President U Thein Sein meets with members of National Economic and Social Advisory Council-NESAC

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met with members of National Economic and Social Advisory Council-NESAC at the meeting hall of the 500-acre mechanized farming system farmers educative plantation in Pobbatthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area at 9 am today.

Present on the occasion together with the President were Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, members of NESAC U Thi Han Myo Nyunt, U Win Aung, U Thaung Tin, U Than Lwin, U Hla Maung Shwe, U Moe Kyaw and U Khin Maung Aye.

At the meeting, they had a discussion on agricultural reforms for improvement of socio-economic status of farmers who are relying on agriculture for their livelihood, measures for development of departmental personnel and development of local and foreign investment. After the meeting, they had a documentary photo taken together with the President—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Brazilian Ambassador and party

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham received a delegation comprising those in charge of works in the Asian region of Andrade Gutierrez Conglomerate led by Brazilian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Jose Carlos da Fonseca Junior at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 3 pm today.

Also present on the occasion together with the Vice-President were Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Win Than and departmental heads. The Brazilian Ambassador was accompanied by officials concerned.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on further strengthening friendly ties and potentials for cooperation between the two countries.—MNA

The incidents in the Rakhine State are sectarian conflicts which are purely internal affairs of a sovereign state. They are not relating to any kind of religious persecution or religious discrimination—Page 2

The New Light of Myanmar
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Wednesday, 22 August, 2012**

**Promote home kitchen gardening to remove pesticide from our bowl**

Some cases of poisoning caused by the chemicals in fruits and vegetables have been found these days. Recently, the chairman of the Myanmar Organic Agriculture Group and his family have developed headaches, nausea and vomiting after eating fresh vegetable dish on their dining table. He could confirm the cause of the case as he got the pesticide smell from the dish.

Pesticides residue present in the fruits and vegetables is gradually spoiling our health. Each and every vegetable and fruit item has to be bought from the market. But the quality of the available vegetables is lost to the artificial fertilizers and pesticides administered in the large scale farming. One major worry is that the vegetables and fruits produced in large scale contain chemicals which are harmful to health.

In fact, chemical residues can be in the fruits and vegetables for about six or seven days and the chemicals can’t be washed off the fruits and vegetables after at least five or six days after they are sprayed with pesticides. To get the clean crops, we must use salt and water to wash the vegetables after five or six days to get the clean crops.

However, due to rapid urbanization, people have to buy every vegetable and fruit item from the market, no matter how harmful these nice-looking items are.

Therefore, today is the time for promoting kitchen gardening of vegetables for self consumption at home to produce chemical-free fruits and vegetables and to build green surroundings, healthy lifestyles and developing work culture.

To get chemical-free crops, we should cultivate them at home without harmful fertilizers and pesticides. In this way, we will be able to get rid of our bowl of poison.

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**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

The incidents in the Rakhine State are sectarian conflicts which are purely internal affairs of a sovereign state.

**They are not relating to any kind of religious persecution or religious discrimination**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Aug—Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a press release today. Following is the full text of the press release.**

With regard to the recent incidents in the Rakhine State of Myanmar, some individuals and organizations from abroad have issued statements based on the false and fabricated news reporting of some foreign news agencies and organizations.

It is obvious that the violence in the Rakhine State are neither the conflict between two religious groups of different faith nor humanitarian issue. It was only the violence conflict between two communities within a State of Myanmar following a criminal act. As a result of the riots, 88 people lost their lives of which 31 people were Rakhine and 57 were Muslim Bengalis. Similarly, houses and religious buildings from both communities were burnt down.

Reviewing the above-mentioned destruction, loss of lives and injury, it is clear that it was not a case of persecution or oppression by one race to another. An investigation committee was formed immediately to carry out investigation and to take actions according to law.

The Government took immediate actions with full restraint to restore law and order and stability in places where riots broke out since the very beginning of violence. As a result, law and order in Rakhine State is improving and overall situation is now returning to normalcy. The Government of Myanmar has never practiced policy of violence against Muslims or any other faiths. Therefore, the Government totally rejects accusations made by some organizations that the Government is practicing such a policy of abuses.

The Government has been working closely with international community for relief and rehabilitation for the victims of both communities in a non-discriminatory and transparent manner.

Similarly, the diplomatic corps and UN Agencies in Myanmar have been explained in detail by the responsible Ministers about the true situation. Moreover, the Government has also arranged a trip for them to Rakhine State to observe the situation on ground.

Moreover, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General Mr. Vijay Nambiar, the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Mr. Thomas Quintana, the Turkish delegation headed by Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Ahmet Davutoglu, the President of Indonesia Red Cross Mr. Yusaf Kalla, and Representative and Assistant Secretary General of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Mr. Atta Al-mannam Bakhtit have also visited Rakhine State and donated relief assistance to the victims. At the request of the Secretary General of the OIC, the Government has also extended an invitation to the Secretary General to visit Myanmar at a time of his convenience.

With a view to exposing the real cause of the incident and to give advise for the national interest, a 27-member “Investigation Commission” was formed on 17 August by the Office of the President. The Commission composes leaders from religious organizations including Islam, intellectuals, Politicians and retired government officials among others. The Secretary General of the United Nations has issued a statement in support of the formation of the Commission.

Myanmar welcomes United Nations Secretary General’s statement and ASEAN Foreign Minister’s Statement on the action taken by Myanmar Government regarding the situation in Rakhine State as they reflect the true situation. The incidents in the Rakhine State are sectarian conflicts which are purely internal affairs of a sovereign state. They are not relating to any kind of religious persecution or religious discrimination. Therefore, we will not accept, any attempt to politically regionalize or internationalize this conflict as a religious issue. Such attempt will not contribute to finding solutions to the problem, but will only complicate the issue further.

Myanmar is a country where Buddhists, Christians, Muslims and Hindus have been living together in unity and harmony throughout history. Thus, any outside interference or instigation to hamper the already restored peace and stability in the affected area should be stopped and support should be rendered for the prevalence of law and order, peace and stability, reconciliation among concerned people and for the rehabilitation of the victims.

**Dated. 21 August 2012**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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**Coord meeting for launching small satellite for observing the globe held**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Aug**—A coordination meeting for launching small satellite for observing the globe with the assistance of Japan for the meteorology and hydrology department was held at the Ministry of Transport, here, this morning.

It was attended by Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung and responsible personnel from the Ministries of Information, Agriculture and Irrigation, Environmental Conservation and Forestry, National Planning and Economic Development, Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, Science and Technology, Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Mr Tetsuya Yamamoto, Vice-President and General Manager for 2nd Sales Division of Marubeni Aerospace Corporation and officials and Chairman U Min Aung of Silver Wave Energy and responsible persons.

At the meeting, the Union Minister made address and Programme Manager Mr Shoichi Satoh of Manbeni Aerospace of Japan explained the matters of small satellite for observing the globe.

After launching satellite, Meteorology and Hydrology Department explained the matter of weather news through one of the satellite channel.—MNA
**The New Light of Myanmar**

**Wednesday, 22 August, 2012**

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**THAILAND Captive may rest on Taleban peace talks.**

Afghanistan's peace hopes may rest on the Taleban captive, as Afghan officials have been discussing the possibility of releasing Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar to return to Kabul as a guest of the Afghan government.

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**Obama deeply concerned over Afghan “insider attacks”**

US President Barack Obama on Monday said the United States needed to do more to safeguard US troops after a spate of Afghan “insider” attacks that have left 10 American troops killed in the past two weeks.

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**US airliner receives bomb threat in flight**

A US airliner received a bomb threat in flight on Monday morning, but the threat was found to be unfounded.

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**Bank of Canada governor offers apology for “Asian woman” banknote controversy**

OTTAWA, 21 Aug—Following accusations of racism, Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney apologized on Monday for the way in which an Asian-looking woman was eliminated from the initial design of the new Canadian 100-dollar bill that began circulating in November last year.

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**Passengers injured after plane hits turbulence**

The aircraft, an Embraer 175 with 76 passengers and four crew members onboard, was forced to land in Houston on Monday after a disturbance was reported on a United Airlines plane while en route to the George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

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**Philippine minister’s body found three days after plane crash**

Divers have discovered the body of the Philippines’ interior minister from the wreckage of a light aircraft that crashed into the sea near the central island of Masbate three days ago, according to officials.

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**Piper Seneca plane that crashed into the sea near the Philippines’ capitol**

The body of Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo was pulled out from the six-seat Piper Seneca plane that had crashed into the sea near the Philippines’ capitol.

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NASA selects InSight Mars mission after Curiosity rover

InSight stands for Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport. It will be led from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California. The design of the lander leans heavily on the success of the Phoenix lander put on the Red Planet in 2008.

But although the 2016 venturer will look very similar, it will carry very different instrumentation. A seismic experiment will listen for “marsquakes” and use this information to map the rigidity of the surface. Instrumentation that was not included, however, is the ability to distinguish between liquid water and solid ice.

InSight’s main mission will be to explore the planet’s interior, focusing primarily on the planet’s core, to answer questions about the Red Planet’s formation and evolution. The mission is expected to cost $425 million and is expected to launch in 2016.

The lander will carry a suite of instruments, including a seismometer, a heat flow probe, and a radio science package. The seismometer will be able to detect earthquakes on the planet’s surface, and the heat flow probe will be able to measure the planet’s internal heat flow.

The radio science package will be used to study the planet’s magnetic field and its interaction with the solar wind. The lander will also carry a navigation camera to help it land safely on the planet’s surface.

The principal investigator for the mission is John Grotzinger, a geophysicist at the California Institute of Technology. The mission is expected to provide new insights into the planet’s history and evolution, and will be a stepping stone for future missions to Mars.

InSight will be the first mission to study the planet’s internal structure using a combination of seismology and other techniques. The mission will also provide new insights into the planet’s history and evolution, and will be a stepping stone for future missions to Mars.
**Apple’s market value exceeds Microsoft’s during 1999 bubble**

New York, 21 Aug — Apple Inc’s market value climbed past $625 billion on Monday, surpassing the record set by Microsoft Corp during the heyday of technology stocks in 1999. Apple shares rose 2.6 percent, bringing its gains this month to almost 9 percent as Wall Street bets on the 12 September rollout of the latest version of the iPhone, the device that revolutionized the mobile industry. Microsoft, however, retains the title of history’s most valuable company if its 1999 peak value of about $621 billion were to be adjusted for inflation. Apple’s stock usually rallies in the run-up to major product launches, among the most heavily watched events on the annual tech calendar. The iPhone is the company’s biggest product, yielding half or more of its sales. Sources have said the company will take the wraps off a larger version of its iPhone 21 September. Some analysts also think it intends to announce a smaller iPad to safeguard its market share, as rivals from Google Inc to Amazon.com Inc begin selling cheaper, seven-inch tablets. But Bernstein Research’s Toni Sacconaghi warned that questions remain about the availability of components for both the iPhone and the iPad, which in the past has constrained Apple’s product shipments. “A key question for the launch will be Apple’s expected rollout schedule,” the analyst wrote on Monday. “Apple’s intention is to continue to ramp offerings as quickly as possible, but the company’s ability to do so remains a key near-term question.” Apple’s shares have risen 64 percent in 2012. On Monday, they closed at a session high of $665.15, conferring on the Silicon Valley giant a capitalization of $623.5 billion, exceeding Microsoft’s 1999 value of $620.8 billion, according to data provided by S&P Dow Jones Indices. But Microsoft’s value would rise to $853.7 billion after adjusting for rising prices, according to the Bureau of Labour Statistics’ inflation calculator. Apple overtook Exxon Mobil to reach the No 1 spot by market capitalization last year. Monday’s move means it has now entered the record books as the biggest company ever, in terms of market value: “Everyone loves a winner; if you play the quick trade-becareful,” said Howard Silverblatt, senior index analyst at S&P Dow Jones Indices in emailed comments. “If you are an investor, check the fundamentals and business plans, and avoid the hype in your decision.” Apple climbed even as fellow technology heavyweight Facebook Inc plumbed new depths. The No 1 social network slid to a record low of $18.75 in the morning before bouncing back to close just above $20 after Capstone upgraded the company’s stock to buy from hold.—Reuters

**Cod and Haddock demand ‘exceeds UK sea supply’**

London, 21 Aug — The UK would have run out of fish for the year by now if it relied on stocks in its own waters, a report says. Annual domestic fish stocks can satisfy demand for about 233 days, the report by the New Economics Foundation said. This leaves the UK reliant on imported fish, such as haddock and cod, with at least one in three fish consumed in the UK imported from outside the EU. The NEF said demand could be met with better managed seas. Ministers cited the UK’s call for sustainable fishing. The UK imports more than 101,000 tonnes of cod, worth £37m, and 60,000 tonnes of haddock, worth £15m, in a year, the majority of which comes from outside the EU, according to figures from 2010. It is reliant on countries such as Iceland, Norway and China for a large share of traditional British fish, the 2012 Fish Dependence report said. The situation has improved since last year, when the UK effectively ran out of fish more than a month earlier than in 2012, but is largely unchanged over the past decade. The report says UK fish stocks would run out on 21 August but points out that Spain, France, Germany and Italy all used up their own supplies earlier in the year. Rupert Crilly, of the NEF, said the UK had access to productive fishing grounds and had moderate levels of consumption compared to some other European countries, such as Spain and Portugal. “It could produce as much as it needs but instead it is a net importer of fish,” he said. “Consumers understand that we import tuna which is virtually non-existent in its waters; but they would wonder why we need to import cod and haddock from China when our cod and haddock stocks could deliver five and three times more catches with better management,” he said. Elsewhere in Europe the situation is more acute, with EU consumption of fish outstripping eastern and central Europe’s annual fish supplies by far. Campaigners are calling for ambitious reform of the EU’s Common Fisheries Policy, which governs the fishing activities of the EU fleet, to ensure fisheries are more sustainably managed to prevent overfishing. They are also calling for the EU to promote responsible consumption by EU consumers and to make sure fishing outside the bloc’s waters is done more responsibly. Ian Campbell, UK coordinator for Ocean2012, a coalition of organisations, said: “Fishing within sustainable limits and adapting fish consumption to available resources is the only way to regain healthy fishing grounds.” A spokesperson for the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said.—Internet

**Obesity ‘bad for brain’ by hastening cognitive decline**

London, 21 Aug — Being overweight is not just bad for your waistlines but for brains too, say researchers who have linked obesity to declining mental performance. Experts were surprised by this finding, but say metabolic changes such as high blood sugar and raised cholesterol are likely to be involved. Obesity has already been tipped as a risk factor for dementia. The work, published in Neurology, tracked the health of more than 6,000 British people over a decade. The participants, who were aged between 55 and 55, took tests on memory and other cognitive skills three times over a 10-year period. People who were both obese and who had unhealthy metabolic changes showed a much faster decline on their cognitive test scores compared to others in the study. The experts stress that they only looked at cognitive function, not dementia. The boundary between normal ageing, mild cognitive impairment and dementia is blurred — not all impairment leads to dementia. All of the study participants came from one group of civil service workers, which may mean the findings may not apply more generally to other populations. They said: “More research is needed to understand the effects of genetic factors and also to take into account how long people have been obese and how long they have had these metabolic risk factors and also to look at certain subgroups such as people spanning adulthood to give us a better understanding of the link between obesity and cognitive function, such as thinking, reasoning and memory.”

Shirley Cramer of the Alzheimer’s Research UK said: “We do not yet know why obesity and metabolic abnormality are linked to poorer brain performance, but with obesity levels on the rise, it will be important to make a little deeper into this association.” While the study focuses on cognitive decline, previous research suggests that a healthy diet, regular exercise, not smoking and controlling blood pressure and cholesterol in middle can also help stave off dementia. With dementia figures spiralling towards a million, the findings suggest “we should be more conscious of our general health throughout life.”

**China’s Youku and Tudou’s shareholders back merger plan**

London, 21 Aug — Shareholders of China’s two largest online video firms, Youku and Tudou, have approved their plan to merge and create the biggest online video firm in China. The plan, announced in March, will see Youku acquire rival Tudou via a stock swap deal valued at $1bn (640m). Rising costs of acquiring and streaming video content have seen losses widen at both the companies. Their merger is likely to cut costs as well as boost their market share. The joint operation is expected to help the firms cut costs in areas such as copyrights, bandwidth and server purchases. According to some estimates, the tie-up may help the firms save between $50m to $60m over the next 18 months. At the same time, the combined entity is expected to have a market share of more than 15%, giving it more bargaining power with potential advertisers. That is likely to help increase their revenues and help reduce their losses. Earlier this month, Youku reported a net loss of 62.8m yuan ($9.9m; £6.3m) for the April to June period, compared with a net loss of 28.1m yuan during the same period last year.

Meanwhile, Tudou said that its net loss for widened to 154.7m yuan during the second quarter, from 78.6m yuan during the same period last year. Liu Dele, President of Youku, was quoted as saying by China Daily that the merger was likely to help the firms turn around their fortunes. “The faster we achieve synergies, the quicker we can break even,” he said.

While the merger is expected to have a positive impact, analysts said the firms were likely to face challenges. The two firms have been fierce rivals for years and have even taken each other to court. One of the biggest issues going to be integration of their businesses,” Josh Ong, China editor of The Next Web told the BBC.

Mr Ong said that as the firms came together and joined their various operations, some jobs may be lost. “Who stays and who goes will be a tricky one for the management,” he said.
Lake Superior lightning kills 9-year-old boy, four injured

ST LOUIS, 21 Aug — A lightning strike on a Lake Superior beach in Minnesota injured five people, including a 9-year-old Wisconsin boy who later died, authorities said on Sunday.

Sergeant Wade Rasch of the St Louis County Sheriff’s Office said that a family party was on a friend’s sailboat that took shelter from a sudden thunderstorm at Minnesota Point, near the Superior entry to the Duluth-Superior harbour, on Saturday.

Lightning struck as the group was in shallow water near the beach, he said.

Luke Vogt, 9, of Iron River, Wisconsin, was flown by helicopter to a Duluth hospital, where he died. Four other injured people were taken to Duluth hospitals, and two have been released, Rasch said. — Reuters

Israel deploys anti-rocket battery near Egyptian border

JERUSALEM, 21 Aug — The Israeli army has deployed an Iron Dome air defence system, designed to intercept and destroy rockets, days after two rockets were fired at the town of Eilat near the border with Egypt, a military spokesman said on Monday.

“An Iron Dome battery has been deployed in the town of Eilat as part of tests, temporarily modifying the sites where these systems are deployed,” she said but did not give further details.

A militant group claimed responsibility for the two rocket attacks aimed at Eilat, Israel’s Red Sea resort town, SITE Intelligence Group reported on Thursday.

South Africa explores business development experience in India

JOHANNESBURG, 21 Aug — South Africa and India are exploring business development, confronted by similar economic volatility. South Africa is exploring how the Indian small, medium and micro enterprises (SMEs) contribute to their national economy, a government official said on Sunday.

The remark was made by the South Africa’s Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry Elizabeth Thabete before starting her visit to India, who said South Africa and India have been deployed in the town of Eilat near the border with Egypt, a military spokesman said on Monday.

A group calling itself An Israeli “Iron Dome” short-range missile defence system is pictured near the coastal city of Ashkelon in 2011. – Reuters

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Low water strands 97 vessels on Mississippi River

GREENVILLE, 21 Aug — The US Coast Guard said on Monday that 97 vessels were stranded by low water on the Mississippi River near Greenville, Mississippi, after it closed an 11-mile stretch of shipping lanes on Aug 17.

Governor intra-agency communications between the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Coast Guard, and the US Army Corps of Engineers, which is responsible for maintaining the shipping lanes on the river, were opened to discuss the situation.

In a statement, the US Coast Guard said that the vessels were stranded due to low water levels, which are expected to continue for several more days.

In recent days, numerous barge-loads of grain have run aground on the river, including the US Army Corps of Engineers which is responsible for maintaining the shipping lanes on the river.

The procedure of seeing GP first has made a more efficient and cost-effective way of handling patients, according to health officials.

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New hospital pioneers reforms in health care

BENGALURU, 21 Aug — A new hospital affiliated to the University of Hong Kong is adopting the Hong Kong public hospital management system in the neighboring Shenzhen City in a bid to seek way for reforms in the public health care.

The Chinese government is pushing for reforms in the public health care which is known for long queues and poor service.

The hospital, founded by Shenzhen government with 3.5 billion yuan (US$555 million) in investment, first directs payment for services, especially the costs of hospitalization, which are usually covered by the government.

In his first public appearance since he was granted asylum by Ecuador, Assange thanked his supporters from a balcony at the Ecuadorian embassy in London and urged the British government to “renounce its witch-hunt against WikiLeaks.”

The WikiLeaks founder and former hacker has embarked a number of governments, especially Washington, by releasing millions of US war documents relating to Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as secret diplomatic cables on the internet.

People dry fish in Sanya, south China’s Hainan Province, on 19 Aug, 2012. As typhoon Kai-Tak left Hainan Province, local temperature in Sanya hit 34 degrees centigrade on Sunday, which offered local fishermen a good weather for drying fish. — Xinhua

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Overseas Chinese welcome the Chinese research vessel Dayang Yihao in Lagos, Nigeria, on 19 Aug, 2012. Dayang Yihao, or Ocean One, on Friday arrived in Lagos, Nigeria’s commercial hub, on a joint scientific research mission with Nigerian scientists. — Xinhua
UNION FM receives US Ambassador

NAV PYI TAW, 21 Aug—US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Derek J. Mitchell paid a call on Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, at the ministry, here, at 3 pm today. They cordially discussed matters related to promoting Myanmar-US relations and cooperation.

MNA

Seminar on reforming legal system on public companies held

NAV PYI TAW, 21 Aug—Union Attorney-General Office and JICA held a seminar on reforming legal system and management of public companies at Grand Ball Room of Thingah Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone, this morning. It was attended by Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, Deputy Minister for Commerce and Industry, as well as officials from JICA and Japanese Embassy and Japanese lawyers.

During the seminar, Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin delivered an address. He said that to practice market-oriented system is prescribed in session 35 of the State constitution. The President, at the 2nd Planning Commission meeting, urged moving towards a market-oriented system. The today’s seminar intends to handle Myanmar corporate governance and public companies’ law. Myanmar is sure that it has firmly prescribed a law for public companies. Companies continue without any monetary rules and regulations. It is sure that the rules from the today’s seminar will help develop Myanmar market-oriented economic system.

After that, Minister Counsellor Mr. Ichiro Maruyama of Japanese Embassy extended greetings.

At the second session of the seminar led by Director-General of the Attorney-General of the Union’s Office U Kyaw Hsuan, Director of the Attorney-General of the Union’s Office U Nyan Naing Win presented the topic on “Situation and Challenges for Reforming Legal System on Public Company and the Legal Governance”, and Japanese Professor Mr. Manabu Matsunaka on “Fundamentals of Law on Public Corporations”.

The seminar continues tomorrow.—MNA

Flood-hit victims go home as situation returns to normalcy

NAV PYI TAW, 21 Aug—Some villages in Kayin State suffered from the floods as Thayinbin, Thaungyin, Gyiye, Attagyan, Zami and Haungthayaw Rivers had been under flood since 29 August. The victims in the flood-hit areas, however, received the fulfillment of their needs by local authorities and social organizations. On 19 August morning, some of them went home as the water level returned to normal.

On that day, Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, state ministers, state/district township level departmental heads, officials of the state district/township women’s affairs organizations and the maternal and child welfare supervisory committee inspected sanitation work being carried out by staff of the development affairs committee in wards 5 and 2 in Hpa-an, and encouraged medical staff of Kayin State People’s Hospital and social organization members participating in the sanitation work using insects spray.

The Chief Minister and party encouraged the rest of flood-hit victims, who are staying at No. 4 relief camp in Ward 1, women’s affairs organizations and the maternal and child welfare supervisory committee provided those victims with foodstuff.—MNA

Loans provided for rural development

NAV PYI TAW, 21 Aug—A ceremony to disburse a loan of K 148.14 million for monsoon paddy cultivation to the members of Agricultural Product Cooperative Society was held at Nyaung Lont Village in Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 18 August morning.

At the ceremony, Deputy Director of Nay Pyi Taw Cooperatives Department U Maung Than said that the loans were provided to the members of APCS of Kyeechaung, Nyaung Lont, Kayanapkon, Kinnmontan, Nweyit and Alegyun villages and stressed the need to use the loans systematically. Next, the staff officer of Township Cooperative Department clarified the purpose of providing loans.

Later, the deputy director and party presented loans to the members of APCS individually.—MNA

E-pension system launched at MEB

NAV PYI TAW, 21 Aug—Myanmar Economic Bank (branch-2) is now practicing e-pension system through Smart Card instead of pension book today. Pensioners who hold Smart Card are no need to come to the bank twice and no more waiting at the bank counter when they want to withdraw their pension, put the card on the bank counter and withdraw the money at once in every bank’s opening day.

The rest Yangon bank branches and state/region bank branches will keep on practicing this system as second step. In 2012-2013, this system will be used across the nation.

Pensioners who have not presented their photos and initial may contact Myanma Economic Bank as soon as they will keep on practicing this system as second step. In 2012-2013, this system will be used across the nation.

From MEB, and Japanese Embassy and Japanese lawyers. During the seminar, Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin delivered an address. He said that to practice market-oriented system is prescribed in session 35 of the State constitution. The President, at the 2nd Planning Commission meeting, urged moving towards a market-oriented system. The today’s seminar intends to handle Myanmar corporate governance and public companies’ law. Myanmar is sure that it has firmly prescribed a law for public companies. Companies continue without any monetary rules and regulations. It is sure that the rules from the today’s seminar will help develop Myanmar market-oriented economic system.

After that, Minister Counsellor Mr. Ichiro Maruyama of Japanese Embassy extended greetings.

At the second session of the seminar led by Director-General of the Attorney-General of the Union’s Office U Kyaw Hsuan, Director of the Attorney-General of the Union’s Office U Nyan Naing Win presented the topic on “Situation and Challenges for Reforming Legal System on Public Company and the Legal Governance”, and Japanese Professor Mr. Manabu Matsunaka on “Fundamentals of Law on Public Corporations”.

The seminar continues tomorrow.—MNA

First special session of Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw concluded

NAV PYI TAW, 21 Aug—The fourth day meeting of the first special session of Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw took place at the meeting hall of the Hluttaw yesterday morning, in the attendance of Speaker of Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw U Hsuan Hsint, 67 representatives and seven invited persons.

There were four questions answered and five matters discussed at the meeting.

Deputy Speaker of Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw Dr Hein Win presented proceedings from the first day to the fourth day of the first special session of the Hluttaw.

The speech of the speaker of Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw at the first day meeting was recorded. The first special session of the Hluttaw concluded.

MWAF clarifies programs, tasks to WAOs

NAV PYI TAW, 21 Aug—Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation clarified programs of the federation at the assembly hall of Ministry of Boarder Affairs here at 10am yesterday.

At the ceremony held under the arrangement of Nay Pyi Taw Women’s Affairs Organization, Chairperson of MWAF Dr Thet Thet Zin clarified the background, objectives and organizational set up of the federation and Daw Kyin San, Secretariat-member of the federation clarified organizing working groups and their tasks and programs of MWAF.

It was also attended by Daw Khin Lay Myint, member of the panel of patrons of Women’s Affairs Organization of the Border Affairs Ministry, and members, Chairperson Dr Thin Thin Maw and staff families.

Similarly, a ceremony to clarify programs of MWAF was held at Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation at 2pm.

The ceremony was attended by Daw Khin Than Zin, patron of Women’s Affairs Organization of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and members, Daw Nwe Nwe Win, chairperson of Sub-working group and members and staff family of the ministry.
Hluttaw is working for the integrity.

(from page 16)

and would repair the embankment if the ministry got the budget allocation for embankment in the 2013-2014 financial year. U Zaw Win Aung of Myinnmar Constituency asked if there is a plan to repair old embankments in an attempt to prevent flood in Myinnmar.

Deputy Minister U Khin Zaw replied that Irrigation Department would assist in repairing the old embankments in Myinnmar by Myinnmar Township Development Affairs Committee under the guidance of Sagaing Region Government. Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu replied to the questions of two representatives.

U Aung Soe Win of Kyauktada Township constituency asked how has the Education Ministry performed for transfer of teachers who have been working for many years in states. Deputy Minister U Aye Kyu replied that the applicants' length of services, townshipss, schools and where applicants want to be transferred, ratio of teachers and students, vacancies and social difficulties are taken into consideration when the decision is made.

U Soe Soe of Hlainggying Constituency asked if there is a plan to take necessary measures not to happen errors in the question paper for Mathematics and to use quality papers for the question papers.

The Deputy Minister replied that to be same quality of papers for question papers, foreign-made papers are used to print question papers and arrangements have been made not to happen errors in the future.

At the seeking approval from the Hluttaw session, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw said that four permanent committees of the Hluttaw were established in March, 2011, 19 committees were established on 5, September, 2011 and the Rule of Law and Translality Committee on 7, August, 2012. The term of the 19 committees which were set up on 5, September, 2011 will be extended one more year one day after they turn one year. The Hluttaw agreed to include more members into commission, to reorganize the Hluttaw committees and to extend the term of 19 committees.

At the informing the Hluttaw session, the BillResolving the Foreign Relations Act and the Contempt of Court Bill sent by Aungzoo Hluttaw were informed to Pyithu Hluttaw.

At the reviewing and doing assessment session, respective representatives discussed decision of the representatives to review and to report the assessment of Katha District Court hearing and decision included in the discussion of U Tin Win of Kayin Township to provide support the judiciary pillar to become upright made by Thura U Aung Ko of Kanpetlet Constituency during the 20 day meeting of Pyithu Hluttaw.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Attorney-General U Tin Tun Oo and Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union U Myint Aung clarified the procedures of the case.

Afterwards, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw said Pyithu Hluttaw do not interfere in the judiciary system and the Hluttaw do not take actions with regard to judiciary pillar to become upright made by U Tin Win. It means that the Hluttaw is working for the integrity of the Hluttaw and the judiciary system while giving support to members from Turkey system. After the discussion, it is found that those who take part in judiciary system, those brought cases to the court, witnesses, pleaders and those who investigate cases are necessary for the strength and cleanliness of the judiciary system. Similarly, the citizens should understand laws and definitions in the laws. If the majority of the people understand the law, such kind situation to tilt the balance of the judiciary pillar would not happen in the country. That case is to be handled and decided by the respective judges and judiciary system and the Hluttaw has no rights to decide the case. Therefore, as a Speaker, he would send a message to the President so that he can review the case, he said.

Similarly, the discussion of the today would be sent to Supreme Court of the Union and the Hluttaw would take action so that responsible members can settle the case. Besides, the goodwill and efforts of the Hluttaw aimed at supporting the judiciary pillar so that it can make right decision and people know that Pyithu Hluttaw have works in the interests of the people and the country and that they can ask help through respective representatives.

The meeting ended at 2.35 pm and it will continue tomorrow for 32nd day.— MNA

Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay meets Rakhine State Conflicts Investigation Commission Members

Nav Pyi Taw, 21 August—Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay this morning met with members of Rakhine State Conflicts Investigation Commission at Yangon Region Government Office and clarified matters on recent incidents in Rakhine State, peace and stability and prevalence of law, relief measures, resettlement and rehabilitation.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of the commission Dr Myo Myint and members and officials.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay in his clarifications said that he met the commission on behalf of the President, adding that the purpose of the meeting is to fulfill to the needs of the commission and to help realize the objectives of its main tasks in the interest of the State and people. Formed with those from all walks of life, the commission could carry out its tasks freely and the needs of each member of the commission would be fulfilled.

The Union Minister continued to say that the present incident is not only concerned with only Rakhine State but also concerned with the entire nation. The fundamental requirement of the nation at present is peace and stability. Only when there is peace and stability, will prevalence of law and economic development and improvement of socio-economic status be possible. In view of prevailing situations of the nation, socio-economic status of those in border and rural areas as well as those from urban areas is low. Thus, efforts are to be made for improvement of socio-economic status of the whole nation with the introduction of people-centred development strategy.

The incident in Rakhine State has nothing to do with race and religion. It has originated from unlawful acts of Kyauktaw village of Yanbye Township and Taangy Township. It has resulted in revenge and both sides had to suffer much. A total of 5338 houses, 19 mosques, 14 monasteries, three schools were burnt down and 89 people dead from both sides in the incident. Altogether 987 people involved in the incident were arrested. At present, 54 relief camps are being opened and 73559 internally displaced people are being provided with foods, shelters, education, health at hand. Humanitarian aids are being provided to the victims regardless of race and religion. Food supplies worth about US $ 1 million are provided to those displaced people monthly. In taking relief and rehabilitation measures, the government is in close cooperation with local people, UN agencies, international community and international governments.

Union Minister added that tents were erected and houses are being built for the victims. In place of 470 houses that were burnt down in Maungtaw Township, 552 houses are being built by UNHCR, CARE Myanmar and Ministry of Border Affairs. In taking rehabilitation measures, arrangements are being made to cover both mental and physical development. Meanwhile, steps are being taken to make sure the livelihood of the victims return to normal and create job opportunities and improvement of socio-economic status.

Dealing with all out efforts of the government, pressures of internal organizations and exaggeration of media led to deterioration of peace and stability. To exhibit transparency and give suggestions on requirements for development. In so doing, it needs to hold the views on current and root cause, nationalistic and international views, human rights, national races rights, citizens rights, national interests, long-term peace and stability. To give support the judiciary pillar and to help realize the objectives of its main tasks in the interest of the State and people. To reform and improve the judicial system and the judiciary system to become upright and independent one formed by the President. In exposing the real cause of the incident, they were to present reports on real conditions on the ground and people’s desires after making reports on the real cause of the incident.

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Committee for holding 27th coordination meeting efforts on turning out with the attendance of Union Technology on 18 August, Department under the Myanma Science and Karmai-Lonekhin-Phakant road in Phakant Township, Kachin

Leading Committee Deputy Secretary of Preparation into tar road after funds is annually asked for. Only when every citizen is Ohn from Kachin State Representative U Mya Constituency No 8.

The ministry is making efforts on turning out overloaded vehicles and dissemination of transportation for vehicles, supervising according to Public Private Partnership (PPP) Programme.

Workshop on development of Road Transportation held.

Nav Pyi Taw.—A workshop on promoting of education system was held at the hall of the Ministry of Education this morning, with the attendance of Union Minister for Education U Aye Aye. As the basic education sector is the cornerstone of education system, arrangements are being kept emphasis on the promoting of basic education sector spending a lot of money year after year in order that basic schoolchildren can pursue their education without being anxiety and to help develop the State.

Then, papers discussion followed. Six resource persons took part in papers discussion session. At the workshop, current condition of road/bridge in Myanmar, road/bridge to be implemented with the fund of the State, road/bridge to be constructed with the assistance of foreign, job opportunities in cooperation with the Construction Ministry and BOT companies, rapid development framework according to Public Private Partnership (PPP) were discussed by the attendees.— MNA

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Choice meeting for opening of higher computer universities held

Nav Pyi Taw.—A coordination meeting for opening of higher computer universities was held at Myanmar Science and Technology Research Department under the Ministry of Science and Technology on 18 August, with the attendance of Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint. The ministry is making efforts on turning out overloaded vehicles and dissemination of transportation for vehicles, supervising according to Public Private Partnership (PPP) Programme.

Coordination meeting for holding 27th SEA Games

Nav Pyi Taw.—A coordination meeting between 13 subcommittees and Preparation Leading Committee for holding 27th SEA Games took place at the meeting hall of the Sports Ministry here yesterday morning. It was attended by Secretary of Preparation Leading Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Construction Minister U Kyaw Lwin, Director-General U Than Hlaik of Sports and Physical Education Department and officials, secretaries of subcommittees and representatives. Leading Committee Secretary Deputy Minister U Aye Myint Kyu, explained the resolution of the third meeting.

Officials from preparation leading committee and subcommittees reported on completion of the tasks, current implementation and future programmes. The Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department suggested that Myanmar SEA Game Organizing Committee should be arranged to open separately office for successfully holding of the 27th SEA Games. Discussions were made to carry out the tasks based on experiences from SEA Games and 2012 London Olympics by the attendees.

In 27th SEA Games, all sorts of sports at most 32 and at least 28 will be included and altogether 13500 athletes including VVIP, VIP and managers will take part in those games. —MNA
Air Asia spreads its wings to Mandalay

MANDALAY, 21 Aug — Air Asia spreads its wings to Mandalay, setting to begin flying to the second-largest city on 4 Oct with four flights a week. The airline will use its all-A320 fleet for direct service to Mandalay. 

Due to the direct Bangkok-Mandalay service of the Air Asia which operates twice-daily service to Yangon, arrivals of tourists are expected to increase in Mandalay.—Kyemon

200,000 baby fish released into Kinpuntaung Dam

TAUNGWIN, 21 Aug — As part of efforts for boosting fish production and self-sufficiency in fish in rural areas, Mandalay Region Fishery Department released finglings into Kinpuntaung Dam on 19 August. During the ceremony held by Taungwinyi District Fishery Department, 200,000 finglings were released into the dam by officials, personnel from NGOs and villagers. Kyemon

School Building handed over

YONMAE, 21 Aug — A new school was handed over to Hsilaung Village Basic Education High School in Yinmabin Township, Sagaing Region, on 10 August. The school building was constructed at the cost of over K 24 million : K 10.9 million contributed by the government and K 13.2 million contributed by the people.

During the ceremony to hand over the building to the Education Department, Deputy Speaker of Sagaing Region Hluttaw U Thaung Sein unveiled the signboard of the school building, and U Soe Myint Oo, headmaster of the Hsilaung Village Post No. 540/6 and 10 and 10 August. The ceremony was also attended by Sagaing Region Forest and Mines Minister U Thaung Htike, Assistant Education Officers U Khin Maung Aye and U Kyaw Myint Thein, a representative of Sagaing Region Hluttaw, formally opened the building.

A man and a girl wades through the flood water on a street in Kwahtit Ward in Insein Township on 18 August. Lowlying areas in the township are submerged by the flood when rain pours down heavily, causing flood due to the poor sanitation system.—Kyemon

District News

Similarly, flooding triggered the heavy rain has inundated ground floors of homes and offices in Kawlin. However, there is no damages or cautions of man and cattle due to floods in Wuntho and Kawlin. Kyemon

Relief aids sent to flood victims in Pantanaw Township

PANTANAW, 21 Aug — The flood caused by torrential rain has damaged dykes and submerged houses in villages in Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region recently. Officials from the Ayeyawady Region Government provided aids and food to flood victims sheltering at refugee camps on 18 August. They handed over 23 bags of rice to be distributed to 153 victims from Shwehlay Village tract and 306 flood victims from Mintau Village tract.

The authority will continue to provide the aids and rice donated by the government and donors to the victims and to remaining submerged areas. Kyemon

Aids reaches out flood victims in Shwegyin Township

SHWEGYIN, 21 Aug — A ceremony to donate aids, school uniforms, exercise books to flood victims in Shwegyin Township was held at the Ngarhtatgyi Building in the township on 15 August. During the ceremony, U Myo Myint, a representative from Shwegyin Township Hluttaw and U Aung Myint encouraged the flood victims and handed over aids including buckets, soaps, dry noddles, edible oil, rice, school uniforms and 100 dozens of exercise books to the National Disaster Preparedness Committee. The aids would be distributed to 10006 victims from 2034 households from 12 village-tracts who are taking shelter in relief camps due to floods caused by overflow water of the Sittoung River and the Shwegyin River.

Rare tortoise found in Kalay

KALAY, 21 Aug — Arane and endangered tortoise with gold shell was discovered at the village of Nat Chaung in Kalay Township recently. The endangered reptile is 3.5 inches long and its head is white, legs are blue. Local people called the species as “golden tortoise”. The specie has been protected from killing and trading in Myanmar as it is in danger of extinction.

The species can be found in ever green forests in Bago, Yangon, Sagaing, Taninthayi and Mandalay regions and Mon, Rakine, Shan, Kayin, Kachin and Kayah states.

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Wildfire nears Idaho resort town as some residents refuse to leave

Salmon, 21 Aug—A 91,000-acre (38,800-hectare) wildfire in the Boise National Forest closed in from three directions on an Idaho mountain town on Monday as authorities warned about the safety of roughly 30 residents who have refused to evacuate. The Elmore County Sheriff’s Office ordered evacuations over the weekend as thick smoke from the Trinity Ridge Fire posed a health hazard and limited visibility on the single road to Featherville, a popular summertime resort at the foot of the Trinity Mountains on the South Fork Boise River.

“It puts everyone in higher danger. Firefighters will have to worry about the safety of people who are left behind instead of fighting the fire and saving homes,” US fire information officer Mary Christensen said.

Fire crews prepared to defend hundreds of homes in Featherville, where second homes and rental cabins cause the summer population to swell to roughly 1,000, as well as structures in the nearby community of Pine.

“We hope those residents will reconsider and get out of there,” Christensen said. Weather forecasters predicted a blanket of thick smoke that has lowered temperatures and slowed the fire’s march to Featherville would lift.

The fire has burned over 90,000 acres of sagebrush and timber in south-central Idaho since it was ignited on 3 August by an off-road vehicle that caught fire, authorities said. It was only 5 percent contained on Monday.

Flames also threatened a critical stretch of the North Fork Boise River drainage where fire managers had hoped to cordon off the blaze to prevent its spread eastward toward the historic mining town of Idaho City. Crews sought to construct fire lines by hand in the steep, rugged terrain riding the river.

Christensen said.

So far this season, wildfires have consumed roughly 6.9 million acres (2.8 million hectares) across the United States, over 1.5 million acres more than the 10-year average for this time of year, according to the National Interagency Fire Centre in Boise.

Mexican league offers to cooperate in money laundering probe

MEXICO CITY, 21 Aug—The president of Mexico’s MX premier soccer league on Monday offered to cooperate with authorities should they open an investigation into recent allegations that drug traffickers used the clubs to launder money, local media sources said.

M.X. chief Decio de Maria told reporters at a press conference: “The league is always open to cooperating with all the authorities in any kind of investigation.”

Colombia broadcaster RCN recently reported that the US Drug Enforcement Administration had warned Colombian authorities that the nation’s drug cartels had used Mexican soccer teams for money laundering purposes. RCN said Colombian drug lords, former paramilitary leaders extradited to the US and even a leader of the country’s leftist insurgents were known to have “invested” in Mexican soccer teams from 2003 to 2006, according to records seized by Colombia’s General Attorney’s Office.

De Maria said the Mexican league follows a set of requirements that “shields” the teams against illegal money.

De Maria said that the Mexican Football Federation has intensified the protocols to accept new shareholders in the local teams in the last years.

“The 18 teams completely follow and fulfill the protocols,” said De Maria. He explained that the Mexican clubs should comply with “an affiliation notebook and a set of protocols that we follow, we are alert of any irregular situations.”

Chicago grains rise amid worse than expected yields

Chicago, 21 Aug—Chicago corn, wheat and soybeans futures all rose in trading on Monday, as a lower dollar lent support to the market and a crop trend indicated worse than expected crop yields and quality.

The most active corn contract for December delivery rose 16.6 cents, or 0.24 percent, to close at $2.2575 per bushel. December wheat gained 8.25 cents, or 0.92 percent, to settle at 9.0275 dollars per bushel. November soybeans sharply rose 37.75 cents, or 2.29 percent, to close at 16.8350 dollars per bushel.

According to Chicago Mercantile Exchange/CME, a closely followed crop report reported a worse than expected corn yields and quality in South Dakota and the overall reports of corn yields and quality were worse than traders expected.

The US Department of Agriculture also reported that private exporters sold 121,000 tonnes of US corn to Mexico this morning, which offered support to the corn market, in addition to a slightly lower US dollar on the day.

Wheat saw early support after a private Russian analyst revised their Russian wheat production to 39.41 million tonnes, while a prior estimate was 40.5-42.4 million tonnes.

Traders continue to add risk premium to the wheat market after some feel Black Sea exports will slow in the next quarter which could shift international demand to North America.

Nearly half of US doctors struggle with burnout: study

New York, 21 Aug—Job burnout strikes doctors more often than it does other employed people in the United States, according to a national survey that included more than 7,000 doctors.

More than four in 10 US physicians said they were emotionally exhausted and felt a high degree of cynicism or “depersonalization,” toward their patients, said researchers whose findings appeared in the Archives of Internal Medicine.

The high rate of burnout has consequences not only for the individual physicians, but also for the patients they are caring for,” said Tait Shanafelt of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, who led the research.

Previous studies have shown that burned-out doctors are more prone to thinking about suicide and to making medical errors than their peers, Shanafelt added.

The survey included nearly 7,300 doctors who filled in questionnaires about their work-life balance in 2011. Thirty-eight percent had high emotional exhaustion scores, which is akin to losing enthusiasm for their job, according to Shanafelt. Thirty percent had high depersonalization scores, which translates into viewing patients more like objects than human beings, and 40 percent

had at least one of the two symptoms.

Burnout was most common among doctors at the “frontline of care,” such as those working in emergency rooms or in family medicine. Dermatologists and preventive care specialists were less affected.

The researchers compared physicians with a random sample of 3,400 employed people who were not doctors. Based on a modified version of the original questionnaire, 38 percent of the doctors had burnout symptoms against 28 percent of the rest. —Reuters

Used car sales increase in Spain amid economic crisis

Madrid, 21 Aug—Used car sales in Spain have significantly increased due to the economic crisis that Spain is suffering, local media reported on Monday.

Used cars sales, whose price dropped by 3.1 percent in the first seven months of the year, increased from July 2011 to July 2012 by 22.7 percent.

In Spain, 70 percent of car purchases are second-hand, 60 percent of which have been pre-owned for more than ten years. This has put a potential threat to the environment and road safety.

On the other hand, a rise in the Value Added Tax will also affect the sector.

In the case of cars, the Value Added Tax will rise from 18 to 21 percent from 1 September, which means the industry will see less sales in new cars.

In 2007, before the crisis began in Spain the sector sold 1.6 million new cars. However in 2012, sales in new cars were expected to fall below 700,000.

Colombia, Panama, US seize 1.9 tons of cocaine

Boogota, 21 Aug—Colombia, the United States and Panama netted 1.9 tons of cocaine in two joint anti-drug operations in the Caribbean, the Colombian navy said on Monday.

“The Panamanian National Aeronaval Service intercepted a speed boat in Panama’s San Blas Islands area on Saturday, with information provided by the Colombian navy,” the navy said in a statement.

The speed boat had departed from Colombia’s Uraba Gulf loaded with 1,362 kg of cocaine, but the crew abandoned both the vessel and the shipment on the beach and escaped.

On Sunday, the US Coast Guard seized 568 kg of cocaine that had been shipped from Colombia to Central America.

Two Colombians were arrested in the operation, which took place along the Costa Rica-Panama border.

“The Colombian Navy will continue to undertake operations with other countries against maritime crimes,” the navy added.
Prince Philip to miss church after health scare

London, 21 Aug—Queen Elizabeth II was to attend a church service near Balmoral on Sunday without her husband Prince Philip by her side as he remains in hospital for a fifth day. The Duke of Edinburgh, 91, continues to receive treatment at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary for a recurring bladder infection which forced him to miss the part of the June celebrations for his wife's 60 years on the throne.

The prince was taken to hospital by ambulance on Wednesday while he and the queen were on their annual summer visit to the family's Balmoral residence in northeast Scotland. Members of the royal family, including the queen, Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, were expected to attend a service at Crathie Kirk, near Balmoral, on Sunday morning. Doctors have told Prince Philip to rest and he has not received any visitors but is thought to be in contact with family members by telephone.

It is unclear when he will be discharged, though Buckingham Palace said last week that he was responding well to treatment. This is the prince's third health scare in as many months after he suffered a blocked coronary artery over Christmas 2011 which required the insertion of a stent, or mesh tube used to strengthen or widen an artery. But he had appeared in good health on Monday as he carried out public engagements on the Isle of Wight, and had previously attended several events at the London Olympics, including the opening ceremony and boxing matches.

The prince's current illness is the recurrence of a bladder infection that forced him to spend five nights in hospital in June and miss key events in the queen's diamond jubilee celebrations marking her 60 years on the throne.

It is not known whether the prince will be well enough for his first official engagement accompanying the queen to the opening of the London 2012 Paralympic Games on 29 August.—Internet

Honda looks to silence critics with new Accord

Detroit, 21 Aug—Honda wants to silence its critics when it rolls out the new Accord this week.

The automaker, chafed at losing the Civic compact earlier this year, says it won't happen with the midsize Accord. It better not. The sedan is up against the toughest competition it's ever seen.

It faces a new Nissan Altima that leads midsize sedans in highway fuel economy at 38 miles per gallon, and a revamped Toyota Camry that has cemented its place as the best-selling car in the June celebrations. The stylish Hyundai Sonata, the redesigned and lower-priced Volkswagen Passat, and a new, more efficient Chevrolet Malibu also are on sale. And then there's the European-looking Ford Fusion due out in the fall.

“It's certainly a battle royal in the midsize sedan segment,” says Sage Marie, a Honda public relations executive who coordinates the Accord’s marketing launch. “And we’re going to have a lot of confidence.”

Just five years ago, leading the midsize segment wasn’t that difficult. It was pretty much a two-car contest between Accord and Camry, with the Altima a distant third. Camry and Accord still lead, but in the past few years, other car companies have upped their games. American, South Korean and German rivals are chipping away at their sales.

“Honda and Toyota can no longer take for granted that this is going to be a two-horse race,” says Jesse Toppek, vice president of market intelligence for the TrueCar.com auto pricing service. “It’s a remarkable change, how competitive the segment has become.”

The new Accord has a fresh athletic look and nicer interior. Honda says it's aiming to beat Camry in sales to individual buyers. That excludes sales to rental car companies and other fleet buyers.—Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MOROTAI VOY NO (185)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (185) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.8.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Nigeria launches a fresh bid to overhaul oil industry

LAGOS, 21 Aug—It was the year the world became acquainted with Barack Obama, when Nigeria labeled a buzzword by Time magazine — and when legislation was introduced to overhaul Africa’s biggest oil industry. That was way back in 2008, and many deadlines set by Nigeria’s government to carry out the oil reforms have passed without action, creating uncertainty that has limited new investment, threatening future output.

The country has now launched a renewed reform bid, and there is reason to believe that this time it may be successful — though various obstacles could again derail the plans.

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan last month sent a fresh version of sweeping legislation to parliament that would set out new fiscal terms for the industry and restructure the state oil company, among other measures.

The implications of the 223-page bill are immense in the OPEC member country that relies on the industry for some 80 percent of government revenue and where major firms like Shell, Exxon and Total pump crude for export.

“I think something’s going to get passed before the end of the year,” said Kayode Akindele of 46 Parallels investment firm.

“That’s really out of necessity... because we just can’t have the situation we’ve had the last four or five years.”

But a number of battles must still play out.

Major firms argue that the fiscal terms are too harsh, there are concerns over powers granted to the oil minister, and a political hassle is expected over a fund for oil-producing communities.

Unrest in the oil-producing Niger Delta region has been sharply reduced following a 2009 amnesty deal, allowing output to return to more than two million barrels per day.

A deadly insurgency by Islamist militants Boko Haram in the north and central regions of the country has also not affected oil production.—Internet

Honda looks to silence critics with new Accord

Dogs give emotional boost to sick kids in Quito

QUITO, 21 Aug—Every Wednesday, Lancelot and Laci scanner into a special mission: nudging and pawing youngsters into smiles at the only hospital in Ecuador’s capital that treats children with cancer.

Veronica Parido, the hospital volunteer who owns the dogs, says the animals are used to cheer up the most discouraged of patients, especially those with the grimmest prognosis.

“Sometimes they do not want to eat, their moms haven’t visited them, they don’t want to take their medicine, or they don’t want to talk with the doctor,” Parido said.

Then she brings her dogs in on Wednesdays, and small miracles happen as the sick youngsters caress and cuddle the dogs. “The children smile, talk. They’re infected with life.”

Parido recalled a patient namedicana, a 7-year-old girl who took a special liking to

Honda looks to silence critics with new Accord

Lancelot, a 15-month-old American cocker spaniel, before she died early this month.

“When she died, her parents told me: ‘You have no idea how my daughter had fun on Wednesdays,’” Parido said.

When Parido first started bringing dogs in 2005, they stayed in the hospital garden and played with children before chemotherapy treatments.
An ancient skull discovered in a cave in Laos has pushed back the clock on human migration to Southeast Asia by as much as 20,000 years, a study has found. The skull discovered in the Annamite Mountains in northern Laos is the oldest modern human fossil found in Southeast Asia and is believed to be between 46,000 and 63,000 years old.

The find also reveals that early humans did not simply follow the Asian coast as they migrated from Africa to Australia, as some researchers have argued, but that some also moved inland into unfamiliar terrain.

“This fossil find indicates that the migration out of Africa and into East and Southeast Asia occurred at a relatively rapid rate, and that, once there, modern humans weren’t limited to environments that they had previously experienced,” said co-author Laura Shackelford, an anthropologist at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

While some human remains of about that age have been found in China and elsewhere in Southeast Asia, none have so far defined modern human features or been as well dated as the Laos skull. The discovery also reinforces genetic studies which indicate modern humans were living in the region at least 60,000 years ago. “Given its age, fossils in this vicinity could be direct ancestors of the first migrants to Australia,” Shackelford said in a Press release.

“But it is also likely that mainland Southeast Asia is a crossroads leading to multiple migratory paths.”

Since no other artifacts were found in the cave, researchers believe it was not inhabited by humans. Since the soil it was found in was dated at between 46,000 and 51,000 years ago researchers believe the body was washed down into the cave after the person died nearby.

The skull was discovered more than two meters (8.2 feet) below the surface of the cave in 2009. A team of researchers used multiple methods to determine its age.

LOS ANGELES, 21 Aug—

Elton John fears his son Zachary’s childhood is going to be “very difficult”, battling homophobia and the impact of his father’s fame, the pop icon said in an interview published on Tuesday.

The 65-year-old British star and his Canadian civil partner David Furnish, 49, became parents on 25 Dec, 2010, to a child conceived using a donor egg and born via a surrogate mother.

But the singer-songwriter said he was preparing himself for what would be a tough time growing up for his son, who is now 19 months old, in his monthly column for the Sunday Times magazine. “I know how his father’s fame, the pop icon said in an interview published on Tuesday.

He calls me ‘Daddy’ and ‘David’,” he wrote. “When he was young he was very young age, but that his father’s fame was trying to give his son a normal upbringing.

I won’t push Zachary out, he’ll look at me as if I’m bonkers,” he said in a Press release.

“It’s going to be very difficult,” battling homophobia and the impact of his father’s fame, the pop icon said in an interview published on Tuesday.

While Elton John believes his son David ‘Papa’. “I won’t push Zachary out, he’ll look at me as if I’m bonkers,” he said in a Press release.

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Manchester United loses opener at Everton

LIVERPOOL, 21 Aug — Marouane Fellaini headed in a corner kick from Darron Gibson in the 57th minute, giving Everton United an opening 1-0 upset win over Manchester United on Monday night. After losing the Premier League title to rival Manchester City on goal difference last May on the final day of a trophyless season, United lost at Goodison Park for just the fourth time in 21 Premier League meetings.

“I don’t think anybody tonight was considering Everton at all,” Everton manager David Moyes told Sky Sports News. “A lot of people forget Everton aren’t a bad team, and Goodison is a difficult place to come and win.” It was the first time United lost a league opener since 2004.

Robin Van Persie, signed from Arsenal on Friday, entered in the 68th minute in his United debut. American goalkeeper Tim Howard got the shutout for Everton, coming off a seventh-place finish.Tom Cleverley came closest to scoring for United, but his shot was cleared off the line by Phil Jagielka midway through the second half. “It’s nice to send the Everton fans home with a win and not the doomsday gloom we normally start with,” Jagielka said.

United was playing its first competitive match since becoming a listed company on the New York Stock Exchange. Also on Monday, George Soros Management Fund LLC made a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission saying it had bought 7.85 percent of Manchester United’s Class A shares. The Glazer family controls the Premier League title holders.

Martin Skrtel signs new long-term contract with Liverpool

LONDON, 21 Aug — Martin Skrtel has targeted a new long-term contract after signing a new long-term contract. Skrtel central defender, 27, has been linked with moves to Manchester City and Fiorentina this summer. The defender at Liverpool, who signed a contract extension in 2010. The defender, who started in Liverpool’s opening-day 3-0 defeat at West Brom on Saturday, is now hopeful of a bright future with new manager Brendan Rodgers in charge at Anfield.

“I have been here almost four-and-a-half years and I have enjoyed that time here — myself and also my family — so there were no questions about whether to stay or to leave,” said. “A lot of things have changed, a new manager has come and I think we can start to make history and I want to be a part of that history.”

Sergio Garcia seals Ryder Cup spot with Wyndham victory

GREENSBORO, (NC), 21Aug—Sergio Garcia secured an automatic place in Europe’s Ryder Cup team by winning the Wyndham Championship in North Carolina by two shots. The tournament finished on Monday after heavy rain over the weekend. The Spaniard, 32, resumed one in front with 14 holes to play, and led with American Chad Campbell and South African Tim Clark on the 13th tee. Birdies at four of the next five holes helped to secure his eighth PGA Tour win and sixth Ryder Cup. It was his first PGA Tour victory since the 2008 Players Championship.

He had needed to win or come second in North Carolina to seal his place in Jose Maria Olazabal’s Ryder Cup side. Ryder Cup holders Europe face United States at Medinah in September.

Bayern Munich progresses at German Cup

BERLIN, 21 Aug — German record champion Bayern Munich defeated second division side Regensburg 4-0 owing to the brace by striker Mario Mandzukic at the first round of German Cup (DFB Pokal) on Monday. Jupp Heynckes men avenged last season’s hammering 6-2 loss against Dortmund, following a 4-0 win over local rival Regensburg to advance into second round.

The Bavarians did not show any weakness considering that, already six Bundesliga teams were eliminated from the cup by lower league sides. However, the record champion’s formation needed some time to find their rhythm due to Regensburg well-organized defence. As the match progressed Bayern Munich boosted their offensive efforts to open the scoring at the 31st minute. Frenchman midfielder Franck Ribery dribbled into the penalty area to assist new arrival striker Mario Mandzukic, who slotted home from close range.

United legend Schmeichel says Van Persie makes United favourites

LONDON, 21 Aug — Ahead of Robin van Persie’s debut for Manchester United away to Everton on Monday the legendary United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel predicted the Dutchman could deliver the title that was denied them in dramatic fashion last season. Schmeichel, who won five Premier League titles at Old Trafford, says Van Persie’s signing has tipped the balance in United’s favour as they seek to usurp Manchester City in the title race.

“The Manchester City and United squads were very, very even going into yesterday, and then there was the game-changing signing of Robin van Persie, Schmeichel told premierleague.com. ‘He was Player of the Year last season, he scored 30 goals in the Premier League and he is going to play, and I’m not insulting Arsenal players by saying this, with better players in every position. ‘He didn’t do that at Arsenal, they were struggling at times and had to dig really deep in their squad which is not as strong as United’s.’

Schmeichel suggests that Van Persie might be able to surpass his mark of 30 Barclays Premier League goals last season because he will not have to make as many as he did for Arsenal. ‘He will have more opportunities given to him in games where last season he had to create a lot of his opportunities himself,’ Schmeichel said. ‘The quality we know, he is a fantastic finisher, it is very easy comparing him to Raul van Nistelrooy but he is the same kind of person. He doesn’t miss a lot of chances’.

Cuba-to-Fla swimmer Nyad plows on after storm

KEY WEST, 21 Aug — Diana Nyad dropped her bid to swim from Cuba to Florida on Monday morning. The 64-year-old endurance swimmer sort of said goodbye to the Florida Keys after her的梦想 to swim the Florida Straits from the Cuban coast was dashed by Hurricane Isaac.

Nyad, who had repeatedly said she would not stop swimming to Florida until she reached a shore, said a high wave stopped her just off Cuba’s coast.

“I’ve been swimming in the ocean for 40 years, I’ve faced 10,000 storms and I’ve been blown off course,” Nyad said.

The Associated Press

Monday offered far more ideal conditions, with blue skies and very calm seas, then the storm Monday evening that saw “lost six hours progress” in overnight storms Sunday. The team tried to find a storm and chased it, but “all hell broke loose” in the squall.

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Maria Sharapova seeking third Pan Pacific title

TOKYO, 21 Aug — Nine of the world’s top 10 players, including French Open champion Maria Sharapova, will compete in next month’s Pan Pacific Open. World numberone Victoria Azarenka of Belarus leads the field for the $2.1 million tournament, organizers of the Tokyo women’s event said on Monday. Azarenka won her first grand slam title at the Australian Open earlier this year. Wimbledons and Olympic champion Serena Williams is the one notable absentee from the entry list for the 23-29 September hardcourt event.

Sharapova is a twice former Pan Pacific winner, in 2005 and 2009, while defending champion Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland and 2010 winner Caroline Wozniacki are also among a strong field. Japanese Kimiko Date-Krumm, who turns 42 during the tournament, who won back in 1995, will receive a wildcard.
Celtic eye ending four-year Champions wait

BERLIN, 21 Aug—Celtic aim to reach the Champions League group stages for the first time in four years when they tackle Swedish side Helsingborgs on Tuesday in a game where the legacy of former Hoops star Henrik Larsson looms large.

Larsson spent seven years with the Glasgow giants but started and finished his career with the Norwegian giants. Celtic manager Neil Lennon said that despite his close relationship with Larsson, he will be seeking inside information ahead of their play-off first leg tie in Sweden on Tuesday.

“Henrik will have friends in both camps and I’m sure his head will be spinning with people ringing him, whether it be from Celtic’s side, Helsingborgs’ side or the press,” said Lennon. “I’m sure he will be getting inundated with requests for information and interviews. I am going to leave him to it. I wouldn’t want to put him in that position. We have plenty of people who will do plenty of homework.”

Larsson hit 242 goals in 315 competitive appearances for Celtic during a career which featured two spells with Helsingborg—first from 1992-93 and then from 2006-09. Celtic will host the return leg on August 29 with the winners progressing to the group stages along with the nine other victors of the play-off ties.—Internet

Top US general’s aircraft damaged by rockets in Afghanistan

KABUL, 21 Aug — Insurgents fired two rockets at the main NATO airfield in Afghanistan, damaging an aircraft used by US Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Martin Dempsey, a NATO spokesman said on Tuesday. The general was not on board at the time. Dempsey arrived in the country on Monday in a C-17 transport aircraft which was parked at Bagram Airbase, north of Kabul, when two rockets landed near the apron late on Monday night, slightly wounding two ground staff.

“He was nowhere near the aircraft. We think it was a lucky shot,” NATO senior spokesman Colonel Thomas Collins said.

The aircraft was only being used temporarily by Dempsey and his staff. Shrapnel from the rockets also damaged a nearby helicopter.

Bereaved family

Former US assistant coach remains quiet on Hope Solo’s claim that he witnessed shooting incident

WASHINGTON, 21 Aug—A former US women’s team assistant coach has declined to comment on Hope Solo’s claim that he was in the room when she was allegedly shoved by then-US head coach Greg Ryan in 2007.

According to Solo’s new memoir Solo: A Memoir of Hope, Phil Wheddon was present when Solo was allegedly shoved back into her chair by Ryan as she attempted to leave a meeting where the goalkeeper was told she would be benched for the team’s upcoming World Cup match against Brazil.

“I will not be making any comment on this situation,” Wheddon told Goal.com.

Wheddon now coaches Syracuse and has refused to comment on the situation with only more pressure on Ryan, who is now the head coach at Michigan University, Ryan recently denied Solo’s claim in a written statement to ESPN.com.

“This allegation is completely false,” Ryan told ESPN.com. “I did not shove or push Hope as I’ve been accused in her book. I would have been terminated immediately by USA Soccer had this allegation been true. I have openly discussed the contents of the meeting and this is the first time that this accusation has been brought to light.”

Solo claims in her book herself and glanced over at Phil, glad to have a witness,” she wrote in the book.

Brianna Scurry, one of the starters of the 1999 ground-breaking US women’s World Cup-winning team, started instead of Solo and the US ended up losing 4-0 to Brazil in the 2007 World Cup semi-final match. Solo criticized the decision to reporters after, drawing criticism.

“It was the wrong decision, and I think anybody that knows anything about the game knows that,” Solo said at the time. “There’s no doubt in my mind I would have made those saves. And the fact of the matter is it’s not 2004 anymore. It’s not 2004, and it’s not 2007, and I think you have to live in the present.

“And you can’t live by big names. You can’t live in the past. It doesn’t matter what somebody did in an Olympic gold medal game in the Olympics three years ago. Now is what matters, and that’s what I think.”

Internet
Hluttaw is working for the integrity of the Hluttaw and its law makers while giving advices to become upright judiciary system

Only when every citizen is dutiful, will they be able to enjoy the fruits of the State

Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets US Ambassador Mr Derek J. Mitchell

**N**AY **P**Y**I** **H**LUTTAW, 21 Aug—Amyotha Hluttaw is working for the integrity of the Hluttaw and its law makers while giving advices to become upright judiciary system.

During the meeting, five questions were replied, seeking approval from the Hluttaw and informing the Hluttaw and doing review and re-assessment.

At the question and answer session, Dr Khin Maung Swe of Kyauktaga Constituency asked if there is a plan to test all blood groups in an attempt to provide equitable health care services across the country.

Thebyuchaung embankment in Thegon Township is under construction questions raised by five representatives.

The deputy minister said that: No.2 Friendship Bridge linking Myanmar and Thailand and construction of Trade Highways between Myanmar and Thailand will be implemented, depending on fund received.

Regarding the question of U Win Thein of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No.9 “whether there is a plan to upgrade Pantanaw-Dauntgyi gravel road into tar road section will be built as two-lane tar road with the assistance of Thai government.

Regarding the question of U Salai Khwe of Kayin State Constituency No.12 on “construction of No.2 Friendship Bridge in Meiktila into a big one”, the deputy minister said that Ministry of Construction will asked for fund for upgrading of it in 2013-2014 financial year.

With respect to the question of U Win Thein of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No.9 “whether there is a plan to upgrade Matupi-Paletwa gravel road into tar one”, he said that in 2013-2014 financial year, it will be implemented only when capital funds of Ayeyawady Region government is received. It will be upgraded (See page 9)

**N**AY **P**Y**I** **H**LUTTAW, 21 Aug—Amyotha Hluttaw continued its meeting for 31st day at the Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in the complex of Hluttaw Building at 10 am today, attended by Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw and informing the Hluttaw and doing review and re-assessment.

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Amyotha Hluttaw representative seen at 31st day session.—**MNA**

**V**ice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar sent a letter to US Ambassador Mr Derek J. Mitchell to seek advice to become upright judiciary system.

With respect to the question of U Aung Myint Thein of Kayin State Constituency No.9 on “construction of No.2 Friendship Bridge linking Myanmar and Thailand and construction of Trade Highways between Myanmar and Thailand”, the deputy minister said that: No.2 Friendship Bridge will be implemented with the assistance of Thai government and the site has been chosen for it near about three miles of Myawady. The 28.6 km long Thongannyaingaung-Kawkayek road section will be built as two-lane tar road with the assistance of Thai government.

Regarding the question of U Salai Khwe of Chin State Constituency No.12 on “whether there is a plan to build Matupi-Sami-Mewa or Pwewone road that links directly Chin State and Rakhine State”, the deputy minister said that Matupi-Paletwa road is under direct management of Chin State government. In 2012-2013 financial year, it will be implemented with the State’s capital fund of K 444.00 million and maintenance fund of K 20.017 million, in open season. At the end of the 2013-2014 financial year, 12-ft-wide earth road from Matupi to Paletwa will be built. In 2013-2014 financial year, State’s capital fund of K 1280.5 million has been asked for, and it will be implemented, depending on fund received.

Amyotha Hluttaw representative seen at 31st day session.—**MNA**

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Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar sent a letter to US Ambassador Mr Derek J. Mitchell to seek advice to become upright judiciary system.

With respect to the question of U Aung Myint Thein of Kayin State Constituency No.9 on “construction of No.2 Friendship Bridge linking Myanmar and Thailand and construction of Trade Highways between Myanmar and Thailand”, the deputy minister said that: No.2 Friendship Bridge will be implemented with the assistance of Thai government and the site has been chosen for it near about three miles of Myawady. The 28.6 km long Thongannyaingaung-Kawkayek road section will be built as two-lane tar road with the assistance of Thai government.

Regarding the question of U Salai Khwe of Chin State Constituency No.12 on “whether there is a plan to build Matupi-Sami-Mewa or Pwewone road that links directly Chin State and Rakhine State”, the deputy minister said that Matupi-Paletwa road is under direct management of Chin State government. In 2012-2013 financial year, it will be implemented with the State’s capital fund of K 444.00 million and maintenance fund of K 20.017 million, in open season. At the end of the 2013-2014 financial year, 12-ft-wide earth road from Matupi to Paletwa will be built. In 2013-2014 financial year, State’s capital fund of K 1280.5 million has been asked for, and it will be implemented, depending on fund received.

Regarding the question of U Soe Aung of Mandalay Region Constituency No.11 on “If there is a plan to upgrade Kanlae Bridge in Meiktila into a big one”, the deputy minister said that Ministry of Construction will asked for fund for upgrading of it in 2013-2014 financial year.

With respect to the question of U Win Thein of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No.9 “whether there is a plan to upgrade Pantanaw-Dauntgyi gravel road into tar one”, he said that in 2013-2014 financial year, it will be implemented only when capital funds of Ayeyawady Region government is received. It will be upgraded (See page 9)