President, wife attend ceremony to drive stakes for birth place of Lord Buddha

Photo shows birth place of Lord Buddha at Bodh Gaya.

65th anniversary establishment of diplomatic ties between Myanmar and Thailand held

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Aug—A ceremony to drive stakes at the venues dedicating to the birth place of the Buddha-to-be and the preaching of Dhammacakk Sutta was held at four Samvejaniya places being built in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area this morning.

At first, President U Thein Sein and party took the Nine Precepts from Chairman U Nyunt Swe and members of Myanmar-Thai Friendship Association, officials from Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant ministries and the Ambassador of Myanmar to Thailand U Tin Win, members of Myanmar Embassy and Myanmar community in Bangkok.

Before the 65th anniversary commemorative ceremony, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin called on Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul at Thai Foreign Ministry. The two ministers discussed matters on registration of Myanmar migrant workers, signing of visa exemption agreement on ordinary passport holders, cooperation at border areas and the matters of mutual interests during the meeting.

After the meeting, Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul presented 100,000 USD to Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin for the resettlement and rehabilitation of the victims of affected areas in recent flash flood in Myanmar.

President U Thein Sein felicitates Indonesian counterpart

Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Aug—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, on the occasion of the 68th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2013.

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MNA
**LOCAL NEWS**

**Water tanks for fire prevention cleaned**

YANGON, 16 Aug—Two water tanks with capacity of 3000 gallons each were cleaned by members of Township Fire Services Department, Deputy Commanding Officer U Myo Myint and party, local authorities and local people on Thitsa Street in Ward 12 and Ward 13 in Yankin Township of Yangon East District on 10 August morning.

The work was supervised by Chairman of Township Fire Prevention Supervisory Committee Township Administrator U Win Aung and Head of Township Fire Services Department U Ko Ko Gyi.

**Illegal teak timber seized in Taikkyi**

TAIKKYI, 16 Aug—Forester U Aung Mya and party of Taikkyi Township Forest Department searched a Mart II car at mile post 46/4 on Yangon-Pyay Road in Taikkyi Township on 9 August afternoon.

The driver and his partner managed to flee the scene. The departmental personnel seized 806 pieces of teak sawn timber weighing 0.9506 ton worth K 570,360.

Taikkyi Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit over the case.

**Plan to scrutinize CCTV victim cars under traffic rules**

YANGON, 16 Aug—Yangon Region Traffic Police Corps scrutinized their moves and took action against those who broke traffic rules with the use of CCTV, said a traffic police officer.

“At a time when traffic light changes red from green, if a vehicle stops at a place beyond the stopped line, its act will be documented by CCTV. In scrutinizing the documentary one, if the car did not move back without any car behind it, action would be taken against the car. If not, the penalty will be relaxed,” he said.

In taking action against those by the traffic rule breaking cars at traffic lights in downtown Yangon, the car owners would like to raise questions. The traffic police fine the vehicles that broke rules taken photo by CCTV.

**Ancient monastery, ordination nearing bank erosion in Maubin Township**

YANGON, 16 Aug—Due to bank erosion, an ancient monastery and ordination halls caused nearing collapse in East Taakaw Village in Maubin Township of Ayeyawady Region.

The monastery and ordination halls are over 100 years old. Despite preserving the monasteries and ordination halls in successive eras, the local people now face the danger of collapse, said School Board of Trustees U Bo Bo Win.

In our Maubin District, the monasteries and ordination halls of over 100 years old are very rare. Since its establishment, the monastery was located on five acres of land but now it is on about two acres of land. The monastery is just 30 feet to the river bank. In this region, bank erosion causes about 30 feet wide landslide,” he said.

U Kesarasiri of Abaya Wihara Monastery remarked, “I am 88 years old and 68 years vasa. In my novicehood, the monastery was over 4000 feet far from the bank. Now it is adjacent to the bank. I would like to request the local authorities to preserve and maintain the monastery and ordination for their durability.”

Members of the monastery board of trustees said, “There are one monastery, one ordination hall, two-storey Dhammayon and one pagoda. The construction is going on. Wellwishers are ready to make donations. But, we suspend our works due to bank erosion.”

Local people said, “We vow to preserve the monastery with outmost efforts as it is significant one. However, the cost will be high. We set a fund for prevention against flood. But, the fund from the village will be less than the estimated. The preservation of the State for the monastery and ordination will be better.”—Kyemon-Ko Thein (Botataung)

**School heads work proficiency course kicks off**

THANLYIN, 16 Aug—Organized by No. 3 Basic Education Department of Yangon Region, the school head work proficiency enhancement course was opened at the hall of No 1 Basic Education High School in Thanlyin of Yangon South District on 7 August morning.

**Nutritious food cooking contest marks nutrition week**

AUNGLAN, 16 Aug—In commemoration of the Nutrition Week, the nutritious food cooking contest, organized by Aunglan Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association of Magway Region, was held at the hall of the Township MCWA office in Aunglan on 13 August.

**Development**

**HRD**

Kayin townships.

The training course was lectured at two places. One training venue was located at No 1 BEHS in Thanlyin and another one at BEHS No 2 Thanlyin.—Kyemon-Than Win (Thanlyin)

**One dead, four injured in overturned express bus**

TOUNGOO, 16 Aug—A Mitsubishi Fuso express bus of Shwe Nat Taung bus line heading for Toungoo from Myawady of Kayin State overturned at the bridge in Indaing Village of Ottwin Township of Bago Region on Yangon-Mandalay Highway at 7.45 am on 14 August.

In the incident, bus conductor Myo Min Zaw, 30 died on the spot under the bus. One man and three women of 10 passengers sustained unserious injuries and rushed to Ottwin Township People’s Hospital by the car of the Township Administrator. Ottwin Township Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against reckless driver Min Thein Kyaw, 22, under the law but he managed escape from the incident.

**Culture**

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**Kyemon-Kyaw Swe (Toungoo)**
Iran Parliament approves big Rouhani cabinet nominees, rejects three

Dubai, 16 Aug — Iran’s Parliament on Thurs- day approved all President Hassan Rouhani’s big- name nominees for a cabi- net of technocrats, which will have the task of imple- menting his plans to patch up relations with the world and ease international sanc- tions.

The parliament de- bated each of the 18 nomi- nees over the course of four days, rejecting three minor candidates. Rouhani’s nominee for education minister, Moh- hammad Ali Najafi was turned down after coming under attack by conserva- tive members of parliament for having ties to opposition leaders held under house ar-rest.

The proposed minister of science and Rouhani’s nominee to head the min- istry of sport were also re- jected.

But parliament ap- proved Rouhani’s choice of foreign minister, Moham- mad Javad Zarif, a US-ed- ucated former UN Ambas- sador who has been at the centre of several rounds of secret negotiations to try to overcome decades of es- trangement between Wash- ington and Teheran.

Rouhani, who took of- fice on 3 August, has prom- ised to repair Iran’s image abroad after eight years of confrontation under his predecessor Mahmoud Ah- madinejad.

Parliament also ap- proved Bijan Zanganeh, a former oil minister under the reformist president Mo- hammad Khatami, to return to that post where he will be charged with the task of increasing Iran’s oil pro- duction and exports.

Western sanctions im- posed on Iran’s disputed nuclear programme have halved Teheran’s oil ex- ports since 2011, and its ageing oilfields need cru- cial maintenance.—Reuters

Biden to visit Japan in fall for talks with Abe

Tokyo, 16 Aug — US Vice President Joseph Biden is likely to visit Japan in the fall for a meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a Japanese government source said on Friday.

Tokyo and Wash- ington are eying October or November for the trip, the source said.

During a meeting meant to signal the robust- ness of the security alliance between the two countries, Biden and Abe are expected to compare notes on devel- opments in the Asia-Pacific region, including China and North Korea.

The plan comes as China flexes its muscles to push territorial claims to islands in the East China Sea called Senkaku in Japan, and North Korea continues down the path toward developing nu- clear weapons.

Biden is expected to welcome and express sup- port for political stability in Japan and urge the country to take steps toward im- proving its souring ties with China and South Korea.

Abe is likely to con- vey to Biden the need for Japanese and Chinese leaders to work hard to reduce tensions between the two countries, and Tokyo’s plan to communicate well with Seoul through diplomatic channels.

The prime minister also plans to brief Biden on his government’s plan to review its interpretation of the war-renouncing Con- stitution to pave the way for Japan to exercise its right to collective self-defence, ac- cording to the source.

So far Tokyo has taken the position that while Ja- pan has the right to go to the defence of an ally under armed attack, it cannot ex- ercise the right because of the limits imposed by the pacifist Constitution.

In a speech in Singa- pore in July, Biden said he would be “back again in the fall in China and Japan.” Abe and Biden last met in the city state on 26 July, when both were travelling through the region at the same time.

Biden last visited Ja- pan as vice president in Au- gust 2011.

Kyodo News

59 injured after explosion at firework festival in Kyoto

Kyoto, 16 Aug — Fif- ty-nine people were taken to hospital on Thursday evening after an explo- sion at a row of stalls at a summer firework festival in Kyoto with 19 of them having suffered heavy in- juries such as burns over their entire bodies, fire- fighters said.

Five were particularly in serious condition in- cluding a 10-year-old boy who was being treated in an intensive care unit, they said. The blast occurred at around 7:30 pm just before the start of the fireworks in the main viewing venue on the bank of the Yura River in Fukuchiyama, across the firework launch site, ac- cording to the authorities.

The annual festival, which last year drew around 110,000 spectators not only from Kyoto but also from Osaka and Hyogo prefectu- res, was cancelled with no fireworks lighted. The local chamber of commerce, which organized the fireworks, said propane gas cylinders used at stalls may have exploded. Local resi- dents said they had heard more than one explosion.

The firefighters said flames of fire and billows of smoke were seen and three stalls caught fire and were knocked down. They were among the around 350 stalls selling foods and goods at the festival venue, they said. “I heard a bang and then saw a billow of smoke,” said a 37-year-old man of the chamber of com- merce who was serving as a volunteer around 200 me- ters away from the site of the blast.

A 28-year-old woman from Kitto, Shiga Prefec- ture said, “It was a mess with blue sheets used by festival goers scattered at the viewing site, drawing a crowd of curious people while other people were leaving the venue.”

About 6,000 fireworks were scheduled to be dis- played during the 90-min- ute festival starting at 7:30 pm, according to the of- ficial Website of the festi- val.—Kyodo News

US walks careful Egypt line; some see mixed messages

Washington, 16 Aug — By canceling a military exercise with Egypt but not cutting off US aid, Presi- dent Barack Obama sought on Thursday to show his displeasure at the Egyptian army’s violent crackdown on protesters — without to- tally alienating the genera- lers.

Obama announced the move a day after at least 623 people were killed, ac- cording to Egypt’s Health Ministry, as troops and po- lice used force against pro- testers seeking the return of those objectives and weak- en US credibility, after repeated calls by the US administration for Egyptian authorities to avoid blood- shed have been disregard- ed,” members of the Work- ing Group on Egypt said in a statement.

Former US officials said Obama’s decision reflected his balancing act since the army ousted Egypt’s first freely elected president, an action the United States appeared to tacitly condone by its deci- sion not to call for Mursi’s restoration.

The White House has tried to appear to support democracy in Egypt, while protecting the US strategic interest in Egypt’s stability, its peace treaty with Israel and its military cooperation with the United States, in- cluding privileged access to the Suez Canal.

In his desire to main- tain some links to Egypt’s generals, Obama on Thurs- day cancelled the biennial Bright Star military exer- cise with Egypt rather than cut the $1.35 billion in aid — including $1.3 billion to the military — that Washing- ton gives Cairo annually.

President Mohamed Mursi, who was toppled by the military on 3 July.

Critics argued that Obama had done too little, too late and that his admin- istration has repeatedly sent mixed messages — among them its failure to brand Mursi’s ouster a military coup — thereby eroding its ability to influence events.

A bipartisan group of US Middle East experts said the cancelling of the military exercise was nec- essary but fell far short of what is needed to meet US objectives in Egypt.

“The president’s failure to suspend aid to the Egyptian military is a stra- tegic error that undercuts

Kyodo News
NASA calls off attempts to fix Kepler space telescope

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 16 Aug—The Kepler space telescope’s planet-hunting days are over because its broken positioning system cannot be fixed, NASA officials said on Thursday. The observatory was launched in 2009 to hunt for Earth-sized worlds suitably positioned around their parent stars for liquid water, a condition believed to be necessary for life.

The telescope was sidelined in May when it lost use of equipment needed to keep its gaze steady on about 100,000 target stars. Kepler worked by finding slight dips in the amount of light coming from a star, a telltale sign of a planet passing by, relative to the telescope’s line of sight. The technique requires precise pointing, which was accomplished by three spinning wheels to control the telescope’s motion up and down, left and right and side to side. Kepler also had a fourth spare wheel, but it was put into service after a previous wheel failure in July 2012. Engineers began tests last month to see if either jammed wheel could be recovered, but the efforts ultimately proved fruitless, the US space agency said.

“The wheels are sufficiently damaged that they cannot sustain spacecraft pointing control for any extended period of time,” Charles Sobeck, Kepler deputy project manager at NASA’s Ames Research Centre in Moffett Field, California, told reporters during a conference call on Thursday. Scientists may be able to use the telescope for projects that do not require such precise positioning, such as looking for asteroids, comets and other celestial objects. NASA is soliciting proposals for alternative Kepler missions and expects to make a decision early next year on whether to continue funding the telescope’s operation. The Kepler project’s budget currently is about $18 million a year.

So far, the telescope has found 135 planets beyond the solar system and another 3,500 possible planets that are awaiting confirmation, according to scientists. While some planets are much more distant than Earth and others have been found in potentially life-friendly orbits, so far a perfect Earth analog has yet to be identified.

An Earth-sized planet orbiting a star about the same distance that Earth is from the sun would take a year to pass under Kepler’s gaze. Scientists want three or four years’ worth of data to be sure a change in the amount of light coming from a target star is due to a passing planet and not an eclipsing neighbour star, a stellar flare or some other phenomenon.

Scientists have had about two years of archived Kepler data yet been analyzed.

“I’m confident that we are going to find what we expected … but we’re going to have work to hard for the next couple of years,” said Kepler lead scientist William Borucki, also with Ames, referring to an Earth-sized planet hospitable to life. Kepler flies about 40 million miles (64 million km) from Earth, too far away for a robotic or astronaut-launched repair mission.

NASA nears deal with Viacom for new Internet TV service

NEW YORK, 16 Aug—Sony Corp is close to striking a secure content deal from media company Viacom for a new Internet-based TV service, the Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday.

Sony is working on a service that can stream live television over the Internet and it aims to roll it out by the end of the year, the newspaper reported, citing an anonymous source. The Japanese company is also speaking to Time Warner, CBS and Disney about potential programming deals, the newspaper reported.

A US spokesman for Sony declined to comment as did representatives from Time Warner, CBS and Viacom. The report said the Web-based service would be available on Sony’s new PlayStation’s console, Bravia high-definition TVs and could later expand to other Sony products such as tablets and phones.—Reuters

Introducing the olinguito, the newest mammal discovery

WASHINGTON, 16 Aug—The long-tailed, orange-furred, big-eyed olinguito — said to resemble a cross between a house cat and a teddy bear — is the newest mammal and the first carnivore discovered in the Americas in 35 years, the Smithsonian Institution announced on Thursday.

Native to the high, misty cloud forests of Colombia and Ecuador, the olinguito is the smallest member of the raccoon family, according to Kristofer Helgen, a Smithsonian scientist who recognized it as a distinct species 10 years ago. The “aha” moment occurred not in a South American forest but at Chicago’s Field Museum, the creature’s discoverer, Helgen said at a news briefing.

“I pulled out a drawer … and said ‘Wow,’” Helgen recalled of his first view of a long-dead 20th century specimen, which had been identified as a related species, the olingo. “It was like nothing I’d ever seen before.” Helgen said the teeth and skull of the specimen were much different from those of an olingo, which is larger and has more prominent ears than the olinguito. He said he could have published this finding in a scientific journal then, but in the interest of being thorough, he sought out colleagues to confirm the existence of the new species in its natural habitat.

Olinguitos are considered carnivorans, even though they eat mostly fruit, Helgen said. These creatures have teeth that look more carnivore-like than rodent-like, he added. They have thick, woolly fur that is brighter than that of the more drab-colored Olingos. Olinguitos are about 2.5 feet (.76 m) long and weigh about 2 pounds (900 grams). Males and females are about the same size, and females raise a single baby at a time, the scientists said.

Olinguitos are hard to spot in the cloud forests of the northern Andes, which are thickly wooded and often shrouded in fog or mist with elevations of 5,000 to 9,000 feet above sea level. Largely nocturnal, they spend most of their time in the forest canopy and are adept at jumping from tree to tree. Helgen and his team closely observed the animal’s habits and environment. Andean cloud forests are considered unique ecosystem because of the variety of species they support, but they are being deforested to make way for agriculture, urbanization and the illegal drug trade.

Sony Corp’s logo is seen at the company headquarters in Tokyo on 22 May, 2013.—Reuters

Hackers use new tactic to attack US media sites

NEW YORK, 16 Aug—Hackers promoting the Syrian Electronic Army simultaneously targeted websites belonging to CNN, Time and the Washington Post on Thursday by breaching Outbrain, a firm which publishes content recommendations on those sites. That resulted in some WashingtonPost.com and Time.com customers being redirected to the website of the Syrian Electronic Army when they clicked on the content from Outbrain, a firm which publishes content recommendation on those sites. Those cases emails were sent to employees of a single specific media outlet they were targeting, which made preparations for the attacks more labour intensive. Outbrain, which posts content on a large number of prominent news sites, took down its entire network at about 11 am EDT on Thursday, before the hackers could do any more damage, LaCour said.

The company’s technicians, who are based in Israel, cleaned up the network and planned to restore service late on Thursday, said. Outbrain said the hackers got in after sending a phishing email to all company employees on Wednesday that purported to be from the CEO. An employee provided login credentials in response to that email and then the hackers were able to get other credentials for accessing internal systems, the company said.

Chris Wyssopal, chief technology officer for software security firm Vencore, said he believes that hackers will increasingly choose to go after third-party providers because their security is likely to be more lax than that of their customers. “As the Internet becomes more interconnected, this risk is going to increase,” he said.—Reuters
Monsoon rains 4 per cent below average in past week

**NEW DELHI, 16 Aug—** Monsoon rains were below average in the week ended on 14 August, data from the weather office showed on Thursday, easing concerns about damage to crops such as soybeans and cotton. Rainfall was 5 per cent below average, compared to 1 per cent below the previous week.

The June to September rains were very heavy in the first half of the season, which initially helped sow- ing but later raised worries of crop damage. “The monsoon rains have now eased in most parts of central and south India,” said a weather official.

India, one of the world’s biggest producers and consumers of farm commodities, is heavily reliant on the annual monsoon for its huge harvests of rice, sugar and cash crops like cotton. The monsoon, crucial for 55 per cent of Indian farmland that does not have irrigation, was the heaviest in nearly two decades during the first half of the season with the fastest ever coverage of the country — almost a month ahead of schedule.

The ample rains could mean higher rural incomes in the world’s second most populous country, improving sales of everything from cars and gold to refrigerators. Finance Min-

ister P Chidambaram has already said the monsoon could help agricultural growth and spur the overall economy.

*Reuters*

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**Metformin tied to longer prostate cancer survival**

**NEW YORK, 16 Aug—** In older men with diabetes and prostate cancer, taking the diabetes drug metformin was linked to a lower risk of death, according to a new study. Researchers found metformin’s apparent ben-

efits accumulated over time. Among men with dia-

betes in Ontario, Canada, who were over age 66, the study found a 24 percent reduction in prostate-cancer mortality for every six months of metformin use, and a similarly lower risk of death from any cause for the first six months.

Among diabetic men with prostate cancer metformin should be consid-

ered the drug of choice, not only for diabetes control but possibly to improve prostate cancer outcomes,” said Dr David Margel, a urolo-
gist at Rabin Medical Cen-
tre, Petah Tikva, Israel, and lead author of the study, told Reuters Health in an email.

The World Health Organization estimates that prostate cancer is among the top five leading causes of cancer death worldwide. Approximately 1 in 7 men in the US will be diag-

osed with prostate cancer at some point in their lives, with roughly two-thirds of these cases found between the ages of 55-74. According to the National Cancer Institute, more than 29,000 American men will die from prostate cancer in 2013. Likewise, the World Health Organization es-

timates that 347 million people worldwide have diabetics, and that it will be the seventh leading cause of death by 2030.

According to the US Cen-
tres for Disease Con-
trol and Prevention, more than 25 million Americans are affected by diabetes and over one-quarter of people older than age 65 have the disease. How metformin would work in someone with prostate cancer but without diabetes is un-

known, however. Margel’s research team is planning a randomized controlled trial to see if metformin also improves prostate cancer outcomes for non-diabetic men. “Metformin is cheap, safe and has minimal side effects among patients without diabetes and there-

fore may be an ideal drug for secondary prevention,” Margel added. Metformin is a first-line medication for the treatment of noninsulin dependent diabetes. It is one of the oldest and cheapest oral diabetes medica-
tions, with prices ranging from 16 to 83 cents per pill for the generic form. The most common side effects include digestive problems and headache.

Using the Ontario Dia-

betes Database and the On-
tario Cancer Registry, the researchers identi-
ed 6,247 men who had already been diagnosed with diabetes before their prostate cancer was discovered between 1 March, 1997 and 31 March, 2008.

The researchers also looked at the Ontario Drug Benefit Database to deter-

mine length of men’s meta-

formin use, as well as other diabetes medications and statins, which are used to control high blood choles-
terol. Then they looked at deaths from prostate cancer and other causes. The men were followed for about four and a half years, dur-
ing which time 35 percent of them died.

*Reuters*

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**Rising vegetable prices to push up WPI inflation**

**MUMBAI, 16 Aug—** Owing to rising vegetable prices and a weakening ru-
ppee, the wholesale price index (WPI) increased by 6 per cent in the upcoming month.

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*Reuters*

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**SOUTH AFRICAN FARMERS USE POLLUTED WATER TO IRRIGATE CROPS**

**CAPE TOWN, 16 Aug—** South African farmers have surfaced to irrigate their crops, putting not only the health of South Africans at risk but also the country’s reputation as a food exporting country, TimeLives reported on Thursday.

South African rivers contain levels of E.coli bacteria over 10,000 times higher than the number of onion and potato. “This (vegetable inflation) will continue to be higher in the next month as well, consider-

ing that onion prices have continued to ascend in Au-
gust,” it said.

Similarly, mineral oil price inflation shot up to 16 per cent in July from 9.6 per cent in June as rising global crude prices and a weak currency have resulted in oil rates jumping to an all-time high in rupee terms. This trend has persisted in August, suggesting fuel price inflation will also continue to rise, it said. Noruma, however, expected vegetable prices to drop later in the year.

“Vegetable prices may re-

verse (upturn) and demand may remain weak, but a weak rupee and adverse base effects will continue to drive input costs higher, which is likely to drive the WPI to 6 per cent in com-
ing months,” the Japanese brokerage said.

We do not see demand-

 driven inflation as a problem. In the current demand environment, sup-

ply shocks such as rupee, commodity prices and food inflation will be the main drivers of inflation.

High food price in-

flations in the surgery room had a negative impact on image quality.

The hospital said it was the first time in Europe that Google Glass was used to take footage during opera-

tions. The hospital plans to carry out more research into potential applications of Google Glass in healthcare. The system may also be used by home nursing staff so that they can assess patients from a distance.—*Xinhua*

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**Dutch hospital uses Google Glass during jaw operation**

Google Glass is “that col-

 leagues worldwide can watch operations via Skype in case extra advice is needed.” But according to the hospital, there was also room for improvement. The footage collected by Goog-

le Glass was sometimes jumpy as surgeons walked around. Also, strong light caused glare on the device.

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**SOUTH AFRICAN FARMERS USE POLLUTED WATER TO IRRIGATE CROPS**

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Similarly, mineral oil price inflation shot up to 16 per cent in July from 9.6 per cent in June as rising global crude prices and a weak currency have resulted in oil rates jumping to an all-time high in rupee terms. This trend has persisted in August, suggesting fuel price inflation will also continue to rise, it said. Noruma, however, expected vegetable prices to drop later in the year.

“Vegetable prices may re-

verse (upturn) and demand may remain weak, but a weak rupee and adverse base effects will continue to drive input costs higher, which is likely to drive the WPI to 6 per cent in com-
ing months,” the Japanese brokerage said.

We do not see demand-

 driven inflation as a problem. In the current demand environment, sup-

ply shocks such as rupee, commodity prices and food inflation will be the main drivers of inflation.

High food price in-

flations in the surgery room had a negative impact on image quality.

The hospital said it was the first time in Europe that Google Glass was used to take footage during opera-

tions. The hospital plans to carry out more research into potential applications of Google Glass in healthcare. The system may also be used by home nursing staff so that they can assess patients from a distance.—*Xinhua*
UN agencies in N Korea could run out of cash in weeks

Flight recorders retrieved from UPS cargo jet in Alabama

Death toll in Egypt crackdown tops 600

Kevin Rudd unveils special development plan for northern Australia

China’s chief justice urges stricter discipline
**Mobile SIM cards sold to vendors, drivers**

Low-priced mobile SIM cards were sold to shopkeepers of markets under Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee of the Nay Pyi Taw Council for the first time.

**Education staff appointed**

Education staff appointed

**HRD**

Outstanding students awarded in Aunglan

Aunglan, 16 Aug—Outstanding students who passed matriculation exam in 2012-2013 academic year in Aunglan were awarded at the hall of No (1) Basic Education High School in Aunglan Township on 8 August.

The ceremony was organized by Aunglan Township Education Development and Executive Committee.

Truck ploughs off road in Insein Tsp

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Aug—A Canter truck fell off road in front of Steel Factory of Myanmar Economic Corporation in Insein Township in Yangon North District, Yangon Region, on 14 August. The driver lost control of the high-speed vehicle bound for Shwepyitha Township from Insein.

Nutrition week launched in Bago

Bago, 16 Aug—Nutrition week activities were launched in the city hall in Hanthawady ward in Bago in Bago Region on 7 August.

Elephant found poached in Salu forest reserve

Bago, 16 Aug—An elephant was found without tusk killed by poachers in Bago Township’s Salu Forest Reserve on 12 August.

**Crime**

Thai immigration authorities return four overstayed Myanmar men

Tachileik, 16 Aug—District/Township Anti-Human Trafficking Team led by U Win Aung accepted four Myanmar migrant workers at No (1) Friendship Bridge in Tachileik in eastern Shan State from Thai immigration authorities on 13 August. The overstayed Myanmar workers were arrested in Narathiwat in Thailand.

The police could confirm that they were not trafficked and would be handed over to their relatives on bail.

Thailand has handed over 6413 workers to Myanmar since 19 October, 2010, to date.—MMAL-Myinno (Tachileik)
Abhidhamma is regarded as the higher and genuine teaching of Lord Buddha by Theravāda Buddhists. However, not all Theravāda Buddhist countries give priority to the Abhidhamma, comparing to Suttanta and Vinaya as the Teaching of Lord Buddha (Dhamma). The obvious reluctance of Abhidhamma teaching can be seen in the modern Buddhist scholars’ writings such as Dhammapada, Sri Lankan scholar. There is no reason behind why only Myanmar Buddhist people regard Abhidhamma as higher teaching because of the following reasons: Firstly, Abhidhamma is teaching is difficult to understand; however, due to the guidance of the learned monks in Myanmar even the lay people can access the teaching without any difficulty. Secondly, the teaching of Abhidhamma discusses the ultimate reality, being a Buddhist, it is essential to access and understand the ultimate reality for those who want to be free from the suffering of birth and death. Someone might ask, whether other Buddhists want to be free from the suffering of birth and death or not? It is assumed that most of the Buddhist wants to realize Nibbāna; nevertheless, in order to be free from suffering, a Buddhist does not require to understand all the Abhidhamma teaching (texts). In terms of higher teaching, Theravāda Buddhist regarded the Abhidhamma as noble teaching. Therefore, to understand and know the noble teaching is highly beneficial.

The interpretation of Abhidhamma differs from scholars to scholars. It is so called Abhidhamma teaching because it explained much more and analytically in a complete picture of the human realm, for example, it is considered as the law (dhamma) of the Buddhas. Abhidhamma teaching is not just teaching the deva realms as a mystery for others. Why it is so? Is it impossible for Buddha? Mahānātika explains plainly that the Buddha’s return from Tavatimsa heaven after he had preached the Abhidhamma (Mahānātika, 352). Moreover, Vinnatthāna and Petavattī also re-marked many events about Mahāmoggallana visited the deva realms, brāhma realms, and even in hell realms. When Buddha preached the first sermon of dharmas, the commentary of Sīhasānta śutta states that “among the five disciples however, only Aññāsokājadāthārā with eighteen crores of Brahmas attained first path and fruition knowledge” (Sīhasānta śutta, 2.261). This statement is the evident that the number of devas and beings is higher in terms of attainment of path and fruition knowledge as comparing to human beings.

That is one of the reasons it is recorded that the Buddha preached the Abhidhamma teaching in the Tavatimsa heaven. Second reason is that Buddha chose to preach Abhidhamma in the deva realm rather than in the human realm as because it has to be expounded in a complete picture of the deva realms, for example, the deva realm is only after Nibbāna, the student of Lord Buddha capable of understanding all teaching if they have Nibbāna. Otherwise, they alone are capable of understanding some possible for such a length of time” (Bhikkhu Bodhi, A Comprehensive Manual of Abhidhamma, 10). The final reason is that every Buddha to be has to preach dhamma to the devaputta’s mother who was the former mother in the human realm, for repaying gratitude is considered as the law (dhamma) of the Buddhas.

Through the assumption of the preaching dhamma in the Tavatimsa realm to the deva realm (Mahâgosi Egasutta), the Buddha’s teaching was done by devaputta (former Bodhisatta’s mother) and the records of preaching Abhidhamma seems to match that lot Buddha taught it in the deva realm. Abhidhamma teaching in the deva realms as a mystery for others. Why it is so? It is impossible for Buddha? Mahānātika explains plainly that the Buddha’s return from Tavatimsa heaven after he had preached the Abhidhamma (Mahānātika, 352). Moreover, Vinnatthāna and Petavattī also re-marked many events about Mahāmoggallana visited the deva realms, brāhma realms, and even in hell realms.

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President, wife attend ceremony to drive stakes...

(From page 1)
M a h a  N a y a k a  C o m m i t t e e  B h a m o  S a y a d w  D r  B h a d d a n t a  K u m a r a b h i v a s m a  at  S a s a n a  B e i k m a n  n e a r  T h a t t a  T h a t t a h a  M a h a  B o  T r e e  P a g o d a.

Next, members of the Sangha recited Parittas. The President offered alms to the Chairmann Bhamo Sayadaw. Likewise, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife and Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife together with those present donated offerings to members of the Sangha.

Union ministries and wellwishers presented K 2099.4108 million including the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), Union ministers, senior military officials, deputy ministers, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, guests and wellwishers.

In Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, four Samvejaniya places are under construction. Of them, Bodh Gaya replica Thatta Thatta Maha Bo Tree Pagoda has been built successfully.

At the today’s ceremony, stake was driven for construction of Lumbini Pagoda.

Authentic Abhidhamma ...

(From page 8)
The purpose of Abhidhamma teaching will not be clear if it does not explain its essence.”Suttanta Pitaka provides common teaching (vohara-desanã) and Vinaya Pitaka explains the ultimate teaching (paramattha-desanã) and Vinaya Pitaka describes about “command” (dõnãdesanã) (Pãrikãkãban - Athabhãkãhã, 1), Is there any difference among the purpose of Tipitaka? In terms of its purpose whether Vinaya, Suttanta, or even the philosophical Abhidhamma Pitaka have the same purpose of realising the essence of deliverance (vimuttirasa). In other word, the teaching of Lord Buddha is a means (rañj) for overcoming (cakkaso) the endless sãmãric journey of birth and death. Buddha’s teaching tells how to see thing as they really are, such as noting the body (kãya), mind (citta), feeling (vedãna), and mental object (dhamma) with mindfulness. In fact, Abhidhamma teaching also does. If Abhidhamma discusses about the noting of the activity of either the mind or body, it means indicating us how to live with mindfulness. If a person is living with mindfulness (sati), he could be able to abstain from arising unwholesome mind (akusala-citta). Finally, he will be able to eradicate all the mental impurities. Hence, Abhidhamma teaching coheres its purpose with the other two Pitakas.

Despite of many opinions on Abhidhamma teaching, but to expound without the omniscient knowledge (sabbaññatâñnam) of the Buddha is impossible. Because Theravâda literature provides the sufficient evidence for the existence of Abhidhamma. Thus, it is assumed that Abhidhamma teaching is totally connected with the teaching of Lord Buddha. Therefore, the teaching of Abhidhamma is a genuine teaching in Theravâda Buddhism.

Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) K 180 million for construction of religious buildings in the venues dedicating to the birth place of the Buddha-to-be and place of the preaching Dhammaçakkhu Sutta.

V i c e - C h a i r m a n  o f  S t a t e  S a n g h a  M a h a

President U Thein Sein drives a stake at Bodhgaya replica Thatta Thatta Maha Bo Tree Pagoda.—MNA

Publication of the actions of ministries concerned regarding the suggestions made to Public Service Capacity Assessment Committee

1. Regarding the phrase “bill can be paid either in USD and FEC” on business-purpose electricity bill notice, the Ministry of Electricity and Ministry of Finance explained that the Ministry of Electricity in its electricity bill notices demands the foreign companies, foreign missions, joint ventures with foreigners and residences of foreign houses to pay the electricity bill in US dollars and FEC, but after the Central Banks has announced the launch of FEC abolishment programme announced in newspapers, the word FEC has been excluded from the bill since April 2013.

2. Regarding the suggestion, the Ministry of Finance, in response to the instruction of the Union government to all Union ministries and all region/state governments to collect, pay, receive and hand over the taxes in local currency Kyat as of 1-7-2013, instructed the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank to allow ministries/organizations to put their received foreign currency into their respective accounts without examining the relevant documents before the Union government’s instruction could be followed. In paying bill for business-purpose electricity use, it can be paid in Kyats and if it is to be paid in foreign currency from abroad, it can be done according to account transfer.

3. Regarding the letter that says the imposition of pre-income tax for exports is making things difficult for businessmen and thus it is suggested that 2 per cent income tax should be deducted from the sale revenues put into exporter’s account by the buyer on depending on the currency exchange rate of the day on which the buyer pay money for the goods he buys, the Ministry of Finance explained as follows:

(a)For exports, the date for the 2 per cent pre-income tax is set the date of shipment and for imports, it is the date of custom clearance at Customs Department. If the goods are exported from Yangon Port and Airport, the tax is to be paid at Companies’ Revenue Department, if it is from Mandalay Airport, the tax is to be paid at the office of the head of Pyigyidagon Township Internal Revenue Department, if it is of border trade, the tax is to be paid at branches of Myanmar Economic Bank concerned taking out receipt from OSS concerned. For specific conditions, the authorities concerned still accept the tax by crossed-cheques. For imports, tax is to be paid together with customs duty at the customs department upon clearance.

(b)The procedure for paying pre-income tax for exports from Yangon Port and Airport is to take out form at the office, No.33/12 in middle block of 36th Street showing ED Form of Revenues Department and (See page 10)
Publication of the actions of ministries concerned regarding ... (from page 9)

(a) All the imported goods are being taxed as mentioned in the table in Section-4 of the Commercial Tax Law of Internal Revenue Department. The food and fine wheat powders are the goods in Table (1), meaning they will not be taxed for sale and purchase inside the country. They would be taxed 5% only when they are imported.

(b) If the tax rate for wheat power is raised to a non-trade tax level, they will have to pay the taxes for both imports and sale inside the country at the increased rate.

(c) According to Myanmar Revenue Table (2012) by the Internal Revenue Department, the wheat seed with outer shell is ranked in HS Code 1001.11.00 and 1001.91.00 in HS Chapter (10) and levied 0% tax on it and the wheat seed without outer shell is ranked in HS Code 1104.19.90 and the wheat powder in HS Code 1101.00.10 and levied 5% tax.

4. The Ministry of Finance made the following conclusions over the recommendations to increase tax for wheat powder as the entrepreneurs face losses as the tax rate of wheat seed is 5%-

Leadership Department, Center for Vocational Training sign MoU

TANINTHAYI, 16 Aug—Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and Center for Vocational Training (CVT Myanmar) (Switzerland-based INGO) held a signing ceremony of construction of training centre and conducting theoretical and practical training courses, on-job training courses, modern technology and vocational training courses, at the ministry, here, today. Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Htin Aung delivered an address.

Director-General U Myo Aung of Labour Department and Dr Karl Koser of CVT Myanmar signed the MoU.

The MoU signing ceremony was aimed at conducting vocational courses for enhancement of workers’ skills, creating job opportunities and developing human resources of the Myanmar youths.

Vitamin-A fed to children under five to mark nutrition week activity

KYUNSU, 16 Aug—The nutrition week campaign was launched for the second week activity at Township People’s Hospital in Kyunsu Township at 10 am on 14 August. At first, Head of Township Health Department Mr Phone Han, nurses and health staff members fed vitamin-A tablets to children under five.

As part of the second week activity of the nutrition week, a ceremony to give vitamin-A tablets to children under five from wards of Kyunsu was held at Kyunsu Township People’s Hospital.

Kyaungnge Township IPRD: Photo: Zaw Myo Naing

Departmental personnel observe systematic production of maize seeds

TAUNGOY, 16 Aug—A team led by Taunggyi Township Administrator U Zaw Myint then visited cultivation and production of 888 hybrid maize seeds by CP Company from Thande Village in Thande Village tract in Taunggyi Township on 14 August.

At first, Township Administrator U Zaw Myint thanked the police and local authorities for the purpose of observation. Responsible persons of the company conducted them round on production process of maize seeds.

Focus on anti-human trafficking, population and census taking given

MYEIK, 16 Aug—Talks on prevention against trafficking in persons, population and households, and taking census were disseminated at No 16 Basic Education Post-Primary School in Kyaukngwe Ward in Myeik on 14 August afternoon.

It was attended by local people, teachers and members of the School Board of Trustees, totalling about 75.

IP Han Thein of Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force (Section) (Myeik) explained prevention against trafficking in persons, anti-human trafficking law, and the victim who fell under human trafficking due to job opportunities and persuasion of money.

Staff Officer Daw Hla Hla Htay of Myeik District Information and Public Relations Department population and households, census and purpose of taking census and then distributed pamphlets to the attendees.

Kyaungnge Ward in Myeik—In the morning of 14 August afternoon.

Prevention against traffic accidents at school

Kyaungnge Ward in Myeik—The police and local authorities examined the school for prevention against traffic accidents at school.

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Workshop on control of malaria vaccine resistance organized in Myeik

MYEIK, 16 Aug—At Myeik District Health Department, the malaria vaccine resistance control workshop was attended by departmental officials, NGOs and INGOs.

At first, Head of Myeik District Health Department Dr Kyaw Zin made a speech. Leader of Taninthayi Region malaria control team Dr Tin Tun Oo explained participation for the people in control of malaria vaccine resistance.

Taninthayi Region Field Coordinator Dr Tin Soe Moe of WHO discussed the plan for control of malaria vaccine resistance and coordination and cooperation tasks.

Those present participated in discussion on malaria vaccine resistance and cooperation.
TEPCO starts pumping out more groundwater to stop flow into sea

Tokyo, 16 Aug—The operator of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant said on Thursday it started pumping up more groundwater from the site with new vacuum pumping equipment to prevent radioactive water from flowing into the adjacent Pacific Ocean.

Tokyo Electric Power Co plans to install a total of 28 pipes underground at 2-metre intervals along the coast. Groundwater is pumped up through the 4.6-metre-long pipes and TEPCO started to use the first one at around 11:30 am on Thursday.

TEPCO is expected to finish installing all the pipes on Sunday, which will increase the amount of removed groundwater to about 70 tons a day. The water, once pumped out, will be transferred to an underground tunnel connected to the No 2 reactor turbine building.

After the government announced an estimate last week that about 300 tons a day of contaminated groundwater may be flowing into the sea from the plant, TEPCO on Friday started collecting some groundwater from a well it has created as an emergency measure.

Operating the vacuum pumping system is another measure TEPCO has decided to take to address the leakage of radioactive water. A massive amount of radioactive water is accumulating at the plant as a result of continuing water injections into the Nos 1 to 3 reactors that suffered meltdowns in the midst of the nuclear crisis, triggered by a huge earthquake and tsunami on 11 March, 2011.

Groundwater penetration is also leading to an increase in the total amount of polluted water.

S Korea proposes inter-Korean talks on family reunions next week

SEOUL, 16 Aug—South Korea proposed to North Korea on Thursday to hold the talks at the truce village of Panmunjeom was conveyed to the North through a channel at Panmunjeom earlier Friday.

It follows up on President Park Geun Hye’s offer, made on Thursday, to hold additional rounds of temporary reunions of families.

In a speech marking the 68th anniversary of liberation from 35 years of Japanese colonial rule, Park said, “I ask North Korea to open the door of its mind for separated families to hold reunions on the occasion of the Chuseok.”

Chuseok, which is Korean Thanksgiving Day, falls on 19 Sept. The two Koreas have held more than a dozen rounds of reunions for separated families since a landmark summit in June 2000, bringing together more than 20,000 family members who had not seen each other since the war. But none have been in recent years due to strained ties. —Kyodo News

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe bows during a memorial ceremony marking the 65th anniversary of Japan’s surrender in World War II, held at Nippon Budokan hall in Tokyo on 15 Aug, 2013. —Kyodo News

12 parties to take part in Indonesia’s 2014 polls

JAKARTA, 16 Aug—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said on Friday that 12 political parties and 3 local parties in Aceh are to participate in the legislative and presidential elections in 2014. President Yudhoyono stressed that he would not take part in the poll after his second term.

“We hope there will be a change and continuity after the presidential election,” Yudhoyono said on his annual speech at the parliament building ahead of anniversary of Indonesia’s Independence Day on 17 Aug.

On parliamentary polls, the president said that 560 members of new parliament would be elected. “We expect political parties to use the polls in 2014 as a moment to boost the quality of democracy in the country,” said Yudhoyono. —Xinhua

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe bows during a memorial ceremony marking the 65th anniversary of Japan’s surrender in World War II, held at Nippon Budokan hall in Tokyo on 15 Aug, 2013. —Kyodo News

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Nepal’s Election Commission resumes voter registration for seven days

KATHMANDU, 16 Aug—Nepal’s Election Commission on Thursday decided to restart the already closed voter registration works for a short period of seven days from 17 to 23 August target- ing the upcoming legislative elections.

“We have reopened vot- er registration on the condi- tion that it will not affect the already declared date of the second Constituent Assem- bly election on 19 November this year,” Bir Bahadur Rai, the Commission’s spokes- person, told Xinhua.

The decision, signed by all five commissioners, came after requests from various quarters to do so. Earlier, the voter enrollment task ended on 15 July, after 12.3 million voters were registered across Nepal for the upcoming elec- tion.

From this time onward, Nepal is introducing voter ID cards with digital records, so that election fraud and the number of duplicate voters could be reduced.

Around 4 million voters are not estimated to have not yet registered as compared to the last legislative election in 2008. But all these missing voters are not expected to register, as a number of them are either fake voters or have already gone abroad. —Xinhua

We are giving one more chance to those pro- spective voters, who have not shown interest in regis- tering themselves before July 15,” said Rai, adding that a voter of one district can regis- ter in the election office of another district, but has to cast his or her vote in one’s own district.

On Saturday, the Commision will open all its 75 district offices to register the missing voters again, said Rai. For this election, any Nepali citizen who has reached 18 years of age by 15 July this year has been considered eligible to cast his or her vote. —Xinhua

Performers from Chamber Ballet Taipei rehearse Swan Lake in Taipei, southeast China’s Taiwan, on 15 Aug, 2013. An adapted version of Swan Lake by Chamber Ballet Taipei will be shown here for three consecutive days from 16 August. —Xinhua

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Egypt sends rain, flood relief to Sudan

Khartoum, 16 Aug — Two Egyptian military planes on Wednesday landed in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum, carrying relief supplies for people affected in recent rain and floods in the country. The planes brought 25 tons of shelter materials and food that the Egyptian government provided for the Sudanese victims.

Egyptian interim President Adly Mansour earlier made a phone call to his Sudanese counterpart Omar al-Bashir, reiterating his country’s support for the Sudanese people in their effort to cope with the disaster.

Heavy rain and floods hit a wide range of areas in Sudan, resulting in 42 deaths and collapse of thousands of houses, according to the latest statistics of the Sudanese Civil Defence Authority. The Sudanese Meteorological Authority forecasted that heavy rain would hit most part of the country again in the coming two days and advised the citizens to take precautions against possible accidents.

In the meantime, the water level of most part of the Nile’s upper stream continues to rise, particularly in the Jabel Awliya area south of Khartoum, raising fears of imminent destructive floods.

Xinhua
Aamir Khan’s Dhoom 3 body

Aamir Khan is playing an antagonist in Dhoom 3. The film is scheduled for a Christmas release, an auspicious time for Aamir’s films, and the poster’s tagline proclaims: “This year will end with a Dhoom”. The 48-year-old is playing an antagonist in Dhoom 3, the third installment in the franchise that started in 2004 with John Abraham playing the villain. Hrithik Roshan played the negative role in Dhoom 2.

It is reportedly said that Aamir has used a lot of acrobatic skills to pull off feats in the Vijay Krishna Acharya directed action thriller that also features Katrina Kaif as his love interest.

Aamir Khan’s Dhoom 3 body

Aamir Khan is playing an antagonist in Dhoom 3.

Fox Sports to reach 90 million homes for its Saturday debut

LOS ANGELES, 16 Aug — Fox Sports, the new sports cable channel, will reach 90 million homes when it goes live on Saturday and will be carried by major TV operators, the network said on Thursday. A top-ranking executive of the new cable channel, which is owned by Rupert Murdoch’s 21st Century Fox, also said that Fox would consider bidding on Thursday night National Football League games for the new channel should the league decide to sell those rights.

“Will certainly take a look at it,” if a package of Thursday night games become available, Randy Freer, chief operating officer and co-president of Fox’s sports media group, said. “The question is, the NFL always comes at a pretty hefty price tag. Can you make it work in a way that creates any economics for anyone other than the NFL?” Freer told Reuters on the sidelines of Variety’s Sports Entertainment Summit. While the NFL Network currently has the rights to show most Thursday night matchups, sports networks and broadcasters expect the league to eventually sell the rights to those games, sparking a bidding war between media companies. No other programming would help Fox Sports 1 grow more quickly into a full-fledged competitor to ESPN, the highly profitable cable sports leader owned by Disney. Consultants estimate the rights to those Thursday football games could fetch more than $1 billion. For now, Fox Sports 1 will hit TV sets without any NFL, unlike ESPN, which has the rights to Monday Night Football.—Reuters

Aamir Khan explores the glamour and glitches of Steve Jobs

Among the many challenges Ashton Kutcher faces in his portrayal of Apple’s co-founder, who helped build Apple inc into one of the world’s most recognizable brands, was playing the guy who very much is still in the zeitgeist... I had to play the guy that became the guy that everybody remembers,” he added. “Jobs,” directed by Joshua Michael Stern and out in theaters on Friday, outlines 30 defining years of Apple’s co-founder, who revolutionized the way people listen to music with the iPod and home computers with the Apple Macintosh.

Kutcher, who helped build Apple Inc into one of the world’s most recognizable brands, died in 2011 aged 56 after battling pancreatic cancer.—Reuters
**SPORTS**

**‘Big Four’ reach star-studded Cincinnati quarters**

By RodION BATE

Novak Djokovic has returned from a return to David Goffin of Belgium during their men’s singles match at the Cincinnati Open tennis tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio on 15 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

CINCINNATI, 16 Aug.—Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer all picked up their second title in as many tournaments at Western and Southern Open on Thursday to set up a star-studded last eight in Cincinnati. The ATP Tour’s big four were joined in the quarter-finals by 2009 US Open champion Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina, the only other man to hoist a grand slam trophy since Marat Safin at the 2005 Australian Open.

Djokovic, Murray, Nadal, Federer and Del Potro have accounted for the last 34 grand slams and it is just the second time this year all five have reached the last eight of a tournament.

The marquees all start on Friday will see world number five and 17-time grand slam winner Federer take on long-time rival Nadal, the world number three. Nadal, whose grand slam resume lists 12 titles, and Federer will clash for the 31st time, adding yet another chapter to what will go down as one of the sport’s all-time great rivalries. Nadal has been in superb form coming off a win Monte Carlo and ran his hardcourt winning streak to 12 matches with a 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 win over Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov on Thursday. “Always play against Roger is a special feeling,” said Nadal, who has reached the finals in 10 of 11 events he has entered this season, claiming eight titles.

“We have a great history behind us in our confrontations, so it’s another quarter-finals,” it’s a special one because you’re playing against a very special player. Our matches were very special always. “But, again, it’s a quarter-finals match, not the final, so that’s a big difference.”

Federer, the five-time defending champion in Cincinnati, also needed three sets to see off evergreen German Tommy Haas 6-1, 6-7(5), 6-4.

“He is a player who is really fighting hard even if he is not at his best, and he’s really fighting to win. Even if he is not at his best he’s giving his best. That’s the kind of man you have to deal with,” said Murray. “But also in 10 days’ time, we’re going to have to play to best-five of sets, so sometimes the long matches can kind of set you up for that well.”

Federer, who won his first major title against Nadal in 19 years, set on 27 July, 1993, has continued to get better with age. “I was thinking that maybe it’s time for me to retire, but it clearly remains a passion,” he said.

“Andy Murray of Britain serves to Julien Benneteau of France at the Men’s Cincinnati Open tennis tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio on 15 Aug. 2013.—Reuters

Washington, 13 Aug.—Mauricio Renteria won the men’s singles title at the CitiOpen tennis tournament in Washington, DC, on Sunday. Renteria, who had never previously reached the finals of an ATP event, won 6-3, 7-5 to secure his first career victory over defending champion and world number five Novak Djokovic. "I'm very happy with the round and hoping to do more of the same tomorrow," said Garcia, who will face a third seed, Australia’s Lleyton Hewitt, in the final. He has also been playing with his serve-and-volley style, which has helped him get off to a strong start in the tournament, reaching the finals in 10-of-11 events he has entered this season, claiming eight titles.

“I’m very happy with my performance here. I’m very happy with how I’ve been playing. I’ve been playing well in Cincinnati, coming off a win Monte Carlo and ran his hardcourt winning streak to 12 matches with a 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 win over Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov on Thursday. “Always play against Roger is a special feeling,” said Nadal, who has reached the finals in 10 of 11 events he has entered this season, claiming eight titles.

“We have a great history behind us in our confrontations, so it’s another quarter-finals,” it’s a special one because you’re playing against a very special player. Our matches were very special always. “But, again, it’s a quarter-finals match, not the final, so that’s a big difference.”

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UN chief Ban appeals for North Korea aid funding

CINCINNATI, 16 Aug — As the tennis world took stock of Marion Bartoli’s shock decision to retire, Victoria Azarenka tried to put the focus back on court and the spotlight at the sprawl-
ing ground for the rest of 2013 in North Korea, where there are about 2.4 million very vulnerable people in need of regular food assistance. The world body said almost a third of children under age 5 in North Korea suffer chronic malnutrition.

"The lives of many people are at stake, including children who are vulnerable to lasting suffering if they do not receive aid," Ban’s press office said in a statement.

"The secretary-general calls on prospective donors to respond to this serious situation. He stresses that humanitarian assistance should not be linked to political or security considerations," it said.

Los Angeles Dodgers streak into history books

LOS ANGELES, 16 Aug — It was nearly midnight on Wednesday when Los Angeles Dodgers first baseman Adrian Gonzalez sent a pitch from Pedro Feliciano into left field for a double, producing a come-from-
behind 5-4 victory over the New York Mets in what has become season of heroes for the Major League Base-
ball team. Gonzalez’s shot extended the Dodgers win-
ing streak to eight games, and erased a 4-0 deficit, the team’s second come-from-
behind win in six days. On Friday, the Dodgers scored four times in the ninth in-
ning to beat Tampa Bay 7-6.

"The magic has hap-
pened again," Vin Scully, the Dodgers’ famed 85-year old announcer Vin Scully, excitedly proclaimed to his listeners as the Dodgers stormed back on Wednes-
day night. The victory over the Mets gave the Dodg-
ers a 40-8 record since 22 June, the best 48-game per-
formance since the 1942 St Louis Cardinals went 41-7, according to information provided by the Dodgers from the Elias Sports Bu-
reau.

Los Angeles Dodgers left fielder Carl Crawford (L) and center fielder Skip Schumaker (R) leap in celebration with right fielder Yasiel Puig (C) after defeating the New York Mets 4-2 in their MLB National League baseball game in Los Angeles, California on 13 Aug., 2013.—REUTERS

Fab Friday beckons with the Felix, Farah and Bolt show

MOSCOW, 16 Aug — Usain Bolt starts his quest for a second world track gold in Moscow but Ameri-
can sprinting great Allyson Felix looks set to steal the limelight as she goes for a fourth world 200 meters title on Friday. Briton Mo Farah should also rubber-
stamp his status as one of the all-time distance run-
greats -- and repeat his Olympic feat from London -- by adding a 5,000 meters gold to the 10,000 title he won on the first day of the championships. The grace-
ful-frustrating Felix won three Olympic golds in London last year at 200 and in the 4x100 and 4x400 meters rel-
s and is firmly on course to become the athlete to win most individual world golds.Felix, Carl Lewis and Michael Johnson have all won eight. The 27-year-old has most to fear from Jamaican Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, whose 100 meters victory on Monday was probably the most impressive of the championships.—Reuters

Usain Bolt of Jamaica celebrates winning in the men’s 100 metres final during the IAAF World Athletics Championships at the Luzhniki stadium in Moscow on 11 Aug, 2013. file photo. —REUTERS

Los Angeles Dodgers left fielder Carl Crawford (L) and center fielder Skip Schumaker (R) leap in celebration with right fielder Yasiel Puig (C) after defeating the New York Mets 4-2 in their MLB National League baseball game in Los Angeles, California on 13 Aug., 2013.—REUTERS

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**Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

**President Office**

(Order No. 36/2013)

10th Waxing of Wagaung, 1375 ME

(16 August, 2013)

**Appointment of Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council**

Under Para (ii), Sub-sections (a) and (b), Section 285 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 22 of the Union Government Law and Section 4 of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Law, U Tin Ngwe, Sagaing Region Transport Minister, has been appointed as member of the Nay Pyi Taw Council.

**Pres/ Thein Sein**

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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**Union government, region/state governments to deal with land disputes ASAP: Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Aug—**Seven MPs continued holding discussions on Investigation Commission’s report (Part-3) on people’s losses due to farmland and other lands confiscations, at today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session.

Regarding the report, MP U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency said that the commission has made strenuous efforts for it. Under the constitution, the Union ministries will have to submit their undertakings on part 1 and 2 of the report to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. It is found that, according to the report (part-3) there is no swiftness, and it has weakness even if there is swiftness. That’s why, that commission should have till the end of Hluttaw’s reign as land disputes remain existed. And it needs to promote its duties and authority.

Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Khin Maung Aye said that the confiscated lands which are not in use will be given back to the farmers. And paying appropriate compensations will be carried out in accord with the farmland law in cooperation with respective region/state governments and private entrepreneurs.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Zin Yaw said that plans are underway to give back the plots of land which do not include in the master plan of Mandalay International Airport. The compensation of K 145,2520 million has been paid for 5569 acres of land from 2004-2005 FY to 2009-2010 FY.

Regarding the report (part-3), Hluttaw has decided that every level of administrative bodies will take earliest action in accord with Section 228 (a) of the Constitution, and respective Hluttaw committee are to handover complaint letters and petitions to the respective region/state governments through the Union government.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann said that most of today’s discussions occurred in the olden days. Their reviews and suggestions are objective. He urged the Union government and region/state governments to deal with these problems as quickly as possible. He called for presenting their reports on the handling of the disputes to the Hluttaw within at least 2 months period. The meeting came to an end at 1:30 pm, and the 16th session will be announced.

**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann makes discussion in today session.**

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**Journalism course concluded**

**Yangon, 16 Aug—**The journalism course, jointly conducted by News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information and New York-based Associated Press of the United States of the America, concluded at the hall of NPE on Theinbyu Road in Botataung Township today, with an address by Deputy Minister U Paik Hwe. It was attended by the departmental heads of the ministry, officials from AP News Agency and trainees.

Course Instructor Mr. Ted Anthony of AP News Agency and Daw Aye Aye Win of AP explained matters related to the course. Managing Director U Kyaw Soe of NPE presented completion certificates and a trainee spoke words of thanks.

**Concluding ceremony of Journalism Course conducted by News and Periodicals Enterprise and AP of USA in progress.**

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**Health infrastructures to be upgraded**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Aug—**A ceremony to launch the project for upgrading of Ministry of Health’s health infrastructures and related equipment took place at rural health center in Aukseik Village of Seikpyu Township, Magway Region this morning.

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin said that plans are underway to build 33 rural health centers in nine townships of Magway Region. Rural health care centers, station hospitals, township hospitals and Pakokku General Hospital will be provided with medical equipment. The project will be implemented with the contribution of Yen 1,256 billion by Japanese government. He expressed thanks for Japanese government’s donation and called for local people’s cooperation in the project.

After that, Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Soe touched upon education and health care and turning out of midwives for reducing maternal and child mortality rates. Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mikio Numata explained the project for upgrading of health infrastructures and related equipment in the central Myanmar, which is a part of huge aid of Japan.

Before the ceremony, the Union minister looked into Seikpyu Township People’s Hospital.

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**Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham felicitates Indonesian counterpart**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Aug—**Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Dr. Boediono, Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia, on the occasion of the 68th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2013. **MNA**

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**Vice-President U Nyan Tun felicitates Indonesian counterpart**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Aug—**U Nyan Tun, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2013. **MNA**

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**Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets media men**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Aug—**Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann met the media men who are collecting news at the Hluttaws and replied their questions in his office, here, this afternoon. **MNA**

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**Union FM felicitates Indonesian counterpart**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Aug—**On the occasion of the 68th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2013, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Dr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. **MNA**

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**MNA**