My Fellow Citizens,

I would like to inform you all of the developments that have taken place in our country in the month of July just as I have done previously on this radio program.

I paid working visits to the United Kingdom and the French Republic from 14th to 20th July. We have had long and deep ties with both countries and I am pleased to have been able to meet with their heads of government and other key figures at this important turning point in our history.

I held constructive and substantive discussions with political, business, and civil society leaders on several important issues such as the state of our reform process, peace building efforts, the issue of political prisoners, and on the recent communal violence that has erupted in our country. And, we also made progress on discussions relating to security sector reform and increased cooperation between our respective armed forces, both of which are fundamental to our reform process.

We also exchanged ideas and explained our current economic conditions to representatives of various prominent businesses and associations so that we can successfully attract responsible investment and trade to develop our economy. Similarly, we met with civil society organizations to strengthen the bond between the Myanmar peoples and peoples of those two countries. I have always made the effort to make such important working visits to build friendly relations with the international community and to gain international support, help and trust during this difficult transition period.

July is the month of turbulence in our political history. It teaches us tragic historical lessons to learn from as we build a better future. We have seen how violent attempts to control political problems or crises and how the acts of the radical politicians without any respect for fundamental democratic values such as diversity of opinion and freedom of expression could have long-term detrimental impact on the society at large. We must always be vigilant towards such threats and tragic legacies.

We must never fail to remember 19th July, the day that the leaders of our independence movement were brutally assassinated, nor forget the full measure of their devotion to ending colonial rule over our land and people. Our recent political progress can be measured by how many sectors of our society participated in honoring our fallen heroes and their memory. It is with great pride to see not only participation from leaders of government and public offices, but also active and vibrant participation from the general public, and especially spirited participation of the youth and civil society organizations.

My Fellow Citizens

We also had valuable discussions with representatives of Interfaith Dialogue Group and Human Rights Commission before and after my trip to the United Kingdom and the French Republic in order to expand our efforts to find lasting solutions for peaceful coexistence among different religions and prevent further violence.

On the topic of communal and religious violence, I would like to highlight and reflect on one of Bogyoke Aung San’s most important political speeches—“Ale Pyitsayan” Speech (Bogyoke Aung San gave this speech at the middle terrace of Shwe Dagon Pagoda on January 20, 1946 during the National Conference of Anti-Fascist Peoples’ Freedom League).

He said there that freedom of worship is a fundamental right of our citizens, and that all religions, in promoting truthfulness, loving kindness, and the right way to live through right actions cannot be a deterrent to progress of our society. However, our society must never tolerate thoughtless, ruthless and abusive violent acts in the name of religion. He also cautioned us that we must always condemn and prevent hate speech veiled with religious overtones.

In the practice of freedom of religion, we must draw a demarcation line between politics and religion. Mixing religion with politics would go against true teachings of various faiths. Mixing religion with politics would go against true teachings of various faiths. Mixing religion with politics would go against true teachings of various faiths. Mixing religion with politics would go against true teachings of various faiths. Mixing religion with politics would go against true teachings of various faiths.

I would also like to report to you on the progress of our peace building efforts. The Union Level Peace Making Work Committee conducted meetings with SSPP/SSA and Wa Self-Administered Division Peace Building Team. A liaison office for KIO Technical Advisory Team was established in Myitkyina to open more effective communication channels. We are also making progress in our continuing negotiations and discussions with armed ethnic groups to sign a National Ceasefire Accord in the very near future. We are also making necessary preparations to proceed with political dialogue that is inclusive of all relevant stakeholders.

My Government released seventy-three political prisoners after review and recommendation from the Remaining Political Prisoners Scrutinizing Committee to strengthen our national reconciliation efforts that are at the heart of our reform process. I am working towards fulfilling my promise of no political prisoners in Myanmar by the end of this year.

My concluding message is that my Government has been persistent in our efforts to achieve nation-wide peace, foster economic development and mold a better future for our young people. May you all have peace of mind and good health.
**LOCAL NEWS**

**Women’s capacity enhancement course conducted**

LaShio, 31 July—A ceremony to open the capacity enhancement course for members of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, jointly organized by Social Welfare Department and MWAF, was held at the hall of the LaShio District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee on 29 July morning.

Leader of the Protection and Nurturing Working Group of MWAF Daw Khin May Soe made a speech. Leader of the Women’s Nurturing and Rehabilitation Working Group Daw Thwe Thwe Win explained the purpose of opening the training course.

At the training course, lectures on facts about CEWAD, acceptance of human trafficking victims, duty and functions of resettlement and rehabilitation working group, undertakings in five-year anti-human trafficking plan, child law, trafficking in children were given to the trainees.—Kyemon-Zaw Lwin (LaShio)

**Approach road to Yenatha Bridge on Thayet-Kanma Road inundated**

Thayet, 31 July—Due to heavy rains, Mindon Creek and Pani creek, flew over the road section, north of Yenatha Bridge at mile post 19/0 on Thayet-Kanma Road in Kanma Township of Thayet District in Magway Region. In consequence, the transportation on Thayet-Kanma-Payy-Yangon route is in difficulties.

As of 29 July morning, Mindon and Pani creeks flew over the road near Yenatha Bridge linking Yenatha Village and Hsonkon Village of Kanma Township. The 900 feet long approach road to the bridge was inundated. Moreover, the over 150 feet long road section on Kanma-Payy Road was flooded. Thus, the transportation along Thayet-Kanma-Payy-Yangon route was suspended.

Local authorities are making utmost efforts for ensuring secure and smooth transport for the local people.

Kyemon-Ko Ko Aung (Thayet)

**Fire breaks out at Lapyawun Plaza**

Yangon, 31 July—A fire broke out at Lapyawun Plaza on Alanya Pagoda Road in Yawmingyi Ward of Dagon Township, Yangon Region, at 12.07 pm on 30 July.

The fire started at the 60 square feet room on the sixth floor of the west wing at the plaza. It was put out by 16 fire engines, five supporting vehicles and five management vehicles of the Fire Services Department.

In the incident, the fire engulfed some part of construction net, losing 38 members of Auxiliary Services Department and 115 members of Fire Brigade participated in putting out the fire. Kyemon-Aung Thura

**Low-cost SIM cards distributed to shopkeepers of Nay Pyi Taw markets**

Nay Pyi Taw, 31 July—Under the supervision of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, SIM cards were distributed to the local people through draw lot system at the markets of the committee.

At Arharathukha Market, total of 72 CDMA SIM cards and 298 GSM SIM cards were distributed to shopkeepers.

A seller of grocery shop said, “My dream came true. I thank the leaders of the nation for their management.”

Plans are underway to sell out more SIM cards to the markets of the committee.—Kyemon-107

**Boat sunk in Khamaukkyi Creek due to heavy rains**

Khamaukkyi, 31 July—A boat comprising three member family sank in Khamaukkyi Creek in Khamaukkyi Sub-Township of Kawkhongh District.

On 22 July morning, U Aye Lin Htaik, 30 together with wife May Hnin and one-year oldchild of Khamaukkyi Sub-Township went to the horticultural farm while there was heavy rain.

They went to the farm by a small boat. At 12 noon, torrent water violently flew down in the creek and the boat sank in the water.

As soon as they knew the incident, local authorities and members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade immediately performed rescue works.

In the incident, one-year old child drowned in the creek. Ma Hnin could be rescued but her husband U Aye Lin Htaik is missing.

The local authorities are still carrying out rescue works.

Kyemon-Khamaukkyi IPRD

**Flood victims accommodated at relief camps in Kawkareik District**

Nay Pyi Taw, 31 July—As Thanlwin River rose about 3.5 feet higher than the danger level of 117 centimetres on 29 July, houses in Hpa-an, Hlaingbwe, Kyakdon Sub-Township of Kawkareik District were flooded.

Relief camps opened for the flood victims. Eight relief camps in Hpa-an Township accommodate 1382 victims from 549 households and five in Hlaingbwe Township, 907 victims of 206 households.

Likewise, relief camps are opened in Kyakdon Sub-Township and flood victims were evacuated to the relief camps.

Kyemon-Tin Maung Aye (IPRD)

**Myanmar to take part in 47th Asian Body-building and Fitness Championship**

Yangon, 31 July—The 47th Asian Body-building and Fitness Championship will be held in Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam in August and September 2013.

Two men and three women builders and fitness athletes of Myanmar team will take part in the championship, said General Secretary of Myanmar Body-building and Physical Culture Federation Head of Budget and Accounts Department U Kyaw Than.

The federation managed to take part in the international body-building contests in the past. As of last year, the federation allowed the Myanmar selected athletes to take part in the women’s fitness contests. This year, Myanmar will join three events of the 47th Asian Body-building and Fitness Championship in Vietnam.

Soe Moe Aung will participate in the bodybuilding contest, Tin Tun Oo in the men’s fitness contest and Aye Aye Soe, Nan Htet Htet Lin and Khaw Win in the women’s fitness contest.

Myanmar sports team will comprise five athletes, two coaches, two referees and two managers, totalling 11.

At present, the bodybuilders and physical cultural athletes are under training.—Kyemon-Saw Thein Win

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At present, the bodybuilders and physical cultural athletes are under training.—Kyemon-Saw Thein Win
Obama asks Republican Senators McCain, Graham to visit Egypt

WASHINGTON, 31 July — President Barack Obama has asked two senior Republican senators to travel to Egypt to meet with its military leaders and the opposition, as Cairo’s allies struggle with how to address the turmoil convulsing the country.

Mursi, was ousted by the army on 3 July.

Former President Nicolas Sarkozy and French UMP political party leader Jean-Francois Cope (bottom) leave the UMP political party headquarters in Paris on 8 July, 2013.— Reuters

Sarkozy’s party fundraising drive boosts comeback hopes

PARIS, 31 July — Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy’s hopes of a political comeback got a boost on Tuesday after a fundraising campaign he spearheaded to avert a financial crisis for his conservative UMP party raised 83.5 million euros in less than a month.

The national drive to refill the UMP coffers — dubbed “Sarkothon” by the media — underscores Sarkozy’s continued star appeal among centrist-right voters despite his loss of the presidency to Socialist Francois Hollande in May 2012. With the UMP’s finances now largely repaired, Sarkozy can more easily prepare for a possible presidential bid in 2017.

For this, he will have to unite his fractured opposition party and present voters with a compelling alternative to Hollande, whose 14 months in office have been marred by a sluggish economy and rising unemployment. French election auditors ruled this month that the UMP had overspent during Sarkozy’s 2012 election campaign. As a penalty, they ordered it to repay the 11 million euros ($14.58 million) of state money it had been advanced.

Sarkozy’s continued star appeal is underscored by the “Sarkothon” campaign he spearheaded to avert a financial crisis for his conservative UMP party.

Iran concedes deadly terrorist attacks in Iraq

TEHERAN, 31 July — Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Abbas Araghchi strongly condemned a series of recent deadly terrorist attacks in Iraq, Press TV reported on Wednesday.

Expressing deep concern over the spread of terrorist activities in Iraq, Araghchi said that the terrorist acts are aimed at fuelling sectarian strife in the Muslim world. By such violence, terrorist groups are pursuing their “illegitimate political goals,” he was quoted as saying.

Japan’s defence chief to propose idea for Asian security framework

VIENNA, 31 July — Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera indicated on Tuesday that he would propose an idea for the establishment of a permanent mechanism in Asia, akin to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to promote dialogue among East Asian countries in light of North Korea’s nuclear ambition and island disputes between Japan and China. After meeting with Marcel Pesko, director of the Office of the OSCE Secretariat General in Vienna, Onodera told reporters he learned specific cases of the role played by the OSCE — where security issues are discussed constantly on weekly and daily bases — in diffusing tension. “I believe what is most important is East Asia is confidence building,” the minister said.

“If there is a permanent forum for continual consultations, it will be possible, for instance, to discuss the need for establishing a maritime communications mechanism between Japan and China.” Onodera also took note of the OSCE’s disclosure and account for their military capabilities. He said such actions within the Asian framework would help enhance a sense of security and improve regional security.

While saying such a forum would be established overnight, the minister said “it is important for Japan to take the lead” in making such proposal. — Kyodo News

Recalling the shocking power of the Hiroshima Murals

OOSAKA, 31 July — The Hiroshima Murals are probably the most shocking and telling paintings depicting the horror of atomic weapons, and have lost none of their power nearly 70 years after the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. “Gen-baku no zu” — as they are known in Japan — are a series of 15 large panels, each standing 1.8 meters by 7.2 meters, painted by Irari Maruki and his wife Toshi over 32 years from 1950 that depict the consequences of the atomic bombings.

“I couldn’t figure out what it was,” Yoshie Yoshida, an art critic, said recently in recalling her impressions when she saw the first mural in the series, made public for the first time in February 1950, four and a half years after the bombing of Hiroshima on 6 Aug, 1945. Titled “Ghosts,” the first panel depicts people walking naked with the skin peeling from their burned arms and many bodies piled up on each other. It was exhibited at a show held under the simple title of “Ghosts” as organizers feared the occupation authorities at the time would ban it.

But the mural was subsequently shown in various parts of Japan as a result of a grassroots campaign involving intellectuals, labourers and students, attracting a large turnout of visitors on each occasion. Yoshida, who accompanied the panel on these traveling exhibitions, once saw a man throw down his old service cap and stomp on it in front of the painting. “He must have been so shocked,” she said. The mural attracted so many people probably because it offered them the “shocking reality of the atomic bombings amid limited information,” said Yukinori Okamura, a curator at the Maruki Gallery for the Hiroshima Panels in Higashimatsuyama, Saitama Prefecture.

Street cleaners remove debris on the road at the site of a car bomb attack in Basra, 420 km (260 miles) southeast of Baghdad, on 29 July, 2013.— Reuters

Al-Qaeda affiliate claims responsibility for Iraq bombings

BAGHDAD, 31 July — An al-Qaeda-affiliated group claimed responsibility for a wave of bombings across Iraq that killed 60 people on Monday, the Interior Ministry said.

The 17 blasts were the latest in a relentless campaign of bombings and shootings that have killed more than 4,000 people since the start of the year. Nearly 900 people have lost their lives in militant attacks in July. Another 26 people were killed in scattered attacks on Tuesday evening, and the bodies of two unidentified men were found in the northern city of Mosul with gunshot wounds and their hands bound behind their backs.

“The country is currently facing an open war from bloodthirsty sectarian forces that aim to plunge the country into chaos,” said the Interior Ministry, warning it would deal harshly with anyone found harbourcing insurgents.

The ministry said it was setting up a hotline for citizens to report information that uncovered “terrorist cells”, offering big cash rewards to anyone who came forward. Hundreds of convicts ran free after simultaneous attacks on two high-security prisons last week, raising questions about the ability of Iraq’s security services to combat al-Qaeda, which has been regaining momentum in its insurgency against the Shi’ite-led government. — Reuters

Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera
The sun-approaching Comet ISON floats against a seemingly infinite backdrop of numerous glowing, hand-sized foreground stars in this April 2013 composite image from the Hubble Telescope. —Reuters

CAPE CANAVERAL, 31 July—Astronomers slated to meet this week to discuss observing plans for Comet ISON may not have much to talk about. The so-called “Comet of the Century” may already have fizzled out.

“The future of comet ISON does not look bright,” astronomer Ignacio Ferrin, with the University of Antioquia in Colombia, said in a statement on Monday.

Ferrin’s calculations show the comet, which is currently moving toward the sun at 16 miles per second, has not brightened since mid-January. That may be because the comet is already out of ice particles in its body, which melt as the comet moves closer to the sun, creating a long, bright tail.

Another theory is that the comet is covered in a layer of silicate dust that snuffs out water vapor and other gases that brighten the comet.

“Comet ISON has been on a standstill for more than 132 days ... a rather puzzling feat,” Ferrin wrote in a paper submitted to the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society and posted online at the archival site arXiv.org. The comet, named ISON for the International Scientific Optical Network that made its discovery, was found in September 2012 by two amateur Russian astronomers.

It is due to pass about 724,000 miles (1.2 million km) from the sun on November 28. The relatively close pass was expected to create a massive tail that some scientists predict will be visible even in daylight. If it survives, that is.

At that distance, the comet would reach temperatures of about 4,000 degrees Fahrenheit (2,700 degrees Celsius) — hot enough to melt lead. It may also be pulled apart by the sun’s gravity.

Scientists believe the comet hails from the Oort Cloud, a cluster of icy rocks that circle the sun about 50,000 times farther away than Earth’s orbit. Calculations show Comet ISON is making its first trip — and possibly last — voyage into the inner solar system.

HONG KONG, 31 July—Taiwan’s HTC Corp said it expects revenue to fall as much as 30 percent in the third quarter compared to the previous three months, far below analysts’ forecasts, citing fierce competition in the mid to high-end smartphone markets.

A delayed launch for the much-hyped HTC One this year has highlighted the company’s struggles against dominant smartphone makers Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and Apple Inc at a time when the market for high-end phones is said to be approaching saturation.

The company also indicated a weak outlook for profit margins.

“Our overall gross margin has been impacted by a relatively higher cost structure, lack of economy of scale and certain provisions needed to facilitate the clearance of aging products,” it said in a statement.

HTC said it expects revenue this quarter of T$50 billion - T$60 billion, below an average forecast of T$75.65 billion from 22 analysts polled by Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S. It reported revenue of T$70.7 billion in the previous quarter and T$70.2 billion a year ago.

HTC has often disappointed with its earnings over the last several quarters. Second-quarter net profit came in at just T$1.25 billion, far below forecasts and following a record low in the first three months of the year when a shortage of camera components set back the launch of the HTC One.

A planned marketing blitz, which includes enlist- ing actor Robert Downey Jr for a reported $12 million to star in its ads campaigns, is expected to weigh on profit margins and analysts remain wary about the company’s longer-term prospects as Samsung and Apple have much deeper pockets to develop new products.

--Reuters

Mumbai, 31 July—Samsung Galaxy S4 is now available in two new colour variants in Taiwan. A report in Android Beat notes that company’s flagship smartphone is now available in Purple Mirage and Pink Twilight colour options for prospective buyers in Taiwan. Samsung had announced a new colour option for the Galaxy S4 back in June, when it added the Pink Twilight variant to the Blue Arctic, Red Aurora, Purple Mirage and Brown Autumn options that were announced earlier.

Samsung Galaxy S4 made its debut back in March with White Mist and Black Frost the two available colours. The phone sports a 5-inch full-HD screen with a resolution of 1080x1920 pixels, and pixel density of 441ppi. It is powered by 1.6GHz Exynos octa-core processor and comes with 2GB of RAM alongside 16GB of storage, with 32GB and 64GB variants also available in some markets. The Galaxy S4 sports a 13-megapixel rear shooter and a 2-megapixel front snapper. The phone has been a success for Samsung, clocking 20 million units shipped earlier this month, though the sales have not been as good as some expected. Earlier on Tuesday, reports emerged that a Samsung Galaxy S4 exploded in Hong Kong, and burst down an entire apartment in the process. —PTI

#Facebook hashtags fail to take-off

Mumbai, 31 July—This ain’t Twitter, hashtags don’t work here!

Using hashtags in Facebook posts may be a fun strategy for companies trying to grab the attention of consumers and mentions a company would receive for a status update is too short to take-off! This ain’t Twitter, hashtags don’t work here!

This isn’t Twitter. Hashtags provide users with a way to group messages of similar content.

Researchers say that posts using the newly introduced hashtags perform only as well as those without it, suggesting that users are not yet finding brand posts by their tags.

The study showed that visual content is by far the primary driver for engagement on Facebook.

Pictures posted by top brands average more than 9,400 engagements, which includes likes, comments and shares, per post, while videos average more than 2,500, ‘BusinessNewsDaily’ reported.

Researchers said when it comes to text posts, brands must walk a fine line.

Analysis of more than 500 status updates from the top brands shows that the longer a status update is, the less engagement it typically receives. However, if a status update is too short less than 50 characters it may not be long enough to capture viewers’ attention or provide the necessary context to drive the number of likes, shares and comments a company would like. —PTI

It’s a bird, it’s a plane, it’s ... Swiss ‘Jetman’

NEW DELHI, 31 July—A Swiss adventurer is making his first public flights in the United States this summer with his custom-built jet suit.

Yves Rossy (eey RAW-see), also known as “Jetman,” is making appearances at the Experimental Aircraft Association’s AirVenture in Wisconsin. On Monday he demonstrated his carbon-Kevlar jetwing with four engines.

His first public flight in the US is set for Tuesday. —PTI

Rossy says he hopes to inspire people with his flight.

He’s able to propel himself through the sky at upward of 190 mph, controlling his jet suit with a throttle in his hand. He can go as high as 12,000 feet.

AirVenture runs through 4 August in Oshkosh. His flights will be part of the air shows during the week.

He’ll also fly at the Reno Air Races in September. —PTI

Struggling HTC forecasts bleak outlook for this year
US federal government to borrow 444 bln USD in second half

WASHINGTON, 31 July — The US Treasury Department on Monday announced that the federal government expected to borrow 444 bln USD from the market to fund its operations in the second half of this year. The announcement was made Monday, according to the US Treasury Department. Preliminary estimates showed the US federal government borrowing about 417 bln USD in the second quarter of this year.

Consumer confidence slips in July as outlook dims

NEW YORK, 31 July — US consumer confidence pulled back in July as consumers were less optimistic about the outlook for the economy and labor market, according to a private sector report released on Tuesday. The Conference Board, an industry group, said its index of consumer attitudes slipped to 80.3 from an upwardly revised 82.1 in June. The report was shy of economists’ expectations for the index to hold steady at June’s original reading of 81.4. The expectations index dropped to 84.7 from 91.1.

Breastfeeding longer associated with higher intelligence

WASHINGTON, 31 July — Children who are breastfed for longer are more likely to have a better understanding of language and a higher intelligence (IQ) later in life, according to a US study released Monday. Previous studies suggest the relationship between breastfeeding and health benefits in infancy, but the extent to which breastfeeding leads to better cognitive development is less certain, according to researchers at the Boston Children’s Hospital.

The researchers studied more than 1,300 children born to women participating in a research project called Viva, which was designed to examine prenatal factors in relation to pregnancy and child health. Each of the children underwent a cognition assessment when they were 3 and 7 years old. “We found that longer duration of breastfeeding and greater exclusivity of breastfeeding were associated with better receptive language at age 3 years and with higher verbal and nonverbal IQ at age 7 years,” the researchers wrote in their paper in the journal JAMA Pediatrics. They reported a receptive language benefit at age 3 years of 0.21 points per month from breastfeeding and an IQ benefit at age 7 years of 0.35 points per month on the verbal scale and 0.29 points per month on the nonverbal one. In other words, breastfeeding an infant for the first year of life would be expected to increase his or her receptive score by about 2.5 points and IQ by about 4 points.

These researchers concluded that the findings “support national and international recommendations to promote exclusive breastfeeding through age 6 months and continuation of breastfeeding through at least age 1 year.” In an accompanying editorial, Dimitri Christakis of the Seattle Children’s Hospital Research Institute, said that merely reiterating the importance of breastfeeding is clearly not enough. “The problem currently is not so much that most women do not initiate breastfeeding, it is that they do not sustain it,” Christakis wrote. “In the United States about 70 percent of women overall initiate breastfeeding ... however, by six months, only 35 percent and 20 percent, respectively, are still breastfeeding.”

The settlement would “not have a material impact on our earnings” because the bank had previously set aside reserves. FERC said JPMorgan admitted the facts in the agreement, but “did not admit or deny the violations.” Dimon has moved this year to resolve multiple government investigations and correct problems regulators have found at the bank in an effort to take a more conciliatory stance as new rules are imposed more than five years after the start of the financial crisis.
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits Shwedagon Pagoda, offers Waso Robes to Alodawpyae Sayadaw

YANGON, 31 July—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, together with Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Zaw Myint, U Kyaw Kyaw Win, Dr Maung Maung Hay and U Zaw Win, region ministers and officials concerned, paid homage to the Shwedagon Pagoda at 3:40 pm today.

He paid obeisance to Padamya Myatshin Buddha Image on the upper terrace of the Pagoda. Then, he looked around offering gold of the Pagoda. Then, he offered homage to the Shwedagon Pagoda at 3:40 pm today. Afterwards, the Vice-President and his entourage attended the 16th Waso Robe offering ceremony, held in Pinshwe Nyaung Street in Tamwaykalay Ward in Tamagon Township.

The Vice-President of the Union Minister visits Yangon University of Computer Studies

NAY PYI TAW, 31 July—Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Soe Oo on 28 July met with the Pro-rector, and faculty members of Yangon University of Computer Studies (Bahan Campus) in Yangon.

At the meeting, they urged to keep doing researches in addition to teaching, adding that only when teachers are proficient in their respective subjects and keep abreast of international researches, will the university be research-based centre and its students be outstanding in those fields.

British Delegation visits Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 31 July—A visiting British delegation led by Mr John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons of Britain visited the Shwedagon Pagoda, here, at 7 pm today.

The Speaker of the House of Commons of Britain signed the visitors’ book before offering flowers, water and lights to the Buddha Image. Then, the Pagoda board of trustees presented the picture of the Pagoda and chronicles of the Shwedagon Pagoda to the Speaker of the House of Commons. Later, the Speaker of the House of Commons and party were conducted round the Pagoda.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham offers provisions to Alodawpyae Sayadaw.—MNA

YANGON, 31 July—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits Shwedagon Pagoda, offers Waso Robes to Alodawpyae Sayadaw. —MNA

Storm News

NAY PYI TAW, 31 July—According to the observations at 11:30 hrs M.S.T today, yesterday’s depression over Northwest Bay of Bengal has crossed North Orissa Coast (India), announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—NLM

Those responsible urged for achieving ceasefire to act justly, and we urge our people to join in efforts to promote peace through political dialogue

NAY PYI TAW, 31 July—Today’s session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw issued a statement. The full text of notification is as follows:

Statement of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as to peace, rule of law and friendly co-existence among citizens


2. We also support the policy and programme of the Union Peace-Making Central Committee headed by the President.

3. We would wish all concerned to work to promote genuine goodwill, mutual understanding, mutual sympathy and mutual trust that true peace may be realized from a situation of conflict.

4. We urge those responsible for achieving ceasefire to act justly, and we urge our people to join in efforts to promote peace through political dialogue.

5. We appeal to our people to live together in friendly accord and to respect the law; that there might be no further outbreak of the kind of violence that occurred in Rakhine State, Meiktila, West Bago Division and Lashio in recent months.

Ceasefire is needed for national reconciliation in Myanmar. Ceasefire is the beginning of the problems we want to resolve. Bringing the more than 60-year-old internal conflict to an end what the President and U Aung Min said is a must. Ceasefire should be the first to end the war. I believe the today’s meeting could be translated into a success. Peace cannot be made at once. A series of negotiations will a plus sign of achieving success,” said CEC member Naing Tala Nyi of New Mon State Party who was there as an observer.—MNA
Torrents cause flood in Ye

Ye, 31 July—Torrents caused flood in Yan Gyi Aung and Yan Myo Aung ghettos in Ye Township on 28 July.

Tatmadawmen of local battalions and police officers rescued the victims in the lowland areas to Township People's Stadium.

The rainfall of 4.59 inches is reported on the day and the river also swelled to add more water into the town.

Houses, schools, markets and farms in Aung Thu Kha, Aung Myittha, Aung Mingala, Thiri Nanda, Chaung Taung and Kyaung villages were inundated.

The flood also caused the electricity outage in the township.

Tatmadawmen are carrying out rescue measures, opening relief camps in the People's Stadium, Kyakhto monastery, Chaung Taung Nanl monastery.

The flash though caused no casualty.

A total of 759 people from 177 households in the relief camps are in need of urgent aids.

Flash flood occurred in Hangan village and inter-village road links were cut.—MMAL-Nay Myo Htae (Ye)

Torrents cause flash flood in Kayin State

Hpa-an, 31 July—Torrents caused flash flood in various parts of Kayin State.

Myawady, the town on Myanmar-Thailand border, was flooded and Hpa-an-Myawady border trade routes were inundated and landslides took place on the roads.

Public Works under the Ministry of Construction urgently repaired the roads and cleared the blocked ones.

Kayin state towns Kawkareik and Kyondee also suffered the flash flood.

Villagers of Gyaing village in Hpa-an township would be relocated as the flood was about to reach danger water level.

The torrential rain on 29 July damaged the recently opened Basic Education Primary School. Houses were damaged and flooded.

But there is still no report of casualty.

Relief camps for flood victims have been opened in Hpa-an as town is increasingly inundated.

Authorities have invented emergency detours as roads were blocked.

Currently, Mawlamyine-Bilin-Kyainggale road is inundated, keeping Yagon-Hpa-an-Kawkareik buses in the wait for decline of water level.—MMAL-Naing Naing Tun (Kyondee)

Coordination meeting for opening OPD at charity hospital in Dawei

Dawei, 31 July—A coordination meeting for opening out-patient department at Dawei Sitagu Arojadana Hospital was held at the hospital in Dawei on 28 July.

The meeting was attended by Sitagu Arojadana Hospital Support Group, the medical superintendent of Dawei General Hospital, members of Myanmar Medical Association, members of social support groups and donors.

Medical Superintendent of Dawei General Hospital Dr Myint Myint Khaing and member of Sitagu Arojadana Hospital Support Group Dr Than Win discussed on preparations for opening the out-patient department.

For donation for opening the free-out-charge out-patient department, one may reach the hospital through Ph: 059-22454 and 098750179.—MMAL-Phoe Shwe Thwin (Dawei)

School health activity performed in Namkhgam

Namkhgam, 31 July—Assistant Surgeon Dr Aung Aung led the medical team of Namkhgam People’s Hospital performed school health care to primary students of Basic Education High School in Namkhgam Township of Shan State (North) on 26 July morning.

The medical team carried out medical checkup, inspection of iodine deficiency, personal hygiene, sanitation of school environs and latrines, sales of hygienic foods at stalls at the school canteen.

They performed medical checkup at over 400 primary students.

In accord with the plan, the medical team will carry out medical checkup for the students in remaining schools.—MMAL-Nyau Min (Namkhgam)

Monsoon tree growing ceremony marks Japan-Myanmar friendship

Yesagyo, 31 July—In commemoration of the 17th Anniversary of OISCA Farming, Forestry and Agriculture Training School opened in Pahangyin region of Yesagyo Township of Magway Region, the Japan-Myanmar friendship tree growing ceremony took place in Pahnyin Village of Yesagyo Township on 24 July morning.

On the occasion, the medical team gave talks on reduction of traffic accidents, Dos and Don’ts and offenses and penalties for traffic rules violation.

They performed medical checkup at over 400 primary students.

They planted tamariam, neem, acacia and other saplings at the ceremony.—MMAL-Pe Tun Zaw (Yesagyo)

Thabyayno education charity group holds plenum

Mingaladon Township Administrator U Nyunt Han delivered a speech at the ceremony held at Thabyayno hall where the association headquarters.

Chairman U Tin Nyunt briefed those present on educational activities of the association.

It donated stationery worth K 2.7 million to 24 basic education schools in the township.—MMAL-015

Health

HRD

Talks on traffic rules given

Nyaungdon, 31 July—Maubin District Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee organized an educative talk on traffic rules at Ayea Hall of Basic Education High School No (2) in Nyaungdon of Yangon Region on 18 July.

The event was attended by Township Administrator U Khin Min, Township Fire Brigade Commander U Thant Zin Win, headmistress Daw Khin Won of the school and some 300 teachers and students.

At the ceremony, Police Inspector Chit Sein and other police officers of Maubin Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee gave talks on traffic accidents, Dos and Don’ts and offenses and penalties for traffic rules violation.

The paddles of traffic rules education were distributed at the talk.—MMAL-Ko Tun Kyaw (Nyaungdon)

Agriculture

Monsoon tree growing ceremony marks Japan-Myanmar friendship

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July, August... rains and floods. As the saying goes, we have torrential rains nowadays. During these months we may face heavy rainfall, severe floods, flash floods and mudslides. In our neighbouring countries people may see more tropical storms which are likely to sweep far inland and cause severe damage to the coastal regions.

Due to global climate changes other regions in the world have also been battered by heavy rainfall in recent weeks. However, people in some countries of the same region are now having the hotter days and nights, compared to the previous years. Considering such ugly desperate plight, scientists put the blame on global warming and climate change that is posing a threat to all living things in the world today.

According to the scientists, climate change will mean 25 million more hungry children over the next four decades, with subsistence farmers in Africa and Asia particularly hard hit by global warming. They predicted (in 2009) that even without climate change, 113 million children under five years old will be malnourished in 2050 worldwide. With climate change, the figure would be 20 percent more.

Scientists are making efforts to reveal the cause of global warming and climate change.

In some parts of the world today, we may see wars against terrorism being launched. But in other parts of the world, people are facing such natural disasters as soil depletion, floods, storms and desertification. However, we easily ignore the fact that climate changes caused by global warming are more dangerous than wars, epidemics, terrorism and so on.

People hardly understand that all forms of life on Earth are interlinked and intertwined in the form of web so that a collapse in one system will impact the other and eventually lead to the collapse of the entire ecosystem.

Many species of flora and fauna are fast disappearing. The ozone layer is thinning. Forests are depleting. Our planet is steadily warming up and the climate is changing. They cause droughts, forest fires, storms and cyclones in many parts of the world.

Although the world community is trying its best to seek ways and means to do something for the climate change, people are facing the bad effects caused by the climate change.

Moreover, the world is facing many other problems such as food crisis, energy security, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorist attacks and pandemic disease. Global nations will have to make cooperative efforts to overcome these problems and challenges.

Myanmar, on the other hand, is in a better position than those in spite of her being a developing nation herself. One of the major factors to secure such a position is that Myanmar has favourable climatic conditions.

Evidently, constructive endeavours of the government enables the nation to weather the effects of regional and international adverse condition. In close cooperation the government and the people will be to overcome all difficulties, natural or otherwise.

As has been known that pollution of air and water, deforestation, soil erosion, desertification, global warming, loss of plants and animal species have become the major concerns of this age. However, Myanmar has long recognized that environmental resources such as land, forests, water, minerals and marine resources are the nation’s valuable assets which should be conserved and used sustainably.

Top it in a nutshell, climate change caused by global warming is the phenomenon that pushes the limits of human experience. This is the global concern. But what I want to make you know is to be vigilant against the natural disasters caused by them.

While our neighbouring countries are expected to face serious flood control challenges as they head into flood season, we are to prepare for the worst. Natural disasters are more catastrophic and more destructive. We have not known how to stop or control the natural disaster if it breaks out. There may be loss of lives and property. What we could do is to take measures of preparedness. In reality, even developed countries did suffer heavy loss of lives and property, let alone developing countries.

We can forecast some natural disasters such as high winds, storms, and so on. When natural catastrophes occur, people may suffer. Apart from the earthquake, we can take preventive measures for unexpected calamities. Although we are lucky enough to live in Myanmar in which we rarely see large disaster-prone areas, we should pay attention to timely warning for natural disasters. The advance warning of weather prediction are numerous, but in the end, nature does whatever it pleases.

We may have rains and floods in July and August. However, we must always be on the alert!

WTO’s EIF programme introduced

Nay Pyi Taw, 31 July—Workshop on WTO’s Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) programme was held at Thingaha Hotel here today, with an address by Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint.

Chair of EIF Board of WHO Ambassador Maung Hlaing said that the programme is a major step towards WTO’s EIF programme.

Union FM receives Senior Advisor to President Obama

Nay Pyi Taw, 31 July—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung received a delegation led by Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communication and Speechwriting Mr Benjamin James Rhodes from the US President Obama at his office, here at 9:20 am today.

MNA
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann to...

(form page 16)

theories alone. Six regu-
lar sessions and one special
session were successfully
held. The seventh session
is in progress. Pyidaungsu
Hluttaw has passed 15 laws
in 2011, 24 laws in 2012 and
19 laws in 2013, totaling
58—49 from the Union
government and nine from
Hluttaw Committees and
the MPs.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
has joined AIPA, IPU and
ASEP. Myanmar Parlia-
mentary Union (MPU) was
formed for the relations be-
tween Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
and Region/State Hluttaws,
he added.

He strongly believed
that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
will serve the interests of
people in accord with the
people’s wishes and desires. He wished may
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw repre-
sentatives do their duties for
hitting the goal of becom-
ing a democratic country
equipped with peace and
prosperity.

After that, Amyotha
Hluttaw Speaker U Khin
Aung Myint handed over
duties of Pyidaungsu Hlut-
taw Speaker to Pyithu
Hluttaw Speaker Thura U
Shwe Mann.

Next, Pyidaungsu
Hluttaw Speaker Thura U
Shwe Mann extended
greetings. He said that
formation of Hluttaws
within the country was the
remarkable progress while
transforming the nation
into a multiparty democra-
cy with a market-oriented
economy; and that Hluttaws
were defined as not only the
significant symbols of the
democracy but also the soul
and lifeblood of a certain
country.

He continued that My-
ammar could not exercise
democratic system for
many years due to the lack
of Hluttaws; and that when
Hluttaws were once in the
country, representatives
performed only holding up
their hands and nodding
their heads for “yes” and
could not represent the
people. He called on to-
day’s Hluttaws to represent
the people, understanding
people’s voices, wishes,
attitudes and requirements
and implement the tasks
for the sake of the people.
By doing this, the interest
of the nation could be re-
sulted simultaneously. As
the legislative, executive
and judicial bodies formed
with representatives of
the people who have been liv-
ing in a territory represent
as a government, national
interest could be achieved by
implementing the inter-
est of the people who have
been living in the country.
Looking back the past
history of the Republic of
the Union of Myanmar, it
can be witnessed with regret
that successive gov-
ernments set objectives for
the sake of the nation and
its people, but they failed
to translate them into a
success.

The new government
is in the process of building
a peaceful and developed na-
tion. Taking lessons of the
past, efforts are to be made
for national development. It
is legislative, executive and
judicial bodies that are to
push ahead with that.

It needs to objectively
assess the weaknesses of
errors in ensuring national
reconciliation, rule of law,
peace and stability and
putting an end to armed
conflicts instead. It is a
fnger at each other. The
nation is to be built through
integrity, understanding,
patience and justice.

We need to understand
and practise multiparty de-
mocracy and market-orient-
ed economic system with
a growing trend towards
development. Although
legislation, execution and
judiciary have to be exer-
cised separately as much
as possible, the objectives
and the people are identical.

That’s why, the legisla-
tive body has formulated
the laws capable of safeguard-
ing the interest of the State
and the people. The aim
of the laws is to bring about
peace among the people.
The executive and judicial
bodies are to fully function
in accordance with the
laws. Only then, will there
be prevalence of law.

The people and media
kept a watchful eye on the
activities of legislative,
executive and judicial
bodies and made construc-
tive suggestions on them.
Transparency, responsibil-
ity, accountabi-lity, justice
and inclusiveness are an
integral part of multiparty
democracy and market-orien-
ted economic system.

It is my firm belief that
the Hluttaw representa-
tives will make continued
efforts in the interest of
the State and the people
practiced in a democratic
way. This, there can be
support and cooperation.

U Ba Moe of Kyauk-
pyu Constituency expres-
sed his opinion that the
change could bring about swift
activities or slow activities
in the Hluttaw since there
are slight differences in a
person’s work style, and all
are to continue keeping
an eye on that.

MPs meet partnership for disabled

The meeting between MPs and partnership for disabled in progress.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 31 July—

MPs and partnership for
the disabled met at Sky
Palace Hotel here yesterday
evening.

Present at the meeting
were Chairman of Pyithu
Hluttaw Sports, Culture
and Public Relations
Development Committee
Thura U Aye Myint,
Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw
Judicial and Legal Affairs
Committee Thura U Aung
Ko, Chairman of Amyotha
Hluttaw Women and Child
Affairs Committee Dr Mya
Oo and MPs and responsi-
bale persons from partnership
for disabled.

Responsible persons
from partnership for disabled
discussed the law on
people with disabilities.

MPs Thura U Aye
Myint, Dr Soe Yin, U Htay
Naing and U Tin Maung Oo
discussed improving the life
of the disabled.

Myanmar, France signs debt
clearance agreement

Nay Pyi Taw, 31
July—Union Minister
for Finance U Win Shein
and Union Minister for
National Planning and
Economic Development
Dr Kan Zaw held talks
with the delegation led by
Mrs Nicole Briq, Foreign
Trade Minister of France on
investments, financial and
monetary matters, debts and
cooperation between the two
countries.

Union Minister U Win
Shein expressed thanks for
France’s clearance of the
Paris Club’s debts. It
would seek the best ways
for the relaxations on the
clearance of debts owed to
France. French companies
are welcomed to make
investments in Myanmar as
new foreign investment law
has already been enacted. He
pledged that Myanmar will
help the investors in accord
with the rules and laws.

France would help
support Myanmar’s
development schemes.
Many French companies
want to make investments
in Myanmar, the French
Foreign Trade Minister said.

Union Minister Dr Kan
Zaw expressed thanks for
the reinstatement of General
System of Preference (GSP).
He asked for France’s helps
for technology development
of Myanmar.

After that, Union
Minister U Win Shein and
Foreign Trade Minister Mrs
Nicole Briq signed the debt
clearance contact in accord
with Agreed Minutes on the
Treatment of the Republic of
the Union of Myanmar which
was signed at the Paris Club’s
Meeting.
Chemical fertilizers, pesticides introduced in Nattalin

NATTALIN, 31 July — Under the supervision of Nattalin Township Agriculture Department, Myawna Awba Co., Ltd introduced chemical fertilizers and pesticides to local farmers in conjunction with holding educative talks at the Home for the Aged in Nattalin on 26 July.

It was attended by Head of Nattalin Township of Myanmar Police Force, Nay Lin Tun of Myanma Awba Co., Ltd, staff and local farmers. First, U Maung Maung Tun of the company extended greetings and U Nay Lin Tun gave talks on pests and pesticides, chemical fertilizers and dos and don’ts in the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.—Kyemon-Ko Lwin (Swa)

Duty and functions of MPF clarified in Pobbathiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 31 July—A ceremony to clarify undertakings of police force on rule of law and crime combating in Pobbathiri Township to the people was held at Pyitaunggan Police Station in Pobbathiri Township on 29 July.

Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Min Zaw explained duty and functions of Myanmar Police Force, enhancement of capability of Myanmar Police Force meeting international standards, acceleration of rule of law and security in the area, crime combating, prevention against crime and reduction, and the head of Pyitaunggan Police Station, knowledge on crime prevention and plans for villages. They replied to queries raised by local people.

Aye Than

Bilin River inundates Yangon-Mawlamyine Road

BILIN, 31 July—Due to heavy rains, Bilin River flooded the road, east of Shweyaungpya Village and five wards in Bilin Township of Mon State on 29 July morning.

The road from Shweyaungpya Village to the Distillery Factory at the entrance to Bilin was under the flood. Therefore, vehicles were not allowed to pass the Yangon-Mawlamyine Road because of floods.

The passengers of the vehicles and flood victims are being accommodated at relief camps—four in Kathaya Ward, five in Po Yazar Ward, five in Saya San Ward, one in Bo Teza Ward and three in Bo Hla Gyi Ward totalling 18. Local authorities, members of social organizations and officials provided healthcare services to the victims and rice and instant noodle packets to them.

At present, a total of 1464 flood victims—624 men and 840 women—from 391 households are taking shelter at the relief camps.

According to the observation at 6.30 pm on 29 July, Bilin River is rising its water level from 1022 centimetres of danger level to 1093 centimetres. On that day, there was 7.68 inches of rainfall in the township.

MNA

MoC signed for implementation of public-based health projects in poor transport areas

MoC, 31 July—The Red Cross Societies Consortium signed an Memorandum of Cooperation on implementation of public-based health projects for over 30000 people in poor transport areas of Myanmar was held at the hall of Myanmar Red Cross Society on Strand Road, here, on 29 July.

President of MRCS Prof Dr Tha Hla Shwe and Chief Executive Officer of Britain Red Cross Society Sir Nicolas Young made speeches.

The projects will be implemented to emphasize maternal and child health care of over 30000 people from 78 villages in townships from Chin State, Sagaing and Mandalay Regions including Falam, Matupi and Mogok spending US$ 6.5 million.

During the five years period of the project, effective tasks will be carried out for providing materials for maternal and child care and turning out public health workers and midwives.

The MoC would contribute to easing challenges in health sector of Myanmar and enhancing capability of the health staff,” said President of MRCS Prof Dr Tha Hla Shwe.

CEO of Britain Red Cross Society Sir Nicolas Young said that a network had been established with the aim of providing assistance for MRCS through the concerted efforts of the Red Cross Consortium and important medical services through cooperation between health volunteers and local health staff.

The Red Cross Consortium comprises Red Cross societies from Denmark, Britain, Norway, Austria and Sweden.

MoE Thu

Village Administrator Cup Football Tournament kicks off

DIMAWHSO, 31 July—The Ngwetaung Village Administrator Cup Football Tournament was kicked off in Dimawhsom Township of Kayah State on 27 July afternoon.

The football teams marched past the village administrator. Altogether 16 football teams are taking part in the tournament.

In the debut, Irrigation (A) team routed Dawpalawkale team 6-0.

Dimawhsom (IPRD)

Zwegabin self-reliant library put into service in Dimawhsom Tsp

DIMAWHSO, 31 July—The new building of Zwegabin self-reliant library was held in conjunction with the book donation ceremony in Dawpalawkale Village of Ngwetaung Village-tract in Dimawhsom Township in Kayah State on 28 July.

Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Soe Naing explained the purpose of opening the library.

Wellwishers donated books and publications to the library.

The attendees viewed wall magazine and documentary photos on Union level peace talks for the second time.

Dimawhsom (IPRD)
New Light of Myanmar
Regional

Thursday, 1 August, 2013

Beijing to fund infrastructure construction with private capital

BEIJING, 31 July—Beijing plans to introduce 30 billion yuan (21 billion US dollars) of private capital to build 126 infrastructure projects, the municipal development and reform commission said on Wednesday. The projects include subways, roads, communication hubs and water and waste treatment centers, as well as heating facilities, according to a plan announced by the commission at an ongoing investment fair.

Total investment in the projects is expected to total 338 billion yuan, of which 130 billion yuan will come from private capital, commission official Yang Xuhui said. The introduction of private capital is a breakthrough in deepening reform and speeding up the introduction of government functions, Yang said. The government will grant private investors a reasonable return through a series of measures, including investment, service purchases and financial subsidies, he said. “The policy sends a positive signal,” said Wen Yibo, chairman of Sound Group, a private water and waste treatment company. “It will benefit both the public and the industry.”

The introduction of private capital will also help prompt economic recovery, said Cai Hongbin, dean of the Guanghua School of Management at Peking University. “Private capital will first solve the problem of financing. It will also boost innovation and make the supply of public goods more efficient,” Cai said.

Cambodia advises people not to travel by sea on 3-5 August due to torrential rain

PHNOM PENH, 31 July—Cambodia’s Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology on Tuesday warned people not to travel by sea from 3-5 August because the country would suffer from the impact of a storm and cause torrential rain.

The ministry’s statement said according to the forecast, a depression on the South China Sea would evolve to a storm on Wednesday and travel to upper Mekong River basin on Saturday.” The natural phenomenon will cause strong rain at sea and highland areas from August 3-5 and sea wave will be as high as 2.5 metres,” it said.

“The ministry would like to appeal to all people to suspend maritime leisure trips and fishing on the warning days,” the statement said, adding that during the period, there would also be strong rain at upper Mekong River basin that could cause flood at some areas.

Cambodian sea stretch es across four southwestern Provinces of Preah Sihan ouk, Kampot, Kep and Koh Kong.—Xinhua

World’s 1st iPS clinical research to begin on Thursday

Tokyo, 31 July—Japan and the United States are arranging for President Barack Obama to make an official visit to Japan, possibly next spring, for talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to discuss strengthening the bilateral alliance, government sources said on Wednesday.

If realized, this would be Obama’s first visit to Japan since November 2010, when he attended a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Yokohama. Tokyo has already sounded out Washington about a visit by Obama as a state guest. “During a summit meeting with Mr Obama in February, Prime Minister Abe requested that he visit Japan,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a news conference.

The top government spokesman indicated that Tokyo would be flexible about the timing of Obama’s visit, saying, “At this point, we aren’t making concrete arrangements with a specific period in mind.” But one senior Japanese government official expects Obama to visit around April, given the US political schedule, while another said Japan wants him to come by next summer since the United States has a midterm election that fall.

New Zealand Governor-General to visit Southeast Asia

WELLINGTON, 31 July—New Zealand Governor-General Jerry Mateparae will visit Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos next month to bolster trade and development links in Southeast Asia.

The trip was an opportunity to reinforce strong and friendly relations with the three nations and support New Zealand’s significant engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Mateparae said in a statement on Wednesday.

“Southeast Asia is one of the world’s most dynamic economic growth areas and ASEAN of which Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos are all members is New Zealand’s third largest trading partner,” he said.

Mateparae would arrive in Vietnam on 3 August, where he would witness the signing of the second phase of the Comprehensive Partnership Action Plan—a plan to promote bilateral links in sectors such as trade and business, science and technology, agriculture, education, defence, policing, development assistance and customs cooperation and a Double Taxation Agreement.

In Cambodia from 8 August, he would undertake a series of engagements to highlight New Zealand’s development assistance to Cambodia.

The three-day visit to Laos from 12 August, would see the two countries mark 50 years of diplomatic relations and Mateparae would see New Zealand-supported operations to clear unexploded ordnance.

A French visitor receives interview at the exhibition “The Strength of Natural Impulses” in Beijing, capital of China, on 30 July, 2013. Jointly contributed by French artist Francois Bossiere and four Chinese artists Zhang Sen, Zhang Yuzing, Sun Qianwei and Xie Hong, the exhibition concerned with visual art will be held from 30 July to 6 August in Beijing.—Xinhua
THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMAR OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(5 / 2013)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Remark</th>
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<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>IFR-041(2013-2014)</td>
<td>100 KW Diesel Engine Driven Generator Set</td>
<td>(1) Set</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>IFR-042(2013-2014)</td>
<td>100 KW Natural Gas Engine Driven Generator Set</td>
<td>(2) Sets</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>IFR-043(2013-2014)</td>
<td>Motorola Transceiver (GM 388 BS VHF)</td>
<td>(2) Nos</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>IFR-044(2013-2014)</td>
<td>Spares for Komatsu Dozer</td>
<td>(2) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

for ZJ 70 L Drilling Rig

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SOUTHERN HIGHWAY VOY NO (46)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SOUTHERN HIGHWAY VOY NO (46) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S K. LINE TOKYO
Phone No: 256924/256914

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Kao expects sales fall of 10 bil yen on recall of skin care products

TOYO, 31 July — Kao Corp President Michitaka Sawada said on Tuesday the company expects consolidated sales for the business year through December to fall about 10 billion yen due to the recall of skin-whitening items produced by group company Kanebo Cosmetics Inc. That includes sales of 5 billion yen that the company had expected from products subject to the recall ordered after Kanebo’s skin-whitening cosmetics were reported to cause serious symptoms such as white blotches on skin.

The figure also incorporates a projected decline in sales to consumers shunning Kanebo products after the recall. “We’d like to assess the long-term effects by monitoring developments in the next few months,” Sawada said. Kao also released its January-to-June earnings results on Tuesday, which were already impacted by the recall.

Group net profit fell 5.1 percent from a year earlier to 18.26 billion yen as the company booked an extraordinary loss of 5.6 billion yen in costs to recall the skin-whitening cosmetics. But group sales increased 8.0 percent to 624.95 billion yen on favorable sales of new products and increased exports to Asia amid the weaker yen, it said. —Kyodo News

First China-Arab States Expo to open

BEIJING, 31 July—The First China-Arab States Expo will be held from 15 to 19 September in Yinchuan, the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region of NW China, the Information Office of the State Council said on 17 July. Themed “Arab and China jointly embrace the world”, the expo will include forums, exhibitions and promotions in different fields including agriculture, energy, finance, culture, education, tourism. It will invite Kuwait as the guest of honor to participate in a series of activities in an effort to promote bilateral China-Kuwait cooperation. “The Hui people in Ningxia have a lot in common with the Arab people, such as culture, religious belief and customs, which will greatly facilitate bilateral cooperation,” said Liu Hui, chairwomen of the People’s Government of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. Bilateral trade between China and the Arab nations totaled 222.4 billion US dollars in 2012, a record-breaking high that saw an annual increase of 14 percent. China-Arab States Expo was previously called China-Arab States Economic and Trade Forum, which was held in Beijing jointly held for three times since 2010 by Ministry of Commerce People’s Republic of China (MOFCOM), China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCITP) and the Ningxia regional government.—Xinhua
Los Angeles, 31 July — Actor Nicolas Cage says he was such an angry young man during his teenage years that his aggression could have even landed him in jail.

However, the 49-year-old, who has been part of some great aggressive flicks like The Rock, Face/Off, Gone in 60 Seconds and Lord Of War, thanks his profession for not letting him stray from the right path, reports thesun.co.uk.

“Wish I had not been so angry at 18. I was a pretty wild guy with a lot of energy. I was into punk rock and didn’t know where I was fitting in,” Cage said.

“I wanted that energy to go somewhere. I wanted it to be constructive rather than destructive — but I just did not have a clue in which direction to take it. Finding a career in which I could express those feelings was lucky. It could have gone either way. I could have ended up in jail,” he added. However, now the actor is a calmer person.

“I have learned to calm down. I have developed into a person who is generally happy,” he said. Cage will soon be seen in forthcoming movie The Frozen Ground, in which he plays a cop chasing a serial killer.—PTI

Eddie Murphy back for Beverly Hills Cop 4?

London, 31 July—Actor Eddie Murphy has reportedly been roped in to star in the franchise for a fourth time as the Beverly Hills Cop 4 script moves fast towards completion.

Murphy, 52, made a name for himself in the first movie as the hard-talking, smartest cop on the block, before building upon that success with the second film, which was helmed by the late director Tony Scott.

The new script is currently being penned by the Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol masterminds Josh Applebaum and Andre Nemec.

The film company’s interest in reviving the franchise is believed to have been sparked by the pilot episode for a spin-off TV series, which featured Brandon T Jackson as Murphy’s character Axel Foley’s son.—PTI

How Nicolas Cage channelised his anger

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The actor is thankful to his acting career for saving him from his anger.

Diane Lane will play the lead role in Hillary which will focus on all aspects of Hillary Clinton’s life.

Diane Lane to play Hillary Clinton

Los Angeles, 31 July —US TV network NBC is set to come out with a four-hour mini-series titled Hillary, about former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, with Diane Lane essaying the title role.

While the release date has not been announced yet as the project is currently in the early stages, NBC’s president Bob Greenblatt said the mini-series is likely to go on air before Clinton formally declares herself as a presidential candidate in 2016, reports online.com.

Written by Oscar nominee Courtney Hunt, Hillary will recount Clinton’s life as “a wife, mother, politician and cabinet member from 1998 to the present,” said a Press release from NBC.M

“The script will begin with Clinton living in the White House as her husband (former US president Bill Clinton) is serving the second of his two terms as president. In the years following, she would eventually become a United States senator, run for president and, ultimately, serve the country as secretary of state,” it added.—PTI

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JOBS script as engaging as Harry Potter books: Josh Gad

Los Angeles, 31 July —Actor Josh Gad, who essays the role of Apple co-founder Steve ‘Woz’ Wozniak in JOBS, feels the movie’s script is as engaging as bestselling book series Harry Potter.

JOBS is a forthcoming biopic on late Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple. He died of pancreatic cancer in October 2011 at the age of

56. “When I got the script, I found myself just turning through the pages like it was a Harry Potter book. I couldn’t get enough of it,” Gad said.

Talking about what he read of the late tech mastermind in the script, Gad said: “It was a side of Steve Jobs that I knew nothing about. My idea of Jobs was very much the media darling he became in the 1990s and later in the 2000s up until his untimely death.

“I was reading it, ‘Oh my God, this is incredible! How come I never knew about any of this?’”

Gad was more than willing to be a part of JOBS. “I immediately called up my agent and said, ‘I have to be a part of this’.”

The actress finds it difficult to balance her personal and professional life.

Julianne Moore: My life is a constant juggling act

London, 31 July—Hollywood star Julianne Moore says balancing work and family life is challenging.

The 52-year-old actress, who raises her children Caleb and Liv with husband Bart Freundlich, finds difficulty in balancing her different roles in life but her kids’ well-being always comes first, reported Contactmusic.

—My life is a constant juggling act and it’s challenging. I don’t think any parent completely avoids the guilt trap or ever stops worrying about whether they’re doing everything perfectly,” said Moore. “Part of being a parent means that it’s vital you get the well-being of your kids right, and there’s a high degree of difficulty in that,” she added. Moore also said she prefers spending her free time with her family and loves taking part in craft sessions with her friends. —PTI

PTI

Eddie Murphy’s performance as Axel Foley in the first installment of the Beverly Hills Cop series earned him a Golden Globe nomination.
Ledecky smashes 1,500 freestyle world record

BARCELONA, 31 July—American teenager Katie Ledecky slashed six seconds off the world record to win gold in the women’s 1,500 metres freestyle at the world championships in Barcelona on Tuesday.

The 16-year-old, who also took the 400 metres freestyle title on Sunday, touched in 15:38.88, also inside Ziegler’s mark.

Kate Ziegler in 2007. Mireia Belmonte Garcia in 15:38.83. “It was really tough, my hardest race ever,” Ledecky told reporters.

“I knew we were going pretty fast and I figured that whoever came out on top was probably going to get the world record.”

“I had to be careful not to push it too early or push it too late and just touch the wall first.”—Reuters

England ‘too tired’ for internationals, says Fabio Capello

“It’s like when you’re driving a car: if you stop halfway to put fuel in then you want to go but if you don’t then there’s always the chance you’ll be running on empty before you reach your goal.”

In my opinion the football played in the first half of the English season is much better than in the second half. And because of that, if you want to be a competitive team in the Premier League, you need a really big squad, which is a luxury you don’t get with the national team.”

Capello left the England job to take up a new role as national coach of Russia, which hosts the World Cup for the first time in 2018. Russia are also on track to qualify for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil and lie just two points behind Portugal in Group F but with two games in hand.

But he nevertheless said he thought his time in charge of the 1966 World Cup winners had been positive, with the introduction of young players such as Danny Welbeck, Jack Wilshere, Phil Jones, Ashley Young, James Milner and Joe Hart.—PTI

Maxwell sole change in Brazil squad to play Swiss

Brazil’s head coach Luis Felipe Scolari (front R) gestures in front of his players during a training session in Rio de Janeiro on 29 June, 2013.—Reuters

Brazil’s squad for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil is confirmed by coach Luis Felipe Scolari. Scolari will make one change for the final friendly against Switzerland in a move which sees his number two, Daniel Alves, dropped for the clash in Luzhniki Stadium.

Squad:

Goalkeepers: Julio Cesar (Queens Park Rangers), Jefferson (Botafogo).

Defenders: Thiago Silva, Maxwell (both Paris Saint-Germain), David Luiz (Chelsea), Dante (Bayern Munich), Daniel Alves (Barcelona), Jean (Fluminense), Marcelo (Real Madrid).

Midfielders: Fernando (Shakhtar Donetsk), Hernanes (Lazio), Luiz Gustavo (Bayern Munich), Paulinho (Tottenham Hotspur), Oscar (Chelsea), Bernard (Atletico Mineiro).

Forwards: Jo (Atletico Mineiro), Lucas (Paris Saint-Germain), Hulk (Zenit), Fred (Fluminense), Neymar (Barcelona).—Reuters
US soldier braces for judge’s verdict in WikiLeaks case

FORT MEADE, (Maryland), 31 July — US soldier Bradley Manning could learn on Tuesday whether he will face life in prison without parole when a judge renders her verdict on charges that he aided the enemy when he released 700,000 classified documents to the website WikiLeaks. Army Private First Class Manning, 25, is accused of the biggest leak of classified information in United States history. The US government has pushed for the maximum penalty for what it views as a serious breach of national security. But anti-secrecy activists have praised him for shining a light on shoddy US operations abroad.

This month, Judge Colonel Denise Lind deated a request by Manning’s attorneys to throw out the most serious of the 21 charges against him, aiding the enemy. She said that Manning’s training as a low-level intelligence analyst would have taught him to publicly releasing secret information would pose a risk to US national security. Observers expect Manning, who in March pleaded guilty to lesser charges, will be convicted of at least some of the 21 counts. “He’s just a dumb kid who got himself into a situation where he felt he was saving the world,” said Joseph Wippl, a professor of international relations at Boston University and a former CIA officer. “I think he should be convicted and they should be easy on him. They need to do more on limiting access to classified information.”

Army prosecutors contend US security was damaged when the WikiLeaks anti-secrecy website published combat videos of an attack by an American Apache helicopter gunship, diplomatic cables and secret details on prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay that Manning provided the site while he was a junior intelligence analyst in Iraq in 2009 and 2010. Lind said on Monday that she plans to issue her verdict in the case at 1 pm EDT on Tuesday in Fort Meade, Maryland. Manning, originally from Crescent, Oklahoma, opted to have his case heard by Lind, rather than a panel of military jurors.

Military prosecutors have described Manning’s 29-year-old defendant a “traitor” for formally publishing information that the US government said could jeopardize national security and intelligence operations. Defence lawyers said Manning was well-intentioned but naive, hoping that his disclosures would provoke a more intense debate in the United States about diplomatic and military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than three years after Manning’s arrest in May 2010, the US intelligence community is reeling again from leaked secrets.

Murray’s 6-4, 7-5, 6-4 victory over Novak Djokovic was through the fingers of his hands, which were covering her eyes.

“I was so nervous, I was sitting in my living room and I was sweating,” Robson told Reuters after her 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 victory over Japan’s Ayumi Morita in the first round of the Southern California Open on Tuesday.

“I was trying to text my friends and my palms were so sweaty. I was on my knees in front of the TV and I couldn’t watch. I was peeking through my fingers as well.”

“It was so, so good.”

The 19-year-old Robson, who had suffered disappointment when she crashed out of the Wimbledon fourth round to Kaia Kanepi, felt her Olympic silver-medal winning mixed doubles partner had control of the final but was wary of the danger Djokovic posed.

“You never know what’s going to happen and especially with Djokovic, he could just come up with four outrageous shots to break back,” she added.

“As bad as it sounds, I was wanting him to double fault a lot and make a lot of unforced errors.”

Robson screamed through nightmare Wimbledon final this summer

CARLSBAD, (California), 31 July — For anyone observing Laura Robson as she watched the Wimbledon men’s final earlier this month they would have quite justified in thinking she was watching a slasher horror film. Alone on a stormy night.

Her hands were sweaty. She could not text her friends. At times she was down on her knees in front of her television in her flat in London under a duvet.

And when the nerves got really, really bad, the only image she could see of British compatriot Andy Murray’s 6-7, 7-6, 7-5 victory over Novak Djokovic was through the fingers of her hands, which were covering her eyes.

“My heart just ripped out of my body,” Robson told Reuters. “It was in pain. It just felt I was going to die. That was the magnitude of the pain I was feeling.”

Robson, who has reached 32nd in the world, has not played since she lost to Estonia’s Kanepi and spent time off away from the game rollerskating, attending concerts and just hanging out with her family.

“I definitely needed a rest prepared for next year.”

“My experience of being in the stands and watching is going to help. But it’s a good experience to go through when you are young, so I’ll be better prepared for next year.”

Reuters
The New Light of Myanmar

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann to serve as Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker

NAY PYI TAW, 31 July—Handing over of duties of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker was held at today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Session. It was attended by President U Thein Sein, Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, the Union Ministers, the Union Attorney-General, the Union Auditor-General, the Region/State Hluttaw Speakers, British Speaker of the House of Commons Mr John Bercow and party and guests. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint said that Myanmar had practised the multi-party parliamentary system since pre-independence struggle period till 1962. The country had long been lacking in that system for about 50 years till 2011. So, he has no such experience before. Lack of Hluttaw experience is a big challenge for him. So, they are duty-bound to be a good example for the next generation, he said. He has to rely only on... (See page 9)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office (Order No. 29/2013)

9th Waning of Waso, 1375 ME
(31st July, 2013)

Governor, Vice-Governors of Central Bank of Myanmar appointed

Under the Section 9 of the Central Bank of Myanmar Law of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the following persons have been appointed as governor and vice-governors of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

(1) U Kyaw Kyaw Maung Governor
(2) U Than Nyein Vice-Governor
(3) Daw Khin Saw Oo Vice-Governor

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

State level peace talks between Union Peace-making Work Committee and Taung (Palaung) National Liberation Army (TNLA)

NAY PYI TAW, 31 July — A state level peace talks between a delegation led by Vice-Chairman of Union Peace-making Work Committee Union Minister U Aung Min and a delegation led by General Secretary of Taung (Palaung) National Liberation Army (TNLA) Lt-Col Tar Ohn Kyaw and Vice-Chief of Staff Major Tar Kha Lan was held at Shweli Yeiktha in Muse this morning. In his greetings, Union Minister U Aung Min said that he was there as the delegation members including the President were peace loving people. He vowed to move towards peace through the peace talks with Taung (Palaung) National Liberation Army, putting all-out efforts in it. He continued that peace was an essential prerequisite for the Union and all national races. Without peace, democracy could not be achieved. He added that the peace-making processes were being implemented by the committee with a good brotherly feeling and sense of equality, holding talks with all national brethren in any part of the country. (See page 6)