Myanmar will assume 2014 ASEAN Chairmanship by ensuring centrality of ASEAN; obtaining ASEAN consensus; representing ASEAN in strengthening, promoting closer relations with external partners

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein sent a message of felicitations on the occasion of the 46th Anniversary of the founding of ASEAN. The full text of the message is as follows:-

Esteemed National brethren of Myanmar,

On the auspicious occasion of the 46th Anniversary of the founding of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), I would like to extend the warm greetings to the people of Myanmar and the people of ASEAN and wish ASEAN all the success in building One vision, One identity, One community.

The political, economic and social situation in the Southeast Asian region when ASEAN was established in 1967 by the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration was very much different from those of the present time. We all have witnessed the success of the ASEAN as our region becomes the center of attention and the people of ASEAN have enjoyed all-round development. We can see the ten ASEAN Member States in unity have borne fruitful results based on the efforts of an individual state.

Today, the world has been facing the consequences of globalizations such as extreme modernization, economic interdependence and unprecedented advance in information technology. No single country can overcome these challenges alone but only collectively. As a regional organization, ASEAN has spared no efforts in maintaining peace and friendship in the region, gaining economic competitiveness and narrowing the development gaps among themselves.

Esteemed National brethren of Myanmar,

We are very encouraged of the successful implementation of the Blue Prints of the three pillars of the 2015 ASEAN Community, namely the ASEAN Political and Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC).

We commend the achievements of the ASEAN Political and Security Community building, including international recognition of the South East Asia Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC); the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD); the establishment of ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR); and the cooperation in the non-traditional security matters.

In the ASEAN Economic Community building, the promotion of the economic and trade relations with our Dialogue Partners, which are leading countries of the international economy, have benefited the ASEAN member states. The increase in intra-ASEAN trade, the establishment of ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) within the region and with the Dialogue Partners, the realization of the Master Plan of ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and the Public Private Partnership (PPP) in economic sector are contributing to the Economic Community building.

The noble aim of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community is building a people-centered community in a caring and sharing society. It is inclusive, harmonious and enhancing the well-being, livelihood, and welfare of the peoples. The efforts to achieve equal status of education, health and living standards of children, youths, women and men in ASEAN member states by fairly distributing the outcome of the ASEAN Community are underway.

Accordingly, after 46 years of its existence, ASEAN has been recognized as a rule-based inter governmental organization with legal personality since the adoption of the ASEAN Charter and the successful regional organization in political, economic and social sectors as well. It has been proven by increasing numbers of the Ambassadors accredited to the ASEAN.

Esteemed National brethren of Myanmar,

Myanmar will take the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014 for the first time since she has joined the organization 16 years ago. We will be taking a leadership role in gaining the momentum of ASEAN achievements; in fulfilling the 2015 ASEAN Community targets; and in laying down the ASEAN Vision beyond 2015.

The political, economic and social reforms in Myanmar have given her more opportunity in strengthening the integration with the member states of ASEAN in the ASEAN Community. The people-centered democracy in Myanmar is in line with the ASEAN Charter. It has facilitated the economic development of the country and accordingly helped the increase of social

(See page 9)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife attend monsoon tree-planting ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug—Second monsoon tree-planting ceremony of the Commander-in-Chief’s Office (Army, Navy and Air) was held near Yezin Dam in Zeyathiri Township here this morning.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla planted teak saplings.

After that, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, the Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) and wife, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and wife, the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and wife, senior military officers from the Commander-in-Chief’s Office and their wives and those present planted saplings at designated places. The Senior General and party looked round the tree planting there.

A total of 5040 teak saplings were planted at today’s ceremony, and 5000 Seintalone mango saplings were grown at the first monsoon tree-planting ceremony. As part of environmental conservation, monsoon tree-planting ceremonies were held near Yezin Dam since 2011. Till date, a total of 45,730 saplings have been grown there.

It was also attended by the Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander, trainee officers from the National Defence College and officers from the Commander-in-Chief’s Office and their families.

Myawady
**Environmental Conservation**

**Inlay Lake under conservation with greening tasks**

**Nyaungshwe, 7 Aug—**

As part of Inlay Lake conservation mass activity, a tree growing ceremony was held on the hillock near Lahysutaik Pagoda in North Zaypa Village in Mongthaik Village-tract of Nyaungshwe Township on 29 July morning. It was attended by Assistant Director U Kyin Tun of Inlay Lake Greening Project, Staff Officer U Tin Maung Win of Township Forest Department, Deputy Head of Township General Administration Department U Soe Tint, departmental staff, members of social organizations, hotel staff and local people totalling 430. They planted 2025 saplings of various species including teak, eucalyptus and others.

In 2013-2014 fiscal year, Nyaungshwe Township plans to distribute and grow 14000 trees, 4000 Seintalon mango species and 90000 saplings under the arrangement of the Shan State government.

**Crime**

**Illegal electricity supplier taken action**

**Yangon, 7 Aug—**

Action was taken against the person who illegally supplied electricity to other houses in Thingangyun Township on 27 July morning.

Acting on a tip-off, Township Manager U Aung Naing of Thingangyun Township Electricity Supply Board together with witnesses searched the house of Naing Lin Aung (a) Tun Lon Shein on Panyaiak Street in Ward 9A of the township. They checked YE 31163 electric meter of the house and found illegal supply of electricity to other houses taking charges from users. He opened a file of lawsuit against the offender at Thuwunna Police Station.

**Narcotic drugs seized in Mawlu**

**Mawlu, 7 Aug—**

A squad led by SIP Aung Aung Than together with witnesses U Than Gyong and U Sai Wunna raised the house of Myint Htoo at 8.30 pm on 3 August in Sinkho Village of Punhon Village-tract in Indaw Township.

They saw house owner Myint Htoo together with Win Naing Oo, Myo Win and Kalar. While searching them, the team arrested Win Naing but the remaining Myo Win and Kalar escaped.

In searching the house, the police seized one CDMA phone, K 47000, one bag, one bottle containing white powder believed to be heroin weighing 5.1 grams in the fencing, 1.02 grams of suspected heroin totalling 6.12 grams.

Mawlu Police Station opened files of lawsuit against Myint Htoo. 43 of Sinkho Village and Win Naing Oo, 27 of Tamainglon Village in Bhamo Township.

**HRD**

**Over 260 educational staff appointed in Yamethin Township**

**Yamethin, 7 Aug—**

No. 2 Basic Education Department was under the Ministry of Education appointed over 260 education staff at Basic Education High, Middle and Primary Schools in Yamethin Township of Mandalay Region for 2013-2014 academic year.

A total of 155 candidates were appointed as primary assistant teachers, 12 lower division clerks, 45 general workers, six laboratory technicians (science lab attendants, sanitation workers, school/office guards, operator, peons and gardeners), six laboratory technicians (science lab attendants, sanitation workers, school/office guards, operator, peons and gardeners), funds are allotted to the department for uplifting educational standard with proper ratio of the teachers to the students.

**Agriculture**

**KhinU farmers happy with rainwater**

**KhinU, 7 Aug—**

KhinU Township of Sagaing Region is mainly relying on the rainwater in agriculture tasks though irrigated water is being supplied from Kaboe and Kindat diversion weirs. In July this year, the township got only three inches of rainfall. At 4 am on 4 August, there rained three inches of rainfall in KhinU and its surrounding areas. Hence, the low-lying areas in the urban wards and some compounds were inundated.

Thanks to irrigated water from Kindat diversion weir, canal of Mahananda Lake and Kaboe diversion weir and scattered heavy rains, the local farmers have completed cultivation of paddy by about 80 per cent. At present, the local farmers are happy for continuous rains and supply of irrigated water of the Irrigation Department and now they are engaged in farming works daily.

Cover photo: Farmers work in a paddy field in KhinU.
**WORLD**

**Obama ‘disappointed’ with Russia, calls embassy threat significant**

BURBANK, (California), 7 Aug — US President Barack Obama confirmed on Tuesday that he would go to Russia this fall for a G20 summit but said he was “disappointed” that Russia granted temporary asylum to former US spy agency contractor Edward Snowden.

Speaking on NBC’s “The Tonight Show” with host Jay Leno, Obama said Moscow sometimes slipped into “Cold other mental- ity, despite being coopera- tive with the United States on some issues, including counterterrorism efforts in the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombing.

Obama was not asked and did not mention wheth er he would attend a sepa- rate meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin during his Russian trip. That meeting was put in question after Moscow rejected US pleas and granted Snowden a year’s asylum. The White House has said it is evalu- ating whether a one-on-one with Putin makes sense.

Washington wants Snowden, who was in- velved in the leak into Cold War thinking and a Cold War mentality,” Obama said of Russia. “What I say to Presi dent Putin is, that’s the past and... we’ve got to think about the future. And there’s no reason why we shouldn’t be able to coop- erate more effectively than we do.” During the interview, Obama also said the recent threat that caused the Unit- ed States to close its embas- sies throughout the Middle East was significant.

“It’s significant enough that we’re taking every pre- caution,” Obama said.

“It’s a reminder that for all the progress we’ve made... this radical, violent ex- tremism is still out there,” Obama said. “We’ve got to stay on top of it.”

The US State Department issued a world- wide travel alert on Friday warning Americans that al-Qaeda may be planning attacks in August, parti- cularly in the Middle East and North Africa. It initially announced the embassy closures would be only for Sunday, then extended the closures of some by a week.

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“This is connected to some sort of terrorist threat.” — Reuters

**Gov’t set to provide funds to block toxic water at Fukushima plant**

TOKYO, 7 Aug — The government is planning to provide state funds to assist Tokyo Electric Power Co’s efforts to prevent a further increase in radioactive wa- ter at its crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant by freezing the soil around the reactor buildings, govern- ment sources said on Wednesday.

The Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry will request the costs in the fis- cal 2014 budget. If the re- quest is approved, it will be the first government fund- ing to help the plant opera- tor tackle the problem of groundwater seeping into the reactor buildings.

The costs to build shield- ing walls in the ground for freezing the soil are esti- mated to reach tens of bil- lions of yen.

The government has so far allocated taxpayers’ money for research and development related to re- actor decommissioning at the Fukushima plant, which suffered meltdowns in the aftermath of a massive earthquake and tsunami in March 2011.

Kyodo News

**11 children killed, 24 injured as blast hits Karachi, Pakistan**

7 Aug — At least 11 children were killed and 24 others injured when a blast hit a football ground in Karachi on Thursday.

At least 11 children were killed and 24 others injured when a blast hit a football ground in Karachi on Thursday.

The blast occurred at a football ground in the city’s eastern Lyari area, according to the local media reports.

According to the local media reports, the blast took place at about 2:40 a.m. lo- cal time when a bomb fixed on a motorbike went off at a football ground in the city’s southern Lyari area.

People were leaving the play ground after a foot- ball match between two lo- cal teams of children when the blast occurred, said lo- cal media.

Most of the killed and wounded were children aged between 12 and 14, said the reports.

Javed Nagori, a mem- ber of the Sindh provincial assembly, who was the chief guest at the match, was also injured in being hit by shrapnel.

Police and rescue team arrived at the scene shortly after the blast was reported when they heard an explosion, said local authorities.

The accident occurred at 9:30 am local time (1230 GMT), when gas exploded and triggered a fire in a ten- floor building in Rosario city, 300 km northwest of Buenos Aires. Preliminary reports said the explosion was registered by the building’s central heating system and probably caused by a gas leak.

“We were told that electric works were being car- ried out and that the cauldron was off,” said a resident of the building, loc- ated in 200 Salta Street.

“It was like an earth- quake,” local resident Flor- encia Papucci told Xinhua.

Nearby residents have been evacuated to safe places, ac- cording to local authorities.

Some residents are still trapped inside the building. Mayor Monica Fein was quoted by the Nation daily newspaper as saying that 26 ambulanc- es “are working” at the site. Authorities recommended the evacuation of nearby buildings.

Fire continued to be battled by firefighters and it’s unknown how many people were inside the building and the area when the explosion occurred, ac- cording to the daily.

The Litoral Gas Com- pany, which supplies gas to the building, has cut off gas flow to much of Rosario for safe consideration.

Antonio Bonfatti, gov- ernor of Santa Fe Province, where Rosario is located, visited the area and de- scribed the scene around the tragic explosion in downtown Rosario as “horrible.”

“There is no precedent for this kind of explosion,” he said, clearly moved by the events that took place in the heart of the Santa Fe Province city.

Other government of- ficials had arrived at the scene, including Security Secretary Sergio Berni and Defence Minister Agustin Rossi.

“We are at the scene ... and everyone is extremely committed to the task of re- moving the rubble quickly,” said Berni, lamenting the tragedy. — Xinhua

**Indian Parliament reaffirms pledge for WMD-free society**

NEW DELHI, 7 Aug — The Indian Parliament reaffirmed on Tuesday its pledge to establish a society free from weapons of mass destruc- tion on the occasion of 68th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiro- shima.

The members of Indian Parliament’s Lok Sabha also expressed solidarity with those who lost their lives in the bombing.

Referring to the attack on Japan 68 years ago, Lok Sabha Speaker Meera Ku- mar said, “Sixty-eight years ago, atom bombs decimated the Japanese cities of Hi- roshima and Nagasaki on 6th and 9th August, 1945, respectively. Thousands of innocent citizens lost their lives and generations of those who survived continue to suffer from the horrific ef- fects of radiation.”

On this occasion, let us reaffirm our pledge to establish a society free from weapons of mass destruc- tion. The House extends its wholehearted support to all initiatives being taken to eliminate nuclear weapons, and ensure global peace,” she added. — Kyodo News

At least 10 dead, 60 injured in Argentine building explosion

BUENOS AIRES, 7Aug

A strong explosion shook a building in north- eastern Argentina on Tues- day morning, killing at least 10 people and injuring more than 60 others, local authorities confirmed.

The accident occurred at 9:30 am local time (1230 GMT), when gas exploded and triggered a fire in a ten-floor building in Rosario city, 300 km northwest of Buenos Aires. Preliminary reports said the explosion was registered by the building’s central heating system and probably caused by a gas leak.

“We were told that electric works were being car- ried out and that the cauldron was off,” said a resident of the building, loc- ated in 200 Salta Street.

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“There is no precedent for this kind of explosion,” he said, clearly moved by the events that took place in the heart of the Santa Fe Province city.

Other government of- ficials had arrived at the
Samsung starts to mass produce 3D vertical NAND flash chips

NEW YORK, 7 Aug — Technology services provider IBM is teaming up with Google and a handful of other tech companies to license IBM’s Power chip technology, in an effort to attract more users.

Under the alliance called OpenPower Consortium, IBM and Google — along with Israel’s chip designer Mellanox Technologies, US chip-maker Nvidia Corp and Taiwan-based server supplier Tyan Computer Corp — will build server, networking and storage technology based on the chips for data cloud centres. The hardware and software, previously proprietary to IBM, will be available to open development and it will be licensable to others, IBM said in a statement.

The alliance is open to any company that wants to participate and innovate on the platform, IBM said. IBM competes with Intel Corp and ARM Holdings’ chips, which dominate the market. Revenue from IBM Power Systems was down 25 percent in the second quarter compared with the previous year.

Disney projects up to $190 million ‘Lone Ranger’ loss

LOS ANGELES, 7 Aug — Walt Disney Co expects to lose between $160 million and $190 million in its fiscal third quarter on a $140 million, or 47 cents per share, charge for an expensive summer movie bomb “The Lone Ranger,” the media giant said on Tuesday.

The box office flop, starring Johnny Depp, will be recorded for the quarter that ends in September.

“The Lone Ranger,” a Western starring Johnny Depp, will be recorded for the quarter that ends in September, Chief Financial Officer Jay Rasulo said on a conference call with analysts. Disney shares dropped 1.9 percent in after-hours trading to $65.79 from a $67.05 close on the New York Stock Exchange.

“The Lone Ranger” opened on July 3 with a dismal $29 million in US and Canadian ticket sales over its first weekend. “There has been a lot said, I know, about the risk of basically high cost, tent pole films,” Disney CEO Bob Iger said, “and we certainly can attest to that given what happened with ‘The Lone Ranger.’ “We still think the tentpole strategy is a good strategy,” he said. “That one way to rise above the din and the competition is with a big film, not just big budget, but big story, big cast, big marketing behind it.”

For the quarter that ended in June, operating income at Disney’s film studio declined 36 percent as its film “Iron Man 3” failed to match the spectacular success of last year’s “The Avengers.” Overall, net income for the quarter rose 1 percent to $1.85 billion. Adjusted earnings-per-share reached $1.03, beating the $1.01 average forecast from analysts polled by Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

Microsoft slashes price of flagship tablet by 100 dollars for flat sales

BEIJING, 7 Aug — Microsoft on Sunday announced that it will cut the price of the 64GB Surface Pro tablet from $499 US dollars to $399, after dropping the price of the Surface RT tablet to $350 a few weeks ago from $499 as Microsoft’s tablets did not sell well. The Surface RT tablet is currently available for $799 dollars, either directly from Microsoft or several big box retailers.

Microsoft’s family of Surface tablets — the Surface RT and Surface Pro — were supposed to challenge Apple’s iPad by providing a blend of tablet and traditional computers. However, sales numbers and recent price drops on the tablet indicate that Microsoft’s strategy hasn’t been as successful as it had hoped. The Surface RT’s price drop was widely interpreted as evidence of the failure in the market for Microsoft’s tablets. To cover the losses, Microsoft reported a 900 million dollar write-down in its most recent quarterly report, and CEO Steve Ballmer later admitted the company underestimated Surface RT demand.

Analysts argue that the price cut arrives in time to take advantage of the back-to-school rush, which is traditionally a heavy period for device sales. It could also persuade on-the-fence business users to finally take the plunge, and might also indicate that an updated Surface Pro is imminent. The Windows 8, the operation system for Microsoft’s tablets, was not well-received by users and that also impacted the sales of the tablets, which were heavily marketed by Microsoft as two of the halo Windows 8 devices in television and billboard advertisements.

Sea ice of Greenland is pictured as captured by the MODIS instrument on NASA’s Aqua satellite in this 16 Oct, 2012 handout photo.

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Sea ice of Greenland is pictured as captured by the MODIS instrument on NASA’s Aqua satellite in this 16 Oct, 2012 handout photo.
**COMMUNICATIONS**

First batch of GSM SIM cards sold in Mawlu

**Mawlu, 7 Aug**—The first batch of 210 GSM SIM cards were sold to the local people in Mawlu of Indaw Township on 3 August.

The low-cost SIM cards were sold by lots in lottery-style sale in Dekingharama Phayagy monastery in Mawlu village in Indaw Township in Katha District in Sagaing Region.

A total of 66 cards were distributed to departmental personnel in Mawlu and remaining 134 cards were sold to the public.

Township Deputy Administrator U Kyaw Swa Win, Mawlu village-tract administrator U Win Sein and officials supervised the sale of SIM cards.

SIM cards were sold to the departmental personnel by lots as well.

There are 1900 applications for the low-cost SIM cards in the region.

**MMAL-Ni Toe (Mawlu)**

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**LOCAL NEWS**

**Kalay starts monsoon paddy plantations**

**Kalay, 7 Aug**—Farmers in Kalay Township are preparing to plant monsoon paddy as farmlands have been well fed by heavy rain since earlier May.

They prepared for monsoon paddy in earlier July and started planting monsoon paddy in later July.

The farmers suffered loss in the last year due to low paddy price in Kalay Township but have pinned high hopes on monsoon paddy this year.

Kalay is a region that becomes major rice supplier for oil fields in Kalay and Chindwin and Chin State.

**MMAL-Shin Nay Min**

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**Wards, villages in Kyaunggon affected by flood**

**Kyaunggon, 7 Aug**—Downtown wards and villages in Kyaunggon in Pathein District in Ayeyawady Region were deluged with flood after several days of rainfall in later July.

The water level rose by more than one foot on 29 July as Dhaka River swelled and rain poured.

Nos (1), (2) and (3) wards and villages in Myoma market village-tract were inundated after the last of July.

**MMAL-091**

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**GSM SIM cards presented to education staff in Pyinmana**

**Pyinmana, 7 Aug**—GSM SIM cards were presented to education staff in Seikphutaung school in Pyinmana on 5 August.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council Col Myint Aung Than gave away GSM SIM cards to the teachers and staff of the school.

He called on the teachers to report education, health and social difficulties and promised to fulfill the needs of the teachers as per directives of the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council.

SIM cards were presented to 56 teachers from 44 schools in hilly region.

More SIM cards would continue to be presented to education staff.

**MMAL-Zwe Myo Naing**

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**CONSTRUCTION**

**Wabo Station Hospital expected to open soon**

**Sittway, 7 Aug**—Megawady Construction is implementing the construction of 16-bed station hospital in Wabo village in Sittway Township with the state budget of K 390 million.

Chairman of Township Healthcare Facilities Construction Committee Sittway Township Administrator U Tin Myint and committee members visited the construction site on 3 August to inspect the progress in construction of the building.


The main building and staff quarters for physicians have been completed 100 percent. The staff quarters for nurses have been completed 80 percent and the construction has been delayed by budget deficiency. Some finishing touches need to be put to the building.

The hospital is expected to open soon and will provide healthcare services to the people in Wabo village and surrounding villages.

**MMAL-Lay Wadi Tun Saw Khaing**

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**HRD**

**Educative talk on census-taking organized**

**Buthitaung, 7 Aug**—Buthitaung Township General Administration Department, Immigration and National Registration Department, and Information and Public Relations Department organized an educative talk on census-taking at the office of Township General Administration Department in the township of Buthitaung State on 4 August.

Township Administrator U Than Shwe, Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Khin Maung Myint and Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Khin Yu Yu Nwe gave educative talks on census-taking.

**MMAL-Township IPRD**

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**Natural Disaster**

**Husks fetches high price**

**Kasbalu, 7 Aug**—Paddy husks from rice mills in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area are sold to brick factories, paddy dryers and restaurants that use paddy husk in stoves or power-generating on a manageable scale in operating their works by Taungnyo road which is located west of Nay Pyi Taw.

The current price of one truck of husks is K 10000.

The rice mills in Nay Pyi Taw are milling summer paddy.

**MMAL-Karun Kha**

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**Percussion lock firearms seized in forest reserve**

**Kasandalu, 7 Aug**—Percussion lock firearms were seized in a forest reserve in Sagaing Region on 28 July.

A combined team formed with foresters, members of Myanmar Police Force and firefighters seized 15 guns in Chathin forest reserve on 28 July when they patrolled around the reserve. The guns were hidden under leaves in Inpetetaye area of the forest reserve. The owner of the guns is still unknown.

**MMAL-Township IPRD**

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Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw being welcomed by Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Christoph Burgener at the reception to mark the National Day of the Switzerland at Sedona Hotel on 6 August.—MNA
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office
(Notification No. 53/2013)
1st Waxing of Wagaung, 1375 ME
(7th August, 2013)

Appointment of Presidential Advisors

The following persons have been appointed as members of the Presidential Advisory Teams formed under the Notification No. 1/2011 dated 19-4-2011 and assigned duties shown against each.

(a) Dr Aung Tun Thet
   Economic Advisory Team
(b) Dr Zaw Oo
   Economic Advisory Team
(c) U Nyan Naing Win
   Legal Advisory Team

By order,
Zaw Than Thin
Secretary
Union Government

Navy helps foreign vessel at sea

GLADYS (JAKARTA) cargo ship from BBN (Bintika Bangunusa) company that departed from Malaysia Port to Bangladesh Port on 26 July, was anchored at about 13 miles southwest of Minpyin Beach in Kyaukpyu Township in Myanmar waters due to its engine problems on 26 July. As Tatmadaw (Navy) and Research Committee Col Maung Maung Htoo spoke words of thanks, Myanma naval vessels provided necessary assistance and helped repair the vessel’s generators, it gained recovery yesterday evening.

Myawady

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Press Release Team
Notification No (14/2013)
7th August, 2013

1st Waxing of Wagaung, 1375 ME

Press release on the matter related to enactment of Region/State Hluttaw Bill 2013

1. Out of 22 laws promulgated by the State Peace and Development Council in order to implement the necessary matters before the Constitution came into effect, Region/State Hluttaw Law was enacted under the State Peace and Development Council Law No (14/2010) dated 21-10-2010.

2. Discussions were held and approval sought for abolishing the law and promulgating a new law at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Then, the Region/State Hluttaw Bill 2013 was sent to the President to be able to sign it on 13-2-2013. The President sent back the bill, putting remarks on nine points to be amended to the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 22-2-2013 and the remarks were shown in detail in the third column of the table in the third paragraph. The President’s remarks were sent to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw with the aim of ensuring the sustainable use of the law in accord with the Constitution and other existing laws after holding discussions with the Attorney-General of the Union, legal experts and scholars on the subjects to be able to approve and sign the bill.

3. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw rejected all remarks after discussions on the nine remarks sent by the President and approved the bill as before and sent back it to the President to be able to sign and enact a law. Regarding the bill, initial approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the remarks of the President and final approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw are shown against each as follows:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Initial approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw</th>
<th>President’s remark</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 (b) Region (or) State level organization means Region (or) State government, Region (or) State High Court and Region</td>
<td>As sub-section (b) of Section (2) says that Region (or) State level organization means Region (or) State government,</td>
<td>It was approved as before.</td>
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(See page 7)
**Press release on the matter related to enactment of Region/State Hluttaw Bill 2013**

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<td>2</td>
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<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(c) 9(e). Holding coordination with respective authoritative bodies or authorities concerned for development of the constituency and the State without contrary to the Constitution.

Regarding the matter of holding coordination with respective authoritative bodies for development of the constituency and the State stated in sub-section (e) of Section 8, the right to coordinate matters stated in the provision of sub-section (a) of Section 11 is only for ensuring check and balance in use of power by Hluttaw, Union Government and Supreme Court of the Union. No power vested in each person. If check and balance is necessary, coordination can be made in accord with the Constitution if there arise matters to be coordinated with other organizations while the matter is under implementation by the organizations concerned. So, it is not appropriate to be included in sub-section (e) of Section (9).

It was approved as before.

(d) 10(c). Enquiring, discussion and getting facts related to issues brought to the Hluttaw and undertakings carried out by the region or state level organizations or groups representing the organizations.

Regarding the word “getting facts” expressed in the “enquiring, discussion and getting facts” in the Section 10, Sub-section (d), except the documents and facts prohibited by the constitution and current laws should be added to the paragraph as there are documents and facts which are prohibited for borrowing under the constitution, Hluttaw laws and other current laws. So, it is not appropriate to be included in sub-section (e) of Section (9).

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the previous approval.

(e) 12(f). A Hluttaw representative can coordinate with local authority when he has to make arrangement by himself to meet with voters in his constituency and can seek assistance for security from the local authorities.

Section 12. Sub-Section (f) is the special right for a Hluttaw representative regarding to make arrangement for revenue and security. Going to his constituency by a Hluttaw representative can be considered as his friendly relations with voters through thick and thin in accordance with the democratic practices. A Hluttaw representative has rights for not to be appeared at a court as a witness and not to be arrested. According to the constitution, the relation system between the Hluttaw and administrative bodies can help a representative to ensure its meeting with voters in his constituency. Therefore, the provision should not be included in the bill.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the previous approval.

(f) 13. A respective Hluttaw representative can use a yearly fund allocation for respective constituency in conformity with rules and regulations after coordinating with respective local people.

Section 13 has allowed a Hluttaw representative to discuss and to give suggestions to drafting national planning bills proposed by respective Union ministries at Hluttaw meetings regarding to a yearly budget allocation for respective constituency and administrative bodies can only use budget allocations only after the approval of the Pyithu Hluttaw. Therefore, Section 13 should not be included in the bill. In Section-23, it is stated that

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the previous approval.

(g) 23. The Hluttaw in order to present legislation invested in it, national race affairs as well as other matters when necessary shall form the Hluttaw committees with Hluttaw representatives. As necessary measures between one meeting and another arise, the speaker would choose representatives to be included in the Committee and shall seek approval at the nearest meeting.

The Hluttaw in order to present legislation invested in it, national race affairs as well as other matters when necessary shall form the Hluttaw committees with Hluttaw representatives. Under Sub-section (a), Section 167 of the Constitution, the expression “other matters” and “time limited” are not in conformity with provisions of the Constitution as they are not prescribed in it.

(h) 24. When it is necessary to observe the remaining matters except of those to be observed by the Hluttaw Committee, the Hluttaw shall form the organizations with Hluttaw representatives and suitable citizens. As necessary measures between one meeting and another arise, the speaker shall form the organizations with Hluttaw representatives and suitable citizens. And the formation is to be presented to the nearest meeting for approval.

In Section-24, it is stated that when it is necessary to observe the remaining matters except of those to be observed by the Hluttaw Committee, the Hluttaw shall form the organizations with Hluttaw representatives and suitable citizens. Under Sub-section (a), Section 167 of the Constitution, as it is stated that the committees and organizations could be formed with the Region or State Hluttaw representatives when it is necessary to present legislation and national race affairs, it should not be prescribed as it is not in conformity with the Constitution.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues to approve it as did before.

(i) 84. Elected Hluttaw representatives represent their constituencies and reputable persons. So, respective authorized organizations or persons may regard them as reputable persons in drawing regional development plans in their constituencies, fulfilling the desires of people regarding the administrative, social and economic sectors.

The addition of Section 84 is the behavioral prescription pertaining to the dignity. The behavioral qualification cannot be assumed. Hluttaw representatives’ codes of conducts are prescribed in the Section 11 of the Bill. They would become reputable ones if they abide by these codes of conducts. It is not suitable to enact the qualifications of their dignity as a law. So, that section should not include in the bill.

4. Some descriptions in the Bill which was sent back for the President’s sign still need to comply with the Constitution, the existing laws and main democratic practices: having no discrimination; sharing use of three branches of the State’s sovereignty as much as possible and ensuring the check and balance. That’s why, the following message was sent to the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 5-8-2013 to see that it can not be signed by the President.

1. The message described in reference No.1 was sent so as to be signed by the President for passing “the 2013 Region or State Hluttaw Bill”. The nine-point message described in reference No.2 was sent back.

2. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw sent back it without amendments.

3. It can be assessed that Bill’s some descriptions need to be in accord with the Constitution, the existing laws and main democratic practices: having no discrimination; sharing use of three branches of the State’s sovereignty as much as possible and ensuring the check and balance.

4. Thus, the message is sent for taking necessary measures on “the 2013 Region or State Hluttaw Bill”.

5. Regarding the prescribed laws that need to be in comply with the Constitution, the Section 322 (a) states that “vetting whether the laws promulgated by Legislative Hluttaws or the Self-Administered Division Leading body and Self-Administrated Zone Leading Body are in conformity with the Constitution or not”. According to it, the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union is in charge of vetting it.

6. On 6-8-2013, under the Section 106 (c) and Section 98, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has enacted “the 2013 Region or State Hluttaw Law” as Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No.22. The full text of it was described in the State-owned newspapers on 7-8-2013.

7. President’s undertakings on the enactment of “the 2013 Region or State Hluttaw Bill” as a law are made public.

Press Release Team
**Thursday, 8 August, 2013**

**A Study on the History of the Shwedagon Pagoda**

Dr.Saw Mra Aung

The Shwedagon Pagoda standing magnificently on Singuttara Hill in Yangon is a credit to Myanmar. However, due to limited scientific research on it and its antiquity, its history is still shrouded in legends and uncertainty. Myanmar and Mon chronicles and oral traditions claim that two merchant brothers Taphussa and Bhallika from Ukkalapura of Ramannadesa in Lower Myanmar crossed the ocean, came upon the newly-enlightened Buddha in Mahijahmadesa, got his eight hair relics and built the Shwedagon Pagoda with the enshrinement of them on their arrival back at their town. But some modern scholars, with the shoulders shrugged, reject this second Shwedagon pagoda tradition claim on the pretext of the then difficult and formidable maritime passage between India and the eastern coast of lower Myanmar and Bengal. Therefore, if it can be proved that there existed some maritime contacts between the eastern and western shores of the Bay of Bengal and Ukkalapura town in Lower Myanmar during the life time of the Buddha, this persistent age-long Shwedagon pagoda tradition should be regarded as at possible the very least and the blame put on the traditionalists by the scholars, for their acquiescence in this tradition will be dislodged.

To be able to explore the answer to this challenging problem, we need to examine the materials contained in the tradition. It is found under the scrutiny of this tradition that it is a patch-work of Pali texts and their commentaries and local traditions. The names of Taphussa and Bhallika first appeared in the Anguttara Nikaya, (Mahavagga Pali) makes mention of their meeting with the newly-enlightened Buddha on the way between Rajagaha and Ukkalapura and their establishment in Dvecaika (taking refuge in the Buddha and the Mahatmya). Its comments were compiled by Buddhaghoṣa adds the Buddha’s giving his hair relics to them and their enshrinement of them in a shrine on hill at the gate to their town Astijavana. It is noticed that the Pali texts and their commentaries do not describe the voyage made by the two merchant brothers and place Ukkalapura on the eastern coast of the Bay of Bengal. Only the Shwedagon Pagoda Stone Inscription erected by King Dhammanegara in 1485 A.D started to mention the oceanic voyage of these two brothers in a ship to Majhijahmadesa. However, Mon stone inscription was put up about 1000 years later than Buddhaghoṣa’s time. (Buddhaghoṣa was alive during the 5th Century A.D). Therefore, the validity of this epigraphic record is weaker than Buddhaghoṣa’s work, thereby precipitating traditionalists into lapsing into silence.

However, erudite Ven. Kakkapala, better known as Taung Pauk Sayawad, came to their rescue by voicing the opinion that the Mahavagga Pali tradition opined entitled “Buddha-sasanapakapathiavan Kyan”. The first is that the two brothers from Ukkalapura on the north-western coast of India made a commercial contact with Ukkalapura town in Ramannadesa of Lower Myanmar and obtained the hair relics obtained from the Buddha via their town Ukkalapura in India, and enshrined them in the Tigumya Ceti. The second Shwedagon pagoda tradition states that between four and two hundred years after the enlightenment of the Buddha, Mon Daings, the earliest of the three types of Mon immigrants, came over to Lower Myanmar and entered the Yangon River and built a town at a confluence of three creeks, therefore, it is well known as Ukkalapura. The above claims suggest that there were two Ukkalapuras— the original Ukkalapura in Orissa, India and the later Ukkalapura in Lower Myanmar. The two brothers were probably the descendants of these Indian Mon immigrants. Moreover, it is believed that two Takkola merchant brothers, who were from Lower Myanmar, went back to Ukkalapura of Myanmar via Ukkalapura in India which was the nativity of their forefathers. It is also accepted that the original town of Ukkalapura was Tribhukhamba, which was already inhabited by Mon-ktators who had been through Yunnan before 2000 B.C. These Mon-ktators are known as Monda in India. According to the 1931 Census, Monda speakers still numbered millions in India. Coedes states that when Aryans and Dravidians pressed into India long before the birth of Christ, some aboriginal peoples (including Monda) were pushed into the South India and thence to South- East Asia. Therefore, the recent immigration of forefathers of Taphussa and Bhallika from India before the time of the Buddha can be acceptable.

So it is undeniable on the history, that, people could traverse the high sea under the glass at about 45 B.C. Only after that, people could traverse the high sea under the preferable Monsoon winds. The above extract from the ancient text named “Milindapanha” shows that Indian merchants coasted along the coast of Myanmar or Indonesia. A Greek pilot by the name of Hippalus discovered the periodic alteration of the Monsoon winds in about 45 B.C. Only after that, people could traverse the high sea under the preferable Monsoon winds.

Along the India continent and to the Godhi River Valley, the Ganga, the Godhi River Valley and Talingana between one or two hundred years after the birth of the Buddha and one thousand years ago. It is said that the Monktomers from the Yangon River Basin started to spread over South-east Asia including Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar etc. and thence through Yunnan before 2000 B.C. These Mon-ktomers are known as Monda in India. According to the 1931 Census, Monda speakers still numbered millions in India. Coedes states that when Aryans and Dravidians pressed into India, the communication between ten and twenty centuries before the birth of Christ, some aboriginal peoples (including Monda) were pushed into the South India and thence to South-East Asia. Therefore, the recent immigration of forefathers of Taphussa and Bhallika from India before the time of the Buddha can be acceptable. The “Indianized States of South-east Asia”, that glass beads of Indian origin were abundantly discovered in Neolithica strata in Further India (South-east Asia). So it is undeniable on the strength of the discovery of these solid evidences that the communication between India and South-east Asia have taken place since Neolithic Period. There is, therefore, no intention to propose a voyage across the Bay of Bengal during the life time of the Buddha. Moreover, the Buddha in the Dvevacika Pali says that Indian merchants reached a series of sea-ports such as Tigumpa, Takkola, Takasila, Kasamukha, Purapura, Vesuunga, Javan, Tammali, Vanga, etc. Modern scholars identify Tigumpa (Trikkhumbra) with Yangon and Vesuunga with Takkola near Thatonin Lower Myanmar, Takasila with Tatauksa and Tammali with the Malay Peninsula, Purapura with Dhammanaw in Rakhine and Javan with Java in Indonesia. Another Pali text named “Milindapanha”, one of 18 treatises of the Khuddaka Nikaya also makes mention of the names of the ancient sea-ports between the coast of India and China reached by Indian long merchant based on the advent of the Christian Era such as Vanga, Tatakola, Sovira, Surat, Alexandria, Kolapattana, Suvannabhumi, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Vanga and to India along the India continent and thence through Yunnan. Coedes states that when Aryans and Dravidians pressed into India long before the birth of Christ, some aboriginal peoples (including Monda) were pushed into the South India and thence to South-East Asia. Therefore, the recent immigration of forefathers of Taphussa and Bhallika from India before the time of the Buddha can be acceptable.
Yangon—A ceremony to hand over 68 discharged underage soldiers to their parents was held at No.1 Transit Centre here this morning. Under the arrangement of the Commander-in-Chief’s Office (Army) and a Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR), underage solders are now being arranged for discharge from respective commands across the country.

Maj-Gen Than Soe of the Commander-in-Chief’s Office and Co-chair of CTFMR Mr Ashok Nigam delivered speeches on the occasion. Afterwards, officials handed over resignation letters and Citizen’s Awards to the minors and handed over to them their parents and relatives.

After the ceremony, Tatmadaw has transported those to the transit camp which are arranged by CTFMR and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Plans are underway to help those under 18 contact their parents, pursue their education, get job, provide necessary health care and make arrangements for their return trips.

This is the fourth time since the handover of 42 children under 18 years of age on 3 September, 2012 for the first time; 24 on the period of 2013 for the second time; and 42 on 7 July, 2013 for the third time. On 27 June, 2012, Myanmar and UN signed an action plan to prevent the recruitment of minors by Army forces. Arrangements are being made to discharge all underage soldiers from Tatmadaw within 18 months. Tatmadaw has been scrutinizing the recruitment and discharge of underage children. Action is being taken against those who commit the cases in accordance with military rules.

It was also attended by senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief’s Office and, deputy ministers, managing directors and directors from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, the Union Attorney-General’s Office, responsible persons from UNICEF, UNHCR, ILO, Save the Children, World Vision, World Food Programme and UNDP, parents of underage soldiers.

Blockade on Kutkai-Muse Union Highway cleared

Kutkai, 7 Aug—A landslide blocked the Kutkai-Muse Union Highway in northern Shan State yesterday.

The landslide occurred about 6 am between Mile posts No. 231/6 and 231/7, causing the pile of mudslides reaching 150 ft in length and 30 ft in height on the road.

The road was cleared at 7 pm and traffic has returned to normalcy.

Myawady

Myanmar will assume 2014 ASEAN Chairmanship by ensuring centrality of ASEAN; ...

(from page 1)

status of the people. At the same time, Myanmar’s efforts to implement the ASEAN Community Blueprints have positive effects on the country’s political, economic and social objectives.

The willingness and participation of the entire Myanmar people to strive for a modern and developed nation and to achieve the goals of ASEAN Community are of vital importance. The member states in the ASEAN family, while trying to develop individually, have to cooperate each other hand in hand. Myanmar is committed to try her best in contributing towards ASEAN Community by taking advantage of the position as a land bridge between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners.

We will assume the 2014 ASEAN Chairmanship by ensuring the centrality of ASEAN; by obtaining ASEAN consensus; and by representing ASEAN in strengthening and promoting closer relations with external partners. Myanmar has determined with might and main to undertake successfully the role of Chairmanship with the support of ASEAN member states and its Dialogue Partners.

Esteemed National brethren of Myanmar,

On the auspicious occasion of celebrating the 46th anniversary of ASEAN, I wish to urge the people of Myanmar—

To take part actively in assuming the 2014 Myanmar ASEAN Chairmanship.

To strive for the emergence of people-centered, peaceful and prosperous ASEAN Community for ASEAN People.

A Study on the History...

pagoda which was subsequently known as Sandaw Pegna Pagoda in Pauktoke (now known as Nagaris Cape near Pathein (where two relics were also stolen by Jeteyana Naga king) and made a coastal voyage along the Dala-Tawgyan sea coast (where a series of nine Sandawgoy cettis, pagodas welcoming the hair relics, were built). This coastal voyage made by the two brothers can also serve as a prima facie evidence explaining that their sea journey might have taken place before the advent of Christian Era,that is, before the discovery of the periodic alteration of Monsoon winds.

Besides, with regard to the discovery of the Shwedagon Pagoda and commercial contacts between Lower Myanmar and India thousand years ago and before the full development of the Ayeyawady Delta, Dr.Htin Aung, in his book “A History of Burma”, says: “There is no inherent impossibility in the land first but the particular spur on which the pagoda now stands was high above water level long before the Irravady (Ayeyawady) formed its delta thousand years ago, and second because there must have been at least some coastal trade between the opposite shores of the Bay of Bengal…”

According to Mr Chhibber, writer of “Geology of Burma”, it is known that the Ayeyawady Delta started to be formed about 300,000 years ago but developed fully over one thousand years ago. In view of this, it can be assumed that the lifetime of the Buddha. Very recently, many finger-marked bricks have been discovered in the environs of Kutkai, which are believed to have been built to welcome the eight hair relics of the Buddha brought by Taphussa and Bhallika-Trikumbha or Pokkkharavati or Asitanjana or the old town at Tadargalay, it will fall in the domain of the geological strata in south-east Asia, the litoral voyages of Indian merchants made along the coast of the Indian continent and the eastern coasts of the Bay of Bengal mentioned in the Pali texts such as Mahanndesha References.

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Myawady

Myanmar discharges 68 underage soldiers

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Interview with U San Win who led a field trip made to Kawhmu Township.

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Myawady

A Study on the History...

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Besides, with regard to the discovery of the Shwedagon Pagoda and commercial contacts between Lower Myanmar and India thousand years ago and before the full development of the Ayeyawady Delta, Dr.Htin Aung, in his book “A History of Burma”, says: “There is no inherent impossibility in the land first but the particular spur on which the pagoda now stands was high above water level long before the Irravady (Ayeyawady) formed its delta thousand years ago, and second because there must have been at least some coastal trade between the opposite shores of the Bay of Bengal....”

According to Mr Chhibber, writer of “Geology of Burma”, it is known that the Ayeyawady Delta started to be formed about 300,000 years ago but developed fully over one thousand years ago. In view of this, it can be assumed that Singuttara Hill and enshrined them in the Shwedagon Pagoda.
**LOCAL NEWS**

**SLCC-MDY opens Shan language, literature course**

Mandalay, 7 Aug—

Shan Literary and Culture Committee, Universities-Mandalay (SLCC-MDY), conducted Shan spoken and literary course at the History Department of Mandalay University in Mandalay on 3 August.

At the opening, Associate Professor of the History Department of Mandalay University Dr Saw Pyone Naing made a speech. Head of the department Dr Sai Naw Khay extended greetings.

The course is divided into spoken and literary classes. It starts at 1:30 pm and is over at 3:30 pm every weekend.

The six-week course is being taken by over 100 students from Yangon University, Mandalay University, University of Nursing, Mandalay University of Medicine, and Mandalay Technological University.—Kyemon-002

**Outstanding student needs assistance in Gangaw Township**

Gangaw, 7 Aug—

Student Maung Nyi Nyi Lay had secured awards in the six-week course for 16 times and has issued K 63.2 million to 98 buses. The interests obtained from the disbursement is being spent on awarding the outstanding students, giving stipends to the students, providing cash assistance to bus workers who were injured in the traffic accidents and who died of traffic accidents.

Kyemon

**Complaints about taxation system invited**

Gangaw, 7 Aug —

Gangaw Township Internal Revenue Department recently announced inviting tax payers to hold talks with the Head of Gangaw Township IRD in person if there arises complaint about law, bylaws, rules and regulations regarding the taxation system operated by Internal Revenue Department.

Kyemon-465

**Seizure of snatchers exposes more snatching cases on the buses**

Yangon, 7 Aug—

Members of No 2 Company of Reserved Branch of Yangon Region Police Force were on duty to arrest the snatchers on 31 July.

On board the bus of No 54 bus line, they arrested Khin Cho Oo and his teacher Daw Aye Aye Thant.

Maug Nyi Nyi Lay was arrested for stealing the mobile phone and Huawei Y 210 mobile phone from passengers in June 2013.

He threw the SIM cards to away and sold the handsets.

In July, he snatched six mobile phones from passengers in buses of No 226, No 45, No 48 bus and Shwe Inwa lines severally and sold the handsets after throwing the SIM cards away.

The authorities gathered the snatched handsets from various places.

**SANITATION**

Bayintnaung Market fumigated

Yangon, 7 Aug—With the aim of taking prevention against dengue haemorrhagic fever and carrying out sanitation at Bayintnaung Market in Ward 1 of Mayangon Township in Yangon Region, in-charge of the marjet U Tin Tun Wina and workers of the market fumigated all parts of the market including drains and undertook sanitation at drains for proper flow of water on 5 August afternoon.

The sanitation tasks will be carried out at the market weekly, said the in-charge of the market.

Kyemon-Zaw Gyi (Panita)

**ACCIDENT**

Phone post falls down, leaving woman cyclist injured

Yangon, 7 Aug—A woman cyclist got injured as her bike was hit by cables from a fallen concrete phone post on 3 August.

Ma Nwe Ni Aye, 29, of No. 381 in Nilar 1st Street of Ward 8, was shocked in the accident.

The injured is receiving medical treatment at North Okkalapa Hospital.

The fallen phone post is being repaired by Head of North Okkalapa Township Post Office U Than Linn, in-charge U Sein Toe and staff of the township telephone exchange.

Kyemon-Zaw Gyi (Panita)

**CRIME**

**Loans disbursed to bus lines in Mandalay**

Mandalay, 7 Aug—

A ceremony to disburse loan to owners of highway express buses at Shwe Mandalay Hall of Mandalay Region Highway Bus Supervisory Committee Office on 5 August afternoon.

The committee disbursed K 1 million each to 21 highway buses from 13 bus lines, totally amounting to K 23 million. They have to pay back the loans to the committee within ten months.

Up to now, the committee has disbursed the loans to the bus lines for 16 times and has issued K 63.2 million to 98 buses. The interests obtained from the disbursement is being spent on awarding the outstanding students, giving stipends to the students, providing cash assistance to bus workers who were injured in the traffic accidents and who died of traffic accidents.

Kyemon

**Hill ringroad expanded for public safety**

Kyaukme, 7 Aug—

Shwepehu hill ringroad is located on Kyaukme-Mogok Road in Tilin Ward of Ward 9 in Kyaukme.

The road is narrowing on the downhill and uphill sections. The local people, teachers and students from Tilin Basic Education High School No 2 are worried about traffic accident daily.

Last three years, a teacher died of traffic accident on the road.

Therefore, the local people wish to extend the hill ringroad.

The Township Support Committee and Township Development Affairs Committee expanded the road with three feet wide each on both sides and dug the drains along the road on 5 August.

The local people have wishes to erect concrete posts along the banks of the hill.

Kyemon-563

**Take preventive measures against dengue haemorrhagic fever**

Yangon, 7 Aug—

With the aim of taking prevention against dengue haemorrhagic fever and carrying out sanitation at Bayintnaung Market in Ward 1 of Mayangon Township in Yangon Region, in-charge of the marjet U Tin Tun Wina and workers of the market fumigated all parts of the market including drains and undertook sanitation at drains for proper flow of water on 5 August afternoon.

The sanitation tasks will be carried out at the market weekly, said the in-charge of the market.

Kyemon-Zaw Gyi (Panita)
Singapore’s Lee, in new book, warns Japan of bleak future

Singapore, 7 Aug — Singapore’s former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew has warned in a book launched on Tuesday that Japan’s future will be bleak if it does not address its aging population problem by opening its doors to immigration. “If Japan does not solve its demographic problem, its future will be very grim.”

Lee, who turns 90 next month, said Singapore is facing a similar problem but the difference is that while Singapore has been willing to open up to immigrants “Japan has been remarkably intransigent about accepting foreigners.”

“The idea that the Japanese race must be kept pure is so deeply ingrained that no attempt has been made to publicly discuss alternatives,” he writes.

He warned that without solving the problem in “another 10 to 15 years, they would have gone down the slippery slope, and it may be too late to recover.”

“More likely than not, this is a nation strolling into mediocrity. The country is technologically advanced and the people are well-educated, but eventually Japan’s problems will catch up with it,” Lee writes, adding, “If I were a young Japanese and I could speak English, I would probably choose to emigrate.”

But he praised the Japanese for being able to maintain a sense of “calm, order and discipline” during the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, adding, “The Japanese are also peerless in the way they strive for perfection in everything they do.”

“The sense of teamwork in the Japanese workforce gives them that edge over other countries. The Koreans and the Chinese may be able to match them individual for individual, but team for team, the Japanese are unequalled,” he writes.

Vietnamese state-run paper prints ad opposing Japan reactor exports

HANOI, 7 Aug — Vietnam’s state-run English-language daily Viet Nam News published an opinion ad on Tuesday objecting to planned nuclear reactor exports by Japan. The ad was published to coincide with the 68th anniversary of the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Japan secured contracts in October 2010 to build two nuclear reactors in Vietnam, prior to the nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Daichi complex triggered by the 11 March, 2011, earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan. It is rare for Vietnamese newspapers to publish an opinion ad, especially one contradicting government policy, with press freedom restricted under Communist Party rule.

The ad included images of a devastated reactor building at the Fukushima Daichi complex and an explosion at the plant’s No 3 reactor building. “It is estimated that 150,000 evacuees from the Fukushima nuclear disaster remain in temporary accommodation,” it states, adding, “The quantity of radiation-contaminated water collected from the reactor buildings is increasing at a rate of 400 tons per day.”

The ad also states, “Did you realise there is a danger that nuclear power could deprive you of your precious hometown...forever?”

Hirokawa told Kyodo News, “It is our duty to communicate to people abroad that there is opposition in Japan to the export of nuclear reactors, which is being implemented despite our country’s failure to bring the crisis under complete control.”

New Zealand coordinates operation to rescue Austrian yacht crew

WELLINGTON, 7 Aug — An Austrian couple were rescued from their yacht in the Pacific in an international operation coordinated in New Zealand on Wednesday.

The Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ) said the skipper of the 12.8-metre yacht, Gobo, made a distress call at about 11 pm on Tuesday, after the vessel encountered difficulties around 407 km east of American Samoa. A fishing boat, FV Taimana, was close by and the couple were successfully transferred at around 9 am on Wednesday, said RCCNZ search and rescue mission coordinator Mike Roberts.

“Again, the dynamic situation in a largely empty area of ocean, and to successfully transfer the pair to the safety of the FV Taimana was a good result,” Roberts said in a statement.

Gobo made another distress call on 31 July to maritime rescue authorities in Germany, reporting a leak, damage to rigging and a lack of water, and was helped in New Zealand by teams contacting RCCNZ, which arranged for Canadian and New Zealand authorities to rescue the couple.

New Zealand speed up education cooperation

HANOI, 7 Aug — Cooperation in education between Vietnam and New Zealand has constantly developed in recent years, becoming the prime priority area in New Zealand’s bilateral ties with Vietnam.

The remark was shared by Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Thienn Nhan and New Zealand’s Governor-General Jerry Mateparae when they attended a ceremony here on Tuesday to celebrate achievement in educational cooperation between the two countries.

The event was held during Mateparae’s visit to Vietnam on 3-8 Aug at the invitation of Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang.

Education is one of five areas given strategic priority in the action plan to implement the New Zealand-Vietnam comprehensive strategic partnership, said Mateparae.

Over the past 20 years, more than 400 Vietnamese trainees attended the English training programme in New Zealand, and many others completed training courses held by New Zealand’s universities and their Vietnamese partners.

In 2012, more than 2,000 Vietnamese students went to New Zealand for study, up 90 percent from 2008.

Vietnam ranks ninth in number among foreign students studying in New Zealand.

Singapore’s former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew attends a ceremony in Singapore on 6 Aug, 2013, marking the publishing of his book “One Man’s View of the World.”

Kyodo News

Games will help time fly for young held-up passengers

BEIJING, 7 Aug — Young passengers unlucky enough to be delayed can see time fly at Shanghai Pudong International Airport.

They can let their imagination take flights of fancy with the help of an interactive LED game screen which was installed in the passenger lounge at Terminal 2 this summer. “They can play by moving their bodies, hands or legs,” said Zhan Chengge, head of service management. The game zone was opened on 1 June, International Children’s Day.

At first, two games were available to play on the LED screen, one of them soccer. Fruit Ninja and Horsey Run Run were then added.

July is a traditional busy month and average daily fights increased 6.3 percent to 1,060 from June, and were up 1.2 percent year-on-year, according to the operator, the Shanghai Airport Authority. Apart from the LED game area, the airport is also considering a 4-D movie area at departure lounges. Summer usually has more delays due to holiday traffic and more extreme weather.

Improved recreational facilities might help as- siuage anger, said Li Lei, an industrial analyst with Minzu Securities.

Although few flight delays are caused by airport management, he said, passengers sometimes take their anger out on airport staff.

But Huang Jinxiang, an industrial analyst with Haitong Securities, said the game zone will have a limited effect on delayed passengers’ moods. “Most of the passengers just want to reach their destination as soon as possible, so they prefer punctuality over playthings,” Huang said.—Xinhua
Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanma Kyats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
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-Tender Closing Date & Time -
2-9-2013, 1300 Hrs.
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 5th August, 2013 at the Material Planning Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

HK recalls Nutricia milk products over botulism scare

HONG KONG, 7 Aug — The healthcare division of food giant Danone on Tuesday recalled baby milk formula products from Hong Kong, following a botulism contamination warning issued by its New Zealand subsidiary Fonterra. Meanwhile, Beijing has asked a Chinese subsidiary of US-based Abbott Laboratories to recall two infant formula products sold in mainland China.

The move comes a day after Hong Kong recalled some 140,000 cans of “Cow and Gate” baby formula, which also used potentially tainted whey protein supplied by Fonterra.

The milk product brand Nutricia — a subsidiary of French food giant Danone — is recalling its Karicare formula from Hong Kong. The whole batch of Karicare “Gold” Follow-on Stage 2 Formula” for six to 12 months-old infants will be recalled, Nutricia’s Hong Kong company said.

“ Infant Formula Stage 1” for babies younger than six months is also being recalled worldwide, but has not been sold in Hong Kong, the company said.

“The product is not contaminated, our New Zealand company only ordered the recall as a precaution,” Hong Kong’s Cable TV quoted a staff member as saying.

Fonterra said last week some of its whey protein, used in baby formula, food and sports drinks, produced in May 2012 was found to be contaminated with the bacterium clostridium botulinum. It could cause illness in babies under one year, with symptoms such as constipation, facial numbness, breathing difficulty and death in the worst case.

“More tests on milk powder are needed,” Food and Health Secretary Ko Wing-man said in a radio programme.

“The contaminated (whey protein) is an ingredient used in some food products...The Center for Food Safety can’t rule out the possibility of it entering Hong Kong, contained in different food products,” he said.

The warning came after the New Zealand Embassy in China informed the General Administration of Qual- ity Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine that the milk powder may be contaminated, Chinese media reported.

China’s own tainted milk powder scandal in 2008 left six infants dead and some 300,000 others suffered kidney illnesses. The problems damaged Chinese consumer confidence in local brands, boosting preference for foreign-branded products.—Kyodo News
Bob Dylan to exhibit his new artwork in London gallery

London, 7 Aug—New pastel portraits by American singer Bob Dylan will go on show for the first time at London’s National Portrait Gallery next month, the gallery said on Monday.

The 12 new works in the “Bob Dylan Face Value” exhibition in September represent the latest portrait studies from the “Blowin’ in the Wind” singer who has sketched and drawn since childhood, but only began exhibiting six years ago.

“Bob Dylan is one of the most influential cultural figures of our time,” National Portrait Gallery Director Sandy Naime said in a statement.

“I am delighted that we can now share these 12 sketches which were made for display at the National Portrait Gallery.”

Ekta Kapoor to host grand iftaar party

Mumbai, 7 Aug—Film and TV producer Ekta Kapoor is organizing a grand iftaar party on Tuesday, 6 Aug, 2013.

“It’s true and I also keep roza (fast) some times. The iftaar party is on 6 August. It’s a big night, it’s the 27th roza and I have been keeping it for 12 years now,” said the 38-year-old.

On this big night we are going to have a very big Bollywood party and we hope to have everyone celebrate iftari with us,” she added.—PTI

When Kristen Stewart came face-to-face with Robert Pattinson’s new girlfriend

Los Angeles, 7 Aug—Twilight star Kristen Stewart recently encountered her ex-boyfriend Robert Pattinson’s rumoured new girlfriend, Riley Keough.

The pair bumped into each other at rocker Joan Jett’s recent concert at West Hollywood’s House of Blues, reported Showbizpy.

Stewart and Keough first met in 2010 while co-starring in The Runaways, a biopic about Joan’s life.

Stewart, 23, starred as Joan in the film, while Keough, 24, played fellow female rocke Marrie Currie.

“It was weird when they saw each other, because Kristen didn’t look very happy when she walked over to give her a hug,” a source said.

They spoke for like two minutes and then Riley and her girlfriend walked away. Kristen watched the show from upstairs and I am pretty sure Riley kept her distance and was watching from downstairs,” it added.

Recent reports revealed that Pattinson and Keough have been ‘hanging out and hooking up’.

Sandra Bullock: Oscars do not respect comedy

Los Angeles, 7 Aug—Oscar-winning actress Sandra Bullock feels that the Academy Awards do not show respect to comedy movies.

The 49-year-old has been part of some comedy-drama’s like Miss Congeniality, 28 Days, Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood, The Thing Called Love and Love Potion No 9.

She won an Oscar in 2010 for her role in The Blind Side.

“There’s no respect for comedies when it comes to the Oscars — absolutely none. But you don’t do comedy for awards or credibility. You do it for the joy,” dailystar.co.uk quoted Bullock as saying.

The actress was at the red carpet of her forthcoming movie The Heat.—PTI

ET triumphs as British public’s favourite childhood film

London, 7 Aug—“ET the Extra-Terrestrial”, Steven Spielberg’s 1982 science fiction film, is the childhood film of choice for a nostalgic British public, who also voted the 1980s as their favourite film decade.

“It might be the time fashion forgot; but it certainly made an impact on our film choices,” said a statement from UK arm of Samsung Electronics Co, who commissioned the survey of 1,500 people.

“ET” surpassed competition from Walt Disney’s “Bambi” and “The Lion King”, as well as Pixar’s “Toy Story” and adventure film “The Goonies”, co-written by Spielberg.

The director of hit films such as “Saving Private Ryan” and “Jurassic Park”, Spielberg was also voted the Britain’s favourite director.

“The Shawshank Redemption”, the uplifting 1994 US prison drama starring Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman, was voted as the film that viewers would most like to watch again and again.

“Frankly my dear, I don’t give a damn”, Clark Gable’s final line from 1939 US hit “Gone with the Wind”, came out on top as the public’s favourite film quote.


Just over 70 percent of those surveyed said relaxing and escapism were the main reason they enjoyed watching films.

More than a third of viewers said trial and error was their choice of method for choosing which films to watch.—Reuters

Musician Bob Dylan (C) waits prior to receiving a Presidential Medal of Freedom in the East Room of the White House in Washington, on 29 May, 2012. Reuters
**New Light of Myanmar**

**SPORTS**

**Moyes says doesn’t need to convince anyone to stay at United**

**STOCKHOLM, 7 Aug—** With speculation over the future of Wayne Rooney continuing, Manchester United manager David Moyes said on Tuesday he did not have to convince the striker to stay at Old Trafford.

Asked what Rooney’s reaction had been to Manchester United turning down a reputed bid of 36 million pounds from Premier League rivals Chelsea, Moyes replied “I don’t know, I’ve not asked him.”

Presser further on whether he would have to convince Rooney to stay with the English champions, Moyes said: “You don’t need to convince anyone to play for Manchester United.”

Moyes was speaking to reporters after a 1-1 draw in a friendly game against AIK in Stockholm.

**Liverpool must keep word and let me go—Suarez**

**Liverpool’s Luis Suarez controls the ball against Thailand’s national soccer team during a friendly soccer match at Ratchamangkala Stadium in Bangkok on 28 July, 2013.—**Reuters

**LONDON, 7 Aug—** Liverpool striker Luis Suarez has called on the club to honour “an agreement” that said he could leave the club if they failed to qualify for the Champions League.

The Uruguayan has been the subject of intense transfer speculation during the close season after scoring 29 goals in all competitions last season.

Arsenal offered just over 40 million pounds for the striker, although Liverpool have maintained that Suarez is not for sale.

Suaree, who is to have a scan on a foot injury he sustained in training, said he was prepared to take his case to the Premier League.

“I want to move to play in the Champions League and there is a club offering me that opportunity,” he was quoted as saying in The Daily Telegraph. “I have told the manager that I want to leave the club.”

“I am being accused of showing a lack of loyalty but last year I had the opportunity to move to a big European club and I stayed on the understanding that if we did not qualify for the Champions League the following season then I would be allowed to go.”

“I gave absolutely everything last season but it was not enough to give us a top-four finish. Now all I want is that Liverpool honour our agreement.”

Suarez said Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers gave him “his word” that he would be allowed to go if Liverpool did not achieve Champions League qualification.

“Liverpool is a club with a reputation for doing things the right way, I just want them to abide by the promises made last season,” he said.

“I have the club’s word and we have the written contract and we are happy to take this to the Premier League for them to decide the case but I do not want it to come to that.”

**Venus falls in first round in Toronto**

**TORONTO, 7 Aug—** Venus Williams lost to a flying start in her return from a two-month layoff but her game quickly fell apart as the seven-times grand slam champion slumped to a 0-6, 6-4, 6-2 loss to Kirsten Flipkens in the Rogers Cup first round on Tuesday.

**Seeds Maria Kirilenko (11) Jelena Jankovic (15) and Ana Ivanovic (16) also had first round wins.**

In the second round, Slovak Dominika Cibulkova upended eighth seed Angelique Kerber of Germany 6 7(0), 6 2, 7 5 and second seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland won 6-2, 6-3 over Belgium’s Yanina Wickmayer.

Williams, who has played sporadically this season due to a back injury and had not competed since losing in the first round of the French Open in late May, started in fine form on Tuesday but gradually fell apart as the contest wore on.

The five-times Wimbledon champion’s serve was slower than usual, her ground strokes were erratic and she seemed slow to the ball as Wimbledon semi-finalist Flipkens consistently changed angles on her.

“I just really started serving a lot more in the last week, so I’m not really 100 percent on the serve yet,” the 33-year-old Williams said.

“So it was better not to take too many risks and just do something I felt more comfortable with. This week I will definitely just do something I felt more comfortable and more confident in.”

Williams has also been battling an autoimmune disease for the past few years and said she might have come back a week too early. But she feels she needsucesse before the US Open, which begins in a little less than three weeks time.

“Coming back from injury, you have to build the confidence to just realize that you can come back and play without pain,” she said. “So I feel like I’m in that threshold of building confidence.

“That’s a lot of what happened to me at the French Open, too. I played an intense and a really exciting match, but I hadn’t played any matches. So it was a tough situation to be in. Do you play or don’t you play? So I feel like in that situation now going into the US Open.”

Cibulkova, who won the Stanford title late last month, needed nearly three hours to overcome German Kerber, fighting back from 1-4 down in the third set to seal victory.—Reuters

**Woods turns professional in late 1996 and romped to a record 12-stroke victory the following April as he became the youngest ever winner at the Masters, aged 21.**

He piled up a further 13 major titles over the next decade at an astonishing rate before his barren run began, hardly helped by the break-down of his marriage in early 2010, assorted injury problems and the fourth swing change of his career.

“I’ve had my opportunities there on the back nine on probably half of those Sundays for the last five years where I’ve had a chance, and just haven’t won it,” he said.

“But the key is to keep giving myself chances, and eventually I’ll start getting them.”

Woods comes into Oak Hill for the year’s final major on a high, having romped to victory by seven shots in the elite WGC-Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone Country Club.

Every aspect of his game appeared to be in top order last week as he clinched the 79th PGA Tour victory of his career, and a record eighth title in the World Golf Championships (WGC) event.
Incoming WTO chief optimistic about Doha Round relaunch

RIO DE JANEIRO, 7 Aug — Roberto Azevedo, the World Trade Organization (WTO)’s incoming chief, expressed optimism on Tuesday over relaunching the Doha Round talks.

It was possible to make progress on the issue, but a lot of dialogues will be needed, the WTO director-general-elect told business event here.

The upcoming WTO Bali Round of talks in December will offer a good opportunity to begin the relaunching effort, Azevedo said. “Since 2008, there has been no attempt to talk about the impasse at Doha. It’s time to start talking about it,” he said.

The Doha Round of global trade talks, under the auspices of the WTO, were launched in 2001 in an effort to lower trade barriers around the world.

Azevedo said that the presence in negotiations of emerging countries as equals to the developed nations had changed the dynamics of talks.

“Talks between the two blocks broke down in 2008 mainly due to differences on issues such as trade barriers and agricultural subsidies. Azevedo stressed the importance of the Bali Round, saying that achieving a major multilateral agreement in Bali will demonstrate the WTO’s significance to international trade, which will in turn help launch the Doha Round. “We need to look at the talks in a broader, more strategic manner,” he said.

Born in Brazil, Azevedo was elected to lead the WTO in May, defeating Mexico’s candidate Herminio Blanco, and will take over from Pascal Lamy on 1 September for a four-year term.

Ribery makes final three for UEFA best player award

BIRKEN, 7 Aug — Bayern Munich winger Franck Ribery joined Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi when the final three contenders for the 2012/13 UEFA Best Player in Europe award were named on Tuesday.

The Frenchman, who played a major role in Bayern’s Champions League-winning season, is the first player from a club other than Barcelona and Real Madrid to make the final three since the award was established by European soccer’s ruling body in 2011.

Argentina’s Lionel Messi won the inaugural award followed by Spaniard Andres Iniesta, his Barcelona team mate, last year. Messi and Real Madrid and Portugal forward Ronaldo have made the last three in each of the two previous years.

Three of Ribery’s team mates at treble-winning Bayern — Thomas Mueller, Arjen Robben and Bastian Schweinsteiger — had made the shortlist of 10 players announced last month. The winner will be decided by a jury of journalists from each of UEFA’s member associations in a live poll on 29 August at the Champions

Kenya’s International Airport evacuated after huge fire

The airline told the Australian Associated Press (AAP) on Wednesday that its schedule was back to normal, with some possible minor delays on Wednesday morning.

“We are back on schedule ... There may be some minor delays, but they should be cleared by midday,” a Virgin spokeswoman said.

She said three flights had been cancelled on Wednesday “as a result of the outage yesterday”.

“ar special compensation policy that we released yesterday also applies to today,” she added.

Virgin has made an apology for inconvenience caused to its customers and said anyone affected by the problem would be compensated. —Xinhua

Virgin Australia flights back on schedule after check-in system glitch

Sydney, 7 Aug — Virgin Australia flights are back on schedule after thousands of passengers were stranded due to a glitch in its check-in system, local media reported on Wednesday.

Virgin Australia, the nation’s second largest airline, was forced to cancel more than 30 flights across its domestic and international network and many more were delayed after its check-in system crashed on Tuesday.

The airline told the Australian Associated Press (AAP) on Wednesday that its schedule was back to normal, with some possible minor delays on Wednesday morning. “We are back on schedule ... There may be some minor delays, but they should be cleared by midday,” a Virgin spokeswoman said.

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French soccer player Franck Ribery answers reporters’ questions during a news conference at Parc des Princes, southern Paris on 29 Aug, 2011. —REUTERS

Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) Disaster Risk Reduction Officer Daniel Mutinda told Xinhua that the immigration section of the busy airport has been cordoned off as rescue teams are striving to contain the fire. “So far we have not established the cause of the fire which was detected at the arrival area. So far there is no casualty. Our teams are still at the site,” Mutinda said.
Right canal irrigation system of North Yama Dam suspended due to complaints

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Aug—
Work on construction of a right canal irrigation system of North Yama Dam has been suspended as residents have complained about the project.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture U Khin Zaw confirmed the suspension at Pyithu Hluttaw meeting here today when he answered the question of whether the ministry has a plan to suspend the right canal project of North Yama Dam project which can irrigate 9000 acres on completion.

Though the right canal irrigation system would be built over 700 acres of land, it would be able to irrigate about 9000 acres of farmland upon completion, he said.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Sagaing Region Government would decide whether to continue the project or not after conducting a survey on benefits and impacts of it, he added.

During the meeting, MPs of Pyithu Hluttaw also discussed the Farmers’ Interests Promotion Bill submitted by the Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery Development Committee, and the Communication Bill.

The Farmers’ Interests Promotion Bill is aimed at helping the farmers to get agricultural loans at reasonable interest rate, get technical assistance and inputs to be able to transform the conventional farming to mechanized farming system, getting market and reasonable price for their products and promoting the rights of small farmers.

Regarding the Communication Bill, U Thaung Han of Yinnabin Constituency said that the bill would help extend the communication network to the least developed areas and communication infrastructures, benefiting the people.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw to continue discussion on issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards for children at orphanages

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Aug—
The 19th-day seventh regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw continued today, answering the questions and approving a Bill.

Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Kyaw Kyaw Win responded to the question raised by U Paul Htun Htai of Chin State Constituency No (3) that directives on issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards for the children of Youth Development Centres, household certificates, transfer form (10) of service personnel and household form (6/66) were being issued for the convenience of applicants.

Regarding the question, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker stressed the need for submitting a proposal which is acceptable to the two sides of ministry concerned and national races after reviewing every detail of the matter by the ministry concerned and the Hluttaw Affairs Administration Committee in order to avoid the possible occurrence of unwanted problems.

“Orphanages are everywhere in the country. As kids at the orphanages have no necessary documents since they were young, there arise difficulties when they apply to sit for matriculation examinations and for a citizenship scrutiny card or a job. I would like the children at orphanages across the nation to be able to enjoy the rights of citizens,” said a questioner in an interview with him.

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw approved the bill to amend the eye donation law sent by Pyithu Hluttaw with no amendment.—MNA

Ye-Dawei railroad section reopened

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Aug—Servicemen of local battalions and workers of railroad maintenance team cleared debris on Ye-Dawei railroad section that was blocked in landslide on 4 August.

They also placed gravel and maintained the rail tracks. As a result, the railroad section was reopened yesterday evening, and passengers and commodities transportation returned to normalcy. —MNA

Flood victims in Kayin State return home

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Aug—Flood victims in Hpa-an and Hlaingbwew Townships of Kayin State are returning to their home as water receded. Tatmadawmen from local stations, members of Myanmar Police Force and departmental officials carried out the clearance of debris and silt and helped the victims return home yesterday. —MNA