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Our Three Main National Causes * Non-disintegration of the Union * Non-disintegration of National Solidarity * Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Fourth regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw continues for third day

Eight questions answered, one proposal discussed and one proposal submitted

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—Fourth regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw continued for the third day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here this morning, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 414 representatives.

At the meeting, eight questions were raised and answered, one proposal discussed and one proposal submitted. At the question-and–answer session, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi replied the questions on fire brigades.

With respect to the question raised by U Myint Soe of Pyawbwe Constituency on **"there is any plan to build a new fire station for Ward No.4 of Pyawbwe Township, Textile Factory and Cotton ginning factory of Ministry of Industry**", the Union Minister replied: In summer, duties will be assigned to township fire brigade members with one fire engine for fire safety measure at the suitable place in accord with the wishes of people. In addition, preliminary basic fire services course will be conducted for fire safety measures of Textile Factory and Cotton ginning factory. At present, there is no plan to open a new fire station in Pyawbwe Township.

Regarding the question raised by U Sai Tun Sein of Mongping Constituency on **"there is any plan to appoint members of Fire Services Department for natural disaster preparedness in Mongping Township"**, the Union Minister answered: Establishment of unit-2 level fire station in Mongping Sub-township has been allowed. At present, two members and one fire engine have been assigned there. It will be provided with members and one fire engine. Likewise, Plans are under way to provide at least two fire engines in townships in which there is no fire engine and in which there is one only during this financial year.

With respect to the question of U Win Myint of Pyay Constituency on **"there is any plan to reconstruct broken Wetmyaetaw Dam",** Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw replied: Wetmyaetaw Dam broke due to heavy rain and floods caused by the climate change. There will be no long-term durability if the broken dam is reconstructed at its original site. So, it needs to build diversion weir, based on water from the spillway of North Na Win dam. Drawing design, calculation of estimated costs will be carried out based on facts gained from a survey on ground exploration, hydrology and geology. Then, it will be submitted to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw with the approval of Union Government, and implemented after getting approval. Regarding the question of U Than Win of Taungdwingyi Constituency on **"there is any plan to build a diversion weir by damming Set Set Yo watercourse"**, the Deputy Minister replied: To protect Taungdwingyi from floods, it needs to build Set Set Yo diversion weir. Necessary survey and calculation of estimated costs will be carried out in order that construction of it can start in 2013-2014 fiscal year. The proposal on the diversion weir construction will be submitted to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. It will be implemented when Union Government gives green light and grant funds.

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann attends third day session of Pyithu Hluttaw meeting.—MNA

2012 monsoon tree planting ceremony held in Pobbathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—The 2012 rainy season tree planting ceremony for Nay Pyi Taw Pobbathiri Township was held at No.97 Basic Education Middle School (branch) at 7 am with the participation of Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Than Htay.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Than Htay planted a Khayay sapling and viewed partaking of deputy director from forest department, township administrator, members of social organization and students in growing of the saplings in the compound and along the road.

MNA

President of Xinhua urges world media to make historical choices amid challenges, reshuffles

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Dutch plans to buy F-35 fighter jets in doubt

The F-35 Lightning II, also known as the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), is shown in this March 2010 file photograph.

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FIFA bows to pressure over goal-line technology

ZURICH, 6 July—Football's rule makers and its governing body FIFA bowed to pressure on Thursday when they finally approved the use of goal-line technology and agreed to allow Muslim women players to wear a headscarf.

The first decision followed widespread calls from players, coaches and the media, after a series of embarrassing high profile incidents in which perfectly good goals were disallowed because officials did not see the ball had crossed the line.

The second followed international criticism after Iran's women's team lost their chance of qualifying for the London Olympics because they were not allowed to play a crucial match after refusing to take off their headscarves.

In both cases, FIFA and its rule-making body, the International Football Association Board (IFAB), which unanimously approved the proposals on Thursday, had initially held out in the face of popular opinion.

The debate over goal line technology lasted a decade as FIFA, led by president Sepp Blatter, insisted that human mistakes were part of the worldwide appeal of football. In the case of headscarves, FIFA refused to lift the ban due to safety issues and because they were not included in the rules of the game.

The campaign to allow headscarves, already permitted in other sports such as rugby and taekwondo, was led by FIFA vice-president and executive committee member Prince Ali Bin Al-Hussein of Jordan.

The United Nations had also appealed for the garment to be permitted. "To all women players worldwide, congratulations," Prince Ali said in a statement. "We all look forward to seeing you performing on the field of play. Women's football is on the rise and we are all counting on you. You have our full support."—*Internet*

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PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 7 July, 2012

Cooperative enterprises build a better world

Today the world celebrates the 90th anniversary of International Day of Cooperatives as the theme for 2012 aims to build a better world with the strength of cooperative enterprises, calling for increased awareness on cooperatives.

The world today can be seen with two classes of people—haves and have-nots—due to disasters, climate change, poor health and poverty. While the haves are indulging themselves in the victorious circle of prosperity, the have-nots find no way out from the vicious circle of poverty, increasingly widening the gap between the rich and the poor, calling for prompt and proper actions to bridge the gap. Cooperatives have been the medium of poverty alleviation with credit unions providing small loans and capitals to the poor, creating jobs.

The government in office has attached a greater importance to crucial role of cooperative enterprises in bringing down the poverty rate of the nation, establishing cooperatives at different levels and credit unions offering productive employment opportunities for women, youths, persons with disabilities, and older persons. A considerable number of odd-job workers and hawkers have finally seen the light at the end of tunnel but there is still much to be done if we are looking forward to emergence of the larger portion of middle-class people.

Cooperatives, if well positioned, can drive the local economic performance promoting food security generating more incomes for small agricultural producers. Cooperatives empower their members cultivating a sense of self-help, equality and solidarity among them. Cooperatives are just fit for Myanmar society in which communal activities are much common with reciprocal help and support. Though the government has adopted certain policies for development of cooperative societies and its efforts are evident, the works on the ground must be monitored consistently to make sure that the poor touch the results.

As the entire world is moving toward the green economy, so much has been focused on the productive role of cooperatives because of their comprehensive and pro-social and environmental procedures. Today, a number of foreign countries are offering financial and technical assistance to our country. We would really appreciate it if the donors would assist us in building a better life spurring the development of cooperative enterprises.

Union Foreign Affairs Minister attends World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—The Myanmar Delegation led by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin arrived back by air yesterday evening after attending the World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction on 3 and 4 July in Tohoku, Japan at the invitation of Mr. Koichiro Gemba, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

The afore-mentioned World Conference was attended by the Foreign Ministers and other relevant Ministers and representatives from 14 international organizations.

The Union Minister participated as a Panelist under the Plenary Session on "Building a resilient Society" and presented Myanmar's experiences and performance on disaster prevention and reduction.

At the Conference, the delegates discussed the importance of building resilient societies to disasters and the actions towards the mainstreaming of disaster reduction.

The Conference underscored that the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 has served as a guideline for the international community and an effective plan of action should also be adopted after Post Hyogo Framework. It also welcomed the proposal by Japan to host the third UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015.

While in Tokyo on 2 July, the Union Minister met with Mr. Koichiro Gemba, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and had a frank and cordial exchange of views on further promotion of bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Japan.

The Union Minister also met with Ms. Kristalina GEORGEVIA, European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response and discussed enhancement of cooperation with EU.

The Union Minister was accompanied by officers concerned from the ASEAN Affairs and International Organizations and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MNA

Myanmar permanent representative to UN accredited as Ambassador to US

NAY PYI TAW, 7 July—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Than Swe, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, New York, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United States of America.—*MNA*

Sports Ministry grants scholarships to offspring of its staff

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, Deputy Minister U Aye Myint Kyu, Director-General U Thaung Htaik and deputy directors-general, officers and other ranks held a collective tree-growing ceremony at the ministry here this morning. They planted Seintalone mango trees and shady trees at the ceremony.

Afterwards, the Union Minister addressed the awarding ceremony to the outstanding offspring of the staff of the ministry, the Sports and Physical Education Department in the States and Regions, who won the matriculation examination with flying colours in 2011-2012 academic year.

At the event, the Union Minister and the Director-General presented scholarships to the outstanding students.

The Union Minister awarded one five-distinction winner and one four-distinction winner, and the director-general, students with three distinctions and under.

The Sports Ministry has, in the year 2012, planted 50 teak plants, 50 ironwood plants and 800 shady trees, and kept 3000 heads of chicken, 21000 fingerlings and given a total of K 4284840 to scholars.

MNA

***Myanmar National Sports Committee Chairman Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan awards an outstanding student who passed in 2011-2012 matriculation examination.*—MNA**

Foot-and-mouth disease vaccines free injection given in Sagaing Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July— Staff of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and teachers and final students of the University of Veterinary Science gave free foot-and-mouth vaccines injection to the cattle of Sagaing Township in Sagaing Region. The vaccines were provided by OIE.

They injected some 80000 heads of cattle at the age of one month and above in about 223 villages in Sagaing Township where educative talks on foot-and-mouth disease are often held, signboards are put up and Pamphlets are distributed.—*MNA*

Dr Jonathan Chang, M.D & Veronica Chang (USA) and family donate two Pulseoximeters and two Defibrillators for Myanmar Medical Association through Chairman of MMA Professor Dr U Kyaw Myint Naing.

NLM

President of Xinhua urges world media to make historical choices amid challenges, reshuffles

MOSCOW, 6 July— Facing severe challenges in the media industry and the fast-changing world as a whole, major international news organizations should make historical choices, President of China's *Xinhua* news agency Li Congjun said here on Friday.

Representatives attend the 2nd World Media Summit in Russian capital Moscow on 5 July, 2012. —XINHUA

Speaking at the second World Media Summit (WMS), Li, as WMS executive president, called on world media colleagues to make "historical choices" amidst changes, competition, integration and reshuffles in the industry that will reshape the future media landscape.

The four choices, as Li elaborated, included promoting peace and common prosperity of the world, serving the public good and fulfilling social responsibilities, implementing restructuring with new technology and upgraded modern communication system, and strengthening collaboration toward a cooperative mechanism.

"The fate of the media is closely connected to that of the world, and the media's development must keep pace with the development of the times, " Li said.

To fulfill their missions and tackle challenges of today's world, news organizations and reporters should provide "accurate, objective, fair and impartial" news to readers, bridge the communication gap between races, cultures and countries, adapt to the application of digital technology and the trend of media integration, and foster cooperation at various levels.

Xinhua

Men walk past a truck carrying supplies for NATO troops in Afghanistan, as it crosses into Afghanistan from the Pakistan border town of Chaman on 5 July, 2012.—INTERNET

Long road ahead in US-Pakistan ties after NATO deal

ISLAMABAD, 6 July— Pakistan and the United States are set to resume broader talks on security cooperation, militant threats, aid and other issues in the wake of an agreement to reopen supply routes into Afghanistan, Pakistan's envoy to Washington said on Thursday. But bridging underlying differences that strained US-Pakistani ties close to the breaking point will be daunting as the allies remain at odds over how to handle the twin threats of the Taleban in Afghanistan and militants in Pakistani tribal areas.

The agreement reached this week prompting Pakistan to reopen NATO supply routes into Afghanistan, clinched when US President Barack Obama's administration ceded to months of Pakistani demands to apologise for the US air attack that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers last November, was a relief for both countries.

"I certainly think it opened the door to many other issues," Ambassador Sherry Rehman told *Reuters* in an interview.

"There's a long road ahead, but both sides can use this opportunity to build a path to durable ties," she added.

After US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton apologised in a phone call to Pakistani Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar, Pakistan permitted trucks carrying NATO supplies to cross into Afghanistan for the first time in more than seven months.

This was a boon for NATO nations that had been paying 2-1/2 times as much to bring supplies in through an alternate route.

While NATO will not pay any new fees for shipping supplies into Afghanistan, Washington will give Pakistan at least $1.2 billion owed it for costs incurred while fighting militants.

A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said no specific commitments were made to increase military or counter-terrorism activities for Pakistan, but there was a 'good faith agreement' to continue talks on those issues.

"A number of other things became stuck with all this," the official said.

"It was never a money haggle or a transactional deal," Rehman said, speaking during a visit to Islamabad where she helped usher in the arrangement ending the months-long deadlock.

Reuters

Training flaws exposed in Rio-Paris crash report

PARIS, 6 July—Pilot error, defective sensors, inadequate training and insufficient oversight combined to send an Air France passenger plane plunging into the south Atlantic in 2009 in the airline's worst disaster, French investigators said on Thursday.

The final report on the Rio-Paris *Airbus A330* crash that killed 228 people went further than expected in castigating the air safety establishment, saying France's flag carrier was subject to less inspection than smaller rivals.

The BEA investigation authority called for improved training of pilots, instructors and inspectors, and better cockpit design among 25 recommendations to prevent a repeat of the catastrophe.

Pilots' trade unions and Air France have been at loggerheads with planemaker Airbus over who or what was to blame for the airline's worst loss.

The report upheld initial findings that the crew of flight AF447 had mishandled their response to the loss of speed readings from faulty sensors that became iced up in turbulent conditions over the south Atlantic on 1 June, 2009.

The doomed aircraft plunged for four minutes in darkness in an aerodynamic stall as its wings gasped for air while pilots failed to react to repeated stall alarms, according to flight recorders recovered two years after the crash.

"This accident results from an airplane being taken out of its normal operating environment by a crew that had not understood the situation," said BEA director Jean-Paul Troadec.

He added, however, that the same situation could have occurred with a different crew on board.

The report also found that the *A330*'s speed sensors, known as pitot tubes and designed by France's Thales, were only upgraded after the disaster, even though there had been previous incidents with the equipment.

It urged a review of aircraft stall warning systems following criticism of the alarm's erratic behaviour when the plane was deep into its 38,000-foot plunge.

Families of crash victims immediately criticized the report as too soft on the aerospace industry, ensuring that a row over responsibility for the accident will linger as Air France and Airbus both face a French manslaughter investigation.

"To deny, as the BEA has done, the extremely significant influence of technical defects is to go into denial about the reality of this accident," said Olivier Morice, a lawyer for families of some of the victims. "The victims' families cannot accept this."

Reuters

View of the desk with an A320 Airbus plane model after a news conference at the BEA headquarters in Le Bourget, northern Paris, on 29 July, 2011.—REUTERS

Mexican vote recount confirms Pena Nieto win

MEXICO CITY, 6 July—A recount on Thursday showed Mexico's Enrique Pena Nieto as the clear winner of Sunday's presidential election, but the runner-up still refused to concede, alleging Pena Nieto's party bought millions of votes.

The results set up a return to power for the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, which governed Mexico from 1929 to 2000, when it was frequently accused of vote-rigging. With 99 percent of polling stations counted or recounted, Pena Nieto held 38.2 percent of the vote, 6.7 points ahead of leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

Mexico's Federal Electoral Institute, or IFE, expected to conclude the final recount later on Thursday and certify the results on Sunday, when an official count of the congressional elections was also due. Pena Nieto claimed victory last Sunday when initial results showed him winning some 38 percent of the vote, about 6.5 points more than Lopez Obrador. Trailing in third was Josefina Vazquez Mota of the ruling conservative National Action Party, or PAN. Lopez Obrador asked for a full recount, but the IFE said it would only recount ballots from 54 percent of polling stations, saying it was guided by specific conditions of election law.

Mexico's President-elect Enrique Pena Nieto meets with the foreign Press in Mexico City on 2 July, 2012. —REUTERS

"It's clear that I have won these elections with a wide margin of the vote," Pena Nieto told CNN on Thursday, saying there were "no grounds" for allegations of vote-buying.

The PRI called for an investigation by the attorney general's office into what it considered false accusations.

Pena Nieto has already been congratulated by outgoing President Felipe Calderon and leaders such as US President Barack Obama and Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff.—*Reuters*

Two deadly fires in Kabul kill 20, wound hundreds within 3 days

KABUL, 6 July—At least 20 people were killed and 183 others were seriously injured in two separate deadly fires in Afghan capital Kabul over the past three days, authorities said on Thursday.

A huge fire following propane gas reservoir blast in eastern edge of Kabul left at least 17 people dead and another 155 wounded and hospitalized from Wednesday to Thursday, police said. The gas explosion triggered fierce burning at around 4:00 p.m. local time (1130 GMT) Wednesday at an industrial park in the Pakita Kot area.

Police said the death toll could further go up as 20 severely burnt remain in critical conditions. Afghan police forces shortly sealed off the scene, while ambulances and civilian cars evacuated the injured to the only burn hospital in west Kabul and a 400-bed military hospital some 7 km away from the site. The fire damaged several industrial buildings and companies as well as residential houses around the area.

The investigation is underway, but police ruled out terrorist activities, saying that electrical short circuit is believed to be the cause of the explosion in the gas reservoir.

Several oil and gas trucks parking nearby were also set ablaze and exploded.

The NATO-led coalition forces said they supported Afghan police and army fire personnel to extinguish the fire which lasted for hours.

"Fire fighters and medical personnel from the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) supported Afghan emergency services after an explosion occurred at a Kabul area propane gas company Wednesday," the NATO-led ISAF said in a statement on Thursday. It said that ISAF is also planning to meet with the Afghan government and emergency services officials to determine if additional assistance is required in the aftermath of this tragedy.

Xinhua

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

Virus could black out nearly 250,000 PCs

BOSTON, 6 July — About a quarter-million computer users around the world are at risk of losing Internet access on Monday because of malicious software at the heart of a hacking scam that US authorities shut down last November. Some blogs and news reports hyped the risk of an outage, warning of a potential "blackout" and describing the Alureon malware as the "Internet Doomsday" virus.

Yet experts said only a tiny fraction of computer users were at risk, and Internet providers would be on call to quickly restore service. They said they considered the threat to be small compared with more-prevalent viruses such as Zeus and SpyEye, which infect millions of PCs and are used to commit financial fraud. As of this week, about 245,000 computers worldwide were still infected by Alureon and its brethren, according to security firm Deteque. That included 45,355 computers in the United States.

The viruses were designed to redirect Internet traffic through rogue DNS servers controlled by criminals, according to the FBI. DNS servers are computer switchboards that direct Web traffic. When authorities took down the rogue servers, a federal judge in New York ordered that temporary servers be kept in place while the victims' machines were repaired. The temporary servers will shut down at 12:01 am EDT on Monday, which means the infected PCs that have not been fixed will no longer be able to connect to the Internet.

Reuters

People use computers at an Internet cafe in Changzhi, north China's Shanxi Province on 20 June, 2007.
REUTERS

A circuit board, screen and plastic front from a French Minitel terminal which are broken down into its components, are collected for recycling in Portet-Sur-Garonne, southwestern France on 23 May, 2012.
REUTERS

Apple's Jobs tapped France 3615 for pre-Internet ideas

PARIS, 6 July — The man who turned Apple into a web-connected empire of consumer gadgets drew some of his inspiration from a table-top box that wired French households to networked information way before the arrival of mass Internet, a French telecoms engineer says. Long before hundreds of millions of homes worldwide began connecting to the Internet in the 1990s, France's Minitel box, the steam train of the online world, attracted the attention of Apple Inc's now deceased founder, Steve Jobs.

The clunky Minitel, pulled out of service at the end of June, was used by some 25 million people in France at the time for services ranging from checking the weather to making travel reservations and posting small ads. "He bought one and took it to bits to see how it worked," Gerard Thery, one of the Frenchmen behind the 1982 launch of the Minitel system, told business newspaper *Economie Matin.*

Two decades of Internet sealed the fate of what once looked like a technological wonder that might conquer the world with a then wide range of shopping and travel booking services, accessible via the dial-up code 3615.

Its famous "Minitel Rose" sex chat lines were blamed for the astronomical phone bills of many unwitting customers.—*Reuters*

Vanishing planet-forming dust challenges conventional thinking

LOS ANGELES, 6 July — A cloud of dust once circling a young star abruptly disappeared within 3 years, challenging scientists' understanding of planet formation, according to a study published on Thursday. The finding, carried in the 5 July edition of the *Nature* journal, was made during the observation on TYC 824126521, a young star located about 456 light years from Earth in the Scorpius-Centaurus stellar nursery.

The planet-forming dust that once surrounded the star was first seen by NASA's Infrared Astronomical Satellite back in 1983, and it remained brightly glowing for 25 years, said the article. Scientists observed the same star in 2008 using a mid-infrared imager in Chile and again with the same ground-based telescope in 2009. The 2008 observation revealed an infrared emission pattern similar to the 1983 measurement, but the infrared emission surprisingly dropped by nearly two-thirds in 2009.

When NASA's Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer, or WISE, was staring at the same star again in 2010, the dust had mostly disappeared. The scientists confirmed their discovery by using two additional telescopes. "It's like the classic magician's trick: Now you see it, now you don't. Only in this case we're talking about enough dust to fill an inner solar system, and it really is gone," lead author Carl Melis, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, San Diego, said in a news release.

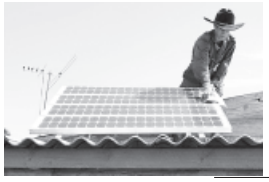
"The most commonly accepted time scale for the removal of this much dust is in the hundreds of thousands of years, sometimes millions," said co-author Inseok Song, an assistant professor of physics and astronomy in the UGA Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. —*Xinhua*

New slimmer PlayStation 3 in the works, FCC docs suggest

NEW YORK, 6 July — EuroGamer on Thursday pointed out some documents from the Federal Communications Commission's website showing diagrams of what may be the long-rumored "super-slim" rendition of the PlayStation 3. The documents in question refer to the a "CECH-4001x" PlayStation model, which Eurogamer says "could relate to a slimmer PS33 that the publication "has heard will be announced at German game show Gamescom next month." With the next-generation PlayStation 4 not due to be released until late 2013, Eurogamer speculates that the super-slim PS3 may be Sony's way of breathing some new life into its six-year-old console to appeal to late adopters.— *Internet*

New slimmer PlayStation 3 in the works.
INTERNET

Solar, wind energy a missed opportunity for Cuba



In this 18 June, 2012 photo, Yusmaikel Portales cleans the solar panel on the roof of his grandfather's home in Pinar del Rio, Cuba.— INTERNET

RAMON GORDO, 6 July — The sleepy country setting that farmer Juan Alonso calls home hasn't changed much since he was born 74 years ago, with the two rustic wooden houses nestled among palm trees against a backdrop of green hills and clear skies. Incongruously perched atop the homes are the only visual clues that his 150-acre (60-hectare) farm inhabits the 21st century: the gleaming solar panels that revolutionized the lives of Alonso and his family.

"Just imagine, you toil all day in the field and then when you get home you have to grope around doing things with a gas lantern, with a torch to illuminate the patio at night," Alonso said, describing life during decades past. Now his family has electric lights, a television and a DVD player. "It's a change as radical as night to day."

Cuba is proud of its success in using alternative energy to bring electricity to isolated hamlets like Ramon Gordo, 90 miles (150 kilometers) west of Havana. Some 2,000 schools and at least 400 hospitals are lit up by solar panels in rural areas not plugged into the national grid. But scientists say the island, blessed with year-around sunshine and sea breezes but plagued with chronic energy shortages, could be doing much more on the national level, and that its communist government is missing a golden opportunity to reduce its dependence on subsidized oil from uber-ally Venezuela, where President Hugo Chavez is sick with cancer.—*Internet*

Brain bluffs humans differently than machines

NEW YORK, 6 July — You talk to a friend. Then you talk to Siri on the iPhone. Does your brain function differently when interacting with a machine versus another person? According to a recent study, there might be one small brain region dedicated to dealing only with people — in order to lie to them. Researchers had 18 subjects play poker against a variety of human and computer opponents. The participants were encouraged to bluff — they'd get money if their bluffs were successful. Sometimes they were given a weak hand.

The researchers evaluated functional MRI signals of the players' brains. Could they tell by looking at the brain patterns whether the player was about to bluff a human? They found that most regions of the brain that have been previously identified with social interactions lit up regardless of whether the subject was playing a person or a machine. But one small region – the temporal parietal junction, or TPJ — seemed to activate only when participants contemplated bluffing another human being.—*Internet*

Google phasing out 'iGoogle' in latest purge

SAN FRANCISCO, 6 July — Google is phasing out a service that allows millions of people to personalize its home page with applications such as weather updates and stock quotes. The customization service, known as iGoogle, will be turned off in November 2013. The mobile version of iGoogle will be discontinued at the end of this month. Google Inc. disclosed its plans this week. It's being swept out as part of a periodic housecleaning that has seen Google scrap more than 30 products since co-founder Larry Page became CEO 15 months ago.

Page has been trying to sharpen Google's focus on search, advertising, video, social networking and mobile devices. The scheduled termination of iGoogle will come eight years after Google first offered the personalization tool. It had been seen as a way to encourage people to return to Google more frequently for information they are interested in. It also encouraged more people to create Google accounts, which made it easier for the company to identify their individual interests. The climate has changed since iGoogle started as an unbranded personal page in 2005.

In this 27 June, 2012, file photo, Vic Gundotra, Google Senior Vice President of Engineering, talks about Google Plus at the Google I/O conference in San Francisco.— INTERNET

These days, many people get weather and other information through applications they install on smartphones and tablet computers. People who use Google's Chrome browser can also access a variety of apps with functions offered by iGoogle.—*Internet*

China may miss 2012 trade growth target

BEIJING, 6 July — China will have difficulty meeting its 10 percent trade growth target this year, Vice Premier Wang Qishan said in published comments, underlining challenges to supporting critical pillars for the world's second-biggest economy. Wang's comments were in line with remarks last month from Commerce Minister Chen Deming, who said "if lucky" China would be able to achieve its annual target of 10 percent growth in exports and imports combined this year.

The remarks came as China cut interest rates for the second time in a matter of weeks on Thursday, stepping up efforts to bolster an economy that last quarter probably suffered its weakest growth since the global financial crisis. Concerns that China's trade targets could be in jeapardy may suggest the country's downturn is proving deeper than expected. Policymakers worldwide are growing increasingly concerned about the impact of the euro area debt crisis on the global economy.

The biggest worry for Asia's exporting nations, such as China, is if the world economy slides into a repeat of the financial crisis of 2008/2009 when global trade ground to a halt. Speaking during a visit to the eastern province of Jiangsu, Wang said China would import more high-tech equipment, manufacturing components, energy and consumer goods, while helping small- and medium-sized exporters cope with a credit squeeze.

China should not underestimate the impact of external shocks on its economy, although Beijing will try to keep trade growth stable as far as possible, the official *Xinhua* news agency quoted Wang late on Thursday as saying.

Wang Qishan, Deputy Prime Minister of China

A full-year trade growth target of 10 percent already marked a significant slowdown from the first part of last year, when China's annual expansion rate was averaging more than 20 percent. The current global economy situation remains grim, with unstable factors and uncertainties increasing, Wang added.

A pair of Chinese manufacturing surveys has shown persistent weakness in the economy, with HSBC's purchasing managers' index showing factory activity shrank at its fastest pace in seven months in June and new export orders skidded to depths last seen in March 2009. China is scheduled to release its trade data for June on 10 July. Analysts forecast the data will show that exports grew 9.9 percent from a year ago with imports up 12.7 percent. Despite slowing growth at home and abroad, Chinese export and import growth both surprised on the upside in May, with exports rising 15.3 percent and imports up 12.7 percent last month from a year earlier.

Reuters

Georgia records 2nd quadruplets birth in modern history

TBILISI, 6 July — The South Caucasus country of Georgia has just witnessed its second quadruplets birth in recorded history, local media reported on Thursday. The quadruplets are two boys and two girls, sources with the Tbilisi Women's Medical Clinic were quoted as saying.

The 32-year-old mother, Nona Varshanidze, and her four new-borns, weighing from 1.9 kg to 2.0 kg, are doing fine, according to the doctor who performed the Cesarean section to give the births on Wednesday.

Doctor Zaza Sinauridze told the local media that the surgery had been without complications, and that despite the fact of only 35 weeks of pregnancy, the babies and their mother were doing just fine. The mother herself is a twin.

"Genetically, I myself am a twin," Varshanidze was quoted as saying. "Now I just became a mother of five and I'm happy." She already has a daughter.

According to the reports, the Tbilisi mayoral office has already instructed the social aid department under the health ministry to provide necessary financial assistance to the quadruplets in accordance with the legislation of Georgia.—*Xinhua*

Apple removes spam message app from App Store

SAN FRANCISCO, 6 July — Apple on Thursday removed an application collecting users' address book contacts from its App Store, which was taken as the first instance of iOS App Store malware. "The Find & Call app has been removed from the App Store due to its unauthorized use of users' Address Book data, a violation of App Store guidelines," Apple said in a statement to tech blog The Loop.

"Find & Call" was first reported on Monday by Russian security firm Kaspersky Lab, which said it was alerted to a suspicious app both available in Apple's App Store and Google's online store Google Play that had been collecting users' address book contacts and sending them to the developer's servers. The developer's system then sent spam text messages of the app's URL to those contacts, which are shown to be sent "from" the original user's mobile phone number. According to the screenshots before the app was removed, all user comments both in Apple's App Store and Google Play are quite angry, complaining that the app sends SMS (Short Message Service) spam.

The app so far only targeted Russian users since it uses Russian in the app description, but the app was available in App Store around the world. "Malware in the Google Play is nothing new but it's the first case that we've seen malware in the Apple App Store. It is worth mentioning that there have not been any incidents of malware inside the iOS Apple App Store since its launch 5 years ago," said the Kaspersky Lab in its blog. The lab noted that it is the first time that they confirmed a case of malicious usage of users' personal data.

Also on Thursday, several popular apps in Apple's App Store, including Angry Birds Space HD Free and GoodReader, which have been updated over the last few days, have been crashing immediately upon launch. Technology news site TechCrunch reported that Apple has officially acknowledged the issue in its developer fora and is working on a solution.—*Xinhua*

A man tries Samsung Electronics' new Galaxy S III smartphone that is on display at a store in Seoul in this 26 June , 2012 file photo.— REUTERS

Samsung's Galaxy powers record $5.9 billion profit

SEOUL, 6 July — Soaraway sales of the Galaxy smartphone drove record quarterly profit of $5.9 billion at Samsung Electronics, though the South Korean tech giant is sweating over how Europe's debt crisis is denting demand in its biggest market for televisions and home appliances. The flagship Galaxy smartphones are likely to have stretched their lead over rivals Apple and Nokia — despite a parts shortage that meant it struggled to keep up with stronger-than-expected demand for its latest S III model.

While strong handset sales grab the headlines, more than doubling profit growth, other businesses such as chips and consumer electronics are battling weak prices and demand and a limping euro, which eats away at repatriated profits. In a sign that the euro zone crisis is exercising minds in boardrooms around the globe, Samsung executives said this week the group was operating to a contingency plan. "Europe is our biggest consumer electronics market and we may have to initiate cost cuts and product price increases should the euro fall further from the current level," said one executive who didn't want to be named as the plan is internal.

"Our smartphones are flying off the shelves, with some outlets reporting 40-60 percent sales growth, but that's distorting the overall trading outlook which is more challenging due to the weak global economy and a weak euro." The euro has fallen around 5 percent against the Korean won since April, and about 8 percent in the past year, to 2-year lows. In its April-June earnings guidance on Friday, Samsung, valued at $170 billion and the world's leading maker of TVs, smartphones and DRAM memory chips, estimated operating profit jumped 79 percent to 6.7 trillion won from a year ago — in line with an average forecast in a *Reuters* survey of 23 analysts.

That would be 14.5 percent higher than the previous record quarterly profit in January-March. Samsung estimated its second-quarter revenue at 47 trillion won ($41.4 billion), just below a 50 trillion won forecast. "Revenue is below our forecast, which suggests price pressure was more severe than had been expected in products such as televisions and home appliances," said Nho Geun-chang, analyst at HMC Investment Securities in Seoul. "Earnings will be stronger in the current quarter as sales of the high-end Galaxy S III will increase dramatically and drive the telecom division's earnings to above 5 trillion won," he said, predicting shipments of the S III would hit 19 million this quarter.

Samsung is due to release its full second-quarter results — the first since former components chief Kwon Oh-hyun took over as CEO — towards the end of this month. Samsung and local rival LG Electronics are among the few global TV makers making money and gaining market share from stumbling Japanese rivals Sony, Panasonic and Sharp.

Reuters

Health Tip: Giving your child medicine

Even over-the-counter medicine can hurt your child if given incorrectly. The American Academy of Family Physicians offers this advice when giving your child an over-the-counter medication:

* Always read the drug's label and make sure you understand it.

* Use a medication that treats only the symptoms your child has.

* Carefully read the label, looking for any special instructions or the names of other medications that might negatively interact with the one you're giving.

* Make sure all caregivers know how much medication your child needs, and how and when to give it.

* Keep a medication in its original packaging, so that you have easy access to the label and expiration date.

* Store any medication safely out of a young child's reach.—*Internet*

***Italian heart surgeon Antonio Amodeo and his team implant a tiny titanium pump, the world's smallest artificial heart, in a baby, at the Bambino Gesu' Hospital in Rome, in this undated handout picture made available to Reuters on 24 May, 2012. Doctors from Rome's Bambino Gesu' Hospital saved the life of the 16-month-old baby in March with the artificial heart, which weighs only 11 grams, before the infant received an organ donation.*— REUTERS**

Superjet crash to overshadow Russia's Farnborough

MOSCOW, 6 July— Russia will remind the world of its air power history at the Farnborough Air Show next week as it battles to shift attention from the fatal crash of a new *Superjet 100* plane, a disaster that could stall efforts to revive its aviation industry.

Crowds at the flagship industry event are expected to be wowed by a display from a pair of Russian *Su-27 'Flanker'* fighter jets — planes that came to symbolise the might of the Soviet Union and remain a favourite of enthusiasts for their spectacular stunts.

Yakovlev Yak-130 fighters will also be flying and on static display, despite controversial reports that nearly 40 are bound for civil war-torn Syria, while a pavilion will be dedicated to Russia's in-development *MS-21* passenger aircraft. Yet interest is bound to centre on the fate of the *Superjet 100* —the first civil plane to be built by Russia since the fall of the Soviet Union and the subject of an ongoing investigation following a crash in Indonesia that killed 45 people.

Indonesian authorities are looking into the causes of the crash and particularly if it was down to pilot error or technical failures. If the latter, it could wipe out demand for the mid-size Superjet and perhaps the *MS-21* as well, due to come on to the market in 2017.

Russia's state aviation holding company United Aviation Corporation (UAC) is desperate for the incident to be blamed on pilot error, taking the heat off Russian plane manufacturing.

That verdict would echo a report published on Thursday into the Air France Rio-Paris crash that killed 228 people in 2009. Investigators blamed the incident on a combination of pilot error and faulty speed sensors.

***A general view of a Sukhoi Superjet 100 that arrived in the Armenian capital Yerevan on 19 April, 2011.*—REUTERS**

"They (*Superjet*) will be very diplomatic about the accident and say they cannot say anything while the investigation is underway," said David Learmount, safety and operations editor at Flight Global, commenting on how parent group Superjet International would conduct business at Farnborough.

"They (the investigators) have not at this point found anything wrong with it — it was a new aeroplane and modern aeroplanes have never been safer ... When aeroplanes crash it is people that do it," he added.

Superjet International— a joint venture between Russia's Sukhoi and a division of Italy's Finmeccanica — is considering displaying a grounded *Superjet 100* at Farnborough and will continue the task of drumming up orders for the plane— which has yet to be picked up by mainstream Western carriers.

Reuters

UN stops short of endorsing intervention in Mali

UNITED NATIONS, 6 July— The UN Security Council on Thursday endorsed West African political efforts to end unrest in Mali but stopped short of backing military intervention in the West African state where al Qaeda-linked militants control significant territory.

Ansar Dine and its Salafist allies have hijacked a separatist Tuareg uprising in northern Mali and now control two-thirds of its desert north, which includes the regions of Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu where historic and religious sites have been destroyed in recent days.

***People walk past signs marking heritage sites in the Malian city of Timbuktu 15 May, 2012.*—INTERNET**

The destruction of the holy sites has drawn international condemnation and Muslim leaders in the capital Bamako led a protest on Thursday. Mahmoud Dicko, the influential head of Mali's Islamic High Council, called for calm and told a crowd of about 1,000 protesters that the destruction was carried out because of ignorance and with the intention of provoking the populace.

Mali's neighbours have been seeking UN backing for armed intervention to stabilize the country and take back the north. In June, the Security Council asked the African Union and West African group ECOWAS to explain more precisely what kind of resolution they wanted.

Thursday's resolution did not give them the backing they sought, but did not rule it out in future. It also expressed full support for ECOWAS and AU mediation efforts in Mali.

The French-drafted resolution said the council "expresses its readiness to further examine the request of ECOWAS once additional information has been provided regarding the objectives, means and modalities of the envisaged deployment."—*Reuters*

Another Indonesian girl dies of bird flu

JAKARTA, 6 July—An eight-year-old Indonesia girl from Karawang of West Java died after catching avian influenza, bringing the total death toll to eight this year, Health Ministry said here on Friday.

The girl died on Tuesday in Jakarta after being treated in a hospital in the city since 28 June.

She first got the symptom of fever on 18 June and five days later the girl went to a hospital in Karawang with symptoms of cough, fever and throat problem before she was transferred to a hospital in Jakarta.

She tested positive for H5N1 virus, which put the total death to 158 out of 190 cases since the viruses first attacked the country in 2005.

An investigation indicated that the girl had had contact with poultry as she on 12 June bought 5 chickens and cooked them. She also passed the market every day on his way to school.

Bird flu had attacked Indonesia, the hardest, since 2005, and then the attacks were eased significantly. But, it has reemerged since last year, killing nine people in 2011.

There were concerns over the bird flu attacks in the region following the reports of the death resulting from the virus in Indonesia, Cambodia, China and Vietnam.

Indonesian Health Minister Nafsiah Mboi said last month that the country was trying to produce bird flu vaccine to a sufficient level when the pandemic took place.—*Xinhua*

Dutch plans to buy F-35 fighter jets in doubt

***The F-35 Lightning II, also known as the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), is shown in this March 2010 file photograph.* INTERNET**

AMSTERDAM, 6 July— The Netherlands should scrap plans to buy *F-35* Joint Strike Fighter jets because it cannot afford the project's ballooning costs as the country attempts to cut spending, a majority of parliament said on Thursday.

One leading party, Labour, will submit a proposal to the 150-seat legislature on the last session before 12 September elections calling for an end to Dutch participation in the Lockheed Martin Corp warplanes project.

Whether the Netherlands, which has already ordered two *F-35* test planes, will quit the project depends on the outcome of the elections, and the new government that takes office afterwards.

The Dutch government collapsed over painful austerity measures in April, but the state has to cut costs by billions of euros to meet EU guidelines. About 4.5 billion euros has been set aside for the *F-35* jets.

During a debate with Dutch Defence Minister Hans Hillen, lawmakers complained about the project's escalating costs and said there were no guarantees over Dutch jobs or future costs.

"Due to all the uncertainties we will ask the cabinet to pull out of the project," Labour member of parliament Angelien Eijsink said.—*Internet*

Japan's atomic disaster caused by "collusion"

TOKYO, 6 July—Japan's Fukushima nuclear crisis was a preventable disaster resulting from "collusion" among the government, regulators and the plant operator, an expert panel said on Thursday, wrapping up an inquiry into the worst nuclear accident in 25 years.

Damage from the huge 11 March, 2011, earthquake, and not just the ensuing tsunami, could not be ruled out as a cause of the accident, the panel added, a finding with serious potential implications as Japan seeks to bring idled reactors on line.

The panel criticised the response of Fukushima Daiichi plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co, regulators and then Prime Minister Naoto Kan, who quit last year after criticism of his handling of a natural disaster that became a man-made crisis.

"The ... Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant accident was the result of collusion between the government, the regulators and Tepco, and the lack of governance by said parties," the panel said in an English summary of a 641-page Japanese document.

The report —issued hours after a reactor began supplying electricity to the grid for the first time in two months — put an official imprimatur on criticism of the cosy ties that have bound a powerful nexus of interests known as the "nuclear village".

Regulators, it said, had been reluctant to adopt global safety standards that could have helped prevent the disaster in which reactors melted down, spewing radiation and forcing about 150,000 people from their homes, many of whom will never return.

"Across the board, the Commission found ignorance and arrogance unforgivable for anyone or any organization that deals with nuclear power. We found a disregard for global trends and a disregard for public safety," the panel said.

Reuters

***An aerial view of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station is seen in Fukushima Prefecture in this file photo taken by the Air Photo Service on 24 March, 2011.* REUTERS**

UN Security Council extends South Sudan peacekeepers

UNITED NATIONS, 6 July—The UN Security Council renewed a peacekeeping mission in South Sudan for second year on Thursday as UN chief Ban Ki-moon warned the future of the year-old state was tied to developing good relations with former civil war foe Sudan.

The UN mission in South Sudan, known as UNMISS, was created after South Sudan seceded from Sudan in July 2011, six months after a referendum agreed under a 2005 peace deal that ended decades of civil war that killed some 2 million people.

Border clashes between the neighbours earlier this year, which culminated with Juba briefly seizing a disputed oil field, threatened to spiral into war until the UN Security Council threatened the pair with sanctions in a 2 May resolution.

Ban said in a report to the 15-member Security Council that most of the challenges faced by South Sudan, already one of the world's poorest countries, were "linked in one way or another to the need to cultivate constructive relations with the Sudan." "South Sudan and the Sudan currently stand at a crossroads and this is a defining moment for both countries," the secretary-general said. "The establishment of good neighbourly relations with Khartoum would make it easier for South Sudan to deal with its challenges more effectively."—*Reuters*

WINNERS AWARDED: ***The Myanmar Women's Day was organized by Pakokku District Women's Affairs Organization at Pyithaya Hall of Pakokku on 3 July. Chairperson of District Women's Affairs Organization Dr Yi Yi May presents prize to a winner student in the district level essay contest.***
MYANMA ALIN

Myanmar Women's Day observed in Sangyoung Township

YANGON, 6 July—The Myanmar Women's Day was observed at Basic Education High School No. 2 in Sangyoung Township of Yangon West District on 3 July.

Chairperson of Yangon Region Women's Affairs Organization Daw Thaung Mya made a speech.

Responsible persons of the organization presented prizes to religious title recipient persons.

Myanma Alin

Rainy season tree growing ceremony held in Kyeintali

KYEINTALI, 6 July—In commemoration of Myanmar Women's Day, the rainy season tree growing ceremony was held at the vacant area near Maha Wihara Monastery in Ward 3 of Kyeintali Sub-Township in Thandwe District on 2 July morning.

Chairperson of Sub-Township Women's Affairs Organization Daw Nan Mya Sanda Aung and Senior Forester U Hla Win of Forest Department explained the advantages of growing trees.

Next, Sub-Township Administrator U Myo Than Htaik and staff, the chairperson of Women's Affairs Organization and members, departmental officials, staff and members of social organizations planted saplings.

Township IPRD

Citizenship cards issued in Kyaukme

KYAUKME, 6 July—With the aim of issuing citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible citizens, Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Aung Thwin Oo and staff made field trip to the administrative office in Ward 8 of Kyaukme on 27 June.

Their works were supervised by Shan State Hluttaw representative U Sai Than Maung and Deputy Director U Win Hlaing of District INRD.

Myanma Alin

31st special bus line on route from Phonegyi Street to Bailey Bridge

YANGON, 6 July—According to the handing over of overage vehicles, Chevrolet of 31st buses have been substituted with 31st special buses as of 4 July.

The new vehicles run from Phonegyi Street to Bailey Bridge of South Okkalapa Township. At present, a total of 16 buses are running along the route as of 4 July, and a plan is under way to add four more buses to the line.

The Korean-made new buses are to run along the route from Phonegyi Street in Lanmadaw Township to Dagon Myothit (North) Township. However, the bailey bridge is under construction in South Okkalapa Township, and there, the buses finish their plying route at the bailey bridge in South Okkalapa. On completion of the bridge, the buses will run into Dagon Myothit (North) Town-ship.

Kyemon

MLF invites cash, book donations

Myanmar Libraries Foundation is giving encouragement to broadening the horizon of the people and developing self-reliant libraries across the nation.

Those wishing to donate cash and books to the libraries may contact Myanmar Libraries Foundation at No. 228 on Theinbyu Street in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Tel: 01-371342, 01-201936 and 01-398756.

Citizenship scrutiny cards issued in Tahlay Sub-Township

TAHLAY, 6 July—A ceremony to issue citizenship scrutiny cards was held at Basic Education High School in Tahlay Sub-Township of Tachilek District in Shan State on 20 June morning.

Deputy Director U Htein Win of District Immigration and National Registration Department explained realization of Moe Pwint-3 Plan through easing the restrictions in issuing the citizenship scrutiny cards.

The deputy director then presented cards to 55 students of above 10 years.

Township Immigration

Eight rural libraries under construction in Hinthada District

HINTHADA, 6 July—With the assistance of Myanmar Libraries Foundation, each library is under construction with K 1 million contribution by the foundation and K 1.5 million by the local people in Ayeyawady Region.

The plan was set to complete the libraries on 25 July.

Head of Ayeyawady Region Information and Public Relations Department U Ngwe Tun, Staff Officer U Win Shein of Hinthada District IPRD, Deputy Head of District IPRD Daw Aye Aye Mar and staff of the region office inspected progress of construction tasks.

The head of the region IPRD met village library committee members and townselders.

They gave talks with library committee members, townselders and local people at Basic Education High School branch in Pegyikyun Village of Hinthada Township.

Township IPRD

Animals vaccinated in Thegon Township

THEGON, 6 July—A combined team comprising departmental personnel and animal health staff led by Staff Officer Dr Aye Thwin of Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department implemented animal disease control plan in Shwete Thegon Village in Zeeok Village-tract of Thegon Township in Pyay District of Bago Region.

On 28 June, they vaccinated 477 farming cattle from villages of the township.

Township LBVD

DISTRICT NEWS

Trees grown as rainy season activity in Htilin

HTILIN, 6 July—Organized by Htilin Township Forest Department of Magway Region, rainy season tree growing ceremony was held at Basic Education High School in Htilin on 30 June.

It was attended by Township Administrator U Tin Latt, departmental officials, the staff officer of Township Forest Department and staff, members of social organizations, teachers and students. They planted 1750 saplings.

Myanma Alin

CSC ISSUED: ***Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Kyaw Soe Khaing and staff issued citizenship scrutiny cards to local people in South Linlun Ward of Sangyoung Township on 29 June.—*MYANMA ALIN**

Top pass rate school honoured in Mawlamyinegyun

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 6 July—A ceremony to honour the school that stood first in the top pass rate in the 2012 matriculation examination was held at Nwethagi Hall of Danonchaung Basic Education Middle School in Phayagyigon Village-tract of Mawlamyinegyun Township on 1 July.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Htay Maung and Township Education Officer U San Myint made speeches.

The school produced 22 students who passed the matriculation examination including 10 students with distinction in economics, accounting for 59.46 per cent. That is why it became top in the pass rate across the township.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Htay Maung and officials presented prizes to distinction winners, headmistress Daw Hla Htay and teachers.—*Myanma Alin*

Rainy season tree growing ceremony held in Momauk

MOMAUK, 6 July—Momauk Township General Administration Department of Bhamo District in Kachin State and Township Forest Department organized the rainy season tree growing ceremony in the compound of Momauk Basic Education High School on 26 June.

On the occasion, Momauk Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Zaw Tun, State Hluttaw representative U Suk Nawng, Township Administrator U Nyan Hlaing, Head of Township Forest Department U Zaw Min Thant and staff, departmental personnel, members of social organizations, teachers and students together with local people participated in cultivation of 1060 various saplings.

Momauk Township Forest Department plans to distribute 12800 saplings in 2012 rainy season.

Township Forest

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun replies to queries. MNA

Fourth regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw…

(from page 1)

With respect to the question raised by U Kyi Myint of Latha Constituency on **"he would like to know amount of agricultural loan disbursements to farmers by the government, private companies and banks, including input values", "how much loan could be collected so far", "how much loan arrears would be if last year loan arrears are added" and "there is any plan to change loan policy",** the deputy minister answered:

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has already granted loan of K 352.722 billion during 2011-2012 financial year. K 334.868 billion of K 352.722 billion could be collected and K 17.854 billion are in arrears. During 2011-2012 financial year, agricultural loan disbursement to farmers by private companies, including input values are: 54 Paddy specialized companies (K31.061 billion); 10 Beans and Pulses Specialized Companies (K 5.170 billion); and two Crops Specialized Companies (K1.960 billion), totaling K 38.191 billion. K 24.337 of K 38.191 billion could be collected and K 13.854 billion are in arrears. When Loan arrears of K 0.122 billion for 2009-2010 are added to Loan arrears of K 1.702 billion for 2010-2011, loan arrears of private crops specialized companies would be K 15.678 billion.

So, loan disbursements to farmers by Myanma Agricultural Development Bank and private crops specialized companies, amount to K390.913 billion. K 359.205 billion of K 390.913 billion, could be collected and K 31.708 billion are in arrears. Total loan arrears will be K 33.532 billion when that amount is added to previous year loan arrears of private crops specialized companies. MADB has no any plan to change loan disbursement policy.

With respect to the question raised by U Htay Lwin of Namhsan Constituency on **"there is any plan to open Myanma Economic Bank (branch) in Kholan sub-township"**, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun replied: To open a bank in Kholan sub-township needs building, treasury, furniture, appointment of staff, staff's accommodation and help of Myanmar Police Force for security. At present, MEB can not open its branches in Namhsan Township and Kholan Sub-township. Only when the regions see more development, will it be opened after being submitted to Union Government. But, plans are under way to open Inwa Bank (branch) of Myanma Economic Corporation (MEC).

Regarding the question raised by U Tin Maung Oo of Shwepyitha Constituency on "**there is any plan to publisized the business-wise taxpaying of entrepreneurs",** the Union Minister answered: Inland Revenue Department has announced 100 top taxpayers who pay revenue and trade taxes for 2012-2013 year. Such announcement aims at knowing the dutifulness of individual taxpayers and a group of taxpayer. According to the right of taxpayers, secret businesses and related matters could not be publisized. So, there is no any plan to publisize business-wise taxpaying at present.

Regarding the question of U Ou Yal (a) U Oo Yal of Prusho Constituency **whether there is plan to designate Prusho as remote region,** the minister answered that Prusho covered with dense forests where deep ravines exist is difficult to access. To be labeled as the remote region, the proposal needs to be made to the Home Ministry through respective state governments. The Home Ministry after scrutiny passed the proposal to the Union government.

U Kyi Tha of Gwa Constituency, U Myint Soe of Pyawbwe Constituency, U Aung Kyaw Khin of Kyauktan Constituency, U Aye Naing of Hsinpaungwe Constituency, U Ko Gyi of Aungmyaythazan Constituency, Dr Aung Moe Nyo of Pwintbyu Constituency, U Khin Maung Yi (a) U Khaing Maung Yi of Ahlon Constituency and Dr Zaw Myint Maung of Kyauktan Constituency discussed the proposal submitted by U Aye Mauk of Mahlaing Constituency on 4 July "**urging the Union government to set timeframe to draft standards bill in regions and fields enact laws**".

Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo discussed that the drafting of the standard bill is being finalized. If the bill is approved, national level standard council will be formed at the first step. Scholars from relevant ministries and non-governmental organizations will be invited and respective standards will be drafted. Technical subcommittees will be formed to draft quality and environmental management standards. Coordination meetings with respective ministries, NGOs and scholars are being held. As the proposal is convincing, the decision of the Hluttaw will be implemented.

The Hluttaw decided that the proposal of U Aye Mauk will be put on record and the Hluttaw will monitor the implementation as a pledge.

U Thein Lwin of Chauk Constituency submitted the proposal "**urging the Union government to coordinate, supervise and manage Myanmar's energy sector more effectively**".

The date for discussion will be announced later and the representatives willing to discuss the proposal are to submit their name lists not later than 1 pm on 9 July.

Today's session concluded at 3.20 pm and the fourth day session resumes on 9 July.—*MNA*

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Htay Lwin of Namhsan Constituency raises question.—MNA

NPE's English Language Course (Basic Level) concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July— English Language Course (Basic Level) No (1/2012) conducted by News and Periodicals Enterprise concluded this morning, with an address by Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win.

Speaking at the concluding ceremony held at Pho Waziya Hall of Kyemon Daily in Zeyathiri Township, the deputy minister said that the course was opened in the interest of the nation, the ministry and NPE itself as the age demands proficiency in English.

The deputy minister said that English plays a key role in communicating with the outside world. As Myanmar has drawn attention of the world, the numbers of countries willing to establish diplomatic ties with Myanmar, businessmen willing to invest here and potential tourists are increasing day by day. The role of media men who know English well will widely become important in XXVII SEA Games and 2014 ASEAN Summit, related meetings and workshops to be hosted in Myanmar. He also called for constantly improving their capacity with the use of lessons learnt at the training.

Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win presents second prize to U Thet Htway of Kyemon Daily.—MNA

U Thet Htway of Kyemon, on behalf of all trainees, said they vowed to accomplish their duties with all heart and will try to improve their language proficiency.

All the trainees staged the talent show under the title, "Glorious Myanmar and Our Noble Duty".

Supervisor Daw Myint Myint Cho of Kyemon Daily stood first at the course, followed by the runner up proofreader U Thet Htway of Kyemon Daily and the second runner up proofreader Daw Khin Thanda Thein of Myanma Alin Daily. Press technician-3 Daw Myat Su Mon of Head office (admin) won consolation prize. Deputy Minister U Soe Win and NPE Managing Director U Zaw Min Oo presented prizes.

Altogether 27 trainees completed the 8-week course.

The deputy minister and party also visited Graphic Design Course No (1/2012) conducted under the programme of transforming form and content of the state-owned newspapers under NPE at Computer Training Hall of The New Light of Myanmar Daily.—*MNA*

Cash and kind donated for locals in Rakhine State

YANGON, 6 July— Cash and kind donation ceremony for local people in Rakhine State who lost their homes and possessions due to recent unrest occurred in Rakhine State was held at the Maykhalar Hall of the Fire Services Department in Mayangon Township, here this morning.

At the ceremony, Myanmar Christian Associations and organizations donated K 2.5 million, thirty bags of rice, three bales of cloth, Yangon North District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and well-wishers clothes and foodstuff worth over K 4.3 million, teachers and students from Technological University (Thanlyin) K 2.5 million and thirty-five bales of cloth, Cherry Myitta Foundation K 1 million, Kaman National Progressive Party K500,000, Head of Yangon Region Fire Services Department and members K 468,000 and one bale of cloth, U Saw Lu-Daw Kyee Main and family K100,000, U Thet Kyi-Daw Khin Win Myint (Seinpwint) and famil K 100,000, U Myint Soe-Daw Khin Thida and family K 30,000 and one bale of cloth and five umbrellas, well-wishers group K 278,000 and ten bale of cloth, Daw Moe Theingi and Ma Htet Yu Yu Aung K 20,000, U Kyaw Htoo-Daw San Win and family K 20,000, U Htin Kyaw- Daw San San Win and family K 30,000 and one bale of cloth, U Maung Tha Nyo- Daw Khin Saw Shwe and daughter Dr Tin Moe Wai K 100,000, U San Maung- Daw Khin Mar Si and family K 50,000, Thabin artistees from Mawlamyine eleven bales of cloth, Daw Tin Mar Lin and family nine bales of cloth, members of Kyaukse District fire brigade and two donors K 110,000, well-weshers from Bogale market four bales of cloth, Ko Kyaw Nanda Aye- Daw Tin Hnin Wint Shein and daughter Ma Khin Thidar Shein K 100,000 and one bale of cloth, U San Aung-Daw Khin Nan May and family K 15,000, Youth wellwishers K 310,000, Daw Moe Moe Than two bales of cloth. Director-General U Tin Moe of Fire Services Department and officials accepted the donation and spoke words of thank.

Up to date, the donation amounted to K 235,624,816.—*MNA*

Fourth regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw…

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of 20 miles and six furlongs and repairing a distance of eight miles.

Out of over 180-foot long three bridges on Pauktaw-Minbya Road, Ywa-chaunggyi Bridge which is 250 ft long has been completed and Sonye Bridge which is 1216 ft long and Hsinkhontaing Bridge which is 900 ft long are under construction.

***Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Sai Hsai Kyauk Hsam of Shan State Constituency No. 6 shooting questions.*—MNA**

Thirty-nine per cent of the Sonye Bridge project and 36 per cent of Hsinkhontaing Bridge have been finished. In 2012-2013 fiscal year, maintenance of Pauktaw-Minbya Road would be continued, K5077.5 million would be injected into the two projects of bridges as a financial allocation and efforts would be stepped up to complete the two bridges in 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Regarding the second question, the deputy minister replied that Naunghpar Bridge on Kengtung-Mongkhet-Mongyan Road is 110 ft long and RSJ type one with wooden floor. The bridge is strong enough as the ministry has spent yearly maintenance allocation on repairing the bridge yearly.

The ministry has already received K500 million allocation for the road for the 2012-2013 fiscal year to carry out road works and to upgrade the road. To upgrade Naunghpar Bridge to a two-lane iron reinforced bridge, the ministry would seek allocation in 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Regarding the third question, the deputy minister said that there are Cooperative Department and Cooperative Society. Among cooperative societies, there are groups of particular fields. If there is application for land grant by both the department and societies, the Human Settlement and Housing Development Department under Construction Ministry issued grants, depending on availability.

The land of which grant is issued to the department was transferred to the department with the requirement to return it in case it is not necessary. The lands were leased to the societies for three years with temporary lease license.

While new cooperative societies are emerging, some old ones are stopping operations. They sometimes sold the leased land at a fixed price. Entanglements in ownership of the cooperative societies are not related to the land grant. If the lease license expires, the extension for further three years is allowed.

Regarding the fourth question, there are 24284 miles and seven furlongs of roads up to March 2012 while only 16 per cent of these length 3896 miles and 3 ½ furlongs was constructed through BOT system. The usage of roads and bridges in remaining 84 per cent 20388 miles and 3 ½ furlong is charged through auctioning system.

Generally, each toll gate lies 50 miles from another on BOT roads. The gates are placed after taking convenience of the road users into consideration.

Successful national bidders are running toll gates on roads implemented by Public Works of the Ministry of Construction.

Both gate passage fee and Patheingyi township passage fee were charged at 16-mile Asia World toll gate at the entrance to Mandalay from PyinOoLwin in order to reduce one toll gate in coordination with Patheingyi Township Development Affairs Committee. The gate two miles ahead of Aungpinle is the one where Mandalay City Development Committee collects Mandalay entrance fee.

Town entrance fees were collected at the gates on expressway to avoid delays. The collection of town entrance fee is of respective DACs and the problem of the large number of the toll gates will be resolved in coordination with relevant DACs.

The Construction Ministry is collecting the fees depending on types of vehicles as categorized by Road Transportation Directorate under the Rail Transportation Ministry in line with the ASEAN standards. Passenger buses are loading commodity plus passenger for making more profits. And if they have to pass a toll gate, they request the passengers to get off in order to avoid tenfold overload fine. This act seems to create the clash between the toll gate and the passengers. So, "Passengers need not to get off" signboard is erected and disciplinary measures are taken against vehicles which do not stick to the rules.

Passenger buses are charged K 10 per mile. They have to pay commodity charges if they load commodity. The charge for trucks is higher than that for passenger buses so that the passenger buses become a favourable option to transport commodity. There is a rule that no passenger buses are allowed to bear loads. As there is the check, the passenger buses request the passengers to walk past toll gate.

***Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin replies to queries.* MNA**

To resolve the issue, the fixed fees for each type of vehicles that vary from K 10 to K 25 are collected at the toll gates as of 9-6-2012.

The ministry is studying SWOT of ASEAN toll gate systems and will continue to ensure convenience of the road users.

U Thein Win of Sagaing Region Constituency No (9) submitted the proposal "**urging the Union government to initiate reforms for development of financial and legal infrastructures while drafting monetary and investment bill in developing monetary and capital market**". A Hluttaw representative seconded the proposal.

As the Hluttaw decided to discuss the proposal, the Hluttaw representatives willing to participate in discussion were asked to submit their name lists.

Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constiuency No (8) submitted the proposal "**urging the Union government to start drafting Competition Law and Competition Policy to prevent international monopoly-alike**". A Hluttaw representative seconded the proposal.

As the Hluttaw decided to discuss the proposal, the Hluttaw representatives willing to participate in discussion were asked to submit their name lists.

The third day regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw concluded at 11.45 am. And the fourth day session resumes at 10 am on 9 July.

At today's session, six questions were answered and two proposals were submitted.—*MNA*

MoU signed between Myanmar and Japan

***Deputy NPED Minister Dr Kan Zaw and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito sign agreements.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—Signing Ceremony of MoU between Myanmar and Japan on upgrading project of health equipment in central Myanmar and on providing equipment assistance for construction of dams in Ayeyawady Delta region, was held at Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, here, this morning. At the ceremony, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito signed MoU and exchanged notes.

According to the MoU, Japan will provide 1.256 billion yen for upgrading of project of health equipment in central Myanmar which will be implemented from 2012 to 2016, and 1.160 billion yen for providing equipment assistance for construction of dams in Ayeyawady Delta region which will be implemented from 2012 to 2015. The ceremony was also attended by Deputy Health Minister, deputy Attorney-General of Union Attorney-General Office, departmental heads and officials from Japanese Embassy.—*MNA*

Corrigendum

Please read former Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Yitzhak Shamir of Israel at the Israeli Embassy in Yangon in caption news on page 9 of this daily issued on 6-7-2012.—*Ed*

Locals in Rakhine State provided with cash, kind

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—At the Relief and Resettlement Department (head office) under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, wellwishers from the four corners have been making donations of cash, foodstuff and clothes for the victims who lost their houses and possessions in the recent riots in Rakhine State.

Among the donation amount for June 29 were K 10,000 by U Maung Thein-Daw Nu Nu Kyi and daughter Ma Kay Kay Khaing Lwin family and K 107,000 by staff of the Relief and Resettlement Department, a bale of cloth worth K 9400 by Daw Mya Thuza (Deputy Director) of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development on June 2, K 569,500 and a bale of cloth and cosmetic worth K 124,900 by Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise in Pyinmana (staff family), and K 200,000 and ten water tanks worth K 1.8 million by Aung Fibre Glass Company on June 3, K 5 million by Nay Pyi Taw Highway Buslines and slippers worth K 500,000 by U Khin Zaw-Daw Khin Myat Swe (K&T) Footware shop on June 5.

The donations were accepted by Director-General U Soe Aung and officials of the Relief and Resettlement Department, who returned the certificates of honour to the donors.

MNA

***Wellwishers donate cash and kind for local people in Rakhine State at Relief and Resettlement Department (Head Office).* MNA**

Jackie Chan arrives in Mandalay of Myanmar

MANDALAY, 6 July—Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF Hong Kong film star Jackie Chan arrived at Mandalay International Airport by air from the People's Republic of China this morning.

In the afternoon, he visited the orphanage school at the corner of 30th and 62nd streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay Region.

The film star was accorded arousing welcome by the people and movie lovers at the orphanage school. The Hong Kong star got off from the car and met with local people and then left there at 5.57 pm.

The movie star will visit the youth training school on 12th street and the school for the girls at the corner of 30th and 64th streets on 7 July.

The Chinese actor will meet with officials to render assistance for combating human trafficking in person in Mandalay of Myanmar.

Tin Maung

Palethwe hybrid paddy seeds handed over in Kyeintali Sub-Township

KYEINTALI, 6 July—The distribution of Palethwe hybrid paddy seeds was held in conjunction with the agricultural technological course in 2012 at the hall of Kyeintali Sub-Township General Administration Department on 23 July.

Head of Thandwe District Agriculture Department U Thaing Sein gave a speech.

On the occasion, Sub-Township Administrator U Myo Than Htaik explained preparations for cultivation of Palethwe paddy in the sub-township. He presented 350 kilos of Palethwe paddy to village administrators and farmers.

Head of Sub-Township Agriculture Department U Moe Zaw Tun explained technology for cultivation of Palethwe paddy with the use of documentary video.

Thandwe District of Rakhine State will grow 250 acres of Palethwe hybrid paddy in 2012.

Township Agriculture

Heavy rains cause floods in downtown Yangon

Local people seen in flood area of downtown Yangon after heavy rains.

YANGON, 6 July—Due to heavy rains in various areas of Yangon on 5 July morning, rain water that hit the downtown of the city from 9.30 am to 11 am on 5 July 2012 caused floods to many townships in a short period.

In consequence, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th and Kyaikkasan Street, Thameinbayan Street and Tamway Mosque Junction were inundated up to 2.6 feet high of water.

The flood water flowed into the houses and pushed saloons on the roads.

Kyemon

Books, publications donated to library

HINTHADA, 6 July—A ceremony to donate books to Tawwin-Waila Library was held at Hinthada District Irrigation Department in Ayeyawady Region on 27 June.

Wellwishers donated books and publications to the library.

Director of Ayeyawady Region Irrigation Department U Tin Win, Deputy Commissioner of Hinthada District General Administration Department U Hla Wai and Assistant Director U Wai Lwin of Hinthada District Irrigation Department formally opened the library.—*Township IPRD*

New school building Tawwin opened at BEHS in Zigon Township

ZIGON, 6 July—The opening of new school building namely Tawwin was held at Basic Education High School Branch in Zigon Township of Thayawady District in Bago Region on 25 June.

Deputy Commissioner U Hla Myo, Township Education Officer Daw Nan Myint Myint Aye and Region Hluttaw representative U Htoo Khaing formally opened the school building.

Wellwishers donated 13 desks and K 100,000.

Myanma Alin

Outbreak of fire at factory in Hlinethaya

YANGON, 6 July—A fire broke out at the fertilizer and pesticide warehouse at No 9/4B(2) on U Tun Nyo Road of Daingsu Village at No 6 block of Industrial Zone 1 in Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region at 5.18 pm on 4 July, according to the Fire Services Department.

According to telephone information that a 80x200 feet area one-storey RC building was blazing, the fire stations of the department assigned their fire engines to the scene.

A total of 145 member of Fire Services Department and 96 members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade participated in fighting fire with the use of three fire engines from Hlinethaya Fire Station, two from Hline, one from Mayangon, two from Bayintnaung, four from Insein, one from Shwepyitha, three from North Okkalapa, two from Sangyoung, one from Ahlon, one from Kyimyindine and one from the head office totaling 21, five supporting vehicles and three management vehicles.

They put out the fire at 5.50 pm.

In the fire, five packets of anti-fungus medicine and seven packets of paper lost due to active and prompt fire fighting efforts. Root course of the incident is under investigation.

Kyemon

Door-to-door fumigation undertaken in Mawlu of Indaw Township

MAWLU, 6 July—A six-member team of Bio-Energy Health Raising Company of Monywa carried out door-to-door fumigation in wards of Mawlu in Indaw Township of Sagaing Region with the aim of taking preventive measures against dengue hemorrhagic fever on 22 June morning.

Their works were provided assistance by the administrator of Mawlu Model Village and local people. The team fumigated the rains and fly-proof latrines for five days free of charge.—*Kyemon*

Rural animal health staff course concludes in Mogaung Township

MOGAUNG, 6 July—Organized by Mogaung Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the rural animal health staff course No 1/2012 concluded at the office of Township Information and Public Relations Department on 29 June.

Head of the Township LBVD Dr. Zaw Naing made a speech.

The training course was attended by 12 trainees from the villages and it lasted five days.

Kyemon

DISTRICT NEWS

Bilin plants trees in rainy season

BILIN, 6 July—Bilin Township Forest Department held the rainy season tree growing ceremony in the compound of Township People's Hospital on 30 June.

It was attended by Township Administrator U Myo Lwin, Staff Officer of Township Forest Department U Aung Tun, members of social organizations and local peole grew over 1000 saplings.—*Township Forest*

Flood and heavy rains hit low-land areas of Yangon

YANGON, 6 July—Due to heavy rains at 2.30 pm on 4 July, the low-land areas and roads of Yangon Region were flooded. Especially, heavy of flood occurred at the junction of Central Road and West Aungmyethazi Road in Kamayut Township.

While flooding, vehicles, pedestrians and students faced delays in travelling for some hours.

Myanma Alin

Agricultural loans disbursed in Sagaing Township

SAGAING, 6 July—Myanma Agricultural Development Bank Branch of Sagaing Region disburses loans K 50000 per acre to the farmers for 2012 under the supervision of the local authorities.

A total of township bank branches have disbursed over K 7356 million for 143,323 acres of paddy and 57436 acres of other crops to 45259 farmers.—*Kyemon*

El Nino may form by September

WASHINGTON, 6 July—An El Nino may be about to form in the equatorial Pacific Ocean during the second half of 2012, the US National Weather Service announced Thursday.

"Overall, the forecaster consensus reflects increased chances for El Nino beginning in July-September 2012," the agency said in a monthly update.

Based on the prediction, the northern United States could be in for a warmer and drier winter than average, while the Southwest and Southeast could find itself with more rain than usual.

El Nino conditions are characterized by unusually warm ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific that normally peak during the Northern Hemisphere "cool season."

They occur every three to five years with stronger events generally occurring every 10-15 years. El Nino conditions have important consequences for global weather patterns.

The phenomenon increases Atlantic wind shear that can keep tropical systems from forming, decreasing the total number of storms during the 1 June to 30 Nov season.

Xinhua

Chinese President Hu Jintao (L) holds a welcoming ceremony for Raul Castro Ruz, president of Cuba's Council of State and the Council of Ministers, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 5 July, 2012.
XINHUA

A pedestrian in thick clothes walks in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 5 July, 2012. A cold wave hit most areas of Argentina Thursday.
XINHUA

China extends programme to help LDCs accede to WTO

GENEVA, 6 July—China announced on Thursday to continue a programme at the World Trade Organization (WTO) to assist the accession and integration of the least-developed countries (LDCs) into the multilateral trading system.

WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy and China's Ambassador to the WTO Yi Xiaozhun signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), extending the "China's LDCs and Accessions Programme" (The China Programme) for another year after its successful implementation in the first year.

China renewed its contribution of 400,000 US dollars to the programme.

The China Programme, initiated in July 2011 under the WTO Aid for Trade Initiative, aims at strengthening LDCs' participation in WTO activities and helping those not yet members to join the organization through internship with WTO and roundtable meetings, among others.

"The activities carried out under the China Programme have contributed to the advancement of the shared priorities of the WTO membership to support the world poorest countries, specifically in the area of WTO accession," Lamy said.

Yi, for his part, said that the program has contributed to increased familiarization by LDCs with the accession process and WTO rules and operating procedures, thereby facilitating their WTO membership and participation.

"China looks forward to continuing its fruitful co-operation with the Secretariat for the benefit of LDCs, as part of China's consistent support for the WTO's Aid for Trade Initiative," he said.

Xinhua

Malaysia becomes 5th most popular Asian destination for foreign direct investments

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 July—Malaysia emerged as the fifth most popular destination for foreign direct investments (FDIs) in Asia last year, ranked after China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Indonesia, local media reported on Friday.

According to the figures that released by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) this week, the country attracted 11.97 billion US dollars, a 31.5 percent increase from 2010.

Hafiz Mirza, UNCTAD investment and enterprises division chief, said Malaysia had been very successful in attracting investment through its policies, and was among the few countries that exceeded UNCTAD's expectations.

In 2009, FDI inflows to Malaysia were a mere 1.45 billion US dollars, a sharp downfall compared with 7.17 billion US dollars in 2008.

"If I am an investor, Malaysia to me is a place of strength... an excellent place to be," Hafiz was quoted as saying by the *New Strait Times* on Friday. Malaysia is on track to exceed last year's FDI inflow despite the current challenging global environment, said International Trade and Industry Minister Mustapa Mohamed.

"We know it's tough, but on the basis of what we have been receiving in terms of applications, esquires and approvals so far, interest continues to be strong," he said.

Hafiz said the only shortcoming for Malaysia in attracting FDI would be the size of its relatively small local economy.—*Xinhua*

People clean sludge and rabbish on the road in South Qingxi Street of Baokang County, central China's Hubei Province, on 5 July, 2012. Torrential rains hit Baokang county from late Wednesday to early Thursday, inundating roads and causing traffic jams.
XINHUA

Italy cuts spending to delay increase in sales tax

ROME, 6 July—Italy's cabinet after an almost seven-hour meeting on Friday approved state spending cuts worth 4.5 billion euros (3.58 billion pounds) this year, heading off an impending sales tax increase and funding emergency help for earthquake stricken areas.

The cuts, which increase to 10.5 billion euros in 2013 and 11 billion in 2014, will push back a 2 percentage point hike in the sales tax until July of next year, and help pay for aid to the industrial Emilia-Romagna region, hit by earthquakes in May.

The package will reduce health expenditures, cut in half the number of provincial governments, gradually trim the number of public-sector workers by 10 percent, and reduce state managers by 20 percent, according to a government statement.

"The cuts will in no way reduce the quality of public services provided to citizens, and instead aim to improve quality and efficiency," Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti told reporters after the marathon meeting.

Job reductions in the public sector have already drawn fire from unions, who have threatened a nationwide general strike.

The plans do not envisage significant lay-offs and will be achieved mainly through hiring freezes and schemes to encourage early retirement.—*Reuters*

West Virginia struggles with power outages amid new storms

LEWISBURG, 6 July—Six days after violent storms hit the eastern United States, the state of West Virginia was struggling to recover on Thursday, with nearly a third of electricity customers still without power and new storms putting more people in the dark.

Electric utilities said more than 566,600 homes and businesses were without power from Ohio to Virginia, leaving them without air conditioning amid a scorching heat wave.

West Virginia, with a population of about 1.9 million, was the hardest hit. Utilities warned that some people could be without power for the rest of the week.

A fresh batch of damaging storms that pushed across southern West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky and North Carolina on Thursday afternoon caused more outages and the weather was blamed for two deaths in Tennessee's Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

One man riding a motorcycle was killed in an accident blamed on the weather, and a woman died after being struck by a falling tree, said park spokeswoman Melissa Cobern. Numerous trees were knocked down inside the park, blocking roads and stranding motorists who had to be rescued, she said.

Huge trucks loaded with ice and bottled water roared through the picturesque West Virginia mountain resort town of Lewisburg to supply thousands of residents in the region who lacked power or water.—*Reuters*

Crossing guards guide motorists though an intersection where traffic signals failed in power outages caused by heavy storms last week in Bethesda, Maryland on 5 July, 2012.—REUTERS

Indonesia to produce locally-made bird flu vaccine in 2013

JAKARTA, 6 July—Indonesia's Research and Technology Minister Gusti Muhammad Hatta said on Thursday the country's state-run medicine firm PT Bio Farma will commence mass production of prophylactic vaccine for the bird flu virus by 2013, local media reported.

"We are glad for this breakthrough. The bird flu vaccine will soon be produced on a large scale," he said in Makassar South Sulawesi.

Gusti said tests on the bird flu vaccine for infants and elementary school-aged children have been carried out.

"We know that every year a minimum of 5-7 million vaccines for infants and school-age children are purchased from abroad, which costs the country a lot. Therefore, we have been constantly making efforts for the vaccine to be produced in the country," he said, quoted by the *Antara* news agency.

The ministry has also established a consortium of research centres, which are focusing on developing vaccines against hepatitis B and C, he added.

The production of the locally-made bird flu vaccine resulted from good coordination between seven agencies under the ministry's supervision, the minister said, adding that the Indonesian Institute of Sciences and the National Nuclear Energy Agency were also provided much assistance towards the production of the vaccine.

Meanwhile, a senior official at the health ministry said on Thursday that an eight-year-old girl died from bird flu on Tuesday.—*Xinhua*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (453)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (453) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.7.2012 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SANG THAI IRIS VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SANG THAI IRIS VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.7.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W (1) 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: SANG THAI SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EL MAR VICTORIA VOY NO (32)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EL MAR VICTORIA VOY NO (32) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.7.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W (2) 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: EASTERN CAR LINER S'PORE PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TRANS PACIFIC 5 VOY NO (333)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TRANS PACIFIC 5 VOY NO (333) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.7.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (4) 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: FORTUNE SHIPPING AGENCY PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Union Civil Service Board

Vacancy Announcement

Announcement No. 11 / 2012

11 th Waxing of First Waso 1374 ME

(29 June 2012)

1. The Hydropower Generation Enterprise under the Ministry of Electric Power No.1 has issued an announcement of vacancies for the following positions-

Sr.No	Position		Vacancy	Educational Qualification
(a)	Assistant Engineer	(Male)	12	B.E(Mechanical)/
	(Mechanical)	(Female)	7	B.E(Mechatronic)
(b)	Assistant Engineer	(Male)	16	B.E(Electrical Power)/
	(Electrical)	(Female)	8	B.E(Electronics)
(c)	Accountant Officer		2	Certified Public Accountant (C P A)/ B.Com/ B.Act
(d)	Staff Officer		6	Any University Degree

2. The applicants -
   (a) must be citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
   (b) must not be over 35 years of age (40 years if service personnel) on 27 July 2012.
   (c) must be physically fit and possess well intact limbs, must be in good health and capable of serving the duty at any assigned place.
3. Applications must be sent to Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board, Nay Pyi Taw in person, or by expedited Mail Service, or by registered letter not later than 27 July 2012.
4. Applicants who wishes to apply for more than one position will have to pay extra examination fees and submit the application forms separately for respective positions.
5. With regards to filling in the application form, documents to be attached, mode of payment of Ks.500/ for examination fee, subjects to be studied for written examinations and personal interview, candidates applying for the vacant positions will have to follow the instructions manifested in the Guide Booklet published under Letter No. 1/ Selection (Main)/ 2012, dated 2 January 2012.
6. **For service personnel**, his or her original application altogether with the recommendation of the ministry concerned and a passport photo of the applicant must be sent to Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board in Nay Pyi Taw through the Head of Department by 27 July 2012. An extra copy of the application together with photo must also be attached.
7. Written examinations will be held in **Nay Pyi Taw**. Candidates will be examined in Myanmar and General Knowledge examination papers on 15 September 2012 (Saturday) and English examination paper on 16 September 2012 (Sunday).
8. Identity cards for candidates sitting for the examination will be issued at Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board in Nay Pyi Taw commencing 13 September 2012.
9. The Ministry of Electric Power No.1 has prescribed specific rules and regulations for successful candidates in discharge of their duties. In this context candidates wishing to obtain further information may contact in person or by phone to Office No. (38) of the Hydropower Generation Enterprise of the Ministry of Electric Power No.1 in Nay Pyi Taw (Tel: 067 - 411073, 067 - 411173, 067 - 411498).
10. For more information, applicants may contact Office No . (17) of the Union Civil Service Board in person or by phone (067 - 409052, 067 - 409430).
11. This announcement and the guide booklet for applicants may be browsed on Websites: ucsb.imis.com.mm and www.ucsb.gov.mm.

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER
TENDER NO(4) (ES) A.M.D (2012-2013)

1. Open Tender are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, for the supply of the following stores (in Myanmar Kyats.)

LOT: No	Description	Quantity
1.	6711/7011 Tractor Spare Parts	34 Items
2.	8011 Tractor Spare Parts	18 Items

2. Tender Closing date: 23-7-2012, 16:00 hrs
3. Tender documents are available at Equipment & Stores Branch of Agricultural Mechanization Department (Head Office), AMD office No. 50, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours from (9-7-2012). Only Tenders Purchased from AMD will be accepted.
4. For more details, Contact; 067-431243

Director General
Agricultural Mechanization Department

Southeast Asia to be declared as nuclear weapon-free zone by signing protocol

PHNOM PENH, 6 July—After 12 years of negotiations, the five recognized nuclear-weapon states (P5) finally agree to sign on the protocol to the treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) next Thursday here, Cambodian senior officials said on Thursday.

The P5 include the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China and Russia. They are all going to sign the protocol on 12 July here during an ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting with those countries' foreign ministers, Koy Kuong, spokesman for Cambodia's ministry of foreign affairs and international cooperation, told *Xinhua*.

"As the chair of 2012 ASEAN, Cambodia is pleased to see all the five recognized nuclear-weapon states to sign the protocol," he said. "Their upcoming signatures reflect their support for the SEANWFZ."

The protocol requires the P5 not to contribute to any violation of the treaty and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons within the SEANWFZ. In addition, the P5 would commit to stopping nuclear weapon proliferation and testing in the Southeast Asia. ASEAN leaders signed the SEANWFZ Treaty in Bangkok, Thailand on 15 Dec, 1995 and it took effect two years later. The negotiations between the ASEAN and the five recognized nuclear-weapon states on the protocol have been held since May 2001.—*Xinhua*

Farm cattle are gathered to perform a "bull fight" at a farmland in Tucheng Village, Gaoan County of east China's Jiangxi Province, on 3 July, 2012. The traditional event, listed as one of Jiangxi's intangible cultural heritage, has a history of over 200 years.—XINHUA

Passengers injured in New Zealand tourist bus crash

WELLINGTON, 6 July — A tourist bus carrying 30 people crashed on icy roads in New Zealand's Southland on Thursday, injuring some passengers, police said. The World Away tourist bus slid and landed on its roof on the Te Anau-Mossburn Highway (State Highway 94) just before 9 am on Thursday.

One passenger was airlifted to Invercargill hospital, four have minor injuries and 20 people, some with cuts and abrasions, were taken to Mossburn fire station. Police cannot yet say what caused the crash, but said roads in the area are icy and there had been two other crashes on Thursday in the same area. Police Serious Crash Unit and Commercial Vehicle Investigation Unit officers were to examine the crash scene.—*Xinhua*

Doctors remove 51-pound tumour from New Jersey woman

New Jersey surgeons removed a rapidly growing, 51-pound (23-kg) cancerous tumour from a woman who had delayed treatment for more than a month until she became eligible for health insurance, her doctor said.

"She was a skinny lady with a huge belly. I mean it looked like she was literally pregnant with triplets," said Dr David Dupree, who led the surgery on the 65-year-old woman, at Riverview Medical Centre in Red Bank, New Jersey.

"She was just all belly," he said in describing his first meeting with the patient, a homemaker from nearby Union Beach, New Jersey, who asked to be identified only as Evelyn, her first name.

About six to eight weeks before she showed up at the hospital, Evelyn noticed discomfort in her abdomen and that her normally 120-pound frame was rapidly ballooning.

Dupree said she sought medical help on 4 June, just days after her 65th birthday, when she would qualify for Medicare, the US healthcare programme for seniors.

"The reason she didn't go earlier was because she had no insurance," he said.

By now, she weighed more than 170 pounds, her legs were swollen with trapped blood, she was badly dehydrated, and, scans showed, the tumour — a malignant sarcoma — was crushing her inferior vena cava, one of the main veins returning blood to the heart, and putting her life in danger.

With her body too weakened to be operated on immediately, Dupree scheduled surgery for the following Monday, allowing time for her to become rehydrated and for her blood pressure to be brought under control.

But after she became short of breath on Sunday evening, Dupree brought the surgery forward.

"I knew that she wasn't going to make it through the night," he said. "Either she goes now or she dies tonight," he recalled thinking.

Opening her up, Dupree and his team found the tumour, which appeared to have originated out of the fatty tissue around her large intestine, had engulfed many of her internal organs, and had to be sliced away "millimetre by millimetre" over the course of the five-hour surgery.

Evelyn was still recovering from the operation in a rehabilitation Centre on Tuesday, Dupree said. She declined to be interviewed.

A 51 pound cancerous tumour is pictured after it was removed from a patient, in this handout photo from Riverview Medical Centre, in Red Bank, New Jersey received by Reuters on 3 July, 2012.

News Album

Wrong number for drug deal ends in arrests

North Carolina authorities arrested four people on drug charges after one suspect mistakenly called a deputy for a drug deal instead of a fellow suspect. Rowan County sheriff's deputies arrested Sandra Davis, Henry Cloer, Jermiere Walker and Pamela Henderson on an array of drug charges for the incident, the *Salisbury Post* reported.

The arrests came after Davis made repeated phone calls to deputy Jagger Naves early Monday. The fourth call ended with a voice mail in which Davis yelled "This isn't even a $10 rock. You need to make this right!"

Naves alerted Cleveland Police of a possible drug deal and called Davis back to tell her he was an officer and asked her to stop calling.

Davis called Naves again saying she couldn't meet up in a parking lot because "police were everywhere," a Sheriff's Office report stated. Davis asked if they could meet in a different lot, to which Naves agreed.

Naves met Davis, who was with Cloer in a green 1987 Chevy pickup, in the parking lot and said he immediately recognized Davis' voice as the person who called him earlier.

When asked to step out of the car, a small bag containing a gram of crack cocaine fell from Cloer's pants, the report said. Authorities also found drug paraphernalia in the pickup.

As Naves seized the pair's cellphones as evidence, one of them rang and the number that appeared on the phone's screen was one digit off from Naves' own cell number.

Oliver Stone pits hippies against Mexico drug barons

Director Oliver Stone and actor James Woods arrive for the premiere of 'Savages' at Westwood Village, on 25 June, in Los Angeles, California. In what he stresses is fiction, Stone's 'Savages' returns to the theme of drugs and violence that helped make his name in 'Midnight Express' (1978) and 'Scarface' (1983).
INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 6 July—Oliver Stone's latest movie pits a pair of Californian neo-hippy cannabis growers against Mexican drug barons aiming to move their business north of the border, with predictably violent results.

In what he stresses is fiction, Stone's "Savages" returns to the theme of drugs and violence that he explored as the screenwriter of "Midnight Express" (1978), for which he won one of his three Oscars, and "Scarface" (1983).

The film, based on the critically acclaimed book "Savages" by US author Don Winslow, tells the story of two Californians — Ben (Aaron Johnson) and Chon (Taylor Kitsch) — and their shared girlfriend Ophelia (Blake Lively).

They divide their life between surfing, smoking, shopping and a flourishing cannabis-growing business.

Everything is going swimmingly until a cartel run by Elena (Salma Hayek) suggests an alliance. Ben and Chon refuse, prompting heavies played by Benicio Del Toro and Demian Bichir to kidnap Ophelia.

The two hippies decide to take up arms and launch a merciless fight against the cartel with the help of a dirty drug enforcement agent played by John Travolta.

"'Traffic' was a wonderful movie but it's much more documentary-like. "But this one is hypothetical. It hasn't happened yet," he told reporters at a recent film promotion in Beverly Hills.—*Internet*

In this 21 Feb, 2012 file photo, performer Adele arrives for the Brit Awards 2012 at the O2 Arena in London.
INTERNET

Digital album sales up; Adele's '21' still No 1

LOS ANGELES, 6 July—Overall US music album sales dropped slightly in the first six months of the year, but digital album sales are up more than 13 percent over a year ago.

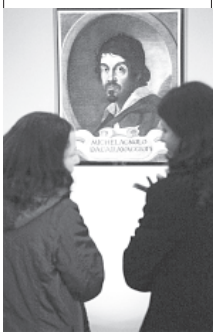
Tracking firm Nielsen SoundScan said on Thursday that 57 million digital albums have been sold so far in 2012, compared to 50 million during the same period last year. Digital album sales comprise 38 percent of all album purchases for the first half of the year.

Adele's Grammy-winning "21" is the top selling CD, both digitally and physically. It claimed the biggest one-week sales of 2012, with 730,000 copies sold in the week following the British singer's Grammy Awards sweep.

Lionel Richie's country duets album, "Tuskegee," came in second with 912,000 units sold to date, outselling Richie's last three studio albums combined.

Internet

In this 10 Feb, 2011 file photo visitors admire the portrait of Caravaggio by an unknown painter during the presentation to journalists of an exhibit dedicated to the Lombard painter titled: "Caravaggio in Rome", in Rome.
INTERNET



Gwen Stefani to host 'family day' fundraiser for Obama

LOS ANGELES, 6 July— No doubt about it: pop singer Gwen Stefani is joining a galaxy of stars helping to raise money for President Barack Obama's re-election campaign.

The *Hollywood Reporter* said on Monday that mother-of-two Stefani will host a "family day" event on Sunday 12 August at her Beverly Hills home, to be attended by First Lady Michelle Obama.

"A family of four can join the first lady and their hostess for a day of child-friendly campaign fun for just $1,000," it said on its website (www.hollywoodreporter.com).

"A $5,000 donation gets mom, dad and the presumably Democratic kids additional face time with Michelle and Gwen — a kind of progressive play date."

A raft of showbiz and fashion celebrities have come out in favour of Obama's bid for a second term in the White House, with the likes of actor George Clooney and Vogue editor Anna Wintour hosting chic fund-raising events.

Singer-songwriter Stefani, 42, fronts the pop group No Doubt in addition to her own solo recording projects and a second life as a fashion designer. Last year she gave $1 million to help Japanese tsunami victims.

Internet

Gwen Stefani, pictured in June 2012, is joining a galaxy of stars helping to raise money for President Barack Obama's re-election campaign.
INTERNET

Art historians claim to find new Caravaggio works

ROME, 6 July—Two Italian art historians claim to have discovered as many as 100 works, most of them drawings, by a very young Caravaggio in a collection long attributed to a master Milanese artist he studied under while a boy in the late 1500s.

It was not possible to immediately evaluate the claim Thursday by Maurizio Bernardelli Curuz and Adriana Conconi Fedrigolli on the eve of the publication of two ebooks laying out their case.

But one expert familiar with the collection said it was unlikely that more than a few at most were actually done by Caravaggio and that none show the mature hand of the temperamental artist — who was famed for his dramatic chiaroscuro effect of dark space contrasting with light, vivid still life and the then-scandalous use of models from the lower walks of life for religious scenes. The works were culled from the collection of Simone Peterzano, whose many pupils included Caravaggio from 1584 to 1588.

The Peterzano collection, which is kept in Sforzesco Castle, a Milan landmark, contains nearly 1,400 works. Bernardelli, in brief remarks to *The Associated Press*, said that until now experts had considered the collection to contain only works by Peterzano.

"Evidently no one entertained the hypothesis that there were works" of his pupils, including future star artist Caravaggio, among the drawings, Bernardelli said. Neither Conconi Fedrigolli nor Bernardelli returned calls for further comment after a first conversation by cell phone was terminated because of poor reception.—*Internet*

24 aces help Serena Williams reach Wimbledon final

WIMBLEDON, 6 July—Serena Williams wins with so much more than serving, of course. Her groundstrokes are intimidating. Her superb speed and anticipation fuel unparalleled court-covering defence. Her returns are outstanding, too.

When that serve is on-target, though, it sure is something special, quite possibly the greatest in the history of women's tennis. Lashing a tournament-record 24 aces at up to 120 mph, and doing plenty of other things well, too, four-time Wimbledon champion Williams overpowered No 2-seeded Victoria Azarenka of Belarus 6-3, 7-6 (6) Thursday to reach her seventh final at the All England Club. "Isn't that something?" said Williams' father, Richard, after watching his daughter win on Centre Court. "She was really trying, you know? Maybe she was trying to impress the neighbors back home."

On Saturday, the 30-year-old Williams will try to become the first woman at least that age to win a major tournament since Martina Navratilova, who was 33 when she won Wimbledon in 1990. "The older I get, the better I serve, I feel," Williams said. "I don't know how it got better. I really don't know. It's not like I go home and I work on baskets and baskets of serves. Maybe it's a natural shot for me." Her next opponent will be No 3 Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, who reached her first Grand Slam final at age 23 by playing steady as can be during a 6-3, 6-4 victory over No 8 Angelique Kerber of Germany.— *Internet*

***Serena Williams of the United States serves to Victoria Azarenka of Belarus during a semifinals match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, England, on 5 July, 2012.*— INTERNET**

Federer, Djokovic poised for first clash on grass

LONDON, 6 July — Djokovic said he will be wary of the dangers posed by Federer on the Wimbledon grass where the Swiss star's record now stands at 64 wins against just seven losses in his 14 visits. "Maybe he uses the grass court better because of his slice. He has a really smart game for this surface," said the Serb. "But I have improved playing on grass in the last couple of years. I won the title here last year, got to another semi-final this year, so I'm feeling good about this surface, about myself on the court. I really have nothing to lose." Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer have met 26 times, but Friday's potentially epic Wimbledon semi-final will be a first clash on grass in their rollercoaster, six-year rivalry.

Switzerland's Roger Federer

Defending champion Djokovic has won the pair's last three meetings, in straight sets on clay this year in Rome and in the semi-finals of the French Open. Those wins followed a morale-sapping semi-final loss for Federer at the US Open where the Serb, for the second successive year, saved match points before driving another dagger into the great Swiss. Both men go into Friday's clash having racked up impressive numbers. Djokovic, the US Open, Australian Open and Wimbledon champion, is in a ninth successive Grand Slam semi-final and has played in four of the last finals at the majors.

Serbia's Novak Djokovic

Federer is in a record 32nd semi-final of a Grand Slam. On paper, the grass of Centre Court should favour Federer, the six-time champion desperate to equal the record seven set by Pete Sampras. But the 16-time Grand Slam title winner is playing down the significance of the surface. "Things are not that drastic of a change anymore from clay, hard court, indoor, to grass. But it is interesting that this is our first grass court match," said Federer. *Internet*

Lincicome, Kerr and Salas share Open lead

***Brittany Lincicome of the US watches her shot from the tenth tee during the start of the US Women's Open golf tournament at Blackwolf Run in Kohler, Wisconsin on 5 July, 2012.*— REUTERS**

KOHLER, 6 July— Long-hitting Brittany Lincicome birdied two of her last four holes in energy-sapping heat to surge into a three-way tie for the lead in Thursday's opening round of the US Women's Open in Kohler, Wisconsin. Lincicome, who claimed her only major title at the 2009 Kraft Nabisco Championship, fired a three-under-par 69 at Blackwolf Run to end a marathon day level with fellow Americans Cristie Kerr and Lizette Salas.

"I was very in control of everything today, which is a nice feeling, obviously," a beaming Lincicome told reporters after recording five birdies and two bogeys. I knew exactly where my tee shots were going. I knew exactly where my irons were going. "The putts, even if I read them wrong, I still kind of got back on track, and I was making them. It was one of those days where you were like, 'That was easy'."

Cristie Kerr

Kerr, winner of the 2007 US Women's Open, parred her final 11 holes after recording three birdies in her first seven while LPGA rookie Salas mixed four birdies with a lone bogey as the trio took joint control of the year's third major."My goal is to kind of play like this consistently for the rest of this week and we'll see where it falls," said world number eight Kerr, who has not triumphed on the LPGA Tour since her second major victory at the 2010 LPGA Championship.

"I've been pretty inconsistent this year, but I've found that determination, that fire in my belly today. You never know when the light switch turns on, and I feel like it has." Japan's Ai Miyazato, who clinched her ninth LPGA Tour title at the NW Arkansas Championship on Sunday, was among a group of four players one stroke off the pace after she opened with a four-birdie 70.

Reuters

International Sports

Hulk, Silva and Marcelo make Brazil Olympic squad

***Porto striker Hulk, pictured in May 2012, AC Milan's Thiago Silva and Real Madrid defender Marcelo were on Thursday included as the three over-age players in Brazil coach Mano Menezes's squad for the Olympic.*— INTERNET**

SAO PAULO, 6 July — Porto striker Hulk, AC Milan's Thiago Silva and Real Madrid defender Marcelo were on Thursday included as the three over-age players in Brazil coach Mano Menezes's squad for the Olympic.Games Silva has been handed the captain's armband as Brazil go in search of their first Olympic gold medal at London 2012. Also featuring are younger stars Neymar of Santos, Manchester United back Rafael and Juan of Inter Milan.

Two absentees from the list are Barcelona's Daniel Alves and David Luiz of Chelsea. Brazil's 22-man Olympic squad — which wil lbe whittled down to 18 before battle begins — are set to prepare for London at a training camp in Rio de Janeiro from 9-16 July ahead of the 26 July- 11 August tournament.

Brazil squad

Goalkeepers: Neto (Fiorentina/ITA), Cabral (Santos)

Defenders: Danilo (Porto/POR), Rafael (Manchester United/ENG), Sandro (Porto/POR), Marcelo (Real Madrid/ESP), Thiago Silva (AC Milan/ITA), Uvini (Sao Paulo), Juan (Inter/ITA)

Midfielders: Sandro (Tottenham/ENG), Romulo (Vasco da Gama), Lucas (Sao Paulo), Oscar (Porto Alegre), Ganso (Santos).

Forwards: Pato (AC Milan/ITA), Neymar (Santos), Damiao (Porto Alegre), Hulk (Porto/POR)

Replacements: Marquinhos (Corinthians), Giuliano (Dniepr/UKR), Cassemiro (Sao Paulo), Gabriel (AC Milan/ITA).

Internet

Beckham banned for "provocative behavior"

TORONTO, 6 July — Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder David Beckham has been suspended for a game for "confrontational and provocative behavior" near the end of last week's loss to the San Jose Earthquakes, Major League Soccer (MLS) said on Thursday. The actions by Beckham, who was also fined an undisclosed amount, occurred during and immediately after his team's 4-3 loss and were considered unacceptable and detrimental to the league's public image, MLS said in a statement. With under a minute remaining in stoppage time, an impatient Beckham kicked a ball San Jose's Sam Cronin, who was lying on the pitch. The ball hit Cronin and referee Hilario Grajeda, resulting in a yellow card for Beckham.The infraction earned Beckham, who had to be separated from opposing players after the final whistle, an automatic one-game ban for yellow card accumulation, which he served earlier this week.The 37-year-old former England captain, who has been omitted from Britain's squad for the London Olympics, will serve his one-game ban on Sunday when the Galaxy visit the Chicago Fire.

Internet

LA Galaxy's David Beckham

Lochte unfazed by challenge of tackling Phelps

OMAHA, 6 July— Ryan Lochte is either a man on a mission or a masochist. The London Olympics will decide which of those is right. The American is undoubtedly one of the world's fastest and most versatile swimmers and perhaps the most ambitious. Not only will he compete in four energy-draining individual events in London, he is taking on Michael Phelps in two of them. His mission is to bring down the greatest Olympian of all time and show the world he is the best swimmer on the planet. By even attempting the feat, the 27-year-old from Florida is running the risk of burning himself out by taking on too much, but insists he will not baulk the challenge.

"In 2008, Michael Phelps set the limit, eight gold medals. That's amazing," Lochte said. "But he's human. He's not a fish or anything like that. He's just like all of us, and he trained really hard to get there. "Honestly, I feel like this is my time. I have definitely put in the work and it's something that I believe so strong that I know I can make this happen." Lochte's confidence is not based on any fanciful whim or the American tendency for trash-talking. He already has six Olympic medals, including three gold, and beat the seemingly-invincible Aaron Peirsol to win the 200m backstroke final in Beijing.— *Reuters*

***Ryan Lochte (R) is congratulated by a teammate after the men's 200m backstroke final during the US Olympic swimming trials in Omaha, Nebraska, on 30 June, 2012.* REUTERS**

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(7-7-12 09:30 am ~ 8-7-12 09:30 am) MST

* News
* Bangkok School of Management Myanmar Campus
* News
* Products of Myanmar (Kachin Traditional Knife)
* Music Gallery
* News
* Road to 27th SEA Games (Sepaktakraw)
* News
* Myanmar Invites You
* News
* Practise and march towards the Goal
* News
* Champion Challenge Cup (Bodybuilding) 2012 & Mr Crusher & Miss Quench
* News
* Mesmerising Scenes or Images of Japan (Part-I)
* News
* Myanmar Movie "Uncontrollable Heartbeat"

MYANMAR TV

(7-7-2012) (Saturday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw - Uppatasanti Paritta

7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:45 am
3. Nice and Sweet Song

8:10 am
4. Poem Garden

11:00 am
5. Musical Programme

11:25 am
6. Game For Children

11:50 am
7. Round Up Of The Week's TV Local News

1:40 pm
8. TV Drama Series

2:40 pm
9. Documentary

4:30 pm
10. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

4:35 pm
11. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Zoology)

5:30 pm
12. Beautiful "ASEAN"

6:20 pm
13. Documentary

6:40 pm
14. Celebrity and Dinner

8:00 pm
15. News
16. Cartoon Series
17. TV Drama Series

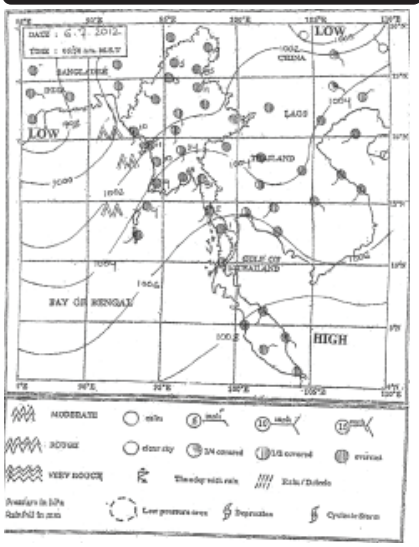
Clarification on tax made in Pathein

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—Ayeyawady Region Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue made clarifications on collection of tax over hotels, inns and restaurants in 2012-2013 fiscal year on 30 June.

It was attended by 55 entrepreneurs from Pathein Township. Head of Region Internal Revenue Department Thura U Htin Kyaw Moe and Deputy Head of Region Department Daw Mu Mu Saw explained process of collecting the taxes. Officials replied to queries raised by entrepreneurs.—*IRD*

Workers are busy at a construction site of indemnificatory housing in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province, on 4 July, 2012. An orange alert for high temperature was released by the local meteorology bureau, as the highest temperature reached 37 degrees centigrade on Thursday. —XINHUA

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

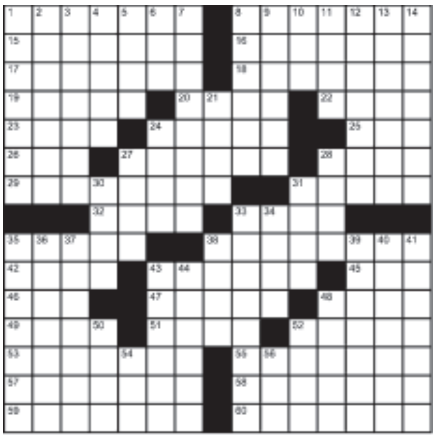


Weather forecast for 7th July, 2012

Sr. No.		Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	27/81	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
2	Kayah	30/86	21/70	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
3	Kayin	29/84	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
4	Chin	24/75	14/75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
5	Upper Sagaing	31/88	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
6	Lower Sagaing	39/102	28/82	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)
7	Tanintharyi	30/86	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
8	Bago	30/86	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
9	Magway	35/95	27/81	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)
10	Mandalay	37/99	28/82	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)
11	Mon	28/82	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
12	Yangon	23/91	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
13	Rakhine	32/90	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
14	Southern Shan	24/75	17/63	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
15	Northern Shan	31/88	22/72	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
16	Eastern Shan	30/86	22/72	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
17	Ayeyawady	30/86	25/77	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	35/95	25/77	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	33/91	22/72	Some rain or thundershowers	(80%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	37/99	28/82	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today	During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing Region, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Kayin and Mon States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaikhami (6.54) inches, Hpa-an (5.35) inches, Paung (4.61) inches, Namsam (2.83) inches, MraukU and Thaton (2.76) inches each.
Bay Inference	Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
State of the Sea	Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at-times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon - Tanintharyi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35 - 40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for sub-sequent two days	Strong Monsoon.

Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Change places
8. More drab color
15. Divided into small spaces
16. Core
17. Dishes the dirt
18. Lure with music
19. Atlas enlargement
20. Length x width, for a rectangle
22. "Whatcha ___?"
23. Whispers sweet nothings
24. Backless seat
25. Decide to leave, with "out"
26. "___ we having fun yet?"
27. Risk
28. European language
29. Cut
31. Electric dart shooter
32. "O, gie me the ___ that has acres o' charms": Burns
33. Freudian topics
35. Calculator, at times
38. Speak incoherently when angry
42. Bassoon, e.g.
43. Vocation
45. Biochemistry abbr.
46. Churchill's "so few": Abbr.
47. Abreast (of)
48. Stallion, once
49. ___ cheese
51. Knowledge gained through anecdote
52. Issue
53. One who leads a Spartan lifestyle
55. Feed
57. Instruct again
58. Accord
59. Heavy, filling foods
60. Most rancid

Down

1. Enchanting
2. Magnetite, e.g. (2 wds)
3. Plaster of Paris painting surfaces
4. Derby prize
5. Came down
6. Bug
7. Lesser quality substitutes
8. Falling star
9. Presidential assassin
10. "It's no ___!"
11. Lentil, e.g.
12. Within a building
13. Overshadow
14. Come in again
21. A way
24. ___ souci
27. Try, as a case
28. "___ of Eden"
30. Coaster
31. ___ de force
33. Androgynous
34. Delight
35. Unpaid overdue debt
36. Fixed (2 wds)
37. Actual
38. Antares, for one
39. White, crystalline, poisonous alkaloid
40. Joins the military
41. Notched wheel and pawl
43. Bad feeling
44. Ages
48. Apple gizmo
50. A fitting reward
52. 1984 Peace Nobelist
54. What "it" plays
56. "Walking on Thin Ice" singer

Singapore's marriage age continues to rise

SINGAPORE, 6 July—The age at which Singapore couples get married continues to rise in 2011, in line with the trend since 2006, local daily the *Straits Times* reported on Friday, citing official statistics. The statistics released by the Department of Statistics that the median age of first-time grooms climbed from 29.7 in 2006 to 30.1 in 2011. For first-time brides, the median age rose from 27 to 28. The figures on divorces and marries in 2011 showed that 27,258 couples tied knot, compared with 24,363 in 2010. The average rate of 6.7 people out of every 1,000 getting married is the highest since 2006.

The number of divorces also climbed from 7,338 to 7,604. Late marriage and low fertility rate have been a challenge for the Singapore society. A significant proportion of those aged between 25 and 35 remained single.

The fertility rate of the city state rebounded slightly to 1.2 in 2011 from the record low of 1.15 in 2010, but Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has said he did not believe it was a sign of the reversal of the long-term downward trend.—*Xinhua*

Wunna Kyawhtin U Thet Tun
Ambassador (Ret.)
Director General (Ret.), CSO
Director (Ret.), UNESCO (Asia & Pacific Division)
Part-time Member, Myanmar Historical Commission
Chairman, Tun Foundation Literatary Committe
Aged (86) Years

U Thet Tun of No.531, Marlar Myaing Avenue, Pye Road, Kamayut Township, son of (U Po Thoung - ISE + Daw Sein Toke), son-in-law of (U Ohn -ICS) + Daw Than Nwe Ohn, brother of (U Tin Tun + Daw Than Nwe), (U Kan Nyunt) + Daw Khin Ma Ma, (U Khin Maung Zaw + Daw Than Than Nu), U Myint Ohn + Daw Mu Mu Thinn, beloved father of Dr. Soe Min Tun + Daw Aye Aye Khin, U Lin Win Tun, grand father of three grandchildren, husband of Daw Khin Khin Ohn @ Thelma Ohn, passed away peacefully on Wednesday (4.7.2012), 8:00 pm at Asia Royal Clinic and will be cremated at Htein Pin Cemetery on Sunday (8.7.2012) at 4:00 pm.
(Transport will be residence at 2:30 pm)
Bereaved Family

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Fourth regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw continues for third day

Six questions answered, two proposals submitted

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint attends third day session of Amyotha Hluttaw meeting.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July — The Fourth regular session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the third day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building at 10 am today, attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and 211 representatives.

First, Speaker U Khin Aung Myint announced that Chairman of Mines and Mineral Resources Affairs Committee of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Nay Win Tun contributed K50 million and representatives their three-day per diem to the fund for rehabilitation of refugees who lost their properties in Rakhine State and Amyotha Hluttaw put the donation on record.

Afterwards, the question and answer session continued and U Nu of Yangon Region constituency No. 10 asked **if there was a plan to construct a new building for Myanmar Economic Bank branch in Insein District.** Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Than replied that it is true that the bank branch building is not big enough for the staff and banking services, causing troubles for customers.

Staff of the bank branch are working their best to provide banking services to the customers, he said.

The deputy minister continued to say that the ministry would seek the allotment for the new building when it found a site at a strategic location which can provide security to the building.

Afterwards, U Nu of Yangon Region constituency No. 10 asked if **the Ministry of Sports had a plan to upgrade the township sports ground owned by the ministry with the aim of uplifting sports standard of the people.**

Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu replied that the ministry had given priorities to sports grounds and stadiums and a sports athletes village at present as part of efforts for hosting the XXVII SEA Games in Nay Pyi Taw in December 2013.

Besides, the ministry had planned to upgrade township-level sports grounds, considering that building sports grounds is an important part for promoting the sports standard in the country. For hosting the XXVII SEA Games in 2013, the ministry had to spend financial allocation for building the sports grounds meeting international standard.

Only after the XXVII SEA Games, the ministry would make arrangements in coordination with Region governments for upgrading sports grounds in townships.

Afterwards, U Kyaw Tun Aung of Rakhine State constituency No. 5 asked **if Ministry of Construction had a plan to continue the construction of Pauktaw-Minbya Road which is 20 mile and six furlongs long in Rakhine State,** Dr Sai Hsai Kyauk Hsam of Shan State constituency No. 6 asked **if Ministry of Construction had a plan to upgrade Naung Hpar Bridge on Kengtung-Monghkat-Mongyan Road to RC one** and U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region constituency No. 3 asked **if cooperative societies would get land grants** and U Tin Maung Win of Mandalay Region constituency No 3 asked a question related to **collection of fees at toll gates**.

Regarding the first question, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin replied that Pauktaw-Minbya Road is 20 miles and six furlongs long and one mile and one furlong long section of the road has been paved with tar and the remaining section is a gravel one.

In 2011-2012 fiscal year, the ministry spend K539.40 million on construction of an earthen embankment which has a distance of 4 miles and four furlongs, on paving the road with gravel which has a distance of four miles and two furlongs, on earth works on approach roads to Hsinkhontaing Bridge and Sonye Bridge and on building three iron reinforced concrete bridges.

Spending the allocation for maintenance of roads and bridges for the 2011-12 fiscal year, the ministry had carried out road works maintaining a total distance

(See page 9)

Midwifery course opens in Aunglan

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—The opening ceremony of midwifery course No.1/2012 was held at the hall of Sangha Hospital of Aunglan Township people's hospital on 2 July morning.

Township Administrator U Khin Maung Win and Township Medical Officer Dr. Ko Ko Lay gave speeches. Altogether 20 trainees from villages are attending the six-month theoretical and practical course.—*MNA*

Thongwa Township WVOC grants stipends to 64 students

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—Stipend presentation for offspring of members of Thongwa Township War Veterans Organizing Committee was held at its office on 26 June morning, with an address by Chairman of the Committee Captain San Win Naing.

Official concerned presented K 580,000 stipends to 64 students from basic education level to university level for 2012-2013 academic year.—*MNA*

Arsenal's Denilson extends Sao Paulo loan spell

LONDON, 6 July—The 24-year-old spent the past 12 months at his boyhood club and opted to continue his loan spell for the 2012-13 season.

"Denilson has extended his loan spell with Sao Paulo for the 2012/13 season," Arsenal said on their website (www.arsenal.com).

"Everyone at Arsenal wishes Denilson well for his continued spell with Sao Paulo."

Denilson, who made his first team debut for Arsenal in October 2006 in a League Cup match against West Bromwich Albion, made 153 appearances for the London side and scored 10 goals.

After establishing himself as a regular in the 2008-09 season, he struggled to remain in the plans of manager Arsene Wenger and returned back to his homeland.

Denilson, who hails from Sao Paulo, played 47 times last season helping the club to finish sixth in the Brazilian championship.

Reuters

Outstanding students honoured in Hsihseng

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July— The honoring ceremony for outstanding students who passed 2011-2012 matriculation examination from Hsihseng Basic Education High School of PaO Self-Administered Zone in Shan State (South) and teachers took place at the school hall here this morning.

Social incharge of Leading Body of PaO Self-Administered Zone U Khun Maung Pal and Hsihseng Township Administrator U Soe Lwin delivered addresses and presented awards to the outstanding students and teachers.—*MNA*

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (6-7-2012)

Kyaikhami	**(6.54) inches**
Hpa-an	**(5.35) inches**
Paung	**(4.61) inches**
Namhsan	**(2.83) inches**
MraukU	**(2.76) inches**
Thaton	**(2.76) inches**

Chinese President Hu Jintao (L) holds a welcoming ceremony for Raul Castro Ruz, president of Cuba at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 5 July.

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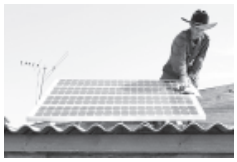
Solar, wind energy a missed opportunity for Cuba



In this 18 June, 2012 photo, Yusmaikel Portales cleans the solar panel on the roof of his grandfather's home in Pinar del Rio, Cuba.

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Beckham banned for "provocative behavior"

LA Galaxy's David Beckham

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24 aces help Serena Williams reach Wimbledon final

Serena Williams of the United States serves to Victoria Azarenka of Belarus during a semifinals match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, England, on 5 July, 2012.

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