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Fourth-day second regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw takes place

Questioning, replying, discussing and submitting proposals

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug—Fourth-day second regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw took place at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here this morning.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and 388 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives took part in the session.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann attends fourth-day second regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw.—MNA

Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan replied to four questions raised by three Hluttaw representatives about National Literary Award, Martyrs' Day and domestic peace.

U Aye Myint of Insein Constituency raised the question that in presenting National Literary Award, only one person is awarded for one genre and cash award accounts for K 300,000. Today, thanks to encouragement by the State, there emerged loads of publications beneficial to the State and the people making their horizons broaden. For returning compliments to forgoing self-interest of literati and covering their costs, the State should award more than K 300,000. He asked whether there is plan to raise cash amount or not. In response to the question, the Union Minister said that there were 10 awards to present 10 genres in National Literary Award as of 1965 in Myanmar. The State has added general knowledge literature (arts) and general knowledge literature (science) awards in general literature genre since 1965; youth genre in 1975; translation (knowledge) and translation (aesthetic) in translation literature award in 1980; general knowledge (science) and general knowledge (applied science) for general knowledge (science) genre in 1969. So far, the State has been awarding 14 National Literary Awards based on genre.

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Our Three Main National Causes

* **Non-disintegration of the Union**
* **Non-disintegration of National solidarity**
* **Perpetuation of Sovereignty**

Second regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw goes on for fourth day

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug—The second regular session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the fourth day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, at 10 am today, attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and 210 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

At the session, U Aye of Mandalay Region Constituency (7) asked **whether there is arrangement for more arrival of tourists in Bagan-NyaungU region or not, and how the arrangement will be made,** and one more question was **whether there is a plan for building more hotels after construction of two hotels in Hotel Zone 4 in Gantga Ward near Bagan Myothit.**

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan replied that efforts are being made for ensuring more arrival of tourists not only for Bagan region but also for the whole nation. Arrangements are being made for convenient arrival of passengers at Bagan-NyaungU Airport, high quality and systematic services of vehicles for passengers at reasonable rate, high standard of hotels and better services, and creation of more attraction at Bagan region and its surrounding areas. Moreover, undertakings are being made to promote tourist destination of Myanmar all the year round, participate in international tourism show and sell tour packages. As part of efforts to develop the tourism industry, the Myanmar Tourism Board was formed under law with the participation of all private hotels and tourism entrepreneurs. Moreover, the ministry will provide necessary assistance for extending the tourism industry.

Hotel Zone 4 in Gantga Ward of Bagan was designated as Hotel Zone in 1996 and some plots have been sold. If there are larger number of tourists in Bagan, priority will be given to construction of more hotels in the zone for providing accommodation to the tourists. Moreover, arrangements are being made for more construction in remaining hotel zone. Expecting arrival of tourists yearly, new hotel zones for local and foreign entrepreneurs will be designated in the places free from archaeological zone.

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint attends fourth-day second regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw.—MNA

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung replied to two questions raised by two Hluttaw representatives.

(See page 9)

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 26 August, 2011

Show perfect discipline

Everybody is engaging in economic, social and educational fields in human society daily with better behaviors and practices in line with prescribed rules and disciplines. As good citizens they do their daily routines in human society.

In accord with a saying that goes "discipline makes a man perfect", those abiding by the prescribed disciplines will achieve improvement. Those following disciplines will be free from dangers. The disciplines are prescribed for practice of individuals, human society, departments concerned, regions and the country.

There is one more saying that goes: when in Rome do as the Romans do. Such saying is so profound. Hence, everybody is to abide by disciplines of regions and countries concerned.

It is necessary to follow rules and regulations of town and village so as to keep them pleasant. People are to obey disciplines at home, at school, at office and on the road. Following the discipline is a best behavior that becomes threshold of a successful track for the life.

Discipline will not be burden for those who have been abiding by the discipline since their childhood. For those with unsystematic life, discipline is a burden. The students who study school lessons daily in line with the school disciplines will ease difficulties.

Undisciplined persons give reasons for putting blame on those who behave in disciplines. Only when everybody abide by disciplines, will they all be disciplined persons and will their family, society and nation develop.

Thus, it is auspicious if all the people build themselves to have best manners and behaviors in line with prescribed disciplines.

No tax for vendor in Ygn

YANGON, 25 Aug — Vendors in the areas of Yangon City Development Committee are not taxed since late May. If any tax is collected, one may complain to department concerned.

Nyunt Than-MNA

Flood bulletin

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug — According to the 12.30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Dokhtawady River in Myitnge (874) cm has exceeded by (4) cm above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level (870) cm during the next (24) hours commencing this noon.

According to the 12.30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River in Hpa-an (778) cm has exceeded by (28) cm (about one foot) above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level (750) cm during the next (48) hours commencing this noon, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—*MNA*

Indian Chief of Naval Staff and party visit Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug—The visiting goodwill delegation led by Chief of Naval Staff of India Admiral Nirmal Verma, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, and wife arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Airport from Yangon by special aircraft at 10.45 am today.

They were welcomed at the airport by senior military officers.

In the afternoon, the Indian Chief of Naval Staff and party visited the National Defence College where Commandant Brig-Gen Hla Myint Shwe of the college and officials explained facts about the college.

After speaking words of thanks, the Indian Chief of Naval Staff viewed round the training halls of the NDC.

Mrs Madhulika Verma, wife of the Indian Chief of Naval Staff accompanied by officials this morning visited the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central), here. The presidents and responsible persons conducted them round the federation and the association.—*MNA*

***Chief of Naval Staff of India Admiral Nirmal Verma, PVSM, AVSM, ADC at National Defence College.*—MNA**

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug— The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Director-General Daw Yin Yin Myint of Training, Research and Foreign Languages Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on expiry of the one-year probationary period.—*MNA*

A talk on rural development and poverty alleviation was held at BEHS No. 1 in Thanlyin on 20 August. Yangon South District Education officer U Khin Aung Myint speaking at opening of the talk.
MYANMA ALIN

Fifth Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament-2011 carries on, tomorrow's final match

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug— The fifth Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament-2011 continued the match for third bronze medal at No. 2 Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground this afternoon.

It was enjoyed by officials concerned from the respective ministries, team managers, officers and other ranks and staff families and football enthusiasts.

Ministry of Finance and Revenue swept to a 5-3 win over Ministry of Hotels and Tourism for the third bronze.

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation plays against Ministry of Construction in the final match with a prize-awarding ceremony at No. 1 Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground tomorrow.

MNA

17440. 25 acres of poppy field totally destroyed in 2010-2011

YANGON, 25 Aug— It was reported that a total of 17407 acres of poppy was destroyed in Regions and States from 1 September, 2010 to 13 August, 2011.

Similarly, a total of 33. 25 acres of poppy field got into the destruction rates since 13. 2 acres of poppy field in Hopong Township in Shan State, 3.5 acres of poppy field in Taunggyi Township, 3 acres of poppy field in Maukmai Township, 8 acres of poppy field in Hsihseng Township, 5. 55 acres of poppy field in Pinlaung Township had been destroyed from 14 to 20 August, 2011.

There have totally destroyed 17440. 25 acres of poppy field still now.—*Win Win Maw-MNA*

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.

Bomb explodes in S Philippine, causing no casualties

MANILA, 25 Aug—A bomb exploded Thursday morning in southern Philippines, damaging a school building but hurting no one, police said.

Philippine National Police Spokesman Senior Supt. Agrimero Cruz Jr said an improvised explosive device went off within the vicinity of Tibungol Elementary School in Tibungol village, Panabo City in Davao del Norte Province around 5:45 am local time.

The blast occurred approximately 10 meters away from the school stage, causing slight damage to the stage, he said.

Cruz said witnesses reported that two unidentified unarmed men ran towards the banana plantation after the explosion.

Discovered from the scene of the incident were electrical wire and four sharpened bamboos locally known as "suyak." Further investigation is ongoing, Cruz said.—*Xinhua*

A woman feeds her infant at a refugee camp near Qandil mountain, a border zone in northeastern Iraq on 23 Aug, 2011. Along the Iraqi northern Kurdish region's borders with Iran and Turkey, hundreds of refugees have fled since mid-July to small camps, displaced by attacks by Iraq's neighbours on PKK rebels hiding along the frontier in their long war for Kurdish self-rule.— INTERNET

Israeli airstrike hits Gaza club, kills one

GAZA, 25 Aug— Israeli warplanes hit a sports club run by Islamic Jihad in the northern Gaza Strip, killing a Palestinian and wounding nearly 10 others early Thursday, witnesses and medical sources said.

Xinhua

Iraqis inspect the site of a bombing in Kirkuk, Iraq, on 15 Aug, 2011. Bomb blasts ripped through more than a dozen Iraqi cities Monday morning, killing scores of people _ most of them in the southern City of Kut _ in a wave of violence that shattered what had been a relatively peaceful holy month of Ramadan. INTERNET

Afghan leader meets would-be child suicide bombers

KABUL, 25 Aug— Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Wednesday met children who had been rescued by authorities before carrying out suicide bombings they had been groomed to do by the Taleban, the president's office said in a statement.

Karzai ordered the younger children sent back to their parents immediately and said the older ones would be returned to their homes after education and reintegration programmes.

An arrested Afghan child suicide bomber is seen during a meeting with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, unseen, at the presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan on 24 Aug, 2011. INTERNET

"There is no bigger crime than to fasten explosives to a child and tell him to go and commit suicide, you will be saved and shrapnel will kill others," a statement quoted Karzai as saying.

The statement added: "Those curs tell lies and by their lies they try to kill children of this nation and draw a bad image of Islam." Defence Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak last week told *Reuters* there was an increase in suicide bomb attacks across the country in recent months.

Explaining the increase, Wardak said: "Suicide bombers are more suitable, they are more easy because they don't need many resources, or that much expenditure. But they do need a lot of crafty planning, there is no doubt about it. They also make spectacular news and can change the perception (of the war) very easily."—*Reuters*

Russian President Medvedev meets DPRK leader Kim Jong-il on nuclear issues

BEIJING, 25 Aug—Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has met with DPRK leader Kim Jong-il to discuss the resumption of six-party talks on the Korean Peninsula's nuclear issue.

The meeting took place at a closed military base in Siberia. The two leaders also dsiscussed energy, agreeing to set up a special commission to promote gas cooperation between Russia, the DPRK and South Korea.

Xinhua

Two soldiers wounded in explosion in southeastern Turkey

ANKARA, 25 Aug—Two soldiers of the Turkish security forces on board a mini-bus were wounded in an explosion early Thursday in southeastern Turkey, the *semi-official Anatolia news agency* reported.

The explosives, probably planted by members of the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), exploded four km near the Hakkari City when the civilian bus was on its way to the Hakkari Mountain, Hakkari Governor Muammer Turker was quoted as saying.

Turker said that the bus turned over due to the blast, leaving two soldiers wounded.

Listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union, the PKK took up arms in 1984 to create an ethnic homeland in southeastern Turkey. More than 40,000 people have been killed in conflicts involving the PKK during the past over two decades.

Xinhua

Kidnapped American in Pakistan rescued

ISLAMABAD, 25 Aug— A US national who got kidnapped in Pakistan a couple of weeks ago have been rescued by police Thursday morning, reported local Urdu TV channel Express.

Xinhua

An Afghan soldier looks at the wreckage of a motorcycle at the site of an explosion in Herat Province on 20 Aug, 2011. INTERNET

Gold loses more shine after CME margin hike

SINGAPORE, 24 Aug—Gold fell more than 1 percent on Thursday, extending the previous session's losses, after the CME Group raised trading margins by the most in over two and a half years to curb volatility in bullion that had surged to dizzying heights.

Spot gold dropped by more than 4 percent on Wednesday, its biggest drop since December 2008, as investors liquidated positions after the precious metal surged nearly 35 percent this year to a record high above $1,911 on Tuesday.

Gold dealer Stan Morton holds a block of gold valued at $63,000 in Los Angeles, California 23 August, 2011

CME increased margin requirements on its gold futures contract by 27 percent, the second hike in a month, following similar moves by the Shanghai Gold Exchange and Hong Kong Mercantile Exchange earlier this month.

Data suggesting the US economy was facing a slowdown instead of a recession also took the shine off safer assets like gold.

"A lot of hot money has entered the complex and the rally was done too much in too short a time," said David Thurtell, an analyst at Citigroup.

"Last 24 hours there was definitely profit-taking. With the margin hike, if speculators don't have the money to pull out as extra margin they'll just cut their positions. That contributed to the liquidation."

Spot gold slipped as much as 1.3 percent to $1,728.59 an ounce, before recovering some ground to trade at $1,739.80 by 2:17 am EDT. On Wednesday, bullion dropped 4.3 percent, its biggest daily drop since 1 December, 2008.—*Reuters*

Specialized mosquitoes may fight tropical disease

NEW YORK, 25 Aug—Scientists have made a promising advance for controlling dengue fever, a tropical disease spread by mosquito bites. They've rapidly replaced mosquitoes in the wild with skeeters that don't spread the dengue virus.

More than 50 million people a year get the dengue virus from being bitten by infected mosquitoes in tropical and subtropical areas, including Southeast Asia. It can cause debilitating high fever, severe headaches, and pain in the muscles and joints, and lead to a potentially fatal complication. There's no vaccine or specific treatment.

Some scientists have been trying to fight dengue by limiting mosquito populations. That was the goal in releasing genetically modified mosquitoes last year at sites in Malaysia and the Cayman Islands.

Australian scientists took a different tack, they report in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*.

First, they showed that Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, the chief carriers of the dengue virus, resist spreading that virus if they are infected with a particular kind of bacteria. Then they tested whether these resistant mosquitoes could displace their ordinary cousins in the wild, thus reducing the number of dengue-spreading mosquitoes.—*Internet*

This 2006 photo made available by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention shows a female Aedes aegypti mosquito acquiring a blood meal from a human host at the Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta.
INTERNET

Buffett invests $5 billion in Bank of America

NEW YORK, 25 Aug—Warren Buffett is coming to the rescue of another fallen giant.

Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway announced Thursday that it would invest $5 billion in Bank of America Corp., giving a much-needed vote of confidence in the struggling bank.

The bank's stock had plunged 52 percent in the past 12 months on concerns over the bank's mortgage problems. Investors have also been worried that Bank of America will need to raise large amounts of capital to shore up its balance sheet.

The bank had to pay $12.7 billion earlier this year to settle lawsuits over failed mortgages. Most of the toxic mortgages came from its 2008 purchase of Countrywide Financial Corp. CEO Brian Moynihan has insisted the bank doesn't need to raise money.

The investment is reminiscent of infusions of cash by the billionaire investor into other troubled companies during the 2008 financial crisis. Buffett also lent his credibility to Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and General Electric Co. with investments of $5 billion and $3 billion respectively.

Those investments, which paid annual dividends of 10 percent, wound up being very lucrative for Berkshire. Berkshire will receive a dividend 6 percent on his investment in Bank of America.

Buffett said in a statement that he had called Moynihan to ask about investing in Bank of America because he considered it to be a strong, well-led company.

Under the deal, Berkshire Hathaway will get 50,000 of preferred shares in Bank of America and warrants to purchase 700 million shares of common stock at $7.14 per share. Buffett can exercise the warrants at any time in the next 10 years.—*Internet*

In this file photo taken 8 Oct, 2010, the Bank of America building is shown at the Bank of America Plaza in downtown Los Angeles. Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway is investing $5 billion in Bank of America Thursday, 25 Aug, 2011, sending its shares soaring by 24 percent.
INTERNET

Citigroup cuts 2011, 2012 global growth view

NEW YORK, 25 Aug—Citigroup cuts its global growth forecasts for this year and next, with sharp reductions for the United States, euro zone and United Kingdom, as well as modest cuts for China and India. The brokerage cut its global gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for 2011 to 3.1 percent from 3.4 percent, and for 2012, to 3.2 percent from 3.7 percent.

Citigroup said it does not currently expect recessions in the major economies as this slowdown in economic growth is not enough to reverse global profits. "But we do expect advanced economy growth will remain sluggish to end-2012 at least, with rising unemployment," the brokerage said in a note to clients dated 24 August.

For advanced economies, Citigroup cut its growth forecast to 1.4 percent from 1.8 percent for 2011, and to 1.7 percent from 2.2 percent for 2012.

Citigroup also cut its growth forecast for China to 9.0 percent from 9.2 percent for 2011, reflecting weakness in major export markets.—*Internet*

Parents who know of preemies' pain more confident

NEW YORK, 25 Aug—Parents who are taught to recognize and respond to signs of pain in their prematurely born babies are more confident in caring for their children once they leave the hospital, a new study shows.

Parents' stress levels, however, remain high while their children are still in the hospital, despite being educated on techniques to comfort their babies.

A nurse takes care of a 2-month-old premature infant lying in an incubator at a hospital in Enshi, Hubei Province on 4 May, 2010.
INTERNET

"Pain is one narrow facet of what a parent is faced with in the neonatal intensive care unit," perhaps limiting how much a pain education programme can do to reduce that stress, said Bernadette Melnyk, a professor of nursing at Arizona State University, who was not involved in the new work.

Researchers involved 169 parents who had a child in one of four intensive care units in the London, UK, area. Half the parents received a booklet and two training sessions with a nurse on how to care for their child's pain, while the other parents received a general parenting booklet and no specific training.

The education included information on how babies process pain, how parents can recognize when their infant is in pain, and techniques for comforting babies during painful procedures.—*Reuters*

Separate talks between Human Rights Special Rapporteur Mr Thomas Ojea Quintana and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo, Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Hla Min,Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi, Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin and Deputy Chief of the Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug—Human Rights Special Rapporteur Mr Thomas Ojea Quintana on his tour from 21 to 25 August separately met Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Hla Min,Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi, Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin and Deputy Chief of the Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win.

Human Rights Special Rapporteur Mr Thomas Ojea Quintana calls on Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo.—MNA

In meeting with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Mr Quintana said that he was glad the first regular session was convened in March 2011, and the second regular session is being held; that he learnt that at the first regular session, important issues were discussed such as land confiscation, rights to learn languages of ethnic minorities, and release of detained Shan national representatives including human rights; that release of political inmates is an important matter for democratization in Myanmar, so ASEAN member countries, and Human Rights Special Rapporteur like him including UN Secretary-General are urging the country for the process; that according to the findings so far, Myanmar is on the correct track towards democracy; that he hoped the country will keep holding discussions and coordinating for outstanding human rights cases; that among Hluttaw affairs committees is the Hluttaw Rights Committee; that he wondered whether Hluttaw representatives have the rights to submit cases at any circumstance; and that he would like to urge Hluttaw representatives to address democracy and human rights cases, using the powers bestowed upon them according to the constitution.

In his speech, the Pyithu Hluttaw speaker said that Myanmar is a member of the international community, and has embraced the opportunities to address democracy and human rights cases like the global community; that however, every country has different processes from other countries based on own culture, custom and historical background; that as the Human Rights Special Rapporteur reviewed, Myanmar is on the correct path to democracy, and will continue to march along the correct path; that necessary laws will be enacted to make sure that Hluttaw representatives serve the public interest or bring about the people's fundamental rights, democracy and human rights without party attachment, localism, racism and regionalism; that the existing laws will be under review to abrogate and amend inconsistent ones and enact new ones; that only then will multiparty democracy rights will flourish in future; that the power to issue writs has been bestowed to bring democracy and rights to the people; that the government, judicial bodies, service personnel and the people will abide by the enacted laws through the check and balance; that they know that armed conflicts due to misunderstanding among national races do not bring any benefits to the nation; that therefore Hluttaw committees include the Committee for National Races Affairs and Internal Peace in addition to the Committee of Fundamental Rights, Democratic Rights and Human Rights of Citizens; that the Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee has been formed to handle legal affairs in an effective way; that Hluttaw committees carry out tasks inside Hluttaws, so it is safe to say that the tasks are carried out by the public; that the report on progress in addressing land confiscation cases will be submitted to the Hluttaw session, and the government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee will watch and see; that he wants the Human Rights Special Rapporteur to prevent the acts of certain countries and organizations that trouble Myanmar and the people at a time when Myanmar and the people are working together for democracy and human rights; that Myanmar will accept and appreciate his suggestions, people's stances and international community's suggestions; and the Human Rights Special Rapporteur can watch what Myanmar is working for democratization.

Mr Quintana expressed thanks for in-depth explanation about Myanmar's democratization process, and said that he hopes national race representatives will have the rights to submit their requirements employing their rights and Hluttaw rights; that he pledged he will insert what they have discussed today into his report and will inform member countries through the UN.

In meeting with Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Mr Quintana said that he is proud that he has the opportunity to visit Myanmar's Hluttaws; that this is his fourth visit to Myanmar, and he is very glad to have the opportunity when an important new page for Myanmar is opened; that one of the four proposals he has put forward for improving Myanmar's human rights situations is to review and amend some of the existing laws that do not conform with the democratic practices; that in that regard, he wants a Hlutaw speaker to explain that to him; that ASEAN countries including the UN Secretary-General urged Myanmar to release political inmates; that after the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest, dialogues can be held in the national interest, and he believes similar benefits can be generated by releasing other political inmates; that he heard that important talks were held for human rights at the first Hluttaw session, and now, Hluttaw affairs committees have been formed; and that he recognizes democratization process in Hluttaws.

The Amyotha Hluttaw speaker said that Myanmar is a member of the United Nations, so it is determined to follow the provisions on human rights in the UN Charter and New Millennium Goals; that there is a motto in Hluttaw "Public Voice, Hluttaw Voice; Public Desire, Hluttaw Desire; Public Hope, Hluttaw Performance"; that in accordance with the motto, the nation will work for improving fundamental rights of citizens, democratic rights and human rights; that at this session, existing laws will be previewed to ensure they meet human rights and democracy, and some laws will be amended;

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Separate talks between Human Rights Special…

(from page 5)

that the present government is very moderate; that any government does not want to put its people behind bars, sacrificing the labour of the nation; that the prisoners will be released when they are certain not to disrupt the nation's stability and peace; that now, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is represented by 15 political parties and independent representatives-elect, including 18 female representatives; that the Hluttaw welcomes anyone who will set up political parties and stand for election in the forthcoming election; that representatives have the rights to express their views and hold discussions freely at the Hluttaw; that they are trying to generate an atmosphere in which the majority recognize the desire of the minority, and the minority comply with the desire of the majority; that the public have been guaranteed freedom of words, the rights to express their convictions, assemble and form associations and organizations; that executive and judicial bodies will take responsibilities for questions raised and laws submitted and performances at the Hluttaw; that Hluttaw representatives all have full common ground for restoring peace, so the Committee for National Races Affairs and Internal Peace has been formed in the Hluttaw; that Myanmar has become a democratic nation, so it will celebrate the International Democracy Day in Myanmar on 15 September; that they will make amendments and work with strong confidence, and point out weak points in the processes for human rights and democracy; that representatives have the rights to submit private bills to the Hluttaw; that related Union ministers reply to the questions and members of Union level bodies listen to the proposals at the Hluttaw; and that so, he believes that Myanmar will improve democracy and human rights.

At the meeting with Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo, Mr Quintana put some questions on prisoners serving terms for their beliefs, amending existing laws to meet international norms, and formation and functions of the Constitutional Tribunal. The Union chief justice said that in Myanmar there is no prisoner serving a term for his belief, and prisoners are all serving their terms for the crimes they have committed; that courts have powers to hand down sentences in the framework of the prescribed laws, and the accused have the right to argue in accordance with the law; that their judicial body came into existence in accordance with the constitution, so they will honour the constitution; that the jurisdiction is one of the three sovereign powers of a nation, so the judicial body should work according to the law; that the Criminal Law was enacted in 1861, and it is still in practice; that legal issues are to be addressed in accordance with the laws enacted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw; that the Constitutional Tribunal has been formed, and the power has been bestowed upon it to vet the existing laws to find out whether they are consistent with the constitution; and that according to the constitution, judges are to be stay away from politics, and under the present judicial system, they will handle cases in accordance with the constitution.

At the meeting with Mr Quintana, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye clarified that the commission is responsible for giving supervision over the holding of elections to respective Hluttaws in accordance with the laws and bylaws, and enforcing laws to ensure that political parties will honour the law; that if notes of protest against election results are submitted, decisions are made in accordance with the Election Law, Civil Law, and Witness Law; that in a short period of eight months from the enactment of electoral laws to the holding of the election, sub-commissions were formed, laws, rules and provisions were disseminated, parties were registered, parties canvassed for votes, and the election was held; that it was a successful election, but it may have some weak points and defects; and that they will make sure next elections will be free and fair ones by learning lessons from past weak points in the election, taking advice and suggestions from the parties, exercising the check and balance system among parties, and training commission branches at all levels and returning officers.

Mr Quintana said that he was deeply concerned over the rights to form parties and parties' financial affairs, regarding the previous election; that therefore he wanted to know is there any plans to deal with such cases in the upcoming elections; that he wanted to know the vacancies for the positions of Hluttaw representatives and programmes to hold elections; that he also wanted to know the situations that NLD no longer has the rights to stand as a legitimate political party; and he wondered if the commission has the rights to vet political parties freely for registration, if prisoners have the rights to register for political parties, and if Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is eligible to apply for a political party now.

The Union Election Commission Chairman said that financial issues of political parties are their own businesses; that the commission vets them in accordance with the existing laws and rules; that if there are vacancies for seats in a term of the Hluttaw for some reason, the government and the Hluttaw concerned may hold a by-election at an appropriate time; that now there are 48 vacancies in the Hluttaws; that regarding NLD, it failed to apply for registration in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law of their own accord; that up to now, it has not applied yet for formation of a political party and registration; that anyone who meets the Political Parties Registration Law and Rules can apply for formation a political party; that in the post-election period, some applied for formation political parties, and the commission vetted them in accordance with the law; that the Union Election Commission has exclusive rights to vet applicants to from political parties; that however, the commission makes decisions only it has applications vetted by related ministries to find out whether they meet the requirements; that according to the Political Parties Registration Law, an ex-convict does not have the rights to become a member of a political party, but can apply for formation of a political party in accordance with the law as soon as he or she is released.

At the meeting with Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Mr Quintana said he has been working for the improvement of human rights in Myanmar in cooperation with Myanmar government. He also thanked the government for his meeting with authorities concerned in his trip. He also acknowledged the government's amnesty to prisoners on 16 May, and urged the government to grant the amnesty to prisoners again. He said that in his view, the meeting of the president and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was a good news, and also acknowledged the government's re-cooperation with the ICRC and urged the government to work more with the body. He also urged the government to consider requirements of the previous election as lessons and to hold the next election which can be participated by all. He continued to say that the government's call on ethnic armed groups to enter peace talks was the positive step. It was important for the government to show the tangible evidences to defend the accusations of human rights violations, calling on the government to accept the problem came from the claiming responsibility and take responsibility in the previous human rights reports and to consider how to solve the problem. He said that the government's cooperation with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was leading to peaceful and stable situation and urged the government to keep on carry out the cooperation.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko said that Myanmar Committee of Human Rights had been working for fundamental rights of Myanmar citizens, considering keeping balance between the fundamental rights and duties of citizens and keeping in mind the reciprocal respects among regional characteristics, history, culture and religious backgrounds as part of efforts for improvement of human rights in the country.

The Union Minister told Mr Quintana that he was sorry for not organizing a trip to Chin State for Mr Quintana during his visit due to limitations and difficulties though he could arrange trips to Rakhine and Kayin states during his previous trips. For the prisoners issue, the number of prisoners is different between the government and the news resource of Mr Quintana. Though there mentioned that they are prisoners of conscience, there are over 100 prisoners of drug trafficking, murdering, bomb blasting and insurgency and others. Some prisoners are serving sentences as they smuggled a large amount of narcotic drugs when they were arrested.

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Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin receives Human Rights Special Rapporteur Mr Thomas Ojea Quintana.
MNA

Separate talks between Human Rights Special…

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Therefore, the number of prisoners in the list of Mr. Quintana confused him, the Union Minister said. After the new government took office, the president granted the amnesty to prisoners, and it is expected that the government would grand more amnesty to prisoners occasionally. For the ICRC issue, there was no MoU between the Ministry of Home Affairs and ICRC. However, as a magnanimous gesture, the Ministry of Home Affairs had allowed the ICRC to visit prisons, and ICRC had been working more for water and power supply and sanitation in prisons than for prisoners, the Union Minister for Home Affairs said. For prison visitors, arrangements had been made for prison visitors without difficulties except limitation for prisoners who broke prison rules, he said. The Union Minister also said that he would arrange for Mr. Quintana to visit prisons so that he could meet prisoners if he had the names of prisoners he wanted to meet.

At the meeting with Union Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Hla Min, Mr. Quintana said regarding the Tatmadaw issue, he would like to advise not to discriminate against ethnic minorities, not to use child soldiers, to avoid use of land mines and to avoid using civilians as force labours. It was learnt that Myanmar signed the Forced Labour Convention, and according to the convention, all agreed to use only one standard. Therfore, he would like to advise not obey the standard of international human rights and humanitarian standard in the conflict areas, he said. Besides, Mr. Quintana asked the Union Minister for Defence if there was the military service law or court martial. He specially welcomed the president's speech of offering for peace talks as it was an important action, he said. Mr. Quintana also said he would like to urge the government to keep on carrying out the work for peace.

The Union Minister for Defence said there has been no forced recruitment since the Tatmadaw was established in Myanmar. Though the military service law was promulgated, it was not yet put into practice. Those who entered the Tatmadaw were those who joined the Tatmadaw of their own volition. However, due to faults of each individual recruiter and desires of new members, there were some child soldiers in the Tatmadaw, he said. Myanmar had been making efforts with added momentum to sign the Plan of Action for prevention of recruitment of minors. Since the committee was organized in the Tatmadaw, so far 2317 minors had been sent back to their parents, 597 under-age soldiers were permitted to leave the Tatmadaw till July, 2011, the Union Minister for Defence said. Besides, action was taken against 177 — 21 officers and 156 other ranks— for recruitment of soldiers not in accordance with the rules and regulations, he added. Regarding that issue, the government was working together with the UNICEF. Concerning with the rape cases accused by the media, according to the culture and religion in Myanmar, the case was considered as an unacceptable and it was denounced by the society, the Union Minister said. Punishment for rape case was harsh in the Tatmadaw, he said. Therefore, within 21-year period from 1990 to July, 2011, actions were taken only 135 – 11 officers and 124 other ranks. Rape accusations were used by opposite groups and insurgents as a tool to tarnish the image of and to defame the Tatmadaw, he added. Regarding the force labour issue, the government had worked with the ILO, and out of 389 cases complained by ILO, actions were taken against those who involved in 182 cases, he said. Union Minister Maj-Gen Hla Min clarified that there was no discrimination against ethnic minorities as the country was the Republic of the Union. The clashes between the Tatmadaw and KIO/KIA broke out to defend the important projects of the State as they threatened the important projects, he added. The Tatmadaw carried out defensive attack to defend the country and the people as they were attacking the civilians and development infrastructures. However, as a magnanimous gesture, the government invited them to return to the legal fold in accordance with the constitution. The Tatmadaw had been following the Geneva Convention, the minister said. The Tatmadaw had brought its members who broke the military rules to a court martial, he added. The Union Minister clarified that the issues in the border areas were fabricated news made by opposite groups and insurgents though the Tatmadaw had been taking care of its military disciplines and human rights. Regarding use of land mines, it was insurgents who used land mines and they used land mines as a tactic since they had no strength to face the Tatmadaw, he added. As the aim to improve the human rights was noble, and at the same time actions should be good and the government was ready to cooperate for improvement of human rights situation, the minister clarified.

At the meeting between Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and Mr. Quintana, the Union Minister said that Mr. Quintana had got a chance to learn Myanmar's important political steps since he was appointed as UN Human Rights Special Rapporteur on Myanmar in 2008. Therefore, it was important to write the right and practical report on the Myanmar's important political progress and reforms to the UN and international communities, the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs said. The Union Minister said that the cooperation with the UN was an important component for Myanmar's foreign affairs policy and Myanmar would keep on working together with the UN and its resident agencies. He recounted that the president held a meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and clarified the government's efforts. Setting aside diversity of opinion, the two sides discussed common ground for cooperation in the interests of the country, the Union Minister said. The meeting could support a lot for the national reconciliation. The government had been making efforts to put the four main proposals for Myanmar advised by Mr. Quintana into practice within the framework of the constitution as much as possible, he said. Mr. Quintana should urge the countries which had imposed economic sanction on Myanmar to lift the sanction, he added. Though Myanmar had been cooperating with international community including the Human Rights Council, some western countries submitted the country-specific resolution to UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council every year, he added. He continued to say that national unity played a key role to build a modern, developed and democratic nation, therefore, the government's efforts for national unity had came to the fore, and the new government had been inviting those who wanted to see benefits of the country and the people and was holding out an olive branch to them, he said. He also clarified that Myanmar had been working for reforming the judiciary system and for amending to laws and rules which were not in conformity with the new constitution. The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs also said that difference between the number of prisoners mentioned in Mr. Quintana's report and practical number in the prisons.

Mr. Quintana thanked the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs for the invitation to Myanmar, hospitability and arrangements for his visit. He said that he wanted to cooperate with the Myanmar government in a constructive way. He witnessed the constructive progress in Myanmar, Mr. Quintana said. He also said that it was constructive progress that representatives of Hluttaw discussed issues related to national races at the previous meetings of the Hluttaw. While Myanmar had witnessed important progress, there were serious human rights situations in Myanmar, he added. He said that he assumed that the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs accepted his suggestions to some extent and he wanted to tell the two more facts during his visit. Education for all was necessary for flourishing the democratic system, he said. He intended to pursue the issue during his visit, Mr. Quintana said. For the second fact, he wanted to know the actions for human rights violations in Myanmar so that he could be able to include the situation in his report, he said.

In his replies, the Union Minister said that in their meeting in Geneva, he had explained at large about such issue to Mr Quintana. After investigating violence against human rights, if the Myanmar Committee of Human Rights finds guilty, the committee takes action against offenders, he said. Some complaints were just accusations. Emergence of a free commission is being considered for promotion of human rights, he added. In the future, he said that the government would transparently take action with regard to the complaints. It is important that the report of Mr Quintana must be submitted to the UN General Assembly with actual events without bias, he said. The Union Minister said that he firmly believed Mr Quintana would carry out his tasks in justice.

In a meeting between Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi and Mr Quintana, the Union Minister said that the government has extended SU term four times in accord with the suggestion of Mr Quintana. He continued to say that the Labour Organization Bill had been submitted to the Hluttaw. He explained that the bill was in conformity with the 2008 constitution and provision 87 of ILO on rights of forming organization. He said that he had met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi two times and issued a joint statement. Such joint statement was a common goal based on the common ground that was agreed in the time of the Tatmadaw government. The statement appreciated the inclusiveness of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in political, economic and social sectors of the State. In the future, he added that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi together with her official political party would participate in realizing the Myanmar issue. The resolution was adopted that the official political party of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the government will carry out the tasks on a reciprocal basis, he said. Moreover, he said that the Head of State and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had held a meeting. Therefore, the suggestion of Mr Quintana on his last trip had been implemented, he noted.

In his replies, Mr Quintana expressed thanks for firm undertakings of Myanmar. He said that he arrived there with the purpose to cooperate with Myanmar and to contribute to the Union Minister.

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In 2001, Lifetime Achievement for National Literary Award for individual was added which is the highest National Literary Award in Myanmar. So, there are 15 National Literary Awards in total. The National Literary Award Committee of the Ministry of Information called the first meeting on prize awarding on 23 May 2011 during which decision was made to award the best English literature award out of the publishing books in English version. So, there will be 16 National Literary Awards. Cash award for National Literary Award was increased from K 0.3 to 0.5 million and Lifetime Achievement for National Literary Award from K 0.6 to 0.8 million.

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Soe Win of Kyauktada Constituency raising question. **MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency making question. **MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Daw Nan Wah Nu of Kunhein Constituency raising question. **MNA**

U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency asked whether there will be the plan to wail siren from Myanmar Radio on Martyrs' Day at the time of today's multiparty democracy government. In response, under the rule of parliamentary democracy and Myanmar Socialist Programme Party, there was a programme of siren wailing from Myanmar Radio on Martyrs' Day as a sign of paying tribute. At that time, there were very less use of autos, motorbikes and bicycles all over the country including Yangon and Mandalay, especially the use of motorbikes. At that time, there was not a single problem to halt vehicles just as siren from Myanmar Radio came into air because of lesser use of vehicles. But, nowadays, the use of autos, motorbikes and bicycles is on the rise extremely across the country including Yangon and Mandalay, especially the use of motorbikes. So, all moving vehicles to stop its engines all of a sudden as soon as siren from Myanmar Radio came to air lead to unnecessary problem.

Although Myanmar Radio does not air siren wailing, Martyrs' Day occasion was observed on a grand scale at Mausoleum in Yangon. Measures are taken for officials concerned, organizations, political parties, families of the martyrs and the people to attend the occasion to pay tribute to the martyrs. In addition, the State Flag is hoisted at half mast. In consequence, the people in remembrance of gratitude of the martyrs can show respects to them. Measures are being taken to enable the entire people inclusive of youths to become aware of danger of colonialism including British colonialists and to infuse them with sacrifices. So, there is no plan to reprocess siren wailing programme from Myanmar Radio.

In response to the question raised by Daw Nan Wah Nu of Kunhein Constituency about **national reconciliation, domestic peace and talks between new government and armed groups,** committees for making and observing peace have been formed in Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw. The government is also taking steps issuing notification. Answers to those questions will be given next days as they are under coordination.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko replied to four questions raised by four Hluttaw representatives about executive power.

Daw Su Su Hlaing of Dagon Myothit (South) Constituency raised a question that there are beggars in cities including Yangon. Such behaviour undermines their character and tarnishes the image of cities. She asked whether there is plan to take approach to disappearance of such behaviour or not. In response to the question, the Union Minister said related development affairs committees are taking measures to obliterate such behaviour in Yangon and Manalay. The related administrative bodies in other towns are making plans to do so. The Committee for Elimination of the Homeless and Street Orphans was reformed in Yangon on 6 June 2011 to send those children to related training schools in order to take care of them.

The Social Welfare Department and administrative bodies concerned are taking measures to take care of disabled persons and to take action against beggars. In order to eliminate beggary, Social Welfare Department together with related administrative bodies and UNICEF is taking steps for opening humanitarian centres and training schools, finding jobs and lecturing professional works.

U Soe Win of Kyauktada Constituency raised question that today, although gambling is clear in wards, brothels, nightclubs, KTVs, Karaoke lounges and massage rooms, beauty parlours disguising licensed air-con guesthouses, are still in there. He asked whether there is plan to take serious action against such businesses. The Union Minister replied to the question that as prostitution business is not allowed to be run, it is taking action seriously against them through prostitute suppressing law. The businessmen apply for license from development affairs committee to run music club, bar, KTV, restaurant and café so as to cover the launch of nightclubs which are not legally allowed. There is no permit to run massage rooms and no particular prescribed laws. So, actions are taken against them through regional restriction order.

According to requirements of changing urban lifestyle and relaxation, departments concerned prescribing rules and regulations have given permission to launch air-con guesthouse, hostel, KTV, Karaka lounge and beauty parlour without opposing Myanmar culture. In that case, seeking their self-interests, some businessmen make money violating prescribing rules and regulations. Myanmar Police Force has been taking action against those who violate rules and regulations in accord with existing laws.

In response to the question raised by U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency regarding the assignment of village administrators who are not "person whose integrity is respected by the community" as prescribed in Section 289 of the Constitution and why these persons were assigned, the Union minister answered that, in assigning village administrators, persons whose integrity is respected by the community are first selected and then the district administrator assigned them to the post within his administrative power in agreement with respective Region or State governments; they are judged under the qualifications excerpted from State Law and Order Restoration Council's 1988 Orders and Directives Collection Book and SLORC's duty and undertaking system book.

Those qualifications are that they must be persons whose integrity is respected by the community, who are not included in any political force, who exploited every successive government to their own advantages, who did mischievous deeds in all times in favor of family and relatives, who are opportunists approaching township organizations, who are not participated previous uprisings and encourage in any way, who have no forthright view on and do not oppose authority and Tatmadaw, who are with no connection with criminal cases and are respected by civilian and

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***Pyithu Hluttaw representatives on arrival at Hluttaw Hall.*—MNA**

Second regular session…

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U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Kayin State Constituency No. 5 said that **Papun Airport was a facility where Dakota aircraft could land on at any time. As aircraft does not land on it at present, the local people face much difficulty. He asked whether passenger aircraft or helicopter will land on the airport.** The Union Minister replied that Myanma Airways managed landing of Twin Otter aircrafts on Papun Airport in the past. The runway of airport is just over 4000 feet long and it is of gravel mixed soil facility. At present, some sections of runway surface were damaged due to lack of maintenance and impacts of weather. Now, there is no plan for flights to Papun Airport due to difficulties for aircraft to land on and take off, lack of safety for flights and limits of economic term and security. In the future, small aircrafts that can land on the short runways of border regions like Papun for transportation.

With regard to the question asked by U Aung Nyein of Magway Region Constituency No. 2 that in the past, **vessels owned by Inland Water Transport docked at the port of Yenangyoung. As of 1994, the vessel did not dock at the port. He asked if arrangements would be made for docking of vessel at Yenangyoung Port.** The Union Minister replied that vessels of IWT of Mandalay-Pyay route anchored at jetty in Sanaynan Ward of Yenangyoung twice a week in the past. The vessels docked at Nyaunghla Jetty in Nyaunghla Ward, south of Yanangyoung from June to September as of 1994 due to condition of high level water course and at Yayle Island of Thahtaygon, nine miles from Yenangyoung due to lower water level. The conservation of water course in Ayeyawady River is being undertaken with the master plan for enabling vessels to dock port towns along the river.

Representative of Amyotha Hluttaw U Myint Tun of Bago Region Constituency No. 10.

MNA

U Myint Tun of Bago Region Constituency No. 10 asked **whether there is a plan for maintenance of Letpadan-Tharawaw railroad section because of derailing of trains for many times.** Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min replied that derailment of trains on Letpadan-Tharawaw section was due to decay of sleepers and loss of gravels. The 23.5 miles long section was constructed with 51136 sleepers. Last year, 3085 concrete sleepers and 4858 wooden sleepers totalling 7943 were substituted with new ones for the first phase. This financial year, 17276 concrete sleepers were sent there for substitution. The railroad section will be improved within four months by filling gravels, repairing the curves and maintaining along the railroad.

Next, Dr Khin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No. 9 participated in the discussion in support of the address delivered by the President on the first day of the second regular session of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw with excerpts.

Representative of Amyotha Hluttaw Daw Yi Yi Myint of Mon State Constituency No. 10.

MNA

Dr Tin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No. 6, U Zone Hlal Htan of Chin State Constituency No. 2 and U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency No. 3 discussed the proposal tabled yesterday by Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No. 8 on **calling for the Union government to uplift standards of doctorate degrees conferred by universities to meet the Southeast Asian standard for the first phase and to meet the world level for the second phase.** Then, the Hluttaw approved it.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung.

MNA

U Kyaw Kyaw of Rakhine State Constituency No 2, U Saw Taw Pale of Kayin State Constituency No, 7 and U Tin Maung Myint of Taninthayi Region Constituency No 3 held discussions on the proposal tabled by U Win Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency No 2 **calling on the Union government to provide lectures on Myanmar language not only to first year students but also to second year students at the universities, degree colleges and colleges where arts and science subjects are taught**. Next, the Hluttaw approved it.

Dr. Soe Tun of Mandalay Region Constituency No.1 discussed the proposal submitted by Bago Region Constituency No. 9 that "calling on the Union Government to increase investment in the health sector for economic development." Next the Hluttaw approved it.

Dr Khin Maung Lay of Bago Region Constituency (8) and U Steven Thabeik of Chin State Constituency (4) discussed proposal submitted by Dr Mya Oo of Bago Region Constituency (9) that **"Union government should invest more in the health sector for national economic development and promotion of healthcare services for poverty alleviation and economic development".** The Hluttaw announced the approval of the proposal.

U Shu Maung of Shan State Constituency (8) submitted proposal that **"Union government should consider amending Hotels and Tourism Law for**

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military retirees and village elders, who have personal morality; and except the ward/village-tract clerk, other active staff are not to be assigned as members who are not to be criminals, serving penalties, doing bad deeds and not respected by the community.

The Section 289 of the Constitution prescribes that administration of ward or village-tract shall be assigned in accord with the law to a person whose integrity is respected by the community; and the bill which will be accorded with the provision is on the way to be approved at the Hluttaw, the Union minister explained.

Regarding the question raised by U Myint Soe of Pyawbwe Constituency **whether the district administrators will be vested the power again as the issuing grant for public housings is being suspended,** the Union minister replied that, in accord with the Section 37, Sub-section (a) of the Constitution which prescribes that the Union is the ultimate owner of all lands, all natural resources above and below the ground, above and beneath the water and in the atmosphere in the Union, respective ministries are vested the duties and powers for management of State-owned land resources including town and village lands, farms, unused lands, vacant lands, and virgin lands; and the amendment of rules and regulations is being drafted to satisfy the modern requirements.

In accordance with provisions in 1876 Land and Tax Regulation, 1889 Upper Myanmar Land and Tax Rules and Regulations, 1898 Lower Myanmar Town and Village Lands Law, and 1907 Lower Myanmar Town and Village Lands Regulation, land rental grants are issued for 1-acre land by the recommendation of district administrator, for 1-5-acre land through recommendation of Region and State administrator by Region or State government, and over-5-acre land through recommendation of the Director-General of General Administrator Department by the Ministry of Home Affairs Management Committee Meeting. If there is any argument arose, the grant is issued after being passed by respective Region or State government, General Department (Headquarters) and the Union Minister for Home Affairs regardless of the acreage of land.

Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin made clarification regarding **the proposal submitted by U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency about "revoking The Contempt of Courts Act, Act XII, 1926".**

The Hluttaw decided that the proposal was not approved as no-votes outnumbered than others when the approval was put to the vote.

U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency submitted proposals **"the Hluttaw requests the President to continue issuing General Amnesty Orders" and "providing necessary arrangements for submitting bill of Prisons Act which is agreeable to 21 century and guarantee human dignity"** today.

As the Hluttaw decided to discuss the proposals on 29 August (Monday) and the representatives who want to participate in discussions were to enlist on 26 August evening.

The fourth-day second regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw was concluded at 2 pm and the session continues for fifth day at 10 am on 26 August (Friday).

MNA

Second regular session…

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tourism development"; Daw Yi Yi Myint of Mon State Constituency (1), "Union government should consider amending laws managed by the Ministry of Commerce listed (a) Myanmar Trademark Law, (b) Agricultural Product Markets Act, (c) 1947 Staple Products and Undertakings Act, and (d) Basket Standard Measure Act"; U Khat Htein Nan of Kachin State Constituency (1), "Union government should manage for sustainable exploration of jades and gems in Phakant Township in Kachin State". As each representative agreed, the Hluttaw approved the proposals to discuss.

Daw Yi Yi Myint of Mon State Constituency (1) proposed that Union government should amend laws managed by the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs listed (a) The Myanmar Telegraph Act (1885), (b) The Myanmar Post Office Act (1898), and (c) The Myanmar Wireless Telegraphy Act (1933)".

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives arrive to attend fourth-day second regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw.

MNA

Regarding the proposal, Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun the Communication Law (draft) was compiled and sent to the Union Attorney-General's Office for comments to satisfy the needs of modern age, revoking The Myanmar Telegraph Act-1885 and The Myanmar Wireless Telegraphy Act-1934; the legislation will be completed in conformity with the rules and regulations; and Post Office Act (draft) was also sent to the Union Attorney-General's Office for comments, amending The Myanmar Post Office Act-1898 in order to be updated.

The proposal was approved by the Hluttaw to discuss.

Member of Union Election Commission U Myint Naing submitted Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law Amendment Bill and Region or State Hluttaw Election Law Amendment Bill to Amyotha Hluttaw for discussion. The Hluttaw approved to discuss the bills.

The fourth-day second regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw concluded at 3.25 pm and the session continues for fifth day at 10 am on 26 August (Friday).

At today's session, respective Union ministers answered five questions raised by Hluttaw representatives; four proposals submitted yesterday were approved; and four new proposals and two bills were submitted.

MNA

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He welcomed the address delivered by the President that priority is being given to rights of citizen and economic and social sectors in the future tasks of the State, and it was the main responsibility for human rights, he said. As the UN Country Team opens its country-based offices for resettlement of the people, he asked how can provide humanitarian aid to them through international level experts. Moreover, he asked how will provide resettlement for the local people who lost their farmlands included in the areas of infrastructure construction projects of the State and give compensation for them. He said that international experts would like to cooperate with Myanmar in necessary sectors (for example, resettlement, health, education, etc.), and he asked he want to know the opinion on such matter.

With regard to the discussions, the Union Minister said that the government has been solving the problems of the people who lost property and rights as much as possible. He replied that regarding the losses of farmlands, the local authorities supervised provision on resettlement and compensation for those who lost farmlands. With respect to assistance of the international experts, the Union Minister said that at present, the government has some cooperation for the tasks. He added that the government had placed emphasis on development of the State in the past, and at present, priority is being given to the public interest. The Union Minister pointed out the progress of the nation. He noted that as the government is focusing more on its activity leading to serving the public interest, Mr Quintana would see greater progress on his next trip to Myanmar. If Mr Quintana recognized the Myanmar politics that reaches turning point, it is sure that the results with positive attitude would emerge for the Myanmar people, he said. He noted that matters related to inmates, ideological diversities from abroad and refugees were only corollaries, these problems could be solved easily soon.

In meeting with Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, Mr Quintana said that he would like to cooperate with Myanmar as it has opened the new chapter. He asked that he would like to know progress of amending and reviewing the laws he suggested, how can give relaxation to violence of human rights under the rule of law and whether the human rights commission will be established in line with the Paris Principle. He recognized the greater endeavours of Myanmar on UPR Process, and the Human Rights Council and he would encourage it continuously. Moreover, he said that the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees based in Bangkok and Geneva was ready to provide assistance for Myanmar.

The Union Attorney-General explained that President U Thein Sein had given guidance to annulment, amendment and substitution for the laws that are not in conformity with the constitution. Regarding that, he noted that the office of the Union Attorney-General collected the remarks from ministries after holding discussions. After completion in the executive sector, such laws would be submitted to the legislative sector, he said. At present, it is important that the international community was to recognize the political will of Myanmar and its law and practice. With regard to protection of human rights, he said that the constitution comprised the method to issue the writ. The ministries focused on broadening horizon of the people as it is a new legal mechanism, he said. He added that he had described complaint mechanism in details included in the UPR National Report of Myanmar submitted to the 65th UN General Assembly. He pointed out that the government is carrying out its tasks in line with the law with the motto that no man is above the law. Myanmar considered setting up the Human Rights Commission in accord with Paris Principle, he said. Myanmar accepted 54.2% of 190 UPR suggestions, he added. The global community recognized Myanmar for its acceptance on the largest amount of accepting UPR, he said. He explained that any democratic nation did not accept undisciplined demonstrations, looting, disturbances, breach of law and unlawful activities, so the nation would be built as a democratic nation under law.

Vice-Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win, in meeting with Mr Quintana, replied that MPF held workshops and provided multiplier courses with the assistance of international communities for enabling the MPF members to abide by human rights standards. Lectures on human rights were given to the trainees at police training depots. Moreover, he said that the UN Convention on Human Rights and the book on code of conduct for task forces and manuals for children investigation were published.

Later, the Vice-Chief MPF and Mr Quintana exchanged views on purpose of workshop on human rights, lectures of foreign human rights experts and retired police officers, establishment of Child Friendly Interview Rooms, anti-human trafficking, taking action against crime offenders, procedures in manuals on combating riots and its tasks, and chance for peaceful demonstration. Mr Quintana said that he recognized achievement of MPF in anti-human trafficking and suggested to maintain such achievement. He noted that it is necessary to practise rule of law in line with existing laws, rules and regulations in building new democratic nation.

MNA

Quintana meets diplomats before wrapping up Myanmar visit

YANGON, 25 Aug — Human Rights Special Rapporteur Mr Thomas Ojea Quintana and party met with ambassadors and diplomats from foreign missions here at UN Resident Representative's Office on Natmauk Road in Tamway Township at 4 pm and with departmental officials of ministries in Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Hotel at 5 pm today.

After holding press conference with member reporters of foreign correspondents' club, and editorial staff and journalists of periodicals in Yangon, Mr Quintana and party left here in the evening.—*MNA*

Li Changchun (6th L, front), a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, poses with performers of the opera "Red River Valley" created by China Opera and Dance Drama Theater in Beijing, capital of China, on 24 Aug, 2011.—XINHUA

Chinese tourists to Malaysia for January-July up 57%

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 Aug—The number of Chinese tourists that came to Malaysia for the first seven months of the year soared 57 percent year on year, largely thanks to the simplified online visa scheme introduced in April, the Immigrations Department said.

Chinese tourist arrivals from January to July increased to 833, 008, from 529,554 in the same period last year.

Immigration Department Director General, Alias Ahmad told local Nanyang daily the improved online visa scheme enforced in Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Kunming contributed to the rising figure as it conveniently shortened application process for Chinese tourists — from three days previously to one day.

The scheme, also extended to India, allows tourists to apply visas online through agents registered with the Malaysian Immigration department.

The scheme was introduced after Malaysia revoked the visa-on- arrival facility that allowed tourists to apply for visas upon arrival for both countries.

Alias said the new scheme helped hike the number of visa applications, which surged significantly between 40 and 60 percent on average every month, he told local daily *Nanyang.*

Xinhua

Venezuela's Chavez to travel to Cuba for new round of chemotherapy

CARACAS, 25 Aug—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Wednesday that he would travel to Cuba next week for a third round of chemotherapy as part of efforts to treat his cancer. "Next week I may be going to Cuba for another round of chemotherapy," he told the local press in Caracas, giving no further details of his upcoming visit.

Chavez said he now feels "really fit" and that the purpose of his upcoming visit is strictly "preventative." "All this is preventative and I am fit. Here I can spend three, four hours standing to respond to whatever questions you want to ask," Chavez said.

The 57-year-old Venezuelan leader spent most of June in Cuba where he underwent his first surgery on 10 June during which doctors removed a pelvic abscess. The operation was followed by a second round of surgery on 20 June in which an unspecified cancerous tumour was removed.

Chavez has so far not provided any information about what type of cancer he is receiving treatment for, but he was given chemotherapy treatments in two separate visits to Cuba in July and August. After returning to Venezuela on 4 July, Chavez resumed his duties as head of state, but now he still needs strict medical treatment.—*Xinhua*

A staff member works at shelves where bags of refined white sugar are placed in Xinjiang County of Yuncheng City, north China's Shanxi Province, on 24 Aug, 2011. China's price of refined white sugar rose recently. The price on 24 Aug, 2011 rose by 3.0 percent comparing with that of on 28 July, 2011, according to statistics released by price monitoring system of Xinhua News Agency.

XINHUA

Casey Anthony reports for probation in Florida

ORLANDO, 25 Aug—Casey Anthony, the young Orlando mother acquitted of killing her toddler daughter, reported for probation on Wednesday in Florida in a check fraud case, the Department of Corrections said.

Anthony, 25, voted the most hated American in a celebrity poll after a jury found her not guilty in July of the 2008 death of her 2-year-old daughter Caylee, dropped from public view following her release from jail. Her lawyers confirmed she had moved out of state. But earlier this month, a judge ordered Anthony to return to Florida to report for a year of probation for a different crime — check fraud charges she admitted to in 2010.

"Casey Anthony reported to probation in Florida on Wednesday evening," the Florida Department of Corrections said in a statement. Another statement would be released on Thursday, it said. Confusion has swirled around that case. Earlier this week, Anthony's lawyer told Fox News his client was back in Florida in a safe location. The original judge in the check fraud case told Anthony she must serve her probation after her release from jail. —*Reuters*

Casey Anthony leaves the Orange County Jail in Orlando, Florida on 17 July, 2011.

INTERNET

51% of HIV-affected households in Cambodia live in hunger: UNDP

PHNOM PENH, 25 Aug—Some 51 percent of the HIV/AIDS- infected households in Cambodia are living in hunger, said a new UN survey released here on Thursday, calling for more attention to the need for HIV-sensitive social protection mechanisms.

The survey on the Socioeconomic Impact of HIV at the Household Level in Cambodia is the largest and most comprehensive study ever conducted in Cambodia. It was produced by the National AIDS Authority and the United Nations in Cambodia. It had been conducted on 4,172 households including 2,623 HIV- affected households and 1,549 non-affected households. The study found that 51 percent of HIV-affected households reportedly suffered from hunger and not having enough food to eat, compared to 35 percent of non-affected households.

It said that stigma and discrimination happened more often on HIV-positive women than men. Some 23 percent of women reported experiencing verbal abuse as a result of their HIV status, compared with 16 percent of men, while seven percent reported experiencing physical threats or abuse as a result of their status, compared with four percent of men. The report also found that 65 percent of people living with HIV epidemic being low self-esteem, 49 percent feeling ashamed of their status, while 47 percent felt they should be punished, and 16 percent reported having suicidal thoughts. On the economic side, 27 percent of respondents said they lost their jobs or other source of income since being diagnosed with HIV, and it also decreased income for caregivers.

Xinhua

A pedestrian walks past the Bank of China Hong Kong (Holdings) Limited headquarters in Hong Kong, south China, on 24 Aug, 2011. Bank of China Hong Kong (Holdings) Limited announced Wednesday that its net profit jumped 66.8 percent year on year to 11.993 billion Hong Kong dollars in the first half of 2011.

XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (11016)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (11016) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.8.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S T.S LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANG SAO TONG VOY NO (140)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG SAO TONG VOY NO (140) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.8.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV COMATCE STAR VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV COMATCE STAR VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.8.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: GREEN S &A CO LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Exxon Mobil Corporation, of 5959 Las Colinas Boulevard, Irving, Texas 75039-2298, U.S.A., is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

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in respect of "lubricating oils and greases".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for **Exxon Mobil Corporation**
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 26 August 2011

China may allow FDI in RMB in Sept

BEIJING, 25 Aug—China's Ministry of Commerce said Wednesday it will try to formally green light foreign direct investment (FDI) in the Chinese currency renminbi (RMB), or the yuan, in September.

"The ministry has released a draft regulation on cross-border direct investment in RMB and we'll try to put it into effect in September," ministry spokesman Shen Danyang told a press conference here.

The ministry posted the draft on its website on Monday night to solicit public feedback until 31 Aug. If implemented, the rules will expand channels for overseas-acquired RMB funds to flow back into the country.

The move is expected to give a push to the RMB's internationaliza-tion drive. Currently, the Chinese currency can not flow into and out of the country freely under capital accounts, which is viewed as an obstacle for internationalizing the yuan.

Foreign investors will be able to make direct investments in China with RMB legally obtained overseas, according to the ministry's draft.

The draft states that FDI in RMB are prohibited in negotiable securities and financial derivatives. Foreign investors can not use overseas-obtained yuan to provide entrusted loans or to repay domestic or overseas loans. Shen said the new policy will not have a significant impact on the amount of China's foreign exchange reserves.

More FDI in the yuan instead of foreign currencies may lead to smaller increments of foreign exchange reserves, but the permission of FDI in RMB may spur demand for the yuan and bring in more foreign exchanges, he said. The ministry's move follows last week's remarks by Vice Premier Li Keqiang that support will be given to Hong Kong enterprises making direct investments on the mainland in RMB.

Xinhua

Spokesman of China's Ministry of Commerce Shen Danyang briefs the media during a Press conference in Beijing, capital of China, on 24 Aug, 2011.—XINHUA

Indonesia obliges airlines to compensate passengers for delays

JAKARTA, 25 Aug—A senior official said on Thursday that Indonesian government has signed a new ministerial decree that will force airlines to pay passengers 300,000 rupiah (about 35 US dollars) if their flights are delayed by more than four hours.

Herry Bhakti Gumay, director general of aviation transportation at the transportation ministry said that the Transportation Ministry has signed Ministerial Decree No 77/ 2011,that covers insurance for flight delays, lost or damaged, checked in baggage and insurance for passengers injured or killed in a crash. The decree was signed on Aug. 8.

Herry pointed out that the recently-signed decree was different from the one issued by the ministry registered as decree No 25/ 2008, which only required airlines to provide snacks, complete meals and accommodation for certain delays.

Herry said that the new decree obligated airlines companies to pay compensation at 300,000 rupiah (about 35 US dollars) if their flights are delayed for more than four hours or cancelled. The new decree also obliges airlines to pay compensation at 200, 000 rupiah for lost baggage. That amount of compensation was for every kilogram of lost baggage. The lost baggage claim is limited up to 4 million rupiah (about 466 US dollars). The decree also obliges airline companies to pay compensation up to 1.25 billion rupiah (about 145,800 US dollars) for the families of deceased passengers in case of plane crash.

He said that the new decree will be implemented within, at least, three months to come.—*Xinhua*

US encourages bundling Medicare payments

WASHINGTON, 25 Aug—The US agency that runs government health insurance is launching a programme that would bundle insurance payments for multiple procedures in the hope of improving patient care while also saving money.

Dr Millie Marie Tolentino (R) examines patient Dora Leon at Clinica Sierra Vista's Central Bakersfield Community Health center in Bakersfield, California 20 Oct, 2009.—INTERNET

The Centres for Medicare and Medicaid invited providers on Tuesday to help develop four models to bundle payments.

The programme is meant to encourage hospitals, doctors and other specialists to coordinate in treating a patient's specific condition during a single hospital stay and recovery.

"Today Medicare pays for care in the wrong way," Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius told reporters on a Press call."Payments are based on the quantity of care, and not on the quality of that care," she said. "There is little financial incentive for the kind of care coordination that can help patients from returning to the hospital."

The four models give providers flexibility on how they get paid and for which services, as well as give them financial incentives to avoid unnecessary or duplicative procedures.

Internet

This on 26 May, 2011 file photo shows a swan pedal boat on Wesley Lake in Asbury Park, NJ. It's a blast from the past, served with youthful abandon, easy aerobics and a sprinkle of yoga-like serenity. A new concession offers a modern twist on Asbury Park's century-old tradition: swan boats on Wesley Lake.—INTERNET

Lightning near the Empire State Building in New York, US.

Inmate has banner fly for his day in court

A man jailed in New York City without trial for nearly four years paid a pilot to pull a banner demanding his day in court, officials say.

Vadim Vassilenko, 44, was originally put behind bars in 2007, accused of taking part in an identity theft crime ring, the *New York Daily Post* reported.

On Tuesday, the man, who has yet to have a trial, paid to have a Cessna 172 Skyhawk $1,250 flown over Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn's Brighton Beach areas with a sign that read: "V. VASSILENKO JAILED 5+ YRS — NO TRIAL — IS THIS LEGAL?"

Vassilenko's lawyer, Rick Pasacreta, says the case is more complex, saying his client changed his legal counsel at least four times since his indictment. Pasacreta said the legal process has also been slowed by appeal courts reinstating charge Vassilenko's previous attorney had dropped.

Man proposes to woman through comic strip

A Sacramento man said he proposed to his bride to be through her favorite comic strip because he "wanted to surprise her and make her laugh."

The couple, Cierra Howard and Kevin Timpson, have made it a ritual during the past six months to read comic strips with each other after dinner, *the Sacramento Bee* reported.

Howard's favourite comic, "F Minus" had a special message Monday.

"Cierra, will you marry me? — Kevin," it read.

When Howard looked up from the paper, confused, Timpson was down on one knee, holding a ring.

"I wanted to do it in a way no one I knew had ever proposed," said Timpson. "I wanted to surprise her and make her laugh. She has a really good sense of humor."

Timpson contacted Tony Carrillo, the author of "F-Minus" for help with his proposal.

"No one had ever asked me to do something like this before," Carrillo said.

The strip features a man kneeling on a bench holding a ring out to a woman with a plane toting a banner overhead with the proposal on it.

"I loved how he proposed," Howard said Tuesday. "It's totally him. It's totally us."

News Album

A leopard is seen in Nakuru National Park in Kenya, on 22 Aug, 2011. Leopards are seldom to be seen in Kenya. The number of leopards at the Nakuru National Park has increased due to Kenya Wildlife Service's (KWS) effort.

Men found sleeping in caskets

Police in Tennessee said workers at a funeral home called 911 when they discovered two men sleeping in caskets in a storage area. Investigators said the workers at Weaver's Funeral Home in Bristol discovered the men sleeping at about 10:30 am Tuesday and the suspects fled through a window when they learned officers were on the way, *the Bristol Herald Courier* reported on Wednesday.

Police said they arrested Barrett Lance Hartsock on charges of burglary and vandalism over $1,000. The second man, whose name is believed to be Lars, was last seen in the Cherry Street area, police said. The funeral home said the men caused more than $9,000 in damage to the caskets.

Benjamin Bratt returns to TV in 'Private Practice'

MIAMI, 25 Aug— Actor Benjamin Bratt is returning to television as a regular character in the series "Private Practice" and in a special appearance in the comedy "Modern Family".

Actor Benjamin Bratt

According to the magazine Latina in its online edition Wednesday, Bratt is joining the "Private Practice" cast as Dr Jake Riley, a fertility expert and the new love interest of the star, Dr Addison Montgomery, played by Kate Walsh.

The ABC series begins its new season 29 Sep.

"He's an IVF specialist and he is a fertility doctor extraordinaire. Bing! Why does that mean anything at all? Who wants a baby? I'm the man to give it to her!," the actor said when discussing his character.

Internet

Singer Amy Winehouse'

Amy's dad to honour her with a concert

LONDON, 25 Aug—Singer Amy Winehouse's father Mitch says he will honour his late daughter with a performance and raise money for her foundation. "I was in New York preparing for my US debut at the Blue Note jazz club when I received the devastating news of Amy's passing. I immediately returned to the UK to be with my family, and of course, singing was the furthest thing from my mind," said Mitch.

"Through setting up the foundation in Amy's memory, I have come to realise that I can sing for Amy and raise money for her foundation, so when Matt Goss, former Bros star - called me to ask me to open his show at the Royal Albert Hall this was a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness for the foundation," contactmusic.com quoted him as saying.—*Internet*

I'm married to loneliness

Pop star Lady Gaga

LONDON, 25 Aug— Pop star Lady Gaga feels she will always be on her own as she is "married to loneliness".

Asked whether touring makes her lonely, the 25-year-old singer said: "Yes, but I'm supposed to be, I am an artist. We wallow in loneliness and solitude our whole lives in search of the answer to hundreds and millions of questions that run through my mind." "Yes, I'm lonely. But I'm married to my loneliness," contactmusic.com quoted her as saying. Gaga - real name Stefani Germanotta - says is always prepared to sacrifice love for her music.

"I would choose my work. I would die without it and I could never be reborn. My biggest fear is missing out on a creative idea because of a lack if time," she said.

Internet

Kate Moss scared of fish

LONDON, 25 Aug— Supermodel Kate Moss pulled out of a scuba diving course because she's too scared of fish. The supermodel, who is currently holidaying in the South of France with her husband Jamie Hince and a group of friends, was keen to get her formal qualification in diving while she's there but her fear of fish put an end to that.

Supermodel Kate Moss

"Kate has been snorkelling before and dived a bit. She was keen to get a formal qualification, did some of the classroom-based stuff and was really getting in to it. But then she got convinced she was going to bump into a giant, scary fish - possibly a shark - and began to get nervous," femalefirst.co.uk quoted a friend as saying.

Internet

Reports: Emerton leaves Blackburn for Sydney FC

SYDNEY, 25 Aug— Blackburn Rovers midfielder Brett Emerton has signed with A-League club Sydney FC and is set to leave his Premier League side with a year remaining on his contract, Australian media reported on Thursday.

***This file photo shows, Blackburn's Brett Emerton controls the ball against Fulham during their English Premier League soccer match at Ewood Park, Blackburn, England.—*INTERNET**

The 32-year-old Emerton signed a three-year deal after passing a medical test in Manchester on Tuesday after terminating his Blackburn contract by mutual consent, various media outlets reported.

Neither Blackburn nor Sydney FC have confirmed the move, but in a Twitter post the Australian club said it would soon make "a major announcement regarding an exciting addition to the Sydney FC squad for the 2011/12 season and beyond."

Blackburn manager Steve Kean said after Wednesday's League Cup win over Sheffield Wednesday the prospect of losing Emerton would be "very, very sad."

Internet

Wie to defend title at Canadian Open

MIRABEL, 25 Aug— Michelle Wie will defend her title, while LPGA Tour leader Yani Tseng is the favorite at the Canadian Women's Open. The 22-year-old from Taiwan has dominated with four victories this season, including wins in three of the last six events.

"World No. 1 has been my goal since I was 12," Tseng said Wednesday. "To become No. 1 is very exciting."Tseng tops the LPGA money list with $1.7 million and ranks first in scoring average (69.63), average driving distance (269.3 yards) and top-10 finishes (9 in 14 tournaments).—*Internet*

***Michelle Wie of the US tees off on the 10th hole during the Championship Pro-Am before the Canadian Women's Open in Mirabel, Quebec on 24 Aug.* INTERNET**

***Benfica's Nicolas Gaitan (3rd L) celebrates with team mates after scoring against Trabzonspor during their Champions League third roung qualifying, first leg match at Luz Stadium in Lisbon, on 27 July.—*INTERNET**

Trabzonspor replace Fenerbahce in Champions League

LISBON, 25 Aug—Turkish league winners Fenerbahce were on Wednesday banned from the Champions League due to an ongoing match-fixing probe which has ensnared the Istanbul club.

They will be replaced in the tournament by Trabzonspor, last season's Turkish league runners-up, following a meeting of UEFA's emergency panel.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Turkish football federation announced their sanction on Fenerbahce, just 24 hours before the draw for the group stage of the money-spinning tournament is held.

"Regarding the heavy disciplinary sanctions both Fenerbahce and the Turkish Football Federation (TFF), which means Turkey as a whole, might encounter, it is decided to ban Fenerbahce Sports Club from the UEFA Champions' League this season," the TFF said in a statement posted on its website.

The decision was made after a warning by UEFA that either Fenerbahce should withdraw from the competition or the TFF should ban the club to prevent UEFA starting its own disciplinary investigation, it said.

The TFF then decided to ban Fenerbahce after the club refused to "make an important decision like that in this very short time," it said.

Internet

Germany's Loew aims to book first Euro 2012 berth

BERLIN, 25 Aug— Coach Joachim Loew said Thursday he expects Germany to become the first team to earn their qualification for Euro 2012 by seeing off neighbours Austria next week.

Germany face Austria in Gelsenkirchen on September 2, then Poland in a friendly four days later in Danzig, and Loew will name his squad on Friday.

As hosts, Poland and the Ukraine have qualified automatically for Euro 2012 and the Germans can become the first team to join them, if they beat Austria in Group A.

Real Madrid midfielder Sami Khedira is struggling with a groin injury and is doubtful, but after Germany inflicted an impressive 3-2 defeat on Brazil in a friendly on August 10 in Stuttgart, Loew's team are in buoyant mood.

With seven wins from seven qualification games, the Germans can book their Euro 2012 berth with two games left to play, against Belgium and Turkey, if they earn their eighth straight victory in Gelsenkirchen.—*Internet*

Els goes from top to bottom without losing hope

EDISON, 25 Aug—Ernie Els sure didn't look to be down in the dumps for someone who has tumbled so far in the FedEx Cup.

***Ernie Els, of South Africa, watches his tee shot on the second hole during the final round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, NC.—*INTERNET**

It was only a year ago that the Big Easy was the No 1 seed going into the PGA Tour's version of the postseason. He went to the top of the standings by winning a World Golf Championship in March, and stayed there for the next five months.This year, he wasn't even sure he would make it to The Barclays.

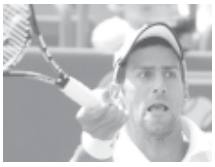
Els was just outside the top 125 — the cutoff to make the FedEx Cup bonanza — and had to play last week in the Wyndham Championship to have any chance of making the playoffs. He tied for 30th and moved up to No. 118.

Internet

SPORTS

Djokovic seeded No. 1 at US Open; Fish top US man

NEW YORK, 25 Aug— Top-ranked Novak Djokovic is seeded No 1 at the US Open for the first time, followed by defending champion Rafael Nadal and five-time winner Roger Federer. The tournament followed the ATP rankings for the men's singles seedings Wednesday. It did the same for the women's seedings, with Serena Williams 28th.



***Novak Djokovic, hits a forehand during the men's final against Andy Murray, at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, on 21 Aug in Mason, Ohio.* INTERNET**

Djokovic is having one of the best seasons in tennis history: 57-2 with nine titles, including at Wimbledon and the Australian Open. He's seeking his first championship at Flushing Meadows, where he was runner-up to Nadal in 2010 and to Federer in 2007.

Internet

Patched up Arsenal book Champions League berth

LONDON, 25 Aug—Arsenal will compete in the Champions League for the 14th consecutive season after their beleaguered side came from behind to record a brave 2-1 win at Udinese on Wednesday.

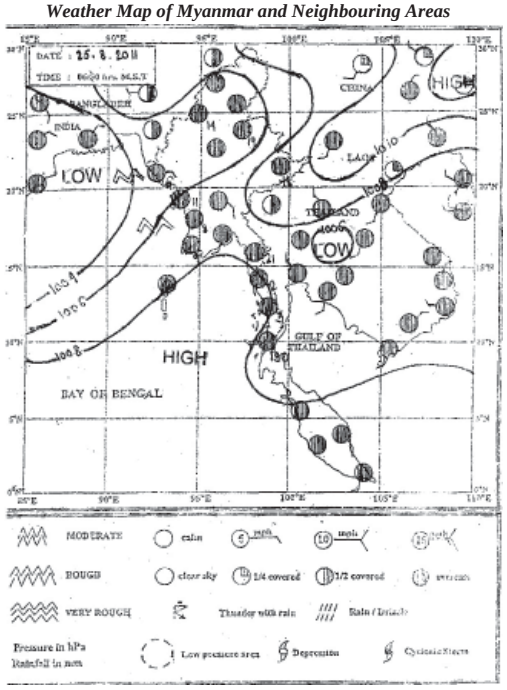
Leading 1-0 from the first leg of the play-off tie, Arsenal were menaced throughout by the threat of an elimination that would have been unthinkable in both sporting and financial terms.

***Arsenal's Robin Van Persie, center, celebrates with teammates after scoring against Udinese during a Champions League qualifying playoff second leg soccer match in Udine, Italy, on 24 Aug, 2011.* INTERNET**

In the 39th minute, Udinese's irrepressible talisman Antonio di Natale guided a header inside the right-hand post that levelled the tie on aggregate and took the Italians to within a goal of the group phase. Arsenal captain Robin van Persie equalised 10 minutes into the second half, but the hosts were handed a chance to re-establish their advantage shortly afterwards when referee Olegario Benquerenca awarded a penalty against Thomas Vermaelen for handball.—*Internet*

***Chinese player Hui Ruoqi (R) shouts during the volleyball World Grand Prix's Pool A against Serbia in Macao, south China, on 24 Aug, 2011. Serbia won 3-2 on Wednesday in the Women's Volleyball World Grand Prix.—*XINHUA**

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 26th August, 2011

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	36/97	26/79	Scattered rain or thundershowers	80%
2	Kayah	30/86	22/72	Scattered rain or thundershowers	80%
3	Kayin	30/86	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers	80%
4	Chin	21/70	14/57	Widespread rain or thundershowers	80%
5	Upper Sagaing	30/86	21/70	Widespread rain or thundershowers	80%
6	Lower Sagaing	36/97	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers	80%
7	Tanintharyi	30/86	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers(IH)	80%
8	Bago	31/88	28/82	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	80%
9	Magway	35/95	26/79	Scattered rain or thundershowers	80%
10	Mandalay	34/93	26/79	Scattered rain or thundershowers	80%
11	Mon	31/88	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	80%
12	Yangon	33/91	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers	80%
13	Rakhine	31/88	23/73	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	80%
14	Southern Shan	24/75	19/66	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	80%
15	Northern Shan	30/86	22/72	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	80%
16	Eastern Shan	25/86	23/73	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	80%
17	Ayeyawady	32/90	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers	80%
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	35/95	24/75	Isolated rain or thundershowers	80%
19	Neighbouring Yangon	33/91	24/75	One or two rain or thundershowers	80%
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	34/93	26/79	One or two rain or thundershowers	80%

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today	During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershower have been isolated in Kachin State, scattered in Mandalay, Magway and Bago Regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Sagaing, Magway and Tanintharyi Regions, Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kawthoung (6.50) inches, Minkin (5.75) inches, Mawlamyine (3.07) inches, chaungzon (2.09) inches, Shwebo (2.01) inches, Mawlaik (1.93) inches, Hpa-an (1.73) inches and Gangaw (1.65) inches.
Bay Inference	Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
State of the Sea	Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for subsequent two days	Moderate monsoon.

Chinese ministry raises funding to boost grain security

BEIJING, 25 Aug—The Chinese Ministry of Finance (MOF) said Thursday that it has added 4.4 billion yuan (688 million US dollars) in subsidies to the Grain Risk Fund to boost the country's grain security.

With the additional subsidies, the capital of the Grain Risk Fund has reached 38.2 billion yuan, including 27.7 billion yuan, or 72.5 percent, earmarked for the 13 major grain-producing regions. All of the money for the 13 regions has been appropriated by the central government.

The MOF said it believes the funding will ensure necessary spending by local governments to subsidize grain production and the establishment of cereal and cooking oil reserves. "The funding will increase local governments' abilities to encourage farmers to grow more, stabilizing the market and guaranteeing the grain and oil supplies," said MOF.

Established in 1994, the Grain Risk Fund is used to hand direct subsidies to grain growers as well as general subsidies for purchasing agricultural supplies and machinery.

Last year, China's grain output increased 2.9 percent year-on-year to 546.41 million metric tons. But the country's summer grain output fell 0.3 percent year-on-year to 123.1 million metric tons.

Meanwhile, this year, China's summer grain output rose 2.5 percent year-on-year to 126.27 million metric tons due to expanded harvesting areas and higher yields, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

Xinhua

A car drives past a pile of wrecked vehicles, destroyed by the 11th March earthquake and tsunami, at a devastated area in Rikuzentakata, north of Japan, 14 August 2011.—INTERNET

Friday, 26 August View on today

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning News

7:40 am
4. Dhamma Puja Song

7:50 am
5. Nice & Sweet Song

8:00 am
6. Health Programme

8:10 am
7. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

8:15 am
8. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies

8:30 am
9. Selected Songs for 18th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions (2011) (Oldies & Mono Classical) (Amateur (First) Division) (Level Women)

8:40 am
10. International News

8:45 am
11. Musical Programme

4:00 pm
1. Martial Song

4:10 pm
2. Musical Programme

4:20 pm
3. Songs Of National Races

4:30 pm
4. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Year (English)

4:45 pm
5. Songs for Upholding National Spirit

4:50 pm
6. Myanmar Language

5:05 pm
7. Songs of Yester Years

5:15 pm
8. Documentary

5:25 pm
9. Selected Songs for 18th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions (2011) (Oldies & Mono Classical) (Amateur (First) Division) (Level Women)

5:35 pm
10. Yoetha Phyu Sin Kalaydoeathwin

6:00 pm
11. Evening News

6:15 pm
12. Weather Report

6:20 pm
13. Internet Garden

7:10 pm
14. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
15. News
16. International News
17. Weather Report
18. Just For Laughs
19. Teleplay
20. Song Lover

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
Programme Schedule
(26-8-2011) (Friday)

Transmissions		Times
Local	-	**(09:00am ~ 11:00am)MST**
Overseas Transmission	-	**(26-8-11 09:30 am ~ 27-8-11 09:30 am) MST**

Local Transmission
* Opening
* News
* "River Ayeyawady... Demarcated Cannot Be" (Part-2) Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku)
* News
* Music Gallery
* News
* Made in Myanmar Fair
* News
* Sapphire Sea... Emerald Trees...and Adventurous Journey

Overseas Transmission
* Opening
* News
* "River Ayeyawady... Demarcated Cannot Be" (Part-2) Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku)
* News
* Music Gallery
* News
* Myanma Fashion Show of Successive Eras
* Made in Myanmar Fair
* News
* Sapphire Sea... Emerald Trees...and Adventurous Journey
* News
* City Light & Country Lamp
* News
* Top Historic Sites in Mandalay
* News
* Culture Stage
* News
* VCD Centre
* Beauties of Makyee Island
* Myanmar Movies "My Teacher"

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Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services receives Indian naval chief

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Nirmal Verma, PVSM, AVSM, ADC of the Republic of India at Zeyathiri Beikman here this afternoon.

Present at the call together with Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win, Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief Office and the military attaché at Myanmar Embassy in India.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Nirmal Verma, PVSM, AVSM, ADC of the Republic of India and party were accompanied by the Defence Attaché of Indian Embassy in Myanmar Col Rajesh Kumar.—*MNA*

***Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Nirmal Verma, PVSM, AVSM, ADC of Republic of India.*—MNA**

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) welcomes goodwill delegation led by Indian naval chief

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Nirmal Verma, PVSM, AVSM, ADC of Republic of India inspect Guard of Honour.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug — A ceremony to welcome delegation led by Chief of Naval Staff of India Admiral Nirmal Verma, PVSM, AVSM, ADC by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun was held in front of Zeyathiri Beikman here this morning.

To attend the ceremony, the Indian naval chief proceeded to Zeyathiri Beikman from Nay Pyi Taw Airport by car and received warm welcome extended by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun.

The Indian naval chief took position on dais and took salute by the Guard of Honour.

He then inspected the Guard of Honour.

The Indian chief of naval staff presented his entourage to the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) who then introduced senior military officers at the ceremony back to him.

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun received the delegation led by Indian naval chief at Zeyathiri Beikman.

Present at the call together with the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) were Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear-Admiral Thura Thet Swe and senior military officers; and together with the delegation was the Defence Attaché at Indian Embassy in Myanmar Col Rajesh Kumar.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and wife hosted a dinner to the delegation led by the Indian Chief of Naval Staff and wife at Hotel Aureum, here, this evening.

MNA

Human Rights Special Rapporteur Mr Thomas Ojea Quintana calls on Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo.

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Afghan leader meets would-be child suicide bombers

PAGE 3

Gold dealer Stan Morton holds a block of gold valued at $63,000 in Los Angeles, California 23 August, 2011

Gold loses more shine after CME margin hike

PAGE 4

Patched up Arsenal book Champions League berth

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