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.

President U Thein Sein attends second day session of Planning Commission Second Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Aug—The second meeting of the Planning Commission continued for the second day at the meeting hall of the President Office, here, at 9.25 am today.

The meeting was attended by President U Thein Sein, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, and Union ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, the Auditor-General of the Union, the Chairman of the Union Civil Services Board, region/state Chief Ministers and chairmen of Leading Bodies of the Self-Administered Division/Zone.

At the meeting, Chief Ministers of Taninthayi, Bago and Magway Regions, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States and Ayeyawady Region, chairman of Naga, Danu, Pa-O, Palaung and Kokang Self-Administered Zones and “Wa” Self-Administered Division reported on urban development, increasing of population in townships, drawing of township development plans for job opportunities, investment for generating and supplying electricity to townships and regions through national grid, establishment of factories blocks, industrial zones and plantations for creating job opportunities in respective regions, management for allotted lands for establishments, extended investments for better transport of the people, arrangements for easing barriers along the roads, reform plans for betterment of development affairs tasks, hiking of prices for meat and fish due to slaughter licences, difficulties of people in livestock breeding and production on a manageable scale and plans to be solved. (See page 8)

Danu, Pa-O, Palaung and Kokang Self-Administered Zones and “Wa” Self-Administered Division

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>(4.65) inches</td>
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<td>Kawkarkeik</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyainmaraw</td>
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<td>Mawlamyine</td>
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<td>Putao</td>
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<td>Kyankpyu</td>
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Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Aug—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham received the American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore which accompanied US Ambassador to Singapore Mr David Adelman, and led by US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Derek James Mitchell at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 2 pm today.

Also present at the call were Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, and Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan and President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung.


At the call, they focused on investment opportunities for US companies in Asia in service, energy, electricity, transport, communication, health and production sectors of Myanmar. —MNA
The opposition
The number of political parties is still increasing in our country as new groups of people are entering politics even after a year has passed since the historic elections were held in 2010.

On account of the adoption of democracy that tolerates and also encourages freedom of organization and freedom of thinking for national progress, the country has been witnessing the emergence of more and more political parties holding their own views, ideas and work programs we fully believe are for national or regional development.

As these parties have different backgrounds, ideologies, objectives and so on, it is natural that they may have their own ways and means for progress and prosperity of the nation where peace and stability and the rule of law flourish.

Besides, it is a normal procedure in a democratic state that parties that do not win enough parliamentary seats in an election to form a government act as opposition criticizing the ruling party or the ruling coalition, pointing out any vital areas if the government misses to notice, informing the government about the public grievances, complaints or requirements and exposing any act of injustice, bribery and corruption, especially in government bodies with the help of fourth estate or at the parliamentary sessions.

But in a society like us where democracy is just in its nascent stage both the government and the opposition must take every step with great care to avoid any unnecessary or negative consequences or results.

In truth, the division between government and opposition is as old as the democracy itself. But without opposition parties, free public criticism and the threat of being thrown out of office, rulers can act with impunity. So, genuine criticism and the threat of being thrown out of office, rulers can act with impunity. So, genuine corruption, especially in government bodies and opposition must take every step with great care to avoid any unnecessary or negative consequences or results.

Earthquake News
NAY Pyi Taw, 14 Aug—A slight earthquake of magnitude 3.5 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about 15 miles southeast of Namsang), about 146 miles southeast of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 17 hrs 52 min 10 sec M.S.T today, announced Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA
Afghan suicide bombers kill 28 people, wound more than 70

KABUL, 14 Aug—Three suicide bombers killed 28 people and wounded more than 70 when they blew themselves up in a busy market in southwestern Afghanistan on one of the worst such attacks this year, provincial officials said on Tuesday.

Eighteen civilians including several children and at least three members of the Afghan security forces were among the dead in the town of Zarang, the provincial capital of Nimroz province next to the border with Iran. The toll is expected to rise, provincial governor Abdul Karim Barahawi told Reuters. “The attackers blew themselves up in crowded markets to target civilians, there was no government installation nearby,” Barahawi said. Mulla Mudi Rasooli, the Nimroz Police Chief, said three police were among the 28 dead and said the bombers had attacked not only a bazaar, but also the entrance to the local hospital.

Noor Ahmad Sherzad, a health official and hospital doctor, said as many as 100 wounded had been hospitalized. The attack was the worst of the Afghan security forces were among the dead in the town of Zarang, the provincial capital of Nimroz province next to the border with Iran. The toll is expected to rise, provincial governor Abdul Karim Barahawi told Reuters. “The attackers blew themselves up in crowded markets to target civilians, there was no government installation nearby,” Barahawi said. Mulla Mudi Rasooli, the Nimroz Police Chief, said three police were among the 28 dead and said the bombers had attacked not only a bazaar, but also the entrance to the local hospital.

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Severe abnormalities’ found in Fukushima butterflies

The work has been ongoing in early August at AT&T customers’ gigantic Samsung Galaxy Notes can rest easy because they will soon have a ‘phablet’ to call their own. Unwired View’s Neil Sunter gets the story about what the five-inch Optimus Vu will be released in the US States by the end of September, meaning Samsung’s popular Galaxy Note will finally get some competition in the supersized smartphone space.

LG’s Optimus Vu ‘phablet’ coming to US by the end of September

Exposure to radioactive material released in the environment was cause of a cluster of mutations in butterflies found in Japan, a study suggests. Scientists found an increase in leg, antennae and wing shape mutations among butterflies collected following the 2011 Fukushima accident. The link between the mutations and the radioactive material was shown by laboratory experiments, they report. The work has been published in the journal Scientific Reports.

Two months after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident in March 2011, a team of Japanese researchers collected 44 adult pale grass blue (Zizeeria maha) butterflies from 10 locations in Japan, including the Fukushima area. When the accident occurred, the adult butterflies would have been overwintering as larvae.

By comparing mutations found on the butterflies collected from the different sites, the team found that areas with greater amounts of radiation in the environment were home to butterflies with much smaller wings and irregularly developed eyes. “It has been believed that insects are very resistant to radiation,” said lead researcher Joji Otaki from the University of the Ryukyus, Okinawa. “In this case, our results were unexpected,” he told BBC News.

Prof Otaki’s team then bred these butterflies within labs, 1,750km (1,090 miles) away from the accident, where artificial radiation could hardly be detected. It was by breeding these butterflies that they began noticing a suite of abnormalities that hadn’t been seen in the previous generation -- that collected from Fukushima -- such as malformed antennae, which the insects use to explore their environment and seek out mates. Six months later, they again collected adults from the 10 sites and found that butterflies from the Fukushima area showed a mutation rate more than double that of those found sooner after the accident. The team concluded that this higher rate of mutation came from eating contaminated food, but also from mutations of the parents’ genetic material that was passed on to the next generation, even though these mutations were not evident in the previous generation’s adult butterflies.

The team of researchers have been studying that particular species butterfly for more than 10 years. They were considering using the species as an “environmental indicator” before the Fukushima accident, as previous work had shown it was very sensitive to environmental changes. “We had reported the real-time field evolution of colour patterns of this butterfly in response to global warming before, and [because] this butterfly is found in various environments -- such as gardens and public parks -- this butterfly can monitor human environments,” Prof Otaki said. But the findings from their new research showed that the radionuclides released from the accident were still affecting the development of the animals, even after the residual radiation in the environment had decayed.

“This study is important and overwhelming in its implications for both the human and ecological communities living in Fukushima,” explained University of South Carolina biologist Tim Mousseau, who studies the impacts of radiation on animals and plants in Chernobyl and Fukushima, but was not involved in this research. “These observations of mutations and morphological abnormalities can only be explained as having resulted from exposure to radioactive contaminants,” Dr Mousseau told BBC News. The findings from the Japanese team are consistent with previous studies that have indicated birds and butterflies are important tools to investigate the long-term impacts of radioactive contaminants in the environment. -- Internet

Tinny transmitters that cost a penny to print unveiled

Tiny transmitters that cost a penny to print unveiled

Readers have devised a cheap way of transmitting data from objects to mobile phones when swiped. They have printed small “rectennas”, a cross between an antenna and an AC/DC current converter, onto plastic foils using electronics inks.

The rectenna uses radio waves emitted from a smartphone to transmit data to it from a tiny chip. The printed rectennas cost less than one penny per unit to produce and could be used as an alternative to QR codes. The technology behind them, Near Field Communication (NFC), is already used in devices that enable contactless payment card payments by touch. They make their debut in the journal Nanotechnology, published by the Institute of Physics (IoP) this month. Researchers from Sunchon National University and the Paru Printed Electronics Research Institute spent one year in the project.

The rectenna uses smartphone radio waves to communicate. Internet

The rectenna is printed using five different electronic inks. Internet

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Hearing test benefits unknown in older adults: panel

**New York, 14 Aug** — There’s not enough evidence to say whether older adults should be screened for hearing loss if they don’t have any symptoms, according to a new statement from a government-backed panel. The recommendation, released on Monday, should not stop people over 50 years old from telling their doctor about hearing problems, according to the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF).

“This is not about fancy audiometric screenings,” he told Reuters Health. “This is just about simple screenings that doctors and clinicians can do in the office.”

Those office-based screenings can be as simple as asking whether a person is having trouble hearing or testing whether the patient can hear a whisper or the tick of a watch from a specific distance. They can also involve longer questionnaires or handheld testing devices. Despite the lack of a recommendation from the USPSTF, Dr Ronald A. Hoffman, medical director of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary’s Ear Institute, said he thought doctors should still ask whether patients are having trouble hearing, ringing in their ears or trouble balancing.

“If you don’t ask, you won’t find out,” he said. It’s estimated that hearing loss affects between 20 percent to 40 percent of people 50 years old and older, and almost 80 percent of people over 80 years old.

One of the problems with screening older adults, however, is that there’s no straightforward test for hearing loss. Even if there is a hearing problem, it’s not clear whether that loss affects the ability of a person to hear speech, music or other sounds.

Roche ‘gets US green light to sell diabetes eye drug’

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All threats “dwarfed” by Iran nuclear work: Israeli PM

Jerusalem, 14 Aug—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that most threats to Israel’s security were “dwarfed” by the prospect of Iran obtaining nuclear weaponry, which local media reports charged Tehran had stepped up its efforts to achieve.

The comments at a weekly cabinet meeting and the front-page reports in the liberal Haaretz, a frequent Netanyahu critic, and in the conservative, pro-government Israel Hayom came as Israeli debate intensified about whether to go to war against Iran—and soon—over its disputed atomic projects.

The debate seemed to defy appeals by US President Barack Obama, seeking re-election in November, to allow more time for international diplomacy. Tehran says its nuclear ambitions are peaceful and has threatened wide-ranging reprisals if attacked.

In comments also broadcast live by Israeli media, Netanyahu said that “all the threats currently being directed against the Israeli home front are dwarfed by another threat, different in scope, different in substance.”

“Therefore I say again, that Iran must not be permitted to obtain nuclear weapons,” Netanyahu said. Netanyahu also said Israel was “investing billions in home-front defence,” and holding emergency drills, adding to

More rhinos killed in South Africa

Johannesburg, 14 Aug—Seven rhino carcasses have been found at a private park and a game reserve in North West Province, raising the total number of rhinos poached this year in South Africa, authorities said on Sunday.

Five were found in Zeerust at Borakalalo and in another incident at Marikana, two rhino were killed after being dehorned, said Vishnu Naidoo, spokesman for the special anti-crime unit Hawks.

The Hawks are searching for those who are behind the poaching which all took place in the last three weeks.

All of the scenes have been visited with as much evidence collected as possible, Naidoo said. “We hope this can assist us in establishing those responsible for the killing of the seven rhinos.”

Since the beginning of this year, a total of 312 rhinos have been lost to illegal killings in South Africa, according to the latest official figures.

The continued efforts by the South African government to curb rhino poaching have resulted in a police total of 187 arrests for 2012 thus far, 164 of the arrested suspects being poachers, 10 receivers or couriers, six couriers or buyers and seven exporters.

South Africa is home to approximately 22,000 white and black rhinoceros of which 12,000 are found in the Kruger National Park. This represents 93 percent of the world’s total rhino population.

The South African rhino population is one of the last viable rhino populations in the world which makes it vulnerable.

South Africa is the remaining hope for the rhino conservation globally and recognizes that the global community support and cooperation must be enlisted to address the scourge, the government said.

Three dead in shooting near Texas A&M University

San Antonio, 14 Aug—A man killed two people, including a law enforcement officer who was serving him an eviction notice at a home near Texas A&M University, on Monday before police fatally shot the suspect in a gun battle that lasted half an hour, officials said.

Four people also were injured, police and city officials in College Station said. The shooting comes at a time of national concern over gun violence after two recent mass shootings.

The dead officer was identified as Brazos County Constable Bryan Bachmann, said Scott McCollum, assistant chief of the police department in College Station. McCollum said Bachmann, 41, was shot in front of the house, about two blocks from the Texas A&M campus, and was pronounced dead at a hospital.

Police identified the gunman as Thomas Caffall, 35, and the bystander killed as Chris Northciffe, 45, of College Station.

The end of a day of tragedy saw College Station city spokesman Jay Socol said authorities were still investigating Caffall’s background. It was unclear whether Caffall was renting the house or was being evicted for nonpayment of rent, McCollum said.

Officials said the wounded included a 55-year-old woman, who underwent surgery, and College Station police officer Justin Oehlke, who was in stable condition after being shot in the leg.

Officers Brad Smith and Phil Dorssett were injured by what police called gun shrapnel. Smith was treated at a hospital and released and Dorssett was treated at the scene.

“We had officers respond to a ’shots fired’ call,” McCollum said at a news conference. “Once officers arrived, they began to trade fire. The officers defended themselves and called in additional officers.”

College Station police officers shot and killed the gunman, said Jason James, a sergeant with the police department in nearby Bryan, Texas.

Four killed, 17 trapped in NE China coal mine accident

Changchun, 14 Aug—Four people were killed and 17 others trapped in a coal mine accident in northeast China’s Jilin Province on Monday, local authorities said.

The accident, believed to be triggered by gas, happened around 6 am at Jisheng Coal Mine in the city of Baishan, according to the authorities.

A total of 116 miners were working underground when the accident occurred, and 95 of them were lifted out of the mine safely.

Rescue work for the trapped miners is underway.

The Jilin provincial government has ordered a thorough work safety check in the province.

Three killed in Sunday highway accident in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 Aug—At least 10 people were killed and 20 others injured in a highway accident in Brazil’s southeastern state of Parana on Saturday night, a local fire brigade said on Sunday.

The accident occurred on the PR-323 highway, between Piaçaguçu and Doutor Canarino, in northern Parana, when two buses collided before a van, a car and a motorcycle crashed into them. One of the buses was rented by a religious group traveling to Maringa, 115 kilometers from the accident site, while the other was from a tourism company which travelled from Umuarama-Maringa.

The fire brigade said that 99 people, of whom six were seriously injured, were taken to three local hospitals.

10 killed, almost 100 injured in Brazilian highway accident

RED DE JANEIRO, 14 Aug—At least 10 people were killed and 20 others injured in a highway accident in Brazil’s southeastern state of Parana on Saturday night, a local fire brigade said on Sunday.

The accident occurred on the PR-323 highway, between Piaçaguçu and Doutor Canarino, in northern Parana, when two buses collided before a van, a car and a motorcycle crashed into them. One of the buses was rented by a religious group traveling to Maringa, 115 kilometers from the accident site, while the other was from a tourism company which travelled from Umuarama-Maringa.

The fire brigade said that 99 people, of whom six were seriously injured, were taken to three local hospitals.
RRD, Solidarites International (Myanmar) sign MoU

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Aug—A signing ceremony of MoU between Relief and Resettlement Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Solidarites International (Myanmar) for seeking the cooperation of vocational, rehabilitation tasks, distribution foodstuff, emergency providing tasks, cooperation of vocation, Solidarites International Resettlement and Welfare, Relief and under the Ministry of Social Resettlement Department between Relief and monsoon and consumption of iodized salts.

DHF preventive measures taken in Mogauk

Mogauk, 14 Aug—The activities to take preventive measures against dengue hemorrhagic fever was held in Mogauk Township of Mohinny District in Kachin State on 28 July morning. Township Medical Officer Dr Daw Htwe Htwe Win, Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Thei Wai and officials took preventive measures against DHF. They inspected prevention against common diseases in monsoon and consumption of iodized salts.

Cash, books donated to village library in Hinthada Township

Hinthada, 14 Aug—A ceremony to donate books and cash to Alinyaung Library was held in Myokwethit Village in Natmaw Village-tract of Hinthada Township on 26 July morning. At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Zaw Moe Aung made a speech. Staff Officer of District Information and Public Relations Department U Win Shin explained matters related to libraries meeting five-point standard and advantages of reading. Next, wellwishers donated cash and kind to the library. The brick noggin library was built at a cost of K 1 million contributed by the State and K 1.5 million by the people.

Union Construction Minister inspects road works

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Aug—Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint together with Mandalay Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsun on 11 August inspected laying of PyinOoLwin-Mogok motor road (82 miles and 2 farlings) and conditions of road/bridge construction along the road. The Union Minister and party viewed maintenance of Mogok-Phawttaw road section, stockpiling of stones, conditions of paving gravel on the section of Mandalay-Madaya-Latpanhla-Phawttaw-Mogok road and related road works at Phawttaw toll gate. Between mile posts 69 and 69/5, he looked into paving of tarred road. At the Mandalay-Madaya-Latpanhla road section, the Union Minister viewed both Nyanguingin and Tayawpin concrete culverts.

VMS eyes supporting Myanmar telecommunications sustainable development

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Aug—Vice President of VNPT, Chairman of Vietnam Mobile Telecom Services Company (VMS)—a state-owned company under Vietnam Post and Telecommunication Group (VNPT), was in Myanmar since 28 July 2012 for a 4-day visit to Myanmar partners in telecom industry. This visit marked the first move of VMS in its plan to expand its business in foreign markets.

Public notice for remonstration

1. Shan State Kokang Democratic Party, headquartered on Kyiyan Road in Ward (1) Tanchan, Laikai Township, Shan State, applied for registration as a political party on 14-8-2012 in accord with Political Parties Registration Law Section-5. In applying for its registration, the party has submitted its name, flag and logo to be used as mentioned hereunder.

2. It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration Rule 14 (d) that those who wish to remonstrate with the Union Election Commission about the party name, flag and logo may do so with firm evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.

Union Election Commission
President U Thein Sein...

(From page 16)

Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein submitted reports on firm adoption of policies and procedures by Union ministries for enabling foreign entrepreneurs to put investment, and smooth process of investments in allotted lands in regions and states that cannot harm environment and social economy.

Chairman of Land Allocation and Utilization Scrutiny Committee Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun reported on coordination to be made between region and state governments on land utilization and land management.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing made clarification on facts about Farmland Law and Vacant, Virgin and Fallow Land Management Law interrelated with the urban projects.

Vice-Chairman of Privatization Commission Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein reported plans to privatize factories and workshops without economic effectiveness among the State-owned ones step by step. Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein submitted a report to share US$ 80 million to be granted by the World Bank to establishment of model villages in over 300 townships of regions and states and undertakings of 15 plans for poverty alleviation.

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun presented the report on spending foreign loans on the economically effective tasks to achieve quick win. The meeting came to an end at 4 pm. The meeting continues tomorrow.—MNA

Miners have no rights to...

(From page 16)

AEC emerge, Myanmar is conducting researches and holding discussions in cooperation with regional research departments, at opportune times.

Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development is making coordination with Yangon Institutes of Economics, Japan Overseas Development Corporation, Japan Overseas Trade Board, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to hold discussions on ASEAN Economic Community and Free Trade Area, in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay in coming October.

With respect to the 1 Tin Shang of Taninthayi Constituency No.6 on “there is a plan to install sport gears for health exercises at suitable places on 3,5 km long concrete platform on Strand road in Myeik”, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyi said: there is the limitation to enjoy fresh sea wind as Strand road in Myeik of Taninthayi Region is adjacent to jetties. It would be more suitable at grounds and on hils that can get more fresh air for walking and physical exercises. For the installation of public sport gears at suitable places on Strand road, coordination will be made with Taninthayi Region Government.

Regarding the question of Dr Tin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No.6 on “when the remaining rail road section of Pathein (Begarat)-Einme-Nyaungdon-Yangon (Hlinethaya) will be opened as Pathein (Begarat)-Einme rail road section have been put into service”, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Chan Maung replied: Pathein (Begarat)-Einme rail road section (20.75 miles) will be opened as Pathein (Begarat)-Einme-Nyaungdon-Yangon (Hlinethaya) (96.51 miles) was commissioned into service on 20-3-2011. There remaining Einme-Nyaungdon-Yangon (Hlinethaya) (75.76 miles) rail road is being implemented simultaneously by dividing it into four sections. Earth works (167355 suds), construction of 27 bridges and 23 buildings and laying 61.45 miles of rail road will be finished by April 2013. Design for 427-ft-long Thonegwa creek bridge between Einme-Kyonedainggyi is in progress. It will be implemented during the above-mentioned period, inviting tender. Pathein (Begarat)-Einme-Nyaungdon-Yangon (Hlinethaya) rail road and rail road section that will join at Sakkaw railway station from Hinthada will be open by May, 2013. Trains will run on it.

Member of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee U Hsai Paung Paing read out the Bill Committee’s report on Bill revoking Land Confiscation (Mines) Act. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig.-Gen. Kyaw Zan Myint submitted the proposal to approve Bill revoking Land Confiscation (Mines) Act and U Aung Cho Oo of Bago Region Constituency No.11 seconded it. Hluttaw decided to approve it. Member of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee U Tin Yu submitted the committee’s report on Contempt of Court Bill. U Tin Mya of Sagaing Region Constituency No.7 discussed the bill, and Hluttaw approved each paragraphs as amendments of Bill Committee. Member of Bill Committee U Tin Yu submitted the proposal to approve Contempt of Court Bill, and Hluttaw decided to approve it.

Amyotha Hluttaw Farmers and Local and Foreign Labour Committee Chair Dr Aye Myint Kyi, Secretary U Saw Maw Tun and member U Kan Nyunt submitted committee’s report. Then, Hluttaw announced that those wishing to discuss the bill are to register their names by 4 pm on 17-8-2012. After that, Dr Khin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No.9 and Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No.1 discussed Amyotha Hluttaw Non-Governmental Local and Foreign Organizations Committee report. The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker decided to prepare it again in cooperation with Amyotha Hluttaw Non-Governmental Local and Foreign Organizations Committee and representatives who discussed the reports, and continue taking necessary actions according to the Committee’s decisions.

Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No.1 discussed the proposal submitted by Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency on “urging the Union Government to extend a special helping hand to protecting SME from monopoly of international market, seeking market shares, providing technological and cash assistances, protecting them by law before AFTA (2015) comes into effect as Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) are major earnings and jobs for grass-root level people”.

Hluttaw decided to discuss it and announced that representatives who want to discuss it are to register their names after the meeting. After that, U Hla Swe of Magway Region Constituency No.12 submitted the proposal on “urging the Union Government to enable staff to enjoy their vacation according to their levels for ensuring Clean Government” U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Kayin State Constituency No.5 discussed it. Hluttaw decided to discuss it and announced that representatives who want to discuss it are to register their names after the meeting. The meeting came to an end at 3 pm, and the 27th session will be held on 11 pm tomorrow. At today’s session, four questions were raised and replied, two bills approved, one report submitted, one report discussed and two new proposals submitted.—MNA

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Nyan Tun receives C-in-C of Royal Thai Navy

Navy, 14 Aug—Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Nyan Tun met Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Navy Admiral Surasak Ronrouengrom, at Zeyathiri Beikman, here, this afternoon.

Present at the call together with Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Nyan Tun were Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear-Admiral Thet Swe, Commander of Taninthayi Naval Region Command Comodore Myint Nwe and senior military officers.

Admiral Surasak Ronrouengrom was accompanied by Rear-Admiral Patchara Pumpiched, Captain Kaorup Limkomrom from the Royal Thai Navy and officials.—MNA

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing.—MNA

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun.—MNA

Politicl parties apply for registration

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Aug—The Union Election Commission is scrutinizing and passing applications of registration for the political parties. Shan State Kokang Democratic Party today applied for registration as political party to UEC.—MNA

Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win.—MNA

Ayeawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung.—MNA

“Wa” Self-Administrated Zone Leading Body Chairman U Khun Tun Htoo (a) U Tun Lu. MNA

Denu Self-Administrated Zone Leading Body Chairman U Htoo Ko Ko.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Aug—Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Navy Admiral Surasak Ronrouengrom at Zeyathiri Beikman.—MNA
March.

Another clarification was submitted at the tribunal whether the definition of the Pyithu Hluttaw Law suggests. The organization led by the constitution is the chairman of the Hluttaw Rights Committee, the Union Auditor-General law. The duties, authorities and committees and Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee were formed.

According to findings and comments of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee and discussions of 10 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session, the attitude of the MPs suggests that the tribunal has no authority to make such resolution on provisions under existing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law, Pyithu Hluttaw Law and Amyotha Hluttaw Law which was also made mistakenly beyond the legal framework. The mistake harms the reputation of Hluttaws and Hluttaws representatives causing limitations, difficulties and impact on duties of Hluttaws and Hluttaw representatives.

On 26 April, the Hluttaw Rights Committee informed him of the potential submission of the impeachment proposal signed by 191 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives at third regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw, the Speaker said. He suspended the submission and met and urged chairpersons of Pyithu Hluttaw and officials of Union Solidarity and Development Party to make presentation to the President who later informed that the coordination would be made to settle the issue and the submission would be withdrawn if necessary. The impeachment was suspended for that message. The Speaker said, he made negotiations with President and other officials to avoid impeachment. Since 9 August, the attitude of the Hluttaw representatives had been made clear to the President and he was requested to seek the best possible way, except the impeachment, to settle the issue.

As the issue is unsettled till now, the lawmakers face difficulties in discharging duties. Their annoyance became aroused and submitted the proposal signed by 301 representatives to impeach the chairman and members of the tribunal.

The Hluttaw representatives were urged to wait for the actions of the President in a time limit upon the message. He requested patience of the representatives to do impeachment only if the case is not settled in the time limit.

Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa said in his discussion that Bill Committee, Public Accounts Committee, Hluttaw Rights Committee and Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee were formed in the first regular session of the Hluttaw and 19 other committees and Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission in the second regular session. The Pyithu Hluttaw Law Section 2 (h) defines these committees and commissions as Union level organizations.

The Union Attorney-General Law and the Union Auditor-General Law also prescribes the same provision. The Chairman of State Peace and Development Council signed and enacted those Union Attorney-General Law and the Union Auditor-General law. The duties, authorities and rights of all committees are the same with four original Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and under the constitution is the chairman of the Hluttaw Rights Committee, the Pyithu Hluttaw Law suggests. The organization led by the deputy speaker of the Union level official, is the Union level organization and the committees and commissions which have the same status with it are invariably the Union level organizations.

These are invariably Union level organizations according to both the law and the fact. But, the Union Attorney-General on behalf of the President put forward a submission at the tribunal whether the definition of the Union level organization in Hluttaw laws is in accord with the constitution. As the tribunal informed the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker of the submission, the deputy speaker made presentation on the fixed date. Another clarification was made by the deputy speaker, on behalf of the Speaker, on 24 March.

The deputy speaker said he, representing the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and 440 Hluttaw representatives, had to stand for about an hour to hear the declaration of the resolution at the tribunal on 28 March. He had to stand for one hour listening the wrong decision that said that the definition of the Union-level organization prescribed in the laws of the Hluttaws is not in conformity with the State Constitution. He continued to say that it was know to all that the wrong decision is the hindrance to amending the Pyithu Hluttaw Law, the Deputy Speaker said.

On 26 April, about 200 representatives sought approval from the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw through the Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Rights Committee to submit a proposal to the Hluttaw to impeach the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union for not dutiful to the tasks assigned to the committee by the State Constitution and for not abiding by the Transitory Provisions of the Chapter-14 of the Constitution.

The Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw requested for the patience and the representatives listened to the Speaker. However, news journals wrongly criticized the Union-level organizations, and some online news attacked the designating the Union-level as Union level organizations is not appropriate for the future plans to the Union.

Over 300 representatives sent the petition to the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw through the Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Rights Committee for impeaching the Chairman and members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union under section 136 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Law and under section 334 (d) (2) of the Constitution. The Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw requested the representatives to wait and he would settle the issue at the best of his ability, the Deputy Speaker said.

The Deputy Speaker thanked the representatives for their understanding for two times while waiting until the Speaker would negotiate with the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union.

On behalf of the representatives, the Deputy Speaker reiterated what the Speaker told was the best way was to settle the issue through negotiation first before impeachment and requested the Speaker to translate his words into action.

Afterwards, the Speaker replied that he would send a letter to the President in an attempt to settle the issue and discussed what massages should be written in the letter. During the question and answer session, Daw Su Su Hlaining of Dagon Myothit (South) constituency asked whether there is a plan to help those who are still waiting to install electric meters at their homes due to transitory period from the self-reliance system to the Ministry concerned.

Deputy Minister of Electric Power No. 2 U Aung Than Oo replied that Yangon City Electricity Supply Board has given permission to organize a self-reliance committee in villages and wards which need power supply and to install electric meters at homes with the use of fund contributed by the residents. Self-reliance power supply programme has been finished but still, the committee has to carry out maintenance works as the Ministry has not yet taken back the work for the self-reliance power supply tasks.

As the power supply system in wards close to Yangon City meet set standards, Yangon City Electricity Supply Board has installed electric meters at homes after the consumers have paid the cost, without raising fund by the self-reliance power supply committees of wards. If a power supply system does not meet set standards, a ward or village self-reliance power supply committee concerned has to repair the system until it meets set standard.

U Htar Mu of Lalar Constituency asked whether there is a plan to provide surgical equipment to people’s hospitals in Laye and Lahe, Nayan township in the Naga Self-administered Zone.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint replied that Ministry of Health has already provided one X-Ray Machine-100mA, one X-Ray Machine-35mA (Portable), one set of Obsteric Set and one Patient Trolley to Lashio Township People’s Hospital, one Labour Bed and one set of Major Surgical Set (Emergency) to Hsomaung Station Hospital, one Suction Machine, one Generator and one Mobile Lamp to Lahe Township People’s Hospital, one X-Ray Machine-15mA, one X-Ray Machine-200mA, one Dental Chair, one set of Major Surgical, four Medicine Trolleys, three Instrument Trolleys and five Drip Stands to Nanyu Township People’s Hospital, two medicine trolleys, two instrument trolleys and two patient trolleys to Pathaung Station Hospital. To fulfill the necessary medical equipment to the hospitals, respective township health departments would proceed the work in accordance with rules and regulations and the Ministry will assist in the hospitals.

After the question and answer session, the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw urged the members of the respective Union level organizations to understand that a representative has
Speaker requests patience...

(from page 9)

rights to ask the question again according to the law, rules and regulations when he doesn’t clearly understand or he want to ask matters related to the question. Therefore, respective members of the Union-level organizations are to understand the rights of representatives and to answer the questions. It is the rights of the Hluttaw and representatives and the rights is lawful. Representatives on their part are to use their rights correctly, effectively and without errors.

At the proposal submission session, Daw Nn Wann Na of Kunhein Constitution submitted a proposal to urge the Union-level organizations to understand the rights of the chief ministers and ministers of regions and states as prescribed in Section 264 (d) of the Constitution and to introduce that bill to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as soon as possible.

The Hluttaw invited those representatives who want to discuss the proposal to enlist not later than 1 pm, 15 August.

At the Bill discussion session, the Bill Committee, and Economic and Trade Development Committee, U Thar Win of Yankin constituency, U Soe Th of Thwante constituency, U Win Oo of Yebyu constituency, Defence Service personnel representative Col Myint Kyaw Ko Ko, U Win Htein of Meiktila constituency, U Aung Thein Lin of South Okkalapa constituency, Daw Tin Nwe Oo of Dagon Myothit (North) constituency, U Kyi Tha of Gwa constituency and U Win Myint of Mpyingan constituency who submitted a proposal to amend the Foreign Investment Bill discussed paragraphs and sub-paragraphs and Thura U Thaung Lwin, Joint Secretary of Myanmar Investment Commission, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation also discussed the bill. The Hluttaw decided to approve the Bill and amendments to it.

Regarding the Bill discussion, the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw said the discussion proved the good-will and skills of the representatives and the Hluttaw should put those who discussed the bill on record. He also noted that the Foreign Investment Bill have been introduced at both Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw. However, as the people made suggestions, Pyithu Hluttaw got back from Amyotha Hluttaw to review it. Thanks to the efforts of the representatives for the interest of the country and the people and their skills and experiences, amendments were made to 94 points. Some representative had abilities to discuss even paragraphs that were not included in the amendment list, showing the good-will of the representatives in the interests of the country and the people.

He continued to say that a representative discussed some points of the Attorney-General’s Office such as to notice, to follow, regarding making laws. In fact, it is only the Hluttaw which has a solely responsibility to make a law. Therefore, it is important to make and implement the laws which would benefit the country and the people. Similarly, the country should follow the treaties and conventions the country agreed with them. Regarding the issues, representatives from Pyithu Hluttaw and personnel from respective ministries participated in the discussion and the Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission also assisted in the discussion. He also reaffirmed that what the Hluttaw was working in was the interests of the country and the people, not of a person or an organization.

At the informing the Hluttaw session, the Hluttaw was informed that in an attempt to effectively implement the duties of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, U Soe Th, Deputy Director-General (Legal) of the Budget Department, U Kyaw San, Region Commissioner (Legal) of the General Administration Department, U Khin Soe, Director-General (Legal) of the Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration, Daw Myat Myat Soe, Director-General (Legal) of the Foreign Economic Relations Department, U Nyunt Win, Police Co (Legal) of office of the Criminal Investigation Department (Nay Pyi Taw) were included in the commission as members. The meeting ended at 4:10 pm and it will continue at 1 pm tomorrow.—MNA

Admiral Nyan Tun welcomes Thai goodwill delegation

NAVPYITAW, 14 Aug.— A goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Navy Admiral Surasak Ronrassengrom and party arrived at Yangon International Airport by air this morning.

They were welcomed at the Airport by Commander of Ayeyawady-Naval Region Command Commodore Maung Oo Lwin, Naval Dockyard Command Headquarters Commodore Myint Tun and officials.

The goodwill delegation flew to Nay Pyi Taw by Myint Tun and officials. Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Nyan Tun welcomed Admiral Surasak Ronrassengrom at Zayathiri Beikman with the Guards of Honour.

Admiral Surasak Ronrassengrom introduced Commander-in-Chief(Navy) Admiral Nyan Tun to Thai senior military officers. And Admiral Nyan Tun also introduced Admiral Surasak Ronrassengrom to Myanmar senior military officers.

Also present at the call together with Commander-in-Chief-(Navy) Admiral Nyan Tun were Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear-Admiral Thae Soe, Commander of Toninhtay Naval Region Command Commodore Myint Nwe and senior military officers. Admiral Surasak Ronrassengrom was accompanied by Rear-Admiral Patchara Pumpichat, Captain Kaorop Lamkom from the Royal Thai Navy and officials.—MNA

Denmark provides over US$ 8 million to improve livelihoods and health in Myanmar

YANGON, 14 Aug.— Denmark signed two agreements with UNOPS of more than $ 8 million dollars today to boost livelihoods of the poor and to improve the health of mothers and young children in Myanmar. HE Mikael Hemniti Winther, Denmark’s Ambassador to Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia and Sanjay Mathur, Director & Representative of UNOPS in Myanmar, signed the agreements. More than $4.1 million will be channeled through the multi-donor Livelihoods and Food Security Trust (LIFT) Fund managed by UNOPS for livelihood projects. LIFT was set up to work towards the reduction of extreme poverty and hunger in Myanmar, one of the Millennium Development Goals. Denmark along with Governments of Australia, the EC, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland and the UK are working together through LIFT to increase food availability, income generation opportunities and food use for up to 2 million people.

Denmark’s support to LIFT has ensured that 50% of the people affected by the 2010-11 more than 1.1 million people directly benefited. An independent evaluation of LIFT’s funded projects in the Delta highlights that an overwhelming majority of beneficiaries were of the opinion that incomes had increased substantially after the Nargis collapse. During the time LIFT was in operation, incomes were perceived to have increased by a further third, bringing rice farmers to a level above that of ‘self-sufficiency’ and casual labourers close to pre-Nargis levels.

In LIFT’s programme country wide including the Delta, in the agricultural sector alone, more than 53,000 households were supported. Almost 6,800 small and micro businesses were established and more than 8,700 households were provided credit for both agricultural and income generating activities.

“Denmark contribution will enable farmers to cultivate larger areas and yield better harvests, resulting in increased income for many households and villages across the country,” said HE Mikael Hemniti Winther. Another $4.1 million contribution to MDMG Fund will be part of the basis for a programme to offer health services to populations in Myanmar with the greatest need. It will focus on improving the health of mothers and children, one of the country’s most pressing priorities. Furthermore, it will include components to supplement the Global Fund programme on HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, in areas, which it is currently unable to support, as well as to assist the government in strengthen the health systems and capacity to deliver quality basic health to the people of Myanmar. HE Mikael Hemniti Winther concluded “Denmark’s contribution will provide a substantial contribution to assist long-term development for livelihoods and health in the poorest areas of Myanmar.” —NLM

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 15 August, 2012

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11/25/2009, 3:31 PM
Reuters

Skills were needed to negotiate ransoms. According to the US Department of Agriculture, said on Friday, this year’s corn crop would fall below 11.0 billion bushels for the first time in six years and the number of bushels yielded per acre was 17-year low. Soybean production was forecast at a five-year low and soy yield per acre nearly a 10-year low.

The drought will also affect meat and dairy prices as more than 70 percent of the beef herd is in states where pastures are rated as poor to very poor. Asian meat demands and low stress has lowered milk production and rising feed costs are also pressuring hog and poultry producers, said the Kansas City Fed said. The initial effect will be

Drought to lift food prices, inflation impact modest: KC Fed

WASHINGTON, 14 Aug—Americans will face higher food prices at the supermarket next year because of the drought in half a century, but the impact on overall inflation will be modest, the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank said in a report.

The said drought, which has cut corn and soy bean yields and sent their prices on the future market soaring, could add 4 percent more to annual food prices over the next year, drawing parallels with a similar situation in 1988. “Based on the relationships between the consumer price index for food and farm-level prices for crop and farm-level prices for livestock, the price increases and declines in livestock prices could lead to a 4 percent increase in the CPI for food from September 2011 to September 2012,” the Kansas City Fed said.

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Strong earthquake hits Sea of Okhotsk, no damage reported

BEIJING, 14 Aug—A strong earthquake jolted Sea of Okhotsk on Tuesday, and no tsunami alert has been issued and no damage reported so far. The temblor, which struck at 0259 GMT on Tuesday with an epicenter 158 km northeast of the Russian town of Poronay and 625.9 km deep, measured 7.7 magnitude, according to the latest update by the US Geological Survey (USGS). Meanwhile, the Japan Meteorological Agency placed the magnitude at 7.3, while the China Earthquake Network put it at 7.2.

Russian media quoted emergency authorities as saying that the quake was felt by Okhotsk islanders, but no casualties or damage were reported and no tsunami alert was issued. “Xinhua

Migrating shore birds feed in one of the few pools that have water at the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in Hudson, Kansas on 7 Aug, 2012.—Reuters

Mobile customer uncovers premium rate bug

LONDON, 14 Aug—An unexplained charge on a phone bill has led a mobile user to uncover a loophole in the sign-up system for some premium rate services. Consultant Mark Hole found he could sign up anyone for premium rate services from content maker Buongiorno. All he needed to know was a potential victim’s mobile number and whether they used the Orange network. Buongiorno said it quickly closed the loophole once it was discovered and had no evidence it had been exploited before.

Mr Hole’s suspicions were aroused when charges for a premium rate fortune-telling service turned up on the bill for the mobile phones linked to his computer consultancy business. “I went online, got the bill up and there were weekly charges coming up on it,” he said. He complained to operator Orange about the charge but it said he must have signed up for it because his details were traded in a number of companies. 

At the same time Mr Hole looked for ways that the loophole could have been exploited. He discovered that it was possible to convince the Fortune site it was being visited by an iPhone. Usingaddon for the Firefox web browser this let him sign up any Orange customer for the service. All he needed to do was use their mobile phone number. Mr Hole demonstrated the loophole by signing up a BBC correspondent’s phone for a weekly fortune reading.

Adaptive Mobile, said the loophole arose because Buongiorno was not doing a good enough job of checking which networks were making sign-up requests. “There’s a potentially criminal opportunity here,” he said. If the loophole became widely known, it said, hi-tech thieves could set up a fake premium rate service, sign people up and then sit back and wait for cash to roll in. Information about Mr Hole’s findings have been circulated to the GSA security working group to ensure other operators are aware of the loophole. “There was a bug in the system,” said a spokesperson for Buongiorno. “When that was found out, we very quickly moved to pin it down, find out what happened and stop it from happening again.”

The spokesman added that exploiting the loophole required “a certain amount of technical knowledge”.

Iran government criticized over earthquake response

DUBAI, 14 Aug—Iran’s government faced criticism on Monday over its response to two earthquakes that killed 306 people, with complaints that it was “scrupulous” about sending details of the disputed charge. Mr Hole’s suspicions were aroused when charges for a premium rate fortune-telling service turned up on the bill for the mobile phones linked to his computer consultancy business. “I went online, got the bill up and there were weekly charges coming up on it,” he said. He complained to operator Orange about the charge but it said he must have signed up for it because his details were traded in a number of companies.
Israel tests SMS missile alerts as Iran chatter grows

JERUSALEM, 14 Aug.—Israel on Sunday began testing an SMS system for warning the public of an imminent missile attack as chatter over a possible strike on Iran dominated the Israeli Press headlines.

As testing began, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel had chalked up “a significant improvement” in its home front defence capabilities, mentioning its highly-saunt anti-missile systems such as Iron Dome and Arrow 2.

“There has been a significant improvement in our level of defence capacity on the home front: with Iron Dome, with the Arrow, systems of protection and shelters, in advanced warning systems and in other areas,” he said at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting.

“Yet all the threats which are directed towards the Israeli home front are dwarfed by another threat — different in both its scope and its essence. And so I repeat: Iran must never be allowed to get its hands on the nuclear weapons,” Netanyahu said.

With front page stories in two papers suggesting Teheran has made progress towards the manufacture and assembly of a nuclear weapon, Israel’s Home Front Command began final tests of the SMS warning system which is expected to be operational by September.

“The Home Front Command will today start conducting nationwide testing of the ‘Personal Message’ alert system, which will end on Thursday,” said a statement indicating that SMS texts in Hebrew, Arabic, English and Russian would be sent to subscribers on Israel’s three main networks: Cellcom, Pelephone and Orange.

Uganda military helicopters missing en route to Somalia

KAMPALA, 14 Aug.—A number of Ugandan military helicopters went missing in Kenyan airspace last week in mid-2010 when suicide bombers from the al-Qaeda-linked group killed more than 70 people who were watching soccer on television, in revenge for the presence of Ugandan troops in Somalia.

Israeli soldiers watch as a missile is launched from the Iron Dome defense system in the southern Israeli city of Beer Sheva in March 2012.

Two missing after torrential rain hits Japan’s Kansai

 Osaka, 14 Aug.—Two were missing on Tuesday as torrential rain hit several prefectures of the western Japanese region of Kansai, where more than 1,000 people are advised to evacuate from homes, local Press reported.

At least two were missing on Tuesday morning after a landslide caused by the heavy rain hit a house in Uji City of Kyoto Prefecture and its surrounding Kansai region which saw hourly rainfall of about 100 mm on Tuesday morning, according to Japan’s public broadcaster Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK).

The report said more than 1,000 people living in three residential zones of Osaka City in Shiga Prefecture have been advised to evacuate since the morning hours due to threats of landside caused by the continuous rainfall.

In Nara Prefecture, meanwhile, local police started its rescue operation on Tuesday morning after a group of junior students could not move forward in the Kii Mountains, a famous trekking zone in the prefecture, due to bad weather.

With weather authorities warned that further heavy rainfall may trigger further floods and landslides in a wide area of Kansai, parts of which may see hourly rainfall of about 80 mm by Wednesday morning.

Family murdered in central Mexico, three children among the dead

Mexico City, 14 Aug.—A family of seven, including three young children, were found murdered with their throats slit in a ranch outside the Gulf port city of Veracruz, a local official said on Sunday.

The bodies were discovered after neighbours noticed an awful smell coming from the house outside the town of Manlio Fabio Alvaranro, the Veracruz state attorney general’s office said in a statement. The state of decomposition suggested they had been murdered at least 72 hours before they were found.

Three children aged 9, 7 and 3 were among the victims, said a government official who requested anonymity.

It was the second time in less than a week that a family was attacked by suspected organized crime gangs. On 8 August, gunmen killed a family of five in the Pacific coastal resort of Acapulco.

More than 55,000 gangland murders and execution-style hits have occurred since Calderon took power in December 2006 and declared a national crackdown on drug gangs. Veracruz has experienced increasing violence over the past year.

There has been a rash of deaths and violence since last week in central Mexico, a battleground between rival drug cartels, that has led to organized crime gangs for control over lucrative smuggling routes to the United States.

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Uganda military helicopters missing en route to Somalia

KAMPALA, 14 Aug.—A number of Ugandan military helicopters went missing in Kenyan airspace last week in mid-2010 when suicide bombers from the al-Shabaab rebels, the Ugandan military said.

A government official said helicopters had left a base in the Ugandan city of Entebbe but that only one had landed in the Kenyan town of Wajir, where they were scheduled to refuel before flying on to Somalia.

The Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) did not say how many helicopters were missing or how many people were on board.

“The search is going on, we don’t know what exactly happened but we are investigating it and we will let you know when I get adequate information,” UPDF spokesman Felix Kulayigye told Reuters.

Ugandan troops form the backbone of the African Union peace-keeping force (AMISOM) in Somalia.

The air force said on 7 August that it was deploying transport and combat helicopters to Somalia to beef up the force.

Al Shabaab struck the Ugandan capital Kampala in mid-2010 when suicide bombers from the al-Qaeda-linked group killed more than 70 people who were watching soccer on television, in revenge for the presence of Ugandan troops in Somalia.
Man without arms plays guitar onstage with Goo Goo Dolls

George Dennehy was born without arms but has an amazing talent to play the guitar using only his feet. He is such an inspiration that he was even invited to open the New York Film Festival with a cover of the song "Iris" by the band Goo Goo Dolls.

Goo Goo Dolls said of his Virginia performance during an interview with What’s Trending host Shira Lazar. And as if that weren’t amazing enough, Dennehy tells that he’s actually a multi-instrumentalist, playing the piano, bass and cello—all with his feet.

“Every person has their purpose,” Dennehy said. “We’re all here for a reason. Don’t let anything get in someone’s way to do what they feel called to do. I just want people to see that even though I don’t have arms I’m still striving to do what I want to do in my life.”

Nominees announced for World Soundtrack Awards

LOS ANGELES, 14 Aug— John Williams, Howard Shore and Alexandre Desplat are among the composers nominated for the 2012 World Soundtrack Awards, which will be handed out on 20 October in Ghent, Belgium.

Williams, Shore and Desplat were nominated in the Film Composer of the Year and Best Original Score of the Year categories, as were Alberto Iglesias and Cliff Martinez.

In the individual score category, Williams was nominated for “The Adventures of Tintin,” Shore for “Hugo,” Desplat for “The Ides of March,” Iglesias for “Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy” and Martinez for “Drive.”

Hugo,” “Tintin” and

Divorce will never be an option for Lady Gaga

LOS ANGELES, 14 Aug— Singer Lady Gaga believes in a life-long relationship. She says whenever she gets married, she will stick through the relationship even when the going gets tough. "Divorce is not an option. I’m going to get married and that’s it, he’s stuck with me."

Lady Gaga

Taylor Swift releasing new album 'Red' on 22 Oct

NASHVILLE, 14 Aug— Multi-platinum superstar Taylor Swift is releasing her fourth studio album called “Red” on 22 Oct.

She announced the upcoming worldwide release during a live web chat from Nashville, Tenn., on Monday before a living room full of fans. She said she named it “Red” because of all the different emotions she explores on the album. ‘“They’re all pretty much about the kind of tumultuous, crazy, insane, intense, semi- toxic relationships that I’ve experienced in the last two years,” she said of the album, which was two years in the making.

“‘All those emotions spanning from intense love, intense frustration, jealousy, confusion, all of that, in my mind all those emotions are red. There’s nothing in between. There’s nothing beige about any of those feelings,” she added.

The album will have 16 songs, including the title track. It also features collaborations with other artists, producers and songwriters, unlike 2010’s “Speak Now” album written entirely on her own.

Swift confirmed that there is a duet with British singer Ed Sheeran on the album and revealed that they wrote it while sitting on a trampoline.

Wearing a red and white striped dress, red earrings and red lipstick, the Grammy- winning singer took questions from the live audience and online. Fans joined in from places such as New York, Alabama, Ohio, Sweden, Brazil and England. and Montreal, Canada.

Swift played the first single from the album during the web chat.

Internet

In this March 2, 2012 file photo, Taylor Swift, performs onstage at the NAB Show during the opening night of her "Speak Now" Australian tour in Perth, Australia. Multi-platinum selling superstar Taylor Swift is releasing her fourth studio album called “Red” on 22 Oct.—Reuters

This photo provided by Sean McAfee from 2 Aug, 2012, shows a dead raccoon that McAfee saw with the road dividing line painted over it before he stopped his motorcycle to take the picture on Franklin Rd in Johnstown, Pa. According to PennDOT traffic engineer John Ambrosini, paint crews are supposed to avoid such animals and usually have a foreman on the job to clear any dead animals off the road before the paint-spraying truck equipment passes by.

Dead raccoon painted by road crew

A Pennsylvania road crew inadvertently granted 15 minutes of posthumous fame to a raccoon that became roadkill.

The unlucky raccoon provided a palette for the state road crew, which was painting double yellow lines on a road on 2 Aug in Johnstown. The crew tried to stop the paint gun when they spotted the raccoon, but it was too late.

The painted corpse was still in the road when Sean McAfee, a member of a small group of filmmakers — including Robert Allman, Pedro Almodovar and Francois Truffaut — who have had more than one movie open the festival, the Festival Web site noted. Lee’s “The Ice Storm” kicked off the event in 1997 and “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon” closed the festival in 2000.

“Life of Pi” is a perfect combination of technological innovation and a strong artistic vision,” Richard Pena, Film Society programme director and chairman of the NYFF selection committee, said in a statement on Monday. “Ang Lee has managed to make a deeply moving, engrossing work

‘Life of Pi’ to open New York Film Fest

NEW YORK, 14 Aug— Ang Lee’s big-screen adaptation of Yann Martel’s best-selling novel “Life of Pi” is opening the New York Film Festival next month, organizers said on Monday.

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Dead raccoon painted by road crew
**Manchester City make Rodwell move**

*Everton midfielder agrees five-year deal with Barclays Premier League champions*

Before his 17th birthday, he made 51 League appearances for David Moyes’ side and scored four goals. ‘I relish the opportunity of playing with some of the best players in the world and continuing my development,’ Man City’s new No.7 told the club’s official website. ‘It will be an amazing experience to make my debut in front of them if I am selected to play next weekend. The hard work starts today as I start to help contribute to the club winning more silverware. The season has started really well with the Community Shield win. The former Under-16 captain paid tribute to Moyes after completing his move. ‘I would like to place on record my thank’s to everyone at Everton Football Club The Manager David Moyes has been brilliant for me and helped make me the player that I am today.’ ‘I have a special relationship with the Chairman, Mr Kenwright, who did not want me to leave but this is too good an opportunity for me to refuse.” Rodwell has won two England caps, making his debut as a substitute against Spain and facing Sweden in a friendly. He has also been included in Roy Hodgson’s England squad to face Italy on Wednesday. City опамятувают свой титул чемпионов на родине на 2016 г. — Internet

**Olympic flag arrives in Rio, marking race to 2016**

*Rodrigo Janeiro, 14 Aug* — The Olympic flag touched down on Brazilian soil on Monday, marking the start of four years of preparations ahead of the 2016 games in Rio de Janeiro.

Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes waved the five-ring flag as he and other top officials disembarked from the flight that brought them back from London, where they attended the games’ closing ceremony on Sunday.

Speaking at a packed news conference at Rio’s Tom Jobim international airport, Paes called it “an important moment” for Rio and for Brazil at large.

He deduced the games will leave a vast legacy for Rio, the seaside metropolis that suffered from decades of neglect after it lost national capital status to Brasilia in 1960.

“I see the arrival of this Olympic flag as not the start, but the consolidation of an important process of transformation for the city of Rio de Janeiro,” he said. “Rio is a city that spent the lion share of its history, much more time than it should have, looking toward the past. I’m sure that this process of transformation, this turning toward the future, has been consolidated here.”

He added the most important effects of the Olympics “are sometimes, many times, the intangible transformations, the impalpable ones related to the brand of a country, the brand of a city, with the self-esteem of a city.”

The Olympic flag, made out of silk for the 1988 games in Seoul, South Korea, will be temporarily housed in the City Hall and will be open to viewings by visitors.

**Brazil plans big spending to improve medal haul in 2016**

*Rio de Janeiro’s Mayor Eduardo Paes, front left, holds up the Olympic flag upon its arrival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 13 Aug., 2012. — Reuters*

Brazil will have for more than just the few days of pause he managed after the London Olympic final, but I will have to get what he can get as the world number one prepares for his start on Wednesday at the Cincinnati Masters. The top seed said even his few days away to celebrate his 31st birthday with his wife and twin daughters was worthwhile for recuperation as he lays the groundwork for his final sprint of the abbreviated summer hardcourt season going into the US Open.

“The last few years we always had at least a two, three-week preparation for the hard courts, said the seventh-time Wimbledon winner and Olympic silver medallist Andy Murray. But this time we’ve just had two and a half weeks more on grass, so obviously I don’t think the preparation is as good as it’s been in the previous years.
Kvitova defeats Li Na for title

MONTEAL, 14 Aug — Winning the women’s Rogers Cup was a breakthrough for Petra Kvitova. Not only was it the 22-year-old Czech’s first WTA Tour victory of the year, it was also the first of her eight career titles that was won in North America. “I hope it will continue,” said Kvitova, who said this week she had had trouble winning in North America because the high humidity affects her asthma.

“North America is always tough for me and I’ve glad how I played here this week.” Kvitova defeated China’s Li Na 7-5, 2-6, 6-3 in a 2-hour, 17-minute final on Monday night.

The tournament is also at the start of the hard-court season leading into the US Open at the end of the month.” It’s great,” said Kvitova, who won six titles last year, including Wimbledon. “I finally won a title this year. It was a good final, a good fight from both sides.” The win avenged a loss to Li at Sydney this year and evened their all-time match-up at two victories.” It was a tough match, this was a tennis war.” Li said. “Both players played good. She’s very tough.” She played the ball so deep. I felt I was always on defense. The last two matches I felt I could be aggressive on the court, but this one I felt was 70 percent of the time on defense.”

The match pitted the world No. 2 against the No. 3 in tournament finals this year. Kvitova, seeded fifth, struggled at the start, hitting several balls long. She fell behind 3-1 before she found the range with her forehand and charged back to take the lead. Even then, she needed to save three break points to take a 6-5 lead, then won the set on her fifth break point against the 10th-seeded Li. Li took the first 16 points of the second set to grab a 4-0 lead before Kvitova finally held serve.

McIlroy’s runaway PGA win ramps up Tiger comparisons

CHARLOTTE, South Carolina, 14 Aug — The superlatives are once again being heaped upon Rory McIlroy after the Northern Irishman, for the second time in 15 months, blew away the world’s best to win his second major crown. While Tiger Woods failed to add to his career haul of 14 major titles, McIlroy underlined his burgeoning status as the game’s most exciting young talent as he romped to victory by a record eight shots in the PGA Championship at Kiawah Island.

Oozing confidence all week, the 23-year-old from Northern Ireland remained golf fans across the globe, as well as his peers, that he is both a man of the people and a player of rare skill. Even humble with a down-to-earth, almost boyish, approach when dealing with spectators, the media and his rivals on tour. McIlroy is now seen by many as the ‘Tiger’ of the future. Of course, he and Woods are very different characters. The Northern Irishman is a perpetually smiling golfer who strides the fairways with a swagger and his shoulders back, always completely at home in his environment.

In stark contrast, American Woods has always competed in a cocoon of concentration, never really engaging with fans as he goes about his business with a brooding, steely focus. Already the comparisons are flying but McIlroy’s–Woods comparison is unsurpassed. McIlroy stormed to victory at Kiawah Island on Sunday with a closing six-under-par 66 on the longest layout to stage a major championship. As the ‘Tiger’ of the future. Of course, he and Woods are very different characters. The Northern Irishman is a perpetually smiling golfer who strides the fairways with a swagger and his shoulders back, always completely at home in his environment.

Tiger Woods to a certain extent, but now we’ve got superstars like Rory McIlroy for kids to be looking at with the ‘double hip snap’ or whatever the hell he calls it. He’s great for the game and absolute breath of fresh air.”

YICHANG, (Hubei), 14 Aug — Four people died and four others were injured in a road accident in central China’s Hubei Province Tuesday morning, local authorities said.

The vehicle pileup occurred at around 8:00 am Sunday when a truck rear-ended a car and another truck ahead of the car on a section of the Huayu (Shangzhai-Chongqing) Expressway in Tuja Autonomous County of Changyang in the city of Yichang, according to the county’s traffic police.

Four passengers in the car died at the scene of the accident, and the four people in the two trucks sustained injuries, the police said. The accident also triggered a fire which has been extinguished.

So far, traffic on the expressway has resumed and the cause of the accident is under investigation.
Speaker requests patience of parliamentarian; row over Union level organization definition to be sent to President

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Aug—Pyithu Hluttaw regular session continued for 26th day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here at 10.10 am today, attended by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, 399 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, and members of Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, and the speakers of Bago Region Hluttaw and Rakhine State Hluttaw as observers.

At today’s session, clarification regarding the parliamentary affairs was made, two questions answered, one new proposal submitted and one bill discussed and reported to the Hluttaw.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said he received the proposal to impeach the Chairperson and Members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union on breach of any of the provisions under the constitution as prescribed in Section 334, Sub-section (a) (iii) of the constitution and inefficient discharge of duties assigned by law as prescribed in Sub-section (v) of the same section, signed by 301 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives from the Hluttaw Rights Committee for the second time.

Despite reluctance to make such impeachment, the Hluttaw speaker would handle requests and duties assigned fairly by the Hluttaw representatives. The Hluttaw representatives would also have the goodwill not lesser than the Speaker. While alternatives, except the impeachment, are being sought, the Hluttaw representatives should exercise patience.

The Speaker said that after informing the attitude of the Hluttaw representatives to the President, he would take action to prevent defamation of the country, the Hluttaw, the impeached person, and the related organizations and persons. His will is to let the President know of the desire and attitude of the Hluttaw representatives and make appropriate actions.

The message would be sent to the President to withdraw a submission, which provoked the case, to the tribunal by the Union Attorney-General on behalf of the President made on 2 February, to urge the chairperson and members of the tribunal to resign at their own will, and to complete these actions by 21 August. The Speaker informed the Hluttaw of his attitude. (See page 9)

Miners have no rights to enjoy fixed pension rates like Tatmadawmen as they are not Tatmadawmen

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Aug—Amyotha Hluttaw Session continued for 26th day, at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex, at 10 am today, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 209 MPs.

With respect to the question of U Sai San Min of Shan State Constituency No.3 on “whether or not retired staff from Namtu Bawdwin who live in Lashio can take out their monthly pensions at Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB) in Lashio” and “there is a plan to pay fixed salary rates to those staff like those of Tatmadawmen as they are not Tatmadawmen. Regarding the question of Dr Tin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No.6 on whether there is forum with foreign countries that have experience to solve difficulties or challenges that might be faced due to the establishment of ASEAN Free Trade Area in 2015”, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw replied:

In its bid to implement the emergence of AEC and the establishment of free trade area, Myanmar is holding meetings and discussions in cooperation with the ministries and private organizations. Promotion of Production and Market competition projects in ASEAN region was drafted in March, 2012. The 15-member work committee led by deputy ministers from respective ministries was formed. To deal with difficulties and challenges that might be faced at a time when AFTA and

Flood bulletin

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Aug—According to the 12:30 hr M.S.T observations today, the water level of Ngawun River at Ngathangyangou 1199 cm has exceeded by 69 cm (about 2.3 ft) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level 1130 cm during next three days. Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced.—MNA

Precautionary measures for swollen river

- Pay attention to weather forecasts and warning of flood broadcast daily through TV, radio and FMs. Don’t believe rumours.
- Observe locations of buildings free from floods and life-saving hills and high grounds.
- Search the route that quickly reaches safe place.
- Make arrangements for taking indispensable equipment.
- Keep radio, torch light, drinking water, preserved foods and medicines.
- Repair houses to be in a proper structure.
- Participate in rehearsal of precautionary measures for swollen rivers.
- Note down telephone numbers and addresses for emergency communication with rescue teams and information teams.
- Attend educative courses on danger of floods.
- For further information please contact: Department of Meteorology and Hydrology Office No. 5, Nay Pyi Taw Tel: 067-411031, 411254 Fax: 067-411251, 411449 Automatic call centre: 067-411252, 01-667766 Email: dmo.mya@myanmar.net.mm Website: http://www.moezala.gov.mm

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- Pay attention to weather forecasts and warning of flood broadcast daily through TV, radio and FMs. Don’t believe rumours.
- Observe locations of buildings free from floods and life-saving hills and high grounds.
- Search the route that quickly reaches safe place.
- Make arrangements for taking indispensable equipment.
- Keep radio, torch light, drinking water, preserved foods and medicines.
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