No environmentally and socially harmful projects to be allowed in Dawei SEZ

YANGON, 27 July — A press meet on implementation of Dawei Special Economic Zone and its related projects took place at Small- and Medium-Scale Enterprise Development Centre on University Avenue, here, at 1 pm today.

It was attended by Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint and deputy ministers for Transport, National Planning and Economic Development and Finance, Chairman of Dawei SEZ Management Committee Thura U Thaung Lwin and ministers of Yangon Region Government.

First, Chairman of the Central Working Committee for Implementation of Dawei SEZ Union Minister U Aye Myint elaborated on work progress, saying that Myanmar and Thailand signed an MoU on implementation of Dawei Special Economic Zone and its related projects on 19 May 2008 in Singapore; the Myanmar Port Authority and Italian-Thai Company of Thailand inked an MoU to implement the project on 12 June 2008; and that implementation of the project started after signing a framework agreement on 2 November 2010.

In order to ensure effective implementation of Dawei Special Economic Zone and related projects, a high-ranking committee chaired by Vice-President U Nyan Tun was formed on Myanmar side, he added.

He continued that the project had been postponed as Italian-Thai Company could not seek investors to finance the large investment project in time; that an invitation letter with signatures of the ministers of Myanmar and Thailand was sent to the Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister on 24 April 2013, inviting Japan to be a strategic partnership in implementing the project; that the project will be implemented step-by-step on an area of 44.850 acres; that no projects that may harmful to the environment and local people would be allowed; that investors who are willing to invest in respective sectors would be selected under international tender system; and that Dawei SEZ management committee would be responsible to choose investors and developers.

Next, Deputy Minister U Set Aung explained the purpose of formation of SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle), its functions and coordination matters and choosing Thailand while seeking partner countries for establishment of SPV.

Then, the Chairman of Dawei SEZ Management Committee gave an account of economic potentials that could be brought about by implementation of Dawei SEZ as Daweiregion serves as southern economic corridor of the Greater Mekong Subregion.

Afterwards, officials concerned replied queries raised by media persons.

---MNA

Ocean Supermarket in Mawlamyine to be completed in 2015

Ocean Supermarket decorated with modern designs is scheduled to open in Mawlamyine of Mon State in 2015. The supermarket with foodstuff, personal and household goods, furniture, electrical equipments, mobile, internet, fashion and sports wears shops, bakery, Café, restaurants, play ground and mini cinema, will be built on three acres of land on Upper Road in Thanlwin Park in Bogone ward of Mawlamyine. Mawlamyine is situated in the strategic location of Mon State.

The two-storey building measuring 350 ft long X 250 ft wide will be built by City Mart Holdings Co, Ltd at a cost of over K 3000 million. The building is designed by Thai architect and takes one year and four months.

“Some local people remonstrated about it as the site chosen for construction of the supermarket is in the park. We asked for local people’s desires in accord with the people-centered approach system. We implement it as the majority of them agreed on it. Thanlwin Park has nearly 40 acres of land. But, construction is not allowed on either sides of Bogyoke Aung San Statue. It is three acres of land on the edge of the Park,” said Dr Toe Toe Aung, Mon State Development Affairs Minister.

The construction will start at the end of this rainy season. Upon completion, it can create job opportunities for 500-600 local people. The opening of supermarket is to be accord with Mon State Development Affairs Law. Upon completion, the construction company has to hand over it to the Development Affairs Committee.

The building will be rent for 20 years: K 3 million per month for first five years, K 4.5 million per month for second five years and current prices for the remaining ten years.

After 20 years, other companies including City Mart Holdings Co, Ltd will be rent through tender system.

Byline and Photo: Ko Thet (Bothtaung)
**Air Bagan, Htoo Foundation grow trees in Hlawga watershed area**

*YANGON, 27 July —* As a drive to give a helping hand in environmental conservation task, Air Bagan and Htoo Foundation jointly organized a monsoon tree growing ceremony at Hlawga watershed area on 20 July.

**Staff members of Air Bagan and Htoo Foundation led by Chairman of Htoo Foundation U Kyaw Thida, Chairman of Air Bagan U Htoo Thet Htwe and Air Bagan Managing Director U Thein Zaw totaling 150 put 1620 saplings of perennial plants on a three-acre plot. Air Bagan in cooperation with Htoo Foundation is paying voluntary contributions into social works, educative campaigns, environmental conservation task and health care services, it is learnt. — Kyemon

**Rural region electrification through solar power in Ayeyawady Region**

*MINHLA, 27 July —* With the use of funds of Rural Region Development Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs, Myanmar Solar Power Co., Ltd carried out rural region electrification process in Ayeyawady Region recently. Solar panels had been installed at 2035 houses in villages of Kyaungon, Lemyathnar, Thabaung, Yekyi and Kyangin Townships. Kyemon-Pya Pya Khaing

**Man fatally struck by express train in Thegon**

*THEGON, 27 July —* A man was fatally struck by an express train on 14 July at a place between mile post Nos (136/14) and (136/15) on Yangon-Pyay railroad near Linthe Village in Padigon station in Thegon Township in Bago Region.

Police said that they were informed that the victim was hit around 8 am on that day by Bagan express train en route to Pyay from Yangon. He was found dead losing his two legs in the incident. The man was identified by police U Aye Theik, 48, of Thegyawgyi Village in Linle village-tract in the township. According to witnesses, he was a drunkard and he was knocked down by the train on his way to home. Kyemon-Ko Lwin (Swa)

**Crash involved three vehicles on Yangon-Pyay road**

*LETPADAN, 27 July —* A road crash involved three vehicles occurred at a place between mile post Nos (88/1) and (88/2) on Yangon-Pyay road in Letpadan Township on 15 July, police said. Aung Pyaeason passenger bus en route to Yangon from Pyay veered off its lane after hitting a stationary car, Probox, with its rear part and partially collided with a light truck driving on the opposite lane. No one is injured in the road accident.

Letpadan Township police station opened a file but no information was immediately available about the charge over the traffic rule violator. Kyemon-Ko Lwin (Swa)

**Human error-related car accident kills one, hurt 16 in Minhla Township**

*MINHLA, 27 July —* A rollover crash happened to a TE truck near mile post No (39/4), Zeedaw village, on Minhla-Thayet motorway in Magway Region. It was learnt that thirty passengers on board the truck were farmers from Kan village in Minhla Township of Magway Region and the incident occurred on their way to home after drawing loans from Minhla Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Bank.

The truck driven by Zaw Giyi, 35, of Kan village plunged off the road and overturned. Drowsiness while driving was blamed for the fatal accident occurred at about 2 pm on 17 July. U Thein Pyin, 54, among passengers, was pronounced dead on the spot and 16 others injured. The victims were taken to Minhla hospital.

Minhla police station charged Zaw Giyi over reckless driving. Kyemon-Ko Ko Yupa

**S/Okkalapa mom gives birth to triplets**

*YANGON, 27 July —* A set of healthy triplets given birth by Daw Khin Marlar, wife of U Aung Than Zaw of South Okkalapa Township, are one baby boy and two baby girls.

The chairperson of Yangon East District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and party visited their house on 18th street (Kaw) in ward-7 in South Okkalapa Township on 25 July and presented cash assistance, packets of milk powder and medicines for the mother and newborn babies who are in good health. Kyemon-63

**YCDC puts more garbage collection trucks into its sanitation fleet**

*YANGON, 27 July —* With the aim of enhancing its garbage collection system in Yangon, 38 more garbage collectors, two road washing truck and two road cleaning vacuum trucks were added to a fleet of vehicles used in sanitation works by Yangon City Development Commission recently.

According to an official of YCDC, a purchase of new garbage collection trucks would be put into service in respective townships in the near future.

Myanmar will host the 27th SEA Games soon and 2014 ASEAN Summit and related meetings in Nay Pyi Taw. Yangon and Mandalay in the not too distant future. According to an official of YCDC, a purchase of new vehicles was made to upgrade Yangon’s garbage collection system as Yangon, commercial city of the country, needs to be green and clean like other world cities and pleasant to foreign visitors.

The newly-arrived 38 Compactor Garbage Truck Real Bins are made in USA. They are user-friendly and old bins can be fixed to the new hydraulically operated garbage collection trucks. Moreover, they can thereby contribute towards smooth and speedy garbage collection in Yangon, without harming occupational health of cleaners. Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Department added that two road washing trucks and two road cleaning vacuum trucks would be very useful for cleaning of downtown roads and incinerators to be built in Dagon Myothit (North) and Hlinethaya Townships under the cooperation program between YCDC and Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA. Kyemon-Saw Thein Win

**Disabled man catches alight and dies in fire negligence**

*KATHA, 27 July —* A disabled man had caught alight in a fire occurred at about 3.45 am on 24 July at Pyithaya Village in Katha Township of Katha District in Sagaing Region.

Police said they were informed of an outbreak of fire at the house of Ko Kyaw Lin Hua in the village and rushed there. They found U Myint Win, brother-in-law of the house owner, was dead sustaining severe burns that led to his death in an upstairs room.

The fire is believed to have started from a lighted cigar that had set the blanket, mosquito net and bed. The fire then swept through the whole house which was reduced to ashes. The victim who is disabled was trapped and killed in the blaze. It was learnt that he was very drunk at the time when the fire broke out. Kyemon-Katha IPPRD

**Photo News**

Recent photo shows residents of Ward-1 (Annex) in Dagon Myothit (East) Township wading into knee-deep flood water from Ngamoeyik creek triggered by torrential rains on 23 and 24 July. Kyemon-Maung Thynnaya
S Korea urges N Korea to scrap nuclear weapons programme

SEOUL, 27 July — South Korean President Park Geun Hye on Saturday urged North Korea to scrap its nuclear weapons programme while expressing her readiness to increase exchanges and cooperation if the North "makes the right choice."

"I urge North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons development programme while seeking new exchanges and cooperation if the North "makes the right choice."

Park said in a speech at a ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of the signing of the armistice agreement that halted the three-year Korean War.

If North Korea makes the right choice, Park said, South Korea is "willing to expand exchanges and cooperation with the North and seek ways to ensure co-prosperity of the two Koreas."

She said South Korea "will do its utmost to have North Korea stop its military provocations and be a responsible member of the international community." Relations between the two Koreas became further strained this week after the sixth round of working-level talks on reopening the industrial zone, which has remained shuttered for about three months ended without a breakthrough. —Kyodo News

Death toll of Egypt’s clashes rises to 139

CAIRO, 27 July — Death toll of clashes erupted late Friday between supporters and opponents of Egypt’s ousted president Mohamed Morsi has climbed to at least 139 on Saturday, the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) and local media said.

At least 120 people were killed and more than 4,500 others wounded, most of them suffered gunshot wounds in confrontations between pro- Morsi protesters and security forces in the Naser street, near in Nasr City’s Rabaa al-Adaweya mosque, the MB said in a statement posted on its official website Saturday.

The statement quoted Hisham Ibrahim, the hospital field’s manager in al-Adaweya mosque, as saying that most of the cases were shot in the head, neck and chest by snipers, and they were facing a “shortage in medical facilities due to the heavy casualties.”

The forces started to shoot at the pro-Morsi sit-ins at 2 a.m. local time (GMT 0000), to disperse the crowds after the later erected tents around the Memorial in Naser street, which is a military site, a Xinhua correspondent at scene said.

The hospital field’s equipment is too poor to treat the severe wounded cases, eyewitnesses said, noting an 11-year-old boy was shot dead in his neck.

While snipers shot the roof of the nearby Azhar university were shooting, the protesters responded with stones, he added.

On Friday, clashes erupted between supporters and opponents of Morsi in Alexandria and local media said at least 19 people dead, according to state-run news agency MENA.

Gov’t to weigh options for sales tax hike

Tokyo, 27 July— The government is considering assessing the economic impact of several options before deciding whether to carry through the sales tax hike in April as planned, including some that would change the timing or size of the contentious increase, government sources said on Saturday.

The options will likely include the idea of gradually raising the 5 percent tax rate by 1 percent each time, against the plan under a law enacted in August last year to raise it to 8 percent next April and then to 10 percent in October 2015.

The Council on Fiscal and Economic Policy is expected to invite experts to discuss the matter before Prime Minister Shinzo Abe decides on the tax hike in the fall, they said.

An injured supporter of the deposed Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi receives medical treatment in a makeshift hospital after clashes with riot policemen in Cairo, Egypt, early on July 27, 2013. The death toll of clashes erupting late Friday between supporters and opponents of Mohamed Morsi climbed to at least 139 on Saturday, and over 5,200 people were injured across the country, Muslim Brotherhood officials and media source said.—Xinhua

S Kor...
Buddhists seek refuge in what are known as the Three Jewels: the Buddha, the Dhamma (the Buddhist teachings) and the Sangha (the community of monks). Each person must seek his own salvation, take responsibility for his own thoughts, words and deeds and not be reliant on a saviour, because the Buddha only showed the path to salvation. Buddhism has evolved into three schools: Theravada (which predominates in Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Sri Lanka), Mahayana (which predominates in North Asia) and Vajrayana (which predominates in Tibet and other parts of Himalayas as well as Mongolia).

The goal of the Theravada devotee is to seek his own salvation by study and understanding the canon, by practicing mindfulness and meditation and through these endeavours to achieve the freedom of Nirvana so as not to be reborn into the cycle of life. The Buddha

The great teacher

Buddha Gautama was born more than 2600 years ago as Siddhartha, an Indian Prince who lived a life of luxury until he was twenty-nine. He then became aware of the miseries of mankind and renounced his throne and family to set forth on his search for the Truth that would free mankind from suffering. He found it after six years of meditation and his principles, based on the discovery of how to lead a harmonious life, are collectively called Buddhism. He passed away at the age of eighty.

Theravada

The teaching of the Buddha stress the need to eradicate the three roots of evil that are the causes of suffering: Lobha (greed, craving) dosa (anger, hatred) and moha (ignorance, delusion).

Morality is the basis of the Buddha teachings and the Eightfold Path also know as the middle Way teaches adherents to avoid these three roots of evil and to live a moral life.

The elements of the Eightfold Path are:

1. Right Understanding: having insightful knowledge of the Dhamma.
2. Right Thought: Banishing thoughts free from Lust, ill-will and cruelty and cultivating thoughts of loving-kindness, compassion, non-hatred and equanimity towards all living beings.
3. Right Speech: abstaining from uttering false words and language that is slanderous, rude, harsh and abusive as well as idle, frivolous gossip.
4. Right Action: conduct that is moral, honourable and not harmful to others.
5. Right Livelihood: avoiding a living that is harmful to others.
6. Right Effort: to be diligent in the avoidance of evil by thought, word and deed.
7. Right Mindfulness: to be consciously aware of all the activities of mind and body.
8. Right Concentration: meditating to prevent violent emotions from arising.

The Sangha

Members of the Sangha, or community of monks, study the Buddhist canon, propagate the Buddha’s teachings and live according to the 227 rules of monastic restraint, which include eating only food that is offered to them. Theravada Buddhist monks are not required to be vegetarians, as the rule is to accept any food offered to them. Meditation

There are two methods of practicing meditation. One is Vipassanna, a system aimed at developing conscious awareness so that one may be keenly aware of emotions such as anger, pain, hurt, jealousy, and greed at the onset of their arising and thus be able to control them: in a world where you cannot control fate, at least you can control how you respond to it. The other meditation method is Thama Hta, practiced by those who seek to attain supernatural powers and who, after obtaining enough practice in concentration, move on to Vipassana meditation.

There are many meditation centres in Yangon. Those which offer instruction in English include the International Meditation Centre on Inya Myaing Road and the Pandita Rama Centre on Than Lwin Road, which has a website (http://web.altonline.co.uk/buddhism/pan-dita.html) through which one can apply to attend.
**New Light of Myanmar**

**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**GM fires several employees after probe into Tavera recall**

DETROIT, 27 July—General Motors Co (GM.N) fired several employees after an internal probe into a recent recall of its Chevrolet Tavera sport-utility vehicle in India uncovered “violations of company policy,” the US automaker said on Friday.

“We take these matters very seriously and hold our leaders and employees to high standards,” GM said in a statement. “When those standards are not met, we will take the appropriate action to hold employees accountable.”

GM declined to provide more details.

**Transplants may benefit obese kidney patients**

NEW YORK, 27 July—After kidney transplants, the risk of death over the next year falls just as much among obese kidney failure patients as it does for thinner people, says a new study.

Researchers found that the risk of an obese person dying during the year after a kidney transplant dropped by about 66 percent, compared to obese people who remained on dialysis. That’s equal to the benefit thinner people get from a transplant.

“This is a zero sum game between BP and Halliburton, particularly when it underscores (Halliburton’s) argument that it undercuts (Halliburton’s) case,” said Dr. John Gill, the study’s senior author from the University of British Columbia and St. Paul’s Hospital in Vancouver, Canada.

The researchers wrote in the American Journal of Transplantation that kidney transplantation is the preferred treatment for people with end-stage kidney disease. Compared to dialysis, an arduous process for removing waste from a patient’s blood, transplants are tied to a lower risk of death and a better quality of life.

But past research has found that obese people with kidney failure do better on dialysis than thinner people, and that they’re more likely to die following organ transplants — both issues that would alter the risk-benefit calculation for the decision to do a kidney transplant in those patients.

For men and women, body mass index (BMI) — a measure of weight relative to height — of 30 and above is considered obese by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**FAA proposes 2.75 million dollar civil penalty against Boeing**

CHICAGO, 27 July—The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is proposing a 2.75-million-US dollar civil penalty against Boeing Co’s commercial aircrafts unit for allegedly failing to maintain its quality control system in accordance with approved FAA procedures, according to a file released on Friday by the Administration.

The FAA says that in September 2008, Boeing discovered it had been installing nonconforming fasteners on its model 777 airplanes. The FAA sent a letter of investigation into the issue the next month.

The FAA alleges that Boeing repeatedly submitted action plans that set deadlines for the accomplishment of certain corrective actions, but subsequently failed to implement those plans. The company implemented a plan to address the fastener issue on 10 Nov, 2010, more than two years after Boeing first learned of the problem.

Boeing stopped using the nonconforming fasteners after officials discovered the problem. However, some of the underlying manufacturing issues continued to exist and after the corrective action plan was in place. Boeing has 30 days from the receipt of the FAA’s civil penalty letter to respond to the agency.
Police to question driver after Spanish train crash kills 80

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (Spain), 27 July — The driver of a Spanish train that derailed, killing at least 80 people, was under police guard in hospital on Friday after the accident, which an official said was caused by excessive speed.

The eight-carriage train came off the tracks, hit a wall and caught fire just outside the pilgrimage destination Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain on Wednesday night. It was one of Europe’s worst rail disasters.

The source had knowledge of an official investigation into a crash which brought misery to Santiago de Compostela, capital of the northern Spanish region of Galicia, which was assigned to investigate the accident. The judge ordered police to question the train’s driver, named as 52-year-old Francisco Jose Garzon.

It was not clear what kind of injuries the driver had suffered. He was not arrested, but he was under a police guard at the hospital and was expected to be questioned on Friday.

The train company Renfe said the driver was a 30-year veteran of the firm with more than a decade of train driving experience. He had been driving trains on this line for about a year, the firm said.

The regional government said 95 people were still in hospital, including four children, in a serious condition. Medical experts were still trying to identify 13 of the bodies early on Friday, leaving distraught families to wait for definitive news.

With the festivities in Santiago cancelled on Thursday, hundreds of people went to the site of the wreck instead, where they watched cranes picking the mangled train carriages off the tracks.

“My brother-in-law lives close by and was helping pull out people, dead and alive, all night. He’s very shaken. I’ve come now with some friends just to see how it all ends,” said Manuel Garcia, one of the onlookers.

Video footage from a security camera showed the train, with 247 people on board, hurtling into a concrete wall at the side of the track as carriages jack-knifed and the engine overturned.

The train entered the bend at 190 km per hour (120 mph), according to local media reports. The speed limit on the curve was 80 km per hour (50 mph).

Investigators were trying to find out why the train was going so fast and why security devices to keep speed within permitted limits had not slowed it down. The impact was so huge one carriage flew several metres into the air and landed on the other side of a concrete barrier. Bodies were strewn next to the tracks in the aftermath.

The dead included a U.S. citizen and a Mexican, and at least one British citizen was injured.

Train traffic resumed on Friday morning on the tracks parallel to the where the accident took place.

Spain’s rail safety record is better than the European average, ranking 18th out of 27 countries in terms of railway deaths per kilometre travelled, the European Railway Agency said. There were 218 train accidents in Spain between 2008 and 2011, well below the EU average of 426 for the same period.—REUTERS

Colombia arrests criminal gang leader

BOGOTA, 27 July—Colombian police said on Friday they have arrested Hernan Arturo Cantillo, a leader of Los Rastrojos, one of the main drug trafficking and criminal bands in the country.

Cantillo, who was also wanted by Interpol, has been detained near Galapa municipality in Colombia’s northern department of Atlantico, police said in a statement, without specifying the date of the arrest.

Cantillo was accused of leading and coordinating actions of Los Rastrojos in several departments of the Colombian Atlantic coast, besides being the main detractor of the Law for Victims and Land Restitution promoted by the government of President Juan Manuel Santos to compensate the victims of the armed conflict, the statement said.

The detainee faces several charges including the felonies of homicide, the statement said. In April, the Colombian president offered a reward of 200 million Colombian pesos (about 105,000 US dollars) for the arrest of Cantillo, who was also a former member of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia guerrilla group.—Xinhua

Slow response to toxic water leak fuels distrust of TEPCO

TOKYO, 27 July—Tokyo Electric Power Co’s admission on Monday that contaminated water containing radioactive substances has seeped from under the premises of its disaster-struck Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station came about a month after the problem surfaced.

The company’s slow action, coupled with an apparent lack of coordination within the company in sharing crucial data about the case, is making local fishermen increasingly distrustful of the utility.

At a briefing for local fishermen in Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture on Tuesday, the day after the revelation of the leak, participants expressed anger at the utility, with one calling for someone to take responsibility.

Kyodo News

Pope, in Brazil, asks young to change unfair, corrupt world

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 July—Pope Francis urged young people on Friday to change a world where food is discarded while millions go hungry, where racism and violence still affront human dignity and where politics is more associated with corruption than service.

Francis, on the fifth day of his first trip abroad since his election in March, went to Rio’s Copacabana beach to preside at a “Way of the Cross” service commemorating Jesus’ final hours as part of an international jamboree of Catholic youth, known as World Youth Day. Hundreds of thousands of people turned out to see the Argentine pope at the theatrical event on the crescent-shaped beachfront, giving him yet another of the frenzied welcomes that have defined his trip so far.

He ordered his open-sided popemobile to stop numerous times along its 1.8-kilometre (3-km) route so he could kiss babies and shake hands. He got out several times to walk along the route, making his security detail nervous again.

In his address, Francis said the patience of the suffering Jesus to ask the young people to ease the suffering of the world. He used the theme to address issues ranging from hunger and crime to an oblique reference to the child sex abuse scandal that has roiled the Roman Catholic Church in recent years.

Francis spoke of “the silence of the victims of violence, those who can no longer cry out, especially the innocent and the defenceless.”

He said Jesus was united with families whose children were victims of violence and drug addiction.

“Jesus is united with every person who suffers from hunger in a world where tons of food are thrown out every day — with those who are persecuted for their beliefs or simply for the color of their skin,” he said.

Communications partially cut off after tremor hits NW China

LANZHOU, 27 July—Communications were cut off in some townships and villages after a 4.5-magnitude quake jolted a county in northwest China’s Gansu Province, local government said on Saturday.

The quake shook Wenzhou County in Longnan City at 00:25 am Saturday (Beijing Time), with its epicenter six km deep, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre.

The quake was strongly felt in the county. Many local residents, who had fallen asleep, ran out of their homes to open areas in drizzly weather. Some of them returned home after no aftershocks occurred. Communications in many villages were cut off and authorities were checking whether there were any casualties, said an official with the Wenzhou county government.

The county has a population of 250,000. The quake came after a 6.6-magnitude quake hit Minxian and Zhangxian counties in Dingxi, Gansu on Monday, which has left at least 95 dead and another 1,461 injured. —Xinhua
Kalewa producing third-grade coals

Kalewa is one of major coal suppliers in Myanmar, producing third-grade coals.

KALEW, 27 July—Kalewa is one of the major coal suppliers in Myanmar, providing sub-bituminous coal with 82.9 percent carbon ingredient.

Mawlaik, Tamu, Kalew, Paluza and Khampet are major coal producers in Myanmar. Kalewa has the reputation of third-grade coals. Coal mines were transported to Shwe Kyet Yet, Maunggon and Lethote jetties in Mandalay and through road transportation routes in open season. Tun Thwin, Htoo Han Thit and Max Myanmar are major coal companies operating in the region. A total of 30-40 workers are working in each site. They are earning K 3000-K 4000 a day.

Shan State government grants aids to victims of strong winds

KYAUKME, 27 July—Shan State government has provided cash assistance to victims of strong winds in Kyaukme.

The ceremony to provide cash aids was held in Kyaukme General Administration Department Office on 23 July.

Shan State Hluttaw Representatives U Sai Kham Kyaw and U Sai Than Maung, Township Administrator U Aung Lwin, Police Inspector Tin Htay of Township Police Force distributed the aids to villagers in Mawma, Heque, Naungpein, Sakhanthar, Kywegan and Nanthutanga villages and other downtown wards.

The strong winds hit various areas of the township in May, causing damage to a number of buildings MMAL-Maung Maung

Remote villages in Chin State get free WiFi access

TIDDIM, 27 July—Remote villages in Chin State have access of free WiFi Internet access as from 20 June.

The accessibility of WiFi Internet in villages in Tiddim Township will mark the centennial celebration for establishment of Hotei Lai village that fell in April.

Two or three WiFi routers have been installed in populous buildings and a total of 20 routers have been used in the project.

Computing basics is a subject taught in Basic Education High School of Hote Lai village in the township.

The project would be extended to other villages on request.

Educative talks on human trafficking, domestic violence organized in Lewe Tsp

Lewe, 27 July—An educative talk on prevention against human trafficking and domestic violence was organized at No(4) ward administrator office in Lewe on 24 July morning.

Police Sub-Inspector Min Naing of Nay Pyi Taw Anti-Human Trafficking Police Squad gave talks on human trafficking and Commander of Myoma Police Station in Lewe Township on crimes.

Township Law Officer Daw Khin Swe Win discussed the violence against women and Township Women’s Affairs Organization Chairperson Daw Cho Cho, the basic principles of the organization.

HRD Homalin Township gets new library in rural area

HOMALIN, 27 July—The opening ceremony of Moe Hninsi Library was held in San Kyin village in Htein Kin Village-tract in Homalin Township on 21 July.

At the ceremony, Shan Nationality Affairs Minister U San Shwe, Township Management Committee Chairman U Kaung Myat Nyi, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department and Library Committee Chairman U Hla Tin cut the ribbon to open it.

The minister and officials then viewed around the library.

Farming rights certificates presented to farmers

HSIPAW, 27 July—Farming rights certificates were presented to farmers in Moe Tae Hae village-tract in Hsipaw Township in Shan State (North) on 25 July.

Hsipaw Township Administrator Assistant Director U Myo Zaw Tin delivered an address at the ceremony.

Staff Officer II of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Tse Maung explained the purpose of issuing the certificates and entitlements of the farmers.

Inter-faith workshop organized

Pathin, 27 July—Yadanar Myay Social Development Group in Pathin Township in Ayeyawady Region organized a workshop in Pathin on 24 July.

The workshop was opened with an address by chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee. Religious leaders from four major religions Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and Christianity participated in discussion.

The delegates then visited temples and churches in the evening of the day one of the workshop.

They visited Hindu temples and Shwe Mok Htaw pagoda in the evening of the day two.

EDUCATIVE TALKS ON TAXATION GIVEN: Township IRD Officer Daw May Zaw Oo giving talks on taxation to middle school students in Tatkion Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area at Basic Education Middle School in Bo Min Yaung street on 25 July.—MMAL-021

Odd News

One killed, three injured in bee stings in Gangaw

GANGAW, 27 July—Bee stings in Gangaw in Magway Region killed one and injured three this month.

Local authorities have cleared beehive that could pose threats to the people on 25 July in the aftermath of the fatal attack.

“One man from Myaukkon ward was killed by bee stings at 10 am on 21 July. Three members of Zabuhtukhaung pagoda board of trustees were attacked and injured bee attack in Sibinhaya ward. They are now hospitalized," a townselder said.

The victim who lost life was identified as Ko Thar Thar Lay, 36. U Zaw Min Sein, U Saw Lay and U Win Ko were injured in the attack.

The bees that attacked the people were from hives in timber extraction yard in Gangaw.

According to local people, there was no fatality caused by bee stings in the past before Ko Thar Thar Lay was killed within 20 minutes after the attack.
**Racial integration**

Sweeping reforms implementing at full speed and series of peace talks to silence the guns in border regions are keeping alive the hope of the entire people that our country is returning to its right place that she used to stand tall among world nations and a nationwide lasting peace could be realized in the not-too-distant future. Being a country of ethnic minority citizens with different beliefs, peace and prosperity cannot be brought to Myanmar in all of its pursuit of genuine democracy without a healthy pluralism.

Race and religious equality lie with how much of mutual tolerance and respect we have in dealing with each other and joys and griefs we are able to share. An approach which is acceptable to all stakeholders at a negotiating table to a successful political dialogue is acceptance of the view that pluralism as the acknowledgement of diversity allows the harmonious coexistence of different interests, convictions and lifestyles. Only the sense of pluralism could make the people with different backgrounds, but belonging to the same country, united.

Today is the time to put conflicting opinions aside, to forget grudge and mistrust and to desist from employing a manner of tit-for-tat. If all actors of conflicts are in good-faith negotiation, the country sees a flood of reforms. The majority of businesses and factories for job creation in Taninthayi Region.

Two companies get accreditation for Mercedes-Benz distribution

**Yangon, 27 July**— Accreditation of Automobile Alliance Co., Ltd Cycle & Carriage Automobile Myanmar Co., Ltd as official distributors of Mercedes-Benz was held at Sedona Hotel yesterday evening. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe delivered a speech on the occasion. He said the country needs to ensure peace and prosperity in the multicultural society will fade away.

All in all, pluralism is not only an ideology of promoting the racial integration within a multi-ethnic country but also an effective tool for conflict resolution, providing compromise and mutual understanding to be able to avoid racial sensitivity. Only burgeoning of pluralistic approaches could guarantee patterns and regularities of social life of each and every citizen.

**Supporting Committee for Livestock Breeding and Meat and Fish Sector Development meets**

The Union minister said that the Ministry is implementing the State’s poverty alleviation scheme by means of helping the families save money and earn high income through livestock breeding. Recalled for all outstanding efforts for poverty alleviation. The Ministry would support private sectors for development of meat and fishes and rural areas, he added. Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Aye discussed extension of livestock breeding for job creation in Taninthayi Region.

**Press conference on Hajj pilgrimage tours held**

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win makes a speech at a Press conference on Hajj pilgrimage tours (2013) at the Ministry of Religious Affairs (Yangon Branch) here this morning. The 11-member Hajj Pilgrimage Tour Work Committee is formed with representatives from 104 Hajj Pilgrimage Tour Companies in a transparent and democratic way. In addition, Hajj Pilgrimage Tour Supervisory Committee presented their reports on implementation of rural development tasks and follow-up measures.

After that, officials from the respective committees presented their reports with representatives from five Islam Associations. The Supervisory Committee will be responsible for the tender of Hajj Pilgrimage Tours. Myanmar Embassy in Saudi Arabia is directly dealing with the quota of Hajj Pilgrimage tours, he added.

After that, officials from the respective committees presented their reports. The Deputy Minister and officials replied to the queries raised by those present. It was attended by officials from the Work Committee and Supervisory Committee for Hajj Pilgrimage Tours, Islam Associations, the Hajj Pilgrimage Tour Company and media.
**LOCAL NEWS**

**Chairmen, members of DACs elected in townships of Katha District**

**KATHA, 27 July—** A ceremony to elect the chairman of Katha Township Development Committee and one member was held at the hall of Katha District General Administration Department on 23 July morning.

Chairman of the supervisory committee District Deputy Commissioner U Thet Lwin made a speech. Secretary of the supervisory committee Township Administrator U Zaw Min Htik explained the purpose of forming the Township Development Affairs Committee and rules of the formation.

At the ceremony, U Tin Htay (Ward 3) was elected as Chairman of the Township Development Affairs Committee and U Tun Win (Ward 6) as member.

Likewise, U Nyunt Hlaing was elected as Chairman and U Tin Maung Aye as member of Indaw Township Development Affairs Committee.

Kyemon-District (IPRD)

**A huge Cross made of colourful jade stones seen on Thanwin Hillock in Seikma Village of Phakant Township which is located on the jade mines in Mohinnyin District of Kachin State. NLM-001**

**Local youths participate in Invitational Sepak Takraw tourney**

**KATHA, 27 July—** The Katha Township Invitational Sepak Takraw Tournament was organized at Ayeyawadi Gymnasium in Katha on 19 July with the aim of turning out new generation players.

A total of 11 Sepak Takraw teams participated in the tournament.

In the final match, Aung Aung emerged champion by winning over New Generation team (Daunggyi Village) on 20 July.

Chairman of the Organizing Committee U Chi Maung (IPRD) presented the first prize to Aung Aung team and U Ko Htwe (Beverages) the second prize to New Generation team.

Kyemon-Nyene Nyein (Katha)

**Rule of law discussed in Khamaukkkyi Sub-Township**

**KHAMAUKKYYI, 27 July—** A meeting on rule of law in Khamaukkkyi Sub-Township was held at the hall of the Ward I Administrative Office in Khamaukkkyi of Kawthoung District on 21 July morning.

Head of Khamaukkkyi Township Development Affairs Committee U Kyemon-Thuukha (Khamaukkkyi) (IPRD)

**MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines**

**NAY PYI TAW, 27 July—** Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and regional/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, mis-appropriation and corruption.

The public may reach the numbers for their information and complaints but are requested to avoid manners causing disruptions to these phone lines.

Myanmar Police Force HQ (067-412222 and 067-412444), Nay Pyi Taw Police Force (067-550335), Kachin State Police Force (074-21444), Kayin State Police Force (058-23355), Sagaing Region Police Force (071-24996), Mandalay Region Police Force (059-23998), Bago Region Police Force (052-23999), Magway Region Police Force (056-28099), T maintenance.

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Kyemon-District (IPRD)
Life in prison for man who held Cleveland women for years

Cleveland, 27 July—A former Cleveland school bus driver who held three women captive for years pleaded guilty on Friday to hundreds of charges of kidnappping and rape, allowing him to avoid the death penalty and instead serve life in prison without parole.

At a court hearing, Ohio prosecutors agreed not to seek the death penalty against Ariel Castro. Under the agreement, he will not stand trial, sparing the women the trauma of testifying about their abuse by Castro over about a decade.

The women vanished without a trace between 2002 and 2004 in the same neighborhood where Castro lived, and were rescued on 6 May, 11 years after the first of them disappeared.

Many Americans were alternately elated by their rescue and stunned by the details of his brutal treatment of the women, in one of the most sensational recent US criminal cases. The women were bound in chains or ropes for periods of time and endured starvation, beatings and sexual assaults, according to court documents and a police report.

On 6 May, neighbours heard cries for help from Amanda Berry, 27, and helped her break open a door to Castro’s house, where they also found Gina DeJesus, 23, and Michelle Knight, 32, upstairs. Knight leapt into the arms of a policeman when she saw him.

UN rights envoy calls for free, fair elections in Cambodia

Phnom Penh—The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, Surya P. Subedi, on Friday reiterated his call for free, fair and peaceful elections in Cambodia on Sunday, 28 July.

“Free political environment and the ability of the people to exercise their rights and freedoms, such as the right to vote, freedom of expression and assembly and the right to stand for election are the key to free and fair elections.” Subedi said in a statement released by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Office to Cambodia.

He said Cambodia has made significant progress in strengthening democracy, human rights and the rule of law. “I call upon the government of Cambodia to ensure full respect for its international human rights obligations as the country goes to the polls on Sunday,” he added.

He also urged the people of Cambodians to refrain from violence and have due regard for the rights of other fellow citizens when exercising their own. “Every eligible voter must be given an equal opportunity to exercise his/her right to vote without intimidation, fear or pressure,” he said.

Two major parties among the 8 contesting parties are the ruling Cambodian People’s Party of longtime Prime Minister Hun Sen and the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party of recently-pledged leader Sam Rainsy.

Political observers believe that Hun Sen’s party will most likely win the elections with an absolute majority due to its financial resources and strong support by rural households. One of the world’s longest-serving leaders, Hun Sen, 61, has vowed to rule the country for at least another decade. —Xinhua

Challenges, progress highlighted in first UN report on children, armed conflict in Yemen

United Nations, 27 July —A United Nations envoy on Friday presented the first report of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the situation of children in Yemen, which highlights challenges and progress in improving the status of children in armed conflict in the Arab country.

The report was presented by the special representative of the UN secretary-general for children and armed conflict, Leila Zerrougui, to the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

“While challenges remain, I wish to highlight that the government of Yemen has taken steps to protect children from the impact of the conflict,” said Zerrougui.

Last week, a draft action plan to end the recruitment and use of children by government forces was adopted by a Yemeni technical committee established to lead the development of the plan with the assistance of the UN Children’s Fund and the UN country team.

The special representative strongly supported this process and expressed the hope that the action plan can be adopted by the Yemeni government and signed as early as September.

“It is essential to maintain the momentum to ensure that the government’s commitment to end the recruitment and use of children results in the swift adoption and implementation of an Action Plan,” said Zerrougui.

“We must demonstrate our collective support to the Yemeni authorities as the adoption and signing of the action plan will contribute to the creation of a better environment for children and to the broader process of peacebuilding and development in Yemen,” she said.

The report presented here Friday covers the period from July 2011 to March 2013 and documents cases of child recruitment and use by government forces as well as various armed groups, including Al-Houthi and Ansar Al-Shari’a, an organization affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

Children have also been victims of drone attacks targeting Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and Ansar Al-Shari’a.

During the reporting period, other child rights violations, including cases of killing and maiming of children and attacks on schools and hospitals, were documented.

Normal service resumes in railway stretch of accident

Madrid, 27 July—Normal service was restored on Friday between Ourense and Santiago de Compostela after Wednesday evening’s tragic accident in the northwestern region of Galicia, which has killed at least 78 people.

On Friday morning trains have passed through the affected section of the track as authorities reported they had restored service on two of the three tracks affected in Wednesday’s crash. The third one could return to normal use by Saturday.

The train was travelling between Madrid and Ferrol in the north of Galicia, and derailed before reaching the station of Santiago de Compostela.

So far 78 people have been confirmed dead and five bodies remain to be identified with DNA testing. The train carried a total of 218 passengers, 81 of them remained at hospital for treatment of injuries sustained in the crash.

Local media reported the cause of the accident was probably excessive speed, but the black box examination remains to be done. It was Spain’s worst train accident in the past 40 years.—Xinhua

Three Gorges Dam, a gigantic hydropower project on the Yangtze River, in Yichang City, central China’s Hubei Province, on 26 July, 2013. The Three Gorges hydropower station has started working at full capacity after floods passed.—Xinhua

Photo taken on 26 July, 2013 shows electric transmission lines on the right bank of Three Gorges Dam, a gigantic hydropower project on the Yangtze River, in Yichang City, central China’s Hubei Province, on 26 July, 2013. The Three Gorges hydropower station has started working at full capacity after floods passed.—Xinhua

Chinese performing artist Li Yugang performs as he is dressed as a woman during an opera in Yichun, east China’s Jiangxi Province, on 24 July, 2013. —Xinhua

Reuters
**REGIONAL**

**Six killed in Philippine bombing**

**DANAO CITY, (Philippines), 27 July—**At least six people were killed and dozens injured in a bomb explosion inside a shopping center in southern Philippines on late Friday night, authorities said on Saturday.

The dead included a provincial council member and five civilians while 28 others were wounded as an alleged improvised explosive went off at the Limketkai Mall in downtown Cagayan de Oro city in Mindanao’s Misamis Oriental province, according to Lieutenant Colonel Leo Bongosia, spokesperson for the Philippine Army’s 4th Infantry Division.

Graciano Mijares, city police chief, said provincial board member Roldan Lagbas and five others were killed as the powerful explosion ripped through Kyla’s Bistro, a posh restaurant at the mall. Mijares said a task force was to investigate the deadly blast.

“This was a big blow to the peace and order condition of this city. We condemned this incident to the highest degree,” vice mayor Ian Acenas told local radio, even as he described a horrific scene of blood and mangled bodies strewn about at the blast site.

The blast was the first of such incident in Cagayan de Oro, a city of more than 600,000 residents that is a regional corridor to the Muslim-dominated northern and western parts of Mindanao.

The incident came just over a week after a clash between rival Muslim clans in neighboring Lanao province left at least a dozen people dead.

**Indian PM stresses timely election in Nepal**

**KATHMANDU, 27 July—**Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has suggested Nepal to hold the Constituent Assembly (CA) on the stipulated time.

Nepal has announced second CA election for 19 November.

During his meeting with Former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, Singh said India is ready to provide every kind of assistance for election, the former prime minister told local media via telephone from Delhi.

**Philippines denies annulling peace deals with ex-Muslim rebel group**

**MANILA, 27 July—**The Philippine government is not going to end its peace agreement with the former secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MNLF) after the Aquino administration signed a peace pact with another Muslim rebel group, an official said on Friday.

Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte made the clarification after MNLF founding leader Nur Misuari claimed that the Philippine government was asking the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to end all the peace deals with his group.

Valte said that Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Deles is currently in Indonesia which is the OIC Secretary General Goshi Hosono, the youngest daughter of late King Norodom Arun Rasmey, the youngest daughter of late King Norodom Arun Rasmey.

The incident came just over a week after a clash between rival Muslim clans in neighboring Lanao province left at least a dozen people dead.

**Japan unveils plans to provide patrol ships to Philippines**

**MANILA, 27 July—**Visiting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe unveiled a plan at a meeting Saturday with Philippine President Benigno Aquino to provide Manila with 10 coast guard patrol ships through a yen loan to help it counter an increasingly assertive China.

In a bid to help achieve peace on a Mindanao, where the Philippines’ largest Muslim rebel group is in conflict with the government, Abe also spelled out a new package of official development assistance aimed at building schools and clinics, and developing personnel for an autonomous political entity to be established.

Relations between Japan and the Philippines are rooted in their long-term friendly history and exchanges,” Abe told a joint news conference with Aquino after their summit in Manila, pledging to further strengthen bilateral ties through new Japanese assistance.

Abe said the two leaders also agreed to strengthen maritime cooperation, saying with China in mind that Japan and the Philippines “pledged to cooperate in advancing our common advocacy for responsible action from international players.”

“We believe that this can be done by upholding the rule of law in international affairs and by finding just and peaceful solutions to our territorial disputes and maritime concerns,” he added.

He also said that the Japanese government plans to provide coast guard ships to Manila in response to the Philippines’ request for patrol ships to beef up its coast guard. The Philippines and China are in dispute over territorial claims in the South China Sea.

**Cambodia’s general elections ready to kick off on Sunday**

**PONOM PUNU, 27 July—**Cambodia’s fifth parliamentary elections are ready to kick off on Sunday, a National Election Committee (NEC) official said on Friday.

“We have already prepared for the elections on Sunday,” Tep Nytha, NEC’s secretary general, said in a Press briefing. “Our NEC officials are ready to work at all polling stations and security forces are ready to deploy at those stations in order to ensure security and public order.”

Eight political parties will compete for seats in the 123-seat parliament. Among them are two main parties — the ruling Cambodian People’s Party and the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party of recently-pardoned leader Sam Rainsy. Sam Rainsy returned to Cambodia last Friday after living nearly four years in self-imposed exile in France to avoid an 11-year prison sentence on charges of disinformation and destruction of public property. His return came after King Norodom Sihamoni granted him a royal pardon at the request of Hun Sen. The other six parties include the royalist FUNCINPEC Party led by Princess Norodom Arun Rasmey, the youngest daughter of late King Norodom Sihanouk, the League for Democracy Party, the Cambodian Nationality Party, the Democratic Republic Party, the Khmer Anti-Poverty Party, and the Khmer Economic Development Party.

Some 9.67 million eligible voters will cast their ballots at 19, 099 polling stations nationwide, the NEC said. Around 40,142 national observers and 291 international monitors have also registered with the NEC for the elections.

**Thailand, Laos to resume border talks**

**BANGKOK, 27 July—**Thailand and Laos will resume talks on border issues next month after suspension for six years.

According to Press release from Thai Foreign Ministry, Thailand will host the Thai-Lao Joint Boundary Commission on 15-16 August in Bangkok.

Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul will co-chair the meeting with his counterpart Thonloun Siisulit. The two ministers agreed earlier this year to reopen talks.

According to the Bangkok Post on Friday, the two countries share an 800-kilometre border. About 96 percent of the border has been demarcated.

“Fixing the boundary will also help us to consider opening more checkpoints between the two countries in the future,” Bangkok Post quoted Surapong as saying.—**Xinhua**
UN chief condemns assassination of Tunisian opposition leader

UNITED NATIONS, 27 July — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday condemned the assassination of a Tunisian opposition leader as an “heinous act,” and called for calm in the North African country. “The secretary-general condemns the assassination today of Mr Mohamed Brahmi, an opposition politician and member of Tunisia’s National Constituent Assembly,” said a statement issued here by Ban’s spokesman.

The secretary-general notes that this is the second assassination of a prominent political figure in Tunisia this year, said the statement. “He calls for calm and this year — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday condemned the assassination of Mohamed Brahmi, a member of Tunisia’s National Constituent Assembly, was shot dead in front of his house in a Tunis suburb on Thursday morning, in the presence of his daughter. Earlier on Thursday, the UN high commissioner for human rights, Navi Pillay, strongly condemned the assassination, and called on the Tunisian authorities to investigate the murder.”

“The UN high commissioner for human rights, Navi Pillay, strongly condemned the assassination of a leading opposition politician in Tunisia and urged the country’s people and politicians to form a united front against attempts to derail the country’s democratic transition,” Eduardo del Buey, the deputy UN spokesman, said at a daily news briefing here.

“Ms Pillay called upon the authorities to immediately launch a prompt and transparent investigation to ensure that the people who carried out this crime are held accountable,” del Buey said. This is the third killing in similar circumstances to Brahmi’s murder.— Xinhua

Tunisair suspends all flights on Friday

TUNIS, 27 July — Tunisair’s flag carrier Tunisair has suspended all its flights on Friday because of a general strike decided by the country’s main labour union, UGTT, local media reported quoting a statement released by the airline on Thursday evening.

The announcement of a general strike was taken by the union following the assassination of Mohamed Brahmi, a prominent opposition figure. Brahmi was gunned down in front of his home in the Tunisian capital Tunis on Thursday noon.

Both Tunisair and its domestic company Tunis Express apologize for the inconvenience and invite passengers who have booked flights on Friday to reschedule their flights without incurring any supplementary costs, the statement said.— Xinhua

Chinese visitor spending brings changes to New Zealand tourism industry

WELLINGTON, 27 July — The rise of China as New Zealand’s second largest tourism market and the way Chinese visitors spend their money is changing the New Zealand tourism industry, according to the New Zealand government 2012 Yearbook published on Thursday.

China overtook Britain last year to come second to Australia and New Zealand’s largest tourism market, producing dramatic contrasts in electronic card spending between British and Chinese tourists, said the Yearbook published by Statistics New Zealand.

Spending by visitors from China rose by 54 percent from 2008 to 2012, while spending by visitors from Britain fell by 47 percent across the same period, in line with visitor arrivals from the two countries.

Last year tourists from China spent a total of 651 million US dollars (506.61 million NZ dollars), which was more than any other country except Australia.

Chinese visitors on average spent fewer days in New Zealand and visited fewer regions than visitors from other nations, so the bulk of electronic card spending by visitors from China was concentrated in Auckland, the Bay of Plenty and Otago, while British visitor spending was more evenly distributed after Auckland.

Visitors from China also differed in what they spent their money on while in New Zealand.

The largest proportion of British visitor spending was on eating out and drinking, while visitors from China spent most on retail goods such as souvenirs.— Xinhua

Photo taken on 25 July, 2013 shows the Feiyunjiang Bridge under colourful sunset glow after continuous scorching weather in Rui’an City, east China’s Zhejiang Province. —Xinhua
Richard Gere sells estate for USD 65 million

LOS ANGELES, 27 July—Actor Richard Gere is selling his 12,000 square foot Hamptons estate here for USD 65 million.

The 63-year-old actor’s property, known as Strongheart Manor, boasts of 12 bedrooms and 12 bathrooms and includes a neutral coloured living area, high ceilings and a spacious gourmet kitchen with numerous cupboards and a breakfast bar, reports contactmusic.com.

The outdoor space has well-kept lawns, blooming gardens, a fireplace pavilion and even a small pool.—PTI

Steve Jobs’ death left Ashton Kutcher emotional

LOS ANGELES, 27 July—Actor Ashton Kutcher, who plays the lead role in a biopic based on Steve Jobs, says he had a “bizarre emotional reaction” when the Apple co-founder expired in 2011.

“When Steve Jobs passed away, I had this bizarre emotional reaction and I didn’t know what it was. I was like, ‘Wow, why am I so shook up about this?’ And I started thinking about all the ways my life was affected by this guy and began learning about him anywhere and everywhere I could,” Kutcher said in a statement. This special connect helped the actor portray the late tech wizard with more authenticity in his upcoming biopic JOBS.

The movie chronicles Jobs’ darkest days, biggest triumphs, his dreams, hopes and passions and his aspiration to change the world, as well as question the impossible.

PVR Pictures will release JOBS across Indian theatres on 16 August. —PTI

Fergie to have a star-studded baby hower

LOS ANGELES, 27 July—A star-studded baby shower will be organized for singer-songwriter Fergie, who is expecting her first child with actor Josh Duhamel.

The 38-year-old is preparing for the pre-birth celebrations, which will be thrown by her agent Sean Patterson and fashion designers Dean and Dan Caten here over the weekend, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

According to the New York Post newspaper, the guest list for the party includes TV star Kelly Osbourne, dancer Julianne Hough, director Ryan Murphy and actors Neil Patrick Harris and Jesse Tyler Ferguson.

Fergie is due to deliver in August.—PTI

Lady Gaga to perform at MTV awards for first time since surgery

LOS ANGELES, 27 July—Pop star Lady Gaga will debut new music at the MTV Video Music Awards in August in her first performance following hip surgery, the network said on Thursday.

Grammy-winning Lady Gaga, 27, will perform her first single from her upcoming new album “ARTPOP,” which is scheduled to be released in November. The new single will be released on 19 August, ahead of the VMA show on 25 August.

The singer, who was named the top-earning musician under 30 by Forbes with earnings of an estimated $80 million in the past year, was forced to cancel part of her world tour earlier this year to undergo hip surgery.

Gaga, whose real name is Stefani Germanotta, is known for her lavish and often controversial televised performances. At the 2010 MTV VMA show, she donned a dress made out of raw beef to protest the U.S. military’s “don’t-ask-don’t-tell” policy for gay service members.

PTI

Paris Hilton excited about upcoming music video

LOS ANGELES, 27 July—Socialite Paris Hilton is shooting for her new music video, and she is excited with the way it is turning out.

The 32-year-old, who released her debut album Paris in 2006, has signed with US record label Cash Money Records to bring out the new album, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She took to micro-blogging website Twitter to share the information. “My music video shoot is going amazing! So excited with how it’s turning out! Can’t wait to show you guys! #Yes! #GoodTime (sic),” she tweeted.—PTI

Ashton will portray Steve Jobs in his upcoming biopic JOBS.
Mahan in control at Canadian Open with two-shot lead

OAKVILLE, (Ontario), 27 July—American John Merrick set the early pace with a course-record-equalling 64 to grab a two-shot lead after the second round of the Canadian Open on Friday. In ideal early scoring conditions, Merrick had an eagle at the second and eight birdies over his final 12 holes to complete a career-low, error-free round that tied the Glen Abbey Golf Club course record set by Leonard Thompson in 1981 and matched by Greg Norman in 1986.

“Everything kind of clicked today,” said Merrick, a winner at February’s Northern Trust Open. “I think I played a couple rounds in the past few weeks where I didn’t make a birdie and that doesn’t happen a lot. Maybe that all kind of came back together. Everything came in a rush.” As impressive as Merrick’s display was, it was not enough to fend off Mahan, who capped his round in sizzling fashion with three straight birdies to knock his American competitor from top of the leaderboard with a two-day total of 13-under 131.

“I saw kind of going into me he (Merrick) was at 11 ... 62 is a pretty good round,” said Mahan. “But I didn’t really think I had to catch him. There’s so much golf to be played here. I just wanted to go out there and not try to shoot for a score but just try to play golf. “I think I was able to birdie the last three because I just kind of kept my head up and kept going.” Big-hitting Bubba Watson, the hugely popular former Masters champion, muscled his way up the leaderboard with five-under 67 to sit alone in third, just four off the pace and well-placed to take a run at his first title since Augusta last year.

US head coach Jurgen Klinsmann coaches his team against Guatemala during their friendly soccer match in San Diego, California on 5 July, 2013.—Reuters

US coach Klinsmann suspended from Gold Cup Final

LOS ANGELES, 27 July —United States coach Jurgen Klinsmann has been suspended for the CONCACAF Gold Cup final for showing dissent on the sideline following his side’s 3-1 semi-final victory over Honduras.

The suspension was announced on Friday by the CONCACAF disciplinary committee after it reviewed a report from the referee of the match on Wednesday.

Klinsmann, who had been unhappy with a series of what he perceived as non-calls and hard tackles against his team, was asked to leave the technical area after “showing dissent towards the referee by throwing the ball in a violent manner”.

The US will seek its fifth Gold Cup title when it faces Panama on 28 July in Chicago. The decision can not be appealed, CONCACAF said.—Reuters

Dominant Russians close on synchro clean sweep

BARCELONA, 27 July—Russia moved inexorably towards a clean sweep of synchronized swimming gold medals when they secured the team free title at the world championships on Friday.

Having already triumphed in five events including Monday’s team technical, the Russians amassed 97.400 points with a powerful routine at the hilltop Palau Sant Jordi, site of the 1992 Olympic Games.

Spain gave the home support reason to cheer by winning silver with 94.230 points and Ukraine took bronze on 93.640 ahead of Japan.

Russia, who have dominated the sport for around two decades, can make it seven titles out of seven in Saturday’s free combination event.—Reuters

Russia’s team show their gold medals after winning the synchronized swimming team free final during the World Swimming Championships at the Santi Jordi arena in Barcelona on 26 July, 2013. —Reuters

Atletico give Bernard 25 million-euro price tag

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 July—Atletico Mineiro director Eduardo Maluf has warned European clubs will need to offer at least 25 million euros to prise away star midfielder Bernard.

The 20-year-old Brazil international is reportedly being courted by Arsenal, Chelsea, Borussia Dortmund, Porto and Shakhtar Donetsk.

“The president (Alexandre Kalil) has already made very clear. If an offer of 25 million euros arrives, he is going to sell and we will buy another player,” Atletico director Eduardo Maluf told Radio Globo on Friday. “If that offer does not come, Bernard will stay at Atletico. He is young and can leave at the end of the year.”

Bernard capped a fine 12 months by helping the Brazilian outfit win their first Copa Libertadores title on Wednesday over Paraguay’s Olimpia. He was also a member of Luiz Felipe Scolari’s Brazil side that won the Confederations Cup in June. Earlier this week Bernard confirmed he had received offers from Shakhtar and Porto but said the club would decide his future.

Reuters

Brazil midfielder Bernard

Hunter Mahan of the US lines up a putt on the eighteenth green at the Canadian Open golf tournament at the Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville, on 26 July, 2013.—Reuters

US head coach Jurgen Klinsmann coaches his team against Guatemala during their friendly soccer match in San Diego, California on 5 July, 2013.—Reuters

Brazil’s Northern Trust Open winner Bubba Watson tees off at the 10th hole during his second round at the Oakville Golf Club, Oakville, Ontario, Canada on 26 July, 2013.—Reuters

Spain’s David Alegria and Alvaro Cano celebrate on the 18th green after winning Spain’s first World Golf Cup title since 2005 at the kicking off event of the World Golf Cup at the Olympic Golf Course on 27 July 2013 in Barcelona, Spain.—Reuters

Atletico’s former star midfielder Bernard, tipped by Maluf to pip Mahan in control at Canadian Open with two-shot lead

Barcelona, 27 July—Brazil midfielder Bernard

Sunday, 28 July, 2013

SPORTS
Kenyan court quashes move to force urban refugees into camps

NAIROBI, 27 July — A Kenyan court on Friday quashed a government directive to move 55,000 mostly Somali refugees living in urban centers across the country into refugee camps.

The High Court ruled that the planned relocation of the refugees would infringe on the refugees’ dignity and free movement rights, and indirectly force them back to the Horn of Africa nation.

Justice David Majaja said he found and held that government directive which targets refugees and asylum seekers in urban centers is a threat to their right to movement enshrined in Article 26 of the 1951 Convention as read with section 16 of the Act.

“Undocumented refugees and asylum seekers within urban setups cannot access humanitarian services from organizations that provide humanitarian services which require identification as a pre-requisite for qualification of services,” Justice Majaja ruled.

The judge said some undocumented refugee children are denied access to public services such as schools and hospitals.

He said the authorities had not proved the move would help protect national security, following a series of grenade and other attacks in Kenya by unidentified people.

The government stopped registration of refugees and asylum seekers mainly from Somalia in urban areas in December 2012 as the East African nation grapples with issues of insecurity.

United see Japan as key market with Kagawa’s success

TOKYO, 27 July — Manchester United aim to further tap into the Japanese market in the years to come, with the Premier League giants keeping a keen eye out for future Shinji Kagawas in a rising football nation where they see room for even more growth.

Coming off their 20th championship-winning season, United were in Japan on a two-game tour through Yokohama and Osaka, with Kagawa as their headline act. Both matches, against Yokohama F Marinos and Cerezo Osaka in Osaka on 26 July, 2013, were sold out.

While United have steadily increased their presence in Japan since coming here for the 1999 Toyota Cup, the predecessor of the Club World Cup, they still aren’t as prevalent as they are in other Asian nations like Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Manchester United midfielder Shinji Kagawa (L) scores during the second half of a friendly match against Cerezo Osaka in Osaka on 26 July, 2013.

United explained the reason for that is because the Japanese are interested in various sports like baseball, the Olympics or horse racing, whereas football tends to be the predominant sport in most parts of the continent.

While soccer in Japan has already grown leaps and bounds since it was professionalized in 1993, United believe the game is far from maxing out in the country. “Our overall mission, if you will, is to be the No 1 football club in the world on and off the pitch, which is a very simple message,” says Jamie Reigel, United’s Asia-Pacific managing director. “Our goal there is global.”

“Having said that, we have to be cognizant and realistic about the realities of the market. In Southeast Asia, football’s the No 1 sport, whereas football’s the No 1 sport in most parts of Japan, it’s fair to say, a shirt-seller — for European seasons.

“Japan, it’s fair to say, Japanese are interested in football first and foremost with the No 1 league, Manchester United is the No 1 team and not many people dispute that. For that reason, those markets are quite natural for us.”

“Japan, it’s fair to say, is a more diverse market in terms of the media market, with baseball and other sports popular. We believe football is continuing to grow, whether it’s the support the Japanese people have for the national team or the J-League and increasingly, for the European leagues.”

“And you see that, first and foremost with the quality of Japanese players coming out of the J-League and making their way to Europe, like Kagawa being a prime example and Honda.” In the past, Japanese players were often signed as a marketing tool — a shirt-seller — for European clubs. But since the 2010 World Cup, where Japan went out in the round of 16 only on penalties, the stock of Japanese players has risen, with teams signing them as legitimate help on the pitch. Kagawa is a classic example.

United bought him from Borussia Dortmund after he was instrumental in the German side’s winning consecutive Bundesliga titles in his first two European seasons.

And after the relative success Kagawa had in his first season at Old Trafford — despite losing two months due to an injury — United will certainly be paying attention to any and all Japanese footballers with potential. “Manchester United is all about challenging trophies to win every year,” Reigel said.

“And that means is we have to select the best players from around the world.”

Kagawa wasn’t chosen because he’s Japanese, even though that market is important to us. He was chosen because he’s a brilliant midfielder.”

MYANMAR TV

(29-7-13, Sunday)

6:00 am  1. Parita By Hilly Region
          Missinay Sayadaw
       3:00 pm  19. News

6:35 am  2. To Be Healthy Exercise

6:40 am  3. Dance & Song of
          National Races

6:50 am  4. Documentary

7:00 am  5. News/Weather Report
          National Races

7:20 am  6. Pyi Thu Ni Ti

7:35 am  7. Documentary

8:00 am  8. News/International
          News

8:25 am  9. Amazing World

9:00 am  10. News/International
          News

9:20 am  11. Mono Classical Songs

9:35 am  12. Documentary

10:00 am 13. News

10:15 am 14. TV Drama Series

11:05 am 15. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

11:45 am 16. News/International
          News/Weather Report

12:25 pm 17. Round Up Of The
          Week’s International
          News

11:00 am  5. News/Weather Report
          (TV Lectures)

1:00 pm  23. University of Distance
          Education
          (First Year (Math))

5:00 pm  24. News/Weather Report

5:15 pm  25. Sing A Song

6:00 pm  26. News/Weather Report

6:20 pm  27. Cartoon Series

6:45 pm  28. TV Drama Series

7:00 pm  29. News

7:15 pm  30. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm  31. News/International
          News/Weather Report

8:35 pm  32. Pyi Thu Ni Ti

8:50 pm  33. Hits Song of Stars

9:00 pm  34. News

9:30 pm  35. Tangyatmar Takwetsar

10:00 pm 36. New Melody

29-7-13 09:30 am) MST

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(29-7-13, Sunday)

* Local News

* Back To A
          Paradise(Episode-1)

* World News

* Myanmar Masterclass:
          Impressionism

* Local News

* Diverse National
          Costumes & Their
          Fashion Trend
          (Episode-3)

* World News

* Movie Review: The
          Legend of the Cloud
          Princess

* Local News

* Those who never give
          up (Episode-5)

* Shwe Min Thar Foundation

* World News

* Beauties of Makye
          Island (Island Of
          Tamarind Tree)

* Local News

* Preserving Myanma
          Handicrafts

* World News

* Myanmar Street Foods

* Local News

* Myanmar Movie

* Test of Silence

* Local News

* Chamwaye Yeiktha
          Meditation Centre
          (Hmawbi)

* World News

* Ramayana Play

* Local News

* Food Trip (Episode-10)
          Part 2

* World News

* Myanmar Masterclass:
          Impressionism

* Local News

* Hand Down Arts
          Heritage

* World News

* Myanmar Traditional
          Art Bronze Casting

* Local News

* An Oasis Trip to
          Mt.Popa

* World News

* Myanmar Puppet

Sunday, 28 July, 2013
Yangon, 27 July — To raise funds for peace making process, Myanmar peace festival-2013 was launched today at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thingangyun Township this evening.

Among the spectators were Union Ministers U Aung Kyi, U Soe Thane, U Aung Min, U Win Tun, U Khin Maung Soe and U Khin Yi, Deputy Minister U Aung Thein, Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, diplomats, representatives from political parties, peace makers, artists and donors.

The festival was opened with the video message of President U Thein Sein.

Vocalists, actors, actresses, artists and comedians have volunteered to perform entertainment at the festival. Over K 400 million has been contributed to the funds today at the festival by donors. Iron Cross band will perform entertainment tomorrow at the festival.—MNA

State of the Sea

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 July—Occasional squalls with rough seas may reach 40 mph. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 mph.

NLM

Union Ministers and audience enjoy performance of Myanmar Peace Festival-2013.—MNA

Workshop between Eminent Persons of ASEAN Political and Security Community concludes

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 July—The concluding of a Workshop between Eminent Persons of ASEAN Political and Security Community took place at Saturangala Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon this morning.

At the workshop, those present discussed matters on taking the chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014 by Myanmar and more effectively addressing important regional issues such as South China Sea dispute, transboundary crimes and migrant workers.

The meetings of those committees will continue and suggestions will be supported for political and security announcements released in ASEAN Summit and its related meetings. MNA

Climbers to Mt Fuji required to pay 1,000 admission fee

Kofu, 27 July—Local authorities started collecting a 1,000 yen admission fee on a trial basis Thursday from those climbing Mt Fuji to secure funds for preserving the environment at the new UNESCO world heritage site. Yamanashi and Shizuoka prefectures, which the mountain straddles, set up collection boxes at several starting points for the climb for the duration of the 10-day test period through 3 August.

Officials stationed at the collection points will ask the climbers if they feel the level of the admission fee is appropriate and how best to collect it. The local governments are set to officially introduce the system next summer.

As Mt Fuji’s registration on the World Heritage List last month is expected to attract more climbers, it has motivated authorities to make strenuous efforts to ensure safety measures for them and promote environmental protection. Kyodo News

Byline: Thaw Zet

Mon State, employing advanced technologies that can handle noise and air pollution, it has also spoken of a plan to establish an afforestation unit if need arises. Moreover, locals will be allowed to visit the plant once a week so that they can check the plant and make suggestions and 90 per cent of the plant workforce will be made up of local residents, creating alternative source of livelihood for them.

Once come into operation, the plant will distribute elephant branded cement nationwide, ceasing the import from Thailand.

Climbers to Mt Fuji required to pay 1,000 admission fee

Kyodo News