal George was successfully salvaged by using helmet divers. The salvage was made not for archaeological reasons but for economic reasons. There were reports illustrated with slides and photos of the Samon River Valley archaeological remains of a wide variety by two foreign scholars [Dr Bob Hudson and a French lady archaeologist] and two Myanmar archaeologists [Maung Sein Win and Tampawaddy Win Maung] at the South-east Asian Historians' Conference 2004 in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of Myanmar Historical Commission at the Diamond Jubilee of Yangon University are indeed objects of antiquity that have been lying underwater till water bodies are dried up.

Reports and papers illustrated with slides and photos on the Samon River Valley archaeological remains illustrated immensely by promoting public interest for underwater mysteries. Perhaps the recovery of the underwater treasure hunters used divers to pillage many shipwrecks and aircraft wrecks found by chance and discovery by excavation. These evidences found by chance and discovery by excavation. Those evidences may include artifacts washed ashore by sea, river or lake waves, those fished out from shallow and deep waters by builders or repairers of watercrafts. Artifacts dug up from dried up beds of water bodies such as stream, river, lake and shallow sea may also be classified as underwater archaeological evidences, since they have been lying underwater till water bodies are dried up.

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Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw speaker receives American guests

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa met a delegation led by Director Mr Kenneth Scott Hubli of Washington-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) and Director Mr Myer of USAID from the United States of America at meeting hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee No. 1 of Hluttaw Building at 4.30 pm today.

They discussed matters related to the role of Hluttaw, programmes to promote the skills of Hluttaw representatives, research measures and cordially exchanged views on responsibilities of Hluttaw and experiences.

Together with the deputy Pyithu Hluttaw speaker were Chairman of International Relations Committee U Hla Myint, Chairman of Bill Committee U Hla Khin Myat, Public Accounts Committee Chairman U Thurein Zaw, secretaries of Hluttaw committee, committee and commission members and officials from Hluttaw office. —MNA

Modern bees keeping course opened

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—A ceremony to open the modern bees keeping course jointly conducted by the Bees Keeping Division of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and TAG International Development Organization of Israel took place at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries here this morning with an address by Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister U Ohn Myint said that bees keeping which can be conducted in the integrated farming contributes much to poverty alleviation and help earn foreign exchanges for the nation. The Union Minister expressed his thanks to Israel for its assistance to the Myanmar’s bees keeping that was launched since 1979 and called on trainees to try their utmost so that they can impart knowledge on bee keeping gained from the course to farmers as the training course is T.O.T (Training of Trainees).

Next, Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Yaron Mayer made a speech.

Afterwards, Country Director of International Development Organization Mrs Michal Strahilevitz spoke, pledging that they will provide technology as to developing of bees and bee products and they are to make the products marketable. She stressed the need for cooperative communities to extensively engage in the tasks to achieve most success.

The opening ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye and heads of those from TAG International Development Organization, service personnel and trainees.

The eight-day course is being attended by 16 trainees.—MNA

Union construction minister meets with staff from Yangon Region

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint met engineers and staff from four districts and 45 townships of Yangon Region at the meeting hall of Yangon Region Superintending Engineer’ office here yesterday noon.

In meeting with the staff, the Union Minister said that the state has been implementing reform processes and the ministry needs to implement reform processes for people-centered development. The Union Minister discussed that the staff must put into operation the assigned duties in line with norm.—MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for Israel to attend agriculture course

YANGON, 17 July—According to Agriculture practical cooperation programme of Myanmar Rice Industry Association and Rama Negiv Institute from Telaviv of Israel, a nine-member delegation left here by air yesterday evening for Israel to attend 11th month long-term agriculture course from 2012 July to 2013 June.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Vice-President of Myanmar Rice Industry Association U Sein Win Hlaing, executive U Soe Win and officials of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

Underwater Archaeology of...

(from page 6)

In the British colonial period, one British writer of Myanmar history named Maurice Collis should be credited for urging the need to introduce maritime archaeology to Myanmar. Among many books he wrote about Myanmar, three of his historical fictions or fictionalized histories namely “Siamese White”, “Sandamarlar” and “The Land of the Great Image” give references to Myanmar maritime archaeology. For example, Mr Maurice Collis gives the account of the presentation to him some old Chinese porcelain, plates and an old lamp from a wrecked galleon of King James II’s time by a fisherman at Myanmar seaport town Myeik in Taninthayi Region. It was because of these artifacts of Myanmar maritime archaeology that he began research. He discovered a tombstone of one Samuel White under a Banyan tree in Myeik. Based upon the epitaph on it, he browsed the archives of British Navy in England and Myanmar coastline trade of that time. He presented his research papers at the gathering of porcelain collectors in London for which he was admitted as member of the prestigious Royal Society of Arts. These events caused him change of his career from high ranking administrator to later well-known writer. In Sandamarlar, Mr Collis even expanded the extent of maritime archaeology to weird mystery, encounter with the ghosts from the shipwreck off Myeik seaport of King James II’s time. In the third book, The Land of the Great Image, the author gave his experiences and research in Rakhine State with reference to Rakhine Kings, the naval power, their armada, their naval battle in the Bay of Bengal, quoting the memoirs of a Roman Catholic missionary priest Father Mauzique who was personally involved in the politics of Rakhine Kings. We can glean clue and data from these historical fictions for our study of maritime archaeology of Myanmar coastlines.

The last but not least was the interesting story of a wicker lacquered Buddha Image at Saley Town in upper King James II’s time by a fisherman at Myanmar seaport town Myeik in Taninthayi Region. It was because of these artifacts of Myanmar maritime archaeology that he began research. He discovered a tombstone of one Samuel White under a Banyan tree in Myeik. Based upon the epitaph on it, he browsed the archives of British Navy in England and Myanmar coastline trade of that time. He presented his research papers at the gathering of porcelain collectors in London for which he was admitted as member of the prestigious Royal Society of Arts. These events caused him change of his career from high ranking administrator to later well-known writer. In Sandamarlar, Mr Collis even expanded the extent of maritime archaeology to weird mystery, encounter with the ghosts from the shipwreck off Myeik seaport of King James II’s time. In the third book, The Land of the Great Image, the author gave his experiences and research in Rakhine State with reference to Rakhine Kings, the naval power, their armada, their naval battle in the Bay of Bengal, quoting the memoirs of a Roman Catholic missionary priest Father Mauzique who was personally involved in the politics of Rakhine Kings. We can glean clue and data from these historical fictions for our study of maritime archaeology of Myanmar coastlines.

In the last two decades there cropped up chance finds of Myanmar underwater archaeology. In May and June 2008, five Buddha Images of Sagyin marble were discovered and salvaged by local divers during their hunt for shipwrecks, from the depth of the Ayeyawady at Chaw Seik jetty, Mandalay. Later a second world war army tank was brought up by chance from the Bago river. Many reports of such chance finds appear in the journals occasionally.

Today, as our country is the take off to the goal of modern nation with peace, progress and prosperity, archaeology, both land and underwater offers ample opportunities to upcoming generations to specialize for their careers, as well as for the presentation of cultural heritage which Myanmar abounds in so much.
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues...

(from page 1)

According to the report of a Hluttaw representative, there were 193 UN member countries. Continued efforts would be made to establish the diplomatic relations with the remaining countries. Thanks to the establishment of diplomatic relations, there would see more progress in multi-sector establishment of diplomatic relations, there remaining countries. Thanks to the countries. Continued efforts would be made for township police stations calls, electricity, fuel, beautifying works and an inspection group to police stations 2012-2013 fiscal year. The ministry sends 2011-2012 fiscal year to K20,000 in the allowance for police stations from K16,250 ministry has increased the monthly allowance of general costs.

The representatives who want to discuss the President’s comments are to register their names by 4 pm on 20 July after disclosing para, sub-para and contents along with their signatures.

Important Goods and Services Bill that has been approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has been sent the President on 27 April in order that it can be announced as a law after the President put his signature on it. On 3 May, the President sent it along with his comments to Hluttaw. On 4 May, Foreign Currency Bill was sent to the President, and the President sent it back to Hluttaw together with his comments on 17 May.

Regarding the proposal of U Tin Hutt of Zalun Constituency on “to expose the confiscation of farmlands and to solve farmers’ grievances in a fair way”, U Thein Tun of Amarapura Constituency, U Kyi Maung of Myitkyina Constituency, U Khin Maung Nyunt of Thabkeikyn Constituency and U Win Myint of Pyay Constituency discussed that the new government formed

Pyithu Hluttaw meeting...

(from page 16)

The ministry has been taking measures with care as preparations and trainings for sports cost a huge amount of money. Meanwhile, the ministry is working in cooperation with international countries as much as possible for hosting the games.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint replied the questions related to administration sector raised by two representatives.

U Thein Tun Oo of Amarapura Constituency asked allowance for phone calls, electricity, fuel, beautifying works for police stations and other general costs for township police stations.

The deputy minister replied that the ministry has increased the monthly allowance for police stations from K16,250 of monthly allowance for phone calls in the 2011-2012 fiscal year to K20,000 in the 2012-2013 fiscal year. The ministry sends an inspection group to police stations monthly to read the power consumption charges, them, allowing each police station to pay for the power consumption charges at the rate of K 25 for one unit every three months. The ministry has sought an additional budget from the Ministry of Finance and Revenue to be able to add K 10 for per unit to the charges in accordance with the new rate of K 3 per unit.

For the fuel consumption of police stations, they pay by cheque to the filling stations of the Ministry of Energy for monthly consumption of all vehicles. The Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Home Affairs give allowance for the fuel consumption every three month. For general expenditure of police stations, region/state police office, Myanmar Police Force (HQ) and the Union Minister’s Office have scrutinized the expenditure and permit the monthly allowance of general costs.

U Khin Maung Nyo of Pauk Constituency asked if there is a plan to take measures for binding of the Ward or Village-tract Administration Law and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint answered that the Ward or Village-tract Administration Law was promulgated on 6 July and sent to the Hluttaw Office on that day to distribute it to the representatives. To implement the provisions related to cash assistance and general expenditure for offices of the law, budget has been sought in accordance with the rules and regulations. Therefore, in accordance with the law and its rules, township administration officers in regions and states have received trainings to be able to select administration representatives for villages and village-tracts in accordance with the rules and regulations. When budget for implementing provisions related to cash assistance and general expenditure for offices of the law are approved, administration officers for villages and village-tract would be selected.

In the report to the Hluttaw session, the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw informed the Hluttaw that Amyotha Hluttaw has sent back the Import and Export Bill with amendments which was approved by Pyithu Hluttaw and the date when the bill will be brought back to Pyithu Hluttaw again.

The Speaker also invited those representatives who want to discuss the amendments of Amyotha Hluttaw to enlist their names not later than 1 pm on 23 July.

During the proposal submitting session, U Thein Nyunt of Thingyan Constituency submitted a proposal to discuss the law amending the Emergency

Lt-Gen Hla Hla Min meets departmental officials in Kyaukpyu, Yanbye and MraukU Tsps

NAV PYI TAW, 17 July —Lt-Gen Hla Min of Commander-in-Chief (Army’s) Office, together with Rakshne State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin, Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko Naing, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Kyaw Kyaw Win and officials, met with departmental heads and townswomen at Kyaukpyu Air Port Hall in Rakshne State on 15 July.

They met with departmental heads and townswomen at Yanbye Township General Administration Department. Lt-Gen Hla Min and the Chief Minister coordinated the essentials, and the Chief Minister and officials presented aids. At Basic Education High School of Kyauknimaw Village of Yanbye Township, they met with townswomen and teachers and provided assistance.

In the evening, Lt-Gen Hla Min and the Chief Minister heard the report by Township Administrator and coordinated the essentials.

Yesterday, Lt-Gen Hla Min together with Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko Naing met with Tatmadawmen from MraukU Station at MraukU local battalion. Lt-Gen Hla Min made a speech and presented four sets of TV receivers and cash assistance toough responsible persons. At the ceremony, he cordially greeted those present.

Natural Disasters reduction workshop for Education Management held

NAV PYI TAW, 17 July —An opening ceremony of Natural disasters reduction workshop for those responsible for Education Management, was held at Ministry of Education, here, this morning, with an address by Deputy Minister for Education Dr Myo Win.

In his speech, the Deputy Minister said that during the post-Nargis period, the Ministry of Education had formed Natural Disaster Preparedness and Response and Education Work Group in cooperation with NGOs and social organizations and carried out natural disaster preparedness.
**Amohtya Hluttaw session…**

(from page 16)

As regards the delay in issuing the rules, the Union level organization had to revise the draft again and again in constant consultations with legal professionals since it is invested the power to do so in accord with Section (97), Sub-section (a) of the constitution which goes, “When the Pyadangusu Hluttaw enacts a law, it may authorize to issue rules, regulations and by-laws concerning that law to any Union level organization formed under the Constitution”. As the President Office directed the ministry to request budget for remuneration in Chapter (12) and office allowances in Chapter (13) of Ward or Village Administration Law on 30 June, 2012, the budget was requested at the cabinet meeting No (26/2012) on 12 July.

Considering every aspect, the drafting of Peaceful Assembling and Peaceful Procession Law was delayed. As Chairman of Diversity and Peace Party U Nay Myo Wai submitted request for peaceful assembling and procession on 15 and 16 July, the commander of Mingladon Township Police Force has given the green light. Applications in other townships are under scrutiny.

The ministry is providing trainings to region, state and township administrators to be able to elect ward or village administrators in accordance with rules and regulations. When the budget for remuneration and office costs was finalized, new ward or village administrators will be elected.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe asked “whether there is a plan to take action against filling stations for wide price gaps between local oil price and international price” and “whether there is a plan to publicize profits from each domestic and foreign investment in specific periods in energy sectors”. Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay said:

The sale of fuel has been privatized and the filling stations are allowed to distribute imported oil on which tax is levied at float prices. The government is supervising private entrepreneurs to manage the price. If the retail price goes extreme high, the Internal Revenue Department and local authorities will take measures to contain the situation. It has been made clear at Third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw.

The ministry is monitoring retail prices of oil at filling stations daily. The ministry warned against oil importers who sold the fuel at abnormal prices on 1-3-2011, 1-7-2011 and 4-2012.

The prices at filling stations in Yangon depend on the prices of Mean of Platt’s Singapore (MOPS). If the prices between April, 2011, and June, 2012, are compared, the connection can be seen clearly. If compared with prices of neighbouring countries, the fuel in Myanmar is cheaper. The filling stations did not make changes to the price set when the oil was imported.

Though, the price is still above the normal level compared with MOPS daily prices. The people have been warned of the price case since November, 2011, for public awareness.

Regarding the oil distributed monthly to region and state entrepreneurs by the ministry, the ministry compiled detailed sale records of their filling stations to manage the price through taxation and sent them to the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, Region and State governments and Myanmar Fuel Oil Import Association every month.

The ministry has requested the association to sell oil at least possible price. The association is trying to convince private entrepreneurs.

The ministry has signed Production Sharing Contract (PSC), Improved Petroleum Recovery (IPR), Performance Compensation Contract (PCC), Modified Performance Compensation Contract (MPCP) with foreign investors for inland and natural gas exploration. The ministry is in PSC deals with foreign investors for offshore blocks.

Myanmar has earned US$1246.443 million out from income of Yadana project of US$1628.990 million since 2011-2012 fiscal year. The country also earned US$1311.883 million from income of Yadagun Project US$192.150 million. The incomes have been handed over to the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, taking off the cost of operation for Yadagun project US$72.228 million and Yadana project US$46.073 million. Abundant natural gas of the country is sold to foreign countries. Petroleum and other products have to be bought with the earnings of gas. The Ministry of Finance and Revenue is informing Hluttaws of the budget.

U Naing Tun Ohn of Mon State Constituency (5) asked “whether there is a plan to cut down rubber plants owned by the Ministry of Industry to develop Phauingein Village in Thanybyuzat Township to an urban ward”. Deputy Industry Minister U Myo Aung said rubber plants in rubber plantation No (3) in Thanybyuzat with 295 acres owned by the ministry have enter into 23 or 25 years, with the highest production capacity.

A total of 7200 rubber plants are grown on the 40-acre land, with the current price of K 308 million. These rubber plants could produce 100000 tons of rubber yearly, earning K 12 million for the country.

Urbanizing Phauingein Village is concern of the Union government and respective state government.

U Aye of Mandalay Region Constituency No (97) asked “whether there is a plan to upgrade Basic Education High School (Branch) of Sinzig village-tract in Nyanyu Township in Nyanyu U District of Mandalay to BEHS” and “whether there is a plan to upgrade Mingaga Village BEMS (Branch) to BEHS”.

Deputy Education Minister U Bw Shwe said the ministry is upgrading schools and opening new schools from 2012-2013 academic year to 2015-2016 academic year in four-year plan.

As there are 341 high school students in BEHS (Branch) of Sinzig village-tract, it will be upgraded to BEHS.

As there are 340 middle school students in BEHS (Branch) in Myingaba Village, it will be upgraded to BEHS.

The meeting concluded at 11.5 am. The eleventh day session is held on 18 July.

At today’s session, the Hluttaw agreed on sending messages of condolences to flood-hit Russia and India and six questions were answered.—MNA

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**Sagaying Region Chief Minister inspects development tasks in Shwebo District**

NAV PAY TAW, 17 July—Sagaying Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye on 15 July met farmers at Pintal Village in Kyunhla Township, Shwebo District. He provided exercise books, sports gears, journals, publications, women’s affairs and mother and children’s clothes to them in the village. He inspected completion tasks of new delivery Word at People’s Hospital (Kyunhla) and comforted the patients. He then looked into operation theatre and medical storage room.

Next the region chief minister made inspection on completion tasks of Technical Institute of Kangbalu Township, paving earthen road of Natpay-Htangon, Linpin Creek Bridge, M o n y a w a - A y a d a w w - Ywatharyi road, overpass Bridge between mile post Nos (38:0) and (38:1).—MNA

**Locals of Rakhine State provided with cash and kind**

YANGON, 17 July—The ceremony to donate cash and kind for locals of Rakhine State who lost their homes and possessions due to various reasons occurred in Rakhine State was held at Maykhalar Hall of Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township this morning.

On the occasion, Hteiktan Myanmar garment (1/2) families donated clothes worth K 3,690,400, Chatrium Hotel and Royal Lake Hotel donated another K 20,000 and six bales of clothes to Daw Hla Hla Phone and family and K 50,000 to Daw Tin Tin Aye and family five bales of clothes, Daw Khin Aye Myint and family five bales of clothes, Daw Tin Tin Aye and family two bales of clothes, Lwin Myo one bale of clothes, U Tin Moe and officials from U Kyaw Kyaw Moe- brige members from one bale of clothes, fire decoration clothes, Health Care Group K 421,000, two bales of clothes, coffee mix packages, well decoration clothes, Health Care Group K 421,000, two bales of clothes, coffee mix packages, well decoration clothes, Health Care Group K 421,000, two bales of clothes, coffee mix packages.

Well wishers donate cash and foodstuff for locals of Rakhine State through officials.—MNA

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**Local Foreign Affairs Minister receives Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs of US Department of State.**

Union Foreign Affairs Minister receives Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs of US Department of State.

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**Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Wunna Maung Lwin meets Mr Joseph Y Yun of Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs of US Department of State.**

Mr Joseph Y Yun, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs of US Department of State, paid a courtesy call on U Wunna Maung Lwin.

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Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Wunna Maung Lwin meets Mr Joseph Y Yun of Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs of US Department of State. MNA
**DISTRIBUTION NEWS**

**Taebinkan village in Yinnabin Township gets new school building**

**YINNABIN, 17 July**— A ceremony to open new school building in Taebinkan village in Yinnabin Township was held on 9 July. Social Affairs Minister of Region Government Dr Myint Thein, Donor U Kyaw Myint of Myanma Royal Tun Gem Foundation and Region Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Myint Thein cut the ribbon to open the building. Deputy Speaker of Region Hluttaw pressed the button to open the inscriptions of the school. Donor U Kyaw Myint explained the purpose of the donation.

**School Environment Day marked in Kawkareik, Kayin State**

**KAWKAREIK, 17 July**— Headmistress Daw Mi Tin Thein led teachers and their pupils to grow trees in the compound of the Basic Education High School (Branch) in Kawkareik on 8 July. The teachers and students grew teak, ironwood, mahogany, mango, jackfruit, tamarind and flowers.

**Surprise check made to cash collection services in Mandalay**

**MANDALAY, 17 July**— Surprise check intended to ascertain whether the businesses winning the auction for the 2012-2013 fiscal year from Revenue Department of Mandalay City Development follow the rules of the auction agreement or not was made by officials. They found 10 businesses breaching the contract. Mann Thi market bicycle and motorcycle parking business, Yadanaarpon Super Centre parking business, Great Wall Centre parking business, Mingalar Market parking business, Manawram Garden parking business and Mannmyo Market parking business which were found guilty of breaching the contract for the first time were given warning. Business at Restricted Parking Areas between 22nd Street and 30th Street on 83rd Road, 78th Street Shopping Centre parking, vendor tax collection businesses in Chanayethazan Township and Pyigyiyan Township were found guilty of breaching the contract twice and thus they were fined 200,000 Kyat each. Forced collection of parking fees in Chanayethazan Township and the rude behaviour of money collectors occasionally led to brawl with the residents in the ward.

**ACCIDENT ON THE ROAD**

**Upside down**

**YANGON, 17 July**— Under the rain in the morning of 15 July, a car accident occurred on Pyay Road between Kyauktawgyi bus stop and Maykha road traffic light. Driver U Than Swe was at the wheel when the accident occurred. He lost control when driving from south to north along Pyay Road and hit the traffic island. There was minor injury in the accident but guard rail on the road was damaged and windshield of the car cracked. Action has been taken against the driver by Traffic Police Inspection Team.

**Car and bike collision leaves three dead**

**PYINOOLOWIN, 17 July**— At mile post No. 38/7 on Mandalay-Lashio Road in Ward 9, Pyinoo-lo-win, a head-on collision occurred with car and motorbike in the morning of 12 July. When the accident occurred Kyaw Nyunt residing at Anisakhan Market Road in Ward 17 was at the wheel of Super Custom and Cyclist Nay Zar Tun of Taungkyauktaing village in Wotlet, Sagaing Division and U Kyaw Myaing were on the bike. The accident left two on the bike dead on the spot and driver Kyaw Nyunt was rushed to the hospital, but he was not saved.
The Ambassador Bridge, a busy international border crossing linking Windsor, Ontario, with Detroit, was closed for five hours on Monday following a bomb threat.

But investigators using bomb-sniffing dogs found nothing suspicious and the span reopened to traffic early Tuesday morning, authorities on both sides of the border said.

“Nothing of a bomb device was detected on the bridge,” Detroit police spokeswoman Chris Kelly said in a statement. A suspected sewing machine was closed by a bomb hoax.

In a statement, the Detroit International Bridge Company said Detroit police authorities who are seriously and is cooperating with investigators. She declined to comment further, saying “details of this matter must remain confidential.”

“The shutdown of the Ambassador Bridge into Detroit, Michigan from Windsor, Ontario, Canada in this file photo,” Reuters said Monday.

The recall will affect 7414 vehicles in China that were produced in 2008, including Impreza models made between 23 May and 8 October, Forester models made between 22 May and 13 Nov and Legacy models made between 4 June and 18 October.

The narrow bearing gaps in the water pumps may disrupt the normal functioning of the pumps and cause engines to shut down, the statement explained. It said it will recall the vehicles from 27 July and change the water pumps for free.

Subaru to recall 7414 cars in China

BEIJING, July 17—Japanese automaker Subaru will recall several types of vehicles exported to China, after defects in the engines’ water pump came to light.

The quality watchdog said on Monday. Subaru is recalling 5520 of the land mass in the lower 48 states.

The corn crop is in the greatest global challenges,” UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov said. A spokesman said the recall from 27 July and change the water pumps for free.

Xinhua

Drought worsens corn damage, raising world food, fuel worry

CHICAGO, July 17—Corn soybeans in the US Midwest were baked in an unrelenting heat wave on Monday with fears rising of big crop losses that will boost food and fuel prices and cut exports and aid from the world’s top shipper of the key crops.

The drought scouring the US Midwest is the worst since 1956, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said in a report posted on its website on Monday. Drought is affecting 55 percent of the land mass in the lower 48 states.

The corn crop is in the greatest

The USDA on Monday rated the corn crop—which had once been estimated to total a record 14 billion bushels this year—at only 31 percent good-to-excellent, down 9 percentage points on last week.

The soybean crop rating was at 34 percent good-to-excellent, down 6 percentage points from the previous week.

Chicago Board of Trade corn for December delivery has soared 54 percent since mid-June, reaching a contract high of $7.78 on Monday and approaching its record price near $8.

Suboyan for November delivery soared to a new contract high of $15.97 before slipping back a few cents.

Crop watchers were alarmed that corn rated poor-to-very poor jumped to 38 percent, versus 30.3 percent last week and 11 percent a year ago.

“They’re moving corn from good-and-excellent condition to poor-to-very poor in one week, which ships into fair condition. What they’re saying is it’s a lot worse than they thought,” said farmer Larry Winger, who farms along the Illinois-Indiana border 30 miles south of Purdue, commenting on the USDA report. Reuters

Cross-border criminals make $870 billion a year - UN

VIENNA, July 17—Turnover of cross-border organised crime is about $870 billion a year, more than six times the total of official development aid, and stopping this “threat to peace” is one of the greatest global challenges, a UN agency said on Monday.

The most lucrative businesses for criminals are drug trafficking and counterfeiting, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said, launching an awareness-raising campaign about the size and cost of cross-border criminal networks. The International Enterprise (IE) Singapore, the trade promotion agency, said the acceleration in export growth was largely due to the non-electronic exports expanding by 9.4 percent in June, up from the increase of 8.3 percent in the previous month. The expansion was led by higher exports of printed matter, specialized machinery and pharmaceuticals.

Electronic exports rose by 1.6 percent in June, which is lower than the growth rate of 3.9 percent in May. The increase in electronic domestic exports was largely due to higher exports of personal computers, disk drives and integrated chips. On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the level of NOXID reached 16 billion Singapore dollars (1.28 billion US dollars) in June.

Total trade in June grew by 2.8 percent on year on year to 83 billion Singapore dollars.—Xinhua
Ford recalls new Escape crossover over braking issue

One of Ford's highest-profile launches in recent years, the Escape was the company's second-best-selling vehicle. It was the sixth-best-selling vehicle overall in the United States in June, with sales of 28,500. The top seller was Ford's F-Series truck.

Ford said improperly installed carpet padding the centre console trim panel may cause a driver's foot to contact the side of the brake pedal when it moves from the accelerator to the brake. The automaker said that on affected vehicles it will remove the carpet padding and replace it with a new panel. The recall begins on 23 July.

Slovenia suffers from drought, hailstorms

Lightening strike kills two in US

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs
Invitation for Tender to Consultant companies/Organizations which have international experience to implement preparation for tender, bidding, tender, scrutinizing and selection at international tender bidding in order to provide postal services by joint venture among Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, and domestic/foreign companies which are providing Postal services.

1. It is under process to bid tender and scrutinize by Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telecommunications, Planning and Training Department with the goodwill of international business transactions, the purpose of which is to interest these companies to implement these works.

2. In such an implementation, in order to comply with international rules and regulations for tender bidding, and international standards, to be transparent, is intended to implement with the international experience and suggestions of Consultant companies and organizations existing with international experience which could conduct as Consultant in the process of tender preparation, tender bidding, scrutinizing and selection, thus Consultant companies and organizations which are interested to implement these works are invited to submit the proposals.

3. This is to announce that Consultant companies and organizations intended to implement, can submit the tender proposals to the following address before 4:30 pm of 15-8-2012.

Planning and Training Department
Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications
Central Post Office, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: 09-95-67-420611, 09-95-67-420622
E-mail: myanmarpostjv@mptmail.net.mm

Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs
Escaped cow offered new home

A cow that escaped from a French slaughterhouse has been offered a new home by Brigitte Bardot’s animal welfare foundation.

The cow escaped while being herded into an Alpine slaughterhouse. Now, many people have rallied for the cow’s life to be spared, the daily Le Parisien reports. “I think this cow is a symbol. She shows that animals have emotions, a conscience. She fled because she knew she was going to die. Today we should fight for her, to save her,” a Web user named Stephanie wrote.

“There would be no point in killing her anyway,” Heretxu can no longer be sold because she has escaped the traditional farming process, added’s Sakaki Mango, another online user. The Brigitte Bardot Foundation, which fights for animal rights, has responded to the calls of the online activists, saying its facility in Normandy will welcome the cow if it is found.

**Afro-Japanese fusion music puzzles traditionalists**

**Tokyo, 17 July**—One of Africa’s most traditional instruments, the thumb piano, may look a little out of place in the bands of Sakaki Mango, a Japanese musician who has adopted it as his own.

Over the last decade, Mango has become known in his native Japan for mixing the sound of the traditional hand-handled metal and wood instrument with songs he composes and sings in Japanese. The result is a rare fusion of traditional Japanese andSwahili in Osaka before setting off, rucksack on back, he discovered the pianos in local villages. He decided to study

**Titanic II to have ‘safety deck’: Australian tycoon**

**Canberra, 17 July**—Australian billionaire Clive Palmer on Tuesday said his modern-day version of the Titanic will retain the first, second and third-class divisions of the original and include a new “safety” deck.

Relicensing the preliminary plans and drawings for the Titanic II, which is to be built in China, ministry sources said the massive vessel would have the original nine decks plus an additional safety deck.

“The is to ensure the vessel is fully compliant with the current regulations which require passenger ships to, as much as possible and practicable, keep the distance from the lifeboat launching area to the waterline as low as possible,” Palmer said in a statement to AFP.

“It will also increase the passengeramenity area of the vessel.”

The new safety deck will feature proper lifeboats, safety chutes or slides as well as new common public rooms.

**Mumbai murals recall old Bollywood as centenary nears**

**Mumbai, 17 July**—Frustrated by the lack of old Bollywood glamour on the streets of Mumbai, two film buffs are trying to brighten it up.

India’s movie capital with murals ahead of the industry’s 100th birthday.

The iconic image of a reclining, cigarette-smoking young Amitabh Bachchan, the biggest star of Hindi cinema, has been lovingly recreated on a roadside wall, replicating the dying style of hand-painted poster art.

Bachchan’s character Vijay joined the underworld of the city’s mean streets in the 1975 hit “Deewaar” (The Wall), but the film’s antihero now has pride of place on a lane in the hip Bandra suburb, home to many film stars.

Despite the abundance of slick new posters plastered around Mumbai, artist Ranjit Dhayia says he was struck at how the city’s rich film heritage was being forgotten in recent years. “I couldn’t see any Bollywood in Bombay, yet this is the city of Bollywood,” Dhayia told AFP, using the city’s old name.

“So I thought I should paint the walls on the street.”

**Indian artist Ranjit Dhayia (R) works on a mural of Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan from his classic film ‘Deewaar’ in Mumbai.** —Internet

**Men rescued from 50-foot manhole**

**Emergency responders in Boston said they rescued two men who climbed into a manhole and were unable to get back out on their own. Firefighters and a mountain rescue team in Oldham, England, said the two, who are in their 20s, used a thin piece of garden twine to climb 50 feet down in the manhole, soon discovered they were trapped and called the emergency 999 number, the Manchester Daily News reported.

“It was a crazy thing to do. They could have killed themselves,” said Dave Bowler of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.

“They had gone down a length of pressure hose they had tied to a scaffolding pole with a piece of blue garden twine. The hole was made of concrete and would have been very unforgiving if they had fallen. The reason why they went down there was a mystery to everyone involved in the rescue.”

**Kitty Wells, country music star, dies at 92**

**Nashville, 17 July**—Kitty Wells, the “Queen of Country Music,” died this morning at her home in Nashville surrounded by family members, of complications from a stroke. She was 92.

Among those mourning her today was Loretta Lynn, whose own rise to popularity came after Wells opened the doors for strong female voices in country music. “Kitty Wells will always be the greatest female country singer of all times,” said Lynn in a statement released on her web site.

“She was my hero. If I had never heard of Kitty Wells, I don’t think I would have been a singer myself. I wanted to sound just like her, and so as far as I am concerned, no one will ever be as great as Kitty Wells. “She truly is the Queen of Country Music.”

Wells, born as Ellen Muriel Deason Worth, actually began performing on local radio in Nashville, but her ascent to stardom began in 1937 with husband Johnnie, half of the duo Johnnie & Jack. He died in 2011. —Reuters

**Mumford & Sons release new album “Babel” in September**

**Los Angeles, 17 July**—British folk band Mumford & Sons on Sunday said they will release their second album, “Babel,” on 25 September, calling the eagerly anticipated follow-up to “Sigh No More” a “natural progression” written on the road.

“We love playing live, obviously, but it had also become an important part of our creative process. We had been writing and rehearsing in soundchecks, and sort of ‘road-testing’ new songs on our very gracious audiences. But then we fell in love with recording again,” the group said in a statement.

“As a band, we’ve never been closer or more collaborative, all working to our strengths. And so we feel that this record is a natural progression that we’re proud of, and we cannot wait to take it out on the road,” the band said.

“Sigh No More” propelled the London-based quartet to international stardom, led by singles “Little Lion Man” and “The Cave.” Mumford & Sons consists of lead singer Marcus Mumford, keyboardistaccordion player Ben Lovett, banjo player Winston Marshall and bassist drummer Ted Dwane. —Reuters

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**Russia’s freestyle wrestling**

Beijing, life seemed golden for Russia’s freestyle wrestling.

**Xinhua**

*INTERNET*

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**Woods gets Rose, Garcia for 2 rounds of British**

**Lytham St. Annes, (England), 17 July — Tiger Woods gets a familiar face for the first two rounds of the British Open. Woods is in the same group with Justin Rose and Sergio Garcia. It will be the fourth time in the last nine Opens for Woods that he plays alongside Rose. They also were in the same group at Muirfield in 2002, Carnoustie in 2007 and St Andrews in 2010.*

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**Guzan signs new deal at Villa**

**LONDON, 17 July — Aston Villa goaliekeeper Brad Guzan has agreed a new three-year deal with the club. The contract will keep the 27-year-old U.S. international at the club until the end of the 2014/15 season. New Villa boss Paul Lambert told the club’s website that he expected Guzan to challenge first-choice keeper Shay Given. “I’ve watched Brad and some of his games when he was in the team last year and he was excellent,” said Lambert. “I know he’s always had that stigma of being the number two behind some really good goalkeepers here. But when you come back at the start of the season nobody knows what’s going to happen and if it doesn’t play out well, Brad played very well the time he was in and maybe he found himself a bit unlucky to be back out. “The club needs two or three good goalkeepers, so when Shay comes back from the Euros it will be a big bonus and we’ll see what happens.” Guzan, who joined Villa in 2008 from Major League Soccer, has been a success in eight consecutive games after returning from an injury to Given. *INTERNET*

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**Russian wrigglers for gold after poison trauma**

**Krasnoyarsk, 17 July — Ahead of the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, life seemed golden for Russia’s freestyle wrestling star Bilyal Makhov. A 1.94 metre tall man-mountain from the Caucasus, conquering all before him in the 125kg weight division, Makhov was reigning Russian and world champion. But then disaster struck. At one of the Olympic warm-up tournaments in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, Makhov suddenly felt unwell and was unable to compete. He was rushed to the local hospital where the medics gave him an extraordinary diagnosis — mercury poisoning. This was later confirmed after testing in a Moscow clinic. The doctors said that Makhov received a dose of mercury vapour which could have killed an ordinary man. But Makhov was back on his feet, ready for battle back and stay alive.**

The Dagestan-based Makhov, now 24, staged a full recovery and is now one of Russia’s best chances for gold at the London Games. But the origin of the poisoning remains a mystery. He refuses to answer any of his rivals who were in contention for a place in the country’s Olympic squad at the time and says he has now put the terrifying incident behind him. “How can I suspect of my comrades as we lived under the same roof, practiced together day by day and ate the same food?” he said. "I don’t want to be disappointed in my friends. I just want to forget the incident as soon as possible.” After rehabilitation, Makhov continued his attempts to qualify for London 2012. But his bad luck continued as he injured his elbow and then his knee. These setbacks resulted in defeat in the Russian championships, dashed his hopes of competing at Beijing 2012. *INTERNET*

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**Casillas unsure who to back for Ballon d’Or**

**MADRID, 17 July — Spain and Real Madrid captain Iker Casillas has admitted that he has no idea who he is going to back for this year’s Ballon d’Or. The 31-year-old goalkeeper has been touted as a major contender for the award himself, having led La Liga champions at Euro 2012, just six weeks after lifting the Liga title with Los Blancos. However, his club-mate Cristiano Ronaldo also is in the running, not to mention current titleholder Lionel Messi. Casillas knows that he has a difficult decision ahead of him. “I have to analyse it well,” the 31-year-old told reporters during a visit to Caracas. “It’s a tough vote because there are many very good players. “But I have plenty of time to think about it as I don’t have to vote until December.” Casillas refused to draw on his own prospects of landing the most prestigious individual honor in the game today but he did admit that he is happy to carry the flag for shot-stoppers everywhere. “Some people also enjoy a good save with a great dive from a goalkeeper,” he added, alluding to the fact that the podium places are usually occupied by goalkeepers and forwards. *INTERNET*
Eight killed, dozens injured as bus falls into ravine in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 17 July—At least eight people were killed and dozens injured when a bus with some 70 passengers on board fell into a ravine near Pakistan’s capital Islamabad on Tuesday morning, reported local Urdu TV channel ARY. Though dozens of injured people have been rescued, there are still many people trapped inside the bus, rescue workers were quoted as saying.

The accident took place at about 8:15 am local time when an overloaded bus fell into a ravine near Kahuta, a town lying some 40 km southeast of the country’s capital Islamabad, while making a sharp turn on its way to Kahuta from a nearby village.

About 30 injured people rescued have been shifted to the Fauji hospital in Torn, which is about 15 km away from the accident site. Local media quoted hospital sources as saying that at least 15 injured people were in critical condition. A lot of villagers living nearby have joined the rescue work which is still underway, said local media.

Three injured after double-decker coach turns over at central China expressway

CHANGSHA , 17 July—Minister of Punjab Province, Shahbaz Sharif, Chief Minister of Punjab Province, has expressed sorrow over the accident and directed hospital administrations to provide best possible medical treatment to the injured people.

Police discovers bomb factory in northern Nigeria

KADUNA, 17 July—Nigeria’s police in central north Kaduna State on Monday said they raided a bomb factory where it impounded different cans of explosives and bomb-making powder.

State commissioner of police Mohammed Abubakar Jingiri made this known to reporters in Kaduna, the state capital, saying one person was killed during the attack which was repelled by the youth of the area. He said a confessed terrorist led the police to the hideout where other items were equally recovered, including two bags of chemicals, a Jerry can of acid, two masks, an AK47 magazine with 27 rounds of live ammunition and eight car alarm systems.—Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(18-7-2012)(Wednesday)
7:00 am
1. Paritii By Hilly Region Missionary Saydaw
7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise
7:40 am
3. Nice and Sweet Song
8:05 am
4. Cultural Dances
8:15 am
5. Musical Programme
8:35 am
6. International News
4:05 pm
7. Musical Programme
4:35 pm
8. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures)
-First Year (Economics)
4:55 pm
9. Classical Song
5:00 pm
10. International Science News
5:05 pm
11. Teleplay (Health)
5:45 pm
12. ASEAN “Programmes”
6:20 pm
13. Traditional Boxing
7:05 pm
14. Documentary
8:00 pm
15. News
16. Korea NG Award
17. TV Drama Series

Weather forecast for 18th July, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Temperature (°C/°F)</th>
<th>Forecast</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<td>1 Lower Sagaing</td>
<td>33/91</td>
<td>Isolated rain or thundershowers (100%)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Kayah</td>
<td>28/82</td>
<td>Fairly Widespread rain or thundershowers (100%)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Kayin</td>
<td>30/86</td>
<td>Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH) (100%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Upper Sagaing</td>
<td>32/90</td>
<td>Widespread rain or thundershowers (RH) (100%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Upper Sagaing</td>
<td>33/91</td>
<td>Fairly Widespread rain or thundershowers (100%)</td>
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<td>6 Lower Sagaing</td>
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<td>Scattered rain or thundershowers (100%)</td>
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<td>7 Yango</td>
<td>31/88</td>
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<td>8 Bago</td>
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<td>9 Thaninthay</td>
<td>30/86</td>
<td>Widespread rain or thundershowers (100%)</td>
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<td>10 Mandalay</td>
<td>37/99</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Rakhine</td>
<td>29/84</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Yangon</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Rakhine</td>
<td>29/84</td>
<td>Widespread rain or thundershowers (RH) (100%)</td>
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</tbody>
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Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Brazilians play three strikers at Olympics

RIO DE JANEIRO, 17 July—Brazil coach Mano Menezes has confirmed plans for a three-striker attack at the Olympic Games football tournament. Menezes said forward Robinho, Hulk and Leandro Damiao would all start in Brazil’s Olympic warm-up friendly against Britain in Middlesbrough on Friday.

The trio featured for Brazil’s first team in a practice match against the squad’s reserves on the final day of a pre-Games training camp in Rio on Sunday. The first-choice formation also included Chelsea target Oscar in the role of playmaker in place of Santos starlet Paulo Henrique Ganso.

“Oscar is the same that started in the practice match on Sunday,” Menezes said before the team’s departure for London. Brazil’s squad received a visit at its hotel from Botafogo star Clarence Seedorf, who wished his former AC Milan teammates Alexandre Pato and Thiago Silva luck before their departure. —Xinhua
Nay Pyi Taw, 17 July—The meeting of Pyithu Hluttaw continued for the 10th day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex today, attended by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and 412 representatives.

During the meeting, four questions were raised, receipt of one bill was reported to Hluttaw and two new proposals were submitted. In the question and answer session, U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Pulaw constituency asked if there is a plan to give compensation to local farmers who lost their rubber trees and areca palms as they were cut to construct Pulaw-Thayetchaung road section of Dawei-Myeik railroad project in Taninthayi Region.

Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin replied that 0.59 acres of farmland, 34.81 acres of rubber plantations, 2.24 acres of areca palm trees and two houses with palm leaves roof were cleared as they lied on the axis for a railroad of the project and the project has been suspended in the 2012-2013 fiscal year. A plan has been made to send a group comprising local authorities and responsible personnel from Myanma Railways there to collect data and to give compensation to the farmers.

U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency asked arrangements of the Ministry of Sports and Sports Federation for bringing dignity to Myanmar in the upcoming 27th SEA Games in 2013.

Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu replied that in accordance with the plan of the Union Minister for Sports, the ministry has conducted competition from basic five fields and has given training to those athletes who have potential to beat rival athletes from ASEAN countries. The ministry also spends K 3000 per athlete who are being camped in Nay Pyi Taw and from K 4000 to K 5000 per athlete in Yangon. But, uniforms and accommodation for Myanmar athletes are different from those of other ASEAN countries. The ministry has provided preparations, purchase of sports gears and construction of sports grounds for athletes this year than previous year and spent more than the previous year.

(see page 8)

Amyotha Hluttaw regular session took place at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this morning. It was attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and 206 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

As the Hluttaw agreed on proposal of U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (6) sending messages of condolences to Russia and India hit by flash floods, messages will be sent to the disaster-hit countries.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No (4) asked “why it takes so long to issue rules of already enacted Ward or Village Administration Law and Peaceful Assembling and Peaceful Procession Law, when they will be issued and when new ward and village administrators will be elected”. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint explained that the President enacted Ward or Village Administration Law (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No (1), 2012) on 24 February, 2012, Law Amending Ward or Village Administration Law (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No (7), 2012) on 28 March, 2012. The Union government agreed on Ward or Village Administration Role at cabinet meeting No (24/2012) in accord with Section (36) (a) and (b) of the law, the Union Minister for Home Affairs signed and issued the rule on 6 July, 2012, in accord with Section 97 (a) (i).

The Home Affairs Ministry drafted the Peaceful Assembling and Peaceful Gathering Law and submitted it to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No (15), 2012, was enacted on 2 December, 2011. The rule was issued on 14 June, 2012. The rules have been sent to the Hluttaw Office on 6 July to distribute them to the Hluttaw representatives at the most immediate Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw sessions in accord with Section (137), Sub-section(a) and Section (157), Sub-section(a) of the constitution.

(see page 9)