Only with peace and stability, can socio-economic life improve, likewise, only there is socio-economic development, can peace and stability be strengthened

Overtures have been made with all the political elements to ensure their participation in political reforms designed for political stability

President Office
Order No. 27/2012
12th Waxing of Wagaung, 1374 ME
(29th August, 2012)

Deputy Ministers appointed
Under the Section 234, Sub-section (a) and (d), of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Section 16, Sub-section (b), Paragraph (9) of the Union Government Law, the following persons have been appointed as deputy ministers at the ministries shown against each.

(1) U Thant Kyaw
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(2) U Zin Yaw
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(3) Dr Maung Maung Thein
Ministry of Finance and Revenue

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Law revoking the Foreign Relations Act
(Union Hluttaw Law No. 14, 2012)
12th Waxing of Wagaung, 1374 ME
(29th August, 2012)

The Union Hluttaw has prescribed the Law revoking the Foreign Relations Act.

(1) This law shall be called the Law revoking the Foreign Relations Act.
(2) The Foreign Relations Act (India Act No.12, 1932) has been revoked with this law.

I sign it in accord with the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Vice-President U Nyan Tun presents cash assistance for cultivation of farmland to Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min.

Established 1914

The New Light of Myanmar

Volume XX, Number 132
13th Waxing of Wagaung 1374 ME
Thursday, 30 August, 2012

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.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

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Only with peace and stability, can socio-economic life improve, likewise, only there is socio-economic development, can peace and stability be strengthened

Overtures have been made with all the political elements to ensure their participation in political reforms designed for political stability

YANGON, 29 Aug—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun made a speech at a ceremony to provide cash assistance to flood victims in Kayin State and agricultural loan to farmers for flood-hit farmlands, at Zwekabin Hall of Hpa-an, Kayin State, this morning.

It was attended by Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, State Hluttaw Speaker U Saw Aung Kyaw Min, Deputy Speaker U Man Hla Myaing, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein, Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe, the State Ministers, the State High Court Chief Justice, the State Advocate-General, the State Auditor-General, the Hluttaw representatives, state/district/township-level departments, members of social organizations, flood victims and farmers.

At the ceremony, State Chief Minister U Zaw Min presented the report on State’s administration, economy, social, education, health, transport, rural development and poverty alleviation tasks, taking care of flood victims at rescue camps and arrangements made for growing of paddy at the affected farmlands.

After that, Deputy Minister U Ohn Than explained the facts about State’s agriculture, the growing of paddy at the flood-affected farmlands and government’s farm land law and vacant and virgin land law.

In his speech, Vice-President U Nyan Tun said that they came to the State to provide necessary assistance to the flood victims. As long as the flood period was long, it caused a bit loss to the farmlands. Efforts were to be made for growing of paddy in the flood-hit farmlands at a time when the water receded. The main purpose of the trip was to provide cash assistance for purchase of paddy strains and fulfilled the needs of flood victims’ accommodation, health and education. Prevention against natural disaster was impossible. Preparedness can be done for mitigating the natural disasters. Attempts were to be made to overcome it to the best in the face of natural disaster. Cooperation was to be made not only by farmers but also by government departments for growing of paddy at the flood-hit farms. It needed to explore the suitable ways for the region. He continued to say that with respect to the government’s reform strategy, as the current government was elected by the people, constant efforts were being made to fulfill the people’s desires and wishes. Although sixty million people would have different wishes, the majority’s same wish was peace and stability and socio-economic development of all national races.

Socio-economic development means quality of education, health and living standard and security under the umbrella of law apart from increase in per capita income.

(See page 8)
Towards a modern, developed country

At a time when direct investments are being invited, it is necessary for all civil servants to help the country prove its integrity and transparency to the international community. Had we not taken steps to increase foreign investment we will surely be lagging other countries in development.

It has long been established that the government should draw up a clear-cut long-term strategic plan in order to take the country forward into a dynamic future global economy. Meanwhile, the country must be doing away with corruption and irregularities in its drive for the emergence of good governance and clean government. The country will never be reformed unless the corruption is seriously dealt and those found guilty are properly responsible for their actions. The private sector looks problematic as well. Therefore, the authorities concerned should be brave in making tough decisions on the complex matters in order to ensure a bright future.

Corruption, which is one of the obstacles to the democratization process, not only adds unnecessary costs at the expense of consumers but also instills the negative mentality, especially among the youths, that corruption is acceptable.

As the country is facing the risk of lacking a skilled workforce, having a skilled and socially responsible labour is essential. But, none of the setbacks could damper it from moving towards a modern, developed country.

We may be able to leverage from the solid base to advance to a high-income country as everything gives the impressions that the country’s bid to a full-fledged democracy is solid base to advance to a high-income country.

Meanwhile, the country must be doing away from moving towards a modern, developed country.

I & P Ministry, UNFPA meet for nationwide taking of census in 2014

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Aug — Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received Mr Saman Zia Zarifi, Director of the Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok-based in Thailand and Ms Emerlynne Gil, Legal Advisor for South East Asia at Amyotha Hluttaw hall of Hluttaw complex, here, this evening. Present at the call together with the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw were Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyin and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on capacity building for judiciary affairs of Hluttaw representatives, cooperation in development of functions of judiciary body, cooperation in matters to be taken for better judiciary affairs, international law and human rights laws, laws on prevalence of law and order, sharing experiences and reviewing.

The Union minister made clear the areas in which the census commission needs the technical assistance of the UNFPA and other experts. Dr Babatunde Osotimehin asked the requirements in detail, replied by experts of related sectors. He said that he believe that the commission would be able to meet the goal, promising to assist whatever necessary.

Korean media delegation concludes visit

Yangon, 29 Aug — Under the programme of Exchange Visit of ASEAN-Korean Media People 2012, a Korean media delegation left here for the Republic of Korea this afternoon. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials from Myanmar Radio and Television.

MWAF clarifies its plans

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Aug — Under the arrangement of Nay Pyi Taw Women’s Affairs Organization, a clarification on its work programme by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation took place at Ingy in hall of the Department of Forestry (Head Office) of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry this morning.

It was attended by President of MWAF Dr Thet Thet Zin, General Secretary Daw Ohn Ohn Swe, wives of departmental heads and female staff and staff families of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry.

At the ceremony, MWAF General Secretary Daw Mya Mya explained the emergence of MWAF and its background story, objectives and formation. Secretary Dr Khin Mar Tun discussed formation of heads, organizations and functions and tasks being undertaken.
Romney secures US Republican Party’s presidential nomination

TAMPA, 29 Aug — Mitt Romney, Tuesday secured US Republican Party’s presidential nomination during a roll call vote at the party’s national convention, and will challenge President Barack Obama in the coming presidential election. Romney has passed the threshold of the required 1,144 delegates halfway through the roll call vote of delegates from 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories, during its national convention at Tampa, Florida.

After passing the nomination, the convention is set to start its roster of speakers in the evening, including Ann Romney and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, who will give the convention’s keynote speech. The convention is set to continue on Wednesday with a speech from Romney’s running mate Paul Ryan, and conclude on Thursday with Romney’s speech accepting the nomination.

According to John Pickering, a political scientist with Florida’s ‘a Lynn University, the Romney campaign is counting on the convention to introduce Romney and his vision for the country to American voters, who usually become more aware of election after the party conventions in August and September, and start the last stretch of the campaign with a better footing in polls. According to popular opinion polls, Romney and Obama are in dead heat, with the Obama campaign pouring Romney with a flood of negative ads in battleground states. The Republican National Convention is tailored to shoo up support for Romney, and the speakers were carefully selected. According to Gallup poll results released on Tuesday, the American public mostly have favorable views of Ann Romney and Christie, who will have prominent speaking roles at the convention.

Spain: Not negotiating for EU bailout: Rajoy

MADRID, 29 Aug—Spain is not negotiating for a full-blow[n] European Union bailout, Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said here on Tuesday. Rajoy made the comment after holding talks with visiting European Council President Herman Van Rompuy. "Have assured Van Rompuy Spain will continue to carry out (reform) measures," Rajoy said in a press conference after the talks, adding Spain’s current economic situation required short-term economic and financial links within the EU and the eurozone.

"Spain presented a proposal for a banking union and now we have to take further steps. It is important to have a banking union by December and for us to be able to recapitalize banks directly," Rajoy stated. Van Rompuy, who interrupted a holiday in Spain to come to Madrid, said the EU and its member states had “a duty to resolve" the imbalances in the economy together. “The current situation has forced us to see some errors in the design of the eurozone," Van Rompuy added. He said "there should be no doubt the euro is irreversible," adding that "the future of Greece is also in the eurozone."

"... But we can only leave the crisis behind through firm measures in each individual country," he said. Van Rompuy’s visit will be followed by that of French President Francois Hollande on Thursday. German Chancellor Angela Merkel will also come to Madrid on 6 September.

On Friday, Spain is expected to approve the creation of a public bank in Spain to take on the toxic assets of the country’s banking system caused by the collapse of its housing sector. — Xinhua

Philippines to host 2015 APEC meeting

MANILA, 29 Aug — The Philippines will host the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders’ Meeting in 2015, a senior government official said on Wednesday. Foreign Affairs Under-secretary for International Economic Relations Laura del Rosario said that in the APEC Leaders’ Week in Russia on 2-9 September, it will be formally announced, through the Leaders’ Declaration, that the Philippines will host the summit three years from now.

The meeting of the 21 APEC Leaders next year and in 2014 will be hosted by Indonesia and China respectively. We’re waiting for the issues of Indonesia and China because whatever agenda item they have that are very useful to us, we will carry them over. So that’s why we’re happy that we were hosting after 2014," Del Rosario said.

She said the government was looking at a specific place in the country where the APEC summit will be held. The last time the Philippines hosted the APEC meeting was in November 1996 in Subic Bay in the northern province of Zambales. — Xinhua

Chinese, Egyptian presidents hold talks on ties

BEIJING, 29 Aug — Chinese President Hu Jintao held talks with visiting Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi at the Great Hall of the People on Tuesday afternoon. Hu said China understands and respects the will of the Egyptian people, and supports them to choose political system and the path of development in accordance with their country’s situation. China also supports the efforts made by Egypt to safeguard national sovereignty and independence and to promote economic and social progress.

Hu said, describing China as Egypt’s “good brother, friend and partner,” Morsi said Egypt, at a special historical period in its national development, thanked China for its friendly policies, understanding and support. He said Egypt hopes to learn from China’s successful experiences in reform and opening-up and strengthen cooperation with China. Hu underscored the important role of Egypt, as a regional power and representative developing country, in international and regional affairs. He said China always views Egypt as a strategic cooperative partner in the Arab world and Africa.

He proposed four points of view to further enhance bilateral relations. First, the two countries should deepen political relations by conducting closer exchanges between leaders, government, parliaments and political parties. The two countries should also give full play to various consultation mechanisms and continue firmly to support other on major issues concerning each other’s core interests.

Second, the two sides should expand economic and trade cooperation, proceed with construction on big projects such as a Suez trade cooperation area, and enhance cooperation in a variety of areas, including infrastructure construction, agriculture, transportation, energy and finance. China will encourage Chinese companies to invest in Egypt and help Egypt to train professionals, Hu said.

Third, the two countries should increase cultural and people-to-people exchanges, promote dialogues and exchanges between different civilizations and deepen cooperation in the culture, education, science, technology, and tourism sectors.

Fourth, the two countries should strengthen multilateral cooperation. China supports Egypt to play a bigger role in international and regional affairs and will maintain close communication with it on hot issues.

He also called on the two countries to enhance cooperation within the framework of the China-Arab Cooperation Forum and the China-Arab Cooperation Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, so as to promote peace, stability and development in the region and in the world. — Xinhua

Iran: NAM supports Iran’s nuclear right

BEIJING, 29 Aug—Iran’s representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency says the Non-Aligned Movement members continue to support Iran’s right to develop its nuclear programme. Ali Asghar Soltanieh stressed the transparency of Iran’s peaceful nuclear plan, and said that Iran will cooperate with the IAEA to dialogue with the international community.

He also announced that a book including Non-Aligned Movement members’ support for Iran’s nuclear programme has been published. Soltanieh made the remarks in an exclusive interview with CCTV on the sidelines of the ongoing summit of the Non-Aligned Movement.

ASEAN, China set to promote economic cooperation

SIEM REAP, 29 Aug — The 11th consultation between the ten ASEAN economic ministers and their Chinese counterpart was held here on Wednesday to discuss ways to further enhance bilateral trade and investment. The dialogue was co-chaired by Cambodian Minister of Commerce Cham Prasidh, chair of ASEAN, and Chinese Minister of Commerce Chen Deming.

Speaking in the opening remarks, Cham Prasidh said that this year’s 21st anniversary of ASEAN-China strategic dialogue partners and the meeting was very important to promote economic cooperation between ASEAN and China. “If I compare ASEAN, China is still the ASEAN’s largest trading partner and the meeting is an opportunity for us to seek ways to foster trade, investment and cooperation to boost our economic growth," he said.

Chen Deming said that ASEAN is China’s third largest trading partner and the bilateral trade between ASEAN and China in the first seven months of this year totaled 230 billion US dollars, up 9 percent compared with the same period of last year. He said that ASEAN has become an important investment destination for Chinese companies, and the bilateral investment was 93 billion US dollars in the first six months of this year. He said that China saw ASEAN as a potential and dynamic trading partner and was looking forward to enhancing bilateral trade and investment relations with the bloc.

Sarun Pituvan, ASEAN Secretary-General, said that the bilateral relationship between ASEAN and China was very productive and both sides certainly took the relationship very seriously. “The bilateral trade between the two sides is growing very fast," he said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua on Monday. — Xinhua
**Science & Technology**

**Science & Technology**

**Rare, elusive marine fish observed**

**MONTEREY, 29 Aug—**US marine scientists say they’ve captured the first-ever video of a rare anglerfish first identified from a dead specimen in 1891 but never seen alive. Researchers at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute in California are reporting the first observations of the deepsea anglerfish *Chaunacopus coloratus* using remotely operated vehicles.

All anglerfish have the ability to attract prey, using parts of their bodies as lures. During one ROV dive, the researchers said, they observed *C. coloratus* displaying a shaggy, mop-like lure, called an esca, which it dangled from the end of a modified fin near the top of its head. After an unsuccessful attempt at attracting a meal, the anglerfish stowed its fishing gear away in a special cavity in its eyes, they said.

Researchers said the ROV dives showed *C. coloratus* can live as deep as 11,000 feet below the ocean’s surface. In addition to documenting these fish using their built-in lures and walking on the seafloor, the researchers discovered the fish change color from blue to red as they get older.

The fish likely begins its life in a transport ship, they form, they said, turns blue as a juvenile and then turns red at adulthood.—Internet

**NASA builds satellites from smartphones**

**SONNYVALE, 29 Aug—**NASA says it’s using off-the-shelf technology—a smartphone—to make the first micro-satellites easiest-to-build satellites in the history of space exploration.

Researchers at NASA’s Ames Research Centre at Moffett Field, Calif, are developing three PhoneSats, each of which will be 4 inches square and will weigh less than 4 pounds, NASA said on its Web site.

Extensive use of commercial-off-the-shelf components, including an unmodified, consumer-grade smartphone — an HTC Nexus One running Android — will keep the price of the micro-satellites at $3,500, NASA said.

The Nexus One acts as the satellite’s onboard computer while sensors determine the orientation of the spacecraft so the smartphone’s camera can be used for Earth observations, engineers said.

PhoneSat’s mission will be a simple one, they said; survive a launch and to stay alive in space for a short period of time, sending back digital imagery of Earth and space via its camera, while also sending back information about the satellite’s health.

The programme is intended to allow engineers to test what capabilities commercial technologies can provide rather than trying to custom-design technology solutions to meet specific requirements, NASA said.—Internet

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**’iPad Mini’ name said to be Apple choice**

**CURTINIA, 29 Aug—**Rumours Apple will launch a 7-inch tablet will be called the “iPad Mini” are apparently on the mark and Apple will make it official, a Japanese tech site says. Apple blog site Macotakara, citing an unnamed source, said Apple is officially planning to bestow the “iPad Mini” name on the 7.85-inch tablet, PCMag.com reported on Monday.

While there has been speculation underlines vehicles that Apple will introduce the slimmed-down tablet when it unveils the next iPhone 12 Sept, indication the smaller tablet to price the smaller tablet to screen that would let Apple’s brother version may feature a Retina display, the little traditionally long version designed to compete with Google’s Nexus 7 and Amazon’s Kindle Fire, both available at $199.—Internet

**Rover 1st: Human voice sent back from Mars**

**PASADENA, 29 Aug—**NASA says its Mars Curiosity rover has broadcast the first recorded human voice that traveled from Earth to another planet and back.

A chapter of the layered geological history of Mars is laid bare in this image from NASA’s Curiosity rover. The image shows the base of Mount Sharp, the rover’s eventual science destination.—Internet

In addition to the voice playback, new telephoto camera views of the varied Martian landscape were unveiled during a news conference at JPL. The event, PC Magazine said. Speculation is rife that although the current iPad is known for its high-resolution Retina display, the little, cheaper, lower-resolution screen that would let Apple price the smaller tablet to compete with Google’s Nexus 7 and Amazon’s Kindle Fire, both available at $199.—Internet

**Tourism affecting Hawaiian dolphins**

**DURHAM, 29 Aug—**Tourists in Hawaii intent on seeing dolphins up close may be disturbing the animals’ daytime rest periods and driving them from safe habitats, researchers say.

Researchers at Duke University studied spinner dolphins, small dolphins famed for their gregarious movements and balletic spins. Coastal populations of the animals divide their time between daytime rest periods in shallow, protected bays and nighttime foraging in more exposed waters, the researchers said. Repeated human disturbances during those rest periods could be driving the dolphins out of safe habitats in bays along the Hawaiian coastline.

Only a small number of dolphins — 21 out of 99 — in a study area along the western coasts of the main Hawaiian islands were suitable habitats for resting dolphins, said David W. Johnston, a research scientist at Duke’s Nicholas School of the Environment.

Distinguishing between sightings of resting and active dolphins was key to defining critical habitats, Duke marine scientist Lesley H Thorne said.

While socially active spinner dolphins are more tolerant of humans’ presence, she said, resting dolphins will leave the safety of a bay and retreat to less suitable, open waters if they are repeatedly interrupted.

“We may be able to minimize detrimental effects on dolphins by putting restrictions or preventative measures into place in a relatively small number of bays, rather than limiting access to dolphins along the entire coast,” Thorne said.

“That benefits tourists and tourism operators as well as the dolphins.”—Internet

**Einstein’s space ‘ripples’ confirmed**

**CAMBRIDGE, 29 Aug—**Entangled white dwarf stars have proved Einstein’s theory that moving objects create subtle ripples in the fabric of space-time, US astronomers say.

Einstein’s theory of general relativity predicts moving objects create the ripples, called gravitational waves, and astronomers have an unparalleled and accurate clock some 3,000 light-years away,” study lead author JH Hermes at the University of Texas at Austin said.

Gravitational waves created by the stars should carry away energy, causing them to inch closer together and orbit each other faster and faster, and the researchers said they were able to detect this effect in J0651.

“Compared to April 2011, when we discovered this object, the eclipses now happen six seconds sooner than expected,” team member Mukremin Kilic of the University of Oklahoma said.

“This result marks one of the clearest and strongest detections of the effect of gravitational waves,” researcher Warren Brown of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory said.

“This is a general relativistic effect you could measure with a wrist-watch.”—Internet
Germany's economic growth slowly stabilizing

BERLIN, 29 Aug — A senior government official said on Wednesday that price rises have continued to slow since the beginning of the year as a result of improving supply-demand relations and dropping prices for some bulk commodities in the international market.

Zhang Ping, minister in charge of the National Development and Reform Commission, said while briefing national lawmakers at a bimonthly session on Monday that the economy is getting ever higher as the country is getting ever higher as economic pressures hit health budgets worldwide.

“We have a lot of good generic drugs out there and I think doctors are more cognizant of the economic consequences of the therapies they are prescribing than ever before,” said Douglas Weaver, head of cardiology at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit.

With new mass-market heart drugs requiring huge clinical trial programmes costing up to $1 billion to prove both safety and efficacy, these are anxious times for the industry.

“It must be making the CEOs of the companies pretty nervous,” said Weaver.

Xinhua

Guinea-worm disease on verge of eradication: WHO

GENEVA, 29 Aug — Surveillance and case containment activities have been stepped up as the guinea-worm disease is on the verge of eradication, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday.

Only 396 cases were reported in the first six months of this year, a dramatic fall from the 807 cases of the same period of last year, and an decrease by 99 percent from the 3.5 million cases reported in 1986. Among them, 391 cases, or 99 percent were in South Sudan, according to WHO.

Gautam Biswas, officer of WHO’s Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases, said, was pleased by the decrease. There is no vaccine to prevent infection from the disease nor is there any medication to treat the disease, close surveillance and transmission interruption measures should be taken for prevention.

South Sudan, which was expected to be the last country to eradicate guinea worms, has committed to interrupting transmission by 2013.

The crippling parasitic disease, also known as dracunculiasis, is caused by Dracunculus medinensis, a long-thread-like worm.

The water-borne disease is transmitted exclusively when people drink water contaminated with parasite-infected water fleas and is now found in the most deprived regions of Africa.

The guinea-worm disease is expected to be the second disease after smallpox to be eradicated.

Xinhua

Air China H1 profits tumble 74 pct

BEIJING, 29 Aug — China’s flagship carrier Air China said late Tuesday that its net profits dropped 74 percent to 1.06 billion yuan (168 million US dollars) in the first half due to weak market demand and higher operating costs.

The airline’s revenues rose 5.38 percent to 47.56 billion yuan, with a gain of 0.09 yuan per share, according to a statement the company filed to the Shenzhen Stock Exchange.

Air China carried more than 34 million passengers in the first six months of the year, up more than three percent from the same period last year.

The company said it expects a grim operating environment for the second half of the year, citing fuel costs and exchange rate fluctuations. In the first half, its fuel spending rose 12.8 percent year on year.

From January to August, the company recorded foreign exchange losses totaling 341 million yuan, compared with a gain of 4.84 billion yuan for the same period last year, said the statement.

Xinhua

China to continue home price controls

BEIJING, 29 Aug — A senior official on Tuesday to prevent rebounds in property prices in the second half of the year.

We will stabilize control measures to curb speculation and increase housing supplies, especially small-and mid-sized housing, said Zhang Ping, head of the National Development and Reform Commission, in a report delivered at an ongoing bimonthly session of the national legislature.

The country’s tightened property controls have seen some results, as average home prices in 58 out of a statistical pool of 70 cities dropped in July, Zhang said.

Local government income from the transfer of rights for state-owned land dropped 27.1 percent year on year in the first seven months, according to a separate report given by Minister of Finance Xie Xuren.

Xinhua

Big bets aim to jolt heart drug sales back to life

MUNICH, 29 Aug — The expiry of patents on profitable heart medicines is soon going to erode one of the main sources of drug company profits, and risky bets on new medicines to replace them may not make up for the lost sales.

High-octane salesmanship was still on show at giant trade stands during this week’s European Society of Cardiology congress — the world’s biggest heart meeting with 28,000 participants — but the razzmatazz hides a business in trouble.

Patent expiries mean annual sales of 15 different categories of heart drugs are set to fall by more than a quarter by 2017, from $83 billion in 2011 to $60 billion, according to consensus analyst forecasts compiled by Thomson Reuters Pharma.

This year will see the biggest single hit, after the loss of patent protection on Pfizer’s record-selling cholesterol pill Lipitor and Sanofi and Bristol-Myers Squibb’s blood thinner Plavix.

Those two medicines were the biggest sellers in any disease area last year, with combined global turnover of $20 billion — a figure likely to be halved in 2012.

Big Pharma hopes a new generation of drugs can replace them, yet recent product launches have been sluggish and new heart medicines still in tests represent some of the biggest gambles ever made in the industry’s molecular casino.

Leading cardiologists, who follow drug development closely, warn that the hurdle for pricey new heart medicines in getting ever higher as economic pressures hit health budgets worldwide.

“We have a lot of good generic drugs out there and I think doctors are more cognizant of the economic consequences of the therapies they are prescribing than ever before,” said Douglas Weaver, head of cardiology at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit.

With new mass-market heart drugs requiring huge clinical trial programmes costing up to $1 billion to prove both safety and efficacy, these are anxious times for the industry.

“It must be making the CEOs of the companies pretty nervous,” said Weaver.

Xinhua

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

Yosemite officials say 1,700 visitors risk disease

FRESNO, 29 Aug — The rustic tent cabins of Yosemite National Park — a favourite among families looking to rough it in one of the nation’s most majestic settings — have become the scene of a public health crisis after two visitors died from a rodent-borne disease following overnight stays.

On Tuesday, park officials sent letters and emails to 1,700 visitors who stayed in some of the dwellings in June, July and August, warning them that they may have been exposed to the disease that also caused two other people to fall ill.

Those four people contracted hantavirus pulmonary syndrome after spending time in one of the 91 “Signature Tent Cabins” at Curry Village around the same time in June. The illness is spread by contact with rodent feces, urine and saliva, or by inhaling exposed airborne particles. After the first death, the park sanitized the cabins and alerted the public through the media that the cause might have been diseased mice in the park. However, officials did not know for sure the death was linked to Yosemite or the campsite until the Centres for Disease Control determined after the weekend that a second visitor, a resident of Pennsylvania, also had died.

Xinhua

Neuroscience in court: My brain made me do it

LONDON, 29 Aug — He was once a respected pediatrician, loved by patients and their parents for over 30 years. Now Domenico Mattiello faces trial for making sexual advances towards little girls in his care.

Scientific experts will argue in court that his damaged brain made him do it, and his lawyers will ask for leniency.

It’s the latest example of how neuroscience — the science of the brain and how it works — is taking the stand and beginning to challenge society’s notions of crime and punishment.

The issue has been thrown into the spotlight by new technologies, like structural and functional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomography (PET) scans and DNA analysis, that can help pinpoint the biological basis of mental disorders.

A series of recent studies has established that psychopathic rapists and murderers have distinct brain structures that show up when their heads are scanned using MRI.

And in the United States, two companies, one called No Lie MRI and another called Cephos Corp, are advertising lie-detection services using fMRI to lawyers and prosecutors.

Xinhua

In this photo from  23 Oct, 2011, tents are seen in Curry Village in Yosemite National Park, Calif. —Reuters

A paper repository of 1,700

Bottles of Plavix shown on display at a pharmacy in North Aurora, Illinois on 24 July, 2008. —Reuters

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Anti-rocket school protects Israeli kids near Gaza

Sderot, (Israel), 29 Aug — For the first time in years, the children of Sderot can study in a school building that is not a constant threat of rocket fire from militants in the nearby Gaza Strip. Their schooldays were often interrupted by mad dashes to bomb shelters. But on Monday, they were on the school year safe from attack in a new, fortified, rocket-proof school building. The $27.5 million structure features concrete walls, reinforced windows and a unique architectural plan all designed specifically to absorb and deflect rocket fire. Notices on the walls of the “Shaar Hanegev” High School remind the 1,200 students of their new reality. In case of a warning siren, it reads, stay put.

“You can finally teach without constantly wondering about what to do when there is a rocket attack,” said Zohar Nir-Levi, the principal of the junior high school inside the compound. You can concentrate on your studies. It was used to be that even when you arrived in the morning you were telling people where to run.” In the 12 years since rockets began raining down on Sderot, fewer than a mile (2 kilometers) from Gaza, residents say life has often been unbearable. Eight people have been killed, hundreds wounded and nearly everyone in the working-class town of some 24,000 has been traumatized by the frequent wave of sirens and explosions.

Schools were often shut for periods during this time, with parents fearing for the safety of their children. Psychologists treated many for trauma. In one memorable incident, a rocket hit an empty school, sparking demands for better protection. Alon Shuster, chairman of the regional Shaar Hanegev council, said the decision to build the new school was made as “a strategic response to a threat we have been coping with for 12 years.”

The rocket fire has subsided considerably in the past three years, since Israel carried out a fierce three-week offensive against Gaza militants in which some 1,400 Palestinians, including hundreds of civilians, were killed. Gaza’s Hamas rulers have largely halted their rocket fire at Israel since then, though smaller armed groups continue to stage attacks. The Israeli military says some 440 rockets have been fired so far this year. In April alone, two rockets fell in the area on Monday, following a similar barrage a day earlier. No one was hurt.

Hot hog sales raise specter of inflation in China

Singapore, 29 Aug — Pigs are an unlikely barometer of inflationary pressures in China, but the country’s declining herds are a matter of concern amid fears that falling pork sales could drive consumer prices higher next year.

Faced with sluggish domestic demand and the rising cost of fattening animals — due to a steep rise in the price of corn and soybean oil as a drought grips top exporter the United States, China’s hog producers are being forced to sell their herds.

China’s hog price cycle is driven in a large part by pork, the country’s staple meat, and while it is in abundance now, in about six months meat stocks are expected to fall as a result of the sell-off, resulting in a surge in prices.

Any increase in food prices is expected to push up inflation, which now sits at a comfortable level in Beijing having cooled from last year, but is still one of China’s biggest economic concerns given the potential for rising prices to trigger social unrest. “If you look at corn and soymeat prices in China, the cost of feeding animals is already rising,” said Jean-Yves Chou, a senior feed industry analyst at Rabobank in Hong Kong. “We expect pork supplies to decline by early next year if profitability remains depressed, resulting in higher prices which will fuel food inflation.”

Warning by the state of the pig industry, China’s top economic planning agency this month ordered stockpiling of frozen pork in anticipation of a supply squeeze when consumption peaks during the Lunar New Year next February. China holds reserves of pork, both in live animals and frozen meat, to help stabilize domestic prices during extreme price fluctuations.

The stockpiling is also used to try to curtail food inflation and steady its domestic industry. In 2007, rapidly rising pork prices became a national concern when China’s hog industry was responsible for producing 50 million metric tons, or half of the world’s pork, a year suffered a deadly outbreak of blue ear disease. Then, the resulting jump in pork prices drove food inflation sharply higher, the impact of which was most acutely felt in the poor areas, home to most of the country’s billion-strong population.

Rising global food prices fuelled by the US drought have so far had a limited impact on China’s consumer price inflation, which fell to a 30-month low in July.

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Mumbai dogs bite man — more than 200 times a day

Mumbai, 29 Aug — More than 200 people were bitten by dogs every day last year in India’s commercial capital as concerns over illegal dog breeding spread, prompting the BMC to take measures to prevent the spread of rabies.

Abhod Ara, chief executive of the Welfare of Stray Dogs Trust, said he was unsure how the BMC’s figures had been derived, but the increase in registered bites led to the decision to introduce a Right to Information request.

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Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia set up dengue network

Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia announced on Tuesday that they have set up a network to push forward information sharing and training in fighting dengue.

The members of the network include Singapore’s National Environment Agency, Malaysia’s Health Ministry and Indonesia’s Andalas University, the online edition of the Straits Times reported.

The network may further expand to include other countries in the region. The network will include Singapore UNITEDDengue, which was announced at the third Asia-Pacific Dengue Workshop held at Singapore’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which public health representatives from 24 countries and regions.

Andrew Tan, chief executive of the National Environment Agency, said the three countries with similar climates and ecologies share the same vulnerability to dengue and other vector-borne diseases. Singapore is a tropical state, and Malaysia and Indonesia also have hot and humid weather. The World Health Organization estimated that up to 70 percent of the 3.6 billion people at risk of dengue are in the Asia-Pacific region.

Pacific agency sees climate change as “most serious long-term threat”

Pohnpei, 29 Aug — The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) stressed here on Monday that climate change is potentially the most serious long-term threat to the development and survival of the Pacific people yesterday.

Kosi Latu, SPREP Deputy Director-general highlighted the issue at the on-going annual conference of the New Life Churches of Fiji on protecting the environment as God’s creation and gift to humankind, which was attended by more than 300 delegates at the Suva Civic Centre.

Latu said that the conference that bigger countries talked about climate change, it was really about changing their attitudes from being a fossil fuel-based economy to a renewable energy-based economy because the burning of fossil fuels was the primary contributor to climate change. “But for us here in the region, it’s much more than that. It’s about our survival.”

Latu noted that Pacific island countries were highly dependent on fossil fuel to meet their energy needs, spending between 30-40 percent of their annual national income on energy sources such as oil and gas, but contributed only 0.03 percent to the total global emissions. “The impact is incredible” and relocation has already happened in some islands in the Pacific, Latu said — Xinhua

Pacific agency sees climate change as “most serious long-term threat” — Xinhua

Singapore dogs bite man — more than 200 times a day
Transport services given to passengers along highways

MEIKTILA, 29 Aug.—Shwesin Sekkya express transport service opened its office at 143 on First Lanmadaw Street in Min Ward of Myoma Ward 4 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Meiktila on 15 August with the use of air-con buses to enable the passenger to conveniently travel from Meiktila to Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, PyinOoLwin, Monywa, Bagan, NayangU, Pakokku, Hpa-an and Mawlamyine.

Six express buses will be run on Meiktila-Yangon of old and new highways. Likewise, five express buses will be run along the route from Yangon to Meiktila through old and new highways.

In the past, Shwesin Sekkya gave transport services to the passengers in the past. At present Shwesin Sekkya express bus line also give services to the travelers. Thus, local people are enjoying fruits of better transport along Yangon-Mandalay route.

Buddhist cultural course wraps up

SALIN, 29 Aug.—A ceremony to present certificates to the trainees in the Buddhist Cultural Course, organized by Salin City Township Sangha Nayaka Committee of Salingyi Region, was held at the hall of Township Administrator’s Office on 16 August.

Agga Maha Pandita Taungmayuway Sayadaw of Region Sangha Nayaka Committee, Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sagara, Secretary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kovida, Township Administrator U Zaw Moe Aung and departmental officials attended the ceremony.

At the ceremony, the Township Administrator, the commander of Township Police Force and the chairperson of Township Women’s Affairs Organization presented prizes to outstanding trainees and certificates of all trainees.

Shan Street Market reopened in Sanyang Township

YANGON, 29 Aug.—Shopkeepers were allowed to sell their goods at Shan Street market (Gwa Market) in Sanyang Township recently.

The market was under flame at 1 am on 18 May 2012. In charge of the market, U Nyunt Win said, “The shopkeepers were allowed to sell goods at the market on 20 August.”

In the incident, fire destroyed four market complexes of five. According to the wishes of the market family, the market complexes were built as one-storey building with concrete floor and IC roof. The market department of Yangon City Development Committee built the facility within three months.

A total of 228 shop apartments from four burnt complexes were rebuilt and 90 from the meat and fish complex renovated.

A youth from the foodstuff and snack shop said, “Shopkeepers do not need to give any cost for reconstruction of the market. However, those who renovated their shops spent money on construction tasks.”

A seller of green grocery marked, “I thank for quick construction of the market.

Train details between Toegyaunggale and Ngamoeyeik stations

YANGON, 29 Aug.—The 31-up train number 3 from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw that left Yangon Railway Station at 8 am on 27 August derailed between Toegyaunggale and Ngamoeyeik stations.

Officials of Myanma Railways arrived at the scene and linked the derailed coaches and break coach from the train so as to run the train smoothly for timely arrival of passengers. They managed the train to be run at 12:46 pm. There was no casualty in the incident.

In this case, officials of Myanma Railways are conducting the detailed investigations on root cause of derailment.

Bronze statue of Mogok Sayadaw in progress

MANDALAY, 29 Aug.—In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Mogok Sayadaw, the Bronze Statue of the Sayadaw is going on at Stone Sculpture Wing of U Win-Daw Nyunt May in Tampawady Ward on Mandalay and it is now nearly to complete.

Based on images of photos of the Sayadaw, 10-foot statue is being cast with the advices of U Aye Myint (Mymarhmu) and U Myint Thein (Hau Myint Thein) of Mandalay National Culture and Fine Arts University.

The bronze statues will be cast in three parts. The head will be cast at the residence of the late Sayadaw. The structure of head will be cast with the use of bronze plus gold ware donated by wellwishers and disciples.

Ten pieces of sacred relic of the Sayadaw will be enshrined at the head structure, which will be completed at 1:20 on 4th Waning of Thadingyut which falls on 50th Anniversary of the demise of the Sayadaw.

DHF PREVENTED: Fumigation was held at all hostels and staff quarters of Pakokku University on 25 August. Chairperson of District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Dr Daw Yi Yi May and party give talks on prevention against dengue-hemorrhagic fever to the local people.

Sittoung River overflows at lowland of Toungoo for second time

TOUNGOO, 29 Aug.—Due to swollen of Sittoung River, Ward 23 (Mogaung Kwetthagon, Ward 9 Kyetshagon, Alegyun, Myikyipaung and Shwebolay) Wards were flooded for the second time.

Moreover, some places of Toungoo Township near Sittoung River and Pati Creek were also flooded. A total of 145 people from 35 households from the flooded areas are staying in the precinct of Mogaung Pagoda.

Last year, Toungoo Township suffered from over 40 days of flooding. Sittoung exceeded 600 cm (about five feet) above its danger level.

During 40 days, flood hit the region three times and about 7500 people from over 1700 households fell into flood victims. In the record, they were accommodated at 22 relief camps.

Re-cultivation of monsoon paddy arranged in Kyonpyaw

KYONPYAW, 29 Aug.—Deputy Director-General U Aye Thein of Cross Protection Section of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Deputy Head of Ayeyawady Region Agriculture Department U Hla Wa, Head of Township Agriculture Department U Hla Myo Nwe, Head of Township Settlement and Records Department U Myo Myiint Myat and officials inspected conditions of floods at monsoon paddy in Heintabin Village of Kyonpyaw Township on 23 August.

In meeting with local farmers, they gave instructions on cultivation of paddy in the places of the farmland that had been flooded and provision of assistance for cultivation.
Only with peace and stability, can socio-economic...

(From page 1)

Focus has been made on agricultural development and industrialization of the nation to achieve the goal of socio-economic development.

Current conventional cultivation methods in use would do nothing for agricultural development and systematic agricultural reforms is a must. The President

has instructed to change morale, forms of farmland, paddy grains, cultivation methods and mechanized farming. Farmers are urged to tune these points in to own farming. Farmers are urged to methods and mechanized paddy grains, cultivation

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CDRT’s coordination meeting (1/2012) held

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Aug — A coordination meeting (1/2012) of Community Development for Remote Townships (CDRT) project, jointly being undertaken by Progress of Border Areas and National Races Affairs Department of the Ministry of Border Affairs and UNDP, was held at Royal Kumudra Hotel, here, yesterday, with an address by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen General U Soe Ko Ko of Rural Affairs Department, Director General U Hla of Progress of Border Affairs Department.

The meeting focused on the implementation of CDRT. Those present discussed the UNDP’s country-level new promoting programme from 2013 to 2015 presented by UNDP Assistant Director Representative Mr Akbar Usmani, project managers Mr Christian Hairin, assistant resident representative U Aye Lwin and regional project managers.

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Foreign investments were allowed with four criterions—not to harm the interest of the nationals, not to harm the dignity of the nation, not to harm sovereignty of the nation and not to harm natural environment.

As it is the consensus among the public, everyone should march harmoniously.

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Vice-President U Nyan Tun greetings those present at ceremony to provide cash assistance for flood victims in Kayin State and disburse agricultural loans.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun views condition of Thanlwin River from Shwe Yin Hmyaw Pyidawae Pagoda precinct.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has power...

(from page 16)

request of central organizations, ministries, departments and State-owned business entities. The respective departments or organizations will have to make a particular in yearly budget for legislation. The budget is available upon approval of the Union Budget Law by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. 

Daw Nnar Se Oo of Hpa-an Constituency asked whether there is plan to stop the profit-seeking company which damaged ecosystem of Minza Village in Hpa-an Township. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint answered that a local entrepreneur is operating a gravel mining at the foot of Minza Mountain in Kayin State. The operation is being suspended as the license expired and a bid was launched for another term. If the complaint is found to be valid, the license would not be issued.

Member of Bill Committee Daw Khin Hlay Kywe submitted the committee’s report on Bill amending Traditional Medicines Council Law.

The representatives willing to discuss the bill are to submit their names by 1 September, mentioning para, subpara, description and facts precisely.

Eight Hluttaw representatives discussed the proposal submitted by Daw Nan Wah Nu of Kuwinhe Constituency on 14 August urging the President and the Union government to submit bill/rule (draf) defining duties, authorities and rights of Region or State chief ministers and ministers under Section 264 (d) of the constitution.

Deputy Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo discussed that respective laws have been prescribed for administration and management of each institution. The Region or State Government Law has been prescribed for region or state level administration. The proposal should not be approved.

Daw Nan Wah Nu made explanation. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said that the President as well as himself has to perform duties assigned in accordance with the constitution. The President has the power to issue administration orders and ordinance except financial matters under Section 212 (a) of the constitution. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also has the power to issue rules regarding the administration through approval. Both the lawmakers and the Union level organizations have the rights to submit bills. If the discussions of the resource personnel and representatives are so reviewed, the Region and State governments led by chief ministers would enjoy rights granted by the constitution and could well perform undertakings and bring about national unity only when the rights of the Union government and those of the region or state governments are divided clearly. The proposal was made, keeping in mind that the emergence of laws that could profit the country and citizens, and safeguard the rights of the national races is the duty of the Hluttaw.

With the agreement of the Hluttaw, the proposal was approved.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker read out the impeachment against the Chairman and members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union approved by Amyotha Hluttaw with today’s date.

Under Sections 71 and 334 of the constitution, an investigation committee is to take action against the constitutional tribunal chairman and members under the constitution was formed with Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa and 14 members and duties of the committee were announced.

Today’s session concluded at 2.20 pm and the 36th day session continues tomorrow.—MNA

MP calls for modernization...

(from page 16)

through since October, 2011. So, An Township farmland and crops conversion team decided not to recompense for those cultivation.

Regarding the question of U Tin Win of Magway Region Constituency No (8) about whether there is any plan to repair outflow intake canals in the north of Nyansang Village in Aunglan Township and to build a bridge on the road linking Hamakkan Village and Thigun Village, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw replied that the ministry was taking measures against floods in coordination with local farmers due to blockage of drains in Pade main canal in this monsoon and the repair works would be completed by the end of this August.

A new bridge was under construction at feet post No. 48550 of Pade main canal on Hamakkan-Thigon road and construction was scheduled to be complete within this September.

Member of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee U Than Myint read report of the committee on discussion of MPs on Civil Servants Bill. The Hluttaw approved the bill para by para.

Member of Union Civil Services Board Dr Kyaw Kyaw Hlay proposed to the Hluttaw to approve the bill. The Hluttaw approved it as amended.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced that MPs wishing to discuss Foreign Investment Bill further amended by the Pyithu Hluttaw can submit their names.

Next, 13 MPs discussed report of Amyotha Hluttaw Education, Health and Culture Committee. The Hluttaw decided to push on with the report as necessary.

The Workshop on negotiation of seeking problems on elimination of illegal trade held

Union Minister U Win Myint speaking at the meeting with staff at Muse 105th mile trade zone. — MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Aug—The workshop on negotiation of seeking problems on elimination of illegal trade was held at the hall of Muse-

Namkhant Trade Association in Muse, yesterday, with the attendance of Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint.

The government and private are going to join hands to vanish the illegal trade. Although bans on relaxation of trade development had implemented, the amount of trade would not be improved incredibly. Illegal trade is the weakness point of the country as well as people. Plans are under way to fade the illegal trade in cooperations with businesses, said the Union minister.

Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat pointed out that Muse is one of the main ingredients of the state and people are highly believed in the government on account of transparency. Suggestions to fade out the illegal trade are being invited.

The workshop was attended by the Union minister, the Shan State Chief Minister, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shin, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint, UMFFCI and departmental personnel.

The Union minister and party met staff at Muse 105th mile trade zone on 27 August and left necessary instructions.

The Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue reduced taxes rate so to earn gross profit of exports. Arrangements are being carried out to go back right track of the trade sector.—MNA
Meeting on region-level mining sector development, promoting export quality and market penetration held

Nav Pyi Taw, 29 Aug—Regional peace and stability generates mining sector development there by US$ 0.2 million for rehabilitation of Rakhine State through the Rakhine State Chief Minister. The Indian Ambassador said that the donation was an Indian government’s and people’s aid to the victims. He expected that the aid would contribute to relief and establishment of harmonious community with the peace and stability. The positive actions of the Myanmar government would assist the country’s democratic transition and reforms process.

I can be seen that Myanmar government is making necessary reforms for democratic framework, national reconciliation and market-oriented economic system. India was ready to provide Myanmar with necessary assistance.

After the ceremony, the Union Minister and party cordially greeted those present and enjoyed the documentary photos at Rakhine State Government Office.

The Union Minister and the Indian ambassador visited relief camp in Myinga Ward in Sittway. The Union Minister there said aids are being rendered to refugees, inviting donors.

The first step of rehabilitation is food, the second is housing and the last step is creation of job opportunities. The Indian ambassador said India is willing to help the peoples of Rakhine State.

He continued that the donation of the Indian government would ease the burden to some extent, adding that the cash would be used to purchase CIS sheets for victims of different races. He expressed his heartfelt thanks to the Indian people and the Indian Ambassador for their efforts in rehabilitation and resettlement works for victims and unity among different races.

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The Union Minister and the Indian ambassador visited relief camp in Myinga Ward in Sittway. The Union Minister there said aids are being rendered to refugees, inviting donors. The first step of rehabilitation is food, the second is housing and the last step is creation of job opportunities. The Indian ambassador said India is willing to help the peoples of Rakhine State.

He continued that the donation of the Indian government would ease the burden to some extent, adding that the cash would be used to purchase CIS sheets for victims of different races. He expressed his heartfelt thanks to the Indian people and the Indian Ambassador for their efforts in rehabilitation and resettlement works for victims and unity among different races.

After that, Indian Ambassador donated US$ 0.2 million for rehabilitation of Rakhine State victims and unity among different races.

Nav Pyi Taw, 29 Aug—Regional peace and stability generates mining sector development there by US$ 0.2 million for rehabilitation of Rakhine State through the Rakhine State Chief Minister. The Indian Ambassador said that the donation was an Indian government’s and people’s aid to the victims. He expected that the aid would contribute to relief and establishment of harmonious community with the peace and stability. The positive actions of the Myanmar government would assist the country’s democratic transition and reforms process.

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Unusual earthquake swarm shocks Southern California

LOS ANGELES, 29 Aug — An unusual swarm of hundreds of mostly small earthquakes has struck Southern California over the last three days and shaken the nerves of quake-hardy residents, but scientists say the cluster is not a sign a larger temblor is imminent. The earthquakes, the largest of which measured magnitude 5.5, began on Saturday evening and have been centered near the town of Brawley close to the state’s inland Salton Sea, said Jeanne Hardebeck, research seismologist for the US Geological Survey.

Scientists were monitoring the earthquake cluster, which continued on Tuesday, to see if it approaches the Imperial Fault, about three miles away. A destructive and deadly earthquake of magnitude 7.0 struck on that fault in 1940, she said. “We don’t have any reason to believe that the (earthquake) swarm is going to trigger on the Imperial Fault, but there’s a minute possibility that it could,” Hardebeck said, adding that the swarm of quakes was not moving closer to that fault. The Brawley quake cluster, which is caused by hot fluid moving around in the Earth’s crust, is different than a typical earthquake, in which two blocks of earth slip past each other along a tectonic fault line.

After that kind of an earthquake of magnitude 5.5 or above, there is a 5 percent chance a larger quake will follow, Hardebeck said. But she added the same kinds of probability, research estimates were not possible with earthquake clusters caused by the movement of fluid. “We understand them even less than we understand normal earthquakes,” Hardebeck said, adding that scientists do not know why a cluster of earthquakes will occur at one time rather than another. The swarm led to jangled nerves in Brawley, a town of about 25,000 residents 170 miles southeast of Los Angeles near the border with Mexico. — Reuters

India’s Supreme Court upholds death sentence of Mumbai attacker

NEW DELHI, 29 Aug — India’s Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the death penalty given to Mohammed Ajmal Kasab, the lone surviving gunman in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

The death sentence was confirmed by Bombay high court on 21 Feb, 2011 and first delivered by a special court in Mumbai on 6 May, 2010 after convicting him of waging war against India and other dozens of charges including murders and terrorist act.

An apex court bench of Justice Aftab Alam and Justice CK Prasad reserved the verdict on the conclusion of arguments. Kasab contended that he was denied a fair trial as he was not provided legal assistance as mandated in terms of Indian constitution. This argument was rejected by the court. — Xinhua

China to deploy drones for marine surveillance

BEIJING, 29 Aug — An official said on Wednesday that drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), are to be deployed along China’s coastline to undertake remote-sensing marine surveillance. The project also includes the construction of 11 UAV bases run by provincial maritime authorities, according to Yu Qingsong, a division chief of the State Oceanic Administration.

No further details on the scale or the schedule of the project were provided, but Yu noted that at least one drone would be stationed at each base. A related trial programme was launched in late 2011, when China’s northeastern Liaoning Province successfully took aerial photos with rented drones on a 980-square-km area.

Local authorities said they could use the high-definition photos to discover illegal land reclamation and sand dredging as well as monitor marine environments along the coast and on islands. A separate test on a drone-based 3D monitoring system was also conducted earlier this year by the maritime authority in east China’s Jiangsu province. — Xinhua

Over 1,000 die annually due to natural calamities in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 29 Aug — More than 1,000 people are killed annually in Nepal in natural disasters, the National News Agency RSS reported on Wednesday.

A majority of the deaths are due to floods and landslides. About 300 people die annually due to floods and landslides, according to the RSS. As per a study conducted by an NGO called Mercy Corps, 26,656 people in the country lost their life. 4.7 million people were directly affected and 841,000 hectares of land were destroyed due to natural disasters in 37 years. Similarly, President Malla Mitha, who conducts a pirate epidemic due to flood. The Ministry of Home Affairs, the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Practical Action and Mercy Corps have joined hands to expand the disaster warning systems for mitigate damage caused by the natural disasters. and, in other connection, to conduct national, regional and district-level workshops, orientation training and interaction with the participation of people from flood-affected areas. A national disaster mitigation awareness campaign is underway in collaboration with over 200 stakeholders in the country. — Xinhua

Egypt’s Morsi invited to visit Israel

JERUSALEM, 29 Aug — In a rare departure from his oft-quoted hawkish declarations, Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman on Tuesday extended an invitation to Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi to visit Israel. Speaking at a legal conference in Tel Aviv, Lieberman said: “We hope that whoever speaks about peace and about stability understands that there can be no hypothetical peace.” “We hope that Morsi will meet with Israeli officials, that he will be interviewed by Israeli media and that he will visit Jerusalem as the guest of President (Shimon) Peres.” The remarks came on the heels of an interview to British media Morsi gave on Monday, in which he stated his intention to pursue a “balanced” foreign policy and reiterated his commitment to holding a 1979 peace treaty with Israel, as well as all international treaties which Cairo has signed. “Egypt is now a civilian state... international relations between all states are open and the basis for all relations is balance,” Morsi said in his first interview with foreign international media since taking office. “We are not against anyone, but we are for achieving our interests,” he asserted.

Lauding Morsi’s stated commitment to abide by the terms of the 1979 treaty, Lieberman, however, cautioned that peace not merely a “telepathic connection” but rather should have “tangible expressions.” “I was happy to hear Morsi’s talks about Egypt’s commitment to the Camp David treaty and the struggle against terrorism,” Lieberman said. “But anyone talking about peace and security needs to understand that this cannot just be something theoretical and abstract.”

Israel’s top leadership has shown appreciation for the wake of former Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak’s ouster in early 2011 and Morsi’s recent victory in the country’s first democratic election, citing fears that the Muslim Brotherhood candidate would abandon the peace treaty and turn a blind eye to the growing presence of militant groups in the Sinai Peninsula. In a bid to assuage these fears, Morsi in July responded to a letter from Peres congratulating him on his presidential victory, saying that he was looking forward to assisting efforts to revive the Middle East peace process. — Xinhua

Singapore’s SIT to become university by 2014

SINGAPORE, 29 Aug — The Singapore Institute of Technology, which was inaugurated by the government in 2009, will become an autonomous university by 2014, local media reported on Wednesday. The institute will go beyond its current two-year model to offer three- and four-year degree courses, said its president, dynamic Tan Tienoen. It will also offer its own degrees, in addition to the degrees from its partner universities, and run a cooperative education programme which will require its students to study for at least between semesters of full-time study and relevant paid work.

Currently, the institute runs degree programmes in fields such as chemical engineering and interior design offered by its 10 overseas partners, including the Technical University of Munich and University of Glasgow. — Xinhua

Actors perform at the opening ceremony of the 2nd Ordos International Nadam Fair in Ordos, north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 27 Aug, 2012. The eight-day fair in Ordos consists of art, cultural and trade activities as well as sports competitions, including horse-racing and Mongolian-style wrestling. — Xinhua

Image provided by Petroleum de Venezuela Corp (PDVSA, by its acronym in Spanish) shows fire fighters after the blast in the Amuay refinery tanks, belonging to PDVSA’s Paraguan Refining Centre in Punto Fijo, Falcon State, Venezuela, on 28 Aug, 2012. According to company sources, emergency teams have already achieved in the last hours extinguishing the fire of two tanks of the storage area of the refinery in Venezuela after three days of fire fighting after the blast in Paraguan Refining Complex. — Xinhua

Drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), are to be deployed along China’s coastline to undertake remote-sensing marine surveillance. The project also includes the construction of 11 UAV bases run by provincial maritime authorities, according to Yu Qingsong, a division chief of the State Oceanic Administration. Some 1,000 people are killed annually in Nepal in natural disasters, the National News Agency RSS reported on Wednesday. More than 1,000 people are killed annually in Nepal in natural disasters, the National News Agency RSS reported on Wednesday.
The Claims Day
MV Sea Miracle VOY NO (-) Consignees of cargo carried on MV Sea Miracle VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.8.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 3 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
Agricultural Mechanization Department
Agent for: SANG THAI SHIPPING CO. LTD. Phone No: 256924/256914

The Claims Day
MV Turtule Bay VOY NO (105) Consignees of cargo carried on MV Turtule Bay VOY NO (105) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.8.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 3 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
Agricultural Mechanization Department
Agent for: M/S SAMUDEERA SHIPPING LINES Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

The Claims Day
MV Ipanema VOY NO (212025) Consignees of cargo carried on MV Ipanema VOY NO (212025) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.8.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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
Agricultural Mechanization Department
Agent for: M/S F.H BERTLING CHARTERING & SHIP MANAGEMENT PTE LTD. Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

The Claims Day
MV ESM Cremona VOY NO (055) Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM Cremona VOY NO (055) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.8.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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.

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Shipping Agency Department
Agricultural Mechanization Department
Agent for: M/S ORIENT OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Iraq officials: Gunmen with silencers kill general
BAGHDAD, 29 Aug — Iraqi officials say gunfire from silencers killed an army Brigadier General just outside Baghdad, while two civilians died in separate attacks elsewhere in the country. Police and medical officials said on Monday that the gunman shot dead Brig Gen Abdul-Munzen Khalaz in the Sennar town of Talji, just north of the capital. In Haditha, a roadside bomb went off near an army patrol, killing one civilian and wounding four soldiers, said Mohammed Fathi, a provincial spokesman in Iraq’s western Anbar Province. Another bomb exploded in the northwest city of Mosul, killing one civilian and wounding another, police said. Health officials confirmed the casualties. Unnamed officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were unauthorized to brief reporters. Security forces are a top target for insurgents seeking to destabilize the country.— Internet

Oil spill fouls Curacao shore, threatens flamingos
KINGSTON, 29 Aug — An extensive fuel spill has fouled a stretch of shoreline and killed pink flamingos and other wildlife in a nature preserve in Curacao, conservationists and residents of the tiny Dutch Caribbean island said on Monday. The leader of a local environmental group asserted on Monday that the spill of crude oil at Curacao’s Jan Kok refinery was from at least one storage tank owned by the state-owned oil company of Venezuela, only about 40 miles away. “This is probably the biggest (environmental) disaster in Curacao,” said Peter van Leeuwen of the Stichting SNOG group. “The whole area of Jan Kok is black. The birds are black. The crabs are black. The plants are black. Everything is doped in oil.” Curacao-based journalist Dick Drayer, who covers the Netherlands Antilles for Dutch television, estimated that the spill covers an area of “around 30 soccer fields.” He added that three distinct oil slicks are floating offshore and are “threatening the southern coast of Curacao.” Photographs of Curacao’s southern Jan Kok area show a darkened coast and gobs of oil dripping off of coastline rocks and mixing in the surf. A pink flamingo preserve, crustaceans, and lizards can be seen struggling on the beach. — Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV Sea Miracle VOY NO (212025)
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department
Agricultural Mechanization Department
Agent for: SANG THAI SHIPPING CO. LTD. Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV Turtule Bay VOY NO (105)
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department
Agricultural Mechanization Department
Agent for: M/S SAMUDEERA SHIPPING LINES Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV Ipanema VOY NO (212025)
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Shipping Agency Department
Agricultural Mechanization Department
Agent for: M/S F.H BERTLING CHARTERING & SHIP MANAGEMENT PTE LTD. Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
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**Robber left his ID behind**

Police in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, said they were searching for a man who left his ID at a BP gas station after allegedly robbing the station.

Investigators said Rodney Peterson allegedly robbed the station around 9 pm on 25 August while armed with a broken bottle, WEWS-TV, Cleveland, reported on Monday. Police said Peterson inadvertently left his ID on the counter when he fled the station.

**Director Tony Scott cremated; scholarship created**

LOS ANGELES, 29 Aug—Tony Scott has been cremated, and his widow will keep his remains at their Los Angeles-area home.

The information is included on Scott’s death certificate, which was released on Monday. The document doesn’t include a formal determination of Scott’s cause of death. Coroner’s officials expect it will take several weeks to finalize their investigation, but they are treating his case as a probable suicide.

The “Top Gun” director jumped from a bridge into the Los Angeles Harbour on 19 August. Family and close friends gathered over the weekend to honor the British-born director at a private memorial. His family also announced on Monday that they have created a memorial scholarship at the American Film Institute to help future filmmakers and honor his creative legacy.

The last film Scott directed was 2010’s “Unstoppable”.

**Kristin Chenoweth to co-host “Anderson Live” premiere**

LOS ANGELES, 29 Aug—Kristin Chenoweth will serve as the first co-host when Anderson Cooper’s revamped daytime talk show returns on 10 September for a second season, the show said on Monday.

Chenoweth, who recently had to put a guest-starring run on CBS’s “The Good Wife” on hold due to injuries she sustained while filming the political drama, will be followed by guest co-hosts including Goldie Hawn, Kelly Osbourne, Cyndi Lauper, Howie Mandel, Erin Andrews, DL Hughley and Kellie Pickler.

**Miley Cyrus gets “Two and a Half Men” guest run**

LOS ANGELES, 29 Aug—Miley Cyrus is coming to “Two and a Half Men.”

The former “Hannah Montana” star will guest in a two-episode arc of the CBS comedy when it returns for its 10th season this fall, the network said on Monday.

Cyrus, 19, will play Masi, an old family friend of internet billionaire Walden Schmidt ( Ashton Kutcher), who develops a relationship with Jake (Angus T. Jones) when he comes home from the Army.

Since “Hannah Montana” ended its run last year, Cyrus has taken a stab at the big screen in such films as “LOL” and the upcoming “So Undercover.”

“Two and a Half Men” returns on 27 September at 8:30 pm.
Open-Serena makes light work of Vandeweghe

NEW YORK, 29 Aug—Serena Williams powered to a 6-1, 6-1 win over Coco Vandeweghe in the first round of the US Open at Flushing Meadows on Tuesday night. Williams needed only 55 minutes to defeat her fellow American and continue the imposing form that took her to the Wimbledon and Olympic titles this year. The fourth seed was dominant in every department and will next face Spain’s Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez.

Williams’ match completed a short night session at Flushing Meadows following Novak Djokovic’s 6-1, 6-0, 6-1 win in 73 minutes against Paola Lorenzi.—Reuters

Britain’s new star Konta, via Australia and Hungary

LONDON, 29 Aug—Britain’s Johanna Konta, born in Australia of Hungarian roots, reached the US Open second round on Tuesday, but admitted the national anthem still remains a mystery. Konta pledged to learn the words to “God Save the Queen” as quickly as possible, which Konta insisted would exhaust the abilities of most native-born Britons.—Internet

Serena Williams of the US.

Konta, the second Australia-born player, won her first round of the US Open at Flushing Meadows on Tuesday night. The fourth seed was dominant in every department and will next face Spain’s Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez.

Williams’ match completed a short night session at Flushing Meadows following Novak Djokovic’s 6-1, 6-0, 6-1 win in 73 minutes against Paola Lorenzi.—Reuters

O’Neill says Richardson set to leave Sunderland

LONDON, 29 Aug—Sunderland manager Martin O’Neill has confirmed defender Kieran Richardson is set to leave Stadium of Light after the Black Cats accepted a bid for the left-back.

O’Neill, speaking after his side’s 2-0 League Cup second round win over Morecambe on Tuesday, did not disclose which club had made the offer for Richardson, but it has been widely reported that Fulham are leading the chase to sign the former Manchester United player.

Richardson was not included in the squad for the Morecambe tie and O’Neill said: “A club has made an offer for him today and we have accepted that.”

“I give Kieran the opportunity to find out for himself. It doesn’t materialise and he comes back, I’ll still be pleased, but it’s a position we might have to go and have a look at...”

“Kieran wanted to pursue this and have a look at this. I will see what comes of it.”

Richardson, 27, is in the final year of his contract and O’Neill has already been linked with a series of replacements for the former England international.

“It is something, if Kieran does go, that we would have to look at,” O’Neill added.—Internet

McIlroy to miss elite PGA Grand Slam of Golf

NEW YORK, 29 Aug—PGA Championship winner Rory McIlroy will be a conspicuous absentee from the elite end-of-season PGA GrandSlam of Golf in Bermuda in October due to a scheduling conflict, organizers said on Tuesday.

Northern Irishman McIlroy, who clinched his second major title by a staggering eight-shot win at Kiawah Island earlier this month, had already committed to the European Tour’s BMW Masters in China, the PGA of America said in a statement.

The BMW Masters, which was added to the European Tour schedule in April, will be played at Lake Malaren Golf Club in Shanghai from 25-28 October. The PGA Grand Slam of Golf, a 36-hole strokeplay event which brings together the winners of the year’s four majors, will be held from 23-24 October at Bermuda’s Port Royal Golf Course.

American Keegan Bradley will replace world number one McIlroy on the picturesque Atlantic Ocean island of Bermuda where he will defend the title he claimed by one shot last year when he qualified as the 2011 PGA Championship winner.

Fellow Americans Bubba Watson, who won this year’s Masters, and Webb Simpson (US Open), plus South African Ernie Els (British Open), complete the elite four-man field.—Reuters

Degenkobt takes stage, Rodriguez holds on to lead

MADRID, 29 Aug—Germany’s John Degenkolb edged ahead of his rival in a mass sprint finish to win the Tour of Spain’s tenth stage on Tuesday, while Spain’s Joaquim Rodriguez held on to the overall race lead.

It was the 23-year-old’s fourth stage victory at this year’s race after he won the second, fifth and seventh stages.

The Argos-Shimano rider completed the 190-kilometre (120-mile) ride from Ponteareas to Sanxenxo.—Internet

Crowd favourite Murray looks to move into third round

NEW YORK, 29 Aug—Britain’s Andy Murray, who is forging a new reputation as a crowd favourite, will try to take his place in round three of the US Open on Wednesday.

The third seed, who beat world number one Roger Federer in the gold medal match at the London Games earlier this month, was given a standing ovation following his opening match when his triumph was mentioned to the crowd on Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Scotsman Murray, chasing his first grand slam title, faces big-hitting Croatian Ivan Dodig, a ranked 118th in the world but who owns victories over Rafa Nadal and Robin Soderling.

“The support I’ve had since the Olympics and since the Wimbledon final has been excellent, and it helps when you’re playing matches,” said Murray.

“I know personally that winning a gold medal at a home Olympics is very rare. There are very few people that get the chance to do that.”

“It was a huge match for me.”

“When everyone around you is positive and you are upbeat and positive, it makes difference to the way you play, the way you feel about yourself. It makes it easier to perform.”

While Murray tries to reach round three, fourth seed David Ferrer of Spain begins his title campaign in the last of three days of opening-round play.—Reuters

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Germany’s John Degenkolb (R) of Argo-Shimano team celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the tenth stage of the Vuelta tour of Spain, a 190 km ride from Ponteareas to Sanxenxo.—Internet

Saints sign Mayuka from Young Boys

LONDON, 29 Aug—Premier League newcomers Southampton signed Zambia striker Emmanuel Mayuka from Young Boys Bern for an undisclosed fee on Tuesday.

Mayuka agreed a five-year contract after passing a medical with Nigel Adkins’ side on Tuesday. The 21-year-old has already been granted a work permit and Saints are now awaiting clearance of the deal to be fully ratified, which

Premier League newcomers Southampton signed Zambia striker Emmanuel Mayuka.—Internet

Internet Sports

Fullham midfielder Mousa Dembele

LONDON, 29 Aug—Fullham midfielder Mousa Dembele is on the verge of joining Tottenham after the west London club revealed they have accepted a bid for the Belgian international.

Dembele was missing from Fulham’s squad for their 2-0 defeat at Sheffield United on Wednesday and the Cottagers confirmed after the match that the 25-year-old was having a medical with the north London side.

With around £33 million ($52 million) to spend from this week’s sale of Luka Modric to Real Madrid, Dembele, who joined Fulham from AZ Alkmaar in 2010, is set to replace Spurs boss Andre Villas-Boas as the ideal replacement for the Croatia midfielder.—Internet

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Internet Sports
Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
(30-8-12 09:30 am – 31-8-12 09:30 am) MST

* News
* Vicinity of ASEAN Youths (Myanmar)
* News
* Who can match their Unique Music and Fashion?
* News
* The Legend of Thein Than (Myanmar Pyi) (Part-1)
* News
* Generous Donation in The Month of Wado
* News
* Aiming At The Victories “Swimming & Water Polo”
* News
* Three Sacred Pagodas each enshrining Relics of Buddha’s Hair, Rib Tooth
* News
* Evergreen Classical Music (Part-10)
* News
* My Native Town Meiktila
* News
* Myanmar Movie
* “Dutiful But Thoughtless Son”

MYANMAR TV
(30-8-2012) (Thursday)

7:00 am
1. Parita By Hilly Region Missionary, Sejaw
2. To Be Healthy Exercise
3. Nice & Sweet Song
4. Dance Variety
5. Song of National Races
6. Selected Songs For 19th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions (2012), (Oldies & Mono Classical) (Amateur (First Division) (Level Men)
7. Martial Song
8. Musical Programme
9. Cute Little Dancers
10. University of Distance Education, TV Lectures - Third Year (Myanmar)
11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
12. Teleplay (Forest)
13. Science and Environment
14. Songs Programme
15. Myanmar Series
16. Road to 27th SEA GAMES (Shooting)
17. News
18. Documentary
19. TV Drama Series

Weather forecast for 30th August, 2012

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Meesong, 26 Aug — Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsi together with the Speaker of State Htiataw, State Ministers and officials, inspected loading of aids onto the board of F-28 of Myanmar Airways at 10.30 am on 24 August with the aim of enabling the local people and departmental personnel to buy rice conveniently.

The State Chief Minister reviewed round the loading of 110 bags of rice donated by Kachin State Government, 220 bags of rice and 32 packets of aid by Phakant-Sankywe Hilly Missionary Monastery, 56 bags of rice, 160 viss of gram, 25 10-viss-capacity containers of edible oil and 250 viss of salt by Na Ta La, one container of fish paste and a bag of dried fish by Department of Relief and Resettlement, and 150 bags of rice by Moekanga Dewa Monastery.

These bags of rice will be distributed to the local people and departmental staff at fair price. — Kyemon

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Chinese schools warned against extra fees, improper recruitment

BEIJING, 29 Aug — The Ministry of Education on Tuesday warned the nation’s colleges and schools against charging unfair competition in the student recruitment process and charging students extra fees ahead of the fall semester, which usually starts on 1 September.

Schools, including kindergartens, and teachers are prohibited from forcing students to buy supplementary teaching materials and organizing classes or cram schools for students outside of regular school hours, according to a circular published on the ministry’s website.

Elementary and middle schools can not recruit students through any kind of self-organized tests or evaluation mechanisms, set up so-called “elite classes” or charge extra fees in the name of educational or social donations, said the circular. The circular also bans colleges and schools, especially secondary vocational schools, from accepting bribes to enroll students and canvassing students through improper competition methods.

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Australian surfer in bloody shark attack

PARTI, 29 Aug — A surfer has been savaged by a shark off a remote west Australian beach in the sixth serious incident in the state in less than a year, with witnesses Wednesday telling of water “full of blood”.

The man, reported to be in his 30s, was bitten on the abdomen and suffered severe injuries to his right arm while trying to fend off the shark at a far-flung Red Bluff — a popular surf spot about 1,000 kilometres (600 miles) north of Perth. A fellow surfer dragged the man onto his board and brought him ashore after Tuesday afternoon’s attack, with witnesses recounting gruesome scenes.

“The water was full of blood,” said local woman Rebecca Caldwell. Surfing instructor Josh Palmateer said the man was lucky to survive the “pretty brutal” attack.

From what I hear he had to fight it off and it came back and had another go and that’s when it got him on the arm,” Palmateer told News Ltd.

The man was wrapped in towels to stem blood loss and driven almost two hours on unpaved roads to a waiting ambulance, according to Caldwell’s husband Jim, the local campgroung manager.

“We were keeping him talking, that was the main thing, to keep him coherent,” Caldwell told The West Australian newspaper, describing the victim as “tough as nails”. “It was all about keeping the pressure on, the blood loss was our biggest concern.”

It is the sixth serious attack off Australia’s west coast in less than a year, with a fatality north of Perth last month — the fifth in less than 12 months — renewing debate about whether great whites should remain protected. Most fatal attacks in the region involve great whites, among the largest shark species in the world and made famous by the horror movie “Jaws”.

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China’s Taoism shrine to mark 600th anniversary

BEIJING, 29 Aug — A series of memorial activities will be held later this year in central China’s Hubei Province to mark the 600th anniversary of the construction of the ancient Chinese Taoism building complex at Mount Wudang, the provincial government announced on Tuesday. Cultural and economic events, such as a painting exhibition and a Tai Chi martial arts conference, will be organized in Shiyan from September to October, the provincial government said at a press briefing in Beijing.

Mount Wudang, with a long history associated with Taoism, houses numerous palaces and temples that exemplify the architectural and artistic feats of China’s imperial Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. The cluster of palaces and temples dedicated to Taoism were built in the scenic valleys and on the slopes of Mount Wudang, which UNESCO included on the World Cultural Heritage List in 1994.

Deputy Governor of Hubei Tian Chengzhong said the commemoration activities will help carry forward Chinese traditional culture, boost local tourism development and promote its opening-up toward the outside world. According to the event schedule, a festive gala will be held on 27 September to mark the 600th anniversary. — Xinhua

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The New Light of Myanmar
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has power to issue orders regarding administration

Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan answered that, if the commodity imported with license for which tax is paid to Customs Department, the commodity could be transported to every corner of the country with license ID.

U Ko Ko Lwin of Mawlamyinegyun Constituency asked about crop prices. The deputy minister answered that the government does not fix the prices of crops and allows private entrepreneurs and merchants to buy crops freely as the country was shifted to market economy.

The calculation of the minimum crop price, if the government has to fix, depends on local production costs and reasonable profits for farmers.

The calculation has to be performed before the cultivation season of the crops.

The minimum prices of monsoon paddy and other agricultural corps could be fixed between 15 September and 7 October; but the period for calculation of price for summer paddy should be set separately.

The set prices are publicized repeatedly on newspapers, radio and television. All the farmers would be informed through merchants’ association, brokerages, brokers, rice millers and social organizations.

U Soe Win of Sanyoung Constituency asked about drafting of legislation inclusive of stakeholders and sufficient budget allotment. Deputy Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo answered that the State budget was drafted as Union Budget and Region or State Budget as of 2011-2012 fiscal year. Budgets are allotted upon (See page 9)

MP calls for modernization of Yangon into international commercial hub

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Aug—Amyotha Hluttaw regular session continued for 35th day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here today, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 412 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

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

U Khin Maung Tha of Lolitim Constituency asked whether there is any plan to equip Myanmar Traffic Police Force with exclusive vehicles by financial year to reduce road accidents, the deputy minister replied that the budget allocation for the Myanmar Police Force does not cover vehicle purchase. Steps would be taken to allow establishment of traffic police force in Nay Pyi Taw suited to the changing time. After the extension, required vehicles commensurate with the force in Nay Pyi Taw would be purchased by fiscal year to reduce road accidents, equip Myanmar Traffic Police Force with exclusive vehicles by financial year to reduce road accidents.

Zan Myint replied to questions of three MPs.

Regarding the question of U Maung Saw Phyu of Region Constituency No (6) whether there is any plan to equip Myanmar Traffic Police Force with exclusive vehicles by financial year to reduce road accidents, the deputy minister replied that the budget allocation for the Myanmar Police Force does not cover vehicle purchase. Steps would be taken to allow establishment of traffic police force in Nay Pyi Taw suited to the changing time. After the extension, required vehicles commensurate with the organization structure would be purchased by fiscal year.

Regarding the question of Dr Tin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No (8) whether there is any plan to equip Myanmar Traffic Police Force with exclusive vehicles by financial year to reduce road accidents, the deputy minister replied that the budget allocation for the Myanmar Police Force does not cover vehicle purchase. Steps would be taken to allow establishment of traffic police force in Nay Pyi Taw suited to the changing time. After the extension, required vehicles commensurate with the organization structure would be purchased by fiscal year.

Regarding the question of Dr Tin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No (8) whether there is any plan to equip Myanmar Traffic Police Force with exclusive vehicles by financial year to reduce road accidents, the deputy minister replied that the budget allocation for the Myanmar Police Force does not cover vehicle purchase. Steps would be taken to allow establishment of traffic police force in Nay Pyi Taw suited to the changing time. After the extension, required vehicles commensurate with the organization structure would be purchased by fiscal year.

Regarding the question of Dr Aye Maung of Rakhine Region Constituency No (4) about the right of U Tha Tun Sein and other seven to tenancy of nearly 74 acres farmland on which they had worked for a long time, the deputy minister replied that the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry found out that the claim to the right to tenancy was just their pretext and 74 acres on Field No 1225-B, known as Kamiche East Field in Thetpon Village-tract, Minpya Township was the pasture and can be run under the legal permission.

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