Our Three Main National Causes
* Non-disintegration of the Union
* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity
* Perpetuation of Sovereignty

No country forms commission prior to enforcement of a relevant legislation: Union Minister

Pyithu Hluttaw regular session continues for 19th day

NAV Pyi Taw, 1 Aug—The Pyithu Hluttaw regular session continued for the 19th day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this morning, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 369 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

At today’s session, three questions were raised, one proposal discussed, one proposal submitted and one notification given.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein answered two questions on pension and stamp duty raised by 2 Hluttaw representatives.

Regarding the question raised by U Soe Soe of Htigyaing Constituency on "whether officials of National Intelligence Bureau and civil service assigned concurrently to the bureau who had been granted amnesty are qualified for pensions and rewards", the deputy minister answered that bonuses not exceeding the two third of pensions and rewards will be granted under Section 353 of Civil Service Rules to civil servants if he/she is dismissed. It requires agreement of Budget Department to be sought through the ministry concerned and 10-year services.

Under directive (6/90) of Defence Council, if a Defence Service personnel is removed from the service permanent due to immorality, debt problem, incompetence, and unprofessional conduct, the person is not allowed to enjoy any pension or reward. But, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, at his own will, could allow enjoying the gratuity since the date the authority confirmed the gratuity not exceeding two third of pensions and rewards originally entitled to. Though, it could not be assumed as the right.

The former civil service dismissed or removed from the post can apply for gratuity at respective departmental head. If the respective ministries and organizations send the dossier to the Ministry of Finance and Revenue because they decided to grant the gratuity, the ministry will assess it in (See page 8)

Anti-bribery bill approved

Amyotha Hluttaw regular session continues for 19th day

NAV Pyi Taw, 1 Aug—Amyotha Hluttaw regular session continued for the 19th day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here today, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 369 MPs.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj Gen Zaw Win replied to questions of four MPs.

Regarding the question of Dr Htay Win of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (5) about whether graveling of Ingapu-Nyaungkyo road section in Ingapu Township can be completed at the end of the open season of this year, the deputy minister replied that three miles of gravel road was constructed and seven miles and two furlongs long gravel road was repaired in 2011-2012 fiscal year with the fund of the Border Affairs Ministry. The 10 miles and two furlongs long section on Ingapu-Nyaungkyo road has been gravelled, remaining five miles and two furlongs long earthen section to be gravelled with an estimated cost of 288.75 million kyats.

It is projected to gravel three miles long section in 2013-2014 fiscal year and two miles and two furlongs long section in 2014-2015 fiscal year with rural development fund of the Ministry of Border Affairs.

Regarding the question of U Aung Than of Magway Region Constituency No (10) about whether there is plan (See page 8)
New energy policy

When we build a hydropower dam it produces electricity at reasonable price when compared with fossil-fuel-used plants and releases nothing harmful into the air, water or ground. It doesn’t burn anything, but just uses the gravitational force of falling or flowing water from the reservoir it holds to turn the turbines for electricity generation.

Generally, hydropower is an environment-friendly source of energy as well as a renewable energy, and the plants that produce such energy last longer; some even operate for 100 years. Frankly speaking, we cannot produce enough power even for domestic use yet, but we are doing our best to address this issue building power plants all around the country and many more are in planning stage or on the drawing board.

As we are water-resource rich, we rely mostly on hydropower. But it also has its drawbacks such as low production in the summer because of the fall of water levels in the dams, inundation of large areas of land especially in building mega dams followed by the resettlement programmes for people and wildlife and disruption of surrounding aquatic ecosystems both upstream and downstream the plant.

The most hazardous side effect we must consider is the failure risks. As mammoth hydropower dams hold back large volumes of water, any failure owing to below-standard quality, natural disasters or sabotage can be disastrous to settlements and infrastructure all along the downstream. Dam failures have been some of the largest man-made disasters in history.

Anyhow, our planners have in mind the methods of coping with many other disadvantages apart from the abovementioned ones in extending hydropower plants the core part of our new energy policy placing coal, gas and other resources as the source of power for the based load, and dammed-hydro facilities as peak load and reserve power.

Now our reform-minded government is inviting investments from home and abroad for swift and comprehensive implementation of the policy which does not leave behind ethnic concerns, natural environment, public-centred system and many other important factors.

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 2 August, 2012

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

The Full Moon of Waso, the Dhammaçakka Pavattana Day falls on 2 August, 2012. The Full Moon Day of Waso associate with the four great noble and significant events related to the precious life of the Omniscient Gotama Buddha. On that holy day, the Buddha-to-be (the Gotama Buddha) took pregnancy in the womb of Queen Maya, wife of His Majesty King Siddhodana of Kapilavatthu Kingdom, and also on that holy day at the age of 29, the Buddha-to-be renounced the world, and after having full attainment of the Buddhahood, the Gotama Buddha preached. His first great sermon, Dhammaçakka Pavattana Sutta to His five disciples, in which He explained the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path, on the Full Moon Day of Waso. All five disciples received ordination and formed the first nucleus of the holy brotherhood of disciples known as the Sangha.

And also, on the Full Moon Day of Waso, the Omniscient Buddha performed the great miracle called the Twin Miracle. The reason for this was to dispel the wrong views of heretics and to prove that He possessed the attributes of a Buddha. It is the miracle of water and fire.

The Dhammaçakka Pavattana Sutta Day

Over 2556 years ago, the unrivalled Omniscient Buddha preached His first great sermon, the Dhammaçakka Pavattana Sutta to His five disciples (Kondahita and other four) in the Deer Park, now known as Saranath, India, on the Full Moon Day of Waso. In commemoration of this significant and holy event associated with the precious life of the Buddha, the Buddhist peoples across the Buddhist world celebrate the Dhammaçakka Pavattana Sutta Day on this Fullmoon Day of Waso by observing precepts delivered by members of the Sangha and respective fully listening to the Sangha.

Cash and kind donated for locals of Rakhine State

YANGON, 1 Aug — As the local people of Rakhine State who lost property in various situations, cash and kind were donated today at the hall of Fire Services Department (HeadOffice) in Mayangon Township.

At the ceremony, Col San Lin (Rtd) and family of Mayangon donated 100,000 in memory of late father U Saw Lin, mother Daw Kyi May and siblings, U Kyi Soe-Daw Than Sein of Mingalanadon Township K. 20,000, U Nyein Maung-Daw Khin Kyi and family K 100,000 and two bales of clothes, U Paw Chit-Daw Thaung Thaung Nu and family K 50,000, Ma Khet Khet Aung K. 20,000 and one bale of clothes, Major Thein Han (Rtd) of Hintha Condo three coats, and members of Shan State (North) Fire Brigade K 100,000.

Director-General U Tin Moe of Fire Services Department and officials accepted the donations.

So far, the donations to the locals of the Rakhine State amounted to K 312,627,823.—MNA

Made in Thailand Festival from 1 to 12 Aug

Opening Ceremony of Made in Thailand Festival of Gamon Pwint (Kaba Aye) in progress.—MNA

YANGON, 1 Aug — The Made in Thailand Festival jointly organized by Gamone Pwint Co Ltd and Department of International Trade Promotion of Thailand will come to view from 1 to 12 August at Gamon Pwint (Kaba Aye) Shopping Mall, here.

The festival will be the largest concentration of Thai-made products here where customers can shop men’s and women’s wears, children’s wears, slippers, cosmetics, consumer electronics, foodstuffs and plastic ware of well-known brands of Thailand like Vanson, Oasis, Kiddo, Valentino, Luigi Batani, Hazzard, Giffoni, No-body, Toffy, Sweet, Fido Dito, Lily, Camilla, C’Care, Lolane, Now How, Ferrize, Freedow, Aerosoft, Ragazzo, Patti, enjoying special discounts and gifts.

Branded men’s wears like Luigi Batani, Valentino Rudy, Pierre Cardin will be on sale under buy one, get one system. Lucky draw programmes are waiting for customers who buy more than K 30,000 worth of items within a day.

Flood Bulletin

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Aug — According to the 12:30 hr M.S.T observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madaku 1187 cm has exceeded by 117 cm from 4 ft above its danger level. It remain above its
Panetta: no Iran attack plans to be discussed with Israel

Cairo, 1 Aug—US Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta denied media reports on Tuesday that he would discuss potential attack plans against Iran during a brief visit to Israel.

Speaking at a press conference in Cairo shortly before departing for Israel, Panetta said he would be talking about “various contingencies”, but said specific military plans would not be put forward.

“I think it’s the wrong characterization to say we are going to be discussing potential attack plans. What we are discussing are various contingencies and how we would respond,” he said.

Asked whether these included military options, he said: “We obviously continue to work on a number of options in that area, but the discussions that I hope to have with Israel are going to be more about what is the threat that we’re confronting and to try to share both information and intelligence on that.”

Western powers believe Iran is seeking the technology to build a nuclear weapon and Israel has repeatedly hinted it might use force to stop it.

The United States has said it is determined to prevent Iran from getting the bomb, but has called on Israel to use more force to halt its arch foe’s atomic programme. Tehran says its nuclear work is for peaceful purposes.

The US and its European allies are committed to ensuring that Iran does not develop a nuclear weapon and to that extent we continue to work together in the effort to ensure that Iran does not reach that point of developing a nuclear weapon,” Panetta said.

Top selling Israeli daily Yedioth Ahronoth said on Tuesday that Panetta intended to show Israeli leaders the plans being drawn up by the Pentagon to stop Iran if diplomacy and sanctions failed to persuade Tehran to halt its nuclear programme.—Reuters

Bombing attack hits military intelligence building in Benghazi

Tripoli, 1 Aug—A bombing attack damaged the military intelligence building in Libya’s second-largest city, early Wednesday morning, a security official told Xinhua.

There were no casualties in the attack, but the surface of the two-storey structure was seriously damaged in the explosion, according to Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Hydar, the official in charge of the security of the city.

Several nearby buildings were also affected.

The attackers’ identities remained unknown, he said.

There has been a wave of attacks against security installations in Benghazi since the start of Ramadan on 20 July, and many of which were targeted at officials of the former Qaddafi regime, he added.

On Monday, security officials defused a time-bomb placed in a local upscale hotel.

The overall security situation was deteriorating in Libya with increasing incidents of abduction, robbery and other forms of violence, in which weapons in the hands of civilians has become the top security challenge.

Xinhua

Iraqi security personnel inspect the site of a car bomb attack in central Baghdad, on 31 July, 2012.—Reuters

Baghdad bombs kill 19, suicide attack on police foiled

Baghdad, 1 Aug—Twin car bombs hit Baghdad on Tuesday, killing at least 19 people, and security forces foiled a separates attack on a police station by two suicide bombers, who hoped to blackmail the authorities into releasing al-Qaeda prisoners.

In a day of violence that underscored the seriousness of Iraq’s struggle with insurgents, clouds of dark smoke rose above the centre of the capital where the car bombs exploded minutes apart, leaving the dead and wounded lying in the street or slumped inside a damaged minibus, witnesses and police said.

As security forces began to help the victims, at least two suicide bombers dressed as police officers got into an area police station, where al-Qaeda prisoners were being held, and tried to free them, two security sources said.

It was unclear how many people had been killed or wounded in the assault, but both bombers had been killed, one security official said.

“Their aim was to take hostages in order to release major al-Qaeda prisoners,” one senior security source said. “Most officers went to the floor above them to fight them, which is why they failed.”

The attack coincides with a surge in violence in Iraq and comes as bloodshed in neighbouring Syria is escalating.

Iraqi officials have warned that some Sunni Muslim insurgents are heading to Syria and al-Qaeda’s local Iraqi affiliate has called on its fighters to intensify their campaign.

Al-Qaeda’s Iraq wing, Islamic State of Iraq, was badly weakened by the loss of top commanders in the war against US troops, but the insurgents remain active and have carried out at least one major assault a month since the US withdrawal.

However, the outfit has yet to comment.—Xinhua

Blasting bombs, the frigate “Yantu” of the 11th Chinese naval escort flotilla arrives at Constanta port, about 220 km East of Bucharest, capital of Romania, on 31 July, 2012. The Chinese frigate began a five-day goodwill visit to Romania from Tuesday.—Xinhua

Chinese mainland, Taiwan to hold new round negotiation

Beijing, 1 Aug—Chief negotiators from the Chinese mainland and Taiwan for cross-strait relations will hold their 8th round of talks on 9 August in Taipei.

Chen Yunlin, president of the mainland-based Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS), and Chiang Pin-kung, chairman of the Taiwan-based Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF), are expected to discuss and endorse an investment protection agreement.

The two sides are also expected to discuss and sign an agreement on customs cooperation, according to a press release issued Wednesday by the Taiwan Work Office of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

The release said the two agreements are important topics in the follow-up discussions of the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, which was signed between the two organizations in 2010.

The investment protection agreement will provide a system to promote and protect two-way investment of the two sides and deepen cooperation. It will provide a better investment protection and rights-protection to Taiwanese businesses conducting business on the mainland, and will be conducive to building a good environment for mainland businesses to invest in Taiwan.

The agreement on customs cooperation aims to strengthen cooperation in taxation, monitoring, anti-smuggling, statistics and other fields.

Negotiators from the Chinese mainland and Taiwan have been discussing issues of mutual interest in the two sides’ customs clearance and “effective supervision” of cargo.—Xinhua

The fake bomb was inadvertently left on the car and triggered a security alert when it tried to go through a routine check, Oslo police said in a statement.

Police, who had been criticised for reacting too slowly when gunman Anders Behring Breivik detonated a bomb in July last year before going on a killing rampage, cordoned off an area 500 metres (550 yards) around the embassy.

They also evacuated buildings, shut underground rail lines and brought in heavily armed special forces.

“Our bomb squad removed the object and found that it was a practice bomb which was previously used for an internal exercise at the embassy,” the police statement said. The US Embassy declined to comment.

The embassy is planning to relocate due to security reasons to the outskirts of Oslo from its current location adjacent to the royal palace and near the foreign ministry.—Reuters

Downtown Oslo evacuated after fake bomb triggers alert

Oslo, 1 Aug—A wide section of the Norwegian capital’s downtown area was evacuated on Tuesday and special forces were deployed after a suspected bomb—later found to be a training device—was found attached to a US Embassy vehicle.

Norwegian police blocked off the area around a castle after a suspicious object is found outside of the US embassy in Oslo on 31 July, 2012.—Reuters

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IDC: Samsung extends lead in smartphones

SAN FRANCISCO, 1 Aug—Apple’s A8/A9 chips in the iPhone—constantly referred to as the “iPhone 5” for lack of a better name—is really starting to take shape now that production is ramping up. A fully assembled next-generation iPhone case was shown off in leaked photos over the weekend, and a subsequent report from Morecites unnamed sources in placing the debut of any new Apple iPhone release rumored for 21 September; Apple to unveil iPhone 5, iPad mini on 12 September; China’s Long-March-5 carrier rocket engine undergoes testing

SAN FRANCISCO, 1 Aug—Apple released its iPhone 5s and 5c smartphones on Friday, as expected, and just in time for the start of the holiday season. The new devices feature an updated design and improved camera capabilities. The iPhone 5s and 5c are available in a variety of colors, including white and black, and come with the latest version of iOS 8.

New beetle species found in remote arizona cave

New Mexico, 1 Aug—A new species of beetle has been discovered in a remote cave in Arizona, adding to the country's biodiversity. The beetle, Eudoxus wynnei, was named after its discoverer, Northern Arizona University researcher Jim Wynne.

Since 2005, Wynne and his colleagues have identified three new genera (the plural of genus, the taxonomic classification of above species) and more than 20 new species of cave-dwelling arthropods in caves in the Grand Canyon region, according to a statement from Northern Arizona University.

Wynne also discovered five new species from Rapa Nui National Park on Easter Island and four new species at El Malpais National Monument in western New Mexico.

The new species of beetle occurs only in northwestern Arizona and southwestern Utah.

China's Long-March-5 carrier rocket engine undergoes testing

Beijing, 1 Aug—China on Sunday successfully conducted tests on its new 120-tonne-thrust liquid oxygen (LOX) and kerosene engine for its new generation carrier rocket, the Long-March-5, according to the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC).

The test was conducted in Xi’an, capital city of northwest China’s Shaanxi province, according to the CASC’s sixth research institute.

The LOX/kerosene engine underwent a test of a high rotational speed of nearly 20,000 revolutions per minute and a high temperature test of 3,000 degrees Celcius that lasted for 200 seconds, the China Central Television reported.

The high-performance engine, which is the first kind of high-pressure staged combustion cycle engine for which China has proprietary intellectual property rights, is non-toxic, pollution-free and highly reliable, according to the report.

The engine is much more powerful than the 75-tonne-thrust engines of the launch vehicles used in the already-launched Shenzhou spacecraft, the institute said.

It also makes China the second country in the world, after Russia, to grasp the core technologies for an LOX/kerosene high-pressure staged combustion cycle rocket engine.

The large-thrust carrier rocket under development, the Long-March-5, is hoped to make its maiden voyage in 2014. Ahead of that, several limit-determining tests will be conducted to ensure the engine’s stability and reliability, according to the statement.

The newly discovered beetle, Eudoxus wynnei, found in a northern Arizona cave.
Novartis drug Afinito gets EU nod for breast cancer

ZURICH, 1 Aug—Novartis drug Afinito, expected to become a major seller for the Swiss drugmaker, was approved by European regulators to treat women with a certain type of breast cancer, the company said on Monday.

The drug is the first in a class known as mTOR inhibitors to be approved for post-menopausal women with advanced hormone-receptor positive, HER2-negative breast cancer. American health regulators also backed the drug as a breast cancer treatment.

Afinito, also known as everolimus, is designed to be given in combination with another drug, Aromasin, to treat women whose cancer has recurred or progressed after treatment with two other therapies. Aromasin is made by Pfizer Inc.

Novartis’s drug is already approved to treat patients with four other types of cancer, including kidney and a rare type of pancreatic cancer.

“We expect Afinito to comfortably gain blockbuster status by 2013 and to be an essential pillar for future revenue growth in pharmaceuticals,” Kepler Capital Markets analyst Martin Vogeltiz said. He forecasts $2.2 billion in peak sales of the drug by 2017. Shares in Novartis rose slightly in early trading. At 0815 GMT, the stock was 0.4 percent higher at 57.10 francs, lagging an 0.8 percent rise in the European healthcare sector.—Reuters

Japan’s factory output drops 0.1 pct in June

TOKYO, 1 Aug—Japan’s industrial output was down 0.1 percent in June from the previous month, marking the third consecutive month of contraction, government report said Monday.

The index of output at factories and mines stood at 92.1 against the base of 100. The seasonally adjusted output reading followed a 3.4 percent decline in May.—Reuters

HSBC reports 11-pct profit rise in first half of 2012

LONDON, 1 Aug—HSBC said on Monday that its pre-tax profit was 12.7 billion US dollars for the first half of the year, up by 11 percent on year.

The bank giant said in its interim results that its underlying profit before tax dropped 3 percent to 10.6 billion dollars, and the revenues went up 4 percent, with particular increases in faster-growing regions of Hong Kong, rest of Asia-Pacific and Latin America.

The bank also announced that it had put aside 2 billion dollars to cover potential mis-selling claims and money-laundering fines.

The London-based lender said it continued to cooperate with authorities after US lawmakers last month accused it of failing to apply anti-laundering rules.

HSBC has been thrown into crisis when a U.S. Senate report found that it had allowed its affiliates in countries such as Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh to move billions of dollars in suspect funds into the United States without adequate controls.

Lawmakers said money laundered through HSBC-linked accounts benefited Mexican drug lords and terrorist networks, and skirted US sanctions on Iran.

HSBC apologised for the crisis which had already sparked the resignation of its head of compliance David Bagley.

“We apologise for our past mistakes in relation to anti-money laundering controls and it is a priority for senior management to build on steps already taken to manage risk and ensure compliance more effectively,” Chief Executive Stuart Gulliver said.

“It is not possible at this time for HSBC to know the terms on which a resolution of the ongoing investigations could be achieved or the form or timing of any such resolution,” the bank said.

“There is a high degree of uncertainty in making this estimate and it is possible that the amounts when finally determined could be higher, possibly significantly higher,” it said.

BMW weathers weak Europe with near-record Q2

FRANKFURT, 1 Aug—Germany’s BMW weathered off a weak European car market in the second-quarter operating profit ever, highlighting the growing divide between prospering export-oriented premium auto makers and their ailing mass market peers.

Earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) fell 19 percent from its record level last year to 2.27 billion euros in the second quarter, but still exceeded a consensus forecast of 1.9 billion euros in a Reuters poll.

“They will aim to exceed our previous year’s sales volume and pretax earnings in 2012,” said Chief Executive Norbert Reithoffer in a statement on Wednesday.

The world’s largest premium carmaker kept the EBIT margin at its core autos business stable from the first quarter, at 11.6 percent, weathering what it called “intense market competition” which usually refers to outsourcing incentive levels.

BMW is expected to have benefited from the euro’s weakening against other currencies, being the German luxury carmaker with the biggest exposure to exchange rate fluctuations.

“With BMW having around 11.4 billion euros in 2012 net transaction exposure to US dollar/renminbi on our books, we could offer a solid tailwind for 2012-13 in our view,” wrote S&P Equity Research analyst Marnie Cohen before publication of BMW’s results, reaffirming its “strong” buy rating and 83 euro price target.

Peers Daimler’s Mercedes-Benz cars business had a 317 million euro gain related to foreign exchange effects in the first half — boosting its quarterly margin by 1.6 percentage points — and Volkswagen’s Audi saw its first-half results lifted by 300- 400 million euros.—Reuters

Eurozone economic confidence declines 2 points in July

BRUSSELS, 1 Aug—The eurozone’s economic confidence declined by 2 points to 87.9 in July, mainly as a result of a loss of confidence in the industrial sector and among consumers, the European Commission said Monday.

The economic confidence in the form of the Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI) continued last month’s recovery in Britain and Italy, by 1.7 points and 1.3 points respectively, while the Netherlands saw its ESI rise slightly by 0.6 point, the Commission’s data showed.

However, the ESI recorded sharper falls in Germany, France and Spain, by 3.7 points, 2.3 points and 1.4 points respectively, according to the Commission.

Continuing the downward trend reported since March, confidence in industry fell 2.2 points in July, attributable to “decreasing production expectations, as well as a more negative assessment of the current level of overall order books and increasing stocks of finished products.”

In the single currency area, the confidence in the services and retail trade sectors also declined in July, by 1.1 points and 0.6 point, the figures showed.

Consumer confidence, another part of the ESI, also weakened in the euro area by 1.7 points, amid “higher unemployment fears, as well as worsened expectations about the future general economic situation and savings,” the Commission said.

Health Tip: Help prevent malnutrition in seniors

Seniors are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition, so caretakers must ensure that the elderly get enough carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins and minerals.

The American Academy of Family Physicians offers this advice:

* Provide plenty of healthy foods and snacks.
* Flavour foods with fresh herbs and spices, avoiding salt.
* Offer prepackaged supplements, such as nutrition shakes.
* Promote daily exercise, even a little bit, to help stimulate appetite and promote strong bones and muscles.
* Plan social activities centring around meals and exercise.

Internet
**Typhoon, severe tropical storm approach Japan**

**Tokyo, 1 Aug—** A strong typhoon and a severe tropical storm are headed toward southern Japan.

The Meteorological Agency says that as of 9:00 am on Wednesday, typhoon Saola was about 200 kilometres south-southwest of Ishigaki Island in the southernmost prefecture of Okinawa.

The typhoon has an atmospheric pressure of 965 hectopascals and is packing winds of up to 126 kilometres per hour. It is slowly heading north-northwest.

The agency warns that stormy weather may continue for quite some time in the southwestern islands.

The agency also says severe tropical storm Dumrey was about 100 kilometres east-southeast of Tanegashima Island in Kagoshima Prefecture, as of 11:00 am on Wednesday. The storm has an atmospheric pressure of 975 hectopascals and winds of up to 108 kilometres per hour. It appears to be moving west-northwest at 35 kilometres per hour. The agency warns the storm may approach the southern Kyushu region later on Wednesday.
The monsoon has arrived and is making its full round in the country. As a result, farmers and farmers’ life in monsoon, for he had been a layman before he became Buddha. So he forbade his monks to go out and roam about for fear of disturbing in adversity the daily activities of the farmers in the fields and stepping upon insects and little animals frolicking in the rain. By prescribing a period of rain retreat during which monks are to stay in their respective monasteries and devote themselves to learning and practicing of his teachings, monks become learned in Tipikas and well trained in Vinaya [monks’ Discipline].

The prescribed period of rain retreat is called “Wa” meaning monasteries each by turn recites the following formulas of the abbot or the shrine room are fittingly decorated for the occasion assembly hall with a shrine room of Buddha images. The hall large extent of arable land is busy with wet cultivation. Crops in the country. An agricultural country like Myanmar with a large extent of arable land is busy with wet cultivation. Crops of which paddy is the staple grain are grown widely. The three months July, August and September of rainy season called “Waṭhan” in Pali is the busiest for Myanmar people engaged in activities in rain, repairing houses, dykes, reservoirs, sowing, planting in the fields and farms, hardly any leisure to enjoy. Lord Buddha knew very much of their life in monsoon, for he had been a layman before he became Buddha.

Thus, it was on the fullmoon day of Waso, Monday that Prince Siddharta at the age of 29, after seeing four omens, renounced his mundane life and left his palace for forest to become a monk. In the Pariyatti monasteries teaching and learning of Tipitakas, literature are intensively carried out by teacher and student monks, preparing for religious examinations annually held in Nayon (June). At the meditation monasteries, instructor monks teach pupils correct ways of meditation [Sanathana (concentration of mind)] and Vipassana (Insight meditation). Material needs of teacher and student monks are donated by lay devotees and public.

The wisdom of ordination is as follows:-

The evidence of ordination is as follows:-

To Five Disciples in the Deer Park.

To Five Disciples in the Deer Park.

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No country forms commission prior to... (from page 1)

correspondence with existing laws and rules. Regarding the question raised by U Myint Soe of Pabedan Constituency on nationwide exemption for loan deals, the deputy minister answered that stamp duties are currently exempted in Yangon, Mawlamyine, Pathein, Sittway and Mandalay under Transfer of Property Act. As the law is not the one enforced by the Internal Revenue Department, the request was submitted to the Union government for the nationwide exemption coverage. The bill amending the Transfer of Property Act was run in the newspapers. Once the bill is enacted, the coverage of the tax duty exemption will extend over the whole country. U Aung San of Pabedan Constituency raised a question on adding Myanmar traditional sports in XXVII SEA Games and holding college education/university and region/state sports games this academic year. Regarding the question, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu answered that if a traditional sport is to be added to the Games, the participants country must have the respective sports federation, rules of the game must be drafted, there will be complete referees, judges and coaches, five participating countries must agree with four at least participating in the event. The country is now in discussion for adding traditional martial arts and cane balls. The inter-school sports games will be held this academic year. Inter-region/state, inter-ministry sports games are held according to the sports calendar. Urgent, short-term and long-term plans are being implemented for development of Myanmar’s sports standards. Young athletes must be encouraged to uplift the dignity of the country. U Myint Thein of Magway Constituency and U Khin Maung Yi of Ahlone Constituency discussed the proposal submitted by U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency on 11 July urging the Union government to form an investigation commission regarding recent strikes in factories in Yangon not to harm the foreign investments. They seconded the proposal saying that the formation of the commission will contribute to settlement of labour disputes for the long run. U Aung Thein Lin of South Okkalapa Constituency discussed that there are necessities to thoroughly enforcing new labour laws and the formation of the commission is not needed. Union Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi discussed that once employers federations, national employers federation, 127 basic employees organizations, 11 employers organizations have been formed as the formation of labour organizations was allowed since 1 March, 2012. The formation of independent labour organizations will sow seeds of confidence between workers and employers, contributing to freedom of association and freedom of expression.

Anti-bribery bill ... (from page 1)

to upgrade Pakhannya-Pakhanhke inter-village road in Yaseyo Township to gravel facility and to repair two bridges on the road, the deputy minister replied that the inter-village road is about three miles and three furlongs long hard-surface gravel road and it is in serviceable condition, it was funded. The township development affairs committee concerned would be asked to handle maintenance works yearly. The estimated costs for repairing the wooden bridge No. 1 measuring 140x15x24 ft is 36.4 million kyats and the wooden bridge No. 2 measuring 50x15x24 ft is 11 million kyats. The budget for repairing the No.2 bridge has been set in the 2013-2014 fiscal year rural development fund of Yaseyo Township development affairs committee and the budget for repairing the No.1 bridge would be set in 2012-2013 fiscal year supplementary fund of the Ministry of Border Affairs. Regarding the question of U Htay Maung of Magway Region Constituency No (12) about If the Border Affairs Ministry has a plan to construct 17 miles long gravel road from Kanpetele Village of Kokkohala Village-tract, Wundwin Township, Meiktila District to Thapan Village of Thapan Village-tract, the deputy minister replied that E-h-a-n-P-i-n-t-a-l-e-Kokkohala road in Wundwin Township was 16 miles and three furlongs long road constructed around 1975. The road is still raw gravelled one in need of major repair. Four furlongs long section on Pintale-Kokkohala road was repaired in 2011-2012 fiscal year with the fund of Wundwin Township development affairs committee. It is estimated locate 73.5 million kyats to upgrade the remaining 15 miles and seven furlongs into gravel one. Regarding the question of U Htay Maung of Magway Region Constituency No (12) about If there is plan to upgrade the earth road linking Sozan station to Saizan Village into three season serviceable gravel one, the deputy minister replied that the road is in Tiddin Township and 26 miles in length. It is planned to spend 60 million kyats donated by rural development bank ltd of the Border Affairs Ministry on upgrading the road as there is no enough State fund for the repair in this fiscal year. In addition, contribution of local people is a must. Over the three-year project from 2013-2014 fiscal year to 2015-2016 fiscal year, K25 million would be funded per one mile of gravel road by Rural Development Bank Ltd. If there still remain requirements, it would be projected in Myanmar-India border region development scheme to be implemented with the assistance of India. Secretary U San Tun of Amyotha Hlutaw Bill Committee explained the report of the committee in response to debate of MPs over anti-bribery bill. The Amyotha Hlutaw Speaker then approved the bill paragraph by paragraph. Chairman of Financial Anti-bribery bill ...

Secretary of Amyotha Hlutaw Bill Committee U San Tun reads report of the minister. —MNA

Amyotha Hlutaw Representative Dr Htay Win of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (5) asking question. —MNA

There were disputes between 53343 employees from 90 factories and their employers. Agreements have been signed eventually after democratic bargaining. Negotiations and arbitrations were made in the factories and the townships under Dispute Settlement Law. Involvement of workers in labour disputes is nothing questionable as it is a matter of concern for them. A chief consulting officer of an international organization wrote in a letter to the minister that there is no country that forms an investigation commission before a new law takes action. Political intervention will not help settle labour disputes. Foreign investors are performed of new labour law of Myanmar, assisted by legal consultants. A new legislation calls for time to take effect thoroughly. Formation of an investigation commission is like uncertainties the seed of confidence and is very dangerous. The proposal should be withdrawn. U Thein Nyunt called for vote as he said he had firm confidence in his proposal in the interest of workers who the country witnesses flood of the foreign investments. The Hlutaw decided not to approve the proposal with 43 yeses, 288 noes and 17 abstentions. The Pyithu Hlutaw Speaker asked their discussion breaching laws and rules of the Pyithu Hlutaw. Deliberately or not, they are urged not to use unnecessary names and party titles. Dr Chan Nyein of Kanbalu Constituency submitted a proposal on preparing encyclopedia.

UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situation in Myanmar calls on MHRC Chairman

YANGON, 1 Aug—Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situation in Myanmar, accompanied by Acting Resident Representative Mr. Ramesh M Shrestha of UN Agencies and officials, called on Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission U Win Mya and members at its office on Pyay Road, here, at 5.20 pm today.—MNA

UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situation in Myanmar, Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situation in Myanmar, accompanied by Acting Resident Representative Mr. Ramesh M Shrestha of UN Agencies and officials, called on Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission U Win Mya and members at its office on Pyay Road, here, at 5.20 pm today.—MNA

The parliamentarians will discussing the proposal are to register by 3 August with the date for debate to be announced later. The Hlutaw notified the representatives of the distribution of copies of Bill Amending Traditional Medicine Law approved at the Amyotha Hlutaw for their knowledge. Today’s session concluded at 1 pm and the 20th regular session will be held on 6 August. —MNA

UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situation in Myanmar calls on Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission U Win Mya.—MNA

The session came to an end at 10.55 am and the 20th day session continues at 10 am on 6 August. Four questions were answered, and report on anti-bribery bill read approved at today’s session.—MNA

Pyithu Hlutaw Representative U Aung San of Pabedan Constituency raises question. —MNA

Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu replies to queries. —MNA

Anti-bribery bill ...
Union Minister, diplomats... (from page 16)

In meeting with the victims, Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay said that the visit of diplomatic delegation was arranged by the government for the delegation members to know the present peace and stability process of the government for the riots that happened in Rakhine State, relief, resettlement and renovation tasks.

The diplomatic delegation members asked matters related to the riots and donated bags of rice and instant noodle packets to the victims.

Next, they visited construction of the houses in Thayay Konbaung Village and left for Sitway by helicopter.

World Breastfeeding Week activities launched

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—The launch of central level World Breastfeeding Week and Nutrition Week was held at the Ministry of Health this morning.

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, Deputy Ministers Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and Dr Win Myint, departmental heads, reps of UN agencies and social organizations attended the ceremony.

The Union minister said in his address that the breastfeeding week activities will be carried out in the whole August.

Expectant mothers and children of institutions are vulnerable to malnourishment, he said, calling for comprehensive approach by relevant organizations to tackle the issue.

Reform strategies in rural development and human resources development must be well-matched with the regional development plans, he said.

The Union minister said that the health sector must grasp every possible opportunity for reforms of the country.

The resident representative of World Health Organization and the United Nations Children Fund delivered addresses.

The Union Minister and party fed under-five children Vitamin A tonic at Yinthwe Yadanapar primary school of SWD.

UNICEF speaking on the occasion.

At the ceremony of plough of monsoon paddy for outstanding farmers in Hlegu Township here this morning.

It was reported that a total of 1,096,718 acres (91.49%) have been planted among 1,198,739 acres estimated acreages to grow monsoon paddy this year.

Yangon Region awards outstanding farmers

YANGON, 1 Aug—A concluding ceremony of plough of monsoon paddy and a transplanting contest and an awarding-ceremony for outstanding farmers in agricultural products producing were held at the farm of Indine Village-tract in Hlegu Township here this morning.

Among the crowd at the ceremonies were Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win and the deputy speaker, region ministers, the managing director of Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank, departmental heads and officials concerned from agricultural companies and distinguished persons.

The Chief Minister and party released fingerlings into the farms after enjoying demonstration of planting paddy strains with the use of a transplanter.

They observed the transplanting skill contest, agricultural booths and show rooms.

After expressing the purpose of the ceremonies, the Chief Minister accepted the reports respectively presented by District Commissioners on district-wide concluding of plough of monsoon paddy for 2012-2013 in each district. The Chief Minister and officials awarded winners of the contests.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Region Hluttaw Speaker, Deputy Speaker and region ministers releasing fingerlings into the farms at Indine Village-tract in Hlegu Township.—MNA

Attorney-General of Union receives Head of EU Office in Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin received a delegation led by Mr Andreas List of Head of EU Office in Yangon at Attorney-General’s Office, here, this morning.

At the meeting, Mr Andreas List said that he was appointed as resident representative of EU to Myanmar and he had visited the office together with former EU representatives.

As Myanmar will host the Rule of Law Seminar on 12-13-2012, he requested Attorney-General Office to act as a focal point, and the Union Attorney-General of the Union to deliver an on address at the opening ceremony. They had a cordial discussion on the Rule of Law Seminar.—MNA

Course No. 89 opened at Office of Auditor-General of Union

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—The Grade II and Grade III course No. 89 was opened at Office of the Auditor-General of the Union here this morning, attended by personnel of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, lecturers and trainees.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Auditor-General U Myo Myint said Office of the Auditor-General of the Union Training School was established on 1 April, 1958 with a view to turning out qualified auditors and ensuring systematic statistics management, and inculcating staff with a sense of adherence to rules and regulations.

The deputy auditor-general called to the trainees to abide by rules of the training schools to letter, to try hard for mastery of the theoretical knowledge shared and to apply the knowledge gained effectively at mother departments concerned.—MNA

Talks on Fundamental IT Engineer Examination on 11 Aug

YANGON, 1 Aug—The talk on Fundamental IT Engineer Examination (FE) organized by Myanmar Computer Federation in order to improve the IT field will be held at the conference hall of MICT Park in Hluttaw Township, here, at 1:30 pm of the 11th August.

The exam is provided for those who are interested in the fields of computer programming, programming design and software development and IT.

Mr Kenji Ogawa, Vice President of IT HRD Headquarters, Information technology Promotion Agency (IPA) will give a lecture on ITFE (FE) exam. Those interested may attend.

IT Engineer Examination (FE) organized by Myanmar Computer Federation in order to apply the knowledge gained effectively at mother departments concerned.—MNA

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Region Hluttaw Speaker, Deputy Speaker and region ministers releasing fingerlings into the farms at Indine Village-tract in Hlegu Township.—MNA
New school building handed over in Salingyi Township

Salingyi, 1 Aug—A ceremony to hand over new two-storey building with the name of Adipati of Basic Education Middle School Branch was held in Baikhatyay Village in Salingyi Township of Monywa District in Sagaing Region on 6 July.

Salingyi Township Administration

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, 09-49555777 in Mandalay and 09-49555888 and 09-49555999 in Yangon.

Summer paddy winnowed in Pyawbwe Township

YAMETHIN, 1 Aug—Summer paddy was winnowed on 16 acres of farm of U Win Nyint in Medee Village in Pyawbwe Township recently.

The local farmers grew Pahtetwin and Thehtetyn paddy irrigated by Natka Dam

Natka Dam supplies water to 146 acres of summer paddy and 104 acres of cotton plantations. The region faced shortage of water in the past. Thanks to Nayka Dam, the local farmers can cultivate summer paddy and produced over 100 baskets per acre. Thus, they can earn increased income.

As the environs of the village are green due to irrigation facility, farmers from other villages gather grass for feedstuff of cattle. “I have never faced boosting production of paddy. We are happy in earning large amount of incomes through sales of paddy. Thanks to the dam, the local people can grow any crops at anytime,” said a local farmer. —Kyaw

Staff quarter of station hospital donated

NYAUNGLEIN, 1 Aug—With the capital donation of Captain Khin Win-Daw Mu and family of Yangon, a staff quarter of station hospital, donated by U Zaw Moe Aung, Township Education Officer Daw Myint Myint Kyi and officials formally opened the new school building.

Member of School Board of Trustees U Kyaw Than handed over documents related to the building to Township Education Officer Daw Myint Myint Kyi.

The newly-opened two-storey building is 90 feet long, 30 feet wide and 22 feet high. —Myanma Alin

SAPLINGS PLANTED: The monsoon tree growing ceremony was held near mile post No 7/4 near Kyawdaw Gyi Maw Second Township in Monywa District on 14 July. Staff of Forest Department plant over 800 saplings.

KYA-IN-SEIKKI, 1 Aug—The rainy season tree growing ceremony was held in Kya-In-Seikki Township of Kawkareik District in Kayin State on 14 July morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Soe Win and officials presented saplings to departmental personnel, social organization members, ward administrators, local people, teachers and students. They planted 450 saplings. —Myanma Alin

Prizes awarded to outstanding student in Madauk

MADAUK, 1 Aug—The annual general meeting of parent-teacher association was held at Basic Education High School in Madauk of Nyaunglebin Township on 22 July afternoon.

At Nawade Hall of the school, Headmistress Daw Mar Su gave a speech at the annual general meeting for 2011-2012 academic year. She then presented prize to Ma Hnin Aye Lwin, who passed the matriculation examination with four distinctions.

District News

Cash assistance provided to war veterans, offspring in Monghsat

MONGHSAT, 1 Aug—Monghsat Township War Veterans Organization of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Committee provided cash assistance to older veterans and offspring of its members at Thitiya Hall of Monghsat District Administration Department on 14 July morning, with an address by Col Aung Thu Oo of local station.

Next, Col Aung Thu Oo, Deputy Commissioner U Thaung Tin Hwe and Township Administrator U Naing Aye presented cash assistance to four older veterans of above 75, three disabled veterans, 126 veterans and 126 offspring of veterans. —Myanma Alin

Basic firefighting course wraps up in Hmawby Township

YANGON, 1 Aug—The basic firefighting course No 1/2012 concluded at the hall of administrative office in Wantaungchaung model village of Hmawby Township in Yangon Region on 22 July morning.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Thein Myint, Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Than Shein and Village Administrator U Myint Thien made speeches.

At the ceremony, Head of Township Fire Services Department U Than Htaik Soe presented a light fire engine to Auxiliary Fire Brigade of Wantaungchaung Model Village. An official of the brigade accepted it.

After that, officials presented certificates and prizes to the respective trainees. —Myanma Alin
Tropical region, threatening the yields of agricultural crops, while parts of Latin America and the continental United States may become drier that is wetter than average. The US grain production is likely to be hit by weather conditions in the next three months. The Pacific region is set to experience similar conditions during the August to October period. "We are monitoring it but there is no immediate threat," a national weather scientist said in an emailed statement.
CRIMINAL CASE NOTICE

MV ESM Cremona Voy No (053)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM Cremona VOY NO (053) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.8.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

HINDU FAMILIES WILL OFFER WASO ROBES AND ROBES TO THE STATE SANGHAMAHANYA SAYDAYS

Sanatan Dharmo Swayamsevak Sangh, Hindu has Organized for Hindu Families a Donation Ceremony to offer “Soon”, Waso robes to the State Sangh Mahanayaka Committee Saydaws and State Parjary Sayar Phypan Saye Aung University Sayawdaw at Kayhe Bay Hill “Nyok Soo Soe Kyuang” on Sunday 5th August 2012 from 9.00 am onwards.

Hindu Families are cordially invited to participate and offer their Donations in this Ceremony. They may contact Ph:(09)-51058541, 09-5014040, 09-5000453, 09-49260886 for further information.

Sanatan Dharmo Swayamsevak Sangh No. 227, 3rd Street, Yangon.

Tokyo Skytree welcomes one millionth visitor

Tokyo, 1 Aug—The world’s tallest broadcast tower Tokyo Skytree celebrated its one-millionth visitor on Wednesday, 72 days after opening.

The 634-metre tower has 2 observation decks at 350 and 450 metres. The tower’s operator held a ceremony for the lucky guest from Nagano Prefecture, central Japan. It was a family on summer vacation visiting the Skytree for the first time.

Rena Tanaka and her 6th grade son and first grade daughter were presented with flowers and a scale model of the tower.

Tanaka says she had wanted to go up the tower for a long time and was overjoyed to be the one-millionth visitor.

The Skytree’s operator says they predicted they would reach the one-millionth visitor mark in early August so the turnout is in line with expectations.

Tokyo Skytree opened in May. It had 660,000 visitors in the first 50 days, who had reserved tickets. It has admitted over 300,000 more visitors since 11th July when tickets went on sale at the door. —NHK

Recycled bottles illuminate dark homes in Philippines

Washington, 1 Aug—A liter-sized plastic bottle that contains water and bleach is shedding light on dark communities in the Philippines.

One organization, Liter of Light, is organizing people to build “solar bottle bulbs.” The bottle is sealed in an iron sheet and installed into a small hole in the roof of home. The bottles absorb sunlight and emit about 55-watts of light into a dark interior, the Discovery News reported.

This is a boon for people in Manila, the Philippines, where about 3 million homes are in the dark, and have to rely on kerosene lamps for light.

These bottles provide a cost-effective and environmentally safe way to provide light to these families during the daylight hours.—Internet

Hubble discovers ten-billion-year-old stellar dance

Washington, 1 Aug—The NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope has provided a delightful view of the crowded stellar encampment called Messier 68, a spherical, star-filled region of space known as a globular cluster. Mutual gravitational attraction among a cluster’s hundreds of thousands or even millions of stars keeps stellar members in check, allowing globular clusters to hang together for many billions of years. Astronomers can measure the ages of globular clusters by looking at the light of their constituent stars. The chemical elements leave signatures in this light, and the starlight reveals how the stars in a globular cluster typically contain fewer heavy elements, such as carbon, oxygen and iron, than stars like the Sun.

Since successive generations of stars gradually create these elements through nuclear fusion, stars having fewer of them are relics of earlier epochs in the Universe. Indeed, the stars in globular clusters rank among the oldest on record, dating back more than ten billion years. More than 150 of these objects surround our Milky Way Galaxy. On a galactic scale, globular clusters are not all that big.

In Messier 68’s case, its stars span a volume of space with a diameter of little more than a hundred light-years. The disc of the Milky Way, on the other hand, extends over some 100,000 light-years or more.—Internet
Man attempts ‘joggling’ world record

A University of Florida student said he will attempt the "joggling" world record by running a mile while juggling five objects in Houston.

Matthew Feldman, an engineering student, said he plans to attempt the Guinness World Record at the Rice University track at 7 pm on that day, WKMG-TV, Orlando, Fla., reported.

Feldman said he is targeting the record of 7 minutes, 41 seconds for "joggling" — jogging and juggling simultaneously — a mile set by Bill Gillen.

Feldman said his record attempt will also raise money and awareness for victims of last year’s tsunami in Japan.

Why Rupert Grint became nervous

LOS ANGELES, 1 Aug—British actor Rupert Grint became nervous when he was shooting scenes for "Chub" when musician Cheech Crome turned up at the shoot.

The movie is a biopic based on the nightclub in New York and describes the punk scene. The 23-year-old said he became more determined to do justice to the role.

Jessica Biel writes poetry

LONDON, 1 Aug—Actress Jessica Biel, who is engaged to Justin Timberlake, says writing poems helps her stay in touch with her spiritual side.

"I like being able to write when I find the time to get into it. I love reading poetry and I have written poetry myself since I was in school," thesun.co.uk quoted Biel as saying.

"It’s very calming and spiritual to be able to get in touch with emotions and states of mind to write poetry," she added.

The 36-year-old also loves spending time outdoors, which she believes stems from her upbringing.

Johnny Depp ardent collector of celeb dolls

WASHINGTON, 1 Aug—Johnny Depp loves collecting celebrity dolls and has one of Lindsay Lohan with an electronic tag on her ankle.

"He owns dozens of limited-edition Barbies. He’s also got dolls based on Beyonce and Destiny’s Child, the ‘High School Musical’ cast, New Kids on the Block, Elvis and even Donny Osmond," Contactmusic quoted a source as telling the Daily Star.

The insider also revealed that the 49-year-old even accessorises his dolls to reflect the goings on of showbiz stars.

The 30-year-old also wrote it for Selena. ‘It’s great. I love reading poetry and I have written poetry myself since I was in school,” thesun.co.uk quoted Biel as saying.

"It’s very calming and spiritual to be able to get in touch with emotions and states of mind to write poetry," she added.

The 36-year-old also loves spending time outdoors, which she believes stems from her upbringing.

British actor Rupert Grint

British Murray: A Colouring-In Book

WASHINGTON, 1 Aug—Johnny Depp is holding off planning her wedding because she isn’t sure what type of wedding she wants.

The US ‘X Factor’ judge—who has been married twice before—is set to marry her current manager Jason Trawick and while he is keen to get married this Christmas, Britney is delaying plans as she is “confused” about whether she wants her nuptials to be big or intimate.

A source told the National Enquirer that there is no date or really any plans in place yet, Contactmusic reported.

"Jason really hopes to get married around Christmas, and he wants to have a huge bash," the source said.

"Britney, on the other hand, is completely holding back from making any plans.

Johnny Depp takes a photo during the photocall for the film "Moonrise Kingdom" at the 65th annual Cannes International Film Festival in Cannes, France on 16 May, 2012.

Singer Lily Allen

Singer Lily Allen

"It’s Tom Daley day! Go on Tom, and Pete, and all the other athletes competing," Contactmusic quoted a source as saying.

The musician also had some advice for Grint.

"Cheetah had some advice for Grint: whenever you’re feeling nervous, say to yourself, ‘I have to get his voice right, he had quite a distinctive drug-affected mumbling voice and I had to do an American accent. We’re both ginger, so look similar. Hopefully people will buy it,’” he said.

Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt as saying.

Lily Allen gripped by Olympic fever

LONDON, 1 Aug—Singer Lily Allen has been gripped by the Olympics fever, but is finding it tough to watch the Games with her male friends, who are rating athletics on their sex appeal.

"Watching Olympics with boys is unbearable. Female athletes are being scored on sex appeal only. Blood is boiling,” tweeted the 27-year-old.

Allen was waiting to watch British diving pair Tom Daley and Peter Waterfield go for a gold medal Monday, reports contactmusic.com. In a series of tweets, she posted:

Johnny Depp ardent collector of celeb dolls

WASHINGTON, 1 Aug—Johnny Depp loves collecting celebrity dolls and has one of Lindsay Lohan with an electronic tag on her ankle.

"He owns dozens of limited-edition Barbies. He’s also got dolls based on Beyonce and Destiny’s Child, the ‘High School Musical’ cast, New Kids on the Block, Elvis and even Donny Osmond," Contactmusic quoted a source as telling the Daily Star.

The insider also revealed that the 49-year-old even accessorises his dolls to reflect the goings on of showbiz news stories.

"The weirdest one is a Lindsay Lohan, complete with ankle monitoring bracelet from when she was under house arrest," the source revealed.

The strange hobby apparently helps the ‘Pirates of the Caribbean’ star take his mind off more serious matters.

Bill Murray takes a photo during the photocall for the film "Moonrise Kingdom" at the 65th annual Cannes International Film Festival in Cannes, France on 16 May, 2012.

Singer Lily Allen

"It’s Tom Daley day! Go on Tom, and Pete, and all the other athletes competing," Contactmusic quoted a source as saying.

The musician also had some advice for Grint.

"Cheetah had some advice for Grint: whenever you’re feeling nervous, say to yourself, ‘I have to get his voice right, he had quite a distinctive drug-affected mumbling voice and I had to do an American accent. We’re both ginger, so look similar. Hopefully people will buy it,’” he said.

Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt as saying.

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Boxing: Tears spill, “Little Pacquiao” thrills

LONDON, 1 Aug—Boxing’s smallest men took to the ring on Tuesday, bringing tears, the quickest knockout of the Games so far and the first sight of a thrilling Filipino who has trained with the great Manny Pacquiao.

The men’s lightweight flyweights weigh no more than 52 kilograms and usually stand at just 162 centimeters (five feet, four inches) but they can pack a punch as India’s Devendro Singh Laishram proved in front of another packed house.

The 20-year-old from Manipur, who racked up the highest score at last year’s world amateur championships by-notch up 40 points in three rounds, knocked Bayron Molina Figueroa down within a minute before forcing the Honduran into two standing counts. The referee eventually stopped the bout after two-and-a-half minutes.

“He wasn’t a goodboxer, I knew that, I sized him up. The coming rounds are going to get more difficult,” the Indian, decked in luminous yellow boots, told reporters after his quick workout.

At 157 centimeters, Mark Barriga of the Philippines may be barely taller than the top rope in London’s boxing arena but he made a big impression on Tuesday, showing off some lightning quick-footwork and a rasping left hook. Ahead of the games, Barriga trained with the Filipinos greatest sportsman Manny Pacquiao, the much decorated fighter who won professional world titles in eight different weight classes.

The 19-year-old, who has since been given the nickname ‘Little Pacquiao’, had far too much for fellow teenager Manuel Cappari, streaking to an easy 17-7 win and scoring almost half his points in a final round where he toyed with the Italian.

One lightweight flyweight won’t be joining the pair in Saturday’s 16 is London’s Jeremy Beccu who could not hold back the tears as he spoke to reporters after losing 18 points to 17 to Biryazhan Zhukaykov of Kazakhstan.

“It’s really unfair, I should have won. Nobody can convince me otherwise,” he said.

The 21-year-old from the northern town Auchel, who withdrew because she was suffering a bout of gastro illness. Alshammar both pulled out and Sweden’s Therese Herasimenia of Belarus, who finished first overall in the race, just ahead of her heat in 53.50 to be second up with Schlanger to win gold with her victory and world record in the 400m medley on Saturday.

But the night belonged to Phelps, who swamped the anchor leg of a relay that the Americans dominated from start to finish after Ryan Lochte handed them a commanding lead.

It was a historic moment in the 116-years annals of the modern Olympic Games and an emotional one for Phelps, still a powerful force but no longer the commanding figure who won an unprecedented eight golds at the Beijing Games in 2008.

Britain win first gold in women’s pair

LONDON, 1 Aug—Britain’s Helen Glover and Heather Stanning stormed to victory in the women’s Olympic pair on Wednesday to give the host nation their first gold medal of the 2012 Olympic Games.

The win by clear water in front of 25,000 screaming fans was also the first Olympic gold medal to be won by a British women’s crew.

The British duo had started as strong favorites for the title after dominating the international season and following their heat in which they set a new Olympic best time.

They jumped out to a length lead in the first 500 meters of the 2,000 meter course before extending that to win by clear water amid the deafening roar from the grandstands on the lake to the west of London. Australia took silver and New Zealand the bronze.

Phelps makes history with record 19th medal

LONDON, 1 Aug—Michael Phelps won the right to call himself the greatest Olympian of alltime when the US team destroyed the field in the 4x200 metres freestyle relay on Tuesday to hand him his 19th medal.

Chinese prodigy Ye Shiwen won her second gold of the Games, setting an Olympic record in the 200m individual medley, after stunning swimming paddles with her victory and world record in the 400m medley on Saturday.

China’s Tang fastest in 100m freestyle heats

LONDON, 1 Aug—China’s Tang Yi set the pace in the preliminary rounds of the women’s 100 metres freestyle at the London Olympic Aquatic Centre on Wednesday.

Tang swam a personal best time of 53.28 seconds to win her morning heat and finish first overall in the race to discover the fastest woman in the world.

Australia’s Melanie Schlanger, who won a relay gold medal on Saturday, won her heat in 53.50 to be second overall, just ahead of Denmark’s Jeanette Ottesen Gray and Aliaksandra Herasimenia of Belarus, who dead-heated in last year’s world championships final.

With the top 16 advancing to the evening semi-finals, there were no major casualties in the preliminaries although Australia’s Cate Campbell and Sweden’s Therese Alshammar both pulled out of their heats because of illness.

Campbell, who teamed up with Schlanger to win gold in the 4x100 freestyle final, withdrew because she was suffering a bout of gastro while Alshammar had a pinched nerve in her back.

Colorado teenager Missy Franklin qualified 16th, two places behind her American team mate Jessica Hardy.

Le Clos slept with gold Olympic medal

LONDON, 1 Aug—Chad le Clos slept with his gold medal on after edging out US Olympian legend Michael Phelps in the 200m butterfly final, his South Africa teammates Oscar Pistorius revealed Wednesday.

Double amputee athlete Pistorius, dubbed the “Blade Runner”, saw Le Clos in the lifting heading down to breakfast the morning after Tuesday’s night’s thrilling victory over Phelps.

The 20-year-old swimmer is still weighing up his gold medal and revealed he had not yet taken it off.

“I saw him in the lift this morning,” Pistorius said.

“He had his medal around his neck, so I got to hold it and look at it. I said to him, ‘where are you going?’.

He said, ‘oh, I’m going to the dining hall’.

“I was like, ‘are you going to take your medal with you?’

He said: ‘I haven’t taken it off since yesterday!’

I slept with it around his neck.

“I don’t know what’s going to happen if he has another event. He’ll have to swim with it strapped to his back.”

Great Britain’s Helen Glover (left) and Heather Stanning compete in the women’s pair heats at the London Olympics.—Reuters

International Sports

Swimming: Soni tops 200m breaststroke heats

LONDON, 1 Aug—Rebecca Soni made the perfect start to the defense her 200 meters breaststroke title when she set the fastest time in Wednesday’s heats at the London Olympics.

The American showed no lingering effects of her narrow loss in the 100 breaststroke final two days ago as she glided her way through the pool to win her morning heat in a time of two minutes, 14.40 seconds.

She was more than a second, a big margin in elite swimming, ahead of her nearest rival, Denmark’s Rikke Pedersen.

The top 16 advanced to Wednesday night’s semi-finals from which the fastest eight will go through to Thursday night’s final.

Unique server Ovtcharov Europe’s last man

LONDON, 1 Aug—Few Olympians can claim to have a technique that has been heralded as one of Time magazine’s inventions of the year.

But German table tennis player Dimitrij Ovtcharov’s unique serve won that acclaim four years ago and he is hoping it can drive him to a shock win at the London 2012 Games.

Ovtcharov, ranked 12 in the world, beat Denmark’s Michael Maze 4-3 in a tight and sometimes feisty match on Tuesday to move into the men’s singles semi-final, where he is likely to face world number one China’s Zhang Jike.

It leaves Ovtcharov, 23, as Europe’s last hope in the singles competition.

“Thad was the most crucial game I’ve ever played, there were so many ups and downs,” he said.

Lochte handed them a commanding lead.

But the night belonged to Phelps, who swamped the anchor leg of a relay that the Americans dominated from start to finish after Ryan Lochte handed them a commanding lead.

It was a historic moment in the 116-years annals of the modern Olympic Games and an emotional one for Phelps, still a powerful force but no longer the commanding figure who won an unprecedented eight golds at the Beijing Games in 2008.

The ‘backhand serve is a big advantage against right hand players ... it was taught to me by my father, who was a great player,’ Ovtcharov said.

In Tuesday’s first quarter-final Taiwan’s Chuang Chih-Yuan thrashed his best friend, Romanian Adrian Crisan, 4-0.

“Imitates very difficult to play mentally,” Chuang said of playing his mate.

“I was sorry when I played him. It’s like you are in a war and you have to kill your brother.”

Chuang has gone further in his two previous Olympics and said he is confident of upsetting the Chinese favourites.

“My going to win this match, I’m not afraid,” he said.

Reuters
US Women’s soccer team beats North Korea at the Summer Olympics

London, 1 Aug—The US women’s soccer team beat North Korea on 31 July at the Olympic Games. The US earned a 1-0 victory and has accumulated a total of 9 points in the last three matches. Their next game will be against Australia on 1 August.

The US clearly dominated North Korea during the whole match, scoring four goals to North Korea’s 3. In addition, goalie Hope Solo was not affected by her at this game.

Abby Wambach suffered a black eye in the previous match with a woman from the US to make a goal at the Old Trafford. Wambach has made a strong chance of getting the gold medal at the Olympics.

US Women’s soccer team beats North Korea at the Summer Olympics

INTERNATIONAL

US Women’s soccer team beats North Korea at the Summer Olympics

Scientists unlock ocean CO2 secrets key to climate


From giant whirlpools to currents 1,000 km wide, scientists have uncovered how fast amounts of carbon are locked away in the depths of the Southern Ocean. But until now, researchers were unsure what mechanisms were involved because of the remoteness and sheer size of the Southern Ocean.

By identifying the mechanisms responsible for taking carbon out of the surface layer in the ocean, we’re in a much better situation to talk about how climate change might impact the world.

Ocean currents and whirlpools create conditions for carbon to be drawn down into the deep ocean to be locked away for decades to centuries.

Scientists worry that a warming planet could disrupt this natural pattern by changing wind patterns and ocean currents.

Mateur said by figuring out how the Southern Ocean works and using a new monitoring network of robotic ocean-going devices researchers will get a much better handle on how the seas between Australia and Antarctica are changing.

“It is hoped that the findings will help understand the impact of human activities on the ocean and how we can best protect it.”
Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party leave for India

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—At the invitation of Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of Naval Staff of India Admiral Nirmal Verma (PVSM, AVSM, ADC), a Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing left here for India this morning by special aircraft of Myanmar Tatmadaw. The Vice-Senior General and party were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, General Hla Hla Hwun Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Myat Hein and wife Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt, senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command. The Defence Services was accompanied by his wife Daw Kya Kya Hla, senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), officials, and Indian Defence Attaché to Myanmar Colonel Rajesh Kumar.—MNA

Union Minister, diplomats observe recent situations in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay, accompanied by Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, U Phone Swe and U Kyaw Kyaw Win, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situation in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana, ambassadors of foreign embassies and diplomats, heads of UN agencies and officials, responsible persons of Myanmar Islam Organization and religious leaders and departmental heads, left Yangon International Airport by special aircraft yesterday morning to witness acutal situations of Rakhine State and arrived at Sittway Airport at 9.30 am.

Accompanied by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko Naing, the Union Minister and party left for Alethankyaw Village of Maungtaw Township by helicopter. At the hall of Border Region Immigration Inspection Control Headquarters in Alethankyaw Village of Maungtaw Township, Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay explained occurrences in Rakhine State, supply of relief aids to the victims at relief camps, rehabilitation process, and tasks being carried out for ensuring peace and stability, relief, resettlement and rehabilitation.

At Bandoolla Hall, they cordially comforted the victims. As the diplomatic observers asked of the actual situations, the victims explained occurrence of unrests. After that, the Union Minister presented bags of rice and foodstuffs to the victims at the camp. On arrival at Mawrawady Village of Maungtaw Township, the Union Minister explained the design of houses to be rebuilt in the places of 109 burnt houses to the victims at the camp. At Shweyinaye Village, they viewed the burnt houses and reconstruction of houses.

At the hall of Maungtaw District General Administration Department, the Union Minister, the deputy ministers and observers heard reports on occurrence of unrests in Maungtaw Township, peace and stability process, relief and resettlement tasks presented by Deputy Commissioner U Aung Myint Soe. The Union Minister replied to queries raised by the delegation members.

They visited Aungmye Bawdi Sasana Yeiktha relief camp and 4th-Mile relief camp in Kyawinindy Myoma Village tract (See page 9)