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.

As nation’s future totally depends on peace, prevailing peace in the country is a must

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attaches great importance to peaceful Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Aug—Chairman of Union-level Peace-making Working Committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addressed meeting (1/2012) of the committee at Thabin Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 2 pm today.

The meeting was also attended by members of the committee Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Union ministers, Region/State chief ministers, commanders, the deputy minister for Border Affairs, the deputy attorney-general, national races Hluttaw representatives from Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and the director-general of Union government office. Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said in his address said that it is the first-ever meeting of the committee. The purposes of the meeting were getting all the members together, explaining progress of peace measures being taken by the government, rallying participation of all stakeholders in peace making process in regions where initial peace deals have been reached, and acquiring suggestions for establishing peace in regions where peace is yet to be established.

The 11-member Union-level Peace-making Central Committee was formed on 3-5-2012 with the President as the chairman by the Order No (11/2012) of the President Office. The working committee was formed on the same day with 52 members including himself. It is responsible for submitting report to the central committee after accomplishing duties. Peace-making process has three steps: discussion at the State level, discussion at the Union level and discussion at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The discussion at the State level includes ceasefire, staying only in designated area, not holding weapons beyond the designated area, opening liaison offices and fixing dates and venues for Union level discussions.

The discussion at the Union level includes living forever in the designated area, opening liaison offices and fixing dates and venues for Union level discussions. The discussion at the Union level includes living forever in the designated area, opening liaison offices and fixing dates and venues for Union level discussions. (See page 8)

Chairman of Union-level Peace-making Working Committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses meeting (1/2012) of the committee.—MNA

Kiprotich claims Marathon gold

London, 12 Aug—Uganda’s Stephen Kiprotich stunned the Kenyan challenge to clinch Olympic Games gold in the men’s Marathon on The Mall today.

The 23-year-old burst past Abel Kirui and Wilson Kipsang around the 38km mark to leave his two rivals trailing and claim only Uganda’s second ever Olympic gold in Athletics.

Kiprotich followed in the footsteps of his compatriot John Akii-Bua, who was 400m Hurdles champion 40 years ago, and crossed the line in 2:08:01.

Kirui took the silver, 26 seconds adrift, and long-time leader Kipsang finished with the bronze.

Kipsang, the London Marathon winner, made an early move to try to break up the lead group, building a 21-second lead at one point. It was a high-risk strategy in such warm conditions, though, and he paid for it as the race went on as he started to look less and less comfortable.

He missed a drinks stop and by the 25km mark his advantage was down to seven seconds.

Kenyan world champion Kirui and Kiprotich soon joined the leader to make it a three-way battle for the gold medal.

Kiprotich looked to be starting to struggle, holding the back of his leg, but he suddenly produced a big surge, leapt to the front and pulled away.

And in front of packed crowds rows deep all along the looped central London course, the Ugandan, who moved to Kenya as a teenager to train, started smiling and pointing his finger into the air as he closed in on victory before draped himself in the Ugandan flag as he crossed the line.

Stephen Kiprotich celebrates as he approaches the line to win gold in the men’s Marathon on Day 16 at London 2012.
Tuberculosis

With tuberculosis killing two people every three minutes and the number of people with drug-resistant TB increasing manifold every passing day, TB remains one of the leading causes of death from infectious disease in the world, and because of increasing world travel and its ability to easily spread, health providers in Myanmar are being urged to find new strategies to fight the killer disease.

Myanmar could find 77 percent of all cases and achieved 85.5 percent success in treatment in 2011, achieving the UN’s Millennium Development Goals.

However, the fight against the TB is being lost in some regions and states, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin said.

The Union Minister says that today is the time for reviewing the fight against the TB and finding a new strategy to eliminate the killer disease in the country.

As part of the partnership approach programme in battling with the disease, Myanmar is currently working together with 15 INGOs and seven local NGOs.

Although curable and preventable, TB requires a carefully followed regime of medication over six months. Anything less leads to drug-resistant strains. One undiagnosed TB-infected person can infect 10 others a year. More than 350,000 people living with HIV died because of TB in 2010.

TB can easily spread through the air and may spread from person to person through such actions as coughing, sneezing, laughing and singing. Symptoms of active TB include cough, weight loss, fever and night sweats. Those infected may also look into groundnut and Palethwe paddy plantations. In Ye Pyai Village of Zabuthiri Township, they

**PERSPECTIVES**
Monday, 13 August, 2012

**Find new strategy to eliminate killer disease:**
Tuberculosis

Faculty members, students from Pwintbyu, studying in Institute of Agriculture visit crops plantations

NAV PTY TAW, 12 Aug—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing this morning met faculty members and students from Institute of Agriculture from Pwintbyu Township at 500-acre farmer educative farm in Koeywa Thabyegon of Ngalaik irrigated region in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and explained cultivation of paddy, edible oil crops sunflower and groundnut including cash crops.

The students viewed sorting of crops, packaging process, sapling test and paddy dryer. They also looked into thriving paddy plantation. The Union Minister and officials presented 10 kils of Basamati paddy seeds to Principal Daw Yi Yi Hnyu and faculty members.

Farmers get loans, aids flood victims in Kyayunggon Township get aids

NAV PTY TAW, 12 Aug—Ayeayawdy Region General Trading Cooperative Syndicate disbursed loans to farmers in Maubin Township yesterday.

During the ceremony held at the Kyayung Model Village Basic Education High School in Maubin Township, the syndicate gave loaned K6.13 million to 201 farmers from the village of Thongwa in the presence of Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt.

The Union Minister also attended a ceremony to present aids to flood victims in Kyayunggon Township at Yadanaung Jeikman Monastery in the afternoon.

During the ceremony, the Union Minister handed over rice donated by the Union Government and donors to the flood victims evacuated as the overflow of water from the Dahka River has flooded the low-lying areas in the township.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun, Deputy Speaker of Ayeayawdy Region Htutaw Dr Hein Win and region ministers also presented bags of rice to the victims.

A total of 250 bags of rice were donated to the victims during the ceremony.

The Union Government, Ayeayawdy Region Government and donors have assisted the flood victims from villages and wards in Kyayunggon Township and provided healthcare services to them.—MNA

Flood warning for Thanlwin River

NAV PTY TAW, 12 Aug—According to the 12.30 hr M.S.T observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an 871 cm has exceeded by 121 cm (about 4 feet) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level 750 cm during the next three days, Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced.—MNA

Strong earthquake jolts at China border

NAV PTY TAW, 12 Aug—A strong earthquake of magnitude 6.3 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Xinjiang Xizang Border, China), about 1250 miles northwest of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (17) hrs (20) min (20) sec M.S.T on 12th August, 2012, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA

Where’re you going? Go swimming?
Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Aug—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing this morning met faculty members and students from Institute of Agriculture from Pwintbyu Township at 500-acre farmer educative farm in Koeywa Thabyegon of Ngalaik irrigated region in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and explained cultivation of paddy, edible oil crops sunflower and groundnut including cash crops.

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The observation team then viewed thriving crop plantations, 10 acres of Indian sunflower strain and 10 acres of Paletewa paddy plantation.

In Ye Pyai Village of Zabuthiri Township, they looked into groundnut and Palethwe paddy plantations of K.M.A Co.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister called for extended cultivation of edible crops for saving annual amount of US$200-300 million spent on import of palm oil and growing sunflower and groundnut in addition to paddy.

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Two earthquakes in Iran kill 250 and injure 1,800

Casualty figures are expected to rise, Iranian officials said, as some of the injured were in critical condition while others were still trapped under the rubble inaccessible to rescue workers hammered by darkness in the first hours after the quakes. Six villages were destroyed and about 60 sustained more than 50 percent damage, Iranian media reported. About 110 villages were damaged in the quakes, Deputy Interior Minister Hassan Ghadamli was quoted by Fars as saying. Photographs posted on Iranian websites showed numerous bodies, including children, lying on the floor of a white-tiled morgue in the southeastern city of Lahm to dust and killed more than 25,000 people. The US Geological Survey measured Saturday’s first quake at 6.4 magnitude and said it struck 60 km (37 miles)

Drought crop damage worsens, ethanol waiver urged

WASHINGTON, 12 Aug.—The worst drought in more than 50 years has caused more damage than expected to corn and soybean crops, the government said on Friday, heightening pressure for a suspension of ethanol quotas to head off another global food crisis.

While benchmark corn and wheat futures closed lower in Chicago, experts say food prices appear set to keep rising after a 6 percent jump last month, escalating a food-versus-fuel debate centered on a law that dictates that about 40 percent of the corn crop must be converted into ethanol.

Hours after the Department of Agriculture said the corn yield would likely fall to its lowest since 1995, worse than forecast, the governors of two poultry-producing states asked the Obama administration to waive the ethanol requirement, the first formal request for relief.

Pressure is also building internationally, as poorer countries bear a larger burden of rising food costs. The top United Nations food official, José Graziano da Silva, wrote in the Financial Times that an “immediate, temporary suspension” of the ethanol requirement would help head off another world food crisis.

Bill Lapp, president of Advanced Economic Solutions, said US food inflation would reach 4.5 percent next year, adding about $30 billion to domestic costs.

“Globally it’s a much more direct impact, a more immediate impact,” he said. “A greater deal of the food consumption is done without further processing so you can have a much more impact on the global prices. That’s what’s compelling the United Nations to ask for some relief on the biofuel mandates.”

Under the five-year-old Renewable Fuel Standard, US fuel companies are required to ensure that at least 10 percent of their gasoline pools are made up of ethanol this year, which means converting some 40 percent of the corn crop into the biofuel.

Nine killed in Iraq’s violence

BAGHDAD, 12 Aug.—Nine people were killed and two others injured on Saturday in separate gunfire and bomb attacks in central and eastern Iraq, the police said. In Iraq's central province of Salahadun, gunmen attacked a group of civilians swimming at a canal near the city of Tuw Khuraita, some 200 km north of Baghdad, killing six people before they fled the scene, a provincial police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In Iraq's eastern province of Diyala, gunmen broke into the house of a policeman in a village near the provincial capital city of Baqubah, some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, killing him in addition to his mother and injuring a child, a provincial police source anonymously told Xinhua.

In a separate incident, a civilian was stabbed to death when gunmen attacked him near his house in al-Azatara, some four kilometers east of Baqubah, the source said.—Xinhua

Bomb kills Yemeni officer, al-Qaeda suspected

ADEN, 12 Aug.—A senior Yemeni military officer was killed when a bomb planted in his car exploded in the southeastern city of Mukalla in an attack blamed on al-Qaeda, a security official said on Friday. The bombing was the latest in a series of attacks on senior figures or government institutions in Yemen since a US-backed offensive drove militant groups including al-Qaeda out of the capital and into the southern part of the country in June.

Brigadier Omar Barashesh, dean of the Command and General Staff College, died in hospital from injuries caused in the bombing, the official told Reuters. His bodyguard was killed and a civilian was wounded. The official, who asked not to be named, said al-Qaeda signs indicated al-Qaeda was behind the attack, which happened late on Thursday in the capital of Hadramaut province. Earlier this week, security forces foiled a plot by an al-Qaeda-linked cell to carry out attacks in the capital Sanaa and seized 40 belts packed with explosives, highlighting risks posed by Islamist militancy in the impoverished Arab state.

The Defence Ministry said seven militants had been detained in the southern town of Taiz, where a suicide bomber killed 45 tribal fighters and threatened further attacks. The United States has been pouring financial and military aid into Yemen to stem the threat of attacks from al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and prevent any spillover of violence into neighbouring Saudi Arabia, the world’s top oil exporter. It has also stepped up campaigns of drone missile strikes against AQAP, which has been behind several failed attacks on the United States, including an attempt to blow up an airliner over Detroit on Christmas Day in 2009.

In the latest such strike, residents said a drone on Friday struck a farm owned by a former Islamist militant in Jaar where suspected militants from Ansar al-Sharia group (Partisans of Islamic Law) have been present, but there were no reports of any casualties.

Putin says Russia to get hundreds of military planes

MOSCOW, 12 Aug.—Russia’s military will get 1,600 new warplanes and helicopters by 2020, President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday, as part of efforts to strengthen the country’s armed forces. Putin has worked hard to restore pride in the Cold War-era superpower’s military since his first election in 2000. The planned addition of 600 military planes and 1,000 helicopters is part of a $23 trillion, 10-year ($570 billion) programme to re-equip a military still weakened by spending cuts prompted by the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

“We are talking primarily about providing our forces with state-of-the-art modern technology,” Putin said at an air show on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the country’s air force.

In his address to the air show in Zhukovsky, outside Moscow, Putin thanked air force officers, veterans and industry workers he said “helped our aviation endure the very difficult times of the 1990s and early 2000s.” A former Soviet KGB officer who has often used warnings of external threats to rally, Putin said during his presidential campaign that Russia needed a stronger military to protect it from foreign attempts to stoke conflicts around its borders.—Reuters

Two injured in explosion in US state of Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY, 12 Aug.—Two people were injured and about a hundred others evacuated on Saturday after a blast occurred at a commercial oilfield building in Elk City, the US state of Oklahoma, local media reported. Firefighters rushed to the scene to curb a large fire caused by the explosion at the Hodges Trucking, and thick black smoke could be seen belching miles away from the scene, according to the reports posted on the website of The Oklahoma, a local English daily.

A spokesman for the Fire Department of Elk City, about 192 kilometres west of Oklahoma City, said that residents living in homes within a radius of two kilometres away from the building were evacuated due to heavy smoke. Hodges Trucking, which is an affiliate of Oklahoma City-based Chesapeake Energy, the second largest natural gas producer in the US, provides trucking services for the oil field industry. The cause of the explosion is not immediately available.—Xinhua

An injured person is taken to hospital in Ahar on 11 Aug, 2012. Internet
**Science & Technology**

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**Migrating geese avoid offshore wind farms, says study**

**LONDON, 12 Aug —** Pink-footed goose appear to be avoiding new offshore wind farms when returning to the UK, a study has suggested. By monitoring the movement of the birds over four years, researchers were able to detect changes in flight patterns around two newly erected wind farms. The results show that this species of goose, at least, identify wind farms as a threat and alter their flight to avoid turbine blades, the authors said.

The findings have been published in the *Journal of Applied Ecology*. Pavel Ploczek and Ian Simcock from the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) monitored migrating flocks of pink-footed goose (Anser brachyrhynchus) using radar as they returned to a Lincolnshire shore. Although the geese are known to identify potentially hazardous structures in open environments, the extent to which they would avoid obstructions was not known before this study. Because geese have relatively limited manoeuvrability in flight and often migrate at night, the threat of colliding with wind turbines was perceived to be substantial. The new research, however, has countered this assumption.

The team began monitoring the flight route of geese during the early construction stages of two offshore wind farms, off the coast from Skegness, in 2007 when only the foundations were in place. In 2010, the wind farm was constructed and fully operational, and the researchers had tracked more than 40,000 birds. Although weather conditions altered the overall number of birds wintering in the UK, the specific course they took altered, taking them around the wind farms.

By 2010, the proportion of goose flocks recorded flying outside of the wind farm area had increased from 52% to 81%. However, the authors said, any decrease through the wind farm areas also altered their flight to climb above the turbines, avoiding collisions with the rotating blades. As both numbers of pink-footed geese and offshore wind farm constructions are increasing, this study optimistically concludes that at least some species of wildlife will be able to adapt to the UK’s development of alternative energy sources.

Dr Lucy Wright from the British Trust for Ornithology, who was not involved with the research, pointed out the limitations of the study.— *INTERNET*

**Marine species’ deaths caused by UVB increases**

**LONDON, 11 Aug —** Increased ultraviolet radiation has caused a sharp rise in the deaths of marine species, scientists have found. An international team gathered information from previous studies looking at the effects of ultraviolet B (UVB) radiation on marine life. Their work shows a close link between UVB levels and death rate, particularly in algae, corals and crustaceans. The team believe this is the first time the effect of UVB on the health of marine ecosystems has been calculated. “In our study, mortality is the biological response which showed the greatest sensitivity to UVB radiation,” said lead author Dr Moira Labresse from the Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Studies in Spain, who worked with the Catholic University of Chile and the University of Western Australia.

The article is published in the journal *Global Ecology and Biogeography*. “Ultraviolet B radiation has caused a steep increase in death among marine animals and plants,” said Dr Labresse. UVB radiation is known to impair photosynthesis, nutrient absorption, growth and reproductive rates in certain species but this thought is to be the first attempt to quantify the damage it does to marine ecosystems. “The organisms most affected are protists, such as algae, corals, crustaceans and fish larvae and eggs,” she said. “UVB radiation represents a big threat to life sea because it is affecting marine ecosystems from the bottom to the top of the food web.” The attention of many scientists has been focused on the effect of global warming, ocean acidification and eutrophication on “Warcraft” is warning players as “Diablo” and “World of Warcraft” is warning players who have gained unauthorized access to some online accounts. Blizzards Entertainment says it has no evidence that the intruders acquired credit card information, billing addresses or players’ names. Online accounts for Blizzard video games hacked

'Jevon, 11 Aug — The maker of video games such as “Diablo” and “World of Warcraft” is warning players that hackers have gained unauthorized access to some online accounts. Blizzards Entertainment says it has no evidence that the intruders acquired credit card information, billing addresses or players’ names. But hackers were able to access other data, including email addresses and answers to personal security questions. Blizzards says the company also had encrypted versions of passwords. As a precaution, it’s recommending that players change their passwords. Blizzards, which is a division of Activision Blizzard Inc., didn’t say how many accounts were affected.'
Oki Electric shares plunge 41% on accounting scandal

TOKYO, 12 Aug — Oki Electric has become the latest Japanese firm to be caught in an accounting scandal. The maker of printers and telecommunications equipment said that it discovered financial irregularities at its Spanish unit. It warned that the discrepancies could cause losses of about 8bn yen ($102m; £65m) and delay the release of its first-quarter results. Oki Electric shares dropped as much as 41% to 72 yen in Tokyo trading.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange said it had put Oki Electric under watch and was considering delisting the company. In a statement on its website, the company said its Madrid-based unit Oki Systems Iberica had overstated accounts. As a result, the firm said it would miss by a month the Tokyo Stock Exchange’s financial reporting deadline of 14 August.

Earlier this year, Japan’s Olympus Corp was fined 10bn yen after it admitted to a 13-year accounting fraud. The medical equipment and camera maker lost 2.5bn yen in market value because of the scandal, but was allowed to keep its listing on the Tokyo bourse after being placed under supervision. Olympus still faces criminal investigations and shareholder suits, and against former executives who were involved in the scheme. However, several

France to fall back into recession says central bank

PARIS, 12 Aug — France’s economy will fall back into recession this quarter, the country’s central bank has predicted. The Bank of France estimates that the economy will contract by 0.1% in July to September. It has already predicted a fall of the same magnitude for April to June. France posted zero growth in the first quarter of the year.

France’s economy has been hit by the eurozone debt crisis, which has weakened the world’s poorest. Untimely rains in Brazil, drought in the US and production difficulties in Russia have depressed the drive, said the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Food prices jumped 6% in July from June after falling three months in a row. The FAO food price index measures the monthly price changes for a basket of food commodities including cereals, oilseeds, dairy, meat and sugar.

Global food prices rise in July due to extreme weather

LONDON, 12 Aug — Global food prices sharply rebounded in July due to wild swings in weather conditions, a UN food and agricultural body has said. The rise has fanned fresh fears of a repeat of the 2007-2008 food crisis which hurt the world’s poorest. Untimely rains in Brazil, drought in the US and production difficulties in Russia have depressed the drive, said the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Food prices jumped 6% in July from June after falling three months in a row. The FAO food price index measures the monthly price changes for a basket of food commodities including cereals, oilseeds, dairy, meat and sugar.

The index reading in July was still well below the all-time high reached in February 2011. The Rome-based organization took the surprise step of publishing the index this month — which it usually does not — due to the exceptional market conditions affected by unusual weather patterns. Cereal prices surged 17%, while sugar leapt 12%. New high prices from the previous month after rains hampered sugarcane harvesting in Brazil, the world’s largest producer. Delayed monsoons in India and poor rains in Australia also contributed to higher prices.

“The severe deterioration of maize crop prospects in the US following extensive drought damaged the price of rice and dairy was unchanged, although meat fell 1.7% due to a slump in pork prices. The surge in prices have renewed fears of a food crisis and unaffordable prices have pushed more than 600m people worldwide into extreme poverty. The FAO food price index measures the monthly price changes for a basket of food commodities including cereals, oilseeds, dairy, meat and sugar.

Heart defects on the decline in European babies

NEW YORK, 12 Aug — The number of newborns in Europe affected by heart defects appears to have fallen in recent years, but it’s not clear what’s behind a new study. A team of European Union researchers analyzing million birth records found that the number of European babies born with heart defects fell from around seven in every thousand births in 2004 to around six per thousand by 2007 — a drop of around 1% per year. While any drop in the numbers of babies born with birth defects is good news, experts noted that the decline is a modest one and the researchers can only speculate about the reasons for it.

There is cause “for a high level of skepticism,” said Dr Joe Simpson at the New York-based March of Dimes Foundation, a non-profit organization that works to improve babies’ health. “It would be lovely if... true,” Simpson told Reuters. “A maternal health intervention would be worth considering. But we have no way of knowing for sure.”

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Can daily aspirin help ward off cancer?

NEW YORK, 12 Aug — A new study bolsters the case that daily aspirin may help protect against cancer, although the effect seems weaker than previously thought. The final report on the popular but controversial drug has yet to be written, experts say, because earlier research on the new work has considerable limitations. “News about the potential of aspirin for cancer prevention had been really encouraging lately,” said Dr Michael Thun of the American Cancer Society, who worked on the study. “Things are moving forward, but it is still a work in progress.”

Medical guidelines in the US already urge people to take low doses of aspirin to prevent heart disease if the predicted benefits outweigh the risk of side effects, or if they have already suffered a heart attack. Whether these recommendations should be broadened to include cancer prevention is still up in the air, however. Earlier this year, an analysis of previous clinical trials showed that people on aspirin were less likely to die of cancer than those not on the medication, with a 37% drop in cancer deaths observed from five years onwards.

The new report, published on Friday in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, is based on real-life observations instead of experiments. It includes a decade’s worth of data from more than 100,000 men and women in the US, most over 60 and all of them non-smokers. People who said they took daily aspirin — whether “baby” or adult strength — had a 16-percent lower risk of dying from cancer than non-users overall; Thun and his colleagues found. For men, the difference came to 103 fewer cancer deaths a year per 100,000 people; for women, the number was 42.

The effect was strongest for gastrointestinal cancers, such as colon cancer and stomach cancer. It but didn’t seem to matter whether people had been on aspirin for more or less than five years. Because the study wasn’t a clinical trial, it’s hard to know if the findings can be chalked up to aspirin or if something else is at play. Still, Thun said the results would favor broader guidelines to include cancer prevention based on an individual risk-benefit assessment. But he added that it will take scientists a few years to roll over all of the existing evidence.

The report on the Tokyo bourse after being delisted from Tokyo’s because of falsified or mistated accounts over the years. These include heavy machinery maker IHI Corp, Seibu Railway and communications firm Kanko. — Internet

The eurozone crisis has hit French exports. — Internet

FDA OKS Lucentis for diabetes-related eye disorder

WASHINGTON, 12 Aug — The Food and Drug Administration approved on Friday approved Roche’s injectable eye drug Lucentis for a new use in treating a diabetes-related condition that can cause blindness. The agency cleared the drug for diabetic macular edema, a condition that causes swelling and blurred vision in patients with diabetes. In 2010, 3.5 million adults with diabetes reported vision problems, according to the FDA.

Lucentis is currently marketed for wet, age-related macular degeneration, the leading cause of blindness among the elderly. The drug has been facing new competition in the market from Regeneron Pharmaceutical’s Eylea, which is cheaper and can be administered with fewer injections. Side effects with Lucentis include bleeding around the tissue that lines the eyelid and increased pressure on the eyes. Lucentis is manufactured by Roche’s Genentech unit. — Internet

An aerial view shows an administration building of the German Bayer AG chemical company in Leverkusen, wrapped as giant “Aspirin” box. — Reuters

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An aerial view shows an administration building of the German Bayer AG chemical company in Leverkusen, wrapped as giant “Aspirin” box. — Reuters
**Thirteen more people killed in Philippine floods**

**MANILA, 12 Aug —** Nineteen more people were reported killed in the Philippines, bringing the total death toll due to floods brought by monsoon rains to 85, the Philippine government announced on Sunday morning.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said in its report issued at 5 am on Sunday, among the casualties, 12 were killed in landslides, 62 died due to drowning, and the others died either by lighting, falling trees or electrocution.

**Five French hostages kidnapped in Sahel seen alive in video**

**PARIS, 12 Aug —** A Mauritanian online news agency has published a video showing five of six French hostages kidnapped by the North African al-Qaeda branch from Mali and Niger in the past two years.

The video, seen by AFP on Friday, is a montage of images filmed in different locations, and shows the five hostages separately introducing themselves and leaving a message for their families while surrounded by armed and turbaned men.

One hostage, Philippe Verdon, spoke of “difficult living conditions” and health problems, saying he had not taken his medication for three months. It was not clear what the medication was for, Verdon was kidnapped in November with Serge Lazarevic from Hombori in the northeastern Mali, where they worked as geologists. He appeals to former French president Nicolas Sarkozy, who was beaten in a second round election on 6 May by Francois Hollande, and international organisations to intervene and free himself and his colleague.

Verdon said al-Qaeda was “available to negotiate.”

**UK ticket-holder wins record 190 million euro lottery**

**LONDON, 12 Aug —** A ticket-holder in Britain has won a record 190 million euro (€149 million, 2534 million) in the EuroMillions lottery, officials announced on Friday. The winner, whose identity is not yet known, beats the Scottish couple who became Britain’s biggest ever lottery winners in July last year when they scooped 185 million euros.

But the euro conversion rate means the prize is worth less in pounds than the £161 million won by Scots Colin and Chris Weir. “Lady Luck is clearly shining down on May as the country this year another big EuroMillions win — this year’s seventh jackpot to be won so far in 2012,” said a spokesman for Britain’s National Lottery.

“We have plenty of champagne on ice and look forward to welcoming the lucky ticket-holder into the National Lottery millionaires’ club.”

**US military chief to discuss Afghanistan in New Zealand**

**WELLINGTON, 12 Aug —** The commander of the United States military Central Command (USCENTCOM) arrived in New Zealand on Saturday for talks with senior military officials on the military situation in Afghanistan.

General James Mattis would meet with Minister of Defence Jonathan Coleman and conduct talks with senior officials, said the statement. Prior to taking command of USCENTCOM, Mattis served as both NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander Transformation from 2007 to 2009 and US Commander, US Joint Forces Command, from 2007 to 2010. His current area of responsibility included the Middle East, Afghanistan and South Asia and his visit provided an opportunity to discuss recent developments in these areas, said the statement. Mattis arrived the same day as two New Zealand soldiers killed a week ago in an insurgent attack in Afghanistan were laid to rest — Xinhua

**Suicide bomber hits North Iraq Shi’ite mosque, kills five**

**MOUSL, 12 Aug —** A suicide bomber driving a truck attacked a Shi’ite mosque near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul as Friday prayers ended, killing at least five people and wounding 76, police and health officials said.

The mosque where the bomber detonated his explosives belonged to the Shabak minority in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad. “A suicide car bomber targeted a Shabak mosque in Mwaqafia village,” said Hanif Qadhi, a local Shabak leader. “Part of the mosque building collapsed over the heads of the worshippers as they were leaving.” A wave of attacks on mainly Shi’ite pilgrims and religious sites in recent months has increased worries about sectarian violence as Iraq’s Shi’ite, Sunni and Kurdish leaders struggle to end a crisis over their fragile power-sharing agreement.

The site of Friday’s blast is near disputed territories at the centre of a feud between Baghdad’s Arab-led central government and the autonomous Kurdistan region in the north, which has its own government and armed forces. Insurgents have carried out at least one major bombing a month since Americans troops left in December. July was the bloodiest month in two years, including one day of attacks that left more than 100 dead.

**Philippine death toll in monsoon rain-triggered flood climbs to 85**

**MANILA, 12 Aug —** Nineteen more people were reported killed in the Philippines, bringing the total death toll due to floods brought by monsoon rains to 85, the Philippine government announced on Sunday morning.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said in its report issued at 5 am on Sunday, among the casualties, 12 were killed in landslides, 62 died due to drowning, and the others died either by lightning, falling trees or electrocution.

**French nationals Philippe Verdon and Serge Lazarevic (R) are held at an undisclosed location in 2011.**

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**A Euro Millions lottery grid is shown in 2011.**

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The unsolved puzzle of Bagan monuments Inventory

How many monuments are there in Bagan? Frequent question of visitors to Bagan but no correct nor exact answer can be given. Exaggeration? No. Seeing is believing. Whether your visit is a day trip or a week, a month or a year stay, you would realize you can get only a tentative answer because the wider and deeper your legs stretch into the forests of those ancient buildings in different sizes and shapes and in various degrees of ruin, the more you see them above and below ground, at and up on the hills and mountains by the side of the river banks, under wild vegetation or even one building inside the other. Even life long field researchers are reluctant to commit themselves to finding the exact number. The age old story of the unsolved puzzle of compiling inventory of Bagan monuments.

Since days of yore Bagan monuments’ inventory has been told and transmitted to generations verbally by rhyme. The earliest triplet is as follows:-
Hle Win Yoe Than … the sounds of cart axes
Ta Nyan Nyan … That’s the total sum of Bagan edifices.

Here also the four words in the first line of the couplet represent four members 4474. An addition of 28 to the first triplet become 4446 which therefore is the inventory. The other two lines are simply descriptions. When and by whom this triplet composed are still unknown.

Later, during the reign of King Mo Hnin Min of Inwa Period (1364-1555 A.D) of Myanmar history, an inventory was compiled and the total number was recorded in a rhymed couplet thus:
Win Win Hlein Hlyan …Bright, Bright, Brilliant, Glittering
Pyi Paik Kan … Are pagodas of Bagan standing.

The eleventh economic zones of Bagan’s time in now underwater.

The advice and the wish of these two Myanmar and foreign life long researchers of Bagan U Pe Maung Tin and G.H. Luce spoke volumes for compilers of Bagan monument’s inventory. Bearing in mind that the present Bagan of 25 square miles is the fourth Bagan, the three seniors are (1) 1944, (2) Middle Bagan and (3) Late Bagan. He could finish only Middle Bagan and he passed away at his ripe age in his homeland England. At the farewell party given to Sayagyi Luce, he tearfully made his remark.

“After I passed out of this life, and if I be born human in next existence, I wish I be born in Bagan to complete my unfinished research.”

The three worlds in the first line “Nyo Nyo Nyan” when converted to number became 333. There are 333 bells at Bagan normally bells are meant for religious purposes and so they are found at the sacred precinct. But they were used for public services—for early warning of natural disasters.

Collective teak sapling cultivation held in Yekyi Township

Yeyyi, 12 Aug.—A ceremony to grow 950 teak plants was held from Chingon Village to Linthawkin Village in Yekyi Township of Pathin District in Ayeyawady Region on 28 July afternoon.

At the ceremony, the Township Administrator and Staff Officer of Township Forest Department U Soe Yi supervised cultivation of teak saplings by township level departmental personnel, ward and village administrators, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women’s Affairs Organization, students and local people.

Agricultural loans disbursed in Pyinnmana

Nav Pyi Taw, 12 Aug.—With a view to ensuring convenience of farmers to grow monsoon paddy in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, a ceremony to disburse agricultural loans to farmers from Kyi Yin, Ywathii and Ywathii Village-Tracts of Pyinnmana Township was held at the monastery in Kyi-in Village-tract on 8 October afternoon.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council Col Myint Aung Than, Township Administrator U Kyaw Tint and Staff Officer of Township Cooperative Department U Myint Tha attended the ceremony.

After hearing the reports of farmers, the member of Nay Pyi Taw Council presented K 74.895 million to 389 members of Paunglaung Agricultural Cooperative Society—Myanmar Amin.
Republic of the Union of Myanmar, accepting Our Three Main National Causes, lawful business activities, participation in anti-narcotics drives, participation in politics by establishing political parties, accepting the constitution and amending at the Hlutaw if they want to and transformation into only one armed organization. The third stage, the discussion at the Pyidangsu Hlutaw, signing the eternal peace deal by all national races at the Pyidangsu Hlutaw. There were 11 armed groups which had not reached peace deal for various reasons. The government led by the President offered the olive branch to all armed groups with Notification No 1(2011) dated 18-8-2011. Agreements have been reached with 10 out of 11 groups at the State level or the Union level and engagement is being made with each of the groups.

As nation’s future totally...

The ultimate goal of the government is not to force armed groups who exchanged arms for peace to serve as border guard forces and the militias always but it is a temporary arrangement. In the long run it is aimed at building a single Tatmadaw in which all can serve in accordance with the Constitution which protects the sovereignty of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The reason why the government is committing to peace is to develop the socio-economic set up of the country. The over 50 year armed conflicts have wasted time and wealth of the country. Myanmar is rich in natural resources and has a sizable population, was once one of the Asian’s vibrant economies. Failure to gain peace is one of the reasons which cause Myanmar to fall into the status of the least developed countries.

Under the objective conditions, it can be said that the nation’s future totally depends on whether there prevails peace or not, so peace must be reached in any way and this is one and only option. Some Asian and African nations which are experiencing armed struggle have proved the fact that peace is directly proportional to economic development of a country and armed conflict is to the poverty. The Union government as parent, elder brother and sister of a family, needs to have tolerance and show benevolence for bringing peace to the country.

The Vice-President called on responsible personnel and organization for keeping in touch with armed peace groups until the country gains the eternal peace and stressed the need for organizing more negotiation groups to keep on working for bringing peace to the country and urged them to make efforts for gaining arms from the peace center and for fulfilling socio-economic needs of those who exchanged arms for peace.

Afterwards, Vice-Chairman of the Union Peace Making Working Committee Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win clarified the works of the committee.

The Union Peace Making Working Committee is made up of representatives from the government and the armed forces. It includes representatives of national races who are committed to peace. The committee consists of six arms, namely, political, military, social-economic, justice, religious and women.

Chairman of Union-level Peace-making Working Committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Work Committee members pose for documentary photo.—MNA

YANGON Region shows love for mother earth

YANGON, 12 Aug—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe delivered a speech at a tree planting ceremony in Shwelinban Industrial Zone in Hlithayba Township here this morning.

He called for paying considerable care to the trees which are key to environmental conservation.

Director U Maung Maung Win for Department of Forest of Yangon Region explained the purposes of planting trees.

The chief minister, the region Hlutaw speaker, the region chief justice, the region blattaw deputy speaker and region ministers gave away saplings to departmental officials, the chairman of Industrial Zone Management Committee and officials.

The chief minister and officials planted trees at designated places and viewed around collective tree planting.

A total of 2000 saplings were planted at the ceremony.

Chairman of Union-level Peace-making Working Committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Work Committee members pose for documentary photo.—MNA

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Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men’s Football Tournament continues

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Aug—The group matches of the 6th Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men’s Football Tournament continued at Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground No. 1 and No. 2 today.

In the morning matches, Ministry of Mines announced Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Ministry 8-0 at Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground No. 1 and Rail Transportation Ministry beat Labour Ministry 1-0 at Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground No. 2. In the afternoon matches, Finance and Revenue Ministry defeated Culture Ministry 11-1 at Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground No. 1 and Electric Power No. 1 Ministry won over Industry Ministry 2-0 at Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground No. 2.—MNA

Awarding ceremony for school health week activity held in Taunggyi Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Aug—An awarding ceremony for school health week activity and a ceremony for raising school fund were held at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Taunggyi Township in Shan State yesterday morning.

At the event, Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat delivered an address. Head of Shan State Health Department U Myint Aung gave explanations on the work activities for school health care. The State Chief Minister presented prizes and certificates of honour to the schools recognized as model school for taking school health care in 2012-2013 academic year and wife of the State Chief Minister Daw Phyu Phyu Nyunt, Deputy Speaker of Shan State Hlutaw U Sai Kham Inn, state ministers and officials concerned followed.

Well-wishers made a donation for holding the future ceremony and the State Chief Minister and those present viewed boards displayed school health week activities in the hall.—MNA
First conference of Myanmar Seamen’s Federation (MSF) held

YANGON, 12 Aug—The first conference of Myanmar Seamen’s Federation (MSF) was held at Yuzana Hotel on Shwegondine Road in Bahan Township at 9 am today with an address by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and for Labour U Aung Kyi.

In his address, Union Minister U Aung Kyi said that it was a great honour for MSF to be formed as an employees’ association in accordance with the laws, adding that associations such as employees’ association, employers’ association and social organizations are civil societies.

In democratic nations, civil societies in cooperation with the government and the people should play a leading role in the establishing of good governance, he disclosed.

To keep pace with changes and developments taking place in the modern world, the Hluttaw is in discussion about the emergence of the law on creating jobs and skills development, the least wages law and social security law which would contribute much to the mass of employees, he said. He continued that the partnership between the employers and employees is a new concept that has emerged in the 21st century.

The new approach-partnership could bring about mutual benefits between the employers and employees as the former are socially responsible for the later and in return the later are trying hard for increased capacity of factories and mills. With this in view, the employers’ associations in cooperation with the management are to introduce workplace reform, he reiterated.

Next, Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein spoke on the occasion.

After that, President of MSF Dr Tin Hlaing extended greetings.

Also present on the occasion were executives of the federation, members, officials and invited guests.—MNA

Taxation knowledge disseminated to students in Paungde

PAUNGDE, 12 Aug—The clarification on taxation, organized by Paungde Township Internal Revenue Department, was held at Pyinnya Yadana Hall of Basic Education High School in Paungde Township, Bago Region, on 20 August.

Headmistress Daw Khin Lay Yi made a speech.

Head of Township Internal Revenue Department Daw Khin Khin Soe explained emergence of taxation system, purpose of levying taxes, matters related to the tax, commercial tax, income tax, stamp tax and Aungbaung lottery tax to the attendees.

Knowledge about taxation disseminated in Ayadaw

AYADAW, 12 Aug—A talk on taxation was held at Saya San Hall of Basic Education High School in Ayadaw of Monywa District in Sagaing Region on 20 July morning.

Head of Township Internal Revenue Department Daw Thin Nwe Than explained matters related to taxation.

It was attended by departmental personnel, teachers and students.

Vacant plots to be put under kitchen crops

YEADAW, 12 Aug—To minimize daily expense of kitchen, the rural people grow vegetables on the vacant plots.

Cultivation of kitchen crops on vacant places in the respective compound and residences can save the expense of building vegetables. The plantations on manageable scale can be sufficient for each family.

Yeadaw

Traffic Accident

57/5 and 57/6 on Myinnu-Monywa Road of Bommingyikin Village of Myinnu on 4 August morning while dodging the car from opposite way.

Driver U Myint Maung died on the spot. U Myint Maung was injured in his left forehead and right hand. Maung Chit Ko had no injury. In the accident, the car was damaged.

Myanma Alin

Durability of library discussed in Dawbon

YANGON, 12 Aug—With the aim of raising reading habit and ensuring durability of libraries, Head of Dawbon Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Khin Htay Myint and staff held a meeting with officials of the library and local people at Hsonseeya Library in Lamadan Ward on 24 July. —Myanma Alin

Roadside safety supervised at Maha Bandoola Bridge

YANGON, 12 Aug—With a view to ensuring traffic safety, Engineering Department (Road/Bridge) of Yangon City Development Committee laid traffic blocks at the entrance to Minnanda Road in Dawbon Township side not to allow vehicles.

The department opens the way behind of Yamonna Cee Park near Yanbye Bus Stop to enter Minnanda Road.

Kyemon

District News

Taxation knowledge shared to basic education middle students

THANATPIN, 12 Aug—A ceremony to disseminate knowledge about taxation was held at Basic Education High School in Thanatpin of Bago Region on 26 July.

The knowledge was shared to basic education middle students.

At the talk, Head of Township Internal Revenue Department Daw Khin Aye Kyi gave lectures on rules, regulations and procedures for taxation.

Myanma Alin

Local people seen in front of city hall in Pathein for their works as usual on 4 August although heavy rains and floods hit the region.—Kyemon

Car hits roadside trees in dodging car on opposite

YANGON, 12 Aug—A Super Mandalay Yarpyae Jeep with number plate 8B/65, son of U Aung Kyi of Bommingyikin Village of Myinnu of 4 August Bomingyikin Village of Myinnu hit two trees on the roadside between mile posts of the car hit two trees on the roadside between mile posts.
Cultivation of Palethwe hybrid paddy demonstrated in Maubin

Maubin, 12 Aug—A ceremony to demonstrate cultivation of Palethwe hybrid paddy was held on 22 acres of farmland of farmer U Nay Win in Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 29 July. It was attended by staff of Township Agriculture Department, Cooperative and representatives of Township Cooperative Syndicate, officials of Township Agricultural Development Committee, representatives of the syndicate and Township Agriculture Committee, the patron and members of Myanmar Rice Industry Association, the village administrator and local farmers.

At the demonstration, Staff Officer U Nyi Lay Maung of Township Agriculture Department explained cultivation of hybrid paddy seeds, selection of quality paddy seeds, 14-point good agriculture patterns and replied to queries raised by those present. They viewed thriving of paddy plantation at the integrated farm of farmer U Nay Win. —Myanmar Alin

Policy for nurturing of children discussed in YeU

YeU, 12 Aug—Jointly organized by Sagaing Region Social Welfare Department, Region Health Department and UNICEF, an eight-member team held the workshop on drawing of policy for nurturing of children from 9 am to 4 pm on 26 July. It was attended by staff of Township Health Department, teachers and personnel of governmental organizations.

Traffic rules course for other ranks concludes

Yangon, 12 Aug—The traffic rule course No.2/2012 for other ranks conducted by Yangon Region Wireless and Traffic Police Force of Myanmar Police Force concluded at Thiri Myaing Township on 3 August.

Commander of No 2 Police Battalion Control Commander Police Brig-Gen Thura Bo Ni made a speech.

The ceremony was attended by senior police officers, course instructors and 103 trainees. —Kyemon

CSC Issued:

Kawkareik Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Nyo Nyo Tha and staff issued citizenship scrutiny cards to local people in Naungkaing Village of Kawkareik Township on 25 July —Myanmar Alin

Insein-Shwepyitha bus causes upside down

Yangon, 12 Aug—A small bus of War Veterans Organization with full of passengers driving from Insein to Shwepyitha plunged into the drain beside Bayintnaung Road in front of Shwe Set Win Co Ltd in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone of Insein Township, Yangon North District, at 3:45 pm on 2 August.

The Hilux driven by Chan Mon took over another Hilux of 99th Bus-line driven by Myo Zaw Win and then hit a lamp-post on the opposite way. In the accident, Maung Tun Lin Myo, 24 of Ward 10 in Shwepyitha dropped from the Hilux. He was serious in injury and died on the spot. Some passenger of the Hilux were injured and then rushed to Insein General Hospital.

Minbu, 12 Aug—A clarification on taxation was held at No 1 Basic Education Department High School in Minbu (Sagu) Township of Magway Region on 20 July.

At the talks, Head of Township Internal Revenue Department Daw Khin Oo explained matters related to taxation and distributed pamphlets. —Myanmar Alin

Taxation knowledge shared to students

Myanmar Thabin Asiayon (Central) holdscoord meeting

Yangon, 12 Aug—Myanmar Thabin Asiayon (Central) held the coordination meeting at its office on Latha Road, here, on 31 July morning. Acting Chairman of the Asiayon U Ye Dway made a speech.

Secretary U Aung Tin Win explained the organizational tasks and movements and Treasurer U Sein Ba Maw on financial statement.

Next, the Asiayon presented K 100,000 each to Sithu award winners U Shwe Nan Tin, U Sein Ba Maw, Daw San Shar Tin and Daw Nwe Nwe San.

Joint-Secretary U Moe Min reported on holding the plenary meeting of the Asiayon for 2012. After that, Joint-Secretary U Chan Tha also reported on holding the ceremony to pay respects to older persons. —Kyemon

Tamu District Police Force holds workshop

Tamu, 12 Aug—The workshop on turning out qualified prosecutor police officers was held at the hall of Tamu District Police Force in Sagaing Region on 30 July.

Commander of District Police Force Police Li-Col Lin Htut made a speech.

District Law Officer U Myint Aung explained legal affairs in detail.

The workshop was attended by 24 prosecutor police officers of Tamu District. —Myanmar Alin

CSC issued:

Minbu Township Public Works Department U Tin Soe and staff attended the coordination meeting held at the head office of Kesu Township on 13 July to discuss regarding the removal of the old road from Moktaw Village to Kyaw Pyaw village, and the repair of the Moktaw Road. —Myanmar Alin

Strong winds hit Pyapon Township

Pyapon, 12 Aug—A strong winds hit Pyapon Township with 60 mph from 6.30 am to 6.35 am on 4 August.

In the event, Self-reliant Basic Education Middle School in Gyowahtalun Village of Gyowahtalun tract of Pyapon Township was destroyed in the strong winds.

At the scene, Township Administrator U Tin Soe and officials repaired the school. —Myanmar Alin

Soe Kyaw Naing Market is closed

Kyaikmaraw, 12 Aug—A meeting of the 68th Street Market Committee was held to discuss regarding the closure of Soe Kyaw Naing Market on 12 July. It was attended by staff of Township Health Department, teachers and personnel of governmental organizations.

The Chairman of the society donated K 100,000 and K 100,000 from the profits of the society to Peinneon Basic Education High School (Branch) through Headmistress Daw Khin Cho Hsint. The donation will be spent on purchase of school equipment.
France’s Hollande approval rating hit by weak economy

PARIS, 12 Aug—French President Francois Hollande’s approval ratings have dipped to 46 percent three months after winning the presidency, pollster Ifop said on Saturday, suggesting a weak economy had cut short the Socialist leader’s honeymoon period.

The survey showed Hollande—who won office on 6 May with nearly 52 percent of votes—had not benefited from the post-electoral bounce enjoyed by his predecessor Nicolas Sarkozy in 2007. Sarkozy’s approval rating climbed 65 percent in the weeks after his victory.

However, Hollande took office amid gloomier economic prospects, with unemployment at a 13-year high of 10 percent and France expected to slip into recession this year. The Ifop poll, published in right-leaning newspaper Le Figaro, said 51 percent of those questioned thought France was changing for the worse, with just 17 percent convinced it was changing for the better.

In 2007 after the election of Sarkozy, 45 percent of those questioned said France was changing for the better.

“In this very pessimistic climate and with regard to the very small room for manoeuvre which exists, the confidence ratings for Hollande and his government are consistently below 50 percent,” said Jerome Fourquet of Ifop.

Hollande has insisted his government will meet France’s deficit targets of 4.6 percent of GDP this year, obliging it to unveil a 7.2 billion euro package of tax rises, mostly on wealthy households and large corporate reports said.

To meet next year’s 3 percent target, he will need to find some 33 billion euros in tax rises and savings.

Nonetheless, the survey of 1,004 people showed that 57 percent of those questioned thought Hollande was fulfilling his campaign promises. His decision to cut his own cabinet by nearly one third was backed by 82 percent of voters.

The government’s decision to partially undo Sarkozy’s tax cuts in the retirement age for those who started work early in life—returning it to 60 from 62—won approval from 71 percent of those polled. Sixty-seven percent of those questioned welcomed his announcement of a higher wealth tax on rich households. —Reuters

China’s trade surplus to narrow in August

BEIJING, 12 Aug—China’s trade surplus will continue to narrow in August, as export growth is likely to stay low, according to a report issued by the Financial Research Centre of Bank of Communications.

“Given the grim prospects for global economic recovery, the country’s exports in August will fall from one month earlier, and year-on-year export growth will remain low,” the report said.

The research centre is not optimistic about the global economy, as the US economy has been struggling to gain traction and Europe is slipping toward a recession.

The US economy grew at a tepid rate of 1.5 percent from April to June, down from 2.4 percent in the first quarter, adding to worries that the world’s largest economy could be falling three years after the recession ended.

Japan’s economy may expand at a slower pace as its post-quake construction projects wind down, while emerging countries will continue to face great pressure to keep growth on track, according to the report.

However, the centre ruled out the possibility of a sharp drop in exports, despite Japan’s dip and the risk that US economic growth could slow.

Armed men attack peacekeeping troops in Egypt’s Sinai

AL-ARISH, 12 Aug.—A group of armed men opened fire on Sunday on peacekeeping troops in Egypt’s Sinai peninsula near the border with Israel, a security source in Sinai said.

“The attack happened in Um Shyhan area in the middle of Sinai but no one got injured,” the source said.

The incident came just days after the start of a military operation in the area against militants suspected of being behind a bloody attack on Egyptian border guards last Sunday, which killed 16.

A group of armed men had earlier clashed with Egyptian security forces near the scene of the latest attack after they opened fire at a police checkpoint, the same security source said. No one was injured.

Police checkpoints have come under a series of similar attacks by armed assailants since last Wednesday.

Egypt sent hundreds of troops and armored vehicles into North Sinai on Thursday to tackle militants operating near the border in an intensive operation. It was not immediately clear if the troops had killed anyone, although authorities said the 200 people they believed to be terrorists were captured by Egyptian forces.

The Egyptian army has captured six people it considered “terrorists” in Sinai near the border with Gaza since the start of the military operation earlier this month, according to government sources.

Kidnapped Saudi diplomat released in south Yemen—tribal chief

ADEN, 12 Aug—Al-Qaeda-linked militants released on Saturday night a Saudi Arabian diplomat they kidnapped in southern Yemen, a tribal source told Reuters, adding that his release was secured after tribal mediation efforts.

Abdallah al-Khalidi, the Saudi deputy consul in the Yemeni port city of Aden, was abducted in March.

“Tribal mediators received the Saudi diplomat and he will be moved to Sanaa in the next few hours,” said Sheikh Tareq al-Fadli, a tribal chief.

In May, a militant who claimed responsibility for the kidnapping threatened to kill Khalidi unless a ransom was paid and al-Qaeda prisoners were freed from Saudi jails. The terms of Khalidi’s release were not clear.

Kidnapping is common in Yemen, frequently in the context of regional or tribal disputes with Yemeni authorities. The victims are sometimes held for ransom, particularly if they are foreigners.

Singapore’s former minister mentor concerns about low birth rate

SINGAPORE, 12 Aug—Singapore’s former Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew expressed his concerns on the country’s low fertility rate on Saturday.

He said that the reproduction rates for Chinese, Indians and Malays in Singapore are 1.08, 1.09 and 1.64 respectively, representing their declining will to give birth to the next generation.

“If we go on like that, this place will fold up, because there’ll be no original citizens left to form the majority, and we cannot have new citizens, new PRs to settle our social ethos, our social spirit, our social norms. So my message is a simple one. The answer is very difficult—but the problems, if we don’t find the answers, are enormous,” local media Channel NewsAsia quoted as saying when Lee attended the National Day celebration dinner in his own group representation constituency.

He emphasized the important role of work permit holders who build the roads, homes and the tunnels. And without the prayers, Singapore’s population would be older, smaller, and will lose vitality, he added.—Xinhua

Exclusive: Standard Chartered, regulators in settlement talks

NEW YORK, 12 Aug—Standard Chartered is in talks with US and other law-enforcement officials, including New York’s banking regulator, to resolve a probe into improper Iranian money transactions by the British bank, according to people familiar with the situation.

The settlement negotiations are expected to last through the weekend and could result in a resolution by next week, these people said. The negotiations are at a delicate stage and could collapse, they added.

One set of talks is with federal officials while a separate negotiation is taking place with the New York bank regulator, underscoring a divide that exists between New York and other regulators and the sources said.

The negotiations came after a rancorous week that began when Benjamin Lawsky, superintendent of the New York Department of Financial Services, alleged in an order on Monday that the bank processed thousands of illegal transactions to Iran and that Standard Chartered had covered up its actions using incomplete or false records.

Lawsky demanded that Standard Chartered officials appear at his office next Wednesday to explain why the bank should be allowed to keep doing business in New York, a global hub for the processing of dollars. The hearing remained on the calendar as of Friday afternoon.

The bank had been cooperating in a long probe that dates to 2010 and subsequent settlement talks with federal and local regulators. Those talks continue, the US Justice Department, Federal Reserve Bank of New York and Manhattan District Attorney’s office had been engaged in those talks.

Visitors view chairs made from recycled paper pulp at the 2012 China Hangzhou Industrial Design Expo in Hangzhou, east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 11 Aug, 2012. —Xinhua

France’s President Francois Hollande (C) and Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian (L) pay homage to Major Franche Bourez, who was killed in Afghanistan, at the 93rd regiment of Artillery in Varces, French Alps, on 11 August, 2012. —Reuters

France’s President Francois Hollande (C and Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian (L) pay homage to Major Franche Bourez, who was killed in Afghanistan, at the 93rd regiment of Artillery in Varces, French Alps, on 11 August, 2012. —Reuters

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China is likely to run a surplus of around 150 billion US dollars this year, the report said.

Chinese export growth rose one percent year on year in July, a six-month low and down from the 11.3-percent growth seen in June. The trade surplus narrowed 16.8 percent year on year to 25.15 billion US dollars, according to official data.

The nation’s exports to the European Union, its largest trading partner, slumped 16.2 percent year on year in July.
Storm Ernesto kills nine in Mexico

LOS ANGELES, 12 Aug — A small plane crashed into a Los Angeles neighbourhood on Friday, leaving smoldering airplane wreckage in a corner yard and killing at least one person dead.

The accident occurred in the northeast corridor of Glendora and San Bernardino avenues, about 1.5 miles from Santa Monica Airport, the LAFD said. No structures were involved in the crash, according to the Burbank Fire Department, adding that the plane was departing Santa Monica Airport when it crashed.

The crash occurred around 6 p.m. after the pilot of a single-engine Cessna 210 declared an emergency, the Associated Press reported, citing a Federal Aviation Administration official. An aerial view of the accident from a local news helicopter showed the scene of the crash with a smoldering palm tree trunk surrounded by small pieces of a white airplane.

Smoke rose from the tree, the wreckage and the yard. Fire crews were at the scene.

Another tree nearby had broken limbs and appeared to have been clipped by the aircraft as it crashed. The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the incident, the AP reported.

Eight bodies found inside car in northern Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 12 Aug — Police found eight decomposing bodies on Friday inside a car abandoned by a waterpark in northern Mexico, a day after authorities in a neighbouring state recovered five bodies from a vehicle with 14 bodies still inside.

The most recent grisly find was in the town of Frennillo, near a warehouse where police had recently seized drugs.

Zacatecas, a largely rural state that has seen a rise in drug cartel violence in the last two years as the Zetas gang pushes south from its home base along Mexico’s border with Texas. Drug violence has killed more than 47,500 people since President Felipe Calderon launched an offensive against Mexico’s cartels when he took office in December 2006.

Gonzalez said the bodies were decomposed and had been there for several days, according to local media.

Gonzalez said the bodies were found in a building and that authorities believed two of them had been-buttons people.

Public health officials typically advise residents of mosquito-prone areas to drain standing water, apply insect repellent containing the ingredient DEET and wear long-sleeve shirts and long pants.

Two British soldiers killed in Afghanistan

LONDON, 12 Aug — Two British soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan’s restive Helmand Province, the Ministry of Defence in London said on Friday. Both soldiers were killed by “enemy action” in Helmand’s Nad-e-Ali district, the ministry said.

The first was killed while on patrol on Thursday and the second died on Friday after he was hit while working on a construction task, it added. The deaths bring to 424 the number of British troops killed since the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001. Of these, at least 384 died as a result of hostile action.

Britain has around 9,500 troops in Afghanistan, making it the second-largest contributor to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force after the United States. They are based in central Helmand, battling Taliban insurgents and training local security forces. Britain intends to pull out all its combat troops by the end of 2014.
Widowed giraffe at Polish zoo to get new mates

A young male giraffe, widowed following a hooligan attack in May, is set to get three new female partners at his zoo. The female will arrive next week from two other Polish zoos and one in Leipzig, Germany, Wlodzimierz Stanislawski, the head of the breeding section at the zoo in Lodz, central Poland, said Friday. Leipzig zoo is sending 2-year-old Lira and Warsaw zoo 2-year-old Lukakia. The 9-year-old Judita is to come from Plock, in central Poland. They will fill the void that the 5-year-old Rothschild giraffe Tokif suffered after the death of two companions. Both died of stress following an attack by unidentified vandals who overturned signs and threw benches and garbage cans into animal runs in the nearest neighborhood of the enclosure of the naturally skittish giraffes.

Police arrest drunk Superman

Swedish police said they detained a Norwegian man who was seen “stumbling about” drunk while wearing a Superman costume.

Lulea police officer Erik Kummel told the Swedish-language Norrbotten skirren paper residents had reported a highly intoxicated man walking around the Storheden shopping centre late Wednesday night. The Local.se reported on 10 August, “He was seen stumbling about in a pretty drunk condition,” Kummel said. “It dark up there and there are all kinds of little slopes and hills, so we had to see if he was in need of help.” Kummel said the man was determined to be too intoxicated to take care of himself and was taken to the police station to sleep off his drunkenness.

The officer said the man was seen stumbling drunkenly the next night wearing the same Superman costume and was reportedly kicked out of a restaurant. However, he was not detained for a second time.

Marc Anthony supports charity for orphans

The 43-year-old hosted the event for Maestro Cares Foundation, which supports a project for underprivileged Latin American children. Anthony hopes to raise enough money to open a new residence hall and learning facility for more than 200 youngsters living in the orphanage, reports contactmusic.com. The event was held at Big Apple’s Latino cultural institution EL Museo del Barrio.

Anthony later showed gratitude towards everyone who turned up at the event. He wrote on Twitter: “Thank you everyone who showed your support at El Museo del Barrio for Maestro Caras. You make all the difference.”

Costumes and torches on Olympics site

Fans of the 2012 London Olympic Games and its athletes can acquire memorabilia the modern way—online through the official London 2012 Auction site.

As of Friday, an Olympic torch signed by Bradley Wiggins, the British cyclist who capped a win in the Tour de France with a gold medal in London, had been sold for more than $20,000, The Daily Telegraph reported.

But there were plenty still available, including a second Olympic torch in the signature and a Mary Poppins costume used in the opening ceremony. The top prices appeared to be going for memorabilia from earlier Olympics.

On Friday, a bidder had offered $31,350 for a bronze medal from the 1904 Summer Games in St. Louis, and $22,000 had been offered for a torch from the 1948 Games, also held in London. There were some items for collectors with limited budgets. Bids worn by the French and Canadian women’s soccer teams in their bronze medal game were going for only $47, while bidding had reached only $430 for the Poppins costume, complete with hat, bag and umbrella. The price could go higher before the auction closes on 12 Aug.

Heather Graham returning to ‘Hangover’ franchise

Actress Heather Graham is reportedly returning to the third installment of the “Hangover” movie franchise. The 42-year-old had played the role of a Las Vegas stripper who married Su Price played by actor Ed Helms in the first edition of the comedy released in 2009. The movie, however, has been strictly kept under wraps, reports contactmusic.com.

Lead actors Bradley Cooper, Zach Galifianakis and Helms are also expected to be part of the movie. The film, Boxer Mike Tyson, who gave a guest appearance in the first film, will also be seen doing a cameo in the movie. “Hangover Part II”, the sequel to the first film, was released in 2011.

Will Smith and his wife Jada Pinkett Smith

Los Angeles, 12 Aug—Actress Jada Pinkett Smith says she has no intention of divorcing her husband, actor Will Smith, after 14 years, despite rumors of a split.

The couple have two children together — Jaden, 14, and Willow, 11. Will also has a 19-year-old son, Trey, from a previous marriage.

“The fact is, these are actors and have the right to standing, acceptance, and privacy and respect,” the actress said. “He said that they are just actors and have the right to standing, acceptance, and privacy and respect.”

“This is me time that some of that respect be returned to them,” he added.

Springfield pleads no contest to reckless driving

Los Angeles, 12 Aug—Singer Rick Springfield has been placed on three years’ probation after pleading no contest to reckless driving in Malibu, Calif. Last year, officials said Springfield, 62, was charged with driving under the influence after police said they detected the smell of alcohol when they pulled him over while he was driving his 1963 Corvette Stingray.

TMZ said he made a plea deal with prosecutors on Thursday in which he agreed to drop the charge in exchange for a no-contest plea to reckless driving.

In addition to being placed on probation, the former “General Hospital” star is to attend a two-month traffic school.

“Breaking Dawn’’ will make everyone emotional: Nikki Reed

Los Angeles, 12 Aug—Actress Nikki Reed says everyone will be emotional at the premiere of her forthcoming film “Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part I” — the final movie of the “Twilight” series.

The 24-year-old plays Rosalie Hale, one of the vampires in the movie, and says she is saddened by the thought that the journey is coming to an end.

“It’s not the last time we’ll see each other, but it’s the last time we’ll see each other in that way and it’s weird to say that it’ll never happen again,” online.com quoted Reed as saying.

“This is really sad,” she added. The franchise started in 2008 with the first movie “Twilight”. It was followed by “New Moon”, “Eclipse” and “Breaking Dawn Part I” —
Allen signs for Liverpool

**LONDON, 12 Aug — Liverpool have completed the signing of midfielder Joe Allen from Swansea City. The 22-year-old, who initially agreed terms with former Swans boss Brendan Rodgers, who took over at Anfield this summer, was finally confirmed after a ‘long-term’ contract after completing a medical on Friday. Allen, part of the Team GB side at the London Olympics, played a key role for Swansea as they impressed in their first season in the Barclays Premier League. “I’ve always been ambitious and wanted to play at the highest level I possibly could,” Allen told the club’s official website. When you see an opportunity like this it’s almost impossible to turn it down.” “I’m someone who wants to be the best I can be. Every day in training or in matches, I always want to improve. You’ll always get 100 per cent out of me and I’m really looking forward to getting with the top-class players who are already doing my bit for the club.” “It’s a proud day for me and my family. They have supported me through thick and thin for so long that this is as much a reward for them as it is for me. I feel proud, I’m really thrilled and I’m looking forward to my turnhere. I can’t really imagine how I’ll feel playing at Anfield right now. I’m excited about that prospect and witnessing the Anfield atmosphere and spirit, and being part of the home team. I’m sure it will be incredible.” Allen believes that Rodgers, who left Swansea at the end of last season, having led the club to a 11th place finish in the last table, will bring success to Liverpool. “I have a lot of faith that Brendan Rodgers can bring success, that’s one of the reasons I’m here,” he added. “I’d love to be part of this project, his

Bo-bae is likely to have faced the most challenging week of her career. After predecessors, however, the 24-year-old only took individual gold after a nerve-wracking single arrow shot-off against Mexican Aida Roman.  

Kibong grasps from the crowd when she leaked her shot outside the bull’s-eye for an eight, leaving Roman needing a nine or 10 to win.

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Leading players still dreaming of Montreal glory

MONTREAL, 12 Aug — A former world number one and two grand slam champions enjoyed routine quarter-final victories on Saturday as they remained on course to claim a bemedalled title of 2012 at a rain-hit Montreal Cup. Denmark’s Caroline Wozniacki, last year’s French Open champion Li Na and 2011 Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova ended a marathon day of tennis by easing into the semi-finals of the $2 million tournament in a convincing fashion.

They were joined by 16th seeded Czech Lucie Safarova, who will face Li in the first semi-final on Sunday, before Wozniacki and Kvitova face each other Monday, before Wozniacki and Li face each other Tuesday. For Wozniacki, last year’s French Open champion Li Na and 2011 Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova ended a marathon day of tennis by easing into the semi-finals of the $2 million tournament in a convincing fashion.

Some roads in Shwehpaukkan Ward were inundated in the floods. So, the local people faced difficulty in transport.

Floods hit Peinzalok of Nyaunglebin Township

PEINZALOK, 6 Aug—Ohnthona Creek that crosses Nyaunglebin Township overflowed Shwehpaukkan Ward of Peinzalok as of dawn of 3 August. Some roads in Shwehpaukkan Ward were inundated in the floods. So, the local people faced difficulty in transport.

Table tennis: Rivals look to Rio to beat China

LONDON, 12 Aug — Young table tennis players from Japan, Germany and the United States gave a glimpse at London 2012 that they could challenge China’s Olympic dominance in the future, in a tournament lit up by a rocking atmosphere, Chinese brilliance and a one-shoe winner. China swept aside their challengers to take all four golds in London, just as they did on home soil four years ago.

A silver for Japan’s young, attacking women’s team - the country’s first in the sport - and two bronzes for Germany’s Dimitrij Ovtcharov, 23, seconded the Chinese masters may not have it all their own way at the Rio de Janeiro Games in four years’ time, though.

“Independent Daily of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Weather forecast for 13th August, 2012

<table>
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<th>Region/City</th>
<th>Maximum Temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Minimum Temperature (°C)</th>
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* Myanmar Movie
* Heartbroken Lady

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
The victims reported on requirements. The delegation viewed the land razed by fire in Setyonsu Ward of Sittway and along Strand Road by car.

At Sittway Hotel, the Union minister explained implementation of the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project, undertakings of hotel zone and fishery industry, construction of ports and dockyards, economic market and future urban development and replied to queries raised by the delegation members.

A meeting on reviewing the trip to Rakhine led by the Union Minister was held at the office of Rakhine State government. Chairman of Indonesian Red Cross Society Mr Jusuf Kalla, Vice-President Dr Mohamed Al Maahood of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Assistant Secretary General of Humanitarian Affairs Mr Atta Al-Manan Bakhit frankly discussed their attitudes, opinions, suggestions and future tasks on relief and resettlement in Rakhine State.

After that, the Union minister said that the government accommodated the victims at tents at first in undertaking the relief works, and then arrangements are being made for accommodating them at the better buildings. At present, semi-permanent buildings need for 8000 households. He urged international organizations to provide assistance as much as possible as the victims need foods, water, sanitation and health assistance in addition to housings.

The Rakhine State Chief Minister manages coordination tasks for smooth process of works at the state level. Moreover, he said the sector-wise duties were assigned to officials of the state government is giving assistance for international organizations. The Union government and officials of the state government is giving assistance for smooth process of personnel and organizations for their contributions to the region.

**London 2012 Olympics medal tally**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
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**New school building handed over in Chanayethazan Township**

NAV Pyi Taw, 12 Aug—Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye yesterday morning attended the opening ceremony of Myawady two-storey building at No 5 Basic Education High School in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay Region yesterday.

At first, Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing, Director-General in-charge U Myo Nyunt of No 2 Basic Education Department and wellwisher Daw Mya Thein formally opened the archway of the school.

The Union Minister unveiled the stone inscription and signboard of the new building. The Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye sprinkles scented water on the stone inscription and planted star-flower plant.

At the ceremony to hand over the new school building to the Ministry of Education, the Union Minister said that not only the government but also School Board of Trustees, social organizations, parents and wellwishers provide assistance for improvement of the school. He expressed his belief that the school will turn out new generation human resource in the future and the headmaster and teachers will train the students to become reliable persons for the State.

Thiha Thudhamma

The victims reported on requirements. The delegation viewed the land razed by fire in Setyonsu Ward of Sittway and along Strand Road by car. At Sittway Hotel, the Union minister explained implementation of the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project, undertakings of hotel zone and fishery industry, construction of ports and dockyards, economic market and future urban development and replied to queries raised by the delegation members.

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**New school building handed over in Chanayethazan Township**

NAV Pyi Taw, 12 Aug—Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye yesterday morning attended the opening ceremony of Myawady two-storey building at No 5 Basic Education High School in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay Region yesterday.

At first, Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing, Director-General in-charge U Myo Nyunt of No 2 Basic Education Department and wellwisher Daw Mya Thein formally opened the archway of the school.

The Union Minister unveiled the stone inscription and signboard of the new building. The Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye sprinkles scented water on the stone inscription and planted star-flower plant.

At the ceremony to hand over the new school building to the Ministry of Education, the Union Minister said that not only the government but also School Board of Trustees, social organizations, parents and wellwishers provide assistance for improvement of the school. He expressed his belief that the school will turn out new generation human resource in the future and the headmaster and teachers will train the students to become reliable persons for the State.

Thiha Thudhamma

The victims reported on requirements. The delegation viewed the land razed by fire in Setyonsu Ward of Sittway and along Strand Road by car. At Sittway Hotel, the Union minister explained implementation of the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project, undertakings of hotel zone and fishery industry, construction of ports and dockyards, economic market and future urban development and replied to queries raised by the delegation members.

A meeting on reviewing the trip to Rakhine led by the Union Minister was held at the office of Rakhine State government. Chairman of Indonesian Red Cross Society Mr Jusuf Kalla, Vice-President Dr Mohamed Al Maahood of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Assistant Secretary General of Humanitarian Affairs Mr Atta Al-Manan Bakhit frankly discussed their attitudes, opinions, suggestions and future tasks on relief and resettlement in Rakhine State.

After that, the Union minister said that the government accommodated the victims at tents at first in undertaking the relief works, and then arrangements are being made for accommodating them at the better buildings. At present, semi-permanent buildings need for 8000 households. He urged international organizations to provide assistance as much as possible as the victims need foods, water, sanitation and health assistance in addition to housings.

The Rakhine State Chief Minister manages coordination tasks for smooth process of works at the state level. Moreover, he said the sector-wise duties were assigned to officials of the state government is giving assistance for international organizations. The Union government and officials of the state government is giving assistance for smooth process of personnel and organizations for their contributions to the region.

**London 2012 Olympics medal tally**

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