Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Summer Palace and Museum of King Tsar

Plenary meeting of 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee on 14-15 July

To cope with growing number of local travelers and increased tourist arrivals in Myanmar, it is planned to start the implementation of Hanthawady International Airport Project in September this year in Bago Region.

As Yangon International Airport could not handle floods of globetrotters in future, plans are underway to implement Hanthawady airport project with the aim of contributing towards further development in Myanmar.

Foreign investments are invited for implementation of the project and 30 companies showed their interest in the preliminary assessment programme. Seven out of them were chosen. But only four companies—Incheon Airport Consortium, Yon- gram-CAPE-JGC Consortium, Vinci Airport, Taisei Corporation—submitted their proposals for the contract.

According to the Department of Civil Aviation, selection for the winner will be finalized in July this year to be able to start the project.

As an Airport City, there will be hotels, shopping malls, hospitals and clinics in the neighbourhood of Hanthawady International Airport that will be equipped with the characteristics of an international airport. The project with more than US$ 1000 million in investment is set to complete in December 2017.

The Ministry of Transport was allowed to build Hanthawady International Airport on an area of 9690 acres in 1996 and a stake-driving ceremony was held on the same day in 1996 when a ceremony to drive stake for construction of Mandalay International Airport (TadaU) took place. A Malaysia-based company failed to implement the project due to various reasons. Implementation of the project will resume soon.

Hanthawady International Airport will be designed and built to land Airbus A380s and cargo planes. It is designed to handle 12 million passengers per year and to expand for arrivals of 35 million passengers per year.

While Hanthawady International Airport is under construction, Yangon International Airport will be upgraded into a facility with the capacity for six million passengers per year. Now the airport has a capacity for 2.7 million passengers per year. Yangon International Airport saw nearly 500000 visitors in the previous year and it is expected to reach six million passengers in 2017.

Moderate earthquake hits outside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 29 June—A moderate earthquake of magnitude 4.8 Ritcher scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Andaman Islands, India) about 450 miles south of Kaba Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 10 pm yesterday, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department. MNA

Implementation of Hanthawady International Airport Project to start soon

NAY PYI TAW, 29 June—The second plenary meeting of the seventh 47-member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee will be held on 14 and 15 July (7th- 8th Waxing of Wasso, 1375 ME) on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon.

The State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws have already been invited to attend the meeting on Kaba Aye Hill on 10 July, 2013 (3rd Waxing of Wasso, 1375 ME) whether invitations letters are received in time or not, according to Religious Affairs Department. MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 June—The Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrived at Petergof from St Petersburg via Finland Bay on 28 June morning and visited the Summer Palace and the Museum of King Tsar and the natural beauty of the Samson Fountain.

The Senior General and party also visited the park and Honplaisir and arrived back St Petersburg at 1.30 pm LST.

In the afternoon, the Senior General and party arrived back here by air via Yangon.

During the visit, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services held talks on further cementing friendly relationship between the two armed forces of Myanmar and Russia, visited industrial and cultural sites in Moscow and St Petersburg and met with sponsorship Tattmadawmen. MNA
**LOCAL NEWS**

**Yangon, 29 June** — Jointly-organized by Myanmar Physique Sports Federation and MGS Beverages Co., Ltd, Mr. Crusher and Ms. Quench and Contests in commemoration of International Olympic Day-2013 took place at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindama Road in Mayangon Township, here, on 27 June.

The competition included men’s and women’s bodybuilding and physique contests. Among 18 participants in the men’s bodybuilding event (open), Than Naung stood first, followed by U Pyand Kyaw Lin. Among 19 competitors in the U-21 men’s bodybuilding contest, the first prize went to Hla Htet, second prize to Aung Naing and third prize to Saw Steven. Among 14 bodybuilders aged 30 and above at men’s bodybuilding event (senior), U Pyar was presented first prize, followed by U Thin Win and U Thein Han. Next, women’s physique contests followed.

First prize went to Khine Wai Linwin, second to Ma Saw Win and third to Aung Chit Su in the women’s physique event (above 5 feet and three inches) with the participation of seven contestants. Nan Htet Htet Lin stood first, followed by Thuzar Hlaing and Ngui Yi Thant in the women’s physique event (under 5 feet and three inches) with the participation of seven competitors.

All contestants and athletes of the federation took part in the women’s physique championship event in which Nan Htet Htet Lin won the first prize, followed by Aye Aye Soe (selected athlete of the federation) and Ma Saw Win respectively.

Next, President of Myanmar Physique Sports Federation Winna Kyaw Lin U Hla Myint Swe and officials of the Ministry of Sports and MGS presented prizes to winners.

It was learnt that Daw Nu Nu Yi, executive of Myanmar Physique Sports Federation, was presented first prize-giving ceremony.

**Yangon, 27 June** — Chin United FC met GFA yesterday evening. Chin United FC won by four goals to two and grabbed the title of the MNL-2 (First Division) 2013.

The competition included the efforts of Chin United FC coming season, Division’s Championship title. The final match was a good game for football fans as all players of the two teams tried their best for the title.

After the match, the prize-giving ceremony followed. Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw and officials presented individual medals, K 15 million and a Championship Trophy to first prize-winning Chin United FC. As Chin United FC and GFA gained highest points in the table of MNL-2 (First Division) 2013, both teams had already been awarded to take part in the MNL 2014.

**Yangon, 29 June** — Chin United FC met GFA in the final match of MNL-2 (First Division) 2013 at Aung San Stadium yesterday evening. Chin United FC won by four goals to two and grabbed the title of the MNL-2 (First Division) 2013.

Although both teams were conceded to go on to MNL coming season, efforts of Chin United FC were crowned with success, securing the First Division’s Championship title. The final match was a good game for football fans as all players of the two teams tried their best for the title.

After the match, the prize-giving ceremony followed. Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw and officials presented individual medals, K 5 million to the third prize-winning U-19 team, individual medals and K 10 million to the second prize-winning GFA and individual medals, K 15 million and a Championship Trophy to first prize-winning Chin United FC. As Chin United FC and GFA gained highest points in the table of MNL-2 (First Division) 2013, both teams had already been allowed to take part in the MNL 2014.

**Urban wards in Kawthoung see sanitation work**

**Kawthoung, 29 June** — With the aim of ensuring characteristics of a township, durability of downtown roads and proper flow of water in the drains, Kawthoung Township Development Affairs Department carried out dredging of drains on 26 June.

Staff of the department performed sanitation work with the use of heavy machinery in cooperation with NGOs and dwellers of Aung Thukha and Shwe Zinyaw wards.

**NATIONAL SPORTS**

**Yangon, 29 June** — To mark the second Waso robe offering ceremony of Thanlyn Township in Yangon South District, a Myanmar traditional cane-ball demonstration took place at a cane-ball house in Thanlyn on 22 June.

Cane-ball players from other townships participated in the demonstration, showing their skills.

**Billboard set up to mark Myanmar Women’s Day**

**Yangon, 29 June** — Hailing the Myanmar Women’s Day, a ceremony to set up a billboard was held at U Htaung Bo roundabout in Myoma ward in Bahan Township, here, on 27 June morning.

Patrons of Yangon Region Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Thin Tin Mya and Daw Khin Aye Nwe, acting-chairperson Daw Thaung Mya formally opened the ceremony.

Next, Patron of Yangon Region WAO Daw Khin Thet Htay unveiled the billboard as a gesture of hailing the Myanmar Women’s Day.

**TRAFFIC RULES ENFORCEMENT**

**Town Truck in action for undisciplined vehicles in Mandalay**

**Mandalay, 29 June** — It is learnt that undisciplined vehicles are being towed for long-time parking on the urban roads and in the neighborhood of Zaygyo market in Mandalay by a Town Truck, the U.S.-made Power Plus Brand, of Mandalay City Development Committee.

The Town Truck is making regular patrols on downtown roads and in the city centre to take actions against undisciplined vehicles. Yesterday morning, two vehicles which were illegally parked in the no-parking area on 84th street between 26th and 28th streets near Mandalay Zaygyo market were impounded by the tow truck.

“The tow truck of MCDC will take actions against undisciplined vehicles as a drive for ensuring traffic rules enforcement. The tow truck service is priced K 50,000. Moreover, vehicles that have violated the traffic rules are to pay prescribed fines in accord with the traffic rules,” says an engineer of MCDC.

The tow truck can be hired, K 50,000 per service for vehicles which are non operational because of a breakdown in the municipal area of Mandalay. Mandalay City Development Committee is implementing various plans for development of Mandalay, laying down traffic rules to deal with the increased population and vehicles. Setting up of digital traffic lights and installation of digital traffic lights are being carried out. While officials concerned are trying hard to ensure traffic rules enforcement and develop the city into a modern one, mass participation is also needed.

**Waso cane-ball demonstration in Thanlyn**

**Thanlyn, 29 June** — The Waso cane-ball demonstration is being held on weekends at Thanlyn Township cane-ball house. The Waso robe offering ceremony will be held on Fullmoon Day of Waso. Those wishing to donate cash and kind may contact U Tin Ngwe (Ph: 09 73188934).

**Kyemon-Tin Maung Ngwe (Thanlyn)**
Egypt violence builds, American among dead

ALEXANDRIA/CAIRO, 29 June—Two people, one an American student, were killed when protesters stormed an office of Egypt’s ruling Muslim Brotherhood in Alexandria, adding to growing tension ahead of mass rallies aimed at unseating the Islamist president.

A third man was killed and 10 injured in an explosion during a protest in Port Said, at the mouth of the Suez Canal. Police on Saturday said the cause was unclear but protesters, believing it was a bomb, attacked an Islamist party office in the city.

Egypt’s leading religious authority warned of “civil war” after violence in the past week that had already left several dead and hundreds injured. They backed President Mohamed Mursi’s offer to talk to opposition groups ahead of Sunday’s protests.

The United Nations, European Union and United States have appealed for restraint and urged Egypt’s deadlocked political leaders to step back from a confrontation threatening the new democracy that emerged from the Arab Spring revolution of 2011.

The US embassy said in a statement it was evacuating non-essential staff and family members and renewed a warning to Americans not to travel to Egypt unless they had to. The Muslim Brotherhood said eight of its offices had been attacked on Friday, including the one in Alexandria.

Officials said more than 70 people had been injured in the clashes in the city. One was shot dead and a young American man who was using a small camera died after being stabbed in the chest. He was identified as Andrew Pochter, a 21-year-old student from Chevy Chase, Maryland who had been studying at Ohio’s Kenyon College. The college said he had been working as an intern for the US educational organisation AMID-EAST.

Supporters of Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi shout slogans with brotherhood’s flag during a protest in the suburb of Nasr City, Cairo, on 28 June, 2013.

Bomb in Thai south kills eight soldiers

BANGKOK, 29 June—Suspected Muslim rebels in southern Thailand killed eight soldiers in a roadside bomb attack on Saturday, days after the government rejected demands for a ceasefire over the Islamic holiday of Ramadan starting next month.

Thailand is a predominantly Buddhist country and resistance to central government rule in the Muslim-majority provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat has existed for decades, surfacing violently in 2004. The 60-kg bomb exploded as the soldiers were travelling in a military truck along a village road in Yala, police said. Another two soldiers were wounded and two villagers on a motorcycle behind the truck were also hurt, police said.

The opening of peace talks with rebel groups earlier this year has done nothing to end violence in the south, where more than 5,300 people have died since January 2004.

This week the Barisan Revolusi Nasional, one of the oldest groups operating in the south of the country and a participant in the talks, proposed a ceasefire for Ramadan, which starts around 10 July.

In exchange they made demands including the release of all detainees in the south and the acceptance of Malaysia as a mediator, which the government rejected. The three Muslim-dominated provinces were once part of a Malay Muslim sultanate until annexed by Thailand in 1909.

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Asó predicts stable gov’t if LDP wins upper house election

TOKYO, 29 June—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will be able to build a stable government if the Liberal Democratic Party wins the House of Councillors election next month as he is unlikely to face any opposition from within the ruling party, Finance Minister Taro Aso predicted on Friday.

If the LDP wins the July 21 election for the upper house, where the ruling bloc currently lacks a majority, “Abe’s government will be stable,” Aso said in a speech in Tokyo.

Many leaders have been forced to resign over a short period of time due to strife within the LDP, but now there are no lawmakers in the ruling coalition trying to topple Abe, said Aso, who was also prime minister for a year from September 2008.

Kyodo News

Brazil’s mass protests peak, ball in politicians’ court

BRASILIA, 29 June—The massive protests that paralyzed Brazil last week appear to have peaked after sending the country’s shaken political establishment a loud message that it needs to change its ways.

It’s now up to the politicians to deliver improvements to the country’s deficient public services and more transparent and accountable government demanded by frustrated Brazilians, or the crescendo of angry protests could suddenly return.

While smaller protests continue on a daily basis, the number of demonstrators this week was much lower than the one million people who took to the streets a week ago, due to a mix of protest fatigue and achievement of the protesters’ initial aim of drawing attention to their grievances.

Tens of thousands may still protest around Sunday’s Confederations Cup final football match between Brazil and Spain in Rio de Janeiro, the locus of violence so far, but the end of the football tournament will deprive protesters of a high-profile stage on which to air their grievances.

The streets are saying to the politicians: you have heard our voices, now let’s see what you will do with this,” said Marcos Nobre, a political philosophy professor at the University of Campinas and author of a new e-book on the popular revolt.
NASA picks Florida agency to take over shuttle landing strip

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, 29 June—NASA has selected Space Florida, a state-backed economic development agency, to take over operations, maintenance and development of the space shuttle’s idled landing site at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, officials said on Friday.

Terms of the agreement, which have not yet been finalized, were not disclosed, but Space Florida has made no secret about its desire to take over facilities no longer needed by NASA to develop a multi-user commercial spaceport, somewhat akin to an airport or seaport.

The state already has a lease for one of the space shuttle’s processing hangars, and an agreement with Boeing to use the refurbished facility for its planned commercial space taxi.

The so-called CST-100 is one of three space ships under development in partnership with NASA to fly astronauts to the International Space Station, a permanently staffed, $100 billion research outpost that flies about 250 miles above Earth.

NASA ended its 30-year space shuttle program in 2011, leaving Russia’s Soyuz capsules as the sole means to transport crews to the station, a service that costs the United States more than $70 million per person. NASA hopes to buy rides commercially from a US company by 2017.

The shuttle’s retirement left the Kennedy Space Centre loaded with equipment and facilities that are not needed in NASA’s new human space initiative, which includes a heavy-lift rocket and deep-space capsule for journeys to asteroids, the moon and other destinations beyond the space station’s orbit.

Last year, NASA solicited proposals for agencies or companies to take over the shuttle landing facility and its 15,000-foot (4,572-metre) runway, one of the longest in the world. Additional landing site infrastructure includes an aircraft parking ramp measuring 480 by 350 feet, a landing aids control building, a 90-foot (27-metre) wide shuttle tow way, an air traffic control tower and a 23,000-square-foot (2,137-square-meter) enclosure used by convoy vehicles that serviced the shuttles after landing.

SAN FRANCISCO, 29 June—Intel Corp’s new CEO said on Friday he would speed up the rollout of chips for smartphones, tablets and wearable devices as consumers move away from personal computers.

Brian Krzanich, an Intel manufacturing guru who took over as chief executive officer in May, also took a cautious tone about the top chipmaker’s planned foray into television and said Intel continues to look at the business model.

“We believe we have a great user interface and the compression-decompression technology is fantastic,” Krzanich said. “But in the end, if we want to provide that service it comes down to content. We are not big content players.”

In their first sit-down with reporters since their promotions in May, Krzanich and Intel President Renee James said wearable computing devices would become a key battleground for mobile industry players.

Krzanich, who mentioned he had Google’s Glass wearable device in his knapsack, said computing in the next few years would focus more on items for eyes and ears, as well as wristbands and watches. “I think you’ll start to see stuff with our silicon toward the end of the year and the beginning of next year,” Krzanich said.

“We’re trying to get our silicon into some of them, create some ourselves, understand the usage and create an ecosystem.” The world’s biggest chipmaker dominates the PC industry, but has been slow to adapt its chips to be suitable for smartphones and tablets. Intel is anxious to make sure it does not fall behind in future technology trends.

Krzanich told Reuters Intel then Chief Operating Officer Brian Krzanich is seen during an interview with Reuters at Intel headquarters in Santa Clara, California on 13 March, 2012.

SAN FRANCISCO, 29 June—The Canadian market will review all sales of wireless airwave licenses and reject any deals that would lead to undue concentration, it said

The spectrum holdings of Rogers, BCE and Telus are deemed controversial nonetheless. A Facebook page for a business that sells adult products, for example, will no longer feature ads. Previously such a page could feature ads along the right-hand side of the page so long as the page did not violate Facebook’s prohibition on depicting nudity. The move underscores the delicate balance for social media companies, which feature a variety of unpredictable and sometimes unsavory content shared by users, but which rely on advertising to underpin their business.

“Our goal is to both preserve the freedoms of sharing on Facebook but also protect people and brands from certain types of content,” Facebook said in a post on its website on Friday.

Facebook said on Friday that it will expand the scope of pages and groups on its website that should be ad-restricted and promised to remove ads from the flagged areas of the website by the end of the coming week.

Facebook to pull ads from pages with sex, violence

San Francisco, 29 June—Facebook Inc said it will no longer allow ads to appear on pages with sexual or violent content, as the online social network moves to appease market- ers being associated with unfavourable public opinion.

The moves come a month after several businesses pulled their ads from Facebook amid reports of pages on Facebook that promoted violence against women.

Facebook said at the time that it needed to improve its system for flagging and removing content that violated its community standards, which forbid users from posting content about hate speech, threats and pornography, among other things.

Ads account for roughly 85 percent of revenue at Facebook, the world’s largest social network with 1.1 billion users. Facebook said the changes would not have a meaningful impact on its business.

On Friday, Facebook said it also needed to do more to prevent situations in which ads are displayed alongside material that may not run afoul of its community standards but are deemed controversial nonetheless. A Facebook page for a business that sells adult products, for example, will no longer feature ads. Previously such a page could feature ads along the right-hand side of the page so long as the page did not violate Facebook’s prohibition on depicting nudity.

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Facebook is herein 2013, in this photo illustration, on 2 May, 2013. —Reuters

Canada to review all wireless spectrum transfer deals

Toronto, 29 June—A student uses his mobile phone as he walks inside the Engineering building at the University of Waterloo, located beside the BlackBerry maker Research In Motion (RIM) headquarters in Waterloo on 18 April, 2012.

Canada’s Conservative government has said it wants to weaken the dominance of Canada’s biggest operators and make the rollout of chips for smartphones and tablets more competitive.

The government effective July 27, 2013, announced a similar option deal to buy Quebecor Inc’s unused spectrum licences.

In January, Rogers struck a deal giving it an opportunity to buy rival Shaw Communications’ unused spectrum licences.

The deal has not yet been sent to Ottawa for approval.

Just last month, Rogers announced a similar option deal to buy Quebecor Inc’s unused spectrum licences in the Toronto area.

Rogers said the new rules were not yet final and that the company would consult with customers before the final rules are put in place.

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New labels tied to fewer childhood poisonings by OTC meds

New York, 29 June—Fewer small children have been sickened or died from accidentally taking cough and cold medicines meant only for older ages, according to a new study of the effects of recent label changes on these over the counter products.

High doses of antihistamines can cause coma, seizure and abnormal heart rhythms in kids, and an overdose of the pain reliever acetaminophen can cause liver failure, according to the study’s lead author Dr Maryann Mazer-Amirshahi of the department of emergency medicine at the George Washington University in Washington, DC.

“Also, consider that there is not a lot of evidence that these medications are effective in young children, so the benefit of using them does not outweigh the risks,” Mazer-Amirshahi told Reuters Health.

In 2007, the US Food and Drug Administration and the Consumer Healthcare Products Association took such products made specifically for children off the market, and in 2008 they added warnings to adult medications cautioning not to give the drugs to kids under four years old, according to Dr Dan Budnitz, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Medication Safety Programme.

He was not surprised to see a study indicating that those measures were effective, Budnitz told Reuters Health.

Based on reports to poison control centres in the US, the study found that unintentional ingestions of over the counter cough and cold medicines among kids decreased by a third between 2005 and 2010.

The number of children under 12 who had taken the medicines accidentally decreased by 33 percent; those given the medications by their parents in error decreased by 46 percent, according to the results published in The Journal of Pediatrics.

There were also 59 percent fewer calls to poison control centres for infants under two years old given the medicine incorrectly by a parent.

“We were expecting to see a decrease but the magnitude of it took us by surprise,” Mazer-Amirshahi said.

US FDA approves new Baxter drug for hemophilia B

Washington, 29 June—Patients with a form of the chronic blood disorder hemophilia will soon have a new therapy that not only treats episodes of excessive bleeding, but helps to prevent them.

The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday granted US marketing approval for Rixubis, a genetically engineered protein made by Baxter International Inc that represents the first new treatment for the genetic disorder in more than 15 years. Hemophilia B is the second most common type of hemophilia, which affects 3,300 people in the United States and some 25,000 worldwide, according to the National Hemophilia Foundation.

It arises when people make insufficient blood clotting factor that naturally controls bleeding. Rixubis, which is administered twice weekly, aims to control and prevent bleeding and better manage hemophilia B patients in the hospital for surgery. It can also be used routinely to prevent or reduce bleeding.

Rixubis, Hemophilia B Drug, Approved By FDA

PTSD tied to raised heart disease risk

New York, 29 June—People suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) may also be at increased risk of heart attacks and strokes, according to a new study of Vietnam War veterans.

After following nearly 300 pairs of male twins, all Vietnam vets, for more than a decade, researchers found that almost a quarter of the men diagnosed with PTSD also had heart disease, compared to less than a tenth of the men without the combat-related stress disorder. “As time goes by, it becomes more and more clear that PTSD is not just something that impacts psychological health. It has broad repercussions throughout the body,” said Dr Viola Vaccarino from the Emory University School of Public Health in Atlanta, the study’s lead author.

Behavioural symptoms of PTSD include reliving the traumatic event in memories or nightmares, avoiding situations that may trigger those memories and feelings of paranoia, fearfulness and guilt, according to the US Department of Veterans Affairs. The symptoms tend to start shortly after a person experiences a traumatic event, such as combat, terrorist attacks, serious accidents, natural disasters and personal violence or abuse. Physically, Vaccarino’s team notes, PTSD sufferers are known to often have raised levels of stress hormones and other chemicals signaling overactivation in the fight-or-flight pathways of the nervous system.—Reuters

Greece’s Eurobank must follow autonomous course, new CEO says

Athens, 29 June—Greece’s fourth-largest lender Eurobank (EFGGr.AT) must follow an independent course, its new chief executive said on Friday, casting doubts on whether a suspended merger with peer National Bank (NBGr.AT) would go ahead.

In early April Greece’s international creditors — the euro zone and the International Monetary Fund — blocked Eurobank’s planned merger with larger rival NBGr on concerns the joint entity would become too big.

“Our aim is for Eurobank to take part autonomously in the strategic restructuring of the banking system and return to the private sector as soon as possible,” CEO Christos Megalou said in a letter to staff a day after his appointment.

Megalou, a former Credit Suisse investment banker, was appointed to the job on Thursday by Greece’s bank rescue vehicle, the Hellenic Financial Stability Fund (HFSF), which owns more than 98 percent of Eurobank after recapitalising it. “The bank’s autonomous course is a must, therefore let’s leave behind any worries related to the pending merger,” Megalou said, echoing comments by the rescue fund’s CEO at the bank’s annual shareholders meeting a day earlier.

On Thursday the head of the rescue fund’s CEO at the meeting a day earlier. On Thursday the head of the rescue fund’s CEO at the meeting a day earlier. On Thursday the head of the rescue fund’s CEO at the meeting a day earlier.

Following widespread criticism from politicians and the picketing of stores, Starbucks said it would pay or pre-pay around 10 million pounds a year in taxes in 2013 and 2014.

The company said it would not take tax deductions for certain intercompany payments such as the royalty fee, interest payments and the 25 percent mark up on coffee beans that is paid to a Swiss-based Starbucks coffee purchasing unit.

Starbucks recently paid 5 million pounds to the UK tax authority as the first instalment of its 2013 tax bill, British media reported earlier this month. Starbucks declined immediate comment.

Greece’s Eurobank must follow autonomous course, new CEO says

UK loss, pays no tax for 2012

London, 29 June—Starbucks, whose thin tax payments provoked a backlash against corporate tax avoidance when revealed by Reuters, paid no tax for the year to 30 Sept, 2012.

The coffee giant’s main UK subsidiary reported its 15th straight annual loss at its UK stores in accounts filed on Friday.

Reuters revealed in October that Starbucks reported consistent UK losses while telling investors the British unit was profitable and promoting managers of the unit within the group.

Friday’s accounts showed a UK loss of 30 million pounds, down from the 32 million pounds loss it reported for the previous year, helped by a 4 percent rise in turnover to 413 million pounds.

The company cited challenging economic conditions and a competitive UK coffee market, although the accounts show profits were also undermined by a royalty for the use of the Starbucks brand of 26 million pounds.

This is paid to an affiliate in the Netherlands, where Starbucks has negotiated what it said was a very low tax rate.

The UK unit also paid 2 million pounds in interest to affiliated companies, the accounts showed.

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Obama pledges to help Africa, pays tribute to Mandela

WASHINGTON/MOSCOW, 29 June—Nearly a month after Edward Snowden exposed top secret US surveillance programs, the former spy agency contractor looks no closer to winning asylum to evade prosecution at home - and his options appear to be narrowing.

Stuck in legal limbo in a Moscow airport transit area and facing uncertainty over whether any of the destinations he is said to be contemplating - Ecuador, Venezuela and Cuba - will let him in, Snowden seems to be at the mercy of geopolitical forces beyond his control.

Unseen in public since arriving in Moscow last weekend, much remains unclear about Snowden’s overtures to various countries and how they have responded behind the scenes. Russia may no longer have sufficient reason to continue harbouring Snowden if, as is widely believed, its intelligence services have already questioned him about the classified documents that he has admitted to taking from the National Security Agency.

The leftist government of Ecuador, already sheltering WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange at its London embassy, is reviewing Snowden’s asylum request, though officials have sent mixed signals, suggesting the process could drag on for weeks.

Venezuela’s new president, Nicolas Maduro, has spoken favourably of granting refuge to Snowden but has taken no action, and he may think twice about risking a setback in tentative steps toward post-Chavez rapprochement with Washington.

And even if Ecuador or Venezuela decide to take Snowden, there is no guarantee that communist Cuba, the likely transit point for any flight from Moscow to those South American countries, would let him pass through and further complicate its own thorny relations with the United States. —Reuters

Kerry steps up shuttle talks with Abbas and Netanyah

JERUSALEM, 29 June—US Secretary of State John Kerry accelerated his Middle East shuttle diplomacy on Friday in the hope of promoting an Israel-Palestine peace process, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In a sign that he may be making progress in his mission to bring the sides together, a State Department official announced late on Friday that Kerry would return to Amman for another meeting with Abbas on Saturday, then return to Israel for additional meetings.

The frenzied back-and-forth is reminiscent of Henry Kissinger’s shuttle diplomacy as secretary of state to mediate conflicts in the Middle East throughout the 1970s.

The State Department official said a three-hour meeting with Netanyahu on Friday, the second in as many days, involved a “detailed and substantive conversation about the way forward”. -Reuters

Snowden’s options appear to narrow in bid to evade US arrest

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ASEAN postpones meeting with nuclear powers

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 29 June—ASEAN has postponed a meeting with experts from the world’s five “official” nuclear powers on the powers’ plan to join its treaty for a nuclear weapon-free region after the nuclear powers rejected an ASEAN proposal to meet now, ASEAN sources said.

The consultations between ASEAN officials and legal experts from the nuclear states to discuss the protocol for the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone had been to be held Friday before the start of the annual meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations foreign ministers later in the week.

“ASEAN still hopes for a meeting at another time, most probably on the sideline of the UN General Assembly in New York in October, the sources said.

ASEAN has been trying to get the five major nuclear powers to sign the protocol to its SEANWFZ treaty, which is aimed to preserve the region as a nuclear weapon-free zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction.

All the major powers except China backed out suddenly from signing the protocol last year, mainly due to concerns that some of the wording in the protocol might restrict their nuclear operations.

They had proposed changes to the wording. On Friday, ASEAN officials held their own meeting under the Executive Committee of the SEANWFZ Commission to discuss a plan of action to strengthen the implementation of the treaty.

“We agreed to continue engaging with the nuclear weapon states to resolve comprehensively, in accordance with the objectives and principles of the treaty, outstanding issues with a view to realizing the signing of the protocol to the Treaty on SEANWFZ and its related documents,” a draft of a communique to be issued after the annual meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers Sunday, says.

Reuters

Obama pledges to help Africa, pays tribute to Mandela

WASHINGTON / MOSCOW, 29 June—Nearly a month after Edward Snowden exposed top secret US surveillance programs, the former spy agency contractor looks no closer to winning asylum to evade prosecution at home—his first substantial visit to the continent since taking office in 2009—will compensate with Nelson Mandela’s condition.

He will discuss a new exchange program for African students with US colleges and universities. The event will include youth in Uganda, Nigeria and Kenya participating through video conference, and will be televised in those countries, White House officials said. Obama and the Republican-controlled House of Representatives have fought bitterly over government spending. US foreign aid is a perennial target for lawmakers who want more budget cuts.

Before departing South Africa on Friday but play down expectations of a meeting with the ailing black leader during an African tour promoting democracy and food security.

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Hlinethaya residents voice concerns over lake pollution

YANGON, 29 June—Residents in No (7) ward in Hlinethaya Township in Yangon Region raised concerns over pollution of lake for drinking water in the ward caused by leakage of dirty water from dumping ground into the lake.

Encroachment on the surrounding of the lake, the major source of potable water of the ward, means more dump around.

Township Development Affairs Committee, water treatment division of Yangon City Development Committee and social organizations are working on supplying the safe drinking water in the area, dredging the lake, purifying the water and distributing safe water bottles. Heavy rains often caused the lake to spill over and mixed with the dump.—MMAL-164

Mohnyin, 29 June—Myanma Agricultural Development Bank disbursed K 100,000 per acre loans to farmers for cultivation of monsoon crops in 2013 on 20 June.

The bank has given out K 107.8 million loans to 1486 farmers from 15 village-tracts of the township for cultivation of 10378 acres of farmlands till 26 June, said the assistant manager of Mohnyin Township MADB. The bank plans to disburse loans K 5400 million to the farmers for 2013-2014 fiscal year.—NLM-001

Loans disbursed to trishaw drivers

YAMETHIN, 29 June—The ceremony to disburse loans to trishaw drivers in Yamethin Township in Mandalay Region was held in Township Cooperative Department Office on 18 June.

The ceremony was attended by Chairman of Township Cooperatives Activities Development Committee Township Administrator UMaung Maung who said the cooperative societies are planning to provide seed money to the grassroots.

Township Cooperative Department Staff Officer U Zaw Lin elaborated on small loans and future plans of the cooperative societies.

Region Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Mynt provided K 10,550,000 loans to 211 trishaw drivers through chairman of Trishaw Transportation Limited U Aung Myint.

The ceremony is the second of its kind in the township.—MMAL-416

Masonry and decoration materials, musical instruments and services, with donation ceremony for furnishings to the school were held on 25 June, attended by No (2) Basic Education High School Deputy Director U Aung Myint.

The ceremony was organized at Tatmadaw Convention Hall in U Wisara Street in Yangon on 1 July.

Construction and decoration materials, musical instruments and services, and singing trainings will be available at the show. The exhibition will feature International Tokyo Show. More than 100 booths of cosmetics, clothes and jewelry will be on show.

MMAL-Mayt Sandi Thin Zaw

CRIME

Monywa police raids mini cinema exclusive for couples

MONYWA, 29 June—Monywa police raided an exclusive 3D mini cinema for couples in Kyaukka Street in Phone Soe Ward in Monywa on 23 June and seized uncensored discs.

A combined force of township police and police officers seized 3D international movies which are not legally registered in the country and found air conditioned rooms for couples. In charge of the cinema Tha Sae is charged by the police with illegal holding of uncensored international discs.

“Air conditioned rooms exclusive for couples invite crimes at any time. We take actions as it does adhere to rules,” a senior officer of the Township Police Station said.

A total of 29 materials were seized in the raids.—MMAL-Awca (Monywa)
**PERSPECTIVES**

Sunday, 30 June, 2013

**FOOD SAFETY WHISTLEBLOWERS**

How do we ensure ourselves to stay away from health risks linked to artificial additives in our daily meals? For modern-day ordinary people who live from hand to mouth, they lack knowledge about foreign agents in food they eat. Moreover, they have time and money to choose a better one as they have a difficult life, struggling to meet daily basic needs from dawn to dusk. Even the question is totally beyond their scope of knowledge.

According to a local news report a few months ago, color additives were found in most of chili and ginger powder packets in the market. Law enforcement and confiscation of contaminated food may be effective in urban wards of major cities, but the packets of kitchen essentials coated with cancer-causing chemicals still win a victory in ghettos, suburb areas and most of rural regions.

Do we really notice how much of chemical dyes we have already had through our kitchen food? If the answer is “No”, we have to accept that we are in the state of emergency as the rise in use of food colours that enhance the risks for cancer is a matter of considerable public concern. People with limited incomes should get consumer protection as they are dicing with danger without having much knowledge about the levels of toxicity in their food.

That’s why, we, media persons, have to play a role of food safety whistleblowers, striving for a consumer movement to take root. We have to heighten the public health awareness in a fight against hazardous additives and push businessmen for more transparency on food safety measures through media. We have to speak out about rainbow food, which is a matter of considerable public concern. People with limited incomes should get consumer protection as they are dicing with danger without having much knowledge about the levels of toxicity in their food.

**TALKS ON DHF GIVEN IN NAY PYI TAW ZEYAITHIRI TOWNSHIP**

NAY PYI TAW, 29 June— Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever is common during the rainy season. DHF used to infect infants and children under age 12. Now, medical experts warn that dengue fever symptoms are found at any age, from children to the aged.

As a drive to prevent Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Medical In-charge Dr Aye Mya Thida Aung of Zeyathiri Township Hospital and staff gave talks on health awareness at Mayingyi Village BEPS yesterday evening.

Next, spraying of insecticide was carried out in the village.—Aye Than

**EDEXCEL LAUNCHES EDUCATION CONSULTATION**

YANGON, 29 June— Education consultation for the students who passed matriculation examination are looking to attend international universities through BTEC Higher National Diploma.Edexcel took place at Traders Hotel, here, this morning. Principal Daw Thi Thi of Myanmar Noble College extended greetings and Regional Business Manager Ms. Boon Eeen of Edexcel explained opportunities for continuous learning at the international universities through Edexcel. BTEC is an institution that provides qualified and pragmatic ways to study for the students with theory and vocational subjects for attending universities for the first step. The students will get opportunities for learning more than 250 subjects.

_MNA_

**NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

Sunday, 30 June, 2013

**ARTICLE**

The World’s Largest Marble Book of a Skyscraper’s Height

The New Light of Myanmar [English] and Kyemon [The Mirror] Myanmar, Daily Newspapers of Sunday 25 June 2013 carried on their front pages with photographs a happy tidings — that “Kuthodaw Inscriptions shrines in Mandalay were included in UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register on 19 June, 2013 because 729 inscribed slabs contain the whole of the Buddhist scriptures’ religious and social significance is important…”

Overwhelmed by this happy news, the writer is irresistibly tempted to send to NLM to reproduce in its esteemed Daily the following two articles he had written nearly two decades ago. Thanking UNESCO for giving Myanmar this chance to share her cultural heritage with the world.

The World Largest Book

What is a book? A book is a number of printed sheets of paper fastened together to be read or consists of blank sheets for writing. This is the dictionary meaning of a book in the conventional sense. In a wider context, a book can also be a number of manuscripts on sheets or slabs or plates or tablets of any material — metal, stone, bamboo, wood, clay, bone, horn, etc. In Myanmar, manuscripts on folding paper tablets (parabikas) or palm leaves [Pei-sar] or wooden or stone slabs arranged in serial and pagination order and bound or arranged together are indeed books. It is true of ancient Egyptian papyrus rolls, Sumerian cuneiform clay tablets and ancient Chinese bone or shell inscriptions. Books have existed long before paper and printing press were invented.

On page 109 of the 16th edition of The Guinness Book of World Records, it is stated that in the world’s largest book is The Little Red Elf P.W. Wood which measures 7 feet 2 inches long and 5 feet broad, now kept in a cave in Argyllshire, Scotland. Perhaps it is true for printed paper books.

If you really want to see the world’s largest book and make sure that it does exist, come to Mandalay, the second capital of Myanmar.

In the precinct of Maha Loka Marazein Pagoda situated at the foot of Mandalay Hill, there is a book with 1458 pages of Sagyin marble stone, with two pages on either side of a half foot thick stone leaf, each leaf measuring 5 feet by 3 feet.

They cannot be possibly bound together as they are arranged like a book and set up in a serial and pagination order. If they were put together like a printed book, they would have a marble book 364/2 feet thick — the size of a modern high rise building. You would need to invent a special machine for turning its pages, because with each 2-page leaf weighing 13.9 hundred pound weight, the total weight of this marble book come up to 520 tons.

The two-page, half foot thick leaves are 729 in total number and on these leaves of marble slabs are inscribed Tipitakas or Three Baskets of Buddhism. Sculptures of Minnyaung, Minnyaung, Minnyaung and Minnyaung are inscribed on 111 slabs, the Suttas or Discourses on 410 slabs, and Abhidhamma or Buddhist philosophy on 208 slabs. Each slab is embossed in India in a square brick structure molded on the reliquary of the Sacred Tooth Relic of Buddha in Sri Lanka.

**Those structures housing 729 inscribed slabs surround Maha Loka Marazein Pagoda, in three squares arranged in and pagination order. In the inner most square are 42 edifices, the middle square has 168, and the outer most square has 519.**

The Pagoda and the inscribed stone slabs are among many works of religious merit that the pious King Mindon carried out in and around his capital Mandalay during his reign 1852-1878 A.D. The Pagoda was built in 1857 A.D., on the model of Shwezigone Pagoda in Bagun which was built by King Anawrahta and completed by King Kyansittha some nine centuries ago. Maha Loka Marazein is the official title name in Pali. The people reverently call it “Kuthodaw Gyi” which literally means the Great Merit of the King, referring not only to the Pagoda but also to the inscribed slabs.

Before the making of the “largest book” in stone was begun, the text of the Pali canon or Tipitakas to be inscribed on the slabs was meticulously collated and edited by the most learned monks of the time. The marble was mined in Sagyin hills about 32 miles north-east of Mandalay.

The slabs were brought down to the site on bамboo rafts during the floods of monsoon rain. After the slabs were smoothed, and polished, fifty artists and artisans inscribed the text on the slabs. Each scribe took the whole day to finish inscribing one book. Learned monks supervised the inscribing work, and checked the inscribed pages very carefully.

The work of inscribing the stone slabs, began on 14 October 1860 A.D. and completed on 5 May 1868 A.D. It took 7 years, 6 months and 20 days to make this world’s largest book in stone.

**Maha Suddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt**

**The Marble Book of a Skyscraper’s height**

Myanmar has the tradition of writing on any available material in the country — stone, metal, brick, horn, wood, palm leaves, and paper. Buddhist scriptures, contemporary events, religious devotion, court chronicles, works of the literati, public and personal accounts were preserved on such materials. At ancient Bagan alone, one can say that there are as many lithic inscriptions as there are monuments and pagodas there, for every single edifice there is a stone pillar or slab, set up near it by its donor recording what he or she had dedicated to religion. The Inventory of Archaeological Department lists more than 3000 stone inscriptions on ground.

King Mindon the second last Myanmar king was not satisfied with what he had done so far and being inspired by the example of the model Buddhist King Emperor Asoka, Mindon convened a Buddhist Synod which goes down to history as the Fifth Buddhist Synod. There were four Buddhist Synods held before his time. The first, the second and the third came up in these three years and the fourth in Sri Lanka at which the reviewed and edited canons of Buddhist scriptures and commentaries and sub-commentaries were for the first time recorded in writing on palm leaves.

Before the convening of the Fifth Synod, the examining and editing of all teachings of the Buddha (Tipitakas) on palm leaves were already begun by learned monks. Then the fifth conference took place at his capital in 1871 A.D. lasting for five months. Over 2400 learned monks from at home and abroad participated in reciting the edited Tipitakas orally. The texts of these recited tipitakas were inscribed on 729 marble stone slabs. Tipitakas are of three categories — three treatises of Suttas [Discourses], five treatises of Vinaya [monks’ Disciplines] and seven Treatises of Abhidhamma [Buddhist Philosophy].

The total number of marble stone slabs on which Tipitakas were inscribed amounts to 729 slabs. 410 slabs record Suttas, 111 slabs record Vinaya, and 208 slabs record Abhidhamma. Each marble stone slab measures 5 feet 3 inches high, 3 feet 6 inches wide and 6 inches thick, with two faces/pages of inscriptions. If you bind these 729 inscribed marble stones into book form, you will get a marble stone book of 364 feet and 6 inches thick with 1458 pages.

(See page 9)
Buddha tooth relic and golden shrine handed over

NAY PI TAW, 29 June — A ceremony to hand over Buddha Tooth Relic and a Golden Shrine donated by Buddha Tooth Relic Temple in the People’s Republic of China to be kept at Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay was held at Moegang Dhammayon of the Buddha Image in Mandalay this morning. — MNA

Myanmar and Chinese monks consecrated the Buddha tooth relic and the golden shrine at the ceremony. Next, the Chinese monk of the temple explained purpose of donation and handed over the Buddha tooth relic and the golden shrine to the board of trustees of the Buddha Image.

Then, the board presented Dhamma gifts to the Chinese monks, and Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint and officials offered provisions to members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister Dr Maung Maung Htay presented cash donations to the board.

Then Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and officials offered a day meal to members of the Sangha. — MNA

School buildings handed over at Magway University

Magway, 29 June — Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe attended a ceremony to hand over three three-storey buildings to Magway University held at the university this morning.

It was also attended by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Yang Houlan and Egyptian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hany Riad Moawad, the region ministers, officials and faculty members and students.

Next, Vice-Chairman U Ye Myint of Height Tech Co., Ltd handed over documents related to the three-storey buildings to Magway University Rector Dr Aye Kyaw.

Then, the chief minister attended a ceremony to hand over a two-storey building to Basic Education High School No (4) in Magway held at the school.

U Swedawung Development Co., Ltd Chairman U Aik Tun handed over documents related to the two-storey school building to Magway Region Education Officer Director U Pe Tin who presented him a certificate of honour.

Next, School Head Daw Khin Sann Myint received 24 sets of computer and accessories donated by U Zaw Min and wife Daw Khin Mi Mi and family and presented them a certificate of honour.

Then, the Egyptian Ambassador to Myanmar presented a gift to the school head and the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar eight sets of computer for the school through the school head.

Afterwards, officials concerned formally opened the school building and Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe of Magway Region unveiled a stone plaque of the newly-opened school building.

Kyemon-Tin Tun Oo (Magway IPRD)

Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe visits computer room at Magway BEHS No 4 — MNA

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking marked in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 29 June — A ceremony to commemorate the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held at Seinyadanla hall, here, on 26 June and Deputy Commissioner U Myint Hlaing of the district gave a speech.

Then, Police Lt-Col Kyemon-Tin Tun Oo said, “With the presence of height of the district, we are able to attend today’s ceremony. The drug educative show was held in the presence of the Vice-Chairman of the district and the Minister of the district and members of the district. The drug educative show was held in the presence of the Vice-Chairman of the district and the Minister of the district and members of the district. The drug educative show was held in the presence of the Vice-Chairman of the district and the Minister of the district and members of the district.

Then, Vice-Chairman U Ohn Htay of the district presented cash donations to the board and officials presented awards to 15 primary students, 20 middle school students and 20 high school students in the painting, cartoon, poster and computer painting contests. "

"Holding contests and presenting prizes related to the drugs are opportunities for the students but Myanmar is facing challenges in drug control because of weakness in taking action against crime brokers," said a local people who visited the drug educative show.

Aung Myint Naing of Mohnyin District Police Force read a message sent by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko.

After that, Brig-Gen Thet Lwin, the Principal of Mohnyin Degree College and District-level departmental officials presented awards to 15 primary students, 20 middle school students and 20 high school students in the painting, cartoon, poster and computer painting contests.

The Guinness Book of World Records aware of this largest marble stone Book in Mandalay, Myanmar, they would have revised their previous entry.

The World’s Largest Marble...

Weighing 520 tons [each marble stone slab weighs 13.9 hundred pound weight], a colossal book of a skyscraper’s height.

These 729 inscribed marble stone slabs are arranged like a book and set up in a serial and pagination order in the spacious precinct of Maha Loka Marazein Pagoda which King Mindon built in 1857 A.D to the north-east of his palace city. The precinct is apportioned into three square courtyards.

In the innermost square courtyard are 42 inscribed marble stone slabs, in the middle square courtyard are 168 and the outer most square courtyard has 519. They all surround Maha Loka Marazein Pagoda in the centre. Each inscribed marble stone slab is housed in a brick structure designed on the reliquary of the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha at Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Buddhist clergy and laity alike from far and near, at home and abroad, come to this place to refer to this marble stone book whenever they have points of differences.

The editors of The Guinness Book of World Records aware of this largest marble stone Book in Mandalay, Myanmar, they would have revised their previous entry.

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**LOCAL NEWS**

**Firefighters demonstrate skill in Thabeikkyin**

**Manday, 29 June—**

Head of District Fire Services Department U Tun Tun Soe on 26 June staged a fire drill with the use of Isuzu fire-engine contributed by the Union Government at the playground of Chaungkyi Village in Thabeikkyin Township, PyinOoLwin District.

Chaungkyi Village in Thabeikkyin Township is a model one with 1300 households and one auxiliary fire brigade with 400-gallon-capacity fire engine.

Kymemon-357

**APBLCC (Yangon West District) holds traffic rules course**

**Yangon, 29 June—**

Traffic rules refresher course No.1/2013 for the drivers and bus conductors of All Private Bus Line Control Committee (Yangon West District) was held at the committee head office in Tabinswehti Street, Ward-1, Mayangon Township, here, on 26 June.

The ceremony was attended by head and members of the Committee, drivers and bus conductors and an officer shared knowledge on the matters of accidental processes and controls, and abiding by traffic rules ordered by the APBLCC (Central).

Then, an official of Traffic Police Corps shared knowledge about traffic rules and those presents participated in the discussion.

Kymemon-Zaw Gyi (Panita)

**Farmers educative field at Shweduang research and quality cotton farm**

**Wundwin, 29 June—**

The farmers educative field of pre-monsoon long staple cotton was opened at Shweduang research and quality cotton farm in Wundwin of Meiktila District on 26 June.

In-charge of the farm U Kyaw Hlaing explained production of quality cotton seeds of economic effectiveness, agricultural research works, transfer of good agricultural patterns to farmers and training courses.

It was attended by Head of District Cotton and Sericulture Educational and Technology Development Branch of District Industrial Crops Development Department U Aye Lwin, officials and 102 farmers from five village-tracts of the township.

Staff and farmers observed model cotton plantation that can produce 1000 viss per acre and research farms.

The in-charges of research farms and plant propagation farms replied to queries raised by farmers.

Kymemon-579

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**Myanmar-Japan Legal Research Center to be opened at Yangon University**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 29 June—**

Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye received a Japanese delegation led by the President of the University of Nagoya at his office, here, today.

They discussed signing of an agreement on educational cooperation and an MoU on knowledge exchange between the Department of Law at Yangon University and the University of Nagoya of Japan to open Myanmar-Japan Legal Research Center and making other cooperations depending on both sides’ agreement. —MNA

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**Chinese Sayadaw donates stationery, sports gear in NyaungU**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 29 June—**

Sayadaw and members of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple of People’s Republic of China presented gifts and donated stationery and sports gear to the teachers and students of Yaungkyidaw Basic Education Primary School in Kyao Village, NyaungU Township yesterday.

Then, the Sayadaw delivered an address that donations were aimed at turning out students to become reliable outstanding persons for the State.

MNA

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**Talks on environmental conservation held in Magway**

**Magway, 29 June—**

The Dry Zones Greening Department held an educative talk on environmental conservation to reduce the use of wood-substitute fuel and utilize more natural fertilizers at the department on 26 June.

Deputy Director of Magway Region Dry Zones Greening Department U Pyae Sone Myo and the assistant director talked about “Ways to conserve the environ and why we conserve it”. The staff officer of the department explained the use of natural fertilizers by nurturing micro-organism. At the talks, altogether 20 A1 stoves were distributed through lots to 100 Chaungpyu villagers of Magway Township.

Kymemon-Khin Marlar (Magway)

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**CRIME**

**Action taken against those hoisting State Flag upside down**

**Yangon, 29 June—**

Former Hsukalat Village Administrator Min Hla Oo, 42 hoisted the State Flag at the ceremony to mark the Kayin New Day in the village on 12 January morning but the flag fell off from a half of the flag pole.

Then, Min Hla Oo and U Sein Tha, 53, hoisted the flag again however the State Flag caused upside down. That was why, about 50 villagers of the village led by U San Lwin sent complaints to the office of Kungyangon Township Administrator.

After the township minister had inspected the incident, Kungyangon Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against the two persons over the case on 26 June.

**Police opens file against snatcher in Latha Township**

**Yangon, 29 June—**

Daw Than Than Hsint (a) Ma Oo, 40 of 36th floor at No 74/76 on 17th Street in Ward 1 of Latha Township, Yangon Region, returned home from her textile shop that is opened at 18th street at 9 pm on 27 June.

While she unlocked her room on the 5th floor, a young person stepped up to the above floor after overtaking her and then descended from the room.

Suddenly, the young man snatched the MC gold chain worth K 350,000 from her neck and ran away.

Due to shouting help of Daw Than Than Hsint, some persons from the street and members of police patrol squad arrested the snatcher.

At present, Latha Police Station opened a file of law suit against Thet Paing Oo (a) Thet Paing of Yadana Street in Namhsam Ward in southern Shan State under Section 382 of the Criminal Law and the snatcher is under interrogation.

Kymemon-31
**Loss of large cache of dynamite triggers terror scare in Indonesia**

**Jakarta, 29 June—**
The loss of a large cache of dynamite while being transported to a mining site in Bogor, West Java recently has sparked a terror scare across Indonesia which had been hit by deadly terror attacks in the past.

The Indonesian police have already created a special anti-terror unit called Detachment 88 to trace the case, according to the Regional Public Safety Command "successfully" put an end to the divided Diet by winning the election, official campaign for which will start next Thursday.

The police said the attack undertaken by the leftist rebels was a “punitive action” against the state security forces, which virtually turned the province into a military garrison.

Contrary to government’s claim that the police trainees were disarmed, the police said the NPA seized 14 high powered rifles, 11 M16 and three M14, from them.

Abe eager to end divided Diet at upcoming election

**Tokyo, 29 June—** Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed his resolve Friday to put an end to the divided Diet by winning the election for the opposition-controlled upper house next month.

“I will end the twisted relations between the two chambers of parliament at any cost,” he said during a debate with leaders of other parties on a live streaming website ahead of the 21 July election, official campaigning for which will start next Thursday.

The House of Councilors election will be the first national contest since Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party returned to power in last December’s general election, in which it ousted the Democratic Party of Japan.—Kyodo News

Japan to end blanket mad cow disease tests for domestic cattle

**Tokyo, 29 June—** Japan will end blanket mad cow disease tests for domestic cattle on Sunday, 12 years after such tests started in October 2001 just after its first mad cow disease case was found, the government said on Friday.

Blanket tests “had been significant for removing the people’s insecurity,” health minister Norihisa Tamura told a press conference. “As Japan has become one of the safest countries, such tests are no longer necessary.”

The World Organization for Animal Health recognized Japan in May as having the lowest risk of mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

Leftist rebels claim responsibility on attack against cops in N Philippines

**Manila, 29 June—** The leftist New People’s Army (NPA) claimed on Friday responsibility on the ambush of police trainees in northern Philippine province of Mountain Province resulting to the death of one trainee and wounding of eight others.

The special unit is now conducting an intensive investigation on the case, assisted by police from national police headquarters, West Java, and Jakarta regional headquarters. Some 12 witnesses have already been interrogated on the missing cache of explosive materials. Indonesian police spokesman Boy Rafly Amar said that they are not underestimating the possible implication of the incident: “There should be no chance for those dynamites to fall into the hands of irresponsible persons,” Boy said in police headquarters here on Friday.

Based on the preliminary findings, there has been no indication yet of terrorist involvement in the case, the police said. Some 250 sticks of dynamites were found missing while being transported to the mining site of PT Batusara Perusahaan Bumi, West Java. The loss of the dynamites was discovered on Thursday morning when workers of the mining firm unloaded the explosive cargoes from a truck in the site located in Rengas Jajar village, Cigudeg, Bogor regency, West Java.

The workers found that canvas sheet covering the explosive boxes has been ripped off and later found out that two boxes weighing 50 kilograms that contained 250 sticks of dynamite were missing.

Those missing dynamites were part of explosives transported Wednesday by four trucks to the mining site from the warehouse of a supplier firm PT Multi Nitrotama Kimia in Subang, West Java. The trucks were reported to have made a stopover in Marunda, North Jakarta early Thursday morning.

The trucks were loaded with a total of 30,000 kilograms of ammonium nitrate, 2,000 kilograms of dynamites and 4,000 units of electric detonators.

While the investigation is still ongoing, the police have beefed up security in several areas that include the presidential palace here, the president’s private residence in Cikacas, and the presidential retreat in Cipanas, Bogor West Java.

The police also stepped up the inspection of vehicles at their checkpoints in various parts of the country.

37th Session of World Heritage Committee ends successfully in Cambodia

**Siem Reap, (Cambodia), 29 June—** The 37th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee came to an end successfully on Thursday after 11 days in action.

Addressing the closing ceremony held in the tourism city of Siem Reap Province on Thursday night, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Sok An, chairman of the session, expressed the country’s pride to host such an important meeting.

“During the session, our work was intense, constructive, inspiring and enriching in the spirit of solidarity, cooperation and tolerance,” Sok An said at the event which was attended by delegates of the 21-member World Heritage Committee.

“How it comes to an end successfully,” he also congratulated Qatar for hosting the 38th Session of the World Heritage Committee next year.

Alessandra Cummins, President of the Executive Board of UNESCO, lauded Cambodia for successfully hosting the event.

“From this session, it is evident that Cambodia will continue to play a vital role in advancing the mandate of the organization in the area of cultural heritage,” she said.—Xinhua

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Abe eager to end divided Diet at upcoming election

**Tokyo, 29 June—** Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed his resolve Friday to put an end to the divided Diet by winning the election for the opposition-controlled upper house next month.

“I will end the twisted relations between the two chambers of parliament at any cost,” he said during a debate with leaders of other parties on a live streaming website ahead of the 21 July election, official campaigning for which will start next Thursday.

The House of Councilors election will be the first national contest since Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party returned to power in last December’s general election, in which it ousted the Democratic Party of Japan.—Kyodo News

Japan to end blanket mad cow disease tests for domestic cattle

**Tokyo, 29 June—** Japan will end blanket mad cow disease tests for domestic cattle on Sunday, 12 years after such tests started in October 2001 just after its first mad cow disease case was found, the government said on Friday.

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Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe holds a news conference in Belfast on 18 June, 2013, after the closing of the Group of Eight nations summit at the Lough Erne golf resort near Enniskillen in Northern Ireland.—Kyodo News

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**Mastiff attacks spark debate on urban dog control**

**BEIJING, 29 June**—The death of a 6-year-old girl from a dog bite on the neck has set off another national debate about dogs, especially large breeds living in densely populated areas.

The girl from Dalian, Liaoning Province, was bitten by a large breed dog in a densely populated area of the city. The girl’s mother immediately took her to the hospital, but she died shortly thereafter.

In recent years, dog attacks have become a nationwide concern. In March, a 13-year-old girl in Yuncheng, Shanxi Province, was bitten by another dog of this breed. The girl struggled to get away but failed. She then drove her electric bike onto the road and was hit by a passing car.

On 3 June, an 8-year-old girl in Yuncheng, Shanxi Province, was bitten by a large dog of this breed. The girl’s owner is at risk,” said Feng Liuyu, the village’s youth branch head.

In the city of Beijing, where the girl was bitten, a series of dog attacks have recently occurred. In May, a large dog attack occurred on the head of a pedestrian, resulting in serious injuries.

The Beijing police have started a citywide crackdown on dogs, especially large breeds living in densely populated areas. The city has a total of 35 cm or taller or those identified as violent, including bulldogs and collies, will be banned in certain areas, including six key regions (Dongcheng, Xicheng, Chaoyang, Haidian, Fengtai and Shijingshan districts), as well as some rural regions that are densely populated.——Xinhua

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**Elderly village official vows to continue service**

**SIHUAZHANG, 29 June**—Sun Xiulan, 84, said she will continue to serve her fellow villagers as long as she can walk and remains clear-headed.

“I still grow crops by myself and can eat two bowls of dumplings in one sitting. I can still ride a bike,” Sun said, trying to dispel doubts as to whether she has enough energy to do her job.

She is currently working to encourage local entrepreneurs to start businesses in the village. We have a population of 1,800 people. It has little irritable land and most of its farmers depend on the weather for a good harvest. Poverty has made it difficult for young men in the village to find wives and young women prefer to marry men from other locales.

“There are only four old wells in the village. We have little water to irrigate our land,” said local resident Sun Changtai.

Sun Xiulan made great efforts to persuade the villagers to pool their money to pay for four motor-pumped wells. The wells have turned dry land into irrigable land and helped to boost wheat and corn output significantly.

To link the village to the outside world, Sun spared no effort in raising funds to build roads leading to the village. In 2006, the village was able to recognize various proposals.

—Xinhua
He will be back: ‘Terminator’ film franchise gets trilogy reboot

Los Angeles, 29 June—The popular “Terminator” film franchise will be resurrected in a new stand-alone trilogy, with the first installment slated to open in theaters on 26 June, 2015, Hollywood studio Paramount Pictures said on Thursday.

The “Terminator” franchise about an assassin cyborg portrayed by Arnold Schwarzenegger has grossed more than $1 billion over three films since it debuted in 1984. It is unknown if Schwarzenegger, 65, will reprise his most famous role. A fourth film in the franchise, “Terminator Salvation,” was released in 2009 without the former body builder, who was the governor of California at the time.

The 2015 film will be produced by Annapurna Pictures, which also produced 2013’s Oscar nominee “Zero Dark Thirty,” and Skydance Productions. Paramount is a subsidiary of Viacom Inc.

Stevie Wonder to sing for blind treaty negotiators

Geneva, 29 June—US singer Stevie Wonder will give a concert in Marrakesh on Friday, honouring his promise to perform if negotiators concluded an international treaty boosting access to books for blind and visually impaired people worldwide.

The “Isn’t She Lovely” star, who has been sightless since birth, lobbied hard for the pact approved on Thursday by more than 600 negotiators from 186 states, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) said in a statement.

“This is a legacy, a gift to future generations. So let’s finalize a new agreement that opens doors to the world’s written treasures and moves towards a future where there are no barriers to the expansion of knowledge and enjoyment of culture,” Wonder, said in a recorded video sent to the meeting this week.

“Let’s get this signed, sealed, delivered, and I’m yours,” he said, borrowing a verse from one of his hit songs, “Do this and I will come to Marrakesh and we will celebrate together.”

The Wonder concert at the Palais des Congres, limited to participants of the diplomatic conference, is set for 2000 GMT on Friday.

The treaty aims to overcome copyright issues that have been barriers to improving access to published works in accessible formats that make it easier for the disabled to use, WIPO said.

It requires ratifying countries to adopt laws which will permit the reproduction and distribution of published works in formats such as Braille, large print text and audio books.

The pact, to be known as the “Marrakesh Treaty”, enters into force when 20 member states of the UN agency ratify by 2015.

Paris Hilton’s wardrobe shocks Emma Watson

Los Angeles, 29 June—Harry Potter actress Emma Watson was shocked to see socialite Paris Hilton’s overflowing closet. The 23-year-old star was invited to visit Hilton’s mansion while shooting for her new movie The Bling Ring and says her own wardrobe is relatively much smaller than what she saw.

“She (Paris) could never wear all of those clothes and half of them were brand new and still had the price tag on. But I suppose she just bought them to have them. We’ve all bought things on impulse, but that’s an entirely different thing,” dailystar.co.uk quoted Watson as saying. “I’ve got about eight pairs of shoes and that’s it,” she added.

Katie Holmes to throw divorce party?

Los Angeles, 29 June—Actress Katie Holmes, who split from actor Tom Cruise last year, is reportedly planning to celebrate a year of freedom this week with her friends in New York.

An insider said the mood of the bash with her closest friends will be “enjoyable and emotional, with Holmes wanting to thank them for their support throughout a momentous year”, reports thesun.co.uk. According to a source, the 34-year-old has no plans to start dating again.

“She’s lying low on the romantic side of things. She doesn’t need that right now. Her focus is on Suri (her daughter).”
**SPORTS**

**Hull sign Egypt winger Elmohamady on permanent deal**

**LOD Non, 29 June—** Premier League newcomers Hull City have signed Egypt international winger Ahmed Elmohamady from Sunderland for an undisclosed fee, making 41 appearances and scoring three goals as they secured a return to the top-flight.

The move reunites the 28-year-old with manager Steve Bruce, who signed Elmohamady in 2010 when he was in charge of Sunderland. “It feels great to be here permanently, especially after what happened here last season,” Elmohamady told the club’s official website (www.hullcityafc.net). “It’s going to be great to play in the Premier League again, especially with Hull City, and I am very much looking forward to the new season.”—Reuters

**Franklin clinches fourth title at nationals**

LOS ANGELES, 29 June—Olympic champion Missy Franklin clinched her fourth title when she swam the fastest time of the year to win the women’s 100 meters backstroke at the US National Championships on Friday.

The Indiana meeting is doubling as trials for the world championships in Barcelona from 28 to 4 July August.

Franklin, who came from behind at the turn to beat Elizabeth Pelton in 58.67 seconds, had already beat Elizabeth Pelton in the 200 freestyle, the 200 backstroke and earned a place in the 100 and 4x200 freestyle relay squads.

“I think the whole field was right there at the 50,” Franklin said after she

**Serena faces Date with destiny on the line**

LONDON, 29 June—Ki-niko Date-Krumm origi-nally retired two years before Serena Williams, her third round opponent at Wimbledon, set foot on the All England Club’s lush lawns for the first time.

Williams, bidding for a sixth Wimbledon title, is considered a veteran of the sport herself at 31, but she is no match in age for the 42-year-old Japanese, who is the oldest female player to reach this stage of the tournament in the profes-

The pair have surpris-

**Dortmund stronger despite Goetze departure, says Kehl**

BERLIN, 29 June— Champions League and Bundesliga runners-up Borussia Dortmund will emerge as an even stronger force next season despite the departure of talented midfielder Mario Goetz-

“T e h e r e’s a very long way to go. We will certainly not be worse than last year. I believe that we will be even better.”

Despite having plenty of cash to spend following their run to the Champions League final and the reve-

“The main goal is to be first in the development of the young players so that we finished today,” Park told reporters after ending a wildly fluctuating day of weather conditions with a 77.—Reuters

**Korean Park moves two ahead at US Women’s Open**

NEW YORK, 29 June—South Korea’s Park Inbee moved a step closer to her third major victory this year when she seized a two-shot lead in the weather-

interrupted second round of the US Women’s Open in Southampton, New York on Friday.

Shortly before play was suspended for the day as thick fog enveloped the challenging Sebonack Country Club layout, the in-form Park rolled in a 12-foot birdie putt on the 18th green to complete a four-under-

par 68.

That left the Korean world number one at nine-under 135, two ahead of compatriot Kim In-kyung, who had played well for a 69 earlier in the day despite gusting winds and several tough pin positions.

“We got very lucky that we finished today,” Park told reporters after ending a wildly fluctuating day of weather conditions with a haul of six birds and two bogeys. “I played very good golf today. “I gave myself a lot of good opportunities, a very good ball-striking day. The long putts seemed to be going well today. I left a couple out (of birdie putts) there, but I am very satisfied with today’s score.”

American Lizette Salas was at four under after shooting an even 72, level with Eng-

land’s Jodi Ewart Shadoff, who was two under for the round...
Ceremony welcomes relics’ return to China

BEIJING, 29 June—Two imperial bronze sculptures that were looted from Beijing’s Yuanmingyuan Garden in 1860, are handed over to the National Museum of China during a donation ceremony held on Friday.

The sculptures of a rabbit head and a rat head were handed over to the museum and exhibited soon, Li Xiaojie, director of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, said at the ceremony.

Vice-Premier Liu Yongdong and Francois Pinault, a French collector and businessman who donated the sculptures, unveiled the gifts at the ceremony, and an honorary donation certificate was presented to Pinault by Cai Wu, China’s minister of culture.

Francois-Henri Pinault, Francois’ son who spoke on behalf of the family at the ceremony, said he expressed the idea of helping the two sculptures return to their home when he met President Xi Jinping in Beijing in April.

He said: “I believe the donation is a testament to the deep friendship between our two countries.”

“The two pieces are part of China’s history and cultural heritage. We deeply understand that art sometimes has richer symbolic meaning, just like Victor Hugo described in his letter about the garden.”

Hugo criticized the looters of Yuanmingyuan, or the Old Summer Palace, in his Expedition de Chine after British and French ex-peditionary forces invaded the garden in 1860 during the Second Opium War.

“We believe when the two pieces are exhibited in the National Museum, they will tell their own story to audiences from different cultures and inspire them. Then our goal will be realized,” Francois-Henri Pinault added.

Xinhua

Murray hits form to blast Robredo off court

LONDON, 29 June—The sweet spot of Andy Murray’s racket was put through its paces as he signed off his first week at Wimbledon by stylishly dispatching Spain’s Tommy Robredo in straight sets on Friday.

Coming through the first three rounds unscathed would not usually bring cheer to a player who has reached the final in his last three majors but Murray could be forgiven for giving himself a pat on the back this time around.

He has managed to navigate the rough seas that have shipwrecked a fleet of top seeds and can now look forward to calmer waters after a 6-2, 6-4, 7-5 win over 29th ranked Robredo.

As if the hopes of a nation looking for a British man to end a 77-year barren run at Wimbledon were not enough of a millstone for Murray to carry, there is now the added weight of him being expected to at least reach the final.

“I think there’s a lot more pressure on me now with them being out,” he said. “There are papers in the locker room, so you see some of the headlines. It’s not that helpful. You need to be professional enough to not let that stuff bother you and just concentrate on each match.”

The home fans’ hopes, however, are built on the solid foundation of recent results.

Murray has been among the most consistent performers at the grand slams, only failing to reach the semi-finals once since the US Open in 2010. Added to that record, is the fact that he has moved slickly past three opponents without dropping a set.
Engaging Parliamentarians in the Anti-Corruption Agenda held

NAV Pyt Taw, 29 June—A regular press meet between the cabinet members of the Union Government and local and foreign media was held at the assembly hall of the Ministry of Industry, here, this afternoon.

It was attended by Union ministers U Soe Thane, U Khin Yi and U Hlay Aung and Deputy Ministers U Ye Hlut and Dr Pwint Hsan.

Firstly, Union Minister U Soe Thane explained facts about the latest development in the county. The meeting came to an end in the evening after the Union ministers and the deputy ministers replied to the queries raised by those present.

After the meeting, some local and foreign media interviewed Union Minister U Soe Thane about Myanmar’s media world and the important role of media in nation-building endeavors.

Ko Aung Thura from 7 Day News Journal

It can be said that Myanmar sees media development in the time of the ruling government if it has media freedom. In the past, we had to attend media course in Thailand stealthily. We felt calm only when we arrived back home. Now, the country sees media freedom unexpectedly. Due to it, we have to face capacity problems in some parts. And we are unable to catch up these progresses. Now, conflict sensitive reporting is much better than before. It can be seen that reporting on Rakhine issue is one-sided if compared with that of Meiktila conflicts. We see more progress in reporting on Meiktila conflict. In some cases, press meet will be held twice a month. But it is over two months. Press meet should be held occasionally. I think that it will be quicker when spokespersons from the ministries explain their respective matters.

My personal assumption is that respective ministries’ clarifications at Hluttaw should be distributed not only to Hluttaw Department but also to the media. It takes too much time to listen to voice files again. And it is difficult to get accurate information.

I think that we can cover more exact news when getting these replies. Only then, there will be controls as along as the capacity becomes high. Needless to worry about it. U Htin Lin (Nay Pyi Taw In charge) from the Voice Journal

I assumed that it needs to designate a specific time period for press meet though it is a frequent meeting. On the recent day, it is said the media would give their comments on the news. It is due to freedom of expression. So, no need to worry about it. The government gives freedom to media and green light to opening of media courses. Only then, there will be controls as along as the capacity becomes high. Needless to worry about it.

U Htin Lin has also said that point before. Such meeting should be attended instead of giving training to the spokespersons. Real-time information should be released.

Union Minister U Soe Thane says “I have a chance to answer questions they wanted to know and to say I wanted to tell them by meeting with media persons frequently. Their participation is strength for the country’s reform process. News coverage and reporting of media persons are very good at present time. I would like to urge them not to follow unreliable source and not to make personal attack. They will be sued over wrong message. Constructive criticisms can be made to develop the nation and to build a democracy. If so, it will be okay.

It is not good to attack someone else’s politics. Instead of making personal attack or accusation against someone, it would be better pointing out the weaknesses based on accurate information. Democracy allows criticizing someone and analyzing something. People are free to express their opinion. Doing like so long. It is convenient for some questions. Now, our country sees so many changes and faces a number of problems. It needs to know whom we have to contact and ask. No more than five or six ministers

The President encourages media. Hecalled on ministries to meet media. Meeting with all groups is better than a meeting between an individual or a group and media. Today’s meeting saw many questions and answers that made those present known. If so, media friendly can be realized. It is required to use this way to ensure national development. The onus is on all of us for development of the country. It is not necessary to designate a specific time period for press meet though it is frequent meeting. On the recent day, it is said the media would give their comments on the news. It is due to freedom of expression. So, no need to worry about it. The government gives freedom to media and green light to opening of media courses. Only then, there will be controls as along as the capacity becomes high. Needless to worry about it.