President U Thein Sein to pay goodwill visit to Kingdom of Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 19 July—At the invitation of Her Excellency Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay a goodwill visit to the Kingdom of Thailand in the near future.—MNA

Our Three Main National Causes

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

President U Thein Sein meets Group of Friends of Democracy Parties

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met chairpersons and general secretaries of Group of Friends of Democracy Parties at 500-acre farmers educative mechanized farm in Pobbathiri Township here this morning.

The President cordially greeted those present at the meeting on his arrival.

Those present at the meeting introduced themselves to the President.

The President explained policies of the government and basic tasks for the country and the people at today’s meeting. This was the first meeting and similar meetings would be scheduled regularly in opportune times, the President said. Sharing the same fate as the citizens of Myanmar, the government and the parties has common goal to establish a peaceful and developed society. Despite differences in politics, he requested the parties to work in cooperation on common ground. Being a fledgling democracy, every step of the country must be taken cautiously. Candid suggestions and engagements in some cases were invited as the government is serving the interest of the country.

The country belongs to every citizen of Myanmar under the same flag. All stakeholders are doing their bits to bring about prosperity to the country, they are assumed to be founders of a democratic nation. (See page 8)

President U Thein Sein receives First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a goodwill delegation led by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Mr Karel Schwarzenberg at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace, here, at 3 pm today.

Present at the call together with the President were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin and departmental heads. Deputy Prime Minister Mr Karel Schwarzenberg was accompanied by Czech Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Jiri Sitler.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on promoting amity and cooperation, further multi-sectoral cooperation between two countries in economy, technology, health and education and Myanmar’s reform process.—MNA
The day we remember our founding fathers

Today, 19 July, is the Martyrs’ Day of Myanmar on which the country remembers nine heroes who sacrificed their lives in the independence struggle. Sixty-five years ago on the same day, leaders of Myanmar’s pre-independence interim government including national hero General Aung San were assassinated.

They were gunned down by assassins at a cabinet meeting in Yangon Secretariat which is expected to be transformed into a museum soon. The martyrs had devoted their whole lives to the independence struggle of the country. But their choice to enjoy the fruits of the independence they brought about to the country was spoiled.

The nine martyrs include General Aung San, Dedok U Ba Cho, Muhn Ba Khaing, U Ba Win, Thakin Mya, Abdul Razak, Sao San Tun, U Ohn Maung and Ko Htway.

General Aung San’s residence in Yangon where he lived for two years till his last day houses General Aung San Museum. The once only Martyrs’ Day museum is now open to public five days a week except Mondays, Tuesdays and public holidays. Broadcasters air live coverage of the commemoration at Martyrs’ Mausoleum. Flags are flown at half mast on this public holiday.

While remembering the founding fathers of our country, all of us need to embrace the future because responsibility for the country falls to us now. A prominent composer then commented on the fate of the martyrs that, because they sacrificed their lives without enjoying the independence, we enjoy it without sacrifice. Should we take the independence gained through blood, sweat and tears of our ancestors for granted?

In the future because responsibility for the country falls to us at this very present. A prominent composer then commented on the fate of the martyrs that, because they sacrificed their lives without enjoying the independence, we enjoy it without sacrifice. Should we take the independence gained through blood, sweat and tears of our ancestors for granted?

...Continued
Jerusalem, 18 July—On Friday, 29 June 2012, the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO voted to list the NahalMe’arot/ Wadi el-Mughara Caves as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Reuters

The World Heritage Committee of UNESCO voted to list the NahalMe’arot/ Wadi el-Mughara Caves as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Istanbul, 18 July—A large fire broke out in a 42-storey tower block in central Istanbul on Tuesday. Fire crews extinguished the blaze, and there were no reports of casualties, officials said.

Live images on Turkish television earlier showed debris falling from the upper floors of the building, which is made up of residential apartments and offices, as fire crews fought the blaze.

People wearing breathing masks were let out by fire crews. A nearby petrol station and other buildings were also evacuated. "It is not clear yet why or from where the fire was started. We will see when the firebrigade report is finished. The cause will be investigated," said Istanbul Mayor Kadir Topbas. "We could have experienced a catastrophe as at least 1,500 people reside in the building," he said.

The tower block's owner, Adnan Polat, said everyone from the building had been rescued. "All of them left the building in a healthy condition. We also rescued a few pets," Polat said.

Our biggest reward is there was no loss of life. This building has an early warning system and this incident showed the importance of it to everyone," Polat said.

The flames appeared to spread from the base of the tower and raged up one side of the building, leaving it scorched black.

State broadcaster TRT Haber quoted Istanbul Governor Huseyin Avni as saying the fire had started in the air conditioning units at the base of the tower.

Germany counts the costs as it buries nuclear past

Frankfurt, 18 July—Peter Kilimnik has spent his entire career at a nuclear plant in Germany. Next year, he will retire — just months before his workplace does.

The nuclear plant in the small and remote village of Wuergassen, halfway between Frankfurt and Hamburg, has been Kilimnik's passion for the past 37 years.

But by 2014, almost nothing will be left of what once was Germany's first commercial boiling water reactor Germany's decision to shut down all nuclear plants by 2022, sparked by the 2011 Fukushima disaster in Japan, is a done deal.

"It gets under your skin to see how this plant is being dismantled," 63-year old Kilimnik says, just stepping away from a giant hole in the ground where the reactor vessel used to be.

Work to decommision plants mainly includes removing and disposing of contaminated material as well as decommissioning the plants themselves while making sure that no radiation spreads.

Spent fuel from reactors needs to be encased and then transported to safe fuel dumps while cooling towers, often regarded a blight on landscapes, then need demolishing.

"All that will be left are photos, footage but otherwise just empty hands," he adds, surrounded by workers in orange suits that are busy removing parts of the plant.

Kilimnik joined the nuclear plant in the small village of Wuergassen in 1975, when public resistance against nuclear power was just starting to gain momentum nationwide.

Today, the four operators of nuclear plants in Germany - E.ON, RWE, EnBW and Vattenfall - have made a total of more than 30 billion euros ($36.7 billion) in provisions for the dismantling of the plants and the disposal of nuclear waste.

Germany’s No 2 utility RWE estimates that dismantling its two reactors at Biblis will cost 1.5 billion euros, excluding storage costs for the nuclear waste. E.ON, the country’s largest utility, sees costs of 1.1 billion euros for both dismantling and the disposal of radioactive material.

But estimates for the total costs of dismantling all nuclear plants in Germany differ widely due to the complex nature of the process, with Greenpeace expecting at least 44 billion euros, while consultancy Arthur D. Little has put the total costs at no less than 18 billion euros.

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Helicopter crash wounds 2 NATO soldiers in W Afghanistan

Kabul, 18 July—Two NATO soldiers were injured on early Wednesday morning when a helicopter crashed in western Afghanistan, the military alliance confirmed in a statement issued here.

"Two International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service members were injured following a helicopter crash in western Afghanistan today," the NATO-led ISAF said in the brief statement. It did not provide details about the incident, only saying "the cause of the crash is under investigation."

In a separate development, an ISAF soldier was killed in an insurgent attack in restive southern part of the country on Tuesday, the ISAF confirmed in another statement.

However, the statement gave neither the nationality of the victim nor the details about the attack under the ISAF policy. Troops mostly from Italy have been serving in western Afghanistan while US, British and Australian forces have been stationed in southern part of the insurgency-hit country within the framework of 130,000-strong ISAF forces.

The Taleban-led insurgency has been rampant since the militant group launched an annual spring offensive dubbed "Al-Farouq" from 3 May against Afghan and NATO-led troops stationed in the country.

Ten killed, six injured as passenger van hit by bomb in NW Pakistan

Islamabad, 18 July—At least ten people were killed and six others injured when a passenger van was hit by a bomb in Pakistan’s northwest tribal area of Orakzai on Wednesday morning, reported local Urdu TV channel Express. According to the local media reports, the blast took place at about 7:00 am local time when a passenger van carrying an estimated 20 people on board was hit by a remote-controlled bomb planted by the roadside while it was making its way from Orakzai to Kohat, a neighbouring district to the south of Orakzai.

Located in northwest Pakistan, Orakzai is the only one out of the seven tribal areas in the country, that does not border Afghanistan.

Initial reports said that the bomb was planted inside the van, however, later most of the local media reported that it was a roadside planted bomb that hit the van.

The van was hit by the bomb in the Spacey area, a place in the border area between Orakzai and Kohat. All the killed are closely related relatives, said local media, adding that the injured people have been shifted to a nearby military hospital.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet.—Xinhua

22 NATO supply trucks destroyed in Afghanistan

Kabul, 18 July—Afghan officials say a magnetic bomb placed on a truck exploded and destroyed 22 NATO supply vehicles in northern Afghanistan. Ghulam Sakhi Baghlan, deputy governor of Samangan Province, says many of the fuel tankers and semi-trailers caught fire after the bomb went off around 2 am on Wednesday.

All the trucks were parked in the Rabatub area of the province where the truckers had stopped to rest. The tankers in the convoy were carrying fuel south into Afghanistan from neighbouring Uzbekistan to the north.

Earlier this week, three NATO supply trucks were destroyed by militants in SaydAbad district of Wardak Province, south of Kabul.

Pakistan recently reopened its border crossings after closing NATO supply trucks for seven months in retaliation for US airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers.—Internet
Scientists successfully convert cord blood cells to neurons: report

MADRID, 18 July — Researchers have found a way to convert cord blood cells into neuro-like cells that could shed light on treatment of a wide range of neurological conditions, local media reported on Tuesday.

“This study shows for the first time the direct conversion of a pure population of human cord blood cells into cells of neuronal lineage by the forced expression of a single transcription factor,” said Barcelona Centre for Regenerative Medicine director Juan Carlos Izsipa Belmonte who led the research team.

This is the first time scientists are successful in a direct transformation of blood cells from the umbilical cord into neurons without rolling back the cells to their embryonic state. This means that the cells resulting from such a process would be less likely to develop into tumors. This discovery will shed light on further researches regarding the causes of diseases such as Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s. —Ihrana

WASHINGTON, 16 July —...
A third of the world’s adults are physically inactive, and the couch potato lifestyle kills about five million people every year, experts warned on Wednesday. — Internet

WASHINGTON, 18 July— Google unit Motorola Mobility said on Tuesday it has taken steps to avert an interruption of US imports and sales of its smartphones after the devices were found to infringe on a Microsoft patent. The importation to the United States of some Motorola Mobility smartphones was supposed to stop on Wednesday as the result of an International Trade Commission ruling that the phones infringed on Microsoft’s Internet software patent.

Motorola Mobility spokesman Becki Leonard said in an emailed statement. One option for Motorola Mobility would be to remove the meeting-scheduling technology from its smartphones and tablets. Microsoft has previously said that Motorola Mobility should license the technology it is accused of infringing.

Infringement by Motorola Mobility in May: The legal fight at the ITC is one of dozens globally between various smartphone makers. Google’s Android system has become a popular selling smartphone operating system, ahead of mobile systems by Apple, Microsoft Research in Motion and others. In mid-May, some HTC smartphones were stopped at the US border because it lost a patent dispute with Apple at the ITC in December. Shares in HTC tumbled more than 6 percent when shipments were held up.

A complaint filed in October, 2010, by Microsoft accused Motorola Mobility of infringing nine patents. The ITC ruled in May that Motorola Mobility infringed on one. Google’s Android software has recently become the most popular cellular operating system with 56 percent of the market in the first quarter of 2012, according to data from Research in Motion (RIM). The ITC is a popular venue for patent litigation since it is the only forum to which companies can turn if they wish to prevent the importation of products that infringe on patents.

Asian shares, euro little changed after Fed’s mixed message

Hong Kong, 18 July— Asian shares were on the back foot on Wednesday after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke offered a gloomy view of the US economy, but hopes that the central bank is moving closer to more stimulus measures limited the day’s losses. Chinese shares underperformed the region, dragged down by property plays after data showing another year-on-year dip in home prices spurred profit warnings.

A posed picture shows a Motorola Droid phone displayed on the search page in New York on 15 Aug, 2011. — Reuters

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Seven killed as helicopter crashes in western Sudan

Khartoum, 18 July—Seven soldiers were killed and two others wounded on Monday in a military helicopter crash in Sudan’s western region of Darfur, the Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) reported.

The agency quoted spokesman of the Sudanese army, Colonel Al-Saadi Khaled Al-Saadi, as saying that “the helicopter of the Sudanese army crashed due to technical failure, leaving seven soldiers killed and two others wounded, who were receiving medical treatment.”

He added that “the military Mi-17 helicopter belonging to the Sudanese army was on an administrative mission in the Hazan Tanjar area in the North Darfur state.”

Mexico drug violence cripples Monterrey party district

MONTERREY, 18 July—The historic district in this thriving industrial city was once packed with revelers enjoying Mexico’s economic boom times — but today it’s a ghost town, a victim of the country’s ongoing drug war. Most shocking was the speed of the change: just two years.

The northern city of Monterrey is an industrial powerhouse, where Mexican corporations like cement giant Cemex, Deacero and the Cushman & Wakefield brewery have operations, as do multi-nationalies like Johnson & Johnson, Caterpillar, General Electric and Whirlpool.

The city of four million is responsible for 7.5 percent of Mexico’s gross domestic product and has one of the highest per capita regions in the country, according to the official city website. It is home to the prestigious Monterrey Institute of Technology, and has hosted United Nations and Organization of American States events.

The historic heart of Monterrey is the Barrio Antiguo, or Old Quarter, which were 19th-century adobe brick buildings lining cobblestone roads over the core of the original city founded in 1596. When Monterrey’s economy took off starting in the 1990s, nightlife in the Barrio boomed. Art galleries opened, and places like the Rio Bar, La Chavela, and Manaus became night-life magnets.

Customers would often line up for two hours just to get into places like La Casa Aranguri, to listen to jazz, or Iguala’s which has hosted live rock bands since 1984.

Up to 10,000 visitors would flock to the Barrio each weekend, officials said.

Obama bracing to be outspent by Romney

WASHINGTON, 18 July—Barack Obama was the first presidential candidate to raise more than $100 million in a month and in 2008 was the first to forgo public money for his campaign. Now, he faces the very real threat of being the first president to be outspent by a challenger. Obama, who four years ago broke just about every fundraising record for a presidential hopeful, has now been forced to look his supporters in the eye and confess he might not keep pace with Republican Mitt Romney.

It’s a sobering realization for his campaign, which had imagined an unlimited budget for ads, offices and mail.

“I will be the first president in modern history to be outspent in his re-election campaign,” Obama wrote to supporters recently.

It wasn’t supposed to be this way. Conservatives just two years ago feared Obama would raise and spend a billion dollars in the 2012 campaign. Now, there is a real possibility that Romney and his official partners at the Republican National Committee could outpace Obama in total spending.

How did Obama go from fundraising juggernaut to money chaser in just four years?

In the early days of the 2007 primaries, he used fundraising success to puncture Hillary Rodham Clinton’s aura of inevitability. Obama surpassed Clinton’s primary fundraising in the first two quarters of that year — $25 million to Clinton’s $20 million from January to April, and $31 million to Clinton’s $21 million in the three months that followed.

The numbers shocked observers and inspired supporters to give even more to the fresh-faced, first-term senator from Illinois. But now that magic seems elusive.

Meanwhile, Romney’s fundraising has surged to levels not seen since 2007.”

Delta passenger thought needle was a toothpick

MINNEAPOLIS, 18 July—Jim Tonjes was high above North America when he bit into a hot turkey sandwich aboard a Delta Air Lines flight and felt a sudden jab in his mouth.

Glancing down, he noticed what looked like a sewing needle in the food. Another passenger on the plane reported the same thing.

Airline, he thought a toothpick meant to hold the sandwich together had punctured the roof of his mouth. When he pulled it out, “it was a straight needle, about one inch long, with sharp points on both ends.”

Four injured in Egyptian train crash

CAIRO, 18 July—A train crashed and derailed south of Cairo on Tuesday, leaving four people injured, the Egyptian health ministry said. The train, heading for the town of Sohag, 500 kilometres (300 miles) south of the capital, crashed near Badrashin station near Cairo, a security source said. Five of its 15 carriages overturned. Passengers on another train which had stopped had thrown rocks and iron rods on the rails in protest at the delay, causing the derailing, the source said.

“Four people were injured in the accident and there were no deaths,” Ahmad al-Asmati, deputy head of the health ministry’s emergencies department, told journalists.

The security source had earlier reported an unknown number of dead and injured. In Egypt’s last train tragedy, almost 20 people were killed in 2009 when one train hurtled at full-speed into the back of another which had stopped.

Four injured in Kenya train crash

In this 24 Jan, 2012, file photo, a Delta Airlines plane taxis past a gate at Logan Airport in Boston.

Four injured in Egypt train crash

Egyptians gather around a train which crashed and derailed near Badrashin station south of Cairo on its way to the town of Sohag. A train crashed and derailed south of Cairo on Tuesday, leaving four people injured, the Egyptian health ministry said.
NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by Professor Dr Karl Jackson of Johns Hopkins University of the United States of America at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 9 am today.

They held a cordial discussion to invite Hluttaw representatives from Myanmar to the US. Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyin, chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw committees and commission, the director-general of Hluttaw Office and officials.

MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint receives Professor Dr Karl Jackson of Johns Hopkins University of the United States of America.

MNA

Work Committee for Implementation of Joint Strategy on Elimination of Forced Labour in Myanmar

Union Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi addresses Work Committee for Implementation of Joint Strategy on Elimination of Forced Labour in Myanmar.—MNA

Hybrid Palethwe reach NyaungU, farmer gets over 200 baskets per acre

NYAUNGU, 18 July—Farmer U Win Naing of Letpanchaung Village-tract, NyaungU in Mandalay Region, boasted his success in the presence of District Administrator U Tun Tun Win, Township Administrator U Tha Tun Linn, and others on 5 July. His field yielded 204.9 baskets per acre as a wet grain and 183.95 baskets as dry grain.—Myanma Alin

Physicians make field trip

YAUKTI, 18 July—Township Health Officer Physician Dr Thuang Dan Oo led his team of medical staff to make a field trip to Akyarngyi village in Yaakyi Township, Ayeyawady Region on 8 July. They camped at Basic Education Primary School in the village and the physician explained his purpose. His assistant Dr Cho Cho Lwin also explained common disease in the rainy season. They demonstrated standard handwashing, gave medicines to schoolchildren and provided health care to locals.—Myanma Alin

Teasing leads to murder

PYINMANA, 18 July—Paddy transplanter Phyo Wai Aung, 54, and his son Phyo Aung, 37, residing at 7th Street in No.6 Ward. They approached her from her residence on 11 July evening after they have finished their work. On arrival at the field in Gayetkyaw village, Khayeygan Village-tract in Pantanaw Township, a lightning hit her and killed her on the spot.

The body was sent to Inma Station Hospital. Inma Police Station opened a file to investigate whether the death was in normal or not. In rainy season, those who have to work in the open field should be aware of lightning as it occurs occasionally.—Kyemon

Lightning kills paddy transplanter

PANTANAW, 18 July—Paddy transplanter Ma Min Khin was hit by a lightning as he was on his way home with his friends on 11 July evening after they have finished their work. On arrival at the field in Gayetkyaw village, Khayeygan Village-tract in Pantanaw Township, a lightning hit her and killed her on the spot.

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Donation poured into installing lift at MGH Cardiac Ward

MANDALAY, 18 July—U Min Min Myo, Daw Su Su Lwin and family of City Amusement Part, Mandalay, donated K 50 million to Mandalay General Hospital on 10 July. Their donation is aiming at installing a lift at the cardiac ward now under construction in the hospital compound. At the donation ceremony U Min Min Myo explained the purpose of the donation and handed over the cash to Medical Superintendent Dr Maung Win in the presence of Specialist Professor Dr Daw Than Kyang and others.

Kyemon

Gambler arrested

BOGALE, 18 July—As a drive to fight against gambling in Bogale Township, Sub-Inspector Win Kyaw and group of Bogale Police Station combed all the areas arrested in the township. Acting on a tip off, they together with witnesses searched the house of Ma Tin Tin Khine, 37, residing at 7th Street in No.6 Ward. They apprehended Ma Tin Tin Khine plus four together with cards and K 9350 of gambling money. The police station has taken action against the gamblers.—Myanma Alin
President U Thein Sein meets Group...

(from page 1)

Being an elected government, it has to fulfill the desire of the people. The common wish and objective of the entire people is stability and socio-economic development. As regards the stability of the country, there are two sections—political stability and peace of the entire country—which are interrelated.

Political stability was built through engagement with NLD and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Three steps are being taken to bring domestic armed conflicts to an end. The multilateral ceasefire agreements were sought in the first step. The second step is building trust through negotiations which are based on eight principles.

He said that priority is being given to food sufficiency of the people as a task to develop socio-economy of the State which is one of the people’s desires. As Myanmar is an agrarian-based nation, food is sufficient for 60 million of present population but food security is being considered for 100 million of population to be increased in coming 30-40 years. He said that agricultural system is being improved through five methods for uplifting the life of farmers. He stressed the need to transform the agrarian-based nation to an industrialized country with a view to ensuring prosperity of the nation. Despite possessing natural resources, the nation needs investments and technology to become the industrialized nation, he noted. As such, he said that investments are being invited till today. At a time when the foreign investments are put in the nation, emphasis is to be placed on prevention against harming the interest of the national races and prestige and sovereignty of the State and degredation of environment. Investment is divided into four types: first priority will be given to industries with simple technology that can create many job opportunities for the citizens, the second priority to value-added finished goods productions based on rubber and timber, the third to production of minerals and the fourth to establishment of IT and telecommunication industries, he said.

He continued that at present, poverty rate is at 26 per cent in the nation and a plan is being implemented to reduce poverty rate to 16 per cent. He said that arrangements are being made to create job opportunities for Myanmar migrant workers from other countries.

In conclusion, he said that strengthening of democracy is interrelated with peace and stability of the State. Only when the two significant points are interrelated each other, will the socio-economic condition of the people develop. He said that the government is striving for achieving success in the above-mentioned tasks and invited those present to join hands with the government.

Chairman of National Democratic Force (NDF) U Khin Maung Swe, Party Leader Dr Than Nyein, Chairman of Democratic Party (Myanmar) U Thu Wai, General Secretary Daw Than Suu, Democracy and Peace Party (DPP) Chairman U Aung Than, General Secretary U Myo Nyunt, General Secretary of Peace and Unity Party (PUP) U Tun Shew, Chairman of Union Democracy Party (UDP) U Thaung Win, General Secretary of Rakhine Nationals Development Party (RNDP) U Oo Hla Saw, Chairman of Shan Nationalities Democratic (SNDP) Party U San Aik Paung, Vice-Chairman of All Mon Regions Democracy Party (AMRDP) U Nai Hla Aung, Chairman of Chin National Party (CNP) U Zun Chin Phon (a) Zo Sam and Chairman of Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party (PSDP) U Saw Thein Aung discussed political, economic, internal peace and regional development matters.

With regard to the discussions, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein and Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min explained sector-wise undertakings of the government and future plans. Next, the President gave a supplementary discussion.

After that, the President expressed his thanks for participation of attendees in the meetings and the meeting came to an end at 1 p.m.

Later, the President and party posed for documentary photo together with the attendees.

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Donation ceremony for displaced persons held in Bhamo

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 July—A ceremony to provide cash and kind for displaced students in Bhamo District of Kachin State was held at Bhamo Town Hall in Kachin State on 13 July morning, with an address by State Social Affairs Minister Daw Bawk Ja.

At the ceremony, Kachin State government donated 512 dozens of exercise book worth K 1,024, 000, pencils and pens worth over K 590,000, school uniforms worth K 1,499,200, slippers and umbrellas worth K 375,000, raincoats worth K 842,000 and medicines worth K 500,000 for camps, the state advocate-general 153 dozens of exercise book worth K 200,000, Captian Taik Oo Kyaw and family 6 dozens of exercise book worth over K 100,000, Daw Nwe Nwe Win (Aung Tuon) umbrellas and school uniforms worth K 30,000, Bhamo district staff and well-wishers K 2,500,000, I Love Myanmar Family Foundation K 15,000,000 for constructing of three temporarily relief camps at Monmau camp, state relief and resettlement department K 425,400 for flood victims. A total of today’s donation amounted to over K 43,127,000.

State Minister for Social Affairs Daw Bawk Ja together with state advocate-general and officials inspected relief camps in Kachin Baptist church and roman catholic church in Monmau and Shwekyeena pagoda in Bhamo and monastic school in Yogyi village and encouraged the displaced persons.—MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein cordially greets chairpersons and general secretaries of Group of Friends of Democracy Parties.—MNA

Chairman of Democratic Party (Myanmar) U Thu Wai, General Secretary Daw Than Suu, Democracy and Peace Party (DPP) Chairman U Aung Than, General Secretary U Myo Nyunt, General Secretary of Peace and Unity Party (PUP) U Tun Shew, Chairman of Union Democracy Party (UDP) U Thaung Win, General Secretary of Rakhine Nationals Development Party (RNDP) U Oo Hla Saw, Chairman of Shan Nationalities Democratic (SNDP) Party U San Aik Paung, Vice-Chairman of All Mon Regions Democracy Party (AMRDP) U Nai Hla Aung, Chairman of Chin National Party (CNP) U Zun Chin Phon (a) Zo Sam and Chairman of Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party (PSDP) U Saw Thein Aung discussed political, economic, internal peace and regional development matters.

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Union Education Minister calls for disaster consciousness

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 July—The seminar on disaster risks reduction for education planners continued for the second day at the Ministry of Education, here this morning.

First, personnel of Myanmar-UNESCO Group and departments explained measures for disaster risks reduction and Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye called for preparatory measures of universities and colleges against disasters depending on their geographical locations, responses and rescue and rehabilitation tasks in the aftermath of disasters in real time.

It was attended by directors-general, deputy directors-general and personnel of the Education Ministry, personnel of related ministries, universities and colleges, and region/ state education officers.

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**Pyithu Hluttaw session… (from page 16)**

Development of private industries, SMEs, educational programmes and technology in line with market-oriented economic system, the Deputy Minister said that plans were under way to run factories and workshops that are necessary for engaging strategically by the government among the factories and workshops under the Ministry of Industry in line with the policy laid down by the government for the development of industrial sector, in cooperation with the private companies.

Necessary policy and technologies for the development of private industry sector Directorate of Industries and Directorate of Industry Planning had issued directives and carried out with check and balance. For systematic running of private factories and workshops, Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department was making regular inspections.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Engineering Society, SMEs Development Centre had been providing technological assistance needed for the development of SMEs. Ministry of Industry would take on educational programmes and technological development in cooperation with organizations from home and abroad. In addition, UMFCCI held discussion on development of SMEs in cooperation with foreign organizations occasionally.

Encouragements would be given and assistances, provided for technological transfer, economic development by means of fair competition and business development under the framework of ASEAN Free Trade Region, World Trading and other International and Inter-country Trade Agreement. The government would provide technological assistances and other necessary assistances in transforming into agro-based industry, agro-product value added enterprise, supporting factories and supply chain management, based on agricultural produce.

U Thun Tin Oo of Amarapura Constituency asked whether there is a plan to cancel incorrect and out-of-date court rulings by the Supreme Court of the Union and the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union for correcting judicial sector. Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union U Soe Nyant explained that, if similar appeal, amendment, within, special appeals are filed at the Supreme Court of the Union and the Supreme Court find the facts that should be revoked, the ruling is then cancelled with firm reasons. For different ruling for similar cases, the old rulings should not necessarily need to follow.

There are examples that out-of-date rulings are revoked with the later ones. The high courts and supreme courts of other countries do the same. If there is a situation to cancel the out-of-date ruling, the Supreme Court of the Union cancels it with firm reason. Seventeen Hluttaw representatives discussed Foreign Investment Bill. They discussed that the survivability of national entrepreneurs should be taken into consideration in shifting towards new policies for economic development. The foreign companies should be allowed to invest cent percent in industries that require large capital the national entrepreneurs can not effort, rather than in high-tech industries. If multinational corporations far better than local enterprises come in Myanmar market, space for local companies will be diminished.

The foreigner and citizen ratio 49:51 is the most appropriate one to safeguard the national interest. Thailand and Malaysia could successfully introduce the ratio. If the foreign investors are going to enjoy tax exemptions and waivers, national enterprises should be granted similar or more exemptions and waivers.

With the flock of foreign investors entering the country, national SME and SMI will face the danger of extinction. Local entrepreneurs will become employees of the foreign companies. In prescribing Foreign Investment Law for economic development and industrialization of the country, the interest of the country and the people should be put at the fore.

The date for further discussion of the bill will be announced later. The representatives wishing to discuss the bill are to submit their name lists not later than noon on 24 July, precisely mentioning “paragraph, subparagraph and description” to discuss. Although the Foreign Investment Bill had been approved by both Hluttaws, the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee revised the bill again and submitted the report to the Hluttaw on 13 July.

Today’s session concluded at 1.05 pm and the twelfth session takes place on 23 July.

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**Applications for political party scrutinized and passed**

**Pyathu Hluttaw, 18 July**—The Union Election Commission is scrutinizing and permitting the applications for registration as political party. The commission passed the application for establishment of Shan State Kokang Democratic Party by U Antony Super and 17 other persons today as it was found that the establishment is in accordance in line with laws and by-laws.—*MNA*

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**Coordination meeting on rehabilitation in Rakhine State held**

**Pyathu Hluttaw, 18 July**—A work coordination meeting on continuous efforts for rehabilitation of local people who lost their properties in the unrest in Rakhine State was held at Rakhine State Government Office yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay clarified current rehabilitation of local people who would try to collect donation sufficiently from foreign donors.

To provide shelters to 60,000 population in Sittway and villages in Sittway Township, Rakhine State Government has pledged to build temporary 170 tents while UN agencies and INGOs led by UNHCR to build 600.

As part of efforts for reconstruction of houses which were burnt down in Maungtaw, in villages in Maungtaw Township. Ministry of Border Affairs would build 202 houses, UNHCR 222 and the Care Myanmar 128 houses. UNHCR has sent 400 tents so far for the refugees in Maungtaw Township.

WP spend around 600,000 USD on providing four dry provisions to refugee camps and so far a total of 1515 tons of provisions have been sent to the camps.

Over 2100 tons of provisions have already been stored at the warehouses of WP.

UNHCR and INGOs has already provided 6818 sets of different kinds of house hold utensils and 2412 sheets of tarpaulin to the refugees in Rakhine State.

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**Educative talks on narcotics drugs control, health held in Falam**

**Pyathu Hluttaw, 18 July**—An educative talk on narcotics drugs control and health was held at No.1 Basic Education High School in Falam, Chin State this morning.

Police Superintendent, Police Captain Soe Myint and Township Judge U Tin Maung Myint gave educative talks on narcotics drugs control and District People’s Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Sein Hlaing preventive measures of DHF.—*MNA*
DHF preventive measures taken in Shwepyitha Township

YANGON, 18 July— Every Sunday, measures were taken against Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever in Shwepyitha Township through fumigation of mosquito larva as a way to prevent aedes, and new patients were diagnosed. On 14 July, these measures were taken at No.15 Ward by health staff led by Township Administrator U Aung Moe, members of Township Women’s Affairs Organization led by Chairperson Daw Khin Soe Moe and Ward Administrator U Moe Myint and members of Social Organizations. They checked water to make sure that there was no larva in flower verses and water pots. When they found any suspicion, they changed the water, disinfected it and fumigated the surroundings.—Myannya Alin

International Day of Cooperatives marked in Bogale

BOGALE, 18 July—Staff Officer Naw Bwi Hpaw of Township Cooperative Department made a speech on the occasion to mark the International Day of Cooperatives. He paid tribute and present prize presentation ceremony in Bogale on 7 July. Chairman of Township Cooperative Syndicate U Khin Myint explained matters concerning the Day. This was followed by a ceremony to present to winners of articles, poem and essay competition at region and state levels. Naw Bwi Hpaw presented award to Maung Zaw Phyo Wai who stood first in article competition at region level. Ma May Ywet Wai won second prize in article contest; Maung July Toe stood second in poem contest; and Nani Phyo Thet San third in poem contest at the region level. At the township level, Maung Lin Thura Aung of BEHS-2, Bogale stood first in essay contest, the second prize went to Ma June Wai Phyo of BEHS-1, Bogale and the third prize was for Ma Myat Thinzar Kyaw of BEBS-2 Bogale. Officials of Township Cooperative Departments presented awards to them. —Myannya Alin

Pyay University greens itself

PYAY, 18 July—A total of 350 saplings of teak, mahogany, gum-kino, star-flower, inorwood, gold mahoe tree, Swedaw (Bauhinia acuminata) and eugenia were grown at Pyay University campus on 1 July. Pyay University Deputy Commissioner U Amin Maw, Chairperson Daw Baw Nan of Pyay District Women’s Affairs Organization, Rector U Win Myint, and others participated in the tree-growing ceremony.—Myannya Alin

Let’s all listen together with open hearts forever!

YANGON, 18 July—Myanmar Central Committee for Prevention against Trafficking in Person and Social Welfare Department organized “Let’s all listen together with open hearts forever!” with the sponsorship of UNIAP and World Vision at Chatrium Hotel on 12 July. The ceremony was held to hear the voice of trafficked persons who have managed to escape the neo-slavery system. On the occasion Joint Secretary of the committee Police Brig-Gen Khin Maung Si and Representative Mr Christoper Herink made a speech. Those who were trafficked but escaped from the nightmare and arrived back to their guardians recounted their experiences followed by admonition given by officials.—Kyemon

Two ogre statues found in Magway

MAGWAY, 18 July—According to the records, Magway in the central part of Myanmar has turned 700 years. The first mayor of the town was Bala Minhin and he was the donor of Myathalun Pagoda’s umbrella. The statues made of marble were found when bushes were cleared at the top of Kinchaung bridge. The bridge is located to the south of the town. With 20 feet in height the statues have a unique archaic styles. It is said that they are Bawthaw and Bawkyaw brothers, the donors of Myathalun Pagoda. They sit facing to the north holding four-edged daggers in their hands. Myathalun pagoda is also located to the north of the town on the top of Naguptama hill. The place where the two ogres were found was once covered with dense forests and a sanctuary for wild birds. As the two ogres are historical, they are kept in a building with a tiered roof. It is hoped that the place where the two ogres are kept will become tourist destination. —Kyemon

Good news for collegians in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 18 July—There is a grand plan at Mohnyin Degree College to attract more human resource through holding talks and literary competitions. Historian Dr Toe Hla, on 13 July, gave talks on “History of Mohnyin”. Another scholar Dr Kyi Shinwin will give talks under the title of “Creating an environment on the Internet”. On 31 July, and Dr May Zin “Nano Technology” on 8 August. Moreover, Head of Myanmar Department of Mohnyin Degree College Professor Dr Daw Khin Than told our correspondent in Mohnyin that to promote Myanmar’s thinking, competitions for Award for Ayeyawady Aesthetic Literature will be held on 27 July.—NLM-001

Three-digit gamblers arrested in Kalay

KALAY, 18 July—Kalay District Anti-Crime Team arrested three same cases on the same date involved by Ma Mi Tu Kho Yi So of the same village and Ma May Than Kyaw of same village. Lawsuits were filed against the gamblers.—Kyemon

Express Mail service provided

MANDALAY, 18 July—Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs has granted permission to three private companies—United Courier Services (UCS), Kissapunadi and Matrix Logistic—to conduct express mail service. At the first stage, the companies are providing services in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Pyay, Magway, Myeik and Hpakan. The service fee is K 2500 per a letter in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay. They also provide service for those who have difficult access to service providers. Send today—Reach tomorrow is the provider’s pledge and if something happens wrongly in connection with the mail the service providers will compensate K 50,000 or the same amount equivalent to the sent goods.—Kyemon
**Efforts to tackle Somali piracy pay off**

**LONDON,** 18 July—

Tougher action by international navies and the use of private armed guards on ships have more than halved the number of Somali pirate attacks, the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) said on Monday.

Last year, Somali piracy in the busy shipping lanes of the Gulf of Aden and the northwestern Indian Ocean netted $160 million, and cost the world economy $57 billion, according to the American One Earth Future foundation.

But in the first half of 2012, there were just 69 incidents involving Somali pirates, compared to 163 in the same period last year, resulting in a decline of a third in piracy worldwide.

International navies have stepped up pre-emptive action against pirates, including strikes on their bases on the Somali coast, and shipping firms are increasingly using armed guards and other measures, such as heightened watches and razor wire.

"The naval actions play an essential role in frustrating the pirates. There is no alternative to their continued presence," said IMB director Pottengal Mukundan.

The IMB, which has been monitoring piracy worldwide since 1991, said the number of reported pirate attacks fell to 177 in the first six months from 266 in the same period last year. Still, most involved the use of weapons.

Spain debt costs to stay high in wake of austerity plan

**MADRID,** 18 July—

Spain’s borrowing costs are likely to stay high on Tuesday when the government repays for its debt for the first time since announcing more austerity last week, suggesting markets remain unconvinced it can avoid a European bailout.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy unveiled a package of changes for its ailing banks that was its highest of 5.074 percent last month, which was its highest in 15 years.

Rajoy unveiled a package of ambitions, going into the same period last year. Still, they do not give details of the agreement that led to their release.

Loos, 61, the pastor of a predominantly Haitian-American church, was travelling to Israel on an annual trip to retrace the steps of Jesus when his tour bus was ambushed by Bedouin tribesmen in central Sinai on Friday.

In Boston’s Dorchester neighbourhood, Louis’ eldest son was exuberant upon learning of his father’s release. "Mom, there is a lot of joy. I’m not exuberant. I have no words to express it," Jean Louis told reporters outside the family home. Massachusetts’ two US senators released statements expressing relief after spending the weekend in close contact with the State Department. What began as a sightseeing tour turned into an unimaginable nightmare for these Massachusetts families and thank God that nightmare is coming to an end," said Joe Lieberman, Democrat, and John Barrasso, Republican, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

GM eyes big campaign as Cadillac ATS takes on BMW

**DETROIT,** 18 July—

General Motors’ Cadillac brand on Wednesday launched one of its most crucial marketing campaigns since the automaker emerged from bankruptcy as it takes aim at BMW’s 3-series in the heart of the US luxury car market with its new ATS sedan.

GM has lacked a small luxury car in recent years, a segment that accounts for 60 percent of the luxury market and one that also garners younger users. As the smallest and least expensive Cadillac, the 2013 ATS is key to GM’s hopes of making Cadillac more of a global luxury brand. It goes on sale in the US market next month, following on from the launch of the large XTS sedan last month.

With a starting price of just under $34,000, the ATS is a direct challenge to BMW and Daimler AG’s Mercedes-Benz C-Class.

"The task of ATS is very ambitious, going into the largest luxury segment against a brand like 3-Series that’s dominated the segment," said Cadillac global marketing director James Vargel.

The marketing campaign begins with a 2-minute video on YouTube and will include 10 TV ads during the Olympic Games in London, starting with the opening ceremony on 27 July. The campaign dubbed “Cadillac ATS vs. the World” features the car being driven in exotic locales such as the winding roads of Morocco’s Atlas Mountains or through the remote hand-carved Guoliang Tunnel in China.

Sleep problems may lead to cognitive decline

**VANCOUVER,** 18 July—

Interventions to normalize sleep duration and correct sleep disorders have potential to reduce or prevent cognitive decline, according to research presented here Monday at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference.

Dr William Thies, chief medical and scientific officer at the Alzheimer’s Association, said the studies presented suggested that cognitive health declines over the long term in some people with sleep problems. “The good news is that tools already exist to monitor sleep duration and quality and to intervene to help return sleep patterns to normal,” Thies said.

“If we do this, there is the possibility that we may also help people preserve their cognitive health, but that needs to be tested,” he added. In a study involving more than 15,000 people, participants who received an intervention to correct sleep patterns were 25 percent less likely to develop dementia than the control group, which received no intervention.

Bangladesh’s population exceeds 150 mn

**DHAKA,** 18 July—

The population of Bangladesh now stands at 152.518 million comprising of approximately equal number of males and females, according to the final report of the country’s latest census released on Monday.

After the final tally of the census, which is the 5th in the South Asian country, the number of total male population is 76.35 million while that of female 76.17 million.

The preliminary results released in July last year showed Bangladesh’s population was 142.32 million on the census night on March 15, 2011, also comprising of almost equal number of males and females — 71.255 million and 71.064 million.

After the final release of the results the Bangladesh government had instructed the statistical office to further look into the census findings to check the estimations of the latest census that put the country’s population at 142.3 million do not correspond with the current figures of domestic demand for food, its production and import. BBS on that day, however, said the tally could increase by 5 to 7 percent in the final report of the census.
Australasian woman wins key thalidomide settlement

Sydney, 17 July—An Australasian woman born without arms and legs after her mother took thalidomide during pregnancy on Wednesday won a landmark multi-million dollar settlement in her class action against drug firms.

Lynette Rowe, 50, is leading a mass lawsuit on behalf of people born in Australia and New Zealand with congenital defects between 1958-1970 whose mothers took the sedative thalidomide, made by German chemical firm Grunenthal.

Rowe claims her condition was caused by her mother’s consumption of thalidomide and is suing Grunenthal, defunct British-based distributor The Distillers Company and Diageo, which took control of Distillers in 1997.

Lawyers told the Supreme Court in Victoria state that Rowe had reached a confidential settlement in her case with Diageo Wednesday, describing it as a “multi-million dollar amount.”

“(I) will be sufficient to provide a very good level of care for Lyn for the rest of her life,” said Rowe’s counsel, Peter Gordon.

Gordon said it was a “fair and consistent” result which showed compassion in the case, in which Gordon’s firm said it had been contacted by “over 100 people” including two claims that were now “well advanced.”

Two dead in shooting at Toronto street party, 23 injured

Toronto, 17 July—Two people were killed and 23 injured when a Toronto street party ended in gunfire late on Monday, raising fears of violent retaliation in Canada’s largest city.

In the second high-profile shooting in Toronto in less than two months, a 14-year-old girl and a 23-year-old man were killed. Police said a toddler was grazed by a bullet and is expected to recover, while another victim was in critical condition.

“We are very concerned, not only with the quick resolution and solving of this crime, but of the potential for retaliatory violence,” Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair told a news conference at which he promised to step up police presence in several parts of the city. He said there was a “strong indication” of gang involvement in the incident. One of the injured has been taken into custody as “a person of interest.”

Police said more than 100 people attended the outdoor party in suburban Scarborough, about 20 km (15 miles) east of downtown. One man shot another, and then “a number of subsequent gunshots were fired into the crowd,” a police statement said. The shooting raised fears about gun violence in a city that takes pride in its relatively low crime rate, compared with US urban centres. Canada has very strict laws controlling the use of handguns, and violent crime is usually rare.

Three dead as S Africa reeves under heavy rain and snow

Cape Town, 18 July—At least three people were found dead on Sunday and thousands were evacuated as rains and snow battered South Africa’s southeast, officials and media reports said.

A 69-year-old man and a 44-year-old woman were found frozen on separate roads in the Eastern Cape province on Sunday morning, police spokesman Musaikis Fathyela told Sapa news agency.

Another person drowned in the coastal city of Port Elizabeth in the same province, the South African Broadcasting Corporation reported. A further two people were feared dead after they were washed away.

Heavy snow and rain was evacuated over 2,000 people in Port Elizabeth between Saturday and Sunday as rivers flooded settlements.

Iraq initially signs gas deal with Pakistani energy firm

BAGHDAD, 18 July—Iraq on Sunday signed a preliminary deal with a Pakistani energy company to explore for natural gas in eastern Iraq, an oil ministry official said.

“Tarkheen oil ministry is signing a preliminary contract with Pakistani Petroleum to explore for natural gas in eastern provinces of Diyala and Wasit,” Asim Jhid, head of ministry’s media office, told reporters.

Late in May, the Pakistani company won exploration concession in the country’s 4th energy auction.

The company is due to work in a 6,000 square km block stretches in Iraq’s eastern provinces of Diyala and Wasit with presumed natural gas reserves.

The company won the contract after it offered 5.38 US dollars per barrel of oil equivalent, and was accepted by the Iraqi ministry. Iraq’s 4th energy auction offered 12 new oil and gas exploration blocks, but only three contracts were awarded to foreign energy companies.

EU Commission backs open-access science publishing

LONDON, 18 July—The European Commission, which controls one of the world’s largest science budgets, has backed calls for free access to publicly funded research in a move that could force a major change in the business model for publishers such as Reed Elsevier.

The Commission said on Tuesday that open access will be a “general principle” applied to grants awarded through the 80 billion euro (897.92 billion) Horizon2020 programme for research and innovation.

“Taxpayers should not have to pay twice for scientific research and they need seamless access to raw data,” said Neelie Kroes, European Commission vice-president for the Digital Agenda.

The most prestigious academic journals, such as Nature, Science and Cell, earn the bulk of their revenues through subscriptions from readers. They have large and lucrative deals with university libraries — worth about 150 million pounds to 200 million pounds a year in the UK — to give access to the same scientists who produce and review, usually without payment, the research that they publish.

Open-access journals, such as the Public Library of Science, are often internet-based and charge researchers a fee for publication, allowing free access for anyone after publication.

From 2014 all articles produced with funding from Horizon 2020 will have to be accessible and the goal is for 60 per cent of European publicly funded research to be available by 2016.

Top palm oil producer Indonesia wants to be more refined

Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur, 18 July—For decades, Indonesia has shipped out tanker loads of raw palm oil for processing into higher value cooking oil and margarine in Rotterdam, Mumbai and Kuala Lumpur.

Now, the world’s No1 producer of the edible oil is seeing a more than $2.5 billion wave of investment to build a refining industry that will double its capacity and mean it could supply the entire needs of Asia’s top food consumers — India and China.

The transformation — driven by Indonesia’s move to slash export duties for processing oil last October — will help up competition with rivals such as Malaysia and send ripples through the palm oil market as new supply pressures prices of traded refined products such as palm olein, used as cooking oil.

A Reuters survey of 30 firms operating in Indonesia — from the world’s biggest listed palm oil firm Wilmar to conglomerate Unilever — shows plans to nearly double refining capacity to 43 million tonnes of palm oil, or 80 per cent of total world output.

“The government is sending a clear message — to survive, you need a refinery,” said Mohd Ali bin Abdul Aziz, managing director of the Digital Agenda.

The transformation would be the “king’s.”

A newly built refinery near Jakarta, staff wearing face masks and hair caps work on conveyor belts carrying boxes of margarine and cooking oil.

The $249-million Marunda plant run by PT SMART was launched before the tax change and Indonesia’s top palm oil firm plans to spend a further $300 million on new refining capacity despite the infrastructure issues it faced building Murundu.

A worker unloads oil palm fruits to a local palm oil factory in the Serdang Besar district of Indonesia’s North Sumatra province, on 30 November, 2011.
Burglar takes cheese from Pizza Hut

Police in Florida said a man who broke into a Pizza Hut store took two cases of mozzarella cheese when he was unable to open the cash register.

Altamonte Springs police said the shoeless bandit was recorded on surveillance video at 2 am on 9 June breaking into the store by smashing the glass of the front door with a crowbar and attempting to open a cash register by slamming it on the ground, the Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel reported on Tuesday.

Police said the man was unable to open the register and then proceeded to the kitchen, where he took two cases of mozzarella cheese before leaving the store.

Police said they are attempting to identify the burglar.

A man took two cases of mozzarella cheese from a pizza hut.

Suspect arrested with victim at same bank

An Oregon man who stopped at his bank to talk about some forged checks said the accused forger came into the bank behind him and tried to cash a check.

David Henneman of Medford said he stopped at the Chase bank inside the Southgate Fred Meyer around 2:30 pm Saturday to talk about stopping fraudulent checks that went through his account the previous day. When Matthew Frombach, 27, came in and attempted to cash a $150 check from Henneman’s account, the Mail Tribune, Medford, reported.

“Thetellier” says just got huge and she said, “Oh my gods, I think that’s him,” Henneman said. Henneman said bank employees attempted to delay Frombach, but he fled the store with Henneman’s friend in pursuit.

“They wouldn’t let me leave with veins popping out of my forehead, so my buddy went after him,” Henneman said. “Thetellier says, ‘You’re a good guy, we don’t want you to go to jail.’ The friend, Josh Rigiero, 28, attempted to stop Frombach, but ended up punched in the face by the suspect. Rigiero got back up and tackled Frombach, holding him until police arrived.

Lt Mike Budrewicz of Medford said Frombach was in possession of several credit cards belonging to other people. Frombach and a mother, who is suspected of stealing the checks from Henneman’s mail, turned up in front of the Animal Rescue League when her husband began to improve, but the cat fled in the facility’s parking lot.

Oliphant said it was three and a half days later when Wollie turned up in front of her home. “I said, ‘That’s Wollie,’ I just knew it was him,” she said. “He was so exhausted, so tired, so hungry.”

Cat makes six-mile trek home

A New Hampshire woman said a stray cat she began feeding last summer trekked six miles to get back to her house. Barbara Oliphant of Bedford said she began feeding the cat, which she dubbed Wollie, last summer, but she had to turn it over to the Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire, about six miles away, when her husband of 61 years suffered a stroke and she was no longer able to care for Wollie.

“Weeds,” which will end its eight-year run in September but was not hurt, a police source said.

The album will feature 10 and champagne while

New Bob Dylan album “Tempest” set for September release

New York, 18 July — A new Bob Dylan studio album, “Tempest,” will be released on 17 September to mark the 50th anniversary of the folk singer-songwriter’s debut album, Columbia Records said on Tuesday.

The album will feature 10 New and original songs and is the 39th studio set from Dylan, whose last album in 2009, “Together Through Life,” sold more than a million copies and debuted at No 1 in both Britain and the United States.

The album comes during a period of critical acclaim and creativity for Dylan that has included four popular album releases, including “Time Out

Carlry Rae Jepsen, Djokovic on for Ashe Kids Day

New York, 18 July — Tennis is calling Carly Rae Jepsen.

The “Call Me Maybe” singer has been tapped for the Annual Arthur Ashe Kids’ Day at the US Open. She’ll join The Wanted, Owl City and Cymphonique Miller, along with reigning men’s champion Novak Djokovic (NOH’-vak JOH’-kuh-vich), past women’s champion Kim Clijsters (KLY’-sturz) and John Isner.

The 25 Aug. event, held at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre in Flushing, NY, will feature performances as well as exhibition matches and other activities.

This is the 17th Annual Kids’ Day. Last year, it was canceled because of Hurricane Irene.

The US Open, tennis’ final Grand Slam of the year, begins 27 Aug.

Larry King debuts online talk show on Hulu website

New York, 18 July — Larry King is returning as a talk show host this week, with his new home the Internet.

“Larry King Now” is produced by Ora TV, a new digital venture backed by Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim. Ora TV is announcing a deal to also make “Now” available through the online service Hulu and Hulu Plus.

King’s first guest is iconic producer Seth MacFarlane of “Family Guy” and “Ted.” Other guests scheduled for this week will be political commentator Meghan McCain and “Magical Mike” actor Matthew McConaughey.

Larry spent a quarter-century as a prime-time talk show host at CNN. Episodes of his new, half-hour show will be posted on the Hulu website in the early evening Monday through Thursday.

Bobcat captured at Washington prison

Officials at a Washington state prison said they had to call a local veterinarian when a bobcat attempted to break in to the complex.

Officers at the Monroe Correction Complex said the bobcat was first spotted during a perimeter check around 11:30 pm Monday and was seen running through a razor-wire perimeter fence, Seattlepi.com reported on Tuesday.

The bobcat soon made its way to the roof of the special offender unit and was sedated by a veterinarian with a tranquilizer gun shortly before dawn, officials said.

The feline was taken to the Pilchuck Veterinary Hospital in Snohomish with injuries to its paw and hindquarters.

This 16 May, 2012 file photo shows Larry King at the Friars Club Roast of Betty White in New York.

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Man Utd defensive duo ready for start of season

Nemanja Vidic and Chris Smalling are expected to be fit for the start of the new Barclays Premier League campaign. United skipper Vidic was out for five months last season after rupturing his cruciate ligament during United’s UEFA Champions League defeat by Basel in December. Smalling missed the final match of the Barclays Premier League campaign and the 2012 UEFA European Championship tournament because of a groin injury playing against Swansea City in May.

Injury problems have meant that United only took on two new central defenders, Rio Ferdinand, on their pre-season tour of South Africa and China. But their manager remains confident that both the former Premier League and the England defender will be available for selection when they travel to Everton for their opening League encounter against Everton on August 20th. “Vidic will start the season,” Ferguson told the club’s official website. “I am sure of that. He’s still at that level of doing a good amount of training but not the competitive level that other lads are at. He’s better off staying at Carrington.”

“Smalling has done a bit of training,” he added. “He has had a ruptured groin muscle for a long time which caused a lot of attention but he’s made gradual progress and we expect him to start the season.” Though Phil Jones has also missed the pre-season tour, he has been given extra time off to recover from his UEFA European Championship travels. However, Danny Evens is likely to be sidelined for the start of the season after undergoing an operation.

Mixed fortunes for Olympic tennis hopefuls

LONDON, July 18—South African double-amputee athlete Oscar Pistorius finished second in a 400-meter race on Tuesday, his final tuneup for the London Olympics. Pistorius clocked 46.56 seconds—well off the personal best of 45.07 he ran at the same meet last year. Calvin Smith of the United States won in 45.52. “My time wasn’t among the best,” Pistorius said. “I did well. I just couldn’t get to the finish line.” Pistorius was this week training on his own in South Africa, and with the media because of his participation in the Olympics. The race went well, I felt fine, I just lost a bit of an aerobatic rhythm.”

Oscar Pistorius has been named in South Africa’s Olympic team to compete at the Olympics after being selected by South Africa to run in London. He’s set to compete in the individual 400 and the 4x400 relay, although the team hasn’t decided which he will run. “I prefer to run the third leg, that would be the best,” Pistorius said. “But the first one could be fine. The relay is really my race. I’ve always done team sports.”

Pistorius won last year’s race in Lignano to qualify for the world championships. This time, he finished ahead of four other runners, including Jamaican Ricardo Cunningham and Javier Beller. I could have done the same time last year, but I didn’t want to run the risk of getting injured,” Pistorius said. “It wasn’t important to test my speed today. It was like training, in the next two weeks I will do my best before London. I’m sure I can beat my personal best. The Olympics promises me so much, that will make me run better.”

Also, American Lolo Jones won the women’s 100 hurdles in 12.85. Ireland’s Derval O’Rourke was second in 13.05.

Galliani: AC Milan will replace Ibrahimovic with a champion

Milan, August 17—AC Milan CEO Adriano Galliani promised that the club will replace Zlatan Ibrahimovic with “a champion,” while at the same time revealing that Robinho will remain at San Siro. Rossoneri fans have been rocked by news that their most prolific striker is on the verge of joining Paris Saint-Germain, just days after their defensive lineman Thiago Silva also sealed a move to the Parc des Princes.

Galliani, though, is promising to find a worthy replacement for the Swedish striker before the close of the summer transfer window. “A champion will arrive in attack,” he told Sky Sport24. “There is time until 31 August.”

“It had been speculated that Robinho might be allowed to leave, with Santos keen to bring the Brazil international back to the Vila Belmiro. However, Galliani insisted that the attacker is going nowhere. “I told the directors of Santos that I am not selling him and that he will remain at Milan,” the Rossoneri chief explained. Galliani also ruled out the possibility of a late attempt to hijack Roma’s bid to bring Mattia Destro to the San Siro. Even though the Rossoneri were getting close to getting the deal for a move to the Stadio Olimpico, they have now switched their attention to the 20-year-old striker before the close of the summer transfer window. A champion will arrive in attack,” he told Sky Sport24. “There is time until 31 August.”

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AC Milan CEO Adriano Galliani.
Focus Myanmar

Cristiano Ronaldo: Spanish league is the hardest in the world

Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo has labelled La Liga as the “hardest” domestic competition in the world, and admitted that he is still harking in the glory of finishing on top of the pile last season. The Portuguese international played a key role in his club’s Primera Division championship, with La Roja clinching a 4-2 victory thanks to Cesc Fabregas. There was great debate over whether Ronaldo should have been used further up the order by Portugal boss Paulo Bento, but he still feels that it was much ado about nothing. "They are just decisions," he said. "I remember when I played the [Champions League] semi-final against Bayern Munich, I went first and missed the penalty. So, anything can happen; penalties are a lottery.” Ronaldo is currently on an extended break after his exploits in Poland and Ukraine and is not expected to link up with Madrid until they embark on their pre-season tour of the United States later in July. — Internet

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Passenger car plunges into ditch

YANGON, 18 July — A passenger car of No.99 bus lines plunged into the ditch of Bayintnaung road between Yasawan and Gatehaung bus stop in No.7 Ward in Shwepyitha on 17 July. Driver of the car U Than Hlaing tried to overtake a bicycle with speed at the place and the car dragged the bicycle. The biker was thrown away and his bicycle was crushed under the car. The car also lost control and plunged into the ditch. The driver escaped from the scene and the biker, U Win Khine, was rushed to Shwepyitha hospital. — Kyemon

Lake Donald of England watches his shot from the second tee during a practice round in preparation for the 2012 British Open Golf Championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes on 16 July. — Internet

Games organizers withdraw 500,000 soccer tickets

LONDON, 18 July — Half a million tickets for Olympic soccer matches have been withdrawn and stadium capacities reduced due to a lack of take-up. Games organizers said on Tuesday. Organizers will reduce capacities across venues by closing tiers of stadiums or whole sections of a ground.

Even after the reduction, 250,000 soccer tickets are still available with a further 200,000 set to be put up for sale before the Games begin on 27 July.

Games chief Seb Coe defended the move and said soccer ticket sales compared favourably with previous Olympics. “They are in reduced size venues of course, we’ve had to scale down the size of those venues,” Coe told reporters.

“We’ve sold more football tickets than we’ve sold anything else, we’ve got 37-38,000 tickets we’ve sold for Britain ladies v New Zealand which I think benchmarks pretty well for instance with the women’s FA Cup final this year which was an all-London affair at the Emirates (Stadium) and they had about 5,000. “We are not in bad shape on tickets but football tickets at a Games are always the challenge. I think we’ll do pretty well.” The soccer competition is set to take place in six venues across Britain including the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, City of Coventry Stadium, Old Trafford in Manchester, St James’ Park in Newcastle, Hampden Park in Glasgow and London’s Wembley Stadium which will host both the men’s and women’s finals.

Organizers will also make 150,000 soccer tickets available for school children through their Ticketshare scheme. Fifty thousand non-football tickets are still available for the Games and a further 200,000 will be put up for general sale in the next ten days. Tickets are still available for sports including athletics, hockey and beach volleyball, while there are still some seats available in the higher price bands for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Games organizers have been disappointed by ticket sales.
Pyithu Hluttaw session continues for eleventh day
Three questions answered, one bill discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—The eleventh day session of Pyithu Hluttaw continued at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 10.05 am today, attended by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and 401 MPs.

At the session, three questions were answered and one bill discussed.

Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung replied to the question of U Tin Maung Oo of Shwepyitha Constituency on if there is a plan to implement a better banking system so as to provide necessary capital for development of SMEs and how the government will extend a helping hand for the development of SMEs.

He said that 50 percent of total loan disbursed by Myanma Industrial Development Bank and state-owned Myanmar Economic Bank went to the industrial sectors. With the aim of fulfilling the needs of SMEs, arrangements were being made for the emergence of a better banking system in cooperation with international organizations after Myanma Industrial Development Bank had been changed into Small and Medium Enterprise Bank.

Industrial Development Committee had been implementing industrial zones development and the construction of new industrial zones in cooperation with respective region/state governments. To meet the demand of basic skilled workers by SMEs, ministries were conducting the courses and turning out human resources. The government had placed more emphasis on the development of SMEs, which would create more job opportunities of the citizens, and aimed at establishing heavy industries.

Amyotha Hluttaw session continues for 11th day
Bill revoking the State Agricultural Produce Dealing Board Act, Report on National Development Planning submitted

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—The 11th day session of the Amyotha Hluttaw was held at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 10 am today, attended by 207 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives including Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint submitted the proposal to consider the Bill revoking the State Agricultural Produce Dealing Board Act, and Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Tun Zaw of Bago Region Constituency No. 12 seconded it.

The Hluttaw approved to consider the bill, and the Hluttaw representatives wishing to take part in the discussion on the bill may enlist their names, not later than 25 July.

Chairman of the Amyotha Hluttaw National Planning Affairs Committee U Zaw Myint Pe, Secretary Major Zaw Myint and member U Sai Thant Zin submitted the report on recommendation for National Development Planning. Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Shu Maung of Shan State Constituency No. 8 supported it.

When the approval was sought from the Hluttaw to discuss the report, there was no representative who disagreed to the discussion of report. Thus, the Hluttaw announced agreement to discuss it.

With regard to the report, the Hluttaw representatives wishing to take part in the discussion on the report may enlist their names after the Hluttaw session.

The Hluttaw came to an end at 11.40 am, and the 12th day session will be held at 10 am on 23 July.

The Bill revoking the State Agricultural Produce Dealing Board Act and the Report on recommendation for National Development Planning were submitted at today’s Hluttaw session.—MNA

Water level forecast for third 10 days of July

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—The water levels of Ayeyawady river are forecast to rise above the present water levels by 120 cm (about 4 feet) at Myitkyina, Bhamo and Katha, 150 cm (about 5 feet) at Mandalay, Sagaing, Pakokku, NyaungU, Chauk, Minbu, Magway, Aunglan, Pyay, Seiktha, Hinthada and Zalun.

The water levels of Chindwin river are forecast to rise above the present water levels by 150 cm (about 5 feet) at Hkamti and Homalin, and 120 cm (about 4 feet) at Mawlaik, Kalewa and Monywa.—MNA

Glacier in north Greenland breaks off huge iceberg

Man Utd defensive duo ready for start of season

Mixed fortunes for Olympic tennis hopefuls