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Our Three Main National Causes

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

President U Thein Sein and wife attend Waso Robe offering ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 30 July—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win attended the Waso Robe Offering Ceremony of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and donated Waso Robe and offerings at Sasana Maha Beikman in the precinct of Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Pagoda at 9.30 am today.

Also present at the ceremony were Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Bhamo Monastery of Mandalay Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Kumara-bhivamsa, State Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws, Çetiya Hitakaraka Sayadaws, Tipitakadharas Tipitaka Kovid Sayadaws, Board of Trustees of Uppatasanti Pagoda Ovadaçariyas Sayadaws, Sayadawsof Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Thein Soe, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, the Union Ministers and their wives, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and wife, the deputy ministers, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, officials from President Office and the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

At the ceremony Staff Officer Saddhamma-jotikadhaja U Thura of Religious Affairs Department acted as master of ceremonies and read the agenda.

Firstly, the sayadaws and congregations opened the ceremony reciting three times of Namo Tassa.

Next, President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win offered Waso Robe and offerings to Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee the Abbot of Bhamo Monastery of Mandalay.

Afterwards, the sayadaws recited paritta.

The President and wife donated Waso Robe and offerings to Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee the Abbot of Bhamo Monastery of Mandalay. The Vice-President and wife presented Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Chaukhtetgyi of Bahan Township of Yangon Region Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma-jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Khemindasami with Waso Robe and offerings. (See page 8)

Union F&R Minister receives WB East Asia and Pacific Regional Vice President

Common goal is to reduce poverty within MDGs by implementing ASEAN Blue Print under ASCC Pillar

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win offer Waso Robe to the Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Bhamo Monastery of Mandalay.

Soccer: Brazil, Japan through, Uruguay stumble

5-legged frog saved from cooking pot
PERSPECTIVES
Tuesday, 31 July, 2012

Let’s bury the hatchet!

The motion for enactment of a law for protection of the interests of national races is under serious debate at the House of Representatives, with many a number of MPs speaking in favour of such law, citing the total failure of parliamentary democracy in the post-independence as the major cause of the death of the rights of national races.

The strong bond of comradeship did forge among Myanmar national races during the independence struggle or in the line of national politics. But, when it came to party politics, party leaders were never united, blackening each other’s names for personal interests and power rather than working in concert for national interests.

There has been growing trend towards the emergence of democracy worldwide whose universal essence is of freedom, transparency, social justice and equality in the context of human rights protection and promotion. However, the survivability of a nation is far more important than democracy for no democracy thrives on the soil of a country that has lost unity, independence and sovereignty, in other words, a failed state.

The unity of national races has fallen victim to divide-and-rule policy of the colonialists coupled with poor transportation and natural barriers. The lengthy internal racial conflicts which were born as the civil war just after the independence still remain unresolved question. No desired progress would we witness without peace and stability.

At present, what is the most important for the nation is the restoration of national unity, for which the government in office is negotiating with ethnic armed groups, with some success. Better transportation is a must for fostering mutual understanding and amity among national races residing at the four corners of the country. In addition, exchange of study visits between schools, universities and colleges would enable students better understand each other’s languages, cultures and traditions.

All in all, democracy needs certain foundation to develop and last long, otherwise it would come to nothing like the previous parliamentary democracy system. National reconciliation, thus no doubt, should be the cornerstone of democratization process of the country.

Outstanding students of Pyawbwe Tsp awarded

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 July—Outstanding students of Pyawbwe Township who matriculated 2011-2012 academic year with flying colours were honoured at Pyawbwe Township Amahtein hall of yesterday morning, with an opening address by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint.

Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu explained measures of the Education Ministry for development of education sector. The Speaker awarded two five-distinction winners and Shawkphyugon Basic Education High School with the agreement reached at the Union level peace talk.

KNPP opens liaison office in Loikaw

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 July—The liaison office of Karenni National Progressive Party was opened in Dawkuhu ward of Loikaw on 25 July. The opening ceremony was attended by Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo, the state Hluttaw in-charge of KNPPU Daniel and officials, state level departmental heads, and national cultural troupes.

The chief minister unveiled the signboard of the office and U Shwe Myo Thant of KNPP spoke words of thanks.

More KNPP liaison offices will be opened in Hpahsaung and Shadaw with the agreement reached at the Union level peace talk.

Rakhine State Chief Minister meets survey teams before field trips

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 July—With the aim of ensuring true development and poverty alleviation in Mon State, Mon State Government constituted eight committees headed by respective state ministers as chairmen and departmental officials concerned as secretaries.

State IPRD

The teams comprising officials of Agriculture Department, Public Works, Livestock and Fisheries Department, Health Department, Environment and local graduate youths led by deputy heads of department of Township General Administration Department will make field trips to grassroots level as of 27 July. On 27 July, Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint met leaders of the teams and local heads of department from 10 townships at the Mon State government office.

He gave instructions on do’s and don’ts in their field trips and urged them to dutifully take out the tasks assigned by the Union government and the state government.

Mon State Chief Minister meets survey teams before field trips

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Donate blood

Tha Maung, Kyelin Hein, Min Htet Hein

Transportation Services organized cash assistance presentation ceremony to offspiring of drivers and bus conductors recently. Executive of Mawlamyine Dawei Association U Tin Soe presents K 200,000 to Chairman of Bus Lines Association U Sein Myint.—NM

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin inspects cooking of rice to be provided to households at relief camps in Theikelpyin Village in Sittway Township.—MNA
Northern India hit by massive power outage

NEW DELHI, 30 July—India’s northern states, including the national capital, were hit by a massive power outage Monday in what is said to be the worst blackout due to the failure of the northern grid since 2001. The outage affected over 300 million people across the states of Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan, as well as the central government-controlled Chandigarh.

“The blackout happened from 2.30 am (local time) following a major disturbance in the Northern Grid. In fact, a major fault near the town of Agra led to power being snapped. However, partial supply of power was restored by 9am (local time),” an official said.

“At least 200 trains have been delayed due to the blackout in the states,” he added.

The Indian capital was among the worst hit as the power outage affected train services, the Metro railway, and even caused traffic jams on the roads, giving a harrowing time to office-goers. The Indian capital generates less than 20 percent of its own power requirement and is dependent on the Northern Grid for the rest.

Meanwhile, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has said that a three-member committee has been mandated to investigate the fault.

“We have set up a three-member committee to look into the collapse of the northern power grid. The panel will submit its report in the next 15 days,” he told the media.

The Power Minister added that power supply will be resumed in the next three to four hours across the affected region. Power cuts are common in Indian cities due to a fundamental shortage of power and an aging grid.

Experts say that India urgently needs a huge increase in power production. Even Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has long said that India must look to nuclear energy to supply power to the people.

US has “solemn duty” to stop nuclear Iran: presidential candidate

JERUSALEM, 30 July—US presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who is on a visit to Israel, on Sunday stressed the need to deter Iran’s nuclear program and talked about “shared values” between Israel and the United States.

Romney, who is running in the upcoming US presidential election, gave a speech in Jerusalem and emphasized that the United States has “a solemn duty and a moral imperative” to prevent Iran from achieving nuclear weaponry.

“Make no mistake, the ayatollahs in Iran are testing our moral defenses. They want to know who will object and who will look the other way,” Romney said.

“We will not look away nor will our country ever look away from our passion and commitment to Israel,” he added, saying that Israel and the US have “shared values.”

Although supporting economic and diplomatic sanctions against Iran, Romney said that no options should be excluded.

Earlier on Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed with Romney’s speech about Iran.

“I heard what you said about the dangers the world is facing if the Ayatollah regime obtains nuclear power capabilities and I fully agree with you,” Netanyahu said.

“We have to do everything from preventing them to possess this capability. The diplomacy and the sanctions haven’t set back the Iranian program back by one iota,” Romney said he wanted to hear Netanyahu’s perspective on the issue and discuss “further options” in preventing Iran from reaching that ability.

Bangladesh raises farm credit disbursement target

MANIKoref, 30 July—Bangladesh’s interior minister ordered a speedy investigation related to string of alleged violations committed by policemen.

Interior Minister Lieutenant General Shishur Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa said they were committed to deal with human rights cases “with transparency and to find the truth behind the allegations that affected the reputation of police and the public security personnel.”

The minister said that law enforcement organization maintained security and did not attack or violate the citizens’ rights or the sanctity of their homes as the protection of human rights was on top of the ministry’s priorities and efforts.

The investigation follows after the launch of GangsOfDarkness Campaign by Bahrain’s largest opposition party, Al Wefaq National Islamic Society.

Former Al Wefaq MP Khalid Al Marzooq claimed in a meeting recently that police forces stole over 10 million US dollars during their raids last year. “The total amount stolen by police forces during the national safety period exceeds 10 million dollars, whilst as many as 270 houses have been raided during June and July 2012,” he alleged.

Al Marzooq further claimed that over the past two months (June and July) Al Wefaq’s documentation department found that 270 houses had been raided, robbed or vandalized.

“Ten million dollars have been stolen during such raids, including cash, electronic equipment, appliances and property,” he claimed.

Nuclear reactor in S Korea automatically shuts down

SEOUL, 30 July—A nuclear reactor at South Korea’s Yonggwang Nuclear Power Plant automatically shut down Monday after reactor protection signals had been detected, local media reported.

The state-run Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Co. (KHNP) said the Unit 3 reactor at the Yonggwang plant, located some 330 kilometers southwest of Seoul, went off-line at 2:57 p.m. (local time).

“The investigation is currently underway to confirm what has exactly caused the automatic shutdown of the reactor,” an official from the KHNP was quoted by Yonhap news agency as saying. There was no release of radioactivity and the safety of the nuclear power plant showed no major problems.

A burnt bus which belonged to forces loyal to Syria President Bashar Al Assad is seen at Aleppo’s district of al Sakhour on 29 July, 2012. Syrian troops said they had recaptured a district of Syria’s largest city Aleppo, after heavy fighting against rebels who remain in control of swathes of the commercial hub despite being pushed out of the capital Damascus.—INTERNET

US drone strike kills 7 in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 30 July—At least seven people were killed and several others got injured on Sunday afternoon when a US pilotless plane launched an attack in a northwestern tribal region of Pakistan.

The drone strike destroyed the compound completely, killing seven people and injuring several others who were reportedly present inside when the missiles hit the building.

Shortly after the attack, local residents of the area started rescue work, taking out the bodies of the dead and the injured from the debris. Pakistan has, on a number of occasions, protested and showed over reservations over such attacks by the US drones, claiming the attacks violate its sovereignty.

Two members of China’s eighth peacekeeping upper club to Lebanon carry out a bomb disposal task at the Lebanese side of the Lebanon-Israel border, about a year ago. Over the two decades since it sent its first peacekeeping troop to Cambodia in April 1992, China has participated in more than 20 UN peacekeeping missions, dispatching a total of 20,000 soldiers. There are now nearly 2,000 Chinese peacekeepers carrying out their tasks in 12 peacekeeping missions. Chinese peacekeeping troops are formed by members of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), which will celebrate its 85th founding anniversary on 1 August, 2012.—Xinhua

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Two NATO soldiers killed in western Afghan attack

KABUL, 30 July—Two NATO soldiers were killed in an insurgent attack in western Afghanistan on Sunday, the coalition forces confirmed in a statement.

“Two International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service members died following an attack in western Afghanistan today,” the NATO-led ISAF said in the statement. The brief statement gave neither the nationalities of the victims nor the details about the incident under the ISAF policy. Troops mainly from US, Italy and Spain have been stationed in the western region within the framework of ISAF to curb Taliban-link insurgent there. Violence has been on the rise since Taliban launched an annual spring offensive on 3 May. Currently over 130,000 NATO-led ISAF troops with 50,000 soldiers of 41 nations have been serving in Afghanistan since the Taliban regime was toppled in late 2001. The casualties bring to 266 the number of foreign soldiers who have been killed in Afghanistan so far in 2012.—Xinhua

Power cuts are common in Indian cities due to a fundamental shortage of power and an aging grid. Experts say that India urgently needs a huge increase in power production. Even Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has long said that India must look to nuclear energy to supply power to the people. Although supporting economic and diplomatic sanctions against Iran, Romney said that no options should be excluded. Earlier on Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed with Romney’s speech about Iran. “I heard what you said about the dangers the world is facing if the Ayatollah regime obtains nuclear power capabilities and I fully agree with you,” Netanyahu said. “We have to do everything from preventing them to possess this capability. The diplomacy and the sanctions haven’t set back the Iranian program back by one iota,” Romney said he wanted to hear Netanyahu’s perspective on the issue and discuss “further options” in preventing Iran from reaching that ability.

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MOFA briefs diplomats on incidents in Rakhine State

YANGON, 30 July — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs briefed diplomats on incidents in Rakhine State at Winmin Minyaza Hall of the Ministry (Yangon branch) here at 1:20 pm today.

It was attended by Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi, Union Minister for Immigration U Myint Maung, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, leader of advisory board to the President U Ko Ko Hlaing, Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission U Win Mra, ambassadors, diplomats, heads of UN agencies, officials concerned, religious leaders, departmental heads and mediamen.

After Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin extended greetings, Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay gave a clarification of the incidents in Rakhine State in details.

Afterwards, Patron of Myanmar-Muslim Religious Organization U Hla Maung and President of Interfaith Dialogue Group of Myanmar U Sein Win Aung explained freedom of religion in Myanmar and answered the queries raised by Ambassadors to Myanmar.

Those present viewed photos and documentary maps related to Rakhine State riot displayed inside the hall.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry issued a statement on the incidents in Rakhine State — MNA

Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar raises question.— MNA

Victims of violence are both from Buddhist and Muslim communities, it is very clear that the riots are not linked to religious persecution

Myanmar totally rejects the attempts by some quarters to politicize and internationalize the situation as a religious issue

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Press Release on Situation in Rakhine State

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is building a peaceful, modern and developed nation, setting priority to ensure peace and stability and the rule of law.

At the time the Government is tirelessly working to achieve peace and stability and the rule of law in the entire country, two incidents that affected peace and security occurred in Rakhine State with the rape, robbery and killing of a young woman by three youths in Yanbyaw Township on 28 May and the subsequent killing of ten persons in a passenger bus in Taungup Township on 3 June. In the two cases, the first victim was a Rakhine Buddhist female and the latter case, victims were Muslim males.

Following the two incidents, riots broke out in Sittway, Maungtaw and Buthidaung Townships where rioters torched and destroyed houses, shops and guest houses and committed killings. Because of the riots, 77 people from both communities lost their lives and 109 people were injured. A total of 48272 houses, 17 mosques, 15 monasteries and 3 schools were burnt down.

The Government tried to immediately restore stability in places where riots broke out since the very beginning. The Government is taking necessary measures to stop spreading of violence and to restore peace. The people have been informed of the situation with full transparency.

To expose the truth and to take legal actions to the perpetrators involved in the lawlessness and anarchist acts in Rakhine State, a 16-member Investigation Committee chaired by the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs was formed on 6 June 2012.

On 11 June, President U Thein Sein delivered a statement to the nation concerning the incidents in Rakhine State. In his Statement, the President appealed to the people of Myanmar to cooperate and work together with the government and requested all to realize every aspect of the situation with magnanimity and promised that the government would attach great importance to the rule of law. The President’s Office declared State of Emergency in Rakhine State to stop the violence and restore law and order on 12 June 2012.

In reviewing the incidents in Rakhine State, it is found that lawlessness was spread due to mistrust and religious differences that had created hatred and vengeance against each other. As the victims of violence are both from Buddhist and Muslim communities, it is very clear that the riots are not linked to religious persecution. Myanmar is a multi-racial and multi-religious country where people of different faiths have lived together in peace and harmony.

Cabinet members and officials of the Union and State Governments, representatives of various civil societies have visited the riot affected areas and engaged with the resettlement and rehabilitation, distribution of relief goods to the peoples in the relief camps.

The Government took legal actions against the perpetrators of the criminal acts. At the same time the government is taking measures under existing laws and rules to make sure phenomena and incident do not happen again.

The Government has built 89 relief camps in those townships for the total of 14328 Rakhine people and 30740 Muslim people who were affected by the violence. As the situation of law and order in Rakhine State is improving, people sheltered in those relief camps are gradually returning to their places.

As part of efforts for reconstruction of houses, which were burnt down in Maungtaw and villages in Maungtaw Township, Ministry of Border Affairs will build 202 houses. UNHCR will build 222 and the CARE Myanmar, an INGO will build 128 houses. UNHCR has sent 400 tents so far for the refugees in Maungtaw Township. In order to provide shelters 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.

World Food Programme (WFP) has spent around USD 600,000 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 WFP.

UNHCR and INGOs have already provided 6818 sets of different kinds of household utensils and 2412 sheets of tarpaulin to the refugees in Rakhine State. Furthermore, the Government has made cash and kinds worth of more than K 3 billions for relief and rehabilitation for the victims of both sides have been received from wellwishers within the country and abroad.

The Government has exercised maximum restraint in order to restore law and order in those particular places in Rakhine State. As such, Myanmar strongly rejects the accusations made by some quarters that abuses and excessive use of force were made by the authorities in dealing with the situation. The unfortunate incidents are confined to a few townships in Rakhine State as it constitutes an inter-communal violence relating only to the some portion of the population in the State.

In light of the true circumstances and situation, Myanmar totally rejects the attempts by some quarters to politicize and internationalize this situation as a religious issue.

Peace and stability is indispensable for the on-going democratization and reform process in Myanmar. National solidarity and racial harmony among different nationalities is vital for the perpetuation of the Union. Myanmar is a multi-religious country where Buddhists, Christians, Muslims and Hindus have been living together in peace and harmony for centuries, hence those recent incidents occurred in the Rakhine State are neither because of religious oppression nor discrimination.

The authorities have taken necessary measures with great care and with magnanimity. The Government is cooperating with religious and community leaders, political parties and social organizations to resolve the issue. The overall situation is now returning to normalcy.
ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Workshop on MDGs: Acceleration Strategies and Priorities Beyond 2015 held

YANGON, 30 July—ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Workshop on MDGs: Acceleration Strategies and Priorities Beyond 2015 jointly organized by ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council of Myanmar, ASEAN Secretariat, and the UNDP was held at Grand Ball Room of Sedona Hotel here this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Myanmar ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan at ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Workshop on MDGs: Acceleration Strategies and Priorities Beyond 2015.—MNA

Knowledge about taxation shared in Htilgyaing

HTILGYAING, 30 July—Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue held the talks about taxation at Basic Education High School in Htilgyaing on 14 July.

At the talk, Township Administrator U Than Aye Swe gave a speech. Head of Township Internal Revenue Department Daw Khin Mar Myint gave lectures on taxation to students at middle school level.—Myanma Alin

Bank loans disbursed to local farmers

MOYHNIN, 30 July—Mohnyin Township Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank disbursed K 5000 per acre as loans to local farmers for 2012.

The bank has disbursed K 1707.2 million to 4531 farmers of 29 village-tracts up to 18 July. The bank plans to disburse K 2574.3 million to the local farmers this year.

In addition, the bank refunded K 262.33 million savings to 4040 farmers.—Myanma Alin

Information for anti-human trafficking

The government is accelerating its tasks in taking preventive measures against trafficking in persons.

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

These telephone numbers are 067-412555 and 067-412666 in Nay Pyi Taw, 09-49555666 in Muse, 09-49557777 in Mandalay and 09-49555888 and 09-49555999 in Yangon.

Narcotic drugs and related equipment seized

YANGON, 30 July—A combined team including members of Yangon Police Station of Kalay Township at 1 pm on 13 July searched the motorcycle driven by Lal Thang Thun of Region 3 of Taungzalat Ward in Kalay together with Hel Lein and another two persons by Lauma. The authorities seized 502,800 ACPITIN tablets of pseudo ephedrine weighing 100.56 kilos. Thus, Tahan Police Station opened files of lawsuit against San Zai Pari (s) Ma Shan Tin, 37 of Falam, Lal Thang Thun, 32 and Lauma, 22 and Hel Lein, 56 of Kalay under the law.

Likewise, Tachilek Anti-Drug Squad and party together with witnesses searched the house of Kyaw Swa Bee in Hsahdaw Ward. They saw Kyaw Swa Bee together with Sam Kyauk and seized stimulant production machine installed a motor, old machine of producing stimulant tablet, one kilo of pinky wet powder to produce stimulant tablets, 32 kilos of Caffeine and 400 grams of pinky powder.

Tachilek Police Station opened files of lawsuit against them under the law.—Myanma Alin
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 31 July, 2012

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 July—Pyithu Hluttaw regular session continues for 17th day

Incumbent government focuses on local sufficiency of oil and gas: Union Energy Minister

Pyithu Hluttaw regular session continues for 17th day

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 July—Pyithu Hluttaw regular session continued for 17th day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here today, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 403 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

At today’s session, three questions were answered, one proposal discussed and one submitted.

Regarding the question raised by U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency asking “whether Super Custom (Multi Purpose Vehicles) are really manufactured by domestic industrial zones and how the buyers’ remorse over fines will be eased”, Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung answered that automakers were fined as parts of the vehicles designated to be produced at home are import and do not meet set standards in agreement with the manufacturers. As there were complaints lodged by manufacturers, automobile manufacturing development subcommittee subpoenaed seven entrepreneurs and urged them to seek customer satisfaction.

Fines for illegally imported vehicles were collected till 31 March, 2012 and designated fines for patents and spare parts are being collected. The subcommittee focused on addressing difficulties of the people who had bought the vehicles mistakenly and levying reasonable tax on vehicles which were imported in any ways.

Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thu Aung Lwin answered questions raised by two Hluttaw representatives regarding railway and vehicle.

Regarding the question raised by U Khin Maung Nyo of Loikaw Constituency on “upgrading coaches, railways, and locomotives of Loikaw-Nay Pyi Taw route”, the deputy minister answered that 140 tons of load were allowed as there is a steepest slope between Pinlaung and Maebye despite the trains being the most powerful ones Myanmar Railways have with 2000 horse power. For more safety, the load was reduced to 110 tons as of July, 2011.

As the coaches have 124 seats in total, there are 18 passengers without seat between Pyay station and Aunggun station with largest number of commuters touching about 140. With less number of passengers between Aunggun and Loikaw, the number of seats is enough. So, there is no plan to extend coaches.

Sleepers play a key role in betterment of railroads. A concrete sleeper factory is being built in Shwenyaung to replace wooden sleepers with concrete ones. The factory will produce 16000 sleepers monthly as of August, 2012. The concrete sleepers will be fixed in Thazi-Shwenyaung and Aunggun-Loikaw railroad sections.

Regarding the question raised by U Aung San of Pabedan Constituency on “consequences of colour of wing mirrors of imported cars and fines on these cars”, the deputy minister answered that the colour of the imported cars were measured with tint meter when it was registered. The mirrors with 60 and above percent transparency were allowed. These mirrors were restricted because of unclear views contributing to higher potential of traffic accidents and crimes under the cover of the dark mirror.

There are provisions in various countries preventing from manufacturing the windbreakers and door mirrors with the under-60-percent transparency undermining road safety. Foreign owners decorated stickers and ordered mirrors at their own wishes. There is no fine for the mirrors of the vehicles. U Kyi Tha of Gwa Constituency, U Nyunt Hlaing of Pyu Constituency and U Aye Maung of Mahtein Constituency discussed the proposal “urging the Union government to coordinate, supervise and manage Myanmar’s energy sector” submitted by U Thein Lwin of Chaung Constituency on 6 July. They seconded the proposal, saying that the profits of natural gas extracted from a particular region should benefit the region to some extent. The selling of natural gas should be considered only when there are surpluses after satisfying local demands for vehicle and kitchen purposes. Sustainability of natural resources should be taken into consideration in establishing joint ventures. A comprehensive plan needs to be drafted.

Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay said the incumbent government adopted policies focusing local sufficiency of oil and gas since taking office. He quoted the President saying “National Energy Management Committee must be formed for addressing various aspects of the energy sector of the State and national electricity project must be adopted in line with the national energy policy for short-term and long-term plans. Energy projects of oil, natural gas, coal and so forth needed to be implemented after the national energy project is drafted.” The new government changed the policy to focus on local sufficiency for newly explored oil and gas deposits. Priority for local industrial use of natural gas is included in every contract signed by the new government.

The formation of national level National Energy Management Committee with ministry officials as well as appropriate stakeholders is under way. The committee will be responsible for drawing National Energy Safety Strategy that could affect the future generations of the country and will coordinate, supervise and manage the energy sector more effectively.

As the Hluttaw agreed, U Thein Lwin’s proposal was approved.

U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency submitted the proposal “urging the government to enact a law for registration of Non Governmental Organizations as the President had called for participation of civil societies in Myanmar’s democratic reforms”. Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko said he had no reason to object the proposal.

The date for discussion of the proposal will be announced later and MPs willing to discuss it are to submit their name lists not later than 1 pm on 31 July.

Today’s session concluded at 3:35 pm and the Hluttaw regular session continue for 18th day at 10 am on 31 July.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw committees, commission meet

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 July—Pyithu Hluttaw committees and commission met at the meeting hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker in Hluttaw Complex, here, this morning.

Also present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, chairpersons and secretaries of the committees and commission, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and personnel of the Hluttaw Office.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker noted that the four permanent committees could be formed since the Hluttaw had come into operation, calling for recommendations of those for better functioning of the Hluttaw committees and commission. Chairpersons and secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw committee explained ongoing tasks and requirements of respective committees.

Next, Chairman of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa made wide-ranging discussion about works of the commission, legal provisions and regulations and requirements.

The meeting ended with a concluding remark of the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.

NAY PYI TAW, 30 July—Pyithu Hluttaw regular session continues for 17th day.

Representatives seen at the 17th day regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw.

MNA
CBM alone not enough to implement monetary reforms: MPs

Amyotha Hluttaw continues for 17th day

NAV PVT TAW, 30 July—The Amyotha Hluttaw session continued for 17th day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here today, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 205 MPs.

Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu replied to three questions. Regarding the question of Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No (8) about whether school of ASEAN fellow countries and those of Myanmar are networked not, the deputy minister replied that the previous government only made cooperation upon proposals of the ASEAN fellow countries.

In January, 2012, e-National Task Force of Myanmar and Multimedia Development Corporation (Malaysia) signed MoU on joint-implementation of smart school project. No.4 BEHS Hlme, Yangon TIC and No.2 BEPS Kamayut were networked not.

The second project implemented in cooperation with ASEAN fellow countries is UNESCO School Net Project. Education Ministry and UNESCO (Bangkok) signed MOU on joint-implementation of the project for three years from 2004 to 2006. Group A comprised Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand four years aged to have new BLEMS (branch) into BEMS as there are only 176 basic primary schools in Myanmar. Currently, there is no plan to upgrade Wewinkaya Village BEMS to BEHS (branch) in Letpadana Township.

The objective to make Taninthayi Region the oil pot of Myanmar could be achieved. Farmers should own farmland in agricultural sectors. Farmer organizations that rally farmers to engage in farming should be formed. The budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation should be increased. The Central Bank of Myanmar alone could not implement reforms in monetary policy of the country. A committee led by the CBM government should be formed with scholars. The 20 years’ progress of 30-year long-term project started since 1992-93 should be reviewed. The designation of 24 special development regions should be reviewed. As the paper suggests that each region and state should draft and implement special projects, the National Development Plan will become livelier if it includes Self-Administered Division and Zones. The project should be drafted for 100 years to come. Today’s session continued for 4 pm and the session continues for 18th day at 10 am tomorrow.

At today’s session, four questions were answered, one bill confirmed, and one bill and one report discussed.

Special appeal case heard

NAV PVT TAW, 30 July—A special appellate court comprising Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union U Tun Tun Oo and judges of Union Supreme Court U Tha Htay and U Mya Thein heard four special cases at Room No 1 of Union Supreme Court at 11 am today.—MNA

Hiking and mountaineering experiences recounted

YANGON, 30 July—Organized by Kengtung University Hiking and Mountaineering Subcommittee, the talks on hiking and mountaineering and show the photos was held at the hall of the university on 17 July morning. Patron of the Sports Competitions Organizing Committee of the university Pro-Rector Dr Mary Thein made a speech. Next, Chairperson of the Hiking and Mountaineering Subcommittee Professor Dr Thida Oo of Mathematics Department explained the purpose of formation of the subcommittee and its tasks. Secretary of the subcommittee Lecturer Daw Ni Ni Aye of the Geography Department talked about hiking and mountaineering and recounted experiences of climbing Saramani Hill. After the talks, faculty members and students viewed round documentary photos.—Myanmar Allo
President U Thein Sein and wife attend waso robe offering ceremony

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win and congregation receive Nine Precepts from the Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Bhamo Monastery of Mandalay.—MNA

Afterwards, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo donated waso robe and offertories to State Ovadaçariya Zegon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara.

Next, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presented waso robe and offertories to State Ovadaçariya Zegon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing offer waso robe and offertories to the Vice-Chairman of SSMNC Masoeyein Monastery Sayadaw.—MNA

Joint-Secretary Meiktila Sayadaw accepts waso robe and offertories donated by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon donate waso robe and offertories to Secretary of SSMNC Chaukhtegyi Sayadaw.—MNA

State Ovadaçariya Zegon Sayadaw accepts waso robe and offertories donated by Chief Justice of Union U Tun Tun Oo.—MNA
President U Thein Sein and wife ...

(from page 8)

Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Mahaungmye Township of Mandalay Region Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Tejusarambhavma.

Joint-Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Nattalin Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vayama accepted Waso Robe and offertories donated by Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Thein Soe. Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye donated Waso Robe and offertories to Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Gunayana.

Next, Joint-Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Meiktila Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Veikjodhaa accepted Waso Robe and offertories donated by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe.

The union ministers, the commander, and the deputy ministers donated waso robes and offertories to sayadaws. The congregation led by President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win received sermons delivered by Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Chaukhtetgyi Sayadaw of Bahan Township of Yangon Region Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Khetindaasami and shared merits gained.

Next the ceremony concluded. After the ceremony, the President and wife and members offered a day meal to the sayadaws.—MNA

Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights situation in Myanmar, visits Insein Jail (Central), Insein General Hospital

YANGON, 30 July—Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Myanmar, arrived in Yangon on 29 July evening. He was welcomed by Acting Resident Coordinator of UN agencies Mr. Ramesh M. Shrestha and officials concerned at Yangon International Airport.

Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, together with Acting Resident Coordinator of UN agencies Mr. Ramesh M. Shrestha and officials concerned, went to Insein Jail (Central) at 8:45 am today, and Director-General of Correction Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs U Zaw Win answered their queries.

There, Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana made queries to prisoners Mya Nanda Aung, U Khaymasara (a) Chan Tha and Maung Aung Naing. Observing prison visiting, he inspected the prisoners who waited for the prison visiting time.

At noon, he proceeded to his inspection tour of Insein General Hospital where he queried prisoner Phyo Wai Aung who is receiving medical treatment and looked around the women ward.

At 1:20 pm, Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana attended the briefing of MOFA to diplomats on incidents in Rakhine State, held at Wunzimmnya Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Yangon branch).

Then, he held a meeting with Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Tin at Ahtet Minhla. At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on matters of bilateral cooperation between WB and Myanmar, repaying of the debt by Myanmar to WB, assisting of WB in the socio-economic development of rural area and poverty alleviation programme with saving the debt to WB, accelerating of private sector to attract more foreign direct investment in Myanmar, prioritized measures so as to improve the sector of capital market and infrastructure, giving more scholarship in the field of Myanmar monetary sector in order to develop human capability jointly provided by scholarship programme of WB and Japanese Government and joining to Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

Present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Win Shein and Governor U Than Nyein of Central Bank of Myanmar.—MNA

Talks on levying tax clarified in Ahtet Minhla

MINHLA, 30 July—A ceremony to clarify taxation was held at the office of Ahtet Minhla Township Internal Revenue Department in Thayet District of Magway Region on 13 July morning. Deputy Director U Kyaw Thein of Magway Region Internal Revenue Department explained notifications of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue on income tax, commercial tax and other taxes and matters related to taxation procedures.

It was attended by the township administrator, the commander of Township Police Force and oil production entrepreneurs.

Union F&R Minister receives WB East Asia and Pacific Regional Vice President

YANGON, 30 July—Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights situation in Myanmar, visits Insein Jail (Central), Insein General Hospital

Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye donates Waso Robe and offertories to Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaw.—MNA

Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights situation in Myanmar, visits Insein Jail (Central), Insein General Hospital

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 July—Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun received a delegation led by World Bank East Asia and Pacific Regional Vice President Ms Pamela Cox at the meeting hall of Central Bank of Myanmar, here, this afternoon.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on matters of bilateral cooperation between WB and Myanmar, repaying of the debt by Myanmar to WB, assisting of WB in the socio-economic development of rural area and poverty alleviation programme with saving the debt to WB, accelerating of private sector to attract more foreign direct investment in Myanmar, prioritized measures so as to improve the sector of capital market and infrastructure, giving more scholarship in the field of

Union Minister U Hla Tun receives WB East Asia and Pacific Regional Vice President Ms. Pamela Cox.—MNA

Ceremony to make clarification on taxation in progress in Ahtet Minhla

Myana Din
YANGON, 30 July 2012
ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Workshop on MDGs: Acceleration Strategies and Priorities Beyond 2015 was convened at Grand BallRoom of Sedona Hotel here this morning, with an address by Chairman of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council of Myanmar Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan.

Present on the occasion were Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko On, Yangon region minister for planning and economic U Thaw Myint and region minister for social affairs Dr Myint Thein, department heads, Deputy Secretary-General of the ASEAN Secretariat Dato' Misran Karmain and personnel concerned of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community personnel of UNDP Asia-Pacific Region, delegates of ASEAN nations and invited guests.

The workshop was opened with ASEAN Anthem. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council of Myanmar Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan expressed his delight and pride for having opportunity to host the workshop, thanking UNDP and the Ministry for all the assistance given for organizing the workshop.

ASEAN members are committed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In realizing these goals, ASEAN leaders have pledged for promotion of the living standard of people in ASEAN Community. Myanmar in its fight against poverty and famine needs to fulfill the standard of living and reduce poverty to meet those goals of set and targets in MDGs, launched national and regional activities.

The primary goal of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) is to contribute to realizing an ASEAN Community and it is also focusing on the social development, the improvement of narrowing the development gap among ASEAN member states. The post-2015 strategic response should focus on pro-poor growth alongside the national socio-economic contexts of ASEAN member states. In the same vein, assistance in specific areas is still required for some ASEAN member states that have achieved much under the MDGs.

It is noted that all the governments and peoples of ASEAN member countries must promote to transform themselves to be at the centre of our own development. Thus, ways and means must be sought to integrate the domestic development plans of actions and programmes that reflect those from rural aspirations and sensibilities to have their own capacity, which would enable the environment provided by the international community and to have an acceleration for reducing the development gap.

The Union minister gave an account of development initiatives of the country. Democratic transition has been undertaken within a year-forming nation’s legislative, executive and judicial organizations at different levels. Democratic transition is delicate and its process calls for time to be accomplished. National Plan approved by the Hluttaw and material development plan need to be people-centred development reform, which could satisfy the demands of people.

Public administration reforms are essential for the good governance. Management system development, policy and strategy formulation, making process, promotion of good governance, establishing public service ethics and code of conduct are effective and integrated development plan are now being carried out in order to keep abreast of the international community.

Under the leadership of the President, eight-point poverty alleviation scheme has been in operation. According to all-round surveys of living conditions of households, jointly conducted by UNDP and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, the poverty rate of Myanmar has decreased from 32% to 26%. We have now targeted to reduce the poverty rate to 16% by 2014-2015. As social inclusion that embraces people from all walks of life insures the diversity of ASEAN communities, bringing a richness of culture and knowledge to society by this connectivity the Union minister called for creating more equitable, higher functioning work and projects under ASCC and moving together towards common goal to attain MDGs in the ASEAN Community.

He insisted that the current efforts towards governance or to engage in endless accusations and discussions. The challenges at hand are too urgent. He highlighted the need to work with government and business, and civil society in the developed world. It is believed that the way forward lies in finding constructive solutions together with ASEAN way.

The country’s poverty rate is still high when compared with regional counterparts, and all-round socio-economic development of low-income people is our priority task. That is why the government has been enacting new Laws and amending the existing ones. To open the channels of growth and social mobility, it calls for public and private policies aimed at preventing, reducing poverty and discrimination in resettlement and rehabilitation tasks. The problem can be settled only when all the people understand such problems. Collaborative efforts are required to take actions as necessary. The Vice-President called for concerted efforts of the Union government, Rakhine State government and local people, bringing an end to the meeting.—MNA

Common goal is to reduce poverty within MDGs by implementing ASEAN Blue Print under ASCC Pillar
Union Information and Culture Minister addresses ASEAN Multi-sectoral Workshop on MDGs

Chairman of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council of Myanmar Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan and Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and those present pose for documentary photo.—MNA

Myanmar has freedom of religion....

(From page 16)
The issue in Rakhine State must be addressed in a considerable amount of time as it is based on racial and religious hatred provoked by the social misconduct. It would tackled carefully because there is an imbalance population ratio as well. Bengalis constitute 94 per cent and Rakhine nationals 6 percent of the population in Maungtaw and Buthidaung regions.

For the time being, Defence Ministry, Border Affairs Ministry, Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Ministry, Rakhine State government, local command, the commander and border region command headquarters are trying to keep the overall situation under control for security and stability of the region. They are cooperating with Red Cross society, and fire brigades and NGOs and INGOs are fulfilling the requirements of the region.

Relief camps have been opened providing shelters, foods and health care services. Measures must be taken for revival of the sufferers and restoration to normalcy.

The ministries concerned and non-governmental social organizations have to work cooperatively in resetting them in order that they can resettle their original livelihood at their original places. The Vice-President called on the ministries to present reports on completed and ongoing tasks.

Next, deputy ministers and departmental heads explained completed, ongoing and follow-up tasks of the ministries concerned in Rakhine State.

In his concluding remark, the Vice-President noted that the question of Rakhine incident needs long-term solution. What is the most important is security and regional peace and stability without which regional development undertakings could not be carried out. Now, the situation calls for strenuous endeavours for regional development amidst difficulties. The incident originally was nothing related to racial affairs but later got entangled. Laws on religion and racial affairs have been enacted in the country. The Immigration and Population Ministry has issued rules for racial affairs and actions are taken to handle such problems of increase or decrease in population and illegal migration.

The country has the freedom of religion and there is no restriction on the religious beliefs. It needs to distribute equal amount of funds and cash assistance and stop discrimination in resettlement and rehabilitation tasks. The problem can be settled only when all the people understand such problems. Collaborative efforts are required to take actions as necessary. The Vice-President called for concerted efforts of the Union government, Rakhine State government and local people, bringing an end to the meeting.—MNA

The country’s poverty rate is still high when compared with regional counterparts, and all-round socio-economic development of low-income people is our priority task. That is why the government has been enacting new Laws and amending the existing ones. To open the channels of growth and social mobility, it calls for public and private policies aimed at preventing, reducing poverty and discrimination in resettlement and rehabilitation tasks. The problem can be settled only when all the people understand such problems. Collaborative efforts are required to take actions as necessary. The Vice-President called for concerted efforts of the Union government, Rakhine State government and local people, bringing an end to the meeting.—MNA
Israel kills Palestinian at West Bank checkpoint: medics

RAMALLAH, 30 July—Israeli troops opened fire at a Palestinian car at a checkpoint in the occupied West Bank early on Monday, killing one person and wounding two others, Palestinian officials said. It was unclear why the Israelis fired at the car as it approached the checkpoint on a road connecting West Bank cities and Jerusalem before dawn.

According to Palestinian medical workers, the man in his 40s who was shot dead and the two others were travelling to pray in Jerusalem.

A spokesman for Israel’s border police, which is stationed at checkpoints in the area, could not be reached for comment.

Israel captured the West Bank and East Jerusalem, land the Palestinians want for a future state, during a 1967 Middle East War in a move that has not won international recognition.

SINGAPORE, 30 July— A downpour hit the city on Sunday evening and caused the urban waterlogging and the torrential flood along the Helen Mountain.

Brent rises toward $107, stimulus measures eyed

SINGAPORE, 30 July—Brent crude rose toward $107 per barrel on Monday, stretching gains into a fifth consecutive day on hopes the United States and Europe will this week announce new measures to shore up their fragile economies, boosting the outlook for oil demand.

Showing growth in the United States, the world’s top oil consumer, has triggered expectations of stimulus measures from the Federal Reserve, which meets on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Next on investor radars is Friday’s US non-farm payrolls data.

“If unemployment starts to worsen, you can be sure that the FOMC are going to step in and inject more stimulus into the economy,” said Tony Naran, a Tokyo-based risk manager at Mitsubishi Corp.

“The mandate of the FOMC is not just to curb inflation, but it also has to sustain employment, they won’t have a choice but to act.”

Brent crude rose 45 cents to $106.92 per barrel at 0406 GMT. U.S. crude rose 61 cents to $90.74 per barrel, gaining for a fifth day.

Investors are also eyeing the European Central Bank’s policy-setting meeting scheduled for Thursday for further trading cues.

The meeting was always in focus given the threat the long-running euro zone crisis poses to the global economy but has become pivotal after the ECB chief Mario Draghi’s pledge last week to do whatever was needed to save the euro. —Reuters

US loves cops and firefighters, but not their pensions

NEW YORK, 30 July—Pharmacist Michael Nastro is full of admiration for how police responded to a deadly robbery in his suburban New York neighbourhood in 2011. A gunman walked into a pharmacy near his own on Long Island, killed four people and fled with a stash of painkillers. Police in the area, which is part of wealthy Suffolk County, best known for the exclusive Hamptons beach towns, boosted patrols and gave advice on what to do if the robber hit again. They caught him three days after the shooting.

General Services Police officers stand watch as the park surrounding Los Angeles City Hall is sprayed with tear gas and asphalt to prevent the blaze.

Magnitude 6.0 quake hits off Mexico’s Pacific coast

MEXICO CITY, 30 July—A 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck off Mexico’s Pacific coast on Sunday, the US Geological Survey said, but there were no reports of damage.

The quake was centred about 18 miles southwest of Suchiate in the southern state of Chiapas, close to the border with Guatemala. It had a depth of 22 miles, the USGS said.

Emergency services in Chiapas state were checking the area but a spokesman said there were no reports of damage.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre did not immediately issue a tsunami warning.

Panda gives birth at San Diego Zoo, setting record with 6th cub

SAN DIEGO, 30 July—A 20-year-old giant panda has given birth at the San Diego Zoo, and it’s a record.

Chun Hui, a cub born at the zoo to Bai Yun, the most at a breeding facility outside of China.

The sex of the cub won’t be known for several months. It will be a while before zookeepers and researchers watched the birth Sunday afternoon via a closed circuit camera mounted inside the birthing den.

In a blog post, zoo officials say Bai Yun immediately scooped the cub into her arms and comforted the newborn.

Because of Bai Yun’s advanced age the pregnancy was considered high risk, but twenty-two-year-old San Diego Zoo panda Bai Yun gave birth to a brand-new cub today, her sixth. Here, she is seen three years ago with her last cub, Yun Zi. —INTERNET

Two dead, 12-year-old girl missing in Little Rock

LITTLE ROCK, 30 July—Authorities in Arkansas were searching for a man who they suspect killed his parents Saturday and abducted his adopted 12-year-old sister. Little Rock police spokesman Sgt Cassandra Davis said 33-year-old Antonio Whitlow is wanted on counts of capital murder in connection with the slayings of his 65-year-old parents, Annette and Bobby Whitlow.

Authorities also issued an Amber Alert for the couple’s 12-year-old adopted daughter, Amber Whitlow, who police believe was kidnapped by Antonio Whitlow.

Davis said that officers received a call shortly after 3 p.m. Saturday from a church member who was supposed to meet with the couple and discovered Annette Whitlow’s body.

When police arrived on scene, they found Bobby Whitlow’s body. Davis said they won’t say how the elder Whitlows died, but police said they believe Amber Whitlow’s life is in danger.

The young girl was last seen wearing knee-length jean shorts and a light blue short-sleeve shirt, according to an Amber Alert News release. Police said Antonio Whitlow may be driving an older, black Lincoln Town Car with vinyl top.

Davis said she didn’t have any information about where he might be headed. Outside the Whitlows’ home, neighbors huddled around yellow caution tape Saturday evening as investigators wheeled a yellow body bag out to the coroner’s van.
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV OSSIAN VOY NO (12017)**

Consignes of cargo carried on MV OSSIAN VOY NO (12017) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.7.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: **MS T.S LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (457)**

Consignes of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (457) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.7.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: **MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**CLARKS DAY NOTICE**

**MV OSSIAN VOY NO (12017)**

Consignes of cargo carried on MV OSSIAN VOY NO (12017) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.7.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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**SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: **MS T.S LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**Two SKoreans arrested for mobile customer data theft**

Seoul, 30 July—South Korean police said on Monday that two men who allegedly stole the personal details of about 8 million mobile phone subscribers and sold the data to marketing companies in one of the country’s biggest hacking schemes.

Police said in a statement Sunday that the two men developed the hacking program that was used to steal the names, residential registration numbers and phone numbers of customers of KT, which is South Korea’s largest fixed-line telephone company and No. 2 mobile operator. The programme was uploaded to the company’s computer systems and harvested personal data for months.

Police said the two made about $877,000 from the hacking scheme. They sold the data as well as mobile subscriber data to telecommunication companies which used the details to contact customers to solicit them to switch to other mobile operators.

Authorities said a former KT employee and six others were also charged for their roles in the scheme.

The data theft at KT took place over the span of five months from February and affected about half of KT’s 16 million mobile customers.

**Two dead, one injured as tropical storm Saola batters the Philippines**

Manila, 30 July—The Philippine government confirmed on Monday that at least two people were killed due to heavy rains and strong winds caused by tropical storm Saola.

National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) chief Benito T. Ramos disclosed that one passenger of the roll on-roll off (RORO) vessel M.V Super Shuttle which capsized in the northern Philippine province of Surigao del Norte was retrieved.

Ramos identified the fatalities as Ernest Flores, 60, and Ronald Necor, 33. The chief cook of M.V Super Shuttle, Educe Vecino, was also injured.

In a report, the NDRRMC said a total of 28,631 people in seven provinces in northern and central Philippines were affected by floods and strong winds caused by tropical storm Saola.

The agency warned that the worst is not yet over after the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the storm will continue to affect the northern part of the country possibly until Thursday.—Xinhua

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**Weapond had plastic surgery before death**

Coconut Creek, 30 July—A lawyer says an alleged illegal buttocks enhancement procedure may not have been caused by the death of a Florida woman.

Michael Mirer, who represents the suspect accused in the death of Shatarka Nuby, said it could have been one of the other cosmetic procedures she recently underwent prior to her death in a federal prison where she was serving a sentence for identity theft.

Mirer represents Oseal Morris, 31, who was locked up in a Broward County jail for allegedly administering buttocks injections that caused Nuby’s death from lung problems.

“The alleged victim went to get breast implants and liposuction and was frequent to injections she alleged she received from Mr. Morris,” Mirer said. “She then goes to prison, then she dies.”

The South Florida Sun Sentinel said Sunday that Mirer has represented Morris on other cases in which he allegedly injected patients with a compound made up of mineral oil, silicone purchased at a hardware store and an aerosol sealant used for flat tires. Morris is charged with manslaughter and practicing medicine without a license.
Girl wins RM50 at drinking game but loses life

Five male office workers who made a RM50 bet with a female colleague to drink a whole bottle of rice wine, causing her to die from blood poisoning, may now have to pay her family more than RM50,000 as compensation for her death and funeral expenses, as well as the emotional trauma suffered by her family.

The incident at Foshan City in China’s Guangdong province happened in March, when a woman named Ah Yun was challenged by five of her male colleagues to swallow a bottle of rice wine with a 40% alcohol content.

Ah Yun, who joined the property firm in July last year, accepted their wager, gulped down the liquor and pocketed their 100 Yuan bet. Several hours later, however, another staff saw her lying unconscious at her desk. Panicking when he couldn’t wake her up, he called for his superior who informed Ah Yun’s husband, and then they rushed her to the hospital, but doctors were unable to revive her. Doctors said she died of alcohol intoxication, after finding extremely high levels of alcohol in her bloodstream. Anyone with an alcohol level of 0.30 to 0.39 would already be in danger, but her reading was at 0.50 which lead to her death.

Two of the five mates responsible for the bet, including the guy who brought to rice wine to the office, were charged with 15,000 Yuan (RM5,000) to cover all of her hospital bill. But her family has a civil suit against the five men and the company they work for. Nansha District People’s Court has ordered the five men to fork over 110,000 Yuan (RM55,000) to Ah Yun’s family and the company was fined about $2,000, which he paid on the spot, TMZ reported.

He was very involved in the sitcom “Saved by the Bell” with Kathy Griffin, a weekly prime-time talk show starring US comedian Kathy Griffin.

The trailer of Cloud Atlas, Berry’s upcoming sci-fi film with Tom Hanks, shows the Oscar-winning actor in a bright red sari.

Dressed in traditional Indian attire, complete with glass bangles and maang tikka on her hands, Berry looks every inch a new Indian bride.

The trailer was a treat for fans of the epic drama based on a 2004 novel by the same name, written by British author David Mitchell. The novel consists of six interlinked stories that trace the events from remote South Pacific in the nineteenth century to a distant, post-apocalyptic future.

The film, written and directed by The Matrix creators Lana and Andy Wachowski, also stars Susan Sarandon and Hugh Grant, and is scheduled for mid-October release. The film captures stories set in a different time and place, and it is being speculated that Berry plays an Indian character in one.

5-legged frog saved from cooking pot

Mother Nature is always playing her tricks - some of them quite cruel-on the creatures under her eternal reign.

We have seen two-headed calves, cows, cats and rabbits, and even people with double faces and various appendages.

Although considered rare, it is even more unusual to see additional appendages on amphibians, particularly frogs.

A chef in China who spotted the extra leg on the bullfrog pictured below, spared the creature from becoming a culinary specialty appetizer. Eating frogs is in everyday occurrence in China. Frog leg soup is considered to be a food of power that helps to strengthen one’s bones. Oddly, the extra leg on the frog, which was oily and black and stuck out at an angle from the rest of its body, wasn’t originally noticed as it became part of a wholesale batch of frogs crammed together at a local food market.

This lucky bullfrog has since been relocated to a zoo in Zhuhou, China. Five-legged frogs are very rare, but have been discovered before, both in England and America. Why the frog developed the additional limb remains a mystery. It could be a simple mutation but some experts believe that the creature could be the result of pollution. While no one can say for sure, whoever said that the foot of the rabbit is lucky, missed the point entirely.

Snopp Dogg banned from Norway for weed

KIRKSTAD, 30 July—Norway customs officials on Sunday banned rapper Snopp Dogg from entering the country for two years after discovering marijuana in his possession, his lawyer said.

Officials discovered eight grams of marijuana and an illegal amount of bandle washed up ashore when he attempted to go through customs at June 28 at Kjeve Airport in Kristiansand, NME.com reported. He was fined about $2,000, which he took to the bank.

Snopp Dogg paid on the spot, TMZ reported. Snopp Dogg was on his way to perform at the Hove Festival at the time of the incident, NME.com reported.

His lawyers said he “can live with the decision” to keep him from entering the country and he has no plans to appeal.

Mark-Paul Gosselaar marries

SANTA YZUE, 30 July—“Franklin & Bash” star Mark-Paul Gosselaar married advertising executive Catrina McGinn in California, friends said.

The couple said their “do’s” Saturday at the Sunstone winery in Santa Yzue, People reported.

Now, Salman Khan’s wax figure to arrive in New York!

MUMBAI, 30 July—Bollywood superstar Salman Khan will join fellow stars like Shah Rukh Khan and Amitabh Bachchan in the Hollywood Zone of wax figures at Madame Tussauds museum in New York on 2 August. Salman Khan, who burst onto the scene with his award-performance in Maine Pyar Kiya in 1989, is one of Bollywood’s most bankable actors.

His latest film, Bodyguard, has become the second highest-grossing Bollywood film of all time. In 2004, People magazine named Khan the seventh best-looking man in the world. “Salman Khan is one of Bollywood’s most enduring and recognizable stars,” general manager of Madame Tussauds New York—Internet.
**Soccer:** Brazil, Japan through, Uruguay stumble

**LONDON, 30 July—** Ten-man Senegal caused a huge upset when they beat Uruguay 2-0 at Wembley on Sunday while title favorites Brazil, inspired by the dazzling Neymar, swept into the quarter-finals after coming from behind to beat Belarus 3-1.

Japan, who stunned Spain 1-0 in their opener, also secured their place in the last eight from Group D with a 1-0 win over Morocco at Newcastle's St James' Park.

Uruguay, back in the Olympics for the first time since winning their second successive soccer gold in 1928, had never previously lost an Olympic match but found no answer to first half goals from Moussa Konate even though Senegal played for 10 men for an hour after Abdoulaye Iba was sent off for hauling down Uruguay's skipper Luis Suarez.

The result put Olympic debutants Senegal top of Group A with four points, followed by Uruguay on three, at least until Britain plays the United Arab Emirates at Wembley in an 1845 GMT kickoff.

Jordyn Wieber's failure to qualify for the all-around and event finals with a series of uncharacteristic mistakes. She wound up with her friend on the very last routine.

The biggest challenge for the gold medal may come from how they deal with world champion Jordyn Wieber's failure to qualify. Their way — except themselves.

Russia’s Viktoria Komova, who was runner-up to Wieber last year's world championships, was 1.4 points back (180.429) while China (176.637) and European champion Romania (176.264) were well behind.

US gymnast Jordyn Wieber performs on the floor during the Artistic Gymnastics women's qualification at the 2012 Summer Olympics on 29 July, 2012. **Reuters**

Wu and He take gold in diving competition

**LONDON, 30 July—** They went into the women’s 3m synchronized springboard final as overwhelming favorites and they didn’t disappoint: Wu Minxia and He Zi opened the diving competition in the Aquatics center with a stunning performance that hints that the Chinese diving team might be able to complete the clean sweep of gold medals many predict for them.

And they did it. They scored 345.20 points as they left the United States behind.

The Americans ended with 321.80 points and the Canadians 316.80, while Italy and Australia, who had been expected to challenge for medals, were slightly disappointing.

The Chinese duo took the lead in the first round and never looked like being caught with a virtually flawless display. Indeed you could probably hear the splash of raindrops on the roof better than when they entered the water.

Scott Piercy holds the championship trophy after winning the Canadian Open. **Reuters**

**International Sports**

Scott Piercy takes out Canadian Open golf

**ANCASTER, 30 July—** American Scott Piercy has won the Canadian Open by one shot at the Hamilton Golf and Country Club in Ontario on Sunday after outnumbering US Open champion Rory McIlroy and Robert Garrigus missed chances on the final hole to force a playoff.

McIlroy was second-under par 67 in the penultimate group to post 17-under 260, but accidentally watched as McIlroy (69) bogeyed out of a share of the lead and Garrigus (70) left a 14-foot birdie effort short on the 72nd hole to finish at 264.

Josh Teater (69), Bud Cauley (66) and Chris Kirk (68) shared fourth, three off the pace at 266. Former champion and world number one Vijay Singh joined two others in a tie for seventh at 206. Pierry started two behind 54-hole leader Garrigus but flew out of the blocks with four consecutive birdies between the second and fifth holes.

But bogeys on the eighth and 14th holes gave McGirt the edge until Pierry made a short chip-in birdie on the 15th and McGirt three-putted the same green to the 16th putting the match on top at the top.

McGirt then pushed his approach on the last into a greenside bunker and couldn’t get up and down, while Garrigus, needing birdie, managed a closer but left the 14-foot put inches short. **Reuters**

Spaín treble bids ends after Honduras defeat

**LONDON, 30 July—** Spain’s bid to add the Olympic title to their World and European crowns ended in acrimony on Sunday after a shock 1-0 defeat by Honduras left them unable to reach the knockout stage.

Title favorites Brazil, inspired by dazzling forward Neymar, swept into the quarter-finals after coming from behind to beat Belarus 3-1 at Old Trafford with Neymar scoring and creating the other two. They were joined in the last eight by Japan, who followed their win over Spain with another 1-0 win over Morocco.

Spain hit the woodwork three times against Honduras after conceding an early goal in Newcastle.

A strong Spanish appeal for a penalty was waved away in the final minutes and at the final whistle they surrounded the referee in an animated protest.

Spain’s Under-23 team in London featured three players from the senior squad that retained their European title on 1 July. Spain coach Luis Milla, asked if the success of the senior team had put more pressure on his side, said: “Yes it is possible that the pressure did impact on us, but this is a team full of players who compete at the highest level. Honduras lost all three group matches in Beijing four years ago but held on after Roger Espinoza’s cross from the left was met by Jordi Bengston who rose superbly above Jordi Alba to power his header past David De Gea.

Spanish Juan Mata reacts after missing a chance to score against Honduras during their men’s Group D football match at the London 2012 Olympic Games at St James’ Park in Newcastle on 29 July, 2012. **Reuters**

Spain’s Juan Mata reacts after missing a chance to score against Honduras during their men’s Group D football match at the London 2012 Olympic Games at St James’ Park in Newcastle on 29 July, 2012. **Reuters**

**Wu Minxia (L) and He Zi of China wave to spectators at the awarding ceremony of women’s synchronized 3m springboard final of diving at the London 2012 Olympic Games in London, Britain, on 29 July, 2012. The Chinese divers claimed the title with 346.20. **Xinhua**

**Scott Piercy holds the championship trophy after winning the Canadian Open. **Reuters**

Yi scored 30 points in China’s 97-81 loss to Spain

**LONDON, 30 July—** Yi Jianlian scored 30 points and grabbed 12 rebounds in his first match of the London Olympic Games but China still lost 97-81 to European champions Spain here on Sunday. It was the first Olympic match Yi played without perennial teammate Yao Ming, who retired last year. As the new leader of the Chinese national team, Yi put out the best.

The first half was quite a balanced period as the lead was exchanged 10 times and the scoreline was tied four times. Spain bettered off during the last minutes to take a 53-42 lead.

China kept themselves in the game in a tough third quarter when Spain’s lead was cut to nine points, and China carried on to close it to 69-62 and start of the last quarter. A 9-0 run put the game beyond touch for the Chinese after Serge Ibaka’s apparent travelling was not called.

Spanish shot 11-out-of-19 on three-pointers and dominated the board by 39-25. Pau Gasol led the team with 21 points and 11 rebounds, while Ibaka adding 17 and Juan-Carlos Navarro 14. China’s Wang Zhihui had 15 points and Chen Jianghua chipped in 12. **Xinhua**


**Veteran Giggs leads Britain to victory**

**London, 30 July**—Hosts Britain took a big step towards the quarter-finals when goals from skipper Ryan Giggs and substitutes Daniel Sturridge and Scott Sinclair secured a deserved 3-1 win over the United Arab Emirates at Wembley on Sunday.

Giggs, at 38 years and 243 days, became the oldest man to appear in the Olympic soccer competition and then became the oldest scorer when he headed Britain in front after 16 minutes.

Britain’s Ryan Giggs (R) runs after scoring against UAE’s Ali Khaseif during their men’s preliminary first round Group A soccer match at the London 2012 Olympic Games in the Wembley Stadium in London. **Reuters**

A police cordon hangs across the doors of the locked De Most bar in Jakarta on 30 July, 2012. **Reuters**

**Indonesian police arrest 62 over Ramadan bar attack**

**Jakarta, 30 July**—Indonesian police said Monday they had arrested 62 people, most of them minors, involved in attacking a bar in south Jakarta for serving alcohol after the holy Muslim month of Ramadan.

A group of 150 youths—some as young as 13 and carrying swords and golf clubs—raided the De Most bar late Saturday, smashing bottles of alcoholic drinks and damaging the property, said Hermawan, chief detective for South Jakarta police.

“Of the 62 arrested most are minors, and some...were armed with Samurai swords, sickles and golf clubs,” said Hermawan, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

They shattered the windows and door and smashed bottles, saying they wanted all bars shut to ensure the month of Ramadan is not tainted,” he added.

Twenty-three people face charges of damaging property while four are additionally charged with carrying sharp weapons.

The group called itself the Prophet’s Defenders Council, Hermawan said.

“It is unusual for me and my followers to raid sinful places during Ramadan,” the group’s alleged leader, 33-year-old Habib Bahar was quoted as saying by the Kompas.com news website after the arrests.

“They committed sins there. They get drunk so action must be taken,” said Bahar, who was also arrested.

In previous years Islamic groups have raided places serving alcohol, but Saturday’s attack was the first this year since the fasting month of Ramadan officially began on 21 July.

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**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

MYANMAR TV (31-7-2012) (Tuesday)

7:00 am
1. Parita By Hilly Region Missionary Seyadaw
2. To be Healthy Exercise
3. Nice & Sweet Song
4. Songs Of Yester Years
8:05 am
5. Documentary
8:25 am
6. Dance Of National Races
4:00 pm
7. Martial Song
4:10 pm
8. Musical Programme
4:30 pm
9. Teleplay (Hrar)
5:00 pm
10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
5:15 pm
11. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies
5:10 pm
12. One Village & One Product
5:15 pm
13. Performance With Song
5:45 pm
14. Sweet Melody
8:00 pm
15. News
8:25 am
16. Bakery World
17. TV Drama Series
18. India Drama Series

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**Weather forecast for 31st July, 2012**

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<th>Area</th>
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<td>1. Kachin</td>
<td>32/90</td>
<td>Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (100%)</td>
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<td>2. Kayah</td>
<td>25/77</td>
<td>Scattered rain or thundershowers (100%)</td>
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<td>3. Kayin</td>
<td>26/79</td>
<td>Widespread rain or thundershowers (RH) (100%)</td>
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<td>4. Chin</td>
<td>20/68</td>
<td>Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (100%)</td>
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President U Thein Sein receives World Bank East Asia and Pacific Regional Vice-President

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives a delegation led by World Bank East Asia and Pacific Regional Vice-President Ms. Pamela Cox at the Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace here at 3:30 pm today.

Also present at the call together with the President were Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister U Maung Myint and departmental heads.

At the call, they had a cordial discussion on progress of economic reforms, implementation of transition tasks, providing of financial assistance and measures for development of rural area and cooperation in financial sectors.—MNA

Myanmar has freedom of religion and there is no restriction on religious beliefs

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses coordination meeting on rehabilitation of Rakhine State

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addressed coordination meeting on rehabilitation of Rakhine State held at the meeting hall of the Presidential Palace here this afternoon.

The coordination meeting was attended by deputy ministers, departmental heads and officials.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said in his address that the meeting was aimed at rehabilitation of Rakhine State. The unrest in Rakhine State started with the killing of a Rakhine woman by three Bengali men in Kyaukknimaw village in the end of May. Murder of 10 Muslims by the mob in Taunggyi and attacking Sittway Police Station by the mob over fights between tax collector and shopowners in Sittway market provoked the unrest.

It escalated into anarchic conditions since 8 June as murders and arson attacks spread and there were instigations to do so. Local people fled the violence as it spread to downtown Sittway, Maungtaw, Buthidaung, Kyaukpyu, Yanbye and Thandwe and villages.

The President issued State of Emergency in Rakhine State under Section 144 of Penal Code and Section 413, Sub-section (a) of the constitution to restore security and stability of the region and released a “plea to the public”. (See page 10)

Romania’s Moldoveanu wins 10m air rifle gold medal

LONDON, 30 July — Alin George Moldoveanu of Romania won the 10-meter air rifle gold medal and tied the Olympic qualifying record at the London Games on Monday, making up for narrowly missing a medal in Beijing.

The Romanian missed a medal at the previous Olympics in the 10-meter event by 2 millimeters. He said Beijing was not on his mind when he went into the final in London.

“I went into it and tried to do my best like I do every time,” Moldoveanu said. “I was calm. I did not feel pressure because I did not know where I was. Now I am overwhelmed. It’s crazy.”

Moldoveanu and top-ranked Niccolo Campriani of Italy shot 599 in qualifying to equal the Olympic record by Zhu Qinan in 2004. Zhu, who went on to win the 2004 gold and 2008 silver, qualified 10th, missing the eight-man final by a point.

In the final, Moldoveanu was just a little more consistent, scoring 103.1 to Campriani’s 102.5. Moldoveanu totaled 702.1, and Campriani totaled 701.5 for the silver medal.