President U Thein Sein felicitates First Secretary of Worker’s Party of Korea, First Chairman of National Defense Commission and Supreme Commander of DPRK

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Sept—On the occasion of the Day of the Foundation of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, on 9 September 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Kim Jong Un, First Secretary of the Worker’s Party of Korea, First Chairman of the National Defense Commission of the DPRK and Supreme Commander of the Korean People’s Army of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.—MNA

President U Thein Sein felicitates President of Supreme People’s Assembly of DPRK

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Sept—On the occasion of the Day of the Foundation of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, which falls on 9 September 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Kim Yong Nam, President of the Supreme People’s Assembly of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.—MNA

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to DPRK Premier

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Sept—On the occasion of the Day of the Foundation of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, which falls on 9 September 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Choe Yong Rim, Premier of the Cabinet of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.—MNA

Myanmar needs international level education: Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham

In his inaugural speech, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said it is no doubt a large number of intellectual and intelligentsia, competent human resources are needed in building the Republic of the Union of Myanmar into a modern developed nation. The human resources development of the entire nation including the younger generation who will assume the responsibility of future nation is fundamental requirement and thus the education standard of the country must be promoted to international level.

In so doing, employment of modern science and technology in various fields and production of highly competent intellectuals and technical know-how is the top priority for effective facilitation of national development. The second priority is to build a continuous learning society enabling every citizen to have access to basic literacy and support of the international people in UNESCO literacy campaign. Under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and the UNESCO, International Literacy Day has been celebrated yearly with a view to acquiring advices, interests and support of the international people in UNESCO literacy campaign. Under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and the UNESCO, International Literacy Day has been celebrated in Myanmar annually at State level up to this time.

Studying the illiteracy rate of the world, out of 775 million advanced-age illiterates, two-thirds are young and old women. One of every six of the world’s adult population does not even know ABC. In addition, over 122 million children in the primary and secondary education level age group have no access to schooling, losing rights to pursue education.

Therefore, the ten year period from 2003 to 2012 was unanimously designated as United Nations Literacy Decade under the convention of the United Nations General Assembly 2012 with the aim of guaranteeing primary education to everyone and supporting literacy programmes for the adult. Since then, literacy for all programmes have been implemented and now it has reached the final year of UN literacy decade.

Reviewing the literacy rate of Myanmar, the literacy rate had reached 85 per cent after independence due to legacy of colonial education. Again, the literacy rate was down to 35 per cent after independence due to legacy of colonial education system.

(See page 6)
Union Information Minister meets chairman and CEC members of Myanmar Writers Association

Yangon, 8 Sept—Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi sought advice from chairman and CEC members of Myanmar Writers Association for public services at Myanmar Radio and Television here this evening, citing the President’s guidance for people-centered approach and providing public services.

The Union Minister urged the men of letters to produce works, fiction or non-fiction, profitable to the public, and urged the men of letters to provide public services at Myanmar Writers Association for members of Myanmar Writers Association and the Union Minister for Information yesterday noon, attended by Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, chairmen of 15 work committees deputy ministers and committee members, entrepreneurs from UMFCCI and private business organizations.

At the discussion, officials from respective work committees presented implementation of AEC-AFTA by Myanmar, findings and advices for AEC of Myanmar Industrialists Association.

Union Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates DPRK counterpart

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Sept—On the occasion of the Day of the Foundation of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, which falls on 9 September 2012, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Pak Ui Chun, Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.—MNA

Discussion between ASEAN Region production and market competitiveness work committees and entrepreneurs held

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 Sept—A discussion between ASEAN Region production and market competitiveness promotion work committees and entrepreneurs from private business organizations was held at the conference hall of the ASEAN Economic Ministers Department, preparation and Economic Research Institute of Economics of the Ministry of Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, chairmen of 15 work committees deputy ministers and committee members, entrepreneurs from UMFCCI and private business organizations.

At the discussion, officials from respective work committees presented implementation of AEC-AFTA by Myanmar, findings and advices for AEC of Myanmar Industrialists Association.

Officials discussed results of 44th Meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers and related meetings and dialogue partners held in Siem Reap of Cambodia from 25 August to 1 September and measures to be taken by Myanmar.

The National Planning and Economic Development Ministry organizes to conduct two part time courses for citizens, entrepreneurs and industrialists—Certificate for ASEAN Economic Studies-CAES and Diploma in ASEAN Economic Studies-DAES at Yangon Institute of Economics in October to understand ASEAN Economics Community 2015 (AEC 2015) and to make necessary preparations.

Illegally medical practitioners seized

Yangon, 8 Sept—A squad led by SIP Myint Oo of Kadonpaw Police Station, acting on tip-off, searched that a woman gives medical illegal treatment to the people in various areas in Thongwa Township, at 12.20 pm on 3 September.

At the house of U Thein from Kainggon Village, the squad seized Ma Thanda Myint, 40, bringing along with syringe, drugs, blood pressure equipment, diabetes equipment and one headphone.

The Township Court opened a file of lawsuit against her under Section 41 of 2000 Myanmar Medical Council Law.—Kyemon

Uniform for Information U Aung Kyi meets chairman and CEC members of Myanmar Writers Association.

The meeting was attended by chairman of Myanmar Writers Association, vice-chairmen, CEC members and officials.

District News

One dead, 13 missing in boat capsize

Magaung, 8 Sept—A ferry boat carrying nine men and six women capsize in Kaw Creek near Nyaungwunpaung Village of Pauk Township in Magway Region at 3 pm on 4 September due to speedy current of creek water. The capsize boat left one woman dead, nine men and three women, totaling 13 missing in the accident.

Officials of Pakokku District General Administration Department and Pauk Township GAD performed rescue works.—Kyemon

Marine product eel of Myanmar marketable in China

Yangon, 8 Sept—Export of eel fetches good price, according to an official of Myanmar Eel Entrepreneurs Association at a meeting of meat and fish entrepreneurs on 4 September.

Eel is exported to China through Muse 105-mile and Chinswehaw border trade stations. Although eel was sold at US$ 3500 per ton in early August last year, export of eel fetches US$ 4020 per ton this year. Sales of eel set on record at US$ 5140 per ton in early July this year. Myanmar Eel Association has fetched about US$ 14 million against the target in 2012-2013 fiscal year. —Myanma Alin

Motorboats with illegal timber seized in Rakhine State

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 Sept—Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry constantly places emphasis on conservation and protection of forest resources and protection of wildlife with the participation of the people.

Acting on tip-off, staff of Forest Department (Head Office) and staff of Gwa Township Forest Department and members of Myanmar Police Force arrested 13 persons along with 215.2295 tons of illegal timbers on two boats, 2160 bags of charcoal weighing 345.6 tons in Gwa Creek, Bagankwe Creek, Taman Creek, U Shwelekon Creek, Thitkaukywa Creek, Hantaung Creek and wards in Gwa.

The Township Court takes action against U Thet Naung, son of U Hla Tun, motorboat under Section 42(b) of Pa-109/2012. According to the confession of U Thet Naung, motorboat operator was U Than Phone Ni and owner U Win Ko of Gwa. Officials are carrying out tasks to take action against remaining seized persons under the law. —MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.

CASH DONATED: Civil Engineering Cooperative Society of Kyiminhtone Township donated K 350,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Executive Committee Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Rtd) recently.—NLM
WASHINGTON, 8 Sept — The United States is preparing to designate the Pakistan-based Haqqani network as a terrorist group as early as Friday, the New York Times said on its website. The Haqqanis, a Pashtun tribe with strongholds in southeastern Afghanistan and across the border in Pakistan, have been blamed for an attack on the US embassy in Kabul and other high-profile assaults in Afghanistan.

The United States accuses Pakistan’s intelligence agency of supporting the Haqqani network and allowing it to move between Pakistani and Afghan territories, to gain leverage against the growing influence of its arch-rival India in the country. Pakistan denies the allegations. A senior Pakistani security official said blacklisting the Haqqani network would be counterproductive and put unnecessary pressure on Islamabad, a strategic US ally. “If the United States wants to have a constructive relationship with Pakistan, then this is a bad move,” the official told Reuters. “This will push Pakistan into a corner.”

In June, Defence Secretary Leon Panetta said the United States was reaching the limits of its patience with Pakistan because of the safe havens that groups like the Haqqanis found there. Designation by the State Department as a Foreign Terrorist Organization would bring sanctions such as criminal penalties for anyone providing material support to the group and seizure of any assets in the United States. The Obama administration is facing a congressional deadline this weekend to determine whether the network met the criteria for such designation.

The New York Times said senior officials who argued against blacklisting the group were concerned it could further damage relations with Pakistan and possibly jeopardize the fate of US Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl who is being held by the militants. “The last stage of this campaign kicks off today,” Chavez said, calling on supporters to avoid over-confidence, though polls showed Chavez would have a comfortable lead over pro-First Vice-President Capriles, the candidate of the opposition coalition for Democratic Unity. “We must not underestimate them,” said Chavez, who aims to win 10 million votes. Eligible voters exceed 18 million nationwide.

Meanwhile, Capriles pressed his message of change, saying Chavez’s time is running out. “A month to go before opening the doors to the future, each day more Venezuelans board the Bus of Progress,” the former governor of Miranda state told rally-goers covered by the opposition-controlled Glovisión TV channel.

“We have no doubt that the road we are on arrives at a single destination, and that’s victory on 7 October,” said Capriles.
Drilling to lakes under Antarctic may give clues to sea loss

OREGON, 8 Sept.—A British Antarctic Survey scientist has said that drilling to lakes under Antarctica's ice, which may be covered by up to 3.5 meters of ice, may include bits of ancient seaweeds that could be dated to reveal when the ice sheet last broke up.

Experts say the West Antarctic ice sheet over the lakes contains enough ice to raise world sea levels by 3.5 meters if it ever broke up—a threat to low-lying areas from Bangladesh to Florida, from Buenos Aires to Shanghai.

"Society needs to know the risk of a collapse," of the ice sheet, said Martin Siegert, of the University of Bristol and principal investigator for the mission that will also look for unknown life forms in rivalry with Russian and US scientists.

There are 360 known sub-glacial lakes in Antarctica—formed by heat from the Earth melting the bottom of the ice.

"One way to find out (the risks of collapse) is to know when it last happened," he said of the mission that has been in the planning stages for 16 years. "We are finally ready to hit the 'go' button," he said.

NASA Mars rover Curiosity begins arm-work phase

WASHINGTON, 8 Sept.—After driving more than a quarter of a mile across landing, NASA's Mars rover Curiosity is spending several days preparing for full use of the tools on its arm, US space agency NASA announced on Thursday.

Curiosity extended its robotic arm on Wednesday in the first of 10 consecutive days of planned activities to test the 7-foot (2.1-metre) arm and the tools it manipulates, NASA said.

Those who already own a PlayStation Eye camera—needed to support tools at the end of the arm on NASA's Mars rover Curiosity—fan the arm's joint to work for the first time and test tools.

"The work at the current location will prepare Curiosity and the team for using the arm to place two of the science instruments onto rock and soil targets. In addition, the activities represent the first steps in preparing to scoop soil, drill into rocks, process collected samples and deliver samples into instruments and instruments, NASA said.

"This engineering drawing shows various components needed to support tools at the end of the arm on NASA's Curiosity rover.—Xinhua

After the arm characterization activities at the current site, Curiosity will proceed for a few weeks eastward toward Glenelg. The science team selected that area as likely to offer a good target for Curiosity’s first analysis of powder collected by drilling into a rock.

"Curiosity inside Mars' Gale Crater on 6 August, the rover has driven a total of 358 feet (109 meters). The drives have been a result of Amazon's lack of experience with wireless hardware, according to Charles Golvin, a wireless analyst at Forrester Research. Lazarus said Apple Inc, Motorola, now owned by Google, Samsung and Microsoft have never had such issues. "These companies have dedicated staff whose job it is to ensure FCC compliance and they do their job very well," Lazarus added.

Sprint Nextel, a leading wireless carrier, does not release phones for pre-order unless they have already been FCC approved. "In the vast majority of cases, we will not accept a phone into our formal lab process that has not already received FCC approval," said Sprint spokesman Michelle Leff Mermelstein.

"We see it coming again in October and hope to bring samples to the surface in December," Chris Hill, programme manager at the British Antarctic Survey, said in a statement.

"I can’t think of an instance where a device has been offered by a US carrier or an independent retailer that has not had FCC approval yet," said John Jackson, a wireless analyst at CCS Insight. An FCC spokesman declined to comment.

"The 4G Kindle Fire tablets are a crucial part of Amazon’s attempt to challenge Apple Inc’s iPad at the premium end of the booming tablet market."
**“Food environment” in ** _Health_  

**schools getting a bit better**

New York, 8 Sept—US schools took small steps toward encouraging students to make healthier food choices between 2006 and 2010, but there’s still a lot of room for improvement, according to a new study.

Researchers found that on a scale from zero to 100, public schools collectively increased the score for the healthiness of their food environments by about 3 points, while private schools increased their score by 5 points.

The hope was, according the researchers, that there would be improvements between 2006, when schools across the country were ordered to create health policies to address nutrition topics, and the end of the study in 2010.

“The bottom line is that there have been some changes in specific areas, but generally there has to be more changes to create an optimally healthy environment,” said Lindsey Turner, the study’s lead author and a research scientist at the Institute for Health Research and Policy at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

For their study, Turner and her colleague collected surveys taken during the 2006-2007 and 2009-2010 school years by principals and food service managers at 1,830 public and private elementary schools across the country.

The surveys asked about what the school offered when it comes to physical activity, nutrition education, school lunches and what foods students had access to at school.

**Cranberry juice may beat kids’ bladder infections**

New York, 8 Sept—Cranberry juice rich in certain antibacterial substances may help prevent repeat urinary tract infections in kids, a small study suggests.

Researchers found that cranberry juice was more effective in reducing urinary tract infections in children with high concentrations of proanthocyanidins (PA’s) cutans risk of urinary tract infections than untreated controls, versus a comparison juice.

Since the juice on your supermarket’s shelves may not have that PAC level, the researchers say their findings are not an endorsement of any product. But the results, published in the Journal of Urology, do give support to cranberry as a UTI fighter, according to a pediatric urologist not connected to the study.

PAcure the compounds thought to give cranberries their bacteria-fighting potential. Women have long turned to cranberry juice and supplements to help prevent recurrent urinary tract infections (UTIs)—though studies have been mixed on whether they work.

There has been little research on kids, even though UTIs are relatively common in children. Girls have about an 8 percent chance of contracting the infection at some point in childhood; boys have a 2 percent chance.

Besides being uncomfortable, recurrent UTIs can eventually damage the kidneys in some children.

So doctors may prescribe antibiotics to help prevent them. But antibiotics can have side effects, and using them too often can breed drug-resistant bacteria. So researchers are looking at whether cranberry products can be a good alternative.

For the new study, doctors at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, recruited 40 children who had at least two UTIs in the past year. They randomly assigned the kids to drink one of two juices made for the study: a cranberry juice rich in PACs or a juice free of all “cranberry products.”

Over the next year, kids who drank cranberry juice had UTIs at a rate of 0.4 per 1,155 person-months, compared with 1.15 in the comparison group.

The power of cranberries against UTIs “was initially regarded as an old wives’ tale,” said Dr. Hiep Nguyen of Boston Children’s Hospital, who wasn’t involved in the study.

**Artery injury signs common in pro volleyballers**

New York, 8 Sept—About one in four professional volleyball players surveyed in the Netherlands had symptoms that suggested a potential seriously injury to a shoulder artery, according to a new study that urges doctors to keep an eye out for the condition. After encountering arterial aneurysms—dangerous bulges in a blood vessel wall—in the shoulders of a half dozen pro volleyballers, Dutch researchers canvassed nearly 100 players to see how many more might have signs of the same injury.

The main symptoms: cold, blue or pale fingers during or right after intense play—which according to the researchers could be the result of little blood clots emanating from the damaged artery, were reported by 27 percent of the volleyballers. The researchers did not actually examine the athletes to determine whether they had artery damage, though.

“We only did a questionnaire and we still need to relate whether the questionnaire is in accordance with a vascular problem,” said Dr. Mario Maas, senior author of the study and a radiologist at the Academic Medical Centre/University of Amsterdam in The Netherlands. Maas and his colleagues at the hospital had seen six cases of blood clots in the fingers of male pro volleyball players in the course of three years, mainly in each man’s dominant hand.

In each case, they traced the problem back to arterial aneurysms in the athletes’ shoulders on the same side of the body, and performed surgery to remove the injured blood vessel. The players were able to return to competition after a few weeks.

Daan van de Pol, the study’s lead author, told Reuters Health that the problems can be due to compression of an artery in the shoulder when a player is going for a smash or a serve.

The overhead reaching movement squeezes the artery “like a tube of toothpaste,” the authors wrote in the study in the American Journal of Sports Medicine, potentially causing clots to shoot out and circulate down to the fingers.

**China’s Alibaba to pass Amazon, eBay in transaction value**

Hangzhou, 8 Sept—China’s largest e-commerce firm, Alibaba Group, expects to sell merchandise this year worth more than that sold by Amazon Inc and eBay combined, Alibaba’s chief executive officer said on Saturday.

The company is aiming for 3 trillion yuan ($473 billion) in annual transaction value from its Taobao e-commerce units in the next 5 to 7 years, Zeng Ming told reporters.

Alibaba’s founder, Jack Ma, said last year that Taobao’s transaction value for 2012 would reach 1 trillion yuan. The company has not said what percentage of online sales come from Taobao, but it is the crown jewel of the Alibaba Group and its profit engine. “From their annual reports we did a rough calculation and we were similar last year but we are growing faster than them this year, so this year we are probably larger than them,” Zeng said of Amazon and eBay, America’s top online retailer and auction site.

“The gap is just going to get bigger and bigger as we grow faster,” he said. In May, Alibaba ended more than two years of often fractious negotiations with Yahoo Inc to buy back much of a stake held by the US web giant and, crucially, reduce the voting power of foreign stakeholders including Yahoo and Japan’s Softbank Corp. As part of the deal with Yahoo, there are incentives for Alibaba to list its shares by December 2015. The company has said there is no timetable for the listing. This week, Alibaba took its Alibaba.com unit private.

**Job growth cools, posing challenge for Obama**

Washington, 8 Sept—Job growth slowed sharply in August, dealing a blow to President Barack Obama as he seeks re-election and setting the stage for the Federal Reserve to pump additional money into the sluggish economy next week.

Nonfarm payrolls increased only 96,000 last month, the Labour Department said on Friday, well below what would normally be needed to put a dent in the jobless rate. Payrolls had grown by 141,000 jobs in July.

While the unemployment rate dropped to 8.1 percent from 8.3 percent, it was only because many more gave up the hunt for work. The survey of households from which the jobless rate is derived actually showed a decline in employment for a second straight month.

“The economy is crawling up the down escalator and today’s report can only give ammunition to the activist members of the Fed board to loosen monetary policy further next week,” said Patrick O’Keefe, head of economic research at JH Cohn in Roseland, New Jersey.

The lackluster report piled pressure on Obama ahead of the November vote, with the health of the economy looming large.

While acknowledging the tepid pace of job growth, Obama said he blamed the lack of labour market’s woes on Congress, and Republican lawmakers in particular.

“If Republicans are serious about being concerned about joblessness, we could create a million new jobs right now if Congress would pass the job plans I sent them a year ago,” he said at a campaign rally in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney said Obama’s economic policies had failed.

“There’s almost nothing the president’s done in the last three and a half years that gives the American people confidence he knows what he’s doing when it comes to jobs and the economy,” Romney told reporters in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa.
Myanmar needs international level...

(from page 1)

Therefore, successive governments after the independence have made efforts for literacy achievement as a national duty. Thanks to the public education course and 3-Rs courses of the Public Education Council beginning March, 1949, the literacy rate of the country had risen to 57 per cent in 1963.

8-R literacy movement was launched in Meiktila in 1964 to accelerate the momentum of literacy programmes. The programme could be extended yearly and in consequence, Mandalay Division, Yangon Division, Magway Division, Bago Division, Ayeyawady Division and Mon State have seen division-wise and state-wise achievement of literacy.

Thanks to Myanmar’s committed efforts to increase literacy rate, it was awarded “Mohammad Reza Pahlavi Prize” and “Norna Prize” by UNESCO in 1971 and 1983. Conference on Development Policy Options with Special Reference to Education and Health was organized in last February in Nay Pyi Taw in cooperation with UN agencies.

The drafting of Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR) has started. Cohesive efforts would be put into weak spots in cooperation with the UN agencies, international organizations and educational donors.

Changes are tangible in both formal and non-formal education arenas. The education is not only a matter of classrooms but it should be connected with the development of one’s own environment, region and country.

As plans for schooling all school-age children were implemented, the rate of enrollment of the five years old is increasing year after year. The cooperative measures would continue to be taken to reduce drop-out rate and ultimately school leaving rate.

For granting easy access to middle and high school education after completing the primary education, a total of 42153 basic education schools—29762 primary schools, 6644 post-primary schools, 3267 middle schools and 2460 high schools—are opened.

With the aim of compulsory primary education, text books have been distributed to all primary students free of charge as of 2011-2012 academic year and the free distribution also features the exercise books.

Mobile schools are also kept open for the sake of children of displaced families. Education opportunities for children with disabilities equal to the ordinary ones have been created.

The Education Ministry, UNICEF and donors are launching 3R and Sustainable Programmes for adult illiterates and Non-Formal Primary Education (NPE) for children who did not join or early dropped school.

A total of 619943 people received 3Rs trainings at 21717 camps in regions and states in 2012 while 49007 people were equipped with basic literacy skills from 1518 summer camps in border areas.

Building on the increase of the basic literacy rate, sustainable education plans must be developed. Sustainable education schemes—post-literacy campaigns and community learning centres that could promise increased incomes and welfare of the people—should be carried out.

The centres should provide not only the lifelong learning but social development and community development. A total of 3040 community learning centres have been opened. Rural libraries also contributed a lot to the centres.

The Vice-President concluded the address, demanding the rationality based on the attained literacy and cooperation in the literacy and education promotion campaign by all Myanmar citizens, in line with the theme of 2012 International Literacy Day “Cultivating peace, the role of literacy”.

In-charge of Myanmar UNICEF Office Education Division, on behalf of the UN resident representatives’ group, read out the message sent by UN-Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon. General Secretary of Myanmar UNESCO National Commission Rector Dr Lwin Soe of Yangon University of Foreign Languages read out the message of the UNESCO Director-General.

Schoolchildren sang a song.

National Education Committee Chairman Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye and Vice-Chairman Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo awarded winners in commemorative article, essay and poster contests.

The documentary video of Myanmar literacy campaign was screened before the schoolchildren’s song brought down the curtain of the ceremony.

The Vice-President and party then viewed the commemorative booth.

YANGON, 8 Sept—The investigation commission arrived in Rakhine State to make necessary inquiries on the tour of Rakhine State; the problem was subtle and needed to be solved for long term; and the commission believed that every problem needed to be solved for long time.

The commission paid homage to member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pandita and members of the Sangha of Saddhammagaru Parthein Monastery at Maha Waiyan Pagoda in Sittway. Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Çanda of Chikkhinau Uma Monastery gave advice to those of the commission.

The investigation commission to enquire firm evidence in Rakhine State

Investigation commission to enquire firm evidence in Rakhine State

Chairman and members of Investigation Commission meet Rakhine State level organization members in Sittway.—MNA

Chairman and members of Investigation Commission meet Rakhine State level organization members in Sittway. —MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Maaw Khum visits 2012 Literacy Day Commemorative Booth.—MNA

Mr Ban Ki-moon, General Secretary of Myanmar UNESCO National Commission, read out the message of the UNESCO Director-General.
Vice-President U Nyan Tun…

(from page 16)

Council Area and steps being taken for development of agricultural sector, Union Minister U Win Myint on assistance to be provided by the Ministry of Commerce in the establishment of 200-ton advanced SATAKE rice mills to ensure market security for farmers and produce quality rice while striving for producing quality paddy in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area through mechanized farming, the director-general of Irrigation Department and the director-general of Agriculture Mechanization Department on measures to be taken for developing of mechanized farmlands and the director-general of Agriculture Department on factors to be considered in calculation of profits according to crop items. In his address, Vice-President U Nyan Tun said that the paddy cultivation is being done in model paddy plots with the establishment of model mechanized farmlands in townships of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area; and that the establishment of model paddy plots of the mechanized farming in Nay Pyi Taw, which is the central of the Union, will contribute a lot to the regions and states. And he stressed the need to widely implement

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Seven questions

What kind of aid package does Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, UNFPA Executive Director, have for Myanmar?

NLM. Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, this is your first visit to Myanmar. What makes you visit our country, specific developments?

Dr. BO. Indeed, this is my first visit to Myanmar and I am the first UNFPA Executive Director to visit the country. There are good reasons for my visit as it comes amid a series of political and economic reforms with a promise of a better future for the people of Myanmar. I am very touched by the beauty of your country and by the warmth of your people.

UNFPA has scaled up its support to Myanmar both at the upstream policy level and at the programmatic and technical assistance level. At the policy level, UNFPA has forged strong partnerships with the National Commission on Population and Development and the Parliamentary Committee on Population and Social Development. The later will apply for membership of the Asian Forum for Parliamentarian on Population and Development which includes similar committees in 25 countries throughout Asia. Both the Parliament and National Commission provide vitable forums for policy dialogues on a wide range of population and development issues in Myanmar such as demographic transition, ageing, youth empowerment, reproductive health and rights, environment, urbanization and gender equality and women’s empowerment. UNFPA is supporting national strategic plans on advancement of women, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS, and a plan of action on ageing.

At the programmatic level, UNFPA has launched its 3rd Programme of Assistance to Myanmar (2012-2015) which adopts a human rights based approach. In this context, support is provided to the 2014 population census as a national priority to provide much needed data to guide policy making, national development plans and programmes and promote good governance. Another programme priority is to strengthen the health system, improve maternal health, reduce maternal mortality and save women’s and children’s lives. Emphasis is on meeting the needs of a large cohort of young people for information, counselling and age appropriate reproductive health, education and services and prevention of HIV/AIDS among population at risk.

I had the pleasure of meeting with President Thein Sein, the Speaker of the House U Khin Maung Mann, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Minister of Immigration and Population U Khin Yi, representatives of the business community, the UN country team and other development partners and discussed with them means to maximize the impact of UNFPA’s support to improve the quality of life of the people of Myanmar.

NLM. As our National Action Plan for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation involves eight sectors, which ones of them UNFPA will focus on?

Dr. BO. UNFPA’s mandate cuts across all the eight areas of the rural development plan as it pertains to all of them. Improving access to quality reproductive health including maternal health care to rural women is essential to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity which are higher in rural areas than urban settings. Research has shown that maternal mortality is attributed to three delays: the first is a delay in taking decision to seek institutional health care at the household level due to lack of awareness or poverty; the second delay is due to difficulties to reach health service delivery point due to bad roads or inadequate transportation; and the third delay is due to weak infrastructure and lack of trained health personnel in health facilities. Addressing these delays to prevent maternal death requires investments in strengthening the health system in rural settings including ensuring adequate number of trained midwives, basic health staff and obstetricians, effective referral system to manage complications during pregnancy and delivery, innovative health financing scheme to overcome financial barriers to accessing reproductive health services, and information, education and behaviour change communication programme to overcome socio-cultural taboos and promote demand for services. Availability of modern contraceptives is key to reducing maternal mortality as it enables women to space their children and avoid too early, too late or too closely spaced pregnancies. Effective contraceptive would help women avoid unintended pregnancy and abortion which is one of the leading causes for maternal deaths in Myanmar. Research has shown that 5% of all pregnancies in Myanmar end in abortion.

Another area of UNFPA’s support is the 2014 population census. It is designed to count all the population in urban and rural areas and will provide a much needed data on the number of people residing in the country, their age structure, sex, their geographical locations, their characteristics in terms of education and employment and their access to water and health care, etc. Census data will be crucial to guide management, monitoring and evaluation of the national rural development and poverty alleviation plan.

Advocacy and action programmes to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment are another area of UNFPA’s support. In partnership with UNDP and UNESCO UNFPA support community-based initiatives in rural and urban areas to strengthen community learning centres to implement women’s and community empowerment programmes through skill-development, vocational training, free of interest loans and reproductive health information, counselling and referral. These community learning centres will have outreach activities to respond to the needs of vulnerable women, such as victims of trafficking, provide them with livelihood and psycho-social support and reintegrate them into their families and communities. This initiative follows the successful model adopted by women friendly spaces established by UNFPA to address vulnerable women in cyclone Nargis affected area in the Delta region.

It should be noted that principles of gender equality will be mainstreamed within all programme interventions to ensure that women and men benefit equally from development dividend. Since Myanmar, especially rural areas, is prone to natural disasters, such as current floods, UNFPA’s emergency preparedness and humanitarian response is an integral component of UNFPA’s Programme of Assistance.

NLM. We have heard from the very beginning that your visit is to affirm UNFPA’s partnership with Myanmar, especially in advancing reproductive health, development and the empowerment of women and young people, do you find extra areas for UNFPA involvement in Myanmar after your meetings with the Head of State, other high ranking officials, and representatives of civil society and the business community?

Dr. BO. There are many areas that need to be addressed in the country’s pursuit for development, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Partnership among all development actors including Government, civil society, private sector, UN and donors is key to address these needs. Since Myanmar is a multi-ethnic society, ensuring equity, social inclusion and social cohesion is a pre-requisite to the success of on-going efforts for nation-building.

UNFPA works in cooperation with all other development partners to address issues pertaining to its mandate of reproductive health and rights, population and development and gender equality. In my discussion with HE the President, the Speaker of the People’s Assembly and other senior officials, the issue of capacity development of human resources and institutions came out as a priority. We will be working with our partners to see how we can maximize the impact of our programmes to develop capacities and strengthen national systems and institutions. The UN plays a pivotal role in capacity development utilizing its convening (See page 9)
Seven questions

from page 8

power and ability to transfer knowledge and knowhow and facilitate sharing of the state of the art advances through north-south and south-south cooperation modalities. Development of human resources capacity requires investment in the empowerment of young people as a driving force for development. UNFPA is planning to play a lead role in this area by fostering collaboration with other partners to address wide range of development needs of young people for health including reproductive health, skill development, vocational training, employment opportunities and leadership.

NLM. You also met with the Speaker of Parliament and other lawmakers. Did you suggest any legal measures to further improve maternal health and birth spacing services, save the lives of mothers and infants and increase reproductive rights in Myanmar at the meeting?

Dr. BO Yes indeed, I had the pleasure of meeting with H.E the Speaker of the Parliament and U Maung Maung Swe, the Chair of the Parliament Committee on Population and Social Development and other lawmakers and I did address policy and legal issues related to reproductive health. I underscored the importance of universal access to reproductive health including family planning (birth spacing) as a human right to enable women to decide on the number, timing and spacing of their children; to go safely through pregnancy and child birth; and to have a healthy infant. Also reproductive health has far reaching health, social and economic benefits. Satisfying the unmet need for contraception and providing adequate maternal and newborn care in the developing world reduce maternal deaths by more than two thirds and newborn deaths by more than half. Universal access to reproductive health is crucial in Myanmar where maternal mortality, infant mortality and unmet need for contraception are still high. Nearly one fourth of women of reproductive age in Myanmar would like to practice birth spacing but they do not have access to free contraceptives. This results in unintended and unwanted pregnancy and abortion which is one of the leading causes of maternal death and morbidity. Access to youth friendly RH services is necessary for the health, wellbeing and development of young people in Myanmar who represent nearly one third of the population. I also highlighted a number of policies, legislation and funding gaps include the need to:
- Ensure free reproductive health commodities and services for the poor
- Revise the narcotic law that prohibits basic health staff from using syringes and needles which limits access to injectables, antiretroviral treatment preferred by considerable number of women in Myanmar
- Revise the patient-related guidelines that stipulate that UDHs should be inserted only in labour rooms. It is enough to ensure safe and hygienic practices through training, supervision and infection control.

However, I must commend the Parliament for increasing the national health budget. I also pay tribute to the Government, especially the Ministry of Health for increasing the number of midwives recruited in the public health sector and for establishing initiatives, such as the 3 MDG Fund to promote maternal, new born and child health, strengthen the health system and complement efforts to combat HIV, TB and Malaria.

I am confident that there will be particular attention to bridge the funding gaps for contraceptives. The projected contraceptive needs amount to about $5.8 million in 2012, of which UNFPA covers about $2 million which leaves a gap of $3.8 million.

NLM. Can you elaborate on UNFPA’s role in the planned 2014 population and housing census, the country’s first in 31 years, which will provide data essential to national development efforts?

Dr. BO UNFPA is the focal agency for supporting the census in Myanmar and in many developing countries. We have been facilitating and coordinating the 2010 round of censuses in many countries including in Asia. The Myanmar census is quite challenging since it is the first census in 30 years and there is a need to strengthen human resources and technical capacities to ensure a successful census. There are significant financial requirements for the census estimated at $53 million, of which the Government has committed to cover $15 million, while UNFPA is planing to cover $5 million. This leaves a funding gap of $33 million.

The success of the census will hinge on the mutual commitment by both the Gov’t and the international community. We are confident that the donor community will address such funding gaps considering that Myanmar is an LDC with lower ODA per capita than many of its peers (e.g. $68 in Laos and $31 in Cambodia) and the necessity of census data.

The data generated by the census will be invaluable to development plans and programmes and will provide essential benchmarks and monitoring tools to donors to assess aid effectiveness. The high returns of the census certainly justify its cost. We would like to invite donors for detailed discussion of the census budget and the workplan.

UNFPA’s role is to provide state of the art technical assistance, training and capacity development, hard ware and software equipment for mapping, data capture and processing, share experiences and knowledge and put in place quality assurance mechanisms to ensure credibility and reliability of data. The census project that UNFPA helped the Ministry of Immigration and Development include “built in” components on comprehensive census including:
- Recruitment of chief technical advisor (CTA) and other long term and short term consultants to provide on the job training and technical advice and guidance and share experiences and good practices in various aspects of census taking, such as questionnaire design, mapping, data processing, communication and publicity, etc.
- Recruitment of national experts on census to boost the capacity of Ministry of Immigration and Population.
- Organizing study visits for census staff to gain first hand experience from other countries, such as Thailand, Indonesia, China and Vietnam.

The Union government and region government provided quality paddy strains to local farmers. Silt was left on farmland which all are to strategic for boosting production” said a local farmer of Shwegyin Township.

The Union government and Bago Region government provided K 14,080,000 for 2816 acres of Shwegyin Township and K 31,530,000 for 6306 acres.

Moreover, the authori- ties distributed 14,140,000 of Yadana Aung, Manawthukha and Palethwe hybrid paddy strain seeds to support 2816 acres of Shwegyin Township and 6375 baskets to Shwegyin Township.
Bank of Canada says strong commodities good for economy

Lieutenant Colonel Tom Carney demanded job,” said in Helmand Province — one based out of Camp Bastion Queen’s grandson would naked in Las Vegas. The helicopters on the frontline Afghanistan to fly attack that the British man shot dead hammering the exporter of crude oil and its hollowed out. currency so much that the opposition party that the forth by the country’s main of the Canadian dollar. are unambiguously good for — Bank of Canada Governor

The currency firmed to C$0.9818, or $1.0185 just landed in Britain. — on a camping holiday in the Annecy region — in the Canadian dollar is a leading due to his penchant old, who is regularly in the ministry said. The 27-year-old daughter — who hid with their two daughters — confirmed the people killed in

The premiere will benefit MENCAP Cornwall smile during a visit to the MENCAP Community Centre, Tottenham, north London, on 25 July, 2012. — Reuters

Britain’s Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall smile during a visit to the MENCAP Community Centre, Tottenham, north London, on 25 July, 2012. — Reuters

Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney listens to a question during a news conference upon the release of the Monetary Policy Report in Ottawa on 18 July, 2012. — Reuters

Britain’s Prince Harry is shown the Apache helicopter flight line by an unidentified member of his squadron at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan on 7 Sept, 2012. — Reuters

Prince Harry in Afghanistan to fly helicopters

London, 8 Sept — Prince Harry has returned to Afghanistan to fly attack helicopters on the frontline just two weeks after he was photographed frolicking naked in Las Vegas. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Friday that the Queen’s grandson would spend a four-month tour based out of Camp Bastion in Helmand Province — one of the most volatile regions in the country where Britain has been fighting alongside the United States against the Islamic State since 2001. “Working alongside his colleagues in the squadron, he will be in a difficult and demanding job,” said Lieutenant Colonel Tom de la Rue in a statement. The prince, known in the military as Captain Wales, first served in Afghanistan in 2008 as an on-ground air controller, but his tour was cut short after foreign media broke a news blackout requested to protect him while on the front line. The MoD said the danger was less severe in helicopters. “Captain Wales’s deployment has been long planned and the threat to him and others around him thoroughly assessed,” the ministry said. The 27-year-old, who is regularly in the headlines due to his penchant for partying, has spoken out about his desire to return to active service. “I would love to go back, I really would,” he told ABC’s “Good Morning America” TV programme in 2010. “At the end of the day you train for it, so it’s simple as that. If we could be at peace then fantastic, but if we’re at war then you want to be with your brothers in arms.” Prince Harry is the first

Family feud one theory in French Alps murder probe

A state prosecutor confirmed the people killed in the car were a couple from Britain — on a camping holiday in the Annecy region with their two daughters — and an older woman. The girls, aged seven and four, survived and are under police protection in hospital after the shootings on a remote forest road near the village of Chevaline on Wednesday. Prosecutor Eric Maillaud identified the dead car driver as Saidi-Hilli, an Iraqi-born Briton. He said Hilli’s four-year-old daughter — who hid for eight hours with the bodies in the car, too scared to move — had confirmed she had been with her parents and sister when the attack took place. "She said, ‘it’s my father’, she gave him his first name, ‘it’s my mother’, she gave her her first name, ‘it’s my sister,” Maillaud told a news conference in the town of Annecy, near Chevaline. The older girl was badly beaten in the attack. Maillaud cautioned that a tip-off to British authorities that Hilli and his brother were involved in a money laundering was an interesting line of investigation, but one among many. “Just because there is a dispute between two brothers doesn’t mean it’s the No.1 suspect,” said Maillaud, adding: “We need no information is considered further-fetched.”

Royal family face new Quebec’s carbon target

New government may raise Quebec’s carbon target

Quebec’s carbon target was "an interesting line of investigation, but one among many," said the province’s minister of the Royal Family to see active combat since his uncle Prince Andrew fought in the Falklands war. Reuters

FRANCE

 histoires de gendarmes" on the “Combe d’Ire” road in the French Alpine village of Chevaline. Reuters

"Chevaline, France, 8 Sept — Police investigating a gruesome family murder in the French Alps are looking at several theories, including that the British man shot dead in his car with his wife and brother. As forensics experts performed autopsies on the four victims, who included a local cyclist who was passing at the time of the attack, a team of French investigators landed in Britain. A state prosecutor confirmed the people killed in the car were a couple from Britain — on a camping holiday in the Annecy region with their two daughters — and an older woman. The girls, aged seven and four, survived and are under police protection in hospital after the shootings on a remote forest road near the village of Chevaline on Wednesday. Prosecutor Eric Maillaud identified the dead car driver as Saidi-Hilli, an Iraqi-born Briton. He said Hilli’s four-year-old daughter — who hid for eight hours with the bodies in the car, too scared to move — had confirmed she had been with her parents and sister when the attack took place. “She said, ‘it’s my father’, she gave him his first name, ‘it’s my mother’, she gave her her first name, ‘it’s my sister,” Maillaud told a news conference in the town of Annecy, near Chevaline. The older girl was badly beaten in the attack. Maillaud cautioned that a tip-off to British authorities that Hilli and his brother were involved in a money laundering was an interesting line of investigation, but one among many. “Just because there is a dispute between two brothers doesn’t mean it’s the No.1 suspect,” said Maillaud, adding: “We need no information is considered further-fetched.”

Bank of Canada says strong commodities good for economy

any moves by the central bank to curb commodity-driven movements in the value of the Canadian dollar would be futile in the long term. Taking such steps would eventually lead to volatile inflation and employment, and an estimated 1 percent cut in output over five years, he said. “The logic of Dutch Disease requires that we undo our successes in order to depreciate our currency,” Carney added. “Takes to its natural conclusion, this logic dictates that we shut down our oil sands, abandon our resource wealth, have high and variable inflation, run large fiscal deficits and diminish our financial sector.” “Such actions would surely weaken the Canadian dollar, but they would also weaken Canada,” he said. The Canadian dollar touched its strongest level in nearly a year on Friday after Canadian employment data showed the economy added 34,300 jobs in August, more than expected. The currency firmed to C$1.0796 against the greenback, or C$1.0240, from C$1.0218 last Sept, 2012. — Reuters

The logic of Dutch Disease

Environment

New government may raise Quebec’s carbon target

It’s quite certain they (PQ) will raise it (the target) to -25 percent. It’s in their electoral platform and they are well committed to go to it. He said Patrick Bonin, climate and energy director for the Quebec Association Against Air Pollution. The PQ party has also said in its platform that it wants to pursue links to other carbon trading schemes, such as California’s and Europe’s emissions trading system. The PQ has generally been strong on the need to deal with climate change, and the expectation is that they’ll continue to be supportive of Quebec’s participation in the Western Climate Initiative (WCI),” said Matt Horne, a climate change analyst at Canadian think tank the Pembina Institute. In January, Quebec announced it would launch an emissions trading system to help reduce its greenhouse gas output, which would link to the European Union’s and the US’s Western Climate Initiative and the North American carbon market, whose main member is the US state of California. — Reuters
Chinese, Russian presidents meet on cooperation

VLADIVOSTOK, 8 Sept — Chinese President Hu Jintao met his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin here on Friday to discuss bilateral ties and other major issues of common concern. The two leaders were meeting on the sidelines of the annual Economic Leaders’ Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) slated for Saturday and Sunday in the Russian Far-Eastern city of Vladivostok.

Hu said that he would like to have a thorough exchange of views with Putin on how to promote the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination between the two countries and of common concern. “I am also looking forward to a successful APEC meeting to be presided by President Putin,” he added. Putin said the Russia-China relations have reached a very high level thanks to personal contribution of Hu, who would be invited to be the first speaker at the APEC leaders’ meeting.

The China-Russia strategic partnership has developed steadily in recent years. The two countries further boosted strategic and political mutual trust, economic cooperation, and coordinated closely on major world and regional issues. Hu and Russian leaders agreed to develop a comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination between the two countries on major global and regional issues.

China’s foreign minister said the countries agreed to increase bilateral trade to 100 billion US dollars in 2015 and 200 billion dollars in 2020. In 2011, two-way trade reached record high of 79.2 billion dollars. In the first seven months of this year, bilateral trade stood at 50.9 billion dollars, up 17.7 percent year-on-year.

Chinese President Hu Jintao (L) meets with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Vladivostok, Russia, on 7 Sept, 2012. — Xinhua

Landslides, floods kill 29 in Vietnam

HANOI, 8 Sept — Landslides and floods in Vietnam have killed at least 29 people in recent days as heavy rains soak northern and central areas, state media and the government said on Saturday.

More rain was forecast to strike the flood-hit Nghe An Province and authorities were getting people out of danger areas, the government said. In one incident, 16 people were killed in landslides while they were going to tin mine on Friday in the mountainous northern province of Yen Bai.

Another person died in a flood that hit a hospital, the Defence Ministry-run People’s Army newspaper said. The affected provinces are far from the Central Highlands coffee belt. Rice production in the Mekong Delta is also not affected. Vietnam is the world’s second-largest coffee producer and it comes second after Thailand in rice exports. Vietnam, parts of which are densely populated and low-lying, is regularly battered by heavy weather and floods during the rainy season.

An average of 430 people were killed each year by natural disasters between 2007-2011 in Vietnam, with property losses estimated at 1 percent of gross domestic product, Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung told a conference on food security and climate change in Hanoi on Thursday. — Reuters

Chinese and Indonesian presidents meet on cooperation

VLADIVOSTOK, 8 Sept — Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Indonesian counterpart Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono met on Saturday in Vladivostok, Russia, on bilateral cooperation and other issues of common concern. The two leaders were meeting on the sidelines of the annual Economic Leaders’ Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum.

Hu said that he is looking forward to having a thorough exchange of views with Yudhoyono on bilateral relations and issues of common concern on the occasion of the APEC meeting. Yudhoyono said that bilateral relations between Indonesia and China have been advancing smoothly on the basis of the strategic partnership established seven years ago. China and Indonesia established a strategic partnership in April 2005 when Hu paid a state visit to the Southeast Asian nation.

The strategic cooperation between China and Indonesia is increasingly reflected in the active cooperation between the two countries on major global and regional issues against the backdrop of the current complicated international situation. During his meeting with Yudhoyono in Jakarta last month, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said further strengthening China-Indonesia strategic cooperation not only conforms to the fundamental interests of both countries, but serves as a role model for the region.

Most of the victims were from Yiliang county in southwest China’s Yunnan Province, near the epicentre. Footage from state broadcaster CCTV showed abandoned cars and black smoke billowing from buildings. President Hu Jintao, visiting the Russian city of Vladivostok for an Asia-Pacific summit, called for efforts to help the victims and Premier Wen Jiabao headed to the quake zone.

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Shanghai, 8 Sept — Rescuers in southwestern China tried on Saturday to reach remote communities rocked by back-to-back earthquakes that killed at least 80 people and damaged tens of thousands of buildings, the official Xinhua news agency said. Friday’s shallow 5.6 magnitude quakes struck an impoverished, mountainous part of the country with poor infrastructure and telecommunications and the death toll could rise as news trickles out of cut-off areas, it said.

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Rescuers focus on remote areas as China quake toll at 80

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Pakistan PM says political consensus emerges over good ties with India

ISLAMABAD, 8 Sept — Pakistani Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf on Friday told the visiting Indian Foreign Minister, S M Krishna, that there is a political consensus in Pakistan over having good relations with India. Indian Foreign Minister, S M Krishna, who arrived in Islamabad on Friday on a three-day visit to push the peace process and to boost people-to-people contacts, met Prime Minister Ashraf and said that India is committed to the stability, peace and prosperity of Pakistan, the PM office said on Friday.

Prime Minister Ashraf expressed the confidence that relationship between Pakistan and India will improve and move forward as both have set a direction.

The Prime Minister said that the visit of the Minister of External Affairs of India is of great importance as the people of both countries desire good relations. “We must learn from the past. We cannot change neighbours,” he said. The Prime Minister said, “terrorism anywhere in the world is a threat to humanity.”

Terrorism, he said, is a common enemy of both countries. Pakistan, the Prime Minister said, is a front line state in the war of terrorism and has suffered enormously, a PM office statement said.

Foreign ministers of the two countries will hold formal talks on Saturday and both sides will ink a relaxed visa regime to facilitate the people-to-people contact. The prime minister said “no doubt Kashmir, Siachen, Sir Creek and other issues need to be resolved” but we need to have a positive approach to resolve these issues, he emphasised.

He extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of India to visit Pakistan and asked the Indian Foreign Minister to convey his best wishes to the Prime Minister of India and the people of India. — Xinhua

Earthquake

CHONGQING, the capital of southwest China’s Chongqing, is in close contact with local authorities to determine the impact of the earthquakes.

“Chinese diplomatic offices in the region are ready to provide consular assistance to Canadians as required,” he added.

Two quakes measuring 5.7 and 5.6 on the Richter scale hit a border area near Yiliang in Yunnan Province and Weining county in Guizhou Province around on Friday noon.

Eighty people have been killed in the earthquakes and the death toll may further climb, authorities said on Saturday.

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Canada ready to assist quake-hit SW China

OTTAWA, 8 Sept — Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said on Friday that Canada is ready to provide assistance to those affected by the earthquakes in southwest China.

Baird said in a statement that although China has significant experience with natural disasters and proven capacity in responding to them, Canada stands ready to provide assistance if requested.

“Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with those affected by the earthquakes,” he said. Baird said that through its embassy in Beijing and consulate in Chongqing, the Canadian government is in close contact with local authorities to determine the impact of the earthquakes.

“Canadian diplomatic offices in the region are ready to provide consular assistance to Canadians as required,” he added.

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Ford recalls 2013 Escape in North America markets for engine issue

CHICAGO, 8 Sept — Ford is issuing a recall for its redesigned 2013 Ford Escape model that went on sale in June, as an improperly-installed engine part could lead to risk of fire, the US automaker announced on Wednesday on its website.

The recall covers over 7,000 2013 Escape SUVs built with 1.6-liter engines, including over 6,500 in the United States and 1,300 in Canada. This is the second recall for fire risks issued since July.

The recall is being taken to replace an engine compartment fuel line, which could split and leak fuel, potentially resulting in an underhood fire, Ford said.

Hundreds of Afghan soldiers detained, sacked for insurgent links

KABUL, 8 Sept — The Afghan army has detained or sacked hundreds of soldiers for having links to insurgents, the Defence Ministry said on Wednesday, as it tries to stem the rising number of so-called insider attacks. It made the announcement as NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen called Afghan President Hamid Karzai to express his concern over the attacks, in which Afghan servicemen have killed at least 45 NATO-troop soldiers this year, including 15 in August, compared with 35 for all of last year.

“Hundreds were sacked or detained after showing links with insurgents. In some cases we had evidence against them, in others we were simply suspicious,” Defence Ministry spokesman Zahir Azimi told reporters in Kabul. “Using an army uniform against foreign forces is a serious point of concern not only for the Defence Ministry but for the whole Afghan government,” Azimi said, adding that Karzai had ordered Afghan forces to devise ways to stop insider attacks. Azimi declined to say whether the detained and fired soldiers were from Taliban strongholds in the south and east, saying they were from all over the country.

In a briefing with Pentagon reporters, Lieutenant General James Terry, the deputy commander of US forces in Afghanistan, said efforts to double-check vetting of the some 350,000 Afghan national security forces would take time but would not slow the pace of NATO operations. NATO only attributes about a quarter of insider attacks to the Taleban and it is unclear how much vetting will do to limit the number of killings. Terry blamed Afghanistan’s “gun culture” for many of the insider attacks. “This is a society that’s really been traumatized by 30-plus years of war. It also has a gun culture out there,” Terry said. “And we also understand that a lot of grievances and dispute resolutions are done, frankly, at the barrel of a gun out there.” In his call to Karzai, Rasmussen outlined measures taken by NATO-led forces to stop the insider attacks and he urged Karzai to join the efforts, according to a NATO spokesman. The measures include giving troops cultural awareness training, strengthening vetting procedures and better counter-intelligence.

Despite delays, China seeks full Iran oil volume for third month

BEIJING, 8 Sept — For the third month in a row, China has nominated full contract volumes of Iranian crude for September, but refineries have begun to complain about delays in oil deliveries posing a problem, trading sources said.

China, Iran’s largest oil customer and top trading partner, is expected to load about 15.5 million barrels of Iranian oil this month, the third that it will be using the tankers of National Iranian Tanker Co to carry home oil and gas around a European Union insurance ban that began in July. But the downside of relying only on NITC vessels has started to show, with delays piling up as the transport volumes stretch down the capabilities of the Iranian firm’s fleet.

“The delivery dates have become very unpredictable,” said one Chinese buyer who declined to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to the media. “This has really over-stretched.” At 15.5 million barrels a month, or about 500,000 barrels per day, China alone would account for almost half of Iran’s total exports last estimated by the International Energy Agency at 1 million bpd in July.

Iranian oil exports have plunged from a year-ago figure of some 2.3 million bpd because of tough Western sanctions aimed at choking off Teheran’s oil revenue in a bid to halt its controversial nuclear programme.

Pentagon maps Japan radiation, says US personnel safe

WASHINGTON, 8 Sept — The Pentagon on Wednesday posted a website mapping the amount of radiation to which the tens of thousands of Americans in Japan at the time of last year’s earthquake and tsunami disaster were exposed and said none of the doses posed health risks. The 9.0 magnitude 11 March, 2011 earthquake and tsunami devastated the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant north of Tokyo, triggering meltdowns, spewing radiation and prompting the Pentagon to announce voluntary evacuation for families of service members stationed in Japan.

The temblor generated a tsunami wave of up to 10 meters (33 feet) that swamped the Fukushima plant and the surrounding Tohoku region of central Honshu. The website, http://registry.cns.diva.mil/or, showed radiation dosages between 12 March and 11 May at 13 locations in Japan where most of the nearly 70,000 US military-affiliated population lived.

It showed the highest rate of adult exposure at Camp Sendai, just north of Fukushima, where the thyroid dose of whole body radiation was 0.12 rem and 1.20 for the thyroid — the organ most affected by radiation. By comparison, a full-body CAT scan yields a whole body exposure of 5.0 rem.

Those American personnel who were stationed at Camp Sendai who check the website will see a message saying: “Your whole-body and thyroid radiation dose estimates are well below levels associated with adverse medical conditions.”

Russian firm to halt Iran ship work as pressure grows

LONDON, 8 Sept — A Russian firm has decided to stop verifying safety and environmental standards for one of Iran’s biggest shipping groups, a letter showed, the latest international company wary of being caught up in Western sanctions on the Islamic Republic. Iran is under growing pressure over its disputed nuclear programme and companies are cutting ties with its vital shipping sector, which transports most of its crude oil, for fear of losing lucrative US business.

Moscow opposes concerted trade pressure on Teheran by Washington and its allies, making the Russian company’s decision unusual. A letter seen by Reuters showed St Petersburg-based Russian Maritime Register of Shipping (RS), among the top 13 global ship classification societies, had decided to suspend its activities in Iran after being urged to pull out by US pressure group United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI). A targeted campaign by UANI, which includes former US ambassadors on its board and is funded by private donations, has already led to other classification societies exiting Iran.

Without certification from classification societies, vessels are unable to secure insurance cover or call at most international ports. “The decision has been taken to suspend RS activities in Iran,” its chief executive Mikhail Ayvazov wrote in a letter to UANI dated on 31 August. “Since its foundation in 1913, RS never was a political organization and didn’t carry out any tasks connected with realization of any political interests of other organizations and states,” Ayvazov said in a separate note.

Four killed, one injured in French Alps shooting

PARIS, 8 Sept — Four people were found shot dead and a girl was seriously wounded in a scenic spot in the French Alps, local authorities said on Thursday.

The bodies of a man and two women were discovered in a car with British license plates. The corpse of a second man, a cyclist, was found near the car, with dozens of bullet casings scattered on the ground.

A young girl, discovered at the site with gunshot wounds, was rushed to a regional hospital on Wednesday afternoon. The bodies were found by a cyclist who was on a leisure ride on Wednesday afternoon. Police have fanned out in the forest of Chevaline to search for possible perpetrator. Till now, they could not establish a theory about what happened there and the victims’ nationalities and identities are unclear.
Wasn’t aiming at a glamorous Bollywood debut: Ileana D’Cruz

MUMBAI, 8 Sept—Making her debut in Bollywood in a good role that was different from Telugu actress Ileana D’Cruz says she didn’t want a glamorous opening in her first film. While Bollywood exudes a glamorous mix of dance and song element in a movie, Anurag Basu’s ‘Barfi’ is different as it is a story of a defemate boy, a mentally challenged girl and a normal girl.

“In Bollywood it is like there would be little bit of acting to do, look pretty throughout and dance with a handsome in a masala movie. That is what I had in mind and I did not want to get into such a film,” Ileana said in an interview. Known down south as a glamorous beauty, Ileana doesn’t want that label to continue in the Hindi film industry, but wants author-based roles and not arm candy parts.

“I have been doing south films for six years. And there were lot of offers from Bollywood earlier which did not interest me much. The story line and my role in ‘Barfi’ is something I really liked a lot. It is different from what I have done so far, hence I chose to do this film. It is all about right time,” she said. Releasing on 14 September, ‘Barfi’ is a romantic comedy around three characters. There is Murph (Ranbir) whom everyone calls Bari. He is always ready with a prank and cannot speak or hear.

Kajal (Priyanka) is an autar girl, while Ileana plays Shruti, who falls in love with Bari. Ileana had earlier turned down an offer to star opposite actor Saif Ali Khan in ‘Wanted’, which was a remake of her own south film “Pokkiri”. She chose to wait for a more challenging role.

“When I was offered this role I was flattered as it required me to show my ability as an actor. Anurag told me the story and role; he said he had found his Shruti,” Ileana said.

“He was sure I was fit for the role. ‘Barfi’ was completely taken off guard did not expect a lead actress with a film like this,” she said adding that since ‘Barfi’ is not a regular Bollywood film, she was worried whether she would be able to do justice with the role.

“Considering it’s a big film and different, I was like will I be able to pull through this? It required a lot of me. He (Basu) had blind faith in me. He was encouraging...”I was flattered...”Ileana said.

It was one of the best experiences.—PTI

Aamna Sharif will make her television comeback with “fusión look”

NEW DELHI, 8 Sept—Aamna Sharif is making her comeback on the small screen with Honge Judaa Na Ham and set to create the magic with her fusión look in the show. She says that the stylists worked on her look for months. The actress became popular as Kashish with her debut show Kahiin To Hoga and was later seen as a style icon. Be it her bright colour-sorted hair, bindi, bangles, danglers or the saris, crazy fans followed her style statement religiously.

“Aahe Kahiin To Hoga there are a lot of expectations regarding my look in the show. There is an entire team that has been working on my character’s look, costumes and make-up for almost three months,” Aamna told ANI over the phone from Mumbai.

“I am going to wear a lot of Indo Western wear including anarkalis as well as kurta and churidar. I will also be wearing lots of Indo-Western clothes. There is a completely different look to what Muskan would be wearing at home,” she added.

Her entire look is taken care of by television designer Shivi Shrali, who has styled for shows like Dil Mil Gaye and Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon.

She will essay the lead role Muskan in Honge Judaa Na Ham that goes on air on Monday on Sony. It is a romantic saga also starring actors Rajeev Khandelwal and Aamir Ali. Aamna is both surprised and happy to see the television industry so organized and slick. Aamna says it are a lot of changes. I did not expect everything to be so organized. The involvement of the entire team is so much, which generally happens in films.

“We have been doing a lot of workshops. Even they know what all is required when we go on the sets. All these things were not like that earlier. Now a lot of detailing goes into everything,” she said.

“No one is taking risk with the kind of roles I am doing now and I don’t see that I am going to play any big commercial films. All the characters that I have played so far have been very different,” Aamna said.

“I still don’t know what genre I fit into. I want to try at my hand at different things and find out what I am best at. I want to discover myself as an actress,” she said.

Actress Bipasha Basu

For me everything is a risk right now says Esha Gupta

NEW DELHI, 8 Sept—Model-turned-actress Esha Gupta says she has taken a risk with the kind of roles she is doing currently, as she is new to the industry.

Making her debut opposite Emraan Hashmi in Mukeh Bhatt’s ‘Jannat 2’, Esha played a doctor in the movie, while she is essaysing the role of an actress in Vikram Bhatt’s ‘Raaaz 3’ (to release on 7 September) and a cop in Prakash Jha’s ‘Chakravyuh’ (releasing on 12 October), which explores the problems of naxalism.

“For me right now everything is a risk. But today I don’t take a risk where will I reach? It’s not about playing safe or anything. Of all the options I got I just think whatever films I have chosen to do are best,” Esha said in an interview.

“It was one of the best things to be working with a director like Vikram in ‘Raaaz’. Right now, I just don’t matter to me if it’s a big or small role, because all three of my films are really different,” she said.

Esha is taking every film as a learning experience with the different kind of roles that she is playing.

“Right now what matters to me is the learning experience. I am not saying that I won’t do big commercial films. All the characters that I have played so far have been very different,” Esha said.

“I still don’t know what genre I fit into. I want to try at my hand at different things and find out what I am best at. I want to discover myself as an actress,” she said.

PI

Venice credits roll, US, Korean films in awards race

VENICE, 8 Sept—The credits are about to roll on this year’s Venice film festival, and the world’s oldest cinema showcase pits Hollywood’s finest against up-and-coming American talent and movies by directors from South Korea, France and beyond.

The 11-day stretch of screenings, parties and interviews on the Lido waterfront ends on Saturday with the awards ceremony where the Golden Lion for best picture is handed out.

The prize is one of Europe’s cinema’s most prestigious and can help a small-budget movie not in English find an audience in the West. It also puts smaller US productions in the awards race.

The world’s oldest festival, which celebrates its 80th anniversary this year, has been seen as a low-key edition with too few stars to generate the kind of media buzz it thrives on.

But incoming director Alberto Barbera did present a slimmed-down selection of movies that had enough quality to make the trip to the notoriously expensive Cannes Film City worthwhile.

“Despite falling audiences due to the economic crisis, a not always glamorous red carpet and a festival that is struggling to find its own with a lineup that may not have been impressive but was still good,” said La Stampa film critic Alessandra Levantesi.

“I had a lot of workshops. Even they know what all is required when we go on the sets. All these things were not like that earlier. Now a lot of detailing goes into everything,” she said.

“No one is taking risk with the kind of roles I am doing now and I don’t see that I am going to play any big commercial films. All the characters that I have played so far have been very different,” Aamna said.

“I still don’t know what genre I fit into. I want to try at my hand at different things and find out what I am best at. I want to discover myself as an actress,” she said.

Actress Bipasha Basu

Defending Bollywood’s fondness for virtues against temples and heirs of film releases, actress Bipasha Basu says religion and superstition are a very much part of the industry.

Filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar along with lead actor Kareena Kapoor decided to launch the music of his forthcoming film ‘Heroine’ at Siddhivinayak Temple in Mumbai, causing a stampede like situation.

While producer Ekta Kapoor saw this as a learning experience with the different kind of roles that she is playing.

“Right now what matters to me is the learning experience. I am not saying that I won’t do big commercial films. All the characters that I have played so far have been very different,” Esha said.

“I still don’t know what genre I fit into. I want to try at my hand at different things and find out what I am best at. I want to discover myself as an actress,” she said.

Actress Bipasha Basu

Kapoor caused controversy when she visited Ajmer Sharif Dargah before the release of film “Kyaas Super Kool Hain Hun”. She was accused of using the shrine visit to promote the adult comedy by some religious heads.

“Religion and superstition are part of our country and they also exist in our business. We actors pray a lot. Before any release we visit temples and it shows the vulnerable side of an actor. It is not that we are selfish people. We are there just to ask for a hit. There is nothing wrong in doing so,” Bipasha said.

The 33-year-old actress is all set for the release of her film “Raaz 3”, which will see her portray the role of a fading actress, who resorts to black magic to bring down an upcoming star’s career.

In an unique promotional strategy for the film, Bipasha was recently spotted handing out nimboshi-michro (lemon and chilly) to auto-wallahs in Mumbai.

“It is fun. It is not leading to anything which is wrong. Nimbo-michro is something we all do. It is just to ward off the evil. Every Saturday I buy it and put it in my car. My mother has made it a tradition and asked me to do it. Putting it on auto-rickshaws was a fun way to promote the film,” she said.

PTI
**BRILLIANT MESSI LEADS ARGENTINA TO TOP OF WORLD CUP TABLE**

**CORDOBA, 8 Sept—** Lionel Messi of Argentina, with his back to camera, takes a free kick during their World Cup 2014 qualifying soccer match against Paraguay in Cordoba on 7 Sept., 2013.— **Reuters**

Argentina’s Lionel Messi (back to camera) takes a free kick during their World Cup 2014 qualifying soccer match against Paraguay in Cordoba on 7 Sept., 2013.— **Reuters**

The striker signed by Zenit St Petersburg last week for 55 million euros ($70.4 million) had been on the pitch for less than 10 minutes when he pounced on a rebound to turn and smash the ball home from 12 meters.

Menezes is under pressure to produce an exciting and winning side ahead of the 2013 Confederations Cup and 2014 World Cup, both of which will be held in Brazil.— **Reuters**

The Argentinean international scored when Ezequiel Lavezzi crossed square into the middle, Higuain played the ball back to him and the winger passed to Di Maria who found Messi in the top corner with a sweet left-footed shot.

**NEW YORK, 8 Sept—** Rodolph Austin (2nd R) and Je Vaughn Watson after he scored their second goal, as Geoff Cameron of the US looks on in the CONCACAF region World Cup qualifier on Friday. Jamaica’s first ever win over the US was thoroughly deserved after they fought back with determination from the early blow of Clint Dempsey’s first minute goal.

But the ‘Reggae Boyz’ drew level in the 24th minute when Rodolph Austin, who also plays in England with second tier Leeds United, struck a low free-kick which took a slight deflection off Kyle Beckerman in the US wall.

It was a scrappy battle for the rest of the first half with the Americans struggling to retain possession in midfield against the hard-working Caribbeans.— **Reuters**

...the deciding set.

Lacklustre Brazil struggle to beat South Africa 1-0

**SAO PAULO, 8 Sept—** A disappointing Brazil beat South Africa 1-0 on Friday but the lacklustre performance cast further doubts on coach Mano Menezes’s future in the job.

Menezes sent out an attacking team but they struggled to break down the dogged South Africans and the match was only decided in the 74th minute with a goal from second-half substitute Hulk.

The striker signed by Zenit St Petersburg last week for 55 million euros ($70.4 million) had been on the pitch for less than 10 minutes when he pounced on a rebound to turn and smash the ball home from 12 meters.

Menezes is under pressure to produce an exciting and winning side ahead of the 2013 Confederations Cup and 2014 World Cup, both of which will be held in Brazil.— **Reuters**

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Lacked Messi ready for ice cream after slam exit

**NEW YORK, 8 Sept—** Maria Sharapova was frustrated by her three-set defeat to world number one Victoria Azarenka in Friday’s US Open semi-final, but the Russian preferred to look on the bright side.

“I’m looking forward to checking out the ice cream truck that’s around the corner from my hotel,” she said after her grand slam campaign ended one hurdle short of the final in a 3-6, 2-6, 6-4 loss.

“It’s been haunting me.”

Sharapova dominated many of the statistical categories in the two-hour 42-minute match, blasting 44 winners to just 19 for Azarenka.

With momentum on her side after winning a fifth Wimbledon title in July then crushing victories in Friday’s US Open semi-final, but the Russian preferred to look on the bright side.

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“Her’s the toughest opponent there is in the draw,” said Azarenka. “And being in form and Azarenka knows the enormity of the challenge she faces.

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England, Germany, France win but Italy stumble

from the Italians, held to a 2-2 draw in Group B in Bulgaria, there were no major problems for the continent's big guns. England won their opening Group H match 5-0 in Moldova, while Germany stroffled to a relatively modest 3-0 Group C win over the Faroe Islands.

A first-half goal from Abou Diaby gave France a winning 1-0 start in their Group I campaign against Finland in Helsinki, while the Netherlands beat Turkey 2-0 in Amsterdam in Group D with Wesley Sneijder scoring both their goals to put them 2-1 up after they conceded first.

Georgi Milanov equalized for the home side with 24 minutes to play and Italy could not find a winner. Two Italians who better nights than their national team were Fabio Capello and Giovanni Trapattoni, the managers of Russia and Ireland respectively.—Reuters

Storm Leslie downgraded on path toward Bermuda

Hurricane Leslie was downgraded to a tropical storm on Friday as it swirled over the Atlantic on a track toward Bermuda but is expected to regain hurricane strength before passing by the island on Sunday, the US National Hurricane Centre reported.

A wealthy British overseas territory and global reinsurance center, Bermuda is not expected to take a direct hit from Leslie, which could re-strengthen by Sunday to a Category 1 hurricane, the lowest on the Saffir-Simpson scale of intensity.

Leslie then is expected to intensify into a Category 2 hurricane with wind speeds of 100 mph on Monday.

Forecasts show the storm will veer slightly east of the tiny island of 20 square miles (52 square km) with 65,000 residents. Residents in the rocky archipelago stocked up on food and water — as well as alcohol, for traditional hurricane parties. Most government offices and all of the island’s schools and beaches were closed on Friday.

Some of the island’s hotels have advised guests to consider leaving early before the worst of the storm is felt.

Tropical storm-force winds are expected by Sunday morning to batter the island located 640 miles off the east coast of the United States, as the season’s sixth Atlantic hurricane follows its slow trajectory northward.

The Miami-based National Hurricane Centre said Leslie was about 390 miles south-southeast of Bermuda moving in a northerly direction at 5 miles per hour, with maximum sustained winds of 65 miles per hour. Before being downgraded to tropical storm status, Leslie had spent two days as a Category 1 hurricane.

Korea bringing ‘Gangnam Style’ to Formula One

South Korean entertainment giant YG Entertainment and a Formula One team have named rapper Psy as a promotional ambassador for the race in Yeongam, South Jeolla Province and the chubby singer said he hoped to raise the sport’s profile.

“I will do my best as a promotional ambassador to make sure the... race is a success,” said Psy, who will also stage a concert for spectators at the race. —Reuters

Focus Myanmar

TV Programme

Weather forecast for 9th September, 2012

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Vice-President U Nyan Tun attends ceremony to conclude paddy cultivation in Bawdigon Village, Lewe Township

U Ohn Than and U Khin Zaw, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, agriculture and livestock ministers from regions and states, heads of department, heads of Settlement and Land Records Department from regions and states and others. Union Minister U Thein Nyunt reported on substituted cultivation of 18,740 kilos of Palethwe hybrid paddy which could yield two times the quality strain paddy in 2,356 acres in 2011-2012 summer paddy cultivation season, substituted cultivation of 27,156 kilos of Palethwe hybrid paddy in 3,879 acres in this year’s paddy cultivation season in eight townships of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Union Minister U Myint Hlaing on arrangements being made for the cent per cent change of 3,000-acre farmland in Dekkhinathiri Township into mechanized farming as a pilot project according to the guidance of the President calling for introducing mechanized farming in each chosen township with irrigated water in regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw (See page 7)

Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee to be beneficial to both legislature and country: Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann addressed the meeting between Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee and legal professionals.—MNA

YANGON, 8 Sept—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann delivered an address at meeting between Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee and legal professionals at Mingala Hall of Yangon Region Hluttaw this afternoon.

The Speaker said the legislatures should devise laws which demands full participation of citizens, the government elected by people’s representatives, civil servants and its citizens should be amended or revoked. The Hluttaw is trying to amend and revoke the laws with the interests of the people putting before anything else. Respective departments need to abide by the laws. All the elected lawmakers, government institutions and civil servants should adhere to the prescribed and existing laws. Only then, will the rule of law be achieved. The parliament is trying to adjust all the laws to serve the interests of the country and the citizens.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was elected to the Hluttaw in 1 April by-election by Kawhmu Constituency. As she was known for her eagerness for the rule of law and stability, an offer was made to her for the formation of Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee. She was assigned as chairperson of the committee by her consent. The committee would be beneficial to both the Hluttaw and the country. The community peace and tranquility were once focused. Now, the focus is on the rule of law and tranquility. The rule of law is crucial to the State. It is the fundamental of stability, the foundation of internal peace, the cornerstone of national development. A particular committee or Hluttaw alone cannot accomplish the tasks for development of the Union which demands full participation of citizens, the government elected by people’s representatives, civil servants and its citizens should be amended or revoked. The Hluttaw is trying to amend and revoke the laws with the interests of the people putting before anything else. Respective departments need to abide by the laws. All the elected lawmakers, government institutions and civil servants should adhere to the prescribed and existing laws. Only then, will the rule of law be achieved. The parliament is trying to adjust all the laws to serve the interests of the country and the citizens.

Department of Meteorology and Hydrology

Weather Forecast for Second Dekad of September, 2012

(Issued on 8-9-2012)

Bay of Bengal Condition

A Low Pressure Area may form over Bay of Bengal and it’s likely to intensify into a depression. Moderate to strong Monsoon is likely in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Rainfall and Rainy day Forecast

Rain will be below normal in Lower Sagaing Region, above normal in Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Mon States and about Normal in the remaining Regions and States.

Rainy days are expected about (3) days in Lower Sagaing Region, (6) to (8) days in Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Mon States and about (5) days in the remaining Regions and States.

Water Level

The water levels of the Ayeyarwady river are forecast to rise above the present water levels by (90) cm (about 3 feet) at Myitkyina, Bhamo and Katha, (60) cm (about 2 feet) at Mandalay, Sagaing, Pakokku, NyaungU, Chaung, Minbu, Magway, Aunglan, Pyay, Sekelua, Hinthada and Zalun.

The water levels of the Chindwin river are forecast to rise above the present water levels by (120) cm (about 4 feet) at Hkamti and Homalin, and (90) cm (about 3 feet) at Mawlaik, Kalewa and Monywa.

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