True patriotism

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

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

Monetary and financial restrictions related to trade and investment eased: Deputy Minister

Pyithu Hluttaw regular session continues for 18th day

NAY PYI TAW, 31 July—Pyithu Hluttaw regular session continued for 18th day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this morning, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 402 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

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

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw answered questions raised by two Hluttaw representatives.

Regarding the question raised by U Bo Ni of Yamethin Constituency on “launching educative measures in all regions and states after testing mineral ingredients in lands of each region and state”, the deputy minister answered that the ministry opened land utilization divisions in each region and state to disseminate knowledge for choosing fertilizers and crops, testing ingredients in lands.

Regarding the question raised by U Francisco of Pekhon Constituency, on behalf of U Khin Maung Myint of Yaksawk Constituency on “dredging silts at Moeybe Dam and cannels, repair of sluice gates and resuming voyage between Inlay Lake and Loikaw”, the deputy minister answered.

(See page 8)

Reforms must be undertaken for financial and legal institutional development during the drafting process of monetary and capital market law: MPs

NAY PYI TAW, 31 July—The Amyotha Hluttaw session continued for 18th day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here today, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 211 MPs.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko replied to four questions. Regarding the question of U Pe Thaung about whether there is any plan to upgrade Hopin Sub-township in Mohanyin Township into township level, the Union Minister replied that the sub-township is constituted with one town, four wards, eight village-tracts and 27 villages. It is just 22 miles from Mohnyin Township. It covers an area of 247.90 square miles with 8315 households and population of 49160. Its annual population growth rate stands at 1.9 percent. Due to current economic, administrative and social status, it should be remained as the sub-township.

Regarding the question of U Paul Htan Htai of Chin State Constituency No (3) about matters related to selection of ward/village-tract administrators, the Union minister replied that ward/village-tract administration laws and rules have been issued by the President and the Union Home Affairs Minister and the rules have been submitted to the Hluttaw Office.

(See page 9)
To attract more FDIs

Our government has already formed the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) which is now in operation with the internationally accepted system covering the job of providing investor protection, environmental conservation, social impact protection, and ensuring transparency and accountability in financial sector as the main agenda. MIC also encourages job creation by employees and technology transfer, and defines corporate social responsibility (CSR) and factors which must be gradually taken into consideration in weighing investment proposals.

We have more good news and that is based on the recommendations from experts and suggestions on resource related investment we are in the process of applying the internationally acknowledged Extractive Industry Transparency Initiatives (EITI) in the near future.

But the sanctions imposed on Myanmar make us impossible to get any assistance from international monetary institutions and organizations such as World Bank, IMF, ADB and UNDP for our nation-building endeavours through democracy transition. In any circumstances, the government has been striving with high enthusiasm for extending our technical know-how and international economic engagement. Sadly, sanctions are still hampering our efforts.

Anyhow, we are inviting more foreign direct investments to our country from anywhere around the world. As for the FDIs the Myanmar Investment Commission has laid down the four principles, which are, to protect the interest of Myanmar citizens; to protect the dignity of the State; to protect national sovereignty; and to allow environmental friendly investment.

Moreover we are working in cooperation with international experts to enact the Myanmar Foreign Investment Law. And we hope that when the Myanmar Foreign Investment Law comes into force it will attract more foreign direct investments that will serve both the interest of our nation and our people and the investors and help improve our economy grow vigorously.

Finance & Revenue Ministry holds monsoon tree planting ceremony 2012

NAY PYI TAW, 31 July—The Ministry of Finance and Revenue held the 3rd monsoon tree planting ceremony for 2012 at the precinct of Myanmar Economic Bank Head Office in Nay Pyi Taw Bank Zone here this morning, with an attendance of Finance Minister U Win Shein, Governor U Than Nyein of Central Bank of Myanmar, directors-general, managing directors and staff from MEB participated in planting of “mahogany” sapling at the ceremony.

A total of 700 saplings were planted at 2012 monsoon tree planting ceremony of Finance Ministry. The Union Minister U Hla Tun inspected the precinct and plantations of MEB Head Office. The Union Minister met with Managing Director U San Thaung of Myanmar Economic Bank and officials and called for beautifying of the office and welfare of the staff.—MNA

U Than Swe presents Credentials to US President

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—U Than Swe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United States of America, presented his Credentials to the Honourable Barack Hussein Obama, President of the United States of America, on 30 July 2012 in Washington, D.C.—MNA

Chinese delegation observes printing industry of Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 31 July—Delegation led by Deputy Director-General Mr Wang Yi of Yunnan Press and Publication Bureau of the People’s Republic of China arrived in Yangon on 29 July to observe the printing industry of Myanmar.

On 31 July morning, Mr Wang Yi and party arrived in Nay Pyi Taw. They observed Press and CTP of Nay Pyi Taw Daily under News and Periodicals Enterprise in Zeyathiri Township.

They discussed matters related to printing industries of Myanmar and Yunnan, cooperation between the two departments with Managing Director U Ye Tintu of Printing and Publishing Enterprise, General Manager U Ye Naing of News and Periodicals Enterprise and chief editors from the newspapers at the meeting hall of Myanmar Alim Daily.

They observed Nay Pyi Taw Press of Printing and Publishing Enterprise. Managing Director U Zaw Min Oo of News and Periodicals Enterprise and Chief Editor U San Thaung of Myanmar Economic Bank and officials and called for beautifying of the office and welfare of the staff.—MNA

Construnctive Engineers holds Green Seminar

YANGON, 31 July—Constructive Engineers Ltd, Myanmar’s sole agent of Carrier & Toshiba, organized Green Seminar at Park Royal Hotel in Alampya Pagoda street here yesterday evening.

Managing Director Daw Thin Wutty Kyaw extended greetings.

Mr Chong Wai Yen and Mr Derrick Thng of Carrier & Toshiba Singapore (Pte) Limited briefed on Carrier air conditioners and VRF system of Toshiba for energy and cost saving projects.

Carrier & Toshiba products could set aside time and cost with less impact on environment. The company is providing services for installation of Carrier & Toshiba air conditioners at huge public places and commercial buildings. Royal Kumadrada Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw also hosted a similar seminar today.—NLM
Iran says to keep Hormuz open as long as it serves its interests

**Reuters** in July that Iran was unlikely to follow through on the threat unless its own vessels were denied use of the strait.

"Iran’s goal is for everyone in the world to use the Strait of Hormuz but as long as it does not harm Iran’s interests and in that case our reaction would definitely be different," [RINANews agency quoted senior Revolutionary Guards commander Masoud Jazayeri as telling Iran’s Arabic-language Al Alam television.](http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/31/us-middleeast-il/iran-ships-idUSBRE86O30Q20120731)

"Most military experts know that if Iran decides to close the Strait of Hormuz, no country or country group would be able to confront this move,” he added, according to RNA.

Experts at the heavy Western naval presence in the Gulf and surrounding area is a big impediment to any attempt to block the waterway. Israel and the United States have threatened military action against Iran unless it abandons nuclear activities which the West suspects are intended to develop nuclear weapons.

Tehran says its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes.—**Reuters**

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**Gunmen storm Yemen ministry, seize Italian**

*SANAA, 31 July—Gunmen kidnapped an Italian embassy security officer in Yemen on Sunday and some 100 armed tribesmen loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh stormed the Interior Ministry, demanding that the officer be expelled from the police force, officials said.**

A spokesman for the Italian Foreign Ministry in Rome said a security officer who is a member of the country’s Carabinieri police had been seized in Yemen and that a crisis team already activated. The spokesman declined to give further details.

A security source in Yemen, who told Reuters thekidnapping victim was a diplomat, said he had been near the Italian embassy when “men came by in a car and took him by force.”

Earlier, tribesmen briefly held interior ministry employees hostage. They freed the ministry personnel a few hours later but continued to occupy the building, a ministry official said.

The incidents highlighted the continuing turmoil in Yemen despite a peace deal under which Saleh stood down after months of protests against his 33-year rule and was replaced in February by his deputy, Abdu-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

The ministry storming was a direct challenge to Hadi’s authority. He is trying to restructure the armed forces and stabilise the impoverished Arab nation, where Saleh’s legacy still looms large.

The Interior Ministry official said the tribesmen were Saleh loyalists, who were promised they would be enrolled in the police force in return for helping tackle last year’s uprising. The promise has not been fulfilled.

"At midnight, the armed tribesmen... stormed the ministry building, took control of it and climbed on the roof with their guns,” the official said. “They refuse to leave until their demands are met.”

Tribesmen have fought alongside government troops in a US-backed offensive against al Qaeda militants that have conspired for several years in the south of the country last month. Many tribal fighters also sided with Saleh who was toppled by a popular uprising.

Disgruntled tribesmen often kidnap foreigners and bomb oil and gas pipelines as a way to press demands on authorities.—**Reuters**

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**Curry compound may curb diabetes risk: study**

WASHINGTON, 31 July—Supplements containing a compound found in curry spice may help prevent diabetes in people at high risk, according to a Thai study. Researchers, whose results were published in the journal Diabetes Care, found that over nine months, a daily dose of curcumin seemed to prevent new cases of diabetes among people with so-called prediabetes—abnormally high blood sugar levels that may progress to full-blown type 2 diabetes.

Curcumin is a compound in turmeric spice. Previous lab research has suggested it can fight inflammation and so-called oxidative damage to body cells. Those two processes are thought to feed a range of diseases, including type 2 diabetes.

"Because of its benefits and safety, we propose that curcumin extract may be used for an intervention therapy for the prediabetes population," wrote study leader Sonklak Chuenchamarn of Srinakarinwirot University in Nakornnayok, Thailand.

The study included 240 Thai adults with prediabetes who were randomly assigned to take either curcumin capsules or a placebo. The ones taking curcumin took six supplement capsules a day, each of which contained 250 milligrams of curcuminoids. After nine months, 19 of the 116 placebo patients had developed type 2 diabetes. That compared with none of the 119 patients taking curcumin.

The researchers found that the supplement seemed to improve the function of beta-cells, which are cells in the pancreas that release the blood sugar-regulating hormone insulin.—**Reuters**

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**Lao network launches information campaign on HIV/AIDS**

VIENTIANE, 31 July—The Lao Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (LNP+) has launched an information campaign across the country to help stop the rise in the number of people with HIV and raise people’s awareness of the disease and its treatment.

KNoy Phongdeth, head of the LNP+ and himself HIV-positive, said that there has been no such campaign in Laos. “I contacted partners and organized groups to bring in medication and to offer support to other HIV-positive individuals like me,” he said.

Phongdeth was the second person to be treated for HIV/AIDS in Laos. His experience led him to organize the network in order to help other people.

"After discovered I was positive, I had a terrible shock and didn’t know what to do. I dashed all plans and hopes for my future. I actually thought of committing suicide," Phongdeth said. The incidence of HIV/AIDS in Laos is rising, but is still less than that of surrounding countries.

At present, there are estimated 9,000 individuals with HIV/AIDS in Laos with 1,000 new cases discovered last year. The total population of Laos is around 6.4million.

LNP+, a peer-based non-profit association established in 2003, received official recognition by the Lao government this year.

"Phongdeth, in collaboration with other HIV-positive individuals, built the network from scratch with donations from various agencies. According to Phongdeth, the network’s main goals are to assist HIV-positive individuals in seeking treatment with government help and to raise awareness of the risks and how it is transmitted.

Phongdeth, who has attended the Washington International AIDS Conference held July 22-27, said he would share his experiences in establishing LNP+ with other people working in the same field worldwide and to learn from the work of others.

Phongdeth’s LNP+ is working hard to remove the stigma associated with being HIV positive.——**Xinhua**
Incredible spider facts

1. *Hanging by a thread:* Journey into the stomach of a carnivorous plant where the life of one spider species depends on the strength of its silk

2. *Living the high life:* Meet Everest's jumping spiders, the highest permanent residents on the planet

3. *Biological warfare:* Watch the most massive spider in the world flick barbed hairs into a BBC presenter's face

4. *Paragliders:* Find out how the gossamer threads of a carnivorous plant where the life of one spider species depends on the strength of its silk

5. *Living the high life:* See prey during nighttime hunts. But on this occasion, the team also captured the important moment that triggers the spider's trap. When the cricket touched one of the net's anchoring threads with its antenna, it caused the spider to strike. "It's like a trip wire," said Craig Walker, deputy team leader for invertebrates at the Zoological Society of London. "It will send a vibration to the spider." The spiders construct their webs in stages, first building a scaffold at a spot where its prey is likely to pass. "It's almost like manufacturing your own workbench so that you can make something on it," Mr Walker told BBC Nature.

6. *Paragliders:* The spider then carefully crafts its distinctive net using a different type of silk. "They spin some of the silk at its most extended so its already at full stretch when its spun so that when its off the scaffold it'll immediately shrinks to its non-stretched size," he said.

7. *Gone fishing:* See how this spider has turned a whole pond into a web to make a quick meal out of a stickleback

Net-casting spider hunt filmed in wild

LONDON, 31 July — High-speed footage of a net-casting spider’s hunting technique has been recorded by a film crew. As ambush hunters, the spiders are known to use a combination of touch and well-developed sight to sense prey. The video reveals the rarely-seen, split-second technique of the species as it snatches an unsuspecting cricket in a Central American forest. The team believe this is the first slow-motion footage as it snatches an unsuspecting cricket in a Central American forest. The team believe this is the first slow-motion footage to show a net-casting spider hunting in the wild. Expert, Dr George McGavin, who witnessed the event said: "I would compare it to watching a big cat kill. It’s as exciting as that.”

The film crew were in central America filming wildlife for a new nature series, The Dark: Nature’s Nighttime World.

They waited for five hours with the cameras trained on the spider until the night brought the killing zone beneath the net. "The spider did not move a muscle until the antenna of that prey item, the cricket, touched the thread." As soon as it touched it, [the spider] was in it in a thousandth of a second," said Dr McGavin, "if we hadn’t had that camera, you wouldn’t have seen a thing.”

"It was the most exciting thing I’ve ever seen," he said. Net-casting spiders are found across the world in tropical and sub-tropical regions and are also known as ogre-faced spiders because of their distinctive big eyes, which help it to see prey during nighttime hunts. But on this occasion, the team also captured the important moment that triggers the spider’s trap. When the cricket touched one of the net’s anchoring threads with its antenna, it caused the spider to strike. “It’s almost like manufacturing your own workbench so that you can make something on it,” Mr Walker told BBC Nature.

"It’s like a trip wire," said Craig Walker, deputy team leader for invertebrates at the Zoological Society of London. "It will send a vibration to the spider." The spiders construct their webs in stages, first building a scaffold at a spot where its prey is likely to pass. "It’s almost like manufacturing your own workbench so that you can make something on it,” Mr Walker told BBC Nature.

"We posed a challenge to the researcher community and asked them to shift their focus from solely identifying and reporting individual vulnerabilities to investing in new lines of defensive research that could mitigate entire classes of attacks," Reavey said of the prize. Microsoft awarded $50,000 to the second-place finisher, and a fortunate 20 submissions entered in the Blue Hat competition. "We posed a challenge to the researcher community and asked them to shift their focus from solely identifying and reporting individual vulnerabilities to investing in new lines of defensive research that could mitigate entire classes of attacks," Reavey said.

Microsoft pays big to strengthen software defence

WASHINGTON, 31 July — As hackers from around the world converged on Las Vegas, Microsoft doled out a quarter million dollars in prize money to researchers who found ways to thwart attacks on its software. — Internet

A woman works on her computer at a coffee shop on 25 July. As hackers from around the world converged on Las Vegas, Microsoft doled out a quarter million dollars in prize money to researchers who found ways to thwart attacks on its software. — Internet

The female mountain chicken frog lays its eggs in a special self-made foamy nest. — internet

Frogs rescued from killer fungus have massive brood

LONDON, 31 July — Rare tropical frogs rescued from a killer fungus have produced a bumper brood in the UK. The two female mountain chicken frogs responsible for the 76 new additions are part of an attempt to rescue the species from extinction. All 12 frogs in the breeding programme came from Montserrat, where the chrysalid fungus has ravaged the population.

"We’re absolutely chuffed to bits," said herpetologist Dr Ian Stephen. The frogs, simply known as mountain chickens, were rescued as part of the conservation efforts led by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and the Darrel Wildlife Conservation Trust (DWCt). The first challenge was getting them out of the Caribbean into Europe.

"We posed a challenge to the researcher community and asked them to shift their focus from solely identifying and reporting individual vulnerabilities to investing in new lines of defensive research that could mitigate entire classes of attacks," Reavey said. The winners of Microsoft’s first Blue Hat prize were unveiled at a hip club at a mobbed party complete with dancers, high-energy DJ, and explosions of shimmering confetti. A top prize of $200,000 went to doctoral student Vasilis Pappas for an advance in counting “the most popular attack techniques we’re seeing today,” said Microsoft security response centre senior director Mike Reavey. "We posed a challenge to the researcher community and asked them to shift their focus from solely identifying and reporting individual vulnerabilities to investing in new lines of defensive research that could mitigate entire classes of attacks," Reavey said.

Each of the top three entries dealt with a way cyber attackers twist snippets of benign software already in a system to make it malicious ends, according to Microsoft. The Blue Hat winners were announced as a Black Hat conference of computer security professionals held at the largest known gathering of hackers, Def Con, which ends Sunday.

Programmers sought for tropical hackathon

LONDON, 31 July — Wanted: 12 programmers to live on a remote tropical island for two months to do nothing but write code. Applicants are being sought for the coding jamboree that will take place on an as yet un-named island. Those applying will have to submit a proposal explaining what they will work on during the hackathon. They will also have to complete a full computer science evaluation to show they can live in harmony with other coders for the duration of the event. "Living with a few people in Alaska working on a project and that was an amazing experience," said Walter Heck, organizer of the Come Hack With US hackathon. "Why can we not recreate that experience in a tropical and remote location so we can really focus on our projects?" Those attending would have all cooking and cleaning taken care of, so other costs can concentrate on the code, he told the BBC. Mr Heck is currently looking for sponsors to help shoulder the cost of supporting the coders during the hackathon.

"It is yet to clear which remote tropical island will host the two-month hackathon," Internet

Dr Ian Stephen, ZSL’s Curator of Herpetology. The frogs were transported in temperature-controlled boxes to protect them and minimise stress on the long and hazardous journey.

“Although the mountain chicken is one of the biggest frogs in the world they’re still a small animal so they’re incredibly sensitive to temperature fluctuations and that tends to be the thing that would kill a frog during transportation.”

It’s obviously quite a busy moment when you open up the boxes,” he said.

The 50 airlifted frogs were split into three groups and housed at ZSL London Zoo, the DWCt in Jersey and at the University of St Andrews in the hope of growing a healthy population of the species. The projects that people will be working on will range from improving security tools that already exist, to ideas for creating entirely new technologies. "This idea had been swift and positive, Mr Heck told the BBC. "More than 4,000 people had showed an interest within hours of the advert going on the Y Combinator tech news site, he said. "Some of the bigger blue chip companies do this already with their top employees on a smaller scale," said Niall Cook, head of recruitment at hiring agency Computer People.

Retreats and other getaways have become a staple among firms that wanted to get staff focussing on new ideas rather than taking care of day-to-day business, he said. He had no doubt that the isolation of the hackathon would boost the creativity of anyone taking part. "If you look at some of the biggest companies over the last few years like Facebook they just came out of one idea and they’ve changed the way we live and work," he said. — Internet
The man stands at the front desk of the headquarters of China National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC) in Beijing on 25 July, 2012.—Reuters

SEC alleges insider trading ahead of CNOOC-Nexen deal

WASHINGTON, 31 July — The US securities regulator filed a complaint in court on Friday against a man who was controlled by a Chinese billionaire and other traders, accusing them of taking $13 million from insider trading ahead of a bid by China’s CNOOC for Canadian oil company Nexen Inc. The Securities and Exchange Commission said the federal court in Manhattan had frozen assets worth over $38 million belonging to Hong Kong-based Well Advantage, controlled by businessman Zhang Zhirong, and other unnamed traders who used accounts in Hong Kong and Singapore to trade in Nexen stock.

The unnamed Ingang traders used accounts in the names of Phillip Securities and Citibank, while Well Advantage made its trades through accounts held at UBS Securities and Citigroup Global Markets. Neither of the Well Advantage accounts had traded Nexen shares since January 2012, and the Citigroup account had been completely dormant for over six months.

Zhang Zhirong also controls China Rongsheng Heavy Industries Group Holdings, which according to company filing in October 2010, entered a strategic cooperation agreement with CNOOC.

A spokesman for CNOOC declined comment. Calls to Well Advantage’s office in Hong Kong were not answered on Saturday. Hong Kong’s Securities and Futures Commission also declined comment while officials at the Monetary Authority of Singapore were not immediately available.

Driving sobriety tests likely to miss medical pot

NEW YORK, 31 July — A new, small study suggests medicinal marijuana may improve users’ driving skills — but might be missed by typical sobriety tests.

At doses used in AIDS, cancer, and pain patients, peopleweaved side to side more and had a slower reaction time in the hours after using the drug, researchers from the Netherlands found. For people who hadn’t built up a tolerance to marijuana, those effects were similar to driving legally.

“At this time, we know very little about the possible effects of medical marijuana may have on, say, motor vehicle crash rates, injury rates, and mortality rates,” said Dr Guohua Li, who has studied marijuana and traffic accidents at Columbia University in New York but wasn’t involved in the new research. “There is concern medical marijuana may interact with other drugs such as alcohol that may further complicate driving safety,” he added.

The new study involved 12 frequent marijuana users and 12 occasional (three times a month at most) smokers. At three different points, researchers led by Wendy Bosker of Maastricht University gave each of the participants either a 20 milligram or 10 mg pill of dronabinol — medicinal marijuana or a drug-free placebo pill.

BP ordered to pay $3.1bn in damages over Rosneft deal

LONDON, 31 July — A Russian court has ordered BP to pay $3.1bn (£1.97bn) damages to its Russian joint venture over a failed Arctic oil exploration deal with Rosneft.

The case against BP was brought by Andrei Prokhorov, a minority shareholder, on behalf of TNK-BP Holding. He claims that the proposed alliance damaged TNK-BP’s interests because it lost out on a lucrative opportunity, BP said it will challenge the ruling. TNK-BP is jointly owned by BP and AAR, a group of four Soviet oligarchs.

AAR successfully blocked the tie-up last year in a European court, saying BP had breached its shareholder agreement with TNK-BP, which stipulated that the unit was the UK group’s primary vehicle for investments in Russia. Mr Prokhorov initially valued the lost opportunity at around $13bn, although he later reduced the amount to $9.8bn. Mr Prokhorov, who owns about 0.00001%, has denied AAR’s connection to the suit. Friday’s ruling, by an arbitration-based court in Siberia, is against London-based BP and the group’s BP Siberia, is against London-based BP and the group’s BP

BP’s tempted share swap with Rosneft last year was part of an ambitious plan by the UK company to develop oil fields in the Arctic. The Arctic deal eventually went to ExxonMobil. —Internet

Driving sobriety tests likely to miss medical pot

Two to four hours later, participants completed a series of driving tests, including trying to maintain a constant speed and drive in a straight line, or follow at a distance behind another car. They also went through a typical highway sobriety test, involving walking and turning and balancing on one leg.

Participants tended to weave a few centimeters side to side when under the influence, but the impairment was smaller in people who were used to doing pot regularly. After using medical marijuana people also took a second or

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Ethnic clashes in Ethiopia kill 18

MOYALE, 31 July—
Ethnic clashes in southern Ethiopia have left 18 dead and scores displaced, the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) reported, but the Ethiopian government told AFP Sunday the situation was under control.

The clashes erupted Thursday in an area about a mile (1.6 kilometres) from the Kenyan border, between the Bonna and Garri tribes over a land dispute, KRCS said in a statement. The Ethiopian government said the spat was over “administrative claims” by the two sides.

“The local authorities were not able to resolve the claims and counterclaims in a constructive manner so clashes ensued,” Ethiopian government spokesman, Bereket Simon, told AFP, without giving details on the toll.

Bereket said police had made several arrests. “Federal police and government have intervened and all the culprits are under control,” he said, adding that the situation has now “normalized.”

According to the KRCS statement, “at least 18 deaths and 12 injuries had been confirmed” and the conflict has also led to “loss of properties with reports of massive displacements of populations” into neighbour-

Kenya. KRCS says registration to determine the actual displaced populations was ongoing but said “more than 10,000 people are in urgent humanitarian support.”

Bereket said the displaced people were expected to return to Ethiopia shortly. “This is a hiccup which we are going to address and they will be back soon,” he said.

Moyale is in Oromia region in Ethiopia. Several pastoral tribes occupy the southern part of the region.

Shootout, gun attacks leave eight dead in

Nigeria’s Kano

KANO, 31 July—A gun battle near a mosque in the northern Nigerian city of Kano and two other shootings left at least eight people dead on Sunday in the latest violence to hit the area, authorities said.

There was no clear who was behind the attacks in the city of Kano, the largest in Nigeria’s mainly Muslim north, but they resembled similar incidents in the past. It was not clear whether police or the mosque was the target of the initial attack.

Earlier in the day, gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire on the car of a Nigerian air force officer, killing the driver and an aide, while two others were killed in a nearby neighborhood, authorities said.

Colombia’s rebel group releases two pilots

BOGOTA, 31 July—The rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) Sunday released two civilian helicopter pilots kidnapped 20 days ago, said the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Juan Carlos Alvarez and Alejandro de Jesus Ocampo were set free and handed over to representatives of the ICRC and a local non-governmental organization in a rural area of Argelia municipality in southwest Cauca province, the ICRC said in a statement. Both Alvarez and Ocampo were kidnapped by the guerrillas on July 10, after their helicopter made emergency landing due to a mechanical failure. The helicopter was burned by FARC members.

“In this case, we participated in the release because the armed group asked us for help,” said Jordi Raich, the ICRC representa-

tive in Colombia. “We are pleased to have been able to make it possible for these people to be back with their loved ones,” added Raich, who did not give any more details about the release. Last Wednesday, the Colombian soldiers head out to confront FARC rebels in, Cauca province, Colombia.---INTERNET

3.1 pct in Q2

Average unit price of imported cars stood at 29,469 dollars in the second quarter, the government said Saturday. This was 0.6 percent lower than in the first quarter. Imports surged 37.1 percent on-year to 1.913 billion dollars over the cited period.

Imports of large-sized cars with engine capacity of between 1.5 and 3 liters from the US, Australia and Russia, said the customs office. Shipments of autos with engine displacement from 1.5 to 3 liters reached 7.4 billion dollars during the quarter.

Imports surged 37.1 percent on-year to 992 million dollars in the second quarter, but trade surplus for the auto sector edged up 0.6 percent to 9.85 billion dollars over the same period thanks to falling prices of imported cars.

India’s home minister arrives in riot torn Assam

GUWAHATI, 30 July—India’s home minister P. Chidambaram Monday morning landed at the Gopinath Bordoloi airport and left by helicopter for riot affected Kokrajhar district in India’s north east state of Assam where violence since July 20 killed 48 people and left 500,000 people homeless.

India’s Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited the area on Saturday and assured the victims living in refugee camps of his anonymity.

The conflicts of today worry all Peruvians. We need to overcome this culture of conflict,” Humala said, referring to frequent disputes nationwide over natural resources. The celebrations ended with a military parade in the downtown of Lima, the Peruvian capital. Troops and cadets from Peru’s army, navy and air force took part in the military parade in uniforms. Representatives of firefighters, police officers and farmers also participated in the march.

Helicopter crash kills three people in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 31 July—Three people died in a helicopter crash in Mexico, the local Public Prosecutor’s Office said Sunday.

PGJEM said the crash occurred on Saturday night in Temozon mountain range and one of the victims was businessman Juan Armando Hinojosa Jr.

According to the investigations, the tragedy happened when Hinojosa was returning from a lunch with the winner of 1 July presidential elections, Enrique Pena Nieto in his birthplace Atlacomulco, a town in the state of Mexico.

PGJEM said that local authorities at 23:40 local time (0440 GMT) on Saturday night realized the loss of the helicopter with the pilot, copilot and one passenger on it. The state Rescue Unit started the search of the aircraft and found on early Sunday morning the wreckage near the Jiquipilco-Temoaya highway, in Jiquipilco municipality.

The causes of the accident was still under investigation.

Perú’s president calls for unity on Independence Day

LIMA, 31 July—Peruvian President Ollanta Humala called here Sunday for unity to overcome difficulties facing Peru during celebrations marking the country’s 191st anniversary of independence.

“Happy day for all the Peruvians. I wish the country’s unity for the benefit of all,” Humala said in a address to the nation at the Congress building on the last day of celebrations.

Humala said he would fulfill all the plans and programs set for his term’s second year to eliminate poverty and defuse conflicts over mining.

The celebrations ended with a military parade in the downtown of Lima, the Peruvian capital. Troops and cadets from Peru’s army, navy and air force took part in the military parade in uniforms. Representatives of firefighters, police officers and farmers also participated in the march.

In this July 29, 2011 file photo, Peru’s President Ollanta Humala, left, and his wife Nadine Heredia, right smile as they attend a military parade marking Peru’s Independence Day in Lima, Peru. Humala will mark his first year in office on 28 July, 2012.---INTERNET
K 400,000 per 100 baskets of paddy purchased in Dekkhinathiri Tsp

**Nay Pyi Taw, 31 July**—“A total of 1618 acres of advanced land reclamation tasks were carried out with the help of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation this year and 1537 acres will be reclaimed in the coming year” said Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Thein Nyunt at the ceremony to purchase rice at K 400,000 per 100 baskets held at the briefing hall in Yanaungmyin irrigated area of 262 acres advanced farmlands in Nay Pyi Taw Dekkhinathiri Township here this morning.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing said that 60000 acres irrigated area in Nay Pyi Taw Area will be increased to 100,000 acres with the help of Nay Pyi Taw Council, farmers and reclamation of mechanized farmlands will be implemented within one or two years with momentum. He said that the State is encouraging establishment of value-added factories for crops including rice and others marketable crops.

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint said that the State would provide help to establish advance rice mills for quality improvement and the agriculture and irrigation ministry is providing technical assistance, quality paddy Strains to the farmers.

The Union Minister and party viewed harvesting of 262 acres of Palethwe hybrid paddy strains with the use of Combine Harvester.

**Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing views 262 acres of Yanaungmyin irrigated area of advanced farmland in Dekkhinathiri Township.**—MNA

**ASEAN multi-sectoral workshop concluded**

**Yangon, 31 July**—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 continued for second day at Mindon Grand Ball Room of Sedona Hotel here this morning.

The first session of the workshop was presided over by Senior Assistant Director of Ministry of Health of Malaysia Dr. Suzana Mohd. Hashim. Dr. Nabiha Zaka, UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and Pacific Maternal and Child Health Specialist and Dr. Lam Phren, Deputy Manager, National Reproductive Health Programme, National Maternal and Child Health Centre, Ministry of Health, Cambodia discussed.

The second session of the workshop was presided over by Ms. Socheatra Nhean, Director of Gender Equality Department, Ministry of Women’s Affairs. Dr. Robert Verbruggen, Regional Programme Adviser of UNAIDS to Asia-Pacific, Dr. MyaSahei Ngon, Antimalarial National Health Officer of WHO in Myanmar and Dr. Priyaj Suamun, Medical Officer, Senior Professional level, Officer of Disease Prevention and Control made discussion on combating of HIV/AIDS.

In the third session of the workshop, Executive Director of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women Ms. Emmeline Verzosa presided over the workshop. Environmental Affairs Officer Environment and Sustainable Development Division United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Thailand Ms Aneta Nikolova and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Vietnam Mr. Bui Ton Hien discussed environmental cleaning.

At the first part of the fourth session, Dr. Ferdinal Fernando, Director-General of Asean Secretariat Office of HCD Department presided over the workshop. Training Leader of UNDP APRC Dr. Anuradha Rajivan and Planning specialist Mr. Biplove Choudhary made discussion.

At the second part of the fourth session, it was presided over by Deputy Secretary-General of the ASEAN Secretariat Dato Misran Karmain. Head Department of ASEAN Secretariat Office SWWLMW Ms. Mega Liena and Deputy Director of Planning Department of Cambodia Mr. Long Chintha discussed regional assessment of millennium development goals and responded to questions raised by those attendees.

Deputy Secretary-General of the ASEAN Secretariat Dato’ Misran Karmain and Resident Representative of UNFPA to Myanmar Mr. Mohamed S Abdel Ahad extended greetings and Secretary of Myanmar-ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Director-General of Historical Research Department of the Ministry of Culture Daw Nanda Hmone gave concluding speech. —MNA

**Guangxi Zhuang delegation visits Shwedagon Pagoda**

**Yangon, 31 July**—The delegation led by Deputy Governor Mr. Lan Thiutli visits to Shwedagon Pagoda.

**Kayin State Chief Minister provides flood victims with foodstuff**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 31 July—**Swollen Thanlwin River near Hpa-an in Kayin State, forced locals to flee to Shweyinhmyaw Pyitawaye Stupa in Hpa-an to escape floods. Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gn Tin Maung Win, state ministers, responsible persons of state district and township and social affairs provided foodstuff to them by medics.

Moreover, they provided foodstuff to families sheltering at the temporary relief camps at the gymnasium in No.1 Ward of Hpa-an, Aung Than Lwin sports ground and Parahita monastery in Ward-5, the gymnasium in No.3 BEHS and Gyardawta monastery of No.1 Ward.

423 local households were moved on account of inundation of the Thanlwin River.
Monetary and financial ...

(from page 1)

... 12.64 miles of main canal, three miles of tributaries and 20 minor canals would be dredged in 2012-2013 fiscal year. Budget will be requested for repairing irrigation system in 2013-2014 fiscal year. There is no plan to resume voyage between Inlay Lake and Loikaw.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint answered questions raised by two Hluttaw representatives. Regarding the question raised by Dr Maung Maung Wint of Bahan Constituency “plans of departments concerned for dissemination of information of quality drugs and safe foods”, the deputy minister answered that Food and Drug Administration committees were formed at various levels. FDA is regularly checking food and drugs and issuing licenses and certificates for distribution and production of drugs. Licensed dealers are only allowed to import drugs. As regards the edible oil, FDA tests sample of the oil at its lab and issues license only when it finds the oil is suitable.

The meeting was also attended by Yangon Region State Counselor U Kyi Maung, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung, Yangon Region minister and Hluttaw representatives, Director-General U Aye Myint of the Forest Department, regional level department officials, deputy commissioners, township administrators, CEC, member of the Region of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Industrialists, scholars, entrepreneurs and reps of industrial zones and invited guests.

The meeting was also attended by Yangon Region Minister U Maung Maung Maung Oo, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung, Yangon Region minister and Hluttaw representatives, Director-General U Aye Myint of the Forest Department, regional level department officials, deputy commissioners, township administrators, CEC, member of the Region of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Industrialists, scholars, entrepreneurs and reps of industrial zones and invited guests.

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The Union Minister said in his address that the meeting was aimed at addressing challenges of business activities. The government has made plans to reduce its timber extraction by five percent, he said.

He said the government has adopted policies and plans to carry out timber certification, to encourage private investment, to reduce risks to the natural forest, to encourage export of non-wood forest produce and improve forest service industry. He invited suggestions for better conservation of natural forests. Those present participated in the discussion and the Union Minister made clarifications.

The Union Minister yesterday met the chief minister of Ayeyawady Region, the Region Hluttaw speaker, region ministers, NGOs, local entrepreneurs, intellects and intelligentsia, townsmen and departmental personnel at Pathein Town Hall and made discussions on socio-economic development of the region.

Those present discussed matters related to waste disposal system, fishery and land use policy, poverty alleviation, establishment of fine wood factories and wood plantations. The Union minister and the region chief minister made clarifications.
Reforms must be undertaken for financial and legal...

(From page 1)

on 6 July, 2012 for the knowledge of the Hluttaw representatives.

A law has been submitted to Union government meeting No(26/2012) on 12 July, 2012 in order to allow the amending of the provisions of Chapter (12) Emoluments and Chapter (13) ward or village-tract administration law and Chapter (13) Office Operational Costs. Proceedings are going on in line with the procedures.

Further measures were to be taken for appointment of ward or village-tract administration law, respectively, but the action approval of those financial provisions. The selection process would be carried out under the arrangement of the supervisory board in line with Section 6 and 7 of Chapter (4) of ward or village-tract administration law.

Regarding the question of U Myint Hlaing of Rakhine State Constituency No (12) about the rehabilitation measures of the Union government for sufferers of riots in Rakhine State to be able to restore original status and whether the ministry has any plan to adopt long-term plans for guaranteeing no recurrence of similar cases, full security, stability, and the rule of law, the Union Minister replied that Article 44 of the constitution was in sittuation, Maungtaw, Buthidaung, Kyaukpyu, Yanye and Thandwe townships on 8 and 1 June following the riots in June in Rakhine State so as to control the over all situation.

The President issued ordinance according to Sub-section (a) of Section 413 of the Constitution, declaring the State of Emergency. Curfew order was issued in above mentioned townships on 8 and 1 June respectively. The enforcement of Article 144 alone could not run administrative mechanism effectively and thus ordinance No 1/2012 was issued on 10 June, declaring the State of Emergency in the entire state.

The President Office formed a team comprising the Department of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, deputy minister for Immigration and Population, and the Rakhine State government led by the Union Minister of Border Affairs on 22 June, 2012 to manage the operation of relief camps, auditing and supervising rehabilitation tasks.

To restore normality, relief camps were opened as the first phase to give temporary shelters to sufferers of the riots and those fled out of fear, as the second phase, amount of losses were recorded and such urgent needs as tents, foods, drinking water, medicines and clothing were provided, and as the third phase plans are under operation to help them regenerate their businesses and getting back on their feet.

According to the records till 7 July, 2012, 60 relief camps were opened in Sittway, four in Yathedaung, and seven in Maungtaw totaling 71, providing help to 5545 persons. 395 out of 470 houses of nine burnt villages in Maungtaw Township were reconstructed and the remaining 94 houses were repaired. Until 1 July, 2012, 32 houses were built and 58 houses repaired.

The President Office assigned a team comprising the Western Command commander, deputy minister of Home Affairs and security and border affairs minister of the state government headed by the Union Minister for Immigration and Home Affairs undertake stability-restoration and rehabilitation tasks in Rakhine State. The President Office issued ordinance No 1/2012. Originally, only Rakhine nationals lived in Rakhine State, but later the ratio of Bengali to Rakhine nationals in Maungtaw and Buthidaung has become 94 to 6 per cent due to illegal immigration of Bengalis and long-term settlement in the region.

Border Regions In the 18th Session of the Union Parliament’s 1st Ordinary Meeting, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Commander-in-Chief (Army) U Min Aung Hlaing, as the head of the 1st Ordinary Meeting, issued a new law regulating the immigration, marriage, construction of new religious buildings, repairing and land ownership and right to construct building of Bongals under the law.

To control illegal trespassing into and out of Rakhine State and for perpetuity of sovereignty of the State, deterrence wall has been built in Taungup and Buthidaung. Plans are under way to add further 30 police stations to original 75 police stations of Rakhine State Police Force and to upgrade eight police stations.

Regarding the question of U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (6) about if there is any plan to allocate fund for provision of adequate travel expenses, office utilities and office equipment to enable Myanmar Police Force to stand independently with dignity, the Union Minister replied that the fund allocation for the MPF for 2012-2013 fiscal year under separate expenditure is 9.15 billion in total.

Additional 493.097 million kyats have been asked to provide travel allowances and daily allowances of civilian staff of the MPF. It has been planned to ask for capital fund of 2.788 billion kyats as 2012-2013 fiscal year additional expenditure within this fiscal year.

Systematic financial management has been introduced to enable MPF stand independently with dignity, replied the Union Minister.

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union U Thein Sein put forward bill concerning Limitation Act, bill concerning Contempt of Court and bill amending Penal Code for debate at Amyotha Hluttaw. Each proposal was seconded by a MP.

The Hluttaw approved it for debate and announced that MPFs wishing to discuss are to register by 6, August. Next, U Aung Kyi Nyunt of Magway Region Constituency No(4), Dr Win Myint Kyi of Sagaing Region Constituency No(4) and U Myint Hlaing of Rakhine State Constituency No (12) discussed recommendation report on national development plan of Amyotha Hluttaw Planning Committee.

They argued that plans must be consistent with accessible opportunities and objective conditions of the country. It is important to obtain accurate statistics and data in implementing the projects with transparency and a focus on rule of law. The accuracy of basic statistics and data, strong and weak points and progress is important in implementing projects. Ministries are required to focus on details of the project in planning, to make a shift to leaner organizational structure and assign eight persons to right places. Reforms are a must for improvement of the administrative mechanism responsible for planning. It needs to adopt suitable economic system to the country that can assure rapid progress in short time. The bottom level needs to follow the instructions of the central administrative body. Likewise, the central executive body needs to consider the suggestions of the bottom level. It needs to make a shift of focus from agricultural development to industrial development, managing the poor community.

It was believed that systematic exploitation of natural resources with less impact on the environment would facilitate somewhat to industrial sector development of the country. Measures must be taken to turn the old mines into arable land and forests. Graves from mines could be used for making contributing transportation. It is believed that the respective ministries through cooperative arrangement could find a balance between environmental conservation and mining sector development.

The National Planning Committee decided to review the proposal.

Dr Khin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No (9), U Thein Hlaing of Sagaing Region Constituency No (8), U Ye Myint of Bago Region Constituency No (4), Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No (8) and U Aung Kyi of Shan State Constituency No (9) discussed the proposal of U Thein Hlaing of Sagaing Region Constituency No (9) urging the Union government to undertake reforms for development of financial and legal infrastructure during the drafting of bill for monetary and capital market law.

They argued that it needs to enact law and rules and reinstate infrastructure for protection of monetary and capital market in the drive for monetary and capital market development. Innovations are a must for protecting investment, supporting the development of business and smoothing business operations.

In initiating reforms for infrastructural development, reforms must be taken in investing in human resources development. Schooling reforms must be carried out in line with the changing conditions, linking the textbooks lessons to knowledge of universe. School people should prepare to enjoy the natural resources of the motherland, to keep abreast of international community and to welcome foreign investments. In addition, the State media and private media should educate the people.

Current banking system must be revised and monetary and banking services reform must be implemented, promoting the investment sector.


Domestic Bond Development Subcommittee has introduced twoday government bonds in addition to there-year and five-year government bonds beginning January, 2010 and K 10 million bond in addition to K 10,000 and K100,000 and K 1 million bonds.

Corporate Development Subcommittee has been taking actions for development of corporate companies. Securities rules and regulations formulated subcommittee is drafting securities exchange and dealing bill for development of capital market.

Training and Education Subcomittee is conducting local and foreign courses and workshops for capital market development and production of professionals. On addition, the Central Bank of Myanmar signed MoU with Tokyo Stock Exchange and Daiwa Research on 29 May, 2012.
Reforms must be undertaken for financial and legal...

(from page 9)

Accounts and Audit Norms Subcommittee is holding talks for application of Myanmar accounting standards in line with international regulations. The Central Bank of Myanmar has shifted from fixed exchange rate to controlled floating exchange rate since 1 April, 2012.

Reunification and rehabilitation of trafficked victims at International Organization for Migration, presidents, National Programme Officer Daw Theingi Min from Rehabilitation of MWAF, secretaries, members, working groups and Working Group on Protection and Social Advisory Council said based on departmental advice.

No (2) put forward a proposal urging the Union government to review the grading system of matriculation exam and to set the basic pass marks higher to be able to turn out increased number of qualified ones and to introduce a system in which those who fail the exam can re-sit for the particular subject he failed within short period.

A Hluttaw representative seconded the proposal.

The Hluttaw approved to discuss the proposal and announced that the Hluttaw representatives wishing to discuss the proposal could register at the break.

U Nu of Yangon Region Constituency No. 10 submitted a proposal urging the Union government to review the grading system of matriculation exam and to set the basic pass marks higher to be able to turn out increased number of qualified ones and to introduce a system in which those who fail the exam can re-sit for the particular subject he failed within short period. A Hluttaw representative seconded the proposal.

The Hluttaw approved to discuss the proposal and announced that the Hluttaw representatives wishing to discuss the proposal are register when the session ended.

The session came to an end at 3.40 pm and the 19th day session continues at 10 am tomorrow.

Four questions were answered, three bills put forward, one bill discussed, one proposal discussed and approved and two new proposals submitted.

MNA

Course on rehabilitation of trafficked victims conducted

YANGON, 31 July—Working Group on Protection and Rehabilitation of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation yesterday organized course on reception, reunification and rehabilitation of trafficked victims at training hall of Yangon Region Social Welfare Department Office.

Leader of the Working Group Daw Khin May Soe delivered an address.

Present on the occasion were Leaders of four sub-working groups and Working Group on Protection and Rehabilitation of MWAF, secretaries, members, National Programme Officer Daw Theingi Min from International Organization for Migration, presidents, secretaries and members of MWAF. The two-day course was attended by 28 trainees.

MMCWA’s tailoring course

No (1/2012) concludes


President of MMCWA Dr Mon Mon Aung and MMCWA CEC Member leader of business working group of Daw Khin Than Win awarded outstanding trainees in the course.

CEC Member Daw Thet Thet Swe presented completion certificates to a trainee, on behalf of the trainees and Secretary Daw Thazin Nwe, gifts and certificates of honour to copper instructors.

After the ceremony, the guests viewed the clothes made by the trainees.

The 8-week course was attended by 27 trainees from Township Maternal and Child Welfare Associations in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

MNA

UMFCCI holds workshop on ICT development

YANGON, 31 July—Jointly organized by the Republic of the Union Of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Japan Telecommunications Engineering and Consulting Service (JTEC) and Myanmar Computer Federation, Workshop on Information and Communication Technology Development for Myanmar entrepreneurs was held at Park Royal Hotel on 17 July.

At the workshop, UMFCCI President U Win Aung, Chairman Mr Yoshio Utsumi of JTEC and Chairman of Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association U Thein Oo delivered speeches. The representatives submitted the papers and the chairman of the meeting replied queries raised by those present.

It is learnt that the 2nd similar workshop was held at Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 July.

Myanmar Alin

Reform strategy clarified

NAY PYI TAW, 31 July—Clarification on reform strategy was made at the meeting hall of Planning Department of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development on 27 July, with an attendance of Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, officials of the Ministry and 145 staff officers from region and state planning departments.

Dr Zaw Oo, a member of national economic and social advisory council said based on departmental advice reform framework has been drawn in line with international norms till achieving a unified single version.

Next Professor Wing Thye Woo of Penang University of Malaysia explained necessary preparedness to build a powerful nation, economic business to be reformed to private sector, unit that would interrelated among departments and experiences of reform in China, Poland, Indonesia and Vietnam.

MNA

Summer paddy harvested on model plot in KhinU Township

KIMU, 31 July—The model plot of farmer U Cho Hla was harvested in Kanthitawa Ywama field of Kanthit Village-tract in KhinU Township of Shwebo District in Sagaing Region on 21 July.

Under the supervision of Head of Township Settlement and Records Department U Sein Kaung, Deputy Head of Department U Win Naing and staff participated in harvesting of the paddy plot and produced 105.43 baskets of paddy per acre.

Myanmar Alin

Collective tree growing ceremony held in Kyonpyaw

KYONPYAW, 31 July—Jointly organized by Kyonpyaw Township General Administration Department and Forest Department, the 2012 monsoon tree growing ceremony was held along both sides of Kyonpyaw-Inye Road on 3 July.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Than Sein, Chairperson of Township Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Kyi Kyi Win and members, Staff Officer of Township Forest Department U Soe Yi, regional in-charge U Kyaw Win Naing and staff, departmental personnel and staff planted 600 saplings. —Myanmar Alin

OTTWIN, 31 July—Staff of Ottwin Township Forest Department on 9 July carried saplings by car and distributed teak, eucalyptus and other species of saplings to the local people free of charge.

In implementing the one acre of teak per village, three teak plants per household and 20 hardwood plants per house plan, the Township Forest Department nurtured 120,000 saplings.

So far, the department has distributed over 100,000 saplings to the local people.

Myanmar Alin
Serbian president, Italian FM against “new conditions”

BELGRADE, 31 July—

Italian FM Giulio Terzi underlined in the talks with Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic that Italy supports Serbia’s “efforts” to join the EU. During their meeting on Monday in Belgrade, he added that Italy was ready to offer all the necessary help in the continuation of the dialogue with the interim government in Pristina, the Serbian President said in a press release.

The Italian foreign minister, who is the first foreign official to visit Belgrade after the government formation, expressed Italy’s readiness to cooperate especially in the energy sector, and informed President Nikolic that Italy is willing to invest funds in joint projects with Serbia such as construction of hydroelectric power plants on the Ibar River and the Drina River, the statement added.

Nikolic “expressed gratitude for two countries’ strategic partnership, and the investments with Italy which have made in Serbia so far, stressing that Serbia counts on Italy’s support on its further EU pathway”.

Nikolic and Terzi agreed that it would be very bad for all if the EU presented additional preconditions for Serbia’s “EU accession”, the statement said.

Nikolic voiced Serbia’s readiness to implement the recommendations put forward by the European Union, and correct the emissions in the judicial reform, the fight against corruption and crime, and dubious privatizations.

Commenting on the issue of Kosovo and Metohija, President Nikolic underlined that in the future, Serbia’s policy will be transparent, when it comes to its southern province.

Serbia will insist that the maximum security and peace be provided for all citizens in the province, and will not accept the independence of that party of Serbia, Nikolic stressed.

The plan is to reach a national consensus on the issue of Kosovo and Metohija, so that the strategy be backed by all relevant actors, Nikolic said.

The Serbian president told his guest that to date, the problem in the dialogue with Pristina lay in the fact that Serbia’s representatives had not asked for anything, but just made concessions on Serbia’s “veto”.

Bilateral trade between Russia, Vietnam surging in 2012

MOSCOW, 31 July—

Trade volume between Russia and Vietnam would rise by 1 billion US dollars to 4 billion dollars in 2012, said Russian economist Elvira Nabiullina Wednesday. While addressing a Russia-Vietnam business conference in Moscow, Nabiullina, who was appointed as President Vladimir Putin’s economic advisor in May, said bilateral trade turnover between the two countries has risen three-fold since 2006.

The two-way trade between Russia and Vietnam was 1.5 billion dollars in the first five months of the year, said Nabiullina, who insisted both Russia and Vietnam still need to tap their potentials in trade.

According to an estimate given by the Russian Ministry for Economic Development, which was led by Nabiullina in the previous government, trade volume between Russia and Vietnam could reach 5 billion US dollars by 2015.

During Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang’s visit to Russia on July 26-30, the two countries agreed to further expand their economic and trade cooperation.

To achieve the goal, both Moscow and Hanoi have been considering a free-trade agreement between Vietnam and the tripartite Customs Union comprising Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, Nabiullina said.

Vietnamese President Sang said Sunday his country is interested in joining the Customs Union, which became fully operational on 1 July, 2010.—Xinhua
Pakistan to push for intelligence sharing at US talks

DUBAI, 31 July—Pakistan’s spy chief will call for an end to US military drone strikes in its tribal areas bordering Afghanistan and push for a sharing of technology and intelligence during a visit to Washington this week, the country’s interior minister said on Monday.

But indications are that Islamabad’s demands for a halt to drone attacks may receive a less-than-sympathetic hearing from top Obama administration officials.

Pakistani Lieutenant-General Zafeerul Islam’s visit to meet CIA director General David Petraeus will be his first since he became head of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in March and follows a thaw in relations between Pakistan and the United States.

Pakistan, however, continues to insist that US drone strikes—which it says are a breach of its territorial sovereignty—must end.

“We will push for no drones. If we (Pakistan and the US) are partners, we should sit together and have a common strategy. However, in this regional war there has been no common strategy against a common enemy,” Interior Minister Rehman Malik told a news conference in Dubai.

“I hope the visit of the director of the ISI will have good results. There is some dialogue going on as we speak,” he said.

The United States has given no sign it is willing to halt the drone strikes.

In fact, US officials signal there will be little, if any, change in US counter-terrorist activity in Pakistan and the region.

“Let’s not lose sight of the issue here. Al-Qaeda and its military allies are violating Pakistan’s sovereignty by using its territory to plot and carry out attacks,” a US official said.

“Aggressive counterterrorism operations are what’s frustrating al-Qaeda and pushing their leadership to the brink.”

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also reiterated US concerns about the extent of Pakistani efforts to confront militants—including the Haqqani network and the Pakistani Taliban, known as the TTP—in loosely-governed tribal areas along the country’s mountainous border with Afghanistan.

“Everyone wants the Pakistanis to accept more responsibility for taking on the Haqqanis. Al-Qaeda, TTP and the Pakistani Taliban are what’s frustrating al-Qaeda, and pushing their leadership to the brink,” an official said.

The official added that while there was “always room for dialogue on how to defeat terrorist entities in the region,” Pakistani authorities “need to offer some concrete ideas on how it does more against the violent Haqqanis, rather than point fingers.”

But Pakistan’s Malik told journalists: “Both countries have to find a midway point. This of course means intelligence-sharing. Also, give us the technology and we will use it.”

The US has used F-16 (fighter jets). Are we missing it?

Malik gave no further details, but Pakistan has long asked the United States to provide its military with its own drones for use in its tribal areas.

claimed against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Vermeil ovarian cancer test shows positive result

NEW YORK, 31 July—Diagnostics company Vermillion Inc said a clinical trial of its blood test for detecting ovarian cancer showed the test had a high chance of correctly identifying patients with cancer. Shares of the company jumped 21 percent to $2.17 on the news. The study, named OVA1, is a blood test for pre-surgical assessment of ovarian tumors for malignancy.

The study focused on a particularly challenging subgroup — women with early-stage cancer and pre-menopausal weight. “A key goal of the study was to investigate the challenging pre-menopausal setting, where benign cysts have a high incidence and early-stage cancer often goes undetected,” Chief Executive Guil Pagad said.

The test had a 94 percent sensitivity in the pre-menopausal group, and a 91 percent sensitivity in the early-stage ovarian cancer group.

The test had a 94 percent sensitivity in the pre-menopausal group, and a 91 percent sensitivity in the early-stage ovarian cancer group.

Workers spread wheat dry to a wholesale grain market in Chandigarh on 16 April, 2012.

Workers spread wheat dry to a wholesale grain market in Chandigarh on 16 April, 2012.

World Bank says rising food prices a concern, ready to help

WASHINGTON, 31 July—The World Bank on Monday said it stood ready to help governments respond to a broad-based run-up in grain prices that has again put the world’s poorest people at risk and could have lingering detrimental impacts for years.

“We cannot allow short-term food-price spikes to have long-term consequences for the world’s most poor and vulnerable,” World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim said in a statement.

“The World Bank and our partners are monitoring this situation closely so we can help govern­ments put policies in place to help people better cope,” said Kim, a public health expert facing his biggest challenge in two months on the job.

A severe drought in the US Midwest has cutPROJECTED PLANT-COVERED TERRAIN

A Pakistan national flag is mounted on the top of a fuel tanker, which was used to carry fuel for NATO forces in Afghanistan, as drivers sit nearby, at a compound in Karachi on 3 July, 2012. —Reuters

Former French prime minister Francois Fillon and a UMP party candidate for the parliamentary elections leaves a polling station in Paris on 10 June, 2012. —Reuters

Capri scooter spill leaves ex-French PM in Rome hospital

ROSE, 31 July—Former French Prime Minister Francois Fillon underwent treatment for a broken foot in a Rome hospital on Monday after being operated on by doctors Pierpaolo Mariani and Attilio Anniccoli, the same surgeon who treated Roma soccer star Francesco Totti and French footballer Patrick Vieira.

“He will be able to continue his political campaign, although all will depend on what the doctors say,” sources close to Fillon said. He would return to France in the next few days.

A hospital spokesman said Fillon was visited on Monday by Ferrari chairman Luca di Montezemolo, whose sportscar FanFillon had been holidaying when the accident occurred.—Reuters

A Pakistani national flag is mounted on the top of a fuel tanker, which was used to carry fuel for NATO forces in Afghanistan, as drivers sit nearby, at a compound in Karachi on 3 July, 2012. —Reuters
Mother delivers twins on two highways

**MEXICO City, 31 July—** Metaallica vocalist James Hetfield had warned things could get perilous at the start of the band’s fifth tour of Mexico, saying “We’re very focused on how dangerous this show is.”

The audience of more than 22,000 believed it too. Many of the fans were visibly terrified Saturday night as the band re-enacted its burn-down-the-stage performance from 1989’s “Cunning Stunts” video album.

At one point a technician flew across the stage like a human torch in a Mexico City show that featured explosions, pyrotechnics, laser lights and the odd giant coffin.

Hours earlier Hetfield said the tour would cover the band’s 31 years of performing.

Metallica has scheduled seven more shows at Mexico City’s Sports Palace before heading to dates in San Francisco and Edmonton, Canada. [Internet](http://www.rock-roll.com)

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**Happy Birthday Arnold Schwarzenegger**

New York, 31 July—

Arnold Schwarzenegger’s birthday has arrived on Monday and the former California governor is celebrating his 67th year.

The actor celebrated his milestone birthday with friends during a brief stay at Venice Beach, Calif and by enjoying a special lunch, according to TMZ. His friends sang him “Happy Birthday” at Cafe Roma, where Schwarzenegger frequently dines for lunch.

The Austrian native was born on March 30, 1947 and first gained fame as a bodybuilder. His sharp features and muscular build helped Schwarzenegger achieve his dream to become a star in the US. His breakthrough role into acting came in 1982’s “Conan the Barbarian.”

Schwarzenegge went on to star in the “Terminator” film series, and solidified himself into Hollywood royalty.

After marrying the niece of President John F. Kennedy, Maria Shriver, Schwarzenegger’s ambition did not decrease. In 2003, he was elected Governor of California, which he held until 2011. The actor’s successes did not arrive without personal struggles, though. After 25 years of marriage in 2011, it was revealed that Schwarzenegger fathered a son more than 14 years earlier with an employee in his and Shriver’s household, Mildred “Patty” Baena. [Internet](http://www.hollywoodreporter.com)

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**Metallica burns it up at start of Mexico tour**

The audience of more than 22,000 believed it too. Many of the fans were visibly terrified Saturday night as the band re-enacted its burn-down-the-stage performance from 1989’s “Cunning Stunts” video album.

At one point a technician flew across the stage like a human torch in a Mexico City show that featured explosions, pyrotechnics, laser lights and the odd giant coffin.

Hours earlier Hetfield said the tour would cover the band’s 31 years of performing.

Metallica has scheduled seven more shows at Mexico City’s Sports Palace before heading to dates in San Francisco and Edmonton, Canada. [Internet](http://www.rock-roll.com)

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**Stewart’s affair unlikely to harm ‘Twilight’ take**

This 29 May, 2012 file photo shows actress Kristen Stewart and director Rupert Sanders attending the “Snow White and the Huntsman” screening in Los Angeles.

A massive robot that can carry a seated human pilot — and is armed with twin gatling guns — has gone on show in Japan.

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Basketball: Sweet Dreams 20-years later as US rolls at the London Olympics on Monday, and were no less charitable.

While Sue Bird will never be mistaken for Larry Bird or Diana Taurasi with Michael Jordan, coach Geno Auriemma believes this could be the finest collection of talent the US women’s basketball team has ever put on the court. The Americans rolled to a 90-38 win to remain on top in the fifth straight gold medal.

The win by the American women against the overmatched African champions was likely to be forgotten before they returned to the athletes’ village.

But the Dream Team’s blowout of the Angolans to kick off the 1992 Barcelona Olympic basketball tournament continues to resonate two decades later.

For Angola women’s basketball coach Anila Moreira, a member of the 1992 squad that was thumped by the Dream Team, the win provided a vivid flashback and a rush of familiar emotions.

N Korea’s An takes gold in women’s -52kg

LONDON, 31 July—North Korea’s An Kae Ae won gold in the women’s -52kg category on Sunday after a day of surprises in which all the top seeds were knocked out.

The 32-year-old, ranked 25th in the world, went one better than the silver she won four years ago in Beijing by beating Cuba’s Yanel Berneyo Acosta with a yuko throw in the extra time golden score period.

After securing her win, she leapt in the air with joy, but kept her emotions in check during a later press conference.

“I am very happy to be able to win the gold medal. By winning the gold medal I was able to glorify my nation,” the very soft-spoken An told reporters. “By winning the gold medal I think I gave some happiness and joy to our leader Kim Jong-un.”

Earlier she put out world champion and tournament favourite Misato Nakamura of Japan, a bronze medal winner in Beijing, before comfortably seeing off Italy’s Rosalba Forciniti in the semi-finals.

Cuba’s Berneyo Acosta, 25, had also looked impressive on her way to the final, comfortably beating Belgium’s Isheleyen, 35, who won bronze in Athens in 2004, in the semi. —Reuters

Shemyakina wins gold in women’s epee

LONDON,31 July—Ukraine’s Yana Shemyakina captured an upset by winning gold in the women’s individual epee with a nail-biting 9-8 extra-time victory over defending champion Britta Heidemann of Germany at the London Olympics on Monday.

Twelfth seed Shemyakina, who was 18th at the Beijing Games four years ago, worked her way through the preliminaries here with two key victories over top-ranked Romanian fencers.

She beat fifth seed Ana Maria Branza and then knocked out another Romanian in fourth-ranked Simona Gherman.

Heidemann reached the gold-medal match after a controversial incident in her semi-final against Shin A Lam sparked a one-hour delay.

The South Korean refused to leave the piste, as was her right under the rules, until all protests by her federation failed. “The German must still have been thinking about the semi-final and wasn’t able to focus as much on my bout,” Shemyakina told reporters through a translator.

The controversy erupted over whether the clock was counting down correctly.

“I am not blaming the argument for my defeat but on the other hand it did cause me stress,” said Heidemann.

“Of course I would have loved to take my second gold medal but after five tough matches here I think I have won silver and not lost gold.”

—Reuters

China wins men’s 10m platform synchronized diving gold medal at London Games

LONDON, 31 July—China’s Li Xueying snatched an Olympic record of 108.79 points for the men’s 10m platform synchronized diving gold medal at the London 2012 Olympic Games here on Monday.

Cao Yuan (back)/Zhang Yanquan (front) of China compete during men’s synchronized 10m platform event at the London 2012 Olympic Games in London, Britain, on 30 July, 2012.

The Chinese divers collected a total of 485.78 points for the title, followed by Ivan Garcia Navarro and German Sanchez Sanchez of Mexico in the second place at 468.90 and the bronze medal went to American duo David Boudia and Nicholas McCrory at 463.47. —Xinhua

China wins 53kg gold

LONDON, 31 July—Kazakhstan’s Zulfya Chishinsho reacts after setting new clean and jerk World record and total Olympic record on the women’s 53kg Group A weightlifting competition at the London 2012 Olympic Games on 29 July, 2012. —Reuters

Kazakh Chishinsho wins women’s 53kg gold

LONDON, 31 July—Kazakhstan’s Zulfya Chishinsho won her country’s second gold medal of the London Olympics with a world record in the women’s 53 kilogram weightlifting on Sunday.

Chishinsho set a world record for the clean and jerk—the second of two styles of lift—at 131 kg which, when added to her 95 kg in the snatch, gave her a winning total of 226 kg.

That was enough to see off stiff competition from Taiwan’s Hsu Shu-Ching who lifted total of 219kg, while the Armenian woman from Matina Iovu of Moldova who tied with Hsu on 219kg but was placed third because her bodyweight was higher.

Earlier, China’s hopes of continuing their dominance in the women’s weightlifting events were dashed when 17-year-old Liu Shuang crashed out of the 53 kg class group B session without completing a single lift. —Xinhua

China wins 58kg weightlifting Olympic gold

LONDON, 31 July—China’s Li Xueying poses for pictures during the victory ceremony of women’s weightlifting 58kg competition, at London 2012 Olympic Games in London, Britain, on 30 July, 2012. Li Xueying of China won gold medal with a new Olympic record of 240kg. —Xinhua

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China’s Li Xueying wins women’s 58kg weightlifting Olympic gold

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Cao Yuan (back)/Zhang Yanquan (front) of China compete during men’s synchronized 10m platform event at the London 2012 Olympic Games in London, Britain, on 30 July, 2012. The Chinese divers claimed the title of this event with 485.78. —Xinhua

China extends dominance at gymnastics men’s team

LONDON, 31 July—Chinese gymnasts cleared doubts that followed their sixth-place finish in the preliminary, winning the Olympic men’s team gold in a dominant fashion on Monday.

The Chinese pulled off a nearly perfect performance to garner 275.907 points, beating Japan by 4.045 points.

Japan, initially placed in fourth place, picked the silver medal after winning an appeal against the pommel horse score on Kohei Uchimura. Host gymnasts dropped from second to third for bronze, Britain’s joint team gymnastics medal for a century.

China made a series of mistakes in the qualifying, but did nothing wrong in the final, which drew media suspicions that the defending champions had hidden their strength.

China ranked sixth in the qualifying and Japan fifth, making the two arch rivals in the same rotation in the final. Japan, silver medalists in Beijing, started their challenge from rings, which earned 0.8 points ahead of China. In the second rotation of vault, China gained their lead for all as all three gymnasts completed the discipline before Japan.

Japan’s Koji Yamamuro banged on his knees and arms on his landing and had to be carried off by team medical staff. China overtook Japan by 1.542 points after the vault rotation and never looked back.

—Xinhua

China wins 53kg gold

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Earlier, China’s hopes of continuing their dominance in the women’s weightlifting events were dashed when 17-year-old Liu Shuang crashed out of the 53 kg class group B session without completing a single lift. —Xinhua

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Earlier, China’s hopes of continuing their dominance in the women’s weightlifting events were dashed when 17-year-old Liu Shuang crashed out of the 53 kg class group B session without completing a single lift. —Xinhua
Narang wins India’s first medal at 2012 Olympics

LONDON, 31 July—Gagan Narang won the bronze medal for India in the 10-m air rifle event at the London Olympics 2012 with Romania’s Alin George Moldoveanu winning gold and Italy’s Niccolò Campriani winning silver.

Ace marksman Gagan Narang on Monday opened India’s account in the London Olympic Games by clinching the bronze medal in the men’s 10m air rifle event here.

Narang shot 10.3 in a gripping ten-shot finals for an aggregate of 701.1 after scoring 598 in the qualifying round in which also he stood third. The gold was won by Romania’s Moldoveanu with 702.1 and the silver by Italy’s Campriani with 701.5 at the Royal Artillery Barracks.

After a good start when he shot 10.7, Narang was off target with his second shot that fetched him 9.7. But he gathered his wits and steadied his aim to collect 10.6 10.7 10.4 and 10.6 in the following four shots to win the medal after two seconds.

The 16-year-old was in the “B” group with lower-ranked competitors. He got the bronze as he once again showed his consistency and remained on course for bagging another medal.

However, he slipped a bit and had to fight for the bronze medal with China’s Wang Tao who finished fourth with 700.4.

Cruising into the semi-finals

Ye blazes into semi-finals of 200 meters medley

LONDON, 31 July—China’s Ye Shiwen showed that her world record display in the women’s 400 meters medley was no flash in the pan when she clocked the fastest time in the heats for the 200 metres event on Monday morning.

The 16-year-old was ever second and a half ahead of the second fastest qualifier as she once again showed her power in the breaststroke and freestyle. Ye finished ahead of Zimbabwe’s Kirsty Coventry and American swimmer Caitlin Leverenz while another Chinese swimmer Li Juxiang also got through to the last 16.

“I am very satisfied and a little bit surprised by my result,” commented Ye after her race. Elsewhere, Michael Phelps took a small step towards convincing doubters that he is still capable of winning medals in the London Olympics, when he cruised into the semi-finals of the men’s 200 meters butterfly on Monday morning.

The American followed his excellent swim in the second leg of the men’s 4 x 100 meters freestyle relay final on Sunday by a comfortable swim to qualify for the semi-finals with the fifth fastest time.

Austrian Dinko Juric qualified with the fastest time, while two Chinese swimmers Wu Peng and Chen Yin, who both swam in the same heat, both made it through to the last 16.

Chen will be optimistic of taking a medal after finishing fourth in the World Championships in Shanghai last year, while Juric will hope to improve on his World Championship display, after clocking the fastest time in the heats before failing to get near the medal positions.

North Korean weightlifter Kim Un Guk today celebrated his new world record in total of the men’s 62kg weightlifting competition at the London 2012 Olympic Games July 30, 2012 — Reuters

Weightlifting: North Korea claim more gold

LONDON, 31 July—North Korea maintained their 100 percent men’s weightlifting record at the London Games thanks to a sensational performance by Kim Un Guk who claimed a gold medal and a world record in the men’s 62kg class.

Despite a defeat Chinese women’s lifter Li Xueying in the 58kg class the country’s misjudged, reapportioned boxing.

North Korean weightlifter Kim Un Guk celebrates his new world record in total of the men’s 62kg weightlifting competition at the London 2012 Olympic Games July 30, 2012 — Reuters

North Korean’s Om Yun Chol celebrates his new world record in total of the men’s 62kg weightlifting competition at the London 2012 Olympic Games July 30, 2012 — Reuters

North Korea’s Om Yun Chol.
**Meeting on Hajj Pilgrimage held**

**YANGON, 31 July—**A meeting on Hajj Pilgrimage to Mecca of Saudi Arabia (2012) was held at the Ministry of Religious (branch office) on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, the Director-General of Religious Affairs Department, the deputy director-general and officials, responsible persons of Islam Religious Affairs Organizations, patron and members of Hajj Supervising Committee and responsible persons of Hajj Pilgrimage Companies.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said that last year people who wished to go Haj pilgrimage faced financial losses due to malpractices. Any mistake if found should be pointed out sincerely.

Officials should take necessary measures to settle the problem, he said. He then fulfilled the requirements.

**London Olympic Medal Tally**

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**K 400,000 per 100 baskets of paddy purchased in Dekkhinathiri Tsp**

**Gov’t adopts plans for timber certification, invites private investment in establishment of forest plantations**

**Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (31-7-2012)**

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