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President U Thein Sein to pay goodwill visit to Kingdom of Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 19 July—At the invitation of Her Excellency Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay a goodwill visit to the Kingdom of Thailand in the near future.—*MNA*

Our Three Main National Causes

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

President U Thein Sein meets Group of Friends of Democracy Parties

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met chairpersons and general secretaries of Group of Friends of Democracy Parties at 500-acre farmers educative mechanized farm in Pobbathiri Township here this morning.

The President cordially greeted those present at the meeting on his arrival.

Those present at the meeting introduced themselves to the President.

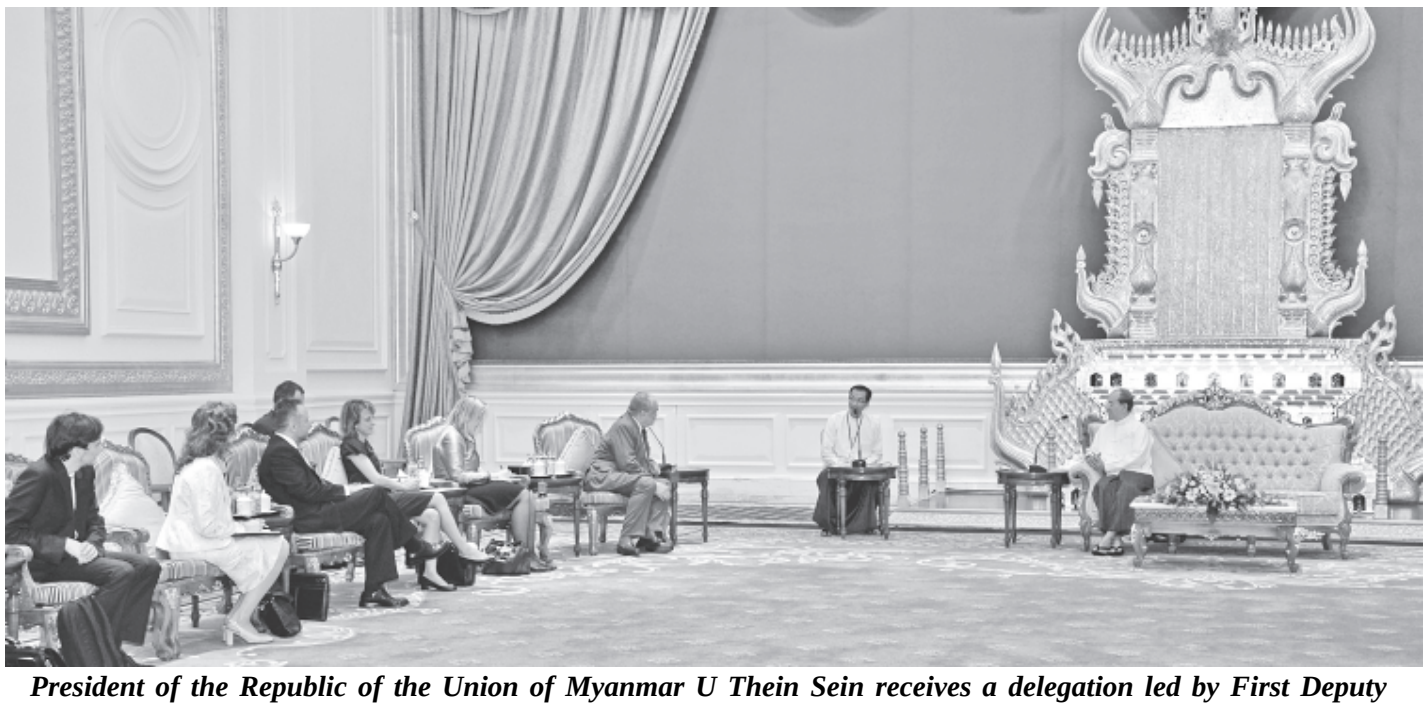
The President explained policies of the government and basic tasks for the country and the people at today's meeting. This was the first meeting and similar meetings would be scheduled regularly in opportune times, the President said. Sharing the same fate as the citizens of Myanmar, the government and the parties has common goal to establish a peaceful and developed society. Despite differences in politics, he requested the parties to work in cooperation on common ground. Being a fledgling democracy, every step of the country must be taken cautiously. Candid suggestions and engagements in some cases were invited as the government is serving the interest of the country.

The country belongs to every citizen of Myanmar under the same flag. All stakeholders are doing their bits to bring about prosperity to the country, they are assumed to be founders of a democratic nation.

(See page 8)

***President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein meets chairpersons and general secretaries of Group of Friends of Democracy Parties at 500-acre farmers educative mechanized farm in Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.*—MNA**

President U Thein Sein receives First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic



***President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives a delegation led by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Mr Karel Schwarzenberg at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a goodwill delegation led by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Mr Karel Schwarzenberg, at the Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace, here, at 3 pm today.

Present at the call together with the President were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin and departmental heads. Deputy Prime Minister Mr Karel Schwarzenberg was accompanied by Czech Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Jiri Sitler.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on promoting amity and cooperation, further multi-sectoral cooperation between two countries in economy, technology, health and education and Myanmar's reform process. —*MNA*

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 19 July, 2012

The day we remember our founding fathers

Today, 19 July, is the Martyrs' Day of Myanmar on which the country remembers nine heroes who sacrificed their lives in the independence struggle. Sixty five years ago on the same day, leaders of Myanmar's pre-independence interim government including national hero General Aung San were assassinated.

They were gunned down by assassins at a cabinet meeting in Yangon Secretariat which is expected to be transformed into a museum soon. The martyrs had devoted their whole lives to the independence struggle of the country. But their chance to enjoy the fruits of the independence they brought about to the country was spoiled.

The nine martyrs include General Aung San, Dedok U Ba Cho, Mahn Ba Khaing, U Ba Win, Thakhin Mya, Abdul Razak, Sao San Tun, U Ohn Maung and Ko Htway.

General Aung San's residence in Yangon where he lived for two years till his last day houses General Aung San Museum. The once only Martyrs' Day museum is now open to public five days a week except Mondays, Tuesdays and public holidays. Broadcasters air live coverage of the commemoration at Martyrs' Mausoleum. Flags are flown at half mast on this public holiday.

While remembering the founding fathers of our country, all of us need to embrace the future because responsibility for the country falls to us at this very present. A prominent composer then commented on the fate of the martyrs that, because they sacrificed their lives without enjoying the independence, we enjoy it without sacrifice. Should we take the independence gained through blood, sweats and tears of our ancestors for granted?

We should thank our forefathers for their efforts letting us stand head and shoulder on the stage of world as citizens of an independent nation. By the time, we should review how much gratitude we deserve from our next generations. And the blame of our successors should not rest with us.

Union Hotels and Tourism Minister meets hoteliers

YANGON, 18 July—Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Htay Aung and personnel, visited Strand Hotel, Thamada Hotel, Inya Lake Hotel which are the partner hotels of the ministry, here today.

The Union Minister met executive members of Myanmar Tourism Federation, Myanmar Hoteliers' Association, Union of Myanmar Tourism Association, Myanmar Tour Guides Association and general managers of hotels run with foreign direct investment in Yangon, at Mingala Hall of Inya Lake Hotel. Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister stressed the need for a sense of responsibility in striving for tourism development.

MNA

Myanmar ASCC holds 1st meeting, preliminary meeting for hosting ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Workshop on MDGs

***Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan makes address at the first meeting of the Myanmar ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) and the preliminary meeting of ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Workshop on MDGs: Acceleration Strategies and Priorities Beyond 2015.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—The first meeting of the Myanmar ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) was held at Ministry of Culture today in conjunction with the preliminary meeting of ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Workshop on MDGs: Acceleration Strategies and Priorities Beyond 2015 to be hosted by Myanmar on 30, 31 July 2012.

It was attended by Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, deputy ministers from member ministries of Myanmar ASCC, the Deputy Attorney-General and heads of departments under the ministry.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of Myanmar ASCC Union Minister Kyaw Hsan called on 17 ministries and 19 groups which are carrying out tasks of ASCC for balancing tasks from ASEAN arouse from resolutions of ASEAN meetings, future tasks and ASEAN declarations with the national tasks of the country.

The Union Minister also urged them to make efforts for working shoulder to shoulder with other ASEAN countries. He also stressed the need for systematic cooperation among ministries concerned, regional sectors and ASCC organizations from ASEAN countries and for reporting what the found and discussed during meetings to the ASCC focal ministry.

The Union Minister also underscored realizing the Cross-Cutting issues which is related to all sectors under ASCC as it is popular at the ASEAN meetings and urged the minister, focal departments and senior to prepare for discussing and making suggestions for the Cross-Cutting issues. To be able to do that, senior officials and ministries concerned are to work for coordination between departments and ministries with an emphasis on the duties assigned, he added. Besides, he also urged senior officials who are doing national duties to digest the ASEAN Charter so that they can guide departmental delegates who would represent Myanmar at ASEAN meetings and to prepare for articulating the country's practices to other countries.

The ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Workshop on MDGS: Acceleration Strategies and Priorities Beyond 2015 sponsored by UNDP will be held in Yangon on 30-31 July, 2012, and MDGS senior officials from ASEAN countries will participate in the workshop, he said.

Regarding the workshop, the Union Minister urged senior officers from focal ministries for ASCC to take part in the workshop with the aim of improving the images of Myanmar and to prepare for articulating the country's practices for reducing poverty as part of efforts for supporting the UN's Millennium Development Goals, weak and strong points of the national-level strategies, comparing the achievements at national-level and the ASEAN Roadmap, accelerated strategies and priorities sector-wise, he added.

As a conclusion, the Union Minister called on participants of the meeting to prepare for ASCC meetings in Myanmar and ASEAN Chairmanship to be taken by Myanmar in 2014.

Afterwards, Daw Nanda Hmon, Secretary of ASEAN Social-Cultural Community (ASCC) and Director-General of the Historical Research Department, reported on measures which have been taken by Myanmar ASCC and arrangements for ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Workshop on MDGs.

Deputy ministers from member ministries of Myanmar ASCC discussed tasks which have been carried out by ministries concerned concerning with the ASEAN Road Map and tasks to be coordinated for the ASEAN Multi-Ssectoral Workshop on MDGs.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the Union Minister.—*MNA*

Friendly basketball match continues

YANGON, 18 July—Under leadership of Ministry of Sports, Myanmar Basketball Federation organized a friendly basketball match between Vision Sports women basketball team from United States of America and Youth women basketball team of MBF at the gymnasium in Aung San stadium here at 2 pm today. Responsible personnel of Sports and Physical Education Department, Patron of Shwe Thanlwin Co Daw Ni, vice-president of MBF, secretary and executives, vetran basketball players and officials, invited guests and sports fan enjoyed the match.

At the second day match, Vision Sports women team of US win over youth women team of MBF 53-49.

MNA

Talks remember Martyrs' Day in Falam held

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—Talks to commemorate the 65th Martyr's Day was held at No.1 Basic Education High School in Falam of Chin State this morning.

Township Administrator U Myo Naing made speech and Senior Assistant Teacher Daw Kaing Htwe discussed the background history of Martyrs' Day.

Next, the officials concerned presented prizes to those who participated and won prizes in the contests of poem and essay (High and Middle School Levels) in commemoration of Martyrs' Day.

MNA

The World Heritage Committee of UNESCO voted to list the NahalMe'arot / Wadi el-Mughara Caves as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
ISRAELI EMBASSY/YANGON

Newest UNESCO World Heritage Site - Carmel Caves

JERUSALEM, 18 July—On Friday, 29 June 2012, the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO voted to list the NahalMe'arot / Wadi el-Mughara Caves as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Site of Human Evolution at Mount Carmel in northern Israel consists of a group of prehistoric caves containing cultural deposits representing 500,000 years of human evolution.

The caves contain evidence of the transition from a hunting-gathering lifestyle to agriculture and animal husbandry and, unique to this site, the existence of both Neanderthals and Early Anatomically Modern Humans within the same cultural framework.

NahalMe'arot joins six other sites in Israel that have been designated World Heritage sites.

The other sites are: Masada; the Old City of Acre; the White City of Tel-Aviv; Biblical Tels — Megiddo, Hazor and Beer Sheba; the Incense Route — Desert Cities in the Negev; and the Bahá'i Holy Places in Haifa and the Western Galilee.

The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs worked alongside the Israel National Commission for UNESCO of the Ministry of Education, the Hof HaCarmel Regional Council and the University of Haifa to get the site listed by the World Heritage Committee.

Israeli Embassy/Yangon

Fire crews extinguish blaze at Istanbul tower block

ISTANBUL, 18 July—A large fire broke out in a 42-storey tower block in central Istanbul on Tuesday, sending thick smoke billowing into the air before firefighters extinguished the blaze, and there were no reports of casualties, officials said.

Live images on Turkish television earlier showed debris falling from the upper floors of the building, which is made up of residential apartments and offices, as fire crews fought the blaze.

People wearing breathing masks were led out by fire crews. A nearby petrol station and other buildings were also evacuated. "It is not clear yet why or from where the fire was started. We will see when the fire brigade's report is finished. The cause will be investigated," said Istanbul Mayor Kadir Topbas. "We could have experienced a catastrophe as at least 1,500 people reside in the building," he said.

The tower block's owner, Adnan Polat, said everyone from the building had been rescued. "All of them left the building in a healthy condition. We also rescued a few pets. Our biggest reward is there was no loss of life. This building has an early warning system and this incident showed the importance of it to everyone," Polat said.

The flames appeared to spread from the base of the tower and raged up one side of the building, leaving it scorched black.

State broadcaster TRT Haber quoted Istanbul Governor Huseyin Avni as saying the fire had started in the air conditioning units at the base of the tower.

Reuters

Fire fighters try to put out a fire that occurred in a high-rise building in Istanbul, Turkey, on 17 July, 2012. A fire broke out in a high-rise building in Istanbul Tuesday. The casualties and the cause of the fire is under investigation.
XINHUA

Helicopter crash wounds 2 NATO soldiers in W Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 July—Two NATO soldiers were injured on early Wednesday morning when a helicopter crashed in western Afghanistan, the military alliance confirmed in a statement issued here.

"Two International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service members were injured following a helicopter crash in western Afghanistan today," the NATO-led ISAF said in the statement. The brief statement did not provide details about the incident, only saying "the cause of the crash is under investigation."

In a separate development, an ISAF soldier was killed in an insurgent attack in restive southern part of the country on Tuesday, the ISAF confirmed in another statement.

However, the statement gave neither the nationality of the victim nor the details about the attack under the ISAF policy. Troops mostly from Italy have been serving in western Afghanistan while US, British and Australian forces have been stationed in southern part of the insurgency-hit country within the framework of 130,000-strong ISAF forces.

The Taleban-led insurgency has been rampant since the militant group launched an annual spring offensive dubbed "Al-Farooq" from 3 May against Afghan and NATO-led troops stationed in the country.

Xinhua

Germany counts the costs as it buries nuclear past

FRANKFURT, 18 July— Peter Klimmek has spent his entire career at a nuclear plant in Germany. Next year, he will retire — just months before his workplace does.

The nuclear plant in the small and remote village of Wuergassen, halfway between Frankfurt and Hamburg, has been Klimmek's passion for the past 37 years.

But by 2014, almost nothing will be left of what once was Germany's first commercial boiling water reactor. Germany's decision to shut down all nuclear plants by 2022, sparked by last year's Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan, is a done deal.

"It gets under your skin to see how this plant is being dismantled," 63-year old Klimmek says, just steps away from a giant hole in the ground where the reactor vessel used to be.

Work to decommission plants mainly includes removing and disposing of contaminated material as well as decommissioning the plants themselves while making sure that no radiation spreads.

Spent fuel from reactors needs to be encased and then transported to safe fuel dumps while cooling towers, often regarded a blight on landscapes, then need demolishing.

"All that will be left are photos, footage but otherwise just empty hands," he adds, surrounded by workers in orange suits that are busy removing parts of the plant.

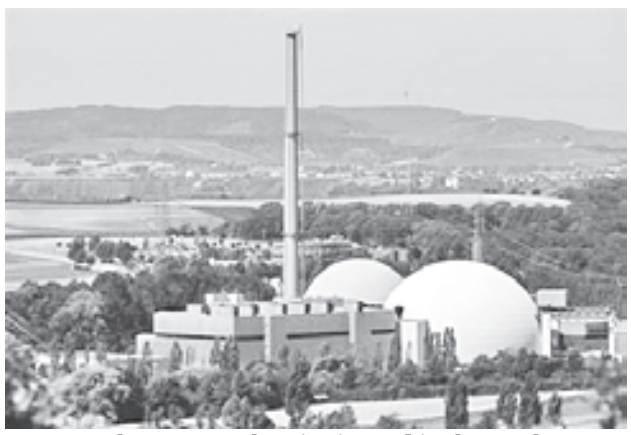
Klimmek joined the nuclear plant in the small village of Wuergassen in 1975, when public resistance against nuclear power was just starting to gain momentum in Germany.

Today, the four operators of nuclear plants in Germany — E.ON, RWE, EnBW and Vattenfall — have made a total of more than 30 billion euros ($36.7 billion) in provisions for the dismantling of the plants and the disposal of nuclear waste.

Germany's No 2 utility RWE estimates that dismantling its two reactors at Biblis will cost 1.5 billion euros, excluding storage costs for the nuclear waste. EON, the country's largest utility, sees costs of 1.1 billion euros per plant for both dismantling and the disposal of radioactive material.

But estimates for the total costs of dismantling all nuclear plants in Germany differ widely due to the complex nature of the process, with Greenpeace expecting at least 44 billion euros, while consultancy Arthur D. Little has put the total costs at no less than 18 billion euros.

Reuters



A nuclear power plant is pictured in the southern German village of Neckarwestheim on 28 June, 2012.
REUTERS

Ten killed, six injured as passenger van hit by bomb in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 18 July—At least ten people were killed and six others injured when a passenger van was hit by a bomb in Pakistan's northwest tribal area of Orakzai on Wednesday morning, reported local Urdu TV channel Express. According to the local media reports, the blast took place at about 7:00 am local time when a passenger van carrying an estimated 20 people on board was hit by a remote-controlled bomb planted by the roadside while on its way from Orakzai to Kohat, a neighbouring district to the south of Orakzai.

Located in northwest Pakistan, Orakzai is the only one out of the seven tribal areas in the country, that does not border Afghanistan.

Initial reports said that the bomb was planted inside the van, but later most of the local media reported that it was a roadside planted bomb that hit the van.

The van was hit by the bomb in the Spaey area, a place in the border area between Orakzai and Kohat.

All the killed are closely related relatives, said local media, adding that the injured people have been shifted to a nearby military hospital.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet.—*Xinhua*

22 NATO supply trucks destroyed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 July—Afghan officials say a magnetic bomb placed on a truck exploded and destroyed 22 NATO supply vehicles in northern Afghanistan. Ghulam Sakhi Baghlani, deputy governor of Samangan Province, says many of the fuel tankers and semi-trailers caught fire after the bomb went off around 2 am on Wednesday.

All the trucks were parked in the Rabatak area of the province where the truckers had stopped to rest. The tankers in the convoy were transporting fuel south into Afghanistan from neighbouring Uzbekistan to the north.

Earlier this week, three NATO supply trucks were destroyed by militants in Sayd Abad district of Wardak Province, south of Kabul.

Pakistan recently reopened its border crossings after blocking NATO supply trucks for seven months in retaliation for US airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers.—*Internet*

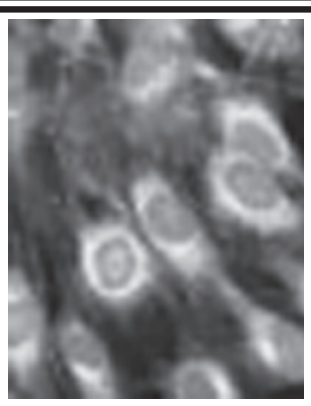
Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

Scientists successfully convert cord blood cells to neurons: report

MADRID, 18 July — Researchers have found a way to convert cord blood cells into neuron-like cells that could shed light on treatment of a wide range of neurological conditions, local media reported on Tuesday.

"This study shows for the first time the direct conversion of a pure population of human cord blood cells into cells of neuronal lineage by the forced expression of a single transcription factor," said Barcelona Centre for Regenerative Medicine director Juan Carlos Izpisua Belmonte who led the research team.

This is the first time scientists are successful in a direct transformation of blood cells from the umbilical cord into neurons without rolling back the cells to their embryonic state.This means that the cells resulting from such a process would be less likely to develop into tumors.This discovery will shed light on further researches regarding the causes of diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.—*Xinhua*



***Scientists successfully convert cord blood cells to neurons.*—XINHUA**

NASA builds menu for planned Mars mission in 2030s

***NASA's Advanced Food Technology Project manager Michele Perchonok, right, and Lockeed Martin Sr. Research Scientist Maya Cooper, try a pizza recipe being tested in a kitchen at Johnson Space Centre on 3 July, 2012 in Houston, Texas.*—INTERNET**

HOUSTON, 18 July — Through a labyrinth of hallways deep inside a 1960s-era building that has housed research that dates back to the early years of US space travel, a group of scientists in white coats is stirring, mixing, measuring, brushing and, most important, tasting the end result of their cooking.Their mission: Build a menu for a planned journey to Mars in the 2030s.The menu must sustain a group of six to eight astronauts, keep them healthy and happy and also offer a broad array of food. That's no simple feat considering it will likely take six months to get to the Red Planet, astronauts will have to stay there 18 months and then it will take another six months to return to Earth. Imagine having to shop for a family's three-year supply of groceries all at once and having enough meals planned in advance for that length of time.

"Mars is different just because it's so far away," said Maya Cooper, senior research scientist with Lockheed Martin who is leading the efforts to build the menu. "We don't have the option to send a vehicle every six months and send more food as we do for International Space Station."Astronauts who travel to the space station have a wide variety of food available to them, some 100 or so different options, in fact. But it is all pre-prepared and freeze-dried with a shelf life of at least two years. And while astronauts make up a panel that tastes the food and gives it a final OK on Earth before it blasts off, the lack of gravity means smell — and taste — is impaired. So the food is bland.

On Mars though, there is a little gravity, allowing NASA to consider significant changes to the current space menu. —*Internet*

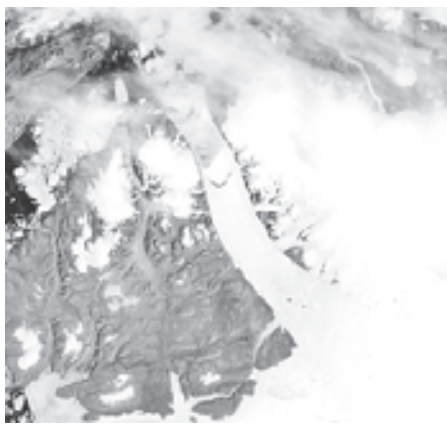
Glacier in north Greenland breaks off huge iceberg

WASHINGTON, 18 July — An iceberg twice the size of Manhattan tore off one of Greenland's largest glaciers, illustrating another dramatic change to the warming island. For several years, scientists had been watching a long crack near the tip of the northerly Petermann Glacier. On Monday, NASA satellites showed it had broken completely, freeing an iceberg measuring 46 square miles.

A massive ice sheet covers about four-fifths of Greenland. Petermann Glacier is mostly on land, but a segment sticks out over water like a frozen tongue, and that's where the break occurred. The same glacier spawned an iceberg twice that size two years ago. Together, the breaks made a large change that's got the attention of researchers.

"It's dramatic. It's disturbing," said University of Delaware professor Andreas Muenchow, who was one of the first researchers to notice the break. "We have data for 150 years and we see changes that we have not seen before." "It's one of the manifestations that Greenland is changing very fast," he said.Researchers suspect global warming is to blame, but can't prove it conclusively yet.

Glaciers do calve icebergs naturally, but what's happened in the last three years to Petermann is unprecedented, Muenchow and other scientists say. "This is not part of natural variations anymore," said NASA glaciologist Eric Rignot, who camped on Petermann 10 years ago.—*Internet*



***This Monday, 16 July , 2012 satellite image provided by NASA shows calving, crescent-shaped crack at centre, on the Petermann Glacier in northwestern Greenland.* INTERNET**

EU opens antitrust investigation of Microsoft

BRUSSELS, 18 July — The EU's executive body, the European Commission, announced on Tuesday that it was opening an investigation into whether Microsoft has kept the antitrust commitments it made in 2009, and warned that penalties for non-compliance would be "severe." Microsoft conceded it had "fallen short" of its obligation to provide the "browser choice screen," or BCS. The screen would allow users of Microsoft's Windows operating systems to select a browser other than Microsoft's Internet Explorer."Due to a technical error, we missed delivering the BCS software to PCs that came with the service pack 1 update to Windows 7," Microsoft said in a statement.

The company said that PCs running the original version of Windows 7, as well as Windows XP and Windows Vista, did have the screen."While we have taken immediate steps to remedy this problem, we deeply regret that this error occurred and we apologize for it," Microsoft said.EU Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia told reporters it appeared that the choice screen, promised by Microsoft in 2009 following an antitrust case, has not been provided since February 2011, meaning 28 million customers who should have seen it may not have.Microsoft submitted a report to the Commission in December asserting that the browser choice screen was being provided as required. In its statement on Tuesday, the company said it believed at the time that was the case.

The company said it had retained outside counsel to conduct a formal investigation of how the technical error occurred and to make suggestions to avoid such compliance problems in the future.—*Internet*

***Kirk Koenigbauer, Corporate Vice President of Microsoft Office Division, speaks at a Microsoft event in San Francisco, on 16 July, 2012.*—INTERNET**

Australia's Qantas Airways drops Blackberrys for iPhones

SYDNEY, 18 July — Australia's Qantas Airways , is the latest company to drop Research in Motion Ltd's Blackberry after employees voted in favour of Apple's iPhone in a survey.

RIM virtually invented mobile e-mail, making it the phone of choice for companies when it rolled out its first BlackBerry devices more than a decade ago. But its market share has evaporated as consumers flock to iPhones and other devices based on Google Inc's Android system.

Qantas said it was replacing 1,300 company-issued Blackberrys with iPhones and the savings at the end of the programme would be about A$1.4 million ($1.43 million).

IBM was also reported to be dropping RIM for iPhones for 500 employees in Australia. "Transition from the Blackberry to the iPhone is part of Qantas' broader mobility strategy and once complete will result in significant cost savings," the airline said. "Savings will come from simplifying the infrastructure supporting the devices, from the devices themselves and from the data agreements reached with our providers."

RIM last month posted its first operating loss in eight years and it was much deeper than expected. The company also said it was cutting 5,000 jobs, almost a third of its workforce, as it struggles to survive. —*Reuters*

***A guest checks his mobile device before the start of the Research In Motion Limited (RIM) annual general meeting of shareholders in Waterloo on 10 July, 2012.* REUTERS**

LG Display employees charged with stealing trade secrets from Samsung

***LG Display employees charged with stealing trade secrets from Samsung.*—INTERNET**

SEOUL, 18 July — LG Display on Tuesday announced that 11 people, including six of its own employees, have been charged with stealing advanced OLED TV display technology from Samsung, the *Associated Press* reported.

Three of those charged were employees of Samsung Display at the time, and the alleged theft of OLED technology took place between 2010 and 2011.

While LG has publicly denied that the company or any of its employees were involved in the theft, Samsung maintains that the firm "systematically stole its display technology and poached Samsung employees." Both firms are vying for dominance in the display market and are moving toward thinner and lighter OLED technology.

Internet

Physical inactivity kills five million a year

A third of the world's adults are physically inactive, and the couch potato lifestyle kills about five million people every year, experts said in the medical journal The Lancet on Wednesday.— INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 18 July— A third of the world's adults are physically inactive, and the couch potato lifestyle kills about five million people every year, experts said in the medical journal *The Lancet* on Wednesday. "Roughly three of every 10 individuals aged 15 years or older — about 1.5 billion people — do not reach present physical activity recommendations," they said in a report that described the problem as a "pandemic." The picture for adolescents is even more worrying, with four out of five 13- to 15-year-olds not moving enough, it said.

Physical inactivity was described for the study as failing to do 30 minutes of moderate physical activity five times a week, 20 minutes of vigorous activity three times a week, or a combination of the two. Inactivity increases with age, is higher in women than in men, and more prevalent in high-income countries, the researchers found. A second study, comparing physical activity levels with population statistics on diseases like diabetes, heart problems and cancer, said lack of exercise claimed more than 5.3 million of the 57 million deaths worldwide in 2008.

It said inactivity was a risk factor comparable to smoking or obesity. Lack of exercise causes an estimated six percent of coronary heart disease cases, seven percent of type 2 diabetes (the most common form) and 10 percent of breast and colon cancers, it said.—*Internet*

UNAIDS welcomes US approval of drug to stop HIV

WASHINGTON, 18 July — The UN agency tasked with fighting AIDS on Tuesday welcomed the decision by the United States to allow the use of an HIV prevention pill for the first time. The pill will be used "to prevent the sexual transmission of HIV for people who do not have HIV, but who are at high risk of being exposed to the virus", UNAIDS said in a statement from its Geneva headquarters.

Since 2004, the combination of drugs contained in the pill — emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate — has been used to help those with HIV, but not to protect against infection, the agency said.The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the pill — known as Truvada — on Monday based on results from clinical trials which found that a daily oral dose of tenofovir, or emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, carried significant preventative benefits, UNAIDS said.

HIV prevention of this kind is called pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, which the FDA approved as part of a wider HIV prevention strategy that includes condom use and other safer sex practices, risk reduction counselling and control of other sexually transmitted infections.

Internet

Truvada is the first HIV prevention pill approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for use in some at-risk groups. In trials, the drug has shown to significantly reduce the transmission rate of HIV, but activists worry it may cause a rise in high-risk behavior among sexual partners with "condom fatigue"— INTERNET

Google unit says will avoid US import ban on smartphones

WASHINGTON, 18 July — Google unit Motorola Mobility said on Tuesday it has taken steps to avert an interruption of US imports and sales of its smartphones after the devices were found to infringe on a Microsoft patent. The importation to the United States of some Motorola Mobility smartphones was supposed to stop on Wednesday as the result of an International Trade Commission ruling that the phones infringed on technology that makes it possible for consumers to use the devices to generate meeting requests and schedule gatherings.

"While we can't share specific details, we have employed a range of proactive measures to ensure there is no continuing infringement under the ITC's interpretation of this single Microsoft patent," Motorola Mobility spokeswoman Becki Leonard said in an emailed statement. One option for Motorola Mobility would be to remove the meeting-scheduling technology from its smartphones and tablets. Microsoft has previously said that Motorola Mobility should license the technology.The affected phones were: Atrix, Backflip, Bravo, Charm, Cliq, Cliq 2, Cliq XT, Defy, Devour, Droid 2, Droid 2 Global, Droid Pro, Droid X, Droid X2, Flipout, Flipside, Spice and the Xoom tablet.

Google acquired Motorola Mobility in May.The legal fight at the ITC is one of dozens globally between various smartphone makers. Google's Android system has become the top-selling smartphone operating system, ahead of mobile systems by Apple, Microsoft, Research in Motion and others.In mid-May, some HTC smartphone models were stopped at the US border because it lost a patent dispute with Apple at the ITC in December. Shares in HTC tumbled more than 6 percent when shipments were held up.

In a complaint filed in October 2010, Microsoft accused Motorola Mobility of infringing nine patents. The ITC ruled in May that Motorola Mobility infringed on one.

Google's Android software has recently become the most popular cellphone operating system with 56 percent of the market in the first quarter of 2012, according to data from Gartner Inc. The ITC is a popular venue for patent litigation since it has the power to forbid the importation of products that infringe on patents.

Reuters

A posed picture shows a Motorola Droid phone displaying the Google search page in New York on 15 Aug, 2011. REUTERS

Intel 2Q earnings fall, sees economic headwinds

NEW YORK, 18 July — Intel Corp, the world's largest chipmaker, said on Tuesday that the weak global economy is slowing its growth, and revenue for the current quarter is likely to come in below Wall Street forecasts. Intel's second-quarter net income was $2.83 billion, or 54 cents per share. That was down 4.3 percent from $2.95 billion, or 54 cents per share, a year earlier, as operating expenses rose faster than revenue. Intel has been buying back shares, accounting for the flat earnings per share. Analysts polled by FactSet were expecting earnings of 52 cents per share for the latest quarter.

Revenue rose 3.6 percent to $13.5 billion. Analysts were expecting $13.54 billion. The Santa Clara, Calif., company says it expects $13.8 billion to $14.8 billion in third-quarter revenue, with a midpoint of $14.3 billion, below the analyst forecast of $14.6 billion. "As we enter the third quarter, our growth will be slower than we anticipated due to a more challenging macroeconomic environment," CEO Paul Otellini said in a statement.Intel chips go into about 80 percent of personal computers and into vast numbers of servers as well, making it a bellwether for spending on computers.

Consumer demand in North America and Western Europe is not recovering as fast as Intel expected, Otellini said. Growth in emerging markets such as China and Brazil is also slowing, he said. For the full year, Intel now expects sale to grow 3 percent to 5 percent from last year, rather than the "high single digit" level it predicted earlier.However, analyst Doug Freedman at RBC Capital Markets said Wall Street was already less optimistic than Intel, and analysts' earnings forecasts are unlikely to be affected by the company's pullback on its sales forecasts.

After the release of results, Intel's stock fell 8 cents to $25.30 in extended trading. During the regular session, it gained 25 cents, or 1 percent, to close at $25.38.Since PC sales are stagnant globally, Intel wants to latch on to the popularity of tablets and smartphones in a meaningful way. The first smartphones with Intel processors launched in the quarter in China, France and India.

When it comes to tablets, Intel is counting on Windows 8, due this fall. This touch-oriented update from Microsoft Corp is designed to work well on tablets as well as PCs.—*Internet*

In this Thursday, 12 July, 2012, photo, Intel Core i7 processors are stacked at a store in Cambridge, Mass. INTERNET

Asian shares, euro little changed after Fed's mixed message

A man is reflected on a stock quotation board outside a brokerage in Tokyo on 11 May, 2012. — REUTERS

HONG KONG, 18 July — Asian shares were on the backfoot on Wednesday after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke offered a gloomy view of the US economy, but hopes that the central bank is moving closer to more stimulus measures limited the day's losses.Chinese shares underperformed the region, dragged down by property plays after data showing another year-on-year dip in home prices spurred profit-taking in one of this year's biggest outperformers in Asia.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was down 0.2 percent by midday. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index (.HSI) was down 0.6 percent while property shares in Shanghai (.SSEP) were almost 4 percent lower."With market confidence battered by one disappointing economic data after another, investors want more than just vague promises of action down the road," said Han Bum-ho, an analyst at Shinhan Investment & Securities.

The move in Asia followed a choppy session overnight on Wall Street, where the S&P 500 (.SPX) eked out a 0.7 percent gain partly driven by earnings from Goldman Sachs (GS.N) and Coca-Cola (KO.N) that came in ahead of expectations.Japan's Nikkei (.N225) was up 0.2 percent but some analysts put the gains down to short-covering as worries about earnings from Japanese companies persist. (.T)In his testimony to the Senate Banking Committee, Bernanke said the economic recovery was being held back by anxiety over Europe's debt crisis and the path of US fiscal policy, and he expressed unease over a stagnant jobs market.

Analysts said the Bernanke's comments on the economy, especially on the jobs market, suggested the central bank could opt for further monetary stimulus.—*Internet*

Seven killed as helicopter crashes in western Sudan

KHARTOUM, 18 July—Seven soldiers were killed and two others wounded on Monday in a military helicopter crash in Sudan's western region of Darfur, the *Sudanese News Agency (SUNA)* reported.

The agency quoted spokesman of the Sudanese army, Colonel Alsoarmi Khaled Saad, as saying that "the helicopter of the Sudanese army crashed due to technical failure, leaving seven soldiers killed and two others wounded, who were receiving medical treatment."

He added that "the military *Mi-17* helicopter belonging to the Sudanese army was on an administrative mission in the Hazan Tanjar area in the North Darfur state."

Xinhua

***A man walks close to two Sudanese war helicopters sitting on the tarmac of the El-Geneina airport in West Darfur, in 2004. Seven Sudanese military personnel died on Monday when their helicopter crashed in conflict-plagued Darfur because of a technical problem, the military said.—*INTERNET**

Obama bracing to be outspent by Romney

WASHINGTON, 18 July— Barack Obama was the first presidential candidate to raise more than $100 million in a month and in 2008 was the first to forgo public money for his campaign. Now, he faces the very real threat of being the first president to be outspent by a challenger. Obama, who four years ago broke just about every fundraising record for a presidential hopeful, has now been forced to look his supporters in the eye and confess he might not keep pace with Republican Mitt Romney. It's a sobering realization for his campaign, which had imagined an unlimited budget for ads, offices and mail.

"I will be the first president in modern history to be outspent in his re-election campaign," Obama wrote to supporters recently. It wasn't supposed to be this way. Conservatives just two years ago feared Obama would raise and spend a billion dollars in the 2012 campaign. Now, there is a real possibility that Romney and his official partners at the Republican National Committee could overtake Obama in total spending.

How did Obama go from fundraising juggernaut to money chaser in just four years?

In the early days of the 2007 primaries, he used fundraising success to puncture Hillary Rodham Clinton's aura of inevitability. Obama surpassed Clinton's primary fundraising in the first two quarters of that year — $25 million to Clinton's $20 million from January to April, and $31 million to Clinton's $21 million in the three months that followed.

The numbers shocked observers and inspired supporters to give even more to the fresh-faced, first-term senator from Illinois. But now that magic seems elusive.—*Internet*

***President Barack Obama speaks at a fundraising event in Austin, Texas on 17 July, 2012.* INTERNET**

***Two women walk along a street in the Barrio Antiguo in Monterrey, Mexico, on 11 July.—*INTERNET**

Mexico drug violence cripples Monterrey party district

MONTERREY, 18 July—The historic district in this thriving industrial city was once packed with revelers enjoying Mexico's economic boom times — but today it's a ghost town, a victim of the country's ongoing drug war. Most shocking was the speed of the change: just two years.

The northern city of Monterrey is an industrial powerhouse, where Mexican corporations like cement giant Cemex, Deacero and the Cuahutemoc Moctezuma brewery have operations, as do multinationals like Johnson & Johnson, Caterpillar, General Electric and Whirlpool.

The city of four million is responsible for 7.5 percent of Mexico's gross domestic product and has one of the highest per capita regions in the country, according to the official city website. It is home to the prestigious Monterrey Institute of Technology, and has hosted United Nations and Organization of American States events.

The historic heart of Monterrey is the Barrio Antiguo, or Old Quarter, where 19th-century adobe brick buildings line cobblestone roads over the core of the original city founded in 1596. When Monterrey's economy took off starting in the 1990s, night life in the Barrio boomed. Art galleries opened, and places like the Rio Bar, La Chavela, and Manaus became night-life magnets.

Customers would often line up for two hours just to get into places like La Casa Amarilla, to listen to jazz, or Iguana's, which has hosted live rock bands since 1984.

Up to 10,000 visitors would flock to the Barrio each weekend, officials said.—*Internet*

Delta passenger thought needle was a toothpick

MINNEAPOLIS, 18 July—Jim Tonjes was high above North America when he bit into a hot turkey sandwich aboard a Delta Air Lines flight and felt a sudden jab in his mouth.

Glancing down, he noticed what looked like a sewing needle in the food. Another passenger on the plane reported the same thing.

At first, he thought a toothpick meant to hold the sandwich together had punctured the roof of his mouth. When he pulled it out, "it was a straight needle, about one inch long, with sharp points on both ends."

***In this 24 Jan, 2012, file photo, a Delta Airlines plane taxis past a gate at Logan Airport in Boston.—*INTERNET**

Now US and European authorities are trying to determine how the needles got into meals served on at least four Delta flights from Amsterdam to the US and why anyone would place them there.

"We are keeping all options open because at this moment, we have no idea why somebody or something put needles inside the sandwiches," said Robert van Kapel, a spokesman for Amsterdam's Schiphol airport.

The FBI and the airport's police department have opened criminal investigations. The US Transportation Security Administration said it does not view the matter as a national security threat.

A Delta spokeswoman said the needles were found on Sunday in six sandwiches on four flights. Passengers discovered four of them. The flights included one to Minneapolis, one to Seattle and two to Atlanta.

Internet

US researchers aim to deliver visual images to blind people's brains

HOUSTON, 18 July— Humans possess the unique ability to form mental images of things that exist only in their minds, and US scientists now believe there may be a way to harness this ability someday to give sight to the blind. Neuroscientists at Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Texas Medical School at Houston have recently advanced their understanding of how the brain conjures up images, and hoped to someday bypass the eyes to directly deliver visual images into blind people's brains, according to the latest online edition of the *Texas Medical Center News* on Monday.

In studying three individuals and creating an illusion of the flash of light to stimulate the brain, the scientists discovered two regions of all the three people's brains required stimulation before the individuals could generate mental images in their mind.

The occipital lobe, a part of the brain at the back of the head, is responsible for vision and mental images, but the scientists discovered the brain's temporoparietal junction must be active and work in conjunction with the occipital lobe for individuals to "see" an image in their mind, at least in the three people studied.

"This new study is a step toward our goal of better understanding visual perception, which will help us make a useful visual prosthe-tic," said Daniel Yoshor, the study's senior author. A visual prosthetic, Yoshor said, could work like this: Someone who is blind might wear a prosthetic consisting of eyeglasses containing a webcam. The tiny camera would film the scene before the blind person's eyes, then relay information to a computer chip implanted in the person's brain, which would stimulate the brain to generate mental images.

"If successful, we would in essence bypass eyes that no longer work and stimulate the brain to generate mental images," said Michael Beauchamp, the study's lead author and an associate professor of neurobiology and anatomy at the UT Medical School. However, Yoshor, also chief of neurosurgery at St Luke's Episcopal Hospital, noted that a key obstacle to progress right now "is our limited understand-ing of how brain activity leads to visual perception."—*Xinhua*

Four injured in Egypt train crash

CAIRO, 18 July—A train crashed and derailed south of Cairo on Tuesday, leaving four people injured, the Egyptian health ministry said. The train, heading for the town of Sohag 500 kilometres (300 miles) south of the capital, crashed near Badrashin station near Cairo, a security source said. Five of its 15 carriages overturned. Passengers on another train which had stopped had thrown rocks and iron rods on the rails in protest at the delay, causing the derailment, the source said.

"Four people were injured in the accident and there were no deaths," Ahmar al-Ansari, deputy head of the health ministry's emergencies department, told journalists.

The security source had earlier reported an unknown number of dead and injured. In Egypt's last train tragedy, almost 20 people were killed in 2009 when one train hurtled at full-speed into the back of another which had stopped.

Internet

***Egyptians gather around a train which crashed and derailed near Badrashin station south of Cairo on its way to the town of Sohag. A train crashed and derailed south of Cairo on Tuesday, leaving four people injured, the Egyptian health ministry said.* INTERNET**

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw receives delegation of Johns Hopkins University of US

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by Professor Dr Karl Jackson of Johns Hopkins University of the United States of America at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 9 am today.

They held a cordial discussion to invite Hluttaw representatives from Myanmar to the US.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw committees and commission, the director-general of Hluttaw Office and officials.

MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint receives Professor Dr Karl Jackson of Johns Hopkins University of the United States of America.

MNA

Work Committee for Implementation of Joint Strategy on Elimination of Forced Labour in Myanmar

***Union Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi addresses Work Committee for Implementation of Joint Strategy on Elimination of Forced Labour in Myanmar.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—The Work Committee for Implementation of Joint Strategy on Elimination of Forced Labour in Myanmar held the first coordination meeting at the hall of the Ministry of Labour, here, at 1 pm today, attended by members of the work committee and departmental officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi said that the work committee was formed by the Union government office on 18 April 2012. The Union government has approved the work plan for implementation of joint strategy on elimination of force labour in Myanmar, he said. He added that the first coordination meeting was aimed at implementing the work plan by 2015. He said that it is necessary to immediately carry out the necessary tasks.

As the new government accelerated its tasks to eliminate the force labour within over one year, most of the sanctions exposed against Myanmar could be lift in the 101st ILO Conference held in June previous year, he said.

He stressed the need to complete the respective tasks before schedules. He noted that all the ministries are to cooperate in elimination of forced labour for serving the interest of the State. He pointed out that such task is important for flow of investment to development projects and reform plans of Myanmar.

After that, members of the work committee from various ministries and the liaison officer of ILO discussed the tasks included in the plan to disseminate knowledge to the people to be carried out by the departments before schedule.

MNA

Hybrid Palethwe reach NyaungU, farmer gets over 200 baskets per acre

NYAUNGU, 18 July— Farmer U Win Naing of Letpanchaypaw Village-tract, NyaungU in Mandalay Region, boasted his success in the presence of District Administrator U Tun Tun Win, Township Administrator U Thura Tun Linn, and others on 5 July. His field yielded 204.9 baskets per acre as a wet grain and 183.95 baskets as dry grain.—*Myanma Alin*

Teasing leads to murder

PYINMANA, 18 July— Phyo Wai Aung, 24, and Pyae Phyo Aung, 20, were friends living in the same ward in Yangaung 2 Ward of Pyinmana. On 15 July they together with other friends had a drink at a pub in Taungtha ward. The two teased each other but it turned into brawl. During the brawl, Pyae Phyo Aung hacked Phyo Wai Aung with a sword. The latter sustained injury at his forehead and was rushed to 1000-bed hosptial in Nay Pyi Taw. He died of the injury on 16 July. Pyinmana Police Station filed murder charge against Pyae Phyo Aung.

Kyemon

Lightning kills paddy transplanter

PANTANAW, 18 July— Paddy transplanter Ma Moe Hsan was on her way home with her friends on 11 July evening after they have finished their work.

On arrival at the field in Gayetkyaw village, Khayeygan Village-tract in Pantanaw Township, a lightning hit her and killed her on the spot.

The body was sent to Inma Station Hospital. Inma Police Station opened a file to investigate whether the death was in normal or not. In rainy season, those who have to work in the open field should be aware of lightning as it occurs occasionally.

Kyemon

Donation poured into installing lift at MGH Cardiac Ward

MANDALAY, 18 July— U Min Min Myo, Daw Su Su Lwin and family of City Amusement Part, Mandalay, donated K 50 million to Mandalay General Hospital on 10 July. Their donation is aiming at installing a lift at the cardiac ward now under construction in the hospital compound. At the donation ceremony U Min Min Myo explained the purpose of the donation and handed over the cash to Medical Superintendent Dr Maung Win in the presence of Specialist Professor Dr Daw Than Than Kyaing and others.

Kyemon

DISTRICT NEWS

Physicians make field trip

YAYKYI, 18 July— Township Health Officer Physician Dr Thaung Dan Oo led his team of medical staff to make a field trip to Akaegyigyogon village in Yaykyi Township, Ayeyawady Region on 8 July. They camped at Basic Education Primary School in the village and the physician explained his purpose. His assistant Dr Cho Cho Lwin also explained common disease in the rainy season. They demonstrated standard handwashing, gave medicines to schoolchildren to fight tapeworms to and provided health care to locals.—*Myanma Alin*

Gamblers arrested

BOGALE, 18 July— As a drive to fight against gambling in Bogale Township, Sub-Inspector Win Kyaw and group of Bogale Police Station combed all the areas in the township. Acting on a tip off, they together with witnesses searched the house of Ma Tin Tin Khine, 37, residing at 7th Street in No.6 Ward. They apprehended Ma Tin Tin Khine plus four together with cards and K 9350 of gambling money. The police station has taken action against the gamblers.

Myanma Alin

President U Thein Sein meets Group...

(from page 1)

Being an elected government, it has to fulfill the desire of the people. The common wish and objective of the entire people is stability and socio-economic development. As regards the stability of the country, there are two sections—political stability and peace of the entire country—which are interrelated.

Political stability was built through engagement with NLD and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Three steps are being taken to bring domestic armed conflicts to an end. The multilateral ceasefire agreements were sought in the first step. The second step is building trust through negotiations which are based on eight principles. Agreements have somewhat been reached with 10 among 11 ethnic armed groups. Engagement is being made with remaining KIA. Kachin State suffered a lot from armed conflicts. Labour of local people and access to education by their children were lost as the local nationals fled the conflicts. Losses of Kachin State are losses of the country. Peace would be built with KIA soon through mutual negotiations.

He said that priority is being given to food sufficiency of the people as a task to develop socio-economy of the State which is one of the people's desires. As Myanmar is an agro-based nation, food is sufficient for 60 million of present population but food security is being considered for 100 million of population to be increased in coming 30-40 years. He said that agricultural system is being improved through five methods for uplifting the life of farmers. He stressed the need to transform the agro-based nation to an industrialized country with a view to ensuring prosperity of the nation. Despite possessing natural resources, the nation needs investment and technology to become the industrialized nation, he noted. As such, he said that investments are being invited till today. At a time when the foreign investments are put in the nation, emphasis is to be placed on prevention against harming the interest of the national races and prestige and sovereignty of the State and degredation of environment. Investment is divided into four types: first priority will be given to industries with simple technology that can create many job opportunities for the citizens, the second priority to value-added finished goods productions based on rubber and timber, the third to production of minerals and the fourth to establishment of IT and telecommunication industries, he said.

He continued that at present, poverty rate is at 26 per cent in the nation and a plan is being implemented to reduce poverty rate to 16 per cent. He said that arrangements are being made to create job opportunities for Myanmar migrant workers from other countries.

In conclusion, he said that strengthening of democracy is interrelated with peace and stability of the State. Only when the two significant points are interrelated each other, will the socio-economic life of the people develop. He said that the government is striving for achieving success in the above-mentioned tasks and invited those present to join hands with the government.

Chairman of National Democratic Force (NDF) U Khin Maung Swe, Party Leader Dr Than Nyein, Chairman of Democratic Party (Myanmar) U Thu Wai, General Secretary Daw Than Than Nu, Demoracy and Peace Party (DPP) Chairman U Aung Than, General Secretary U Myo Nyunt, General Secretary of Peace and Unity Party (PUP) U Tun Shwe, Chairman of Union Democracy Party (UDP) U Thaung Win, General Secretary of Rakhine Nationals Development Party (RNDP) U Oo Hla Saw, Chairman of Shan Nationalities Democratic (SNDP) Party U Sai Aik Paung, Vice-Chairman of All Mon Regions Democracy Party (AMRDP) U Nai Hla Aung, Chairman of Chin National Party (CNP) U Zan Ciin Phon (a) Zo Zam and Chairman of Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party (PSDP) U Saw Thein Aung discussed political, economic, internal peace and regional development matters.

With regard to the discussions, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein and Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min explained sector-wise undertakings of the governmnt and future plans. Next, the President gave a supplementary discussion.

After that, the President expressed his thanks for participation of attendees in the discussions and the meeting came to an end at 1 pm.

Later, the President and party posed for documentary photo together with the attendees.

MNA

***President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein cordially greets chairpersons and general secretaries of Group of Friends of Democracy Parties.*—MNA**

***Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint receives Washington-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) Director Mr Kenneth Scott Hubil and party.*—MNA**

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw receives Washington-based NDI Director and party

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by Washington-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) Director Mr Kenneth Scott Hubil at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, this evening.

Present on the occasion together with the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw were Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw committees and officials of Hluttaw Office.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on boosting capacity of parliamentarians, establishment of parliamentary libraries and assistance to be provided for capacity building of parliamentary staff.

MNA

Donation ceremony for displaced persons held in Bhamo

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July— A ceremony to provide cash and kind for displaced students in Bhamo District of Kachin State was held at Bhamo Town Hall in Kachin State on 13 July morning, with an address by State Social Affairs Minister Daw Bouk Ja.

At the ceremony, Kachin State government donated 512 dozens of exercise book worth K 1,024,000, pens and pencils worth over K 590,000, school uniforms worth K 1,499,300, slippers and umbrellas worth K 375,000, raincoats worth K 842,000 and medicines worth K 500,000 for camps, the state advocate-general 153 dozens of exercise book worth K 200,000, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon K 15,445,000, 700 dozens of exercise book and 19 bales of clothes worth K 910,000, state red cross society one thousand sets of school uniform worth K 3,000,000 and two bags of iodine salt worth K 400,000, U Maung Maung Oo- Daw Nan Saw Mon and family two hundred of school longyi worth K 500,000, Myat Dhana family 153 dozens of exercise book worth K 200,000, Captian Taik Oo Kyaw and family 6 dozens of exercise book worth over K 100,000, Daw Nwe Nwe Win (Aung Tuition) umbrellas and school uniforms worth K 500,000, Bhamo district staff and well-wishers K 2,500,000, I Love Myanmar Family Foundation K 15,000,000 for constructing of three temporarily relief camps at Momauk camp, state relief and resettlement department K 428,400 for flood victims. A total of today's donation amounted to over K 43,127,000.

State Minister for Social Affairs Daw Bauk Ja together with state advocate-general and officials inspected relief camps in Kachin Baptist church and roman catholic church in Momauk and Shwekyeena pagoda in Bhamo and monastic school in Yogyi village and encouraged the displaced persons.—*MNA*

Union Education Minister calls for disaster consciousness

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—The seminar on disaster risks reduction for education planners continued for the second day at the Ministry of Education, here this morning.

First, personnel of Myanmar-UNESCO Group and departments explained measures for disaster risks reduction and Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye called for preparatory measures of universities and colleges against disasters depending on their geographical locations, responses and rescue and rehabilitation tasks in the aftermath of disasters in real time.

It was attended by directors-general, deputy directors-general and personnel of the Education Ministry, personnel of related ministries, universities and colleges, and region/state education officers.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Czech delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July— Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Mr Karel Schwarzenberg at Zabuthiri Hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw Building here at 2 pm today.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, chairmen and secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw committees, officials from the Embassy of the Czech Republic to Myanmar and senior officials from the Czech Republic.

During the meeting, they openly discussed the matters related to the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.— *MNA*

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Mr Karel Schwarzenberg.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw session…

(from page 16)

development of private industries, SMEs, educative programme and technology in line with market-oriented economic system, the Deputy Minister said that plans were under way to run factories and workshops that are not necessary for engaging strategically by the government among the factories and workshops under the Ministry of Industry in line with the policy laid down by the government for the development of industrial sector, in cooperation with the private companies.

Necessary policy and technologies for the development of private industry sector Directorate of Industries and Directorate of Industry Planning had issued directives and carried out with check and balance. For systematic running of private factories and workshops, Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department was making regular inspections.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Engineering Society, SMEs Development Centre had been providing technological assistances needed for the development of SMEs. Ministry of Industry held talks on educative programme and technological development in cooperation with organizations from home and abroad. In addition, UMFCCI held discussion on development of SMEs in cooperation with foreign organizations occasionally.

Encouragements would be given and assistances, provided for technological transfer, economic development by means of fair competition and business development under the framework of ASEAN Free Trade Region, World Trading and other International and Inter-country Trade Agreement. The government would provide technological assistances and other necessary assistances in transforming into agro-based industry, agro-product value added enterprise, supporting factories and supply chain management, based on agricultural produce.

U Thein Tun Oo of Amarapura Constituency asked **whether there is a plan to cancel incorrect and out-of-date court rulings by the Supreme Court of the Union and the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union for correcting judicial sector**. Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union U Soe Nyunt explained that, if similar appeal, amendment, writ, special appeals are filed at the Supreme Court of the Union and the Supreme Court find the facts that should be revoked, the ruling is then cancelled with firm reasons. For different ruling for similar cases, the old rulings should not necessarily need to follow.

There are examples that out-of-date rulings are revoked with the later ones. The high courts and supreme courts of other countries do the same. If there is a situation to cancel the out-of-date ruling, the Supreme Court of the Union cancels it with firm reason. It could not be limited in a timeframe.

Fifteen Hluttaw representatives discussed **Foreign Investment Bill**. They discussed that the survivability of national entrepreneurs should be taken into consideration in shifting towards new policies for economic development. The foreign companies should be allowed to invest cent percent in industries that require large capital the national entrepreneurs can not effort, rather than in high-tech industries. If multinational corporations far better than local enterprises come in Myanmar market, space for local companies will be diminished.

The foreigner and citizen ratio 49:51 is the most appropriate one to safeguard the national interest. Thailand and Malaysia could successfully introduce the ratio. If the foreign investors are going to enjoy tax exemptions and waivers, national enterprises should be granted similar or more exemptions and waivers.

With the flock of foreign investors entering the county, national SME and SMI will face the danger of extinction. Local entrepreneurs will become employees of the foreign companies. In prescribing Foreign Investment Law for economic development and industrialization of the country, the interest of the country and the people should be put at the fore.

The date for further discussion of the bill will be announced later. The representatives willing to discuss the bill are to submit their name lists not later than noon on 24 July, precisely mentioning "paragraph, subparagraph and description" to discuss.

Although the Foreign Investment Bill had been approved by both Hluttaws, the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee revised the bill again and submitted the report to the Hluttaw on 13 July.

Today's session concluded at 1.05 pm and the twelfth session takes place on 23 July.

MNA

Applications for political party scrutinized and passed

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—The Union Election Commission is scrutinizing and permitting the applications for registration as political party. The commission passed the application for establishment of Shan State Kokang Democratic Party by U Antony Super and 17 other persons today as it was found that the establishment is in accordance in line with laws and by-laws.—*MNA*

Coordination meeting on rehabilitation in Rakhine State held

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—A work coordination meeting on continuous efforts for rehabilitation of local people who lost their properties in the unrest in Rakhine State was held at Rakhine State Government Office yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanma Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay clarified current aids to local people at refugee camps, reconstruction works, water supply and sanitation, education and care for children and arrangements for livelihood of the people.

Responsible personnel from UN agencies pledged that they would provide humanitarian assistance to the refugees, would work together with Rakhine State Government for rehabilitation of the local people and would try to collect donation sufficiently from foreign donors.

To provide shelters to 60,000 population in Sittway and villages in Sittway Township, Rakhine State Government has pledged to build temporary 170 tents while UN agencies and INGOs led by UNHCR to build 600.

As part of efforts for reconstruction of houses which were burnt down in Maungtaw and in villages in Maungtaw Township, Ministry of Border Affairs would build 202 houses, UNHCR 222 and the Care Myanmar 128 houses.

UNHCR has sent 400 tents so far for the refugees in Maungtaw Township.

WFP spend around 600,000 USD on providing four dry provisions to refugee camps and so far a total of 1515 tons of provisions have been sent to the camps.

Work coordination meeting on continuous efforts for rehabilitation of local people who lost their properties in the recent unrest in Rakhine State in progress.—MNA

Over 2100 tons of provisions have already been stored at the warehouses of WFP.

UNHCR and INGOs has already provided 6818 sets of different kinds of house hold utensils and 2412 sheets of tarpaulin to the refugees in Rakhine State.

MNA

Educative talks on narcotic drugs control, health held in Falam

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—An educative talk on narcotic drugs control and health was held at No.1 Basic Education High School in Falam, Chin State this morning.

Police Deputy Superintendent, Police Captain Soe Myint and Township Judge U Tin Maung Myint gave educative talks on narcotic drugs control and District People's Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Sein Hlaing preventive measures of DHF.—*MNA*

DHF preventive measures taken in Shwepyitha Township

YANGON, 18 July— Every Saturday, measures were taken against Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever in Shwepyitha Township through fighting mosquito larva as a way to prevent aedes, and new patients were diagnosed. On 14 July, these measures were taken at No.15 Ward by health staff led by Township Administrator U Aung Moe Oo, members of Township Women's Affairs Organization led by Chairperson Daw Khin Soe Moe and Ward Administrator U Moe Myint and members of Social Organizations.

They checked water to make sure that there was no larva in flower verses and water pots. When they found any suspicion, they changed the water, disinfected it and fumigated the surroundings.—*Myanma Alin*

Good news for collegians in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 18 July— There is a grand plan at Mohnyin Degree College to nuture excellent human resource through holding talks and literatry competitions. Historian Dr Toe Hla, on 13 July, gave talks on "History of Mohnyin". Another scholars Dr Kyi Shwin will give talks under the title of "Creating an environment on the Internet" on 31 July, and Dr May Zin "Nano Technology" on 8 August. Moreover, Head of Myanmar Department of Mohnyin Degree College Professor Dr Daw Khin Than told our correspondent in Mohnyin that to promote Myanmar's thinking, competitions for Award for Ayeyawun Aesthetic Literature will be held on 27 July.—*NLM-001*

International Day of Cooperatives marked in Bogale

BOGALE, 18 July—Staff Officer Naw Bwi Hpaw of Township Cooperative Department made a speech on the occasion to mark the International Day of Cooperatives held in conjunction with prize presentation ceremony in Bogale on 7 July.

Chairman of Township Cooperative Syndicate U Khin Myint explained matters concerning the Day. This was followed by a ceremony to present to winners of article, poem and essay competitions at region and state levels. Naw Bwi Hpaw presented award to Maung Zaw Phyo Wai who stood first in article competition at region level. Ma May Ywet Wah won second prize in article contest; Maung July Toe stood second in poem contest; and Nant Phyu Thet San, third in poem contest at the region level. At the township level, Maung Lin Thura Aung of BEMS-2, Bogale stood first in essay contest, the second prize went to Ma June Wai Phyo of BEHS-1, Bogale and the thrid prize was for Ma Myat Thinzar Kyaw of BEMS-2 Bogale.

Officials of Township Cooperative Department presented awards to them.

Myanma Alin

Pyay University greens itself

PYAY, 18 July—A total of 350 saplings of teak, mahogany, gum-kino, star-flower, inorwood, gold mohur tree, Swedaw (*Bauhinia acuminata*) and eugenia were grown at Pyay University campus on 1 July.

Pyay District Deputy Commissioner U Arnt Maw, Chaiperson Daw Bauk Nan of Pyay District Women's Affairs Organization, Rector U Win Myint, and others participated in the tree-growing ceremony.—*Myanma Alin*

Three-digit gamblers arrested in Kalay

KALAY, 18 July— Kalay District Anti-Crime Team led by Sub-Inspector Soe Naung and group, on 15 July morning, searched the house of Ma Nan Yin Hmwe of 55-mile village in Kalay Township and seized a paper caculating three-digit numbers, a paper noting down three-digits and K 20000 of various notes.

They filed a lawsuit against the owner under (Pa) 265/2012 of Kalay Police Station. There were another three same cases on the same day involved by Ma Mi Tu of 56-mile village and Ma Kay Thi Oo of the same village; and Ma Chit The of 55-mile village. Lawsuits were filed against the gamblers.

Kyemon

Book show at Thayet

THAYET, 18 July— Thayet District Information and Public Relations Department organized book show at its Pyinya Alin Library on 5 July.

Over 5000 books of knowledge and aesthetic literature were on display at the show. Staff Officer U Aye Pe explained purpose of the show and Township Head of Department Daw Myint Myint Swe urged those present on the occasion to pursue education through reading books and she offered them to make registration card at the library and hire books. Moreover, Doh Kyaywa journals were presented to those present at the ceremony.

Myanma Alin

Let's all listen together with open hearts forever!

YANGON, 18 July— Myanmar Central Committee for Prevention against Trafficking in Person and Social Welfare Department organized "Let's all listen together with open hearts forever!" with the sponsorship of UNIAP and World Vision at Chatrium Hotel on 12 July.

The ceremony was held to hear the voice of trafficked persons who have managed to escape the neo-slavery system. On the occasion Joint Secretary of the committee Police Brig-Gen Khin Maung Si and Resident Representative Mr Christopher Herink made a speech. Those who were trafficked but escaped from the nightmare and arrived back to their guardians recounted their experiences followed by admonition given by officials.—*Kyemon*

Two ogre statues found in Magway

MAGWAY, 18 July— According to the records, Magway in the central part of Myanmar has turned 700 years. The first mayor of the town was Bala Minhtin and he was the donor of Myathalun Pagoda's umbrella, said one of the members of Pagoda Board of Trustees. The statues made of marble were found when bushes were cleared at the top of Kinchaung bridge. The bridge is located to the south of the town. With 20 feet in height the statues have a unique archaic styles. It is said that they are Bawthaw and Bawkyaw brothers, the donors of Myathalun pagoda. They sit facing to the north holding four-edged dagger in their hands. Myathalun pagoda is also located to the north of the town on the top of Naguptama hill. The place where the two ogres were found was once covered with dense forests and a sanctuary for wild birds. As the two ogres are historical cultural heritage, they are kept in a building with a tiered-roof. It is hoped that the place where the two ogres are kept will become tourist destination.— *Kyemon*

DISTRICT NEWS

Express Mail service provided

MANDALAY, 18 July— Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs has granted permission to three private companies— United Courier Services (UCS), Kissapanadi and Matrix Logistic— to conduct express mail service.

At the first stage, the companies are providing services in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Pyay, Magway, Myeik and Hpa-an. The service fee is K 2500 per a letter in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay. They also provide service for those who have difficult access to service providers. Send today-Reach tomorrow system is the provider's pledge and if something happens wrongly in connection with the mail the service providers will compensate K 50,000 or the same amount equivalent to the sent goods.

Kyemon

Efforts to tackle Somali piracy pay off

LONDON, 18 July—Tougher action by international navies and the use of private armed guards on ships have more than halved the number of Somali pirate attacks, the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) said on Monday.

Last year, Somali piracy in the busy shipping lanes of the Gulf of Aden and the northwestern Indian Ocean netted $160 million, and cost the world economy some $7 billion, according to the American One Earth Future foundation.

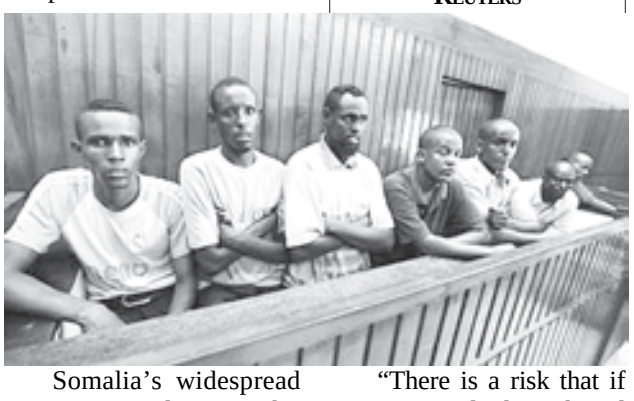
But in the first half of 2012, there were just 69 incidents involving Somali pirates, compared to 163 in the same period last year, resulting in a decline of a third in piracy worldwide.

International navies have stepped up pre-emptive action against pirates, including strikes on their bases on the Somali coast, and shipping firms are increasingly using armed guards and other measures such as heightened watches and razor wire.

"The naval actions play an essential role in frustrating the pirates. There is no alternative to their continued presence," said IMB director Pottengal Mukundan.

The IMB, which has been monitoring piracy worldwide since 1991, said the number of reported pirate attacks fell to 177 in the first six months from 266 in the same period last year. Still, most involved the use of weapons.

Suspected Somali pirates stand in the dock inside a court in Kenya's coastal city of Mombasa. **REUTERS**



Somalia's widespread poverty and anarchy continue to make the prospect of landing million-dollar ransoms attractive to many young men, and the pirates currently hold more than 300 hostages of various nationalities.

"There is a risk that if security standards on board merchant vessels start to slip, pirates will once again start to take advantage of unprepared vessels off the Horn of Africa," said Rory Lamrock, an intelligence analyst with security firm AKE.—*Reuters*

US tourists freed by Bedouin captors in Egypt

CAIRO, 18 July—Two Massachusetts tourists abducted in Egypt's mountainous Sinai region were freed on Monday after three days in captivity, the local head of state security said. Egyptian authorities had sought help from local tribal leaders to mediate with a Bedouin tribesman who kidnapped Michel Louis, a Boston pastor, mother-of-two Lissa Alphonse of Everett, Massachusetts, and their Egyptian guide on Friday to protest at the jailing of his uncle on drug charges.

The three were released "after successful negotiations with the mediation of sheikhs and senior tribal figures," northern Sinai's head of security, Ahmed Bakr, told *Reuters*.

The tourists were taken to state security headquarters in Al-Arish, the main town in northern Sinai, said Bakr, who did not give details of the agreement that led to their release.

Louis, 61, the pastor of a predominantly Haitian-American church, was travelling to Israel on an annual trip to retrace the steps of Jesus when his tour bus was ambushed by Bedouin tribesmen in central Sinai on Friday.

In Boston's Dorchester neighbourhood, Louis' oldest son was exuberant upon learning of his father's release.

"At the moment, there is a lot of joy. I'm exuberant. I have no words to express it," Jean Louis told reporters outside the family home. Massachusetts' two US senators released statements expressing relief after spending the weekend in close contact with the State Department. "What began as a sightseeing tour turned into an unimaginable nightmare for these Massachusetts families and thank God that nightmare is coming to an end," said John Kerry, a Democrat who is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.—*Reuters*

***US tourists, Michel Louis (seated, L-R) and Lissa Alphonse, and Egyptian tour guide Hithem Mohamed rest at a police station in Al-Arish, after they were released by their kidnappers in the northern part of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, on 16 July, 2012.*—REUTERS**

GM eyes big campaign as Cadillac ATS takes on BMW

Cars pass under an overpass at the General Motors Car assembly plant in Oshawa, on 1 June, 2012. **REUTERS**

DETROIT, 18 July—General Motors' Cadillac brand on Wednesday launched one of its most crucial marketing campaigns since the automaker emerged from bankruptcy as it takes aim at BMW's 3-series in the heart of the US luxury car market with its new ATS sedan.

GM has lacked a small luxury car in recent years — a segment that accounts for 60 percent of the luxury market and one that also garners younger users.

As the smallest and least expensive Cadillac, the 2013 ATS is key to GM's hopes of making Cadillac more of a global luxury brand. It goes on sale in the US market next month, following on from the launch of the large XTS sedan last month.

With a starting price of just under $34,000, the ATS is a direct challenge to BMW and Daimler AG's Mercedes-Benz C-Class.

"The task of ATS is very ambitious, going into the largest luxury segment against a brand like 3-Series that's dominated the segment," said Cadillac global marketing director James Vurpillat.

The marketing campaign begins with a 2-minute video on YouTube and will include 10 TV ads during the Olympic Games in London, starting with the opening ceremony on 27 July. The campaign dubbed "Cadillac ATS vs. the World" features the car being driven in exotic locales such the winding roads of Morocco's Atlas Mountains or through the remote hand-carved Guoliang Tunnel in China.—*Reuters*

Spain debt costs to stay high in wake of austerity plan

MADRID, 18 July—Spain's borrowing costs are likely to stay high on Tuesday when it tests investor appetite for its debt for the first time since announcing more austerity last week, suggesting markets remain unconvinced it can avoid a European bailout.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy unveiled a package of savings and tax hikes worth 65 billion euros (51.18 billion pounds) over the next two and a half years, in a bid to demonstrate that Madrid can control its finances. But market doubts have kept its debt costs elevated.

Yields on the short-term debt, using secondary market pricing as a guideline, are likely to be sharply lower than the last time it was sold at auction in June — but still near euro-era highs.

The yield on the 12-month bill was around 3.5 percent in secondary markets on Monday, down from an average of 5.074 percent last month, which was its highest in 15 years.

On the 18-month bill the yield was around 4.0 percent compared with an average 5.107 percent at auction in June, right after Spain sought an up to 100 billion euro rescue plan for its ailing banks that fuelled fears it could soon seek a full-scale state bailout.

"There are still massive risks that Spain will need a sovereign bailout," said Jo Tomkins, analyst at consultancy 4Cast.

"It's got to a point where it's not just about austerity. People question whether Spain will be able to grow its way out of recession and produce revenue," she said.

However, she expected the auctions to go well even if investors demand a stiff premium, forcing the Treasury to pay more than expected.

Domestic banks are expected to provide the bulk of the 2.5 billion to 3.5 billion euros it aims to sell, although analysts and market makers said they could be reaching a limit for absorbing sovereign bonds.—*Reuters*

***A man sleeps outside a Banesto bank branch in central Barcelona on 27 June, 2012.*—INTERNET**

Sleep problems may lead to cognitive decline

VANCOUVER, 18 July—Interventions to normalize sleep duration and correct sleep disorders have potential to reduce or prevent cognitive decline, according to studies presented here Monday at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference.

Dr William Thies, chief medical and scientific officer at the Alzheimer's Association, said the studies presented suggested that cognitive health declines over the long term in some people with sleep problemmes. "The good news is that tools already exist to monitor sleep duration and quality and to intervene to help return sleep patterns to normal," Thies said.

"If we do this, there is the possibility that we may also help people preserve their cognitive health, but that needs to be tested," he added. In a study involving more than 15,000 participants, Elizabeth Devore of Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital and colleagues found that participants who slept two hours more or less per day had lower average cognition than those who slept the recommended 7 hours per day.

"The public health implications of these findings could be substantial, as they might lead to the eventual identification of sleep- and circadian- based strategies for reducing risk of cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's," Devore said.

Xinhua

Bangladesh's population exceeds 150 mln

DHAKA, 18 July—The population of Bangladesh now stands at 152.518 million comprising of approximately equal number of males and females, according to the final report of the country's latest census revealed on Monday.

About a year after the preliminary counts, Bangladesh President Mohammad Zillur Rahman unveiled the final census report prepared by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), saying the population grew by 1.37 percent annually in the last decade.

After the final tally of the census, which is the 5th in the South Asian country, the number of total male population is 76.35 million while that of female 76.17 million.

The preliminary results released in July last year showed Bangladesh's population was 142.32 million on the census night on March 15, 2011, also comprising of almost equal number of males and females — 71.255 million and 71.064 million.

After the release of the preliminary results the Bangladeshi government had instructed the statistical office to further look into the census findings as the estimates of the latest census that put the country's population at 142.3 million do not correspond with the current figures of domestic demand for food, its production and import. BBS on that day, however, said the tally could increase by 5 to 7 percent in the final report of the census.—*Xinhua*

Australian woman wins key thalidomide settlement

SYDNEY, 18 July—An Australian woman born without arms and legs after her mother took thalidomide during pregnancy on Wednesday won a landmark multi-million dollar settlement in her class action against drug firms.

Lynette Rowe, 50, is leading a mass lawsuit on behalf of people born in Australia and New Zealand with congenital defects between 1958-1970 whose mothers took the sedative thalidomide, made by German chemical firm Grunenthal.

Rowe claims her condition was caused by her mother's consumption of thalidomide and is suing Grunenthal, defunct British-based distributor The Distillers Company and Diageo, which took control of Distillers in 1997.

Lawyers told the Supreme Court in Victoria state that Rowe had reached a confidential settlement in her case with Diageo Wednesday, describing it as a "multi-million dollar amount".

"(It) will be sufficient to provide a very good level of care for Lyn for the rest of her life," said Rowe's counsel, Peter Gordon.

Gordon said it was a "fair and consistent" result which showed compassion and understanding for Rowe, who has been cared for by her parents around the clock since she was born.

Lynette Rowe (C) with her legal team and supporters leaving the Supreme Court in Melbourne, on 18 July, 2012.—INTERNET

Diageo had also agreed to negotiate with other claimants in the case, in which Gordon's firm said it had been contacted by "over 100 people" including two claims that were now "well advanced".—*Internet*

EU Commission backs open-access science publishing

LONDON, 18 July—The European Commission, which controls one of the world's largest science budgets, has backed calls for free access to publicly funded research in a move that could force a major change in the business model for publishers such as Reed Elsevier.

The Commission said on Tuesday that open access will be a "general principle" applied to grants awarded through the 80 billion euro ($97.92 billion) Horizon 2020 programme for research and innovation.

"Taxpayers should not have to pay twice for scientific research and they need seamless access to raw data," said Neelie Kroes, European Commission vice-president for the Digital Agenda.

The most prestigious academic journals, such as Nature, Science and Cell, earn the bulk of their revenues through subscriptions from readers. They have large and lucrative deals with university libraries — worth about 150 million pounds to 200 million pounds a year in the UK — to give access to the same scientists who produce and review, usually without payment, the research that they publish.

Open-access journals, such as the Public Library of Science, are often internet-based and charge researchers a fee for publication, allowing free access for anyone after publication.

From 2014 all articles produced with funding from Horizon 2020 will have to be accessible and the goal is for 60 percent of European publicly funded research to be available by 2016.—*Reuters*

People study at the British Library in London on 20 June, 2011.—REUTERS

Two dead in shooting at Toronto street party, 23 injured

Police cars are seen at a crime scene following a shooting in Scarborough, a suburb in east Toronto, July 17, 2012. INTERNET

TORONTO, 18 July—Two people were killed and 23 injured when a Toronto street party ended in gunfire late on Monday, raising fears of violent retaliation in Canada's largest city.

In the second high-profile shooting in Toronto in less than two months, a 14-year-old girl and a 23-year-old man were killed. Police said a toddler was grazed by a bullet and is expected to recover, while another victim was in critical condition. "We are very concerned, not only with the quick resolution and solving of this crime, but of the potential for retaliatory violence," Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair told a news conference at which he promised to step up police presence in several parts of the city. He said there was a "strong indication" of gang involvement in the incident. One of the injured has been taken into custody as "a person of interest".

Police said more than 100 people attended the outdoor party in suburban Scarborough, about 20 km (15 miles) east of downtown. One man shot another, and then "a number of subsequent gunshots were fired into the crowd," a police statement said. The shooting raised fears about gun violence in a city that takes pride in its relatively low crime rate compared with US urban centres. Canada has very strict laws controlling the use of handguns, and violent crime is usually rare.—*Reuters*

Three dead as S Africa reels under heavy rain and snow

CAPE TOWN, 18 July—At least three people were found dead on Sunday and thousands were evacuated as rains and snow battered South Africa's southeast, officials and media reports said.

A 69-year-old man and a 44-year-old woman were found frozen on separate roads in the Eastern Cape province on Sunday morning, police spokesman Mzukisi Fatyela told *Sapa* news agency.

Anther person drowned in the coastal city of Port Elizabeth in the same province, the South African Broadcasting Corporation reported. A further two people were feared dead after they were washed away.

Rescue workers evacuated over 2,000 people in Port Elizabeth between Saturday and Sunday as rising waters flooded settlements.

The main highways linking the north and south of the country were reopened on Sunday afternoon, said Road Traffic Management Corporation spokesman Ashraf Ismail.

Around 500 trucks held up in Johannesburg started their journey to Cape Town in the south, Ismail told *AFP*.

Dozens of trucks had been stuck on the routes overnight after heavy snow had closed them down.

Thousands of people were moved to community centres as floods hit Port Elizabeth, said municipal spokesman Kupido Barron.

Internet

A South African tribesman walks in the rain in Umtata, in South Africa's Eastern Cape, in 2009. At least three people were found dead on Sunday and thousands were evacuated as rains and snow battered South Africa's southeast, officials and media reports said.—INTERNET

Top palm oil producer Indonesia wants to be more refined

JAKARTA/KUALA LUMPUR, 18 July—For decades, Indonesia has shipped out tanker loads of raw palm oil for processing into higher value cooking oil and margarine in Rotterdam, Mumbai and Kuala Lumpur.

Now, the world's No 1 producer of the edible oil is seeing a more than $2.5 billion wave of investment to build a refining industry that will double its capacity and mean it could supply the entire needs of Asia's top food consumers —India and China.

The transformation — driven by Indonesia's move to slash export duties for processed oil last October — will heat up competition with rivals such as Malaysia and send ripples through the palm oil market as new supply pressures prices of traded refined products such as palm olein, used as cooking oil.

A *Reuters* survey of 30 firms operating in Indonesia - from the world's biggest listed palm oil firm Wilmar to conglomerate Unilever — shows plans to nearly double refining capacity to 43 million tonnes of palm oil, or 80 percent of total world output.

"The government is sending a clear message — to survive, you need a refinery. So the palm oil firms are putting their money out and following the big guys in the industry who have already done so," said Thomas Mielke, an analyst at industry publication Oil World. "There is the threat of over capacity. But palm oil firms with the whole supply chain behind them, we are talking about having plantations to mills and ports, will be the kings."

Gleaming silver storage tanks standing ten-storeys' high are becoming a feature of Indonesia's landscape as more refineries spring up, threatening the stranglehold on processing held by neighbouring Malaysia, the No 2 palm oil producer.

At a newly built refinery near Jakarta, staff wearing face masks and hair caps work on conveyor belts carrying boxes of margarine and cooking oil.

The $249-million Marunda plant run by PT SMART was launched before the tax change and Indonesia's top palm oil firm plans to spend a further $200 million on new refining capacity despite the infrastructure issues it faced building Marunda.—*Reuters*

A worker unloads oil palm fruits to a local palm oil factory in the Serdang Bedagai district of Indonesia's North Sumatra province, on 30 November, 2011. INTERNET

Iraq initially signs gas deal with Pakistani energy firm

BAGHDAD, 18 July—Iraq on Sunday signed a preliminary deal with a Pakistani energy company to explore for natural gas in eastern Iraq, an oil ministry official said.

"The Iraqi Oil Ministry is signing a preliminary contract with Pakistan Petroleum to explore for natural gas in Iraq's eastern provinces of Diyala and Wasit," Asim Jihad, head of the ministry's media office, told reporters.

Late in May, the Pakistani company won exploration concession during the country's 4th energy auction. The company is due to work in a 6,000 square km block stretches in Iraq's eastern provinces of Diyala and Wasit with presumed natural gas reserves.

The company won the contract after it offered 5.38 US dollars per barrel of oil equivalent, and was accepted by the Iraqi ministry. Iraq's 4th energy auction offered 12 new oil and gas exploration blocks, but only three contracts were awarded to foreign energy companies.

Xinhua

Burglar takes cheese from Pizza Hut

Police in Florida said a man who broke into a Pizza Hut store took two cases of mozzarella cheese when he was unable to open the cash register.

Altamonte Springs police said the shoeless bandit was recorded on surveillance video at 2 am on 9 June breaking into the store by smashing the glass of the front door with a crowbar and attempting to open a cash register by slamming it on the ground, the *Orlando (Fla) Sentinel* reported on Tuesday.

Police said the man was unable to open the register and then proceeded to the kitchen, where he took two cases of mozzarella cheese before leaving the store.

Police said they are attempting to identify the burglar.

A man took two cases of mozzarella cheese from a pizza hut.

Suspect arrested with victim at same bank

An Oregon man who stopped at his bank to talk about some forged checks said the accused forger came into the bank behind him and tried to cash a check.

David Henneman of Medford said he stopped at the Chase bank inside the Southgate Fred Meyer around 2:30 pm Saturday to talk about stopping fraudulent checks that went through his account the previous day when Matthew Frombach, 37, came in and attempted to cash a $150 check from Henneman's account, the *Mail Tribune, Medford*, reported.

"The teller's eyes just got huge and she said, 'Oh my gosh, I think that's him,'" Henneman said. Henneman said bank employees attempted to delay Frombach, but he fled the store with Henneman's friend in pursuit.

"They wouldn't let me leave with veins popping out of my forehead, so my buddy went after him," Henneman said. "The tellers said, 'You're a good guy, we don't want you to go to jail.'" The friend, Josh Rigiero, 28, attempted to stop Frombach, but ended up punched in the face by the suspect. Rigiero got back up and tackled Frombach, holding him until police arrived.

Lt Mike Budreau said Frombach was in possession of several credit cards belonging to other people.

Frombach, who is suspected of stealing the checks from Henneman's mailbox, was charged with first-degree forgery, theft, criminal possession of a forged instrument, negotiating a bad check, disorderly conduct, fourth-degree assault, harassment and resisting arrest.

Cat makes six-mile trek home

A New Hampshire woman said a stray cat she began feeding last summer trekked six miles to get back to her house. Barbara Oliphant of Bedford said she began feeding the cat, which she dubbed Wollie, last summer, but she had to turn it over to the Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire, about six miles away, when her husband of 61 years suffered a stroke and she was no longer able to care for it, WMUR-TV, Manchester, NH, reported on Tuesday.

Oliphant said she kept the cat in her thoughts and her daughter secretly adopted Wollie from the Animal Rescue League when her husband began to improve, but the cat fled in the facility's parking lot.

Oliphant said it was three and a half days later when Wollie turned up in front of her home.

"I said, 'That's Wollie.' I just knew it was him," she said. "He was so exhausted, so tired, so hungry."

News Album

Bobcat captured at Washington prison

Officials at a Washington state prison said they had to call a local veterinarian when a bobcat attempted to break in to the complex.

Officers at the Monroe Correction Complex said the bobcat was first spotted during a perimeter check around 11:30 pm Monday and was seen running through a razor-wire perimeter fence, Seattlepi.com reported on Tuesday.

The bobcat soon made its way to the roof of the special offender unit and was sedated by a veterinarian with a tranquilizer gun shortly before dawn, officers said.

The feline was taken to the Pilchuck Veterinary Hospital in Snohomish with injuries to its paw and hindquarters.

Mary-Louise Parker, left, star of the Showtime series "Weeds," looks on as the show's creator and executive producer Jenji Kohan addresses cast and crew members at a party to celebrate the show's 100th episode, on 17 July, 2012, in Los Angeles. "Weeds" is in its final season and will end its eight-year run in September.
INTERNET

'Weeds' marks 100th episode as finale looms

LOS ANGELES, 18 July — "Weeds" is part of a rare group of cable TV shows: The Showtime series starring Mary-Louise Parker celebrated the taping of its 100th episode. Showtime's entertainment president, David Nevins, told the "Weeds" cast and crew on Tuesday that only a few cable series have reached 100 episodes. Among them is "Monk."

Parker and her co-stars, including Kevin Nealon, marked the event with cake and champagne while shooting on location in Los Angeles.

The actress was casually dressed in the blouse and cutoffs that she wore for a scene taped earlier.

Parker plays a pot-dealing suburban mom in "Weeds," which will end its eight-year run in September.

Parker and the show's creator, Jenji Kohan, grew emotional as they celebrated the series' milestone. Two more episodes remain to be taped.—*Internet*

New Bob Dylan album "Tempest" set for September release

NEW YORK, 18 July— A new Bob Dylan studio album, "Tempest", will be released on 11th September to mark the 50th anniversary of the folk singer-songwriter's debut album, Columbia Records said on Tuesday.

The album will feature 10 new and original songs and is the 35th studio set from Dylan, whose last album in 2009, "Together Through Life," sold more than a million copies and debuted at No 1 in both Britain and the United States.

The album comes during a period of critical acclaim and creativity for Dylan that has included four popular album releases, including "Time Out Of Mind" in 1997 that won a Grammy for album of the year and "Modern Times," released in 2006, earning Dylan two more Grammys.

The Minnesota-born Dylan, 71, this year received the Presidential Medal of Freedom and was awarded a special Pulitzer Prize in 2008 for his profound impact on popular music and American culture.

His first album, "Bob Dylan," which was released in March, 1962, initially did not sell well. His second album, "The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan," released in 1963, established him as a poetic writer of protest songs and a raw, original new voice.

Reuters

US musician Bob Dylan performs during on day 2 of The Hop Festival in Paddock Wood, Kent on 30th June 2012.
REUTERS

Carly Rae Jepsen, Djokovic on for Ashe Kids Day

NEW YORK, 18 July— Tennis is calling Carly Rae Jepsen.

The "Call Me Maybe" singer has been tapped for the Annual Arthur Ashe Kids' Day at the US Open.

She'll join The Wanted, Owl City and Cymphonique Miller, along with reigning men's champion Novak Djokovic (NOH'-vak JOH'-kuh-vich), past women's champion Kim Clijsters (KLY'-sturz) and John Isner.

The 25 Aug event, held at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre in Flushing, NY, will feature performances as well as exhibition matches and other activities.

This is the 17th annual Kids' Day. Last year, it was canceled because of Hurricane Irene.

The US Open, tennis' final Grand Slam of the year, begins 27 Aug.

Internet

***This 19 April, 2012 file photo shows Canadian singer, Carly Rae Jepsen in London.—*INTERNET**

Tom Cruise visits daughter after Holmes split

NEW YORK, 18 July—Tom Cruise visited his daughter Suri in New York City on Tuesday for the first time since his high-profile divorce from her mother, actress Katie Holmes, *People* magazine reported. The 50-year-old Hollywood star was photographed holding his 6-year-old daughter on a New York street as she wraps one arm around the "Mission: Impossible" star's neck and in the other, clutches a stuffed animal toy. The picture was posted on People's website.

Cruise was filming his latest movie in Iceland back in June when Holmes, 33, filed for a divorce, surprising the Hollywood superstar. Since then, he has returned to the United States and the pair have settled issues including custody of Suri. Celebrity watchers have eagerly awaited the day when Cruise would reunite with his daughter.

Separately on Monday night, Holmes and Suri were involved in a minor car accident with a sanitation truck in New York but were not hurt, a police source said.—*Reuters*

Actor Tom Cruise carries his daughter Suri into the Chelsea Piers sports facility in New York, on 27 July, 2012.
REUTERS

This 16 May, 2012 file photo shows Larry King at the Friars Club Roast of Betty White in New York.
INTERNET

Larry King debuts online talk show on Hulu website

NEW YORK, 18 July— Larry King is returning as a talk show host this week, with his new home the Internet.

"Larry King Now" is produced by Ora TV, a new digital venture backed by Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim. Ora TV is announcing a deal to also make "Now" available through the online service Hulu and Hulu Plus.

King's first guest is comic producer Seth MacFarlane of "Family Guy" and "Ted." Other guests scheduled for this week will be political commentator Meghan McCain and "Magic Mike" actor Matthew McConaughey.

King spent a quarter-century as a prime-time talk show host at CNN. Episodes of his new, half-hour show will be posted on the Hulu website in the early evening Monday through Thursday.

Internet

Man Utd defensive duo ready for start of season

Nemanja Vidic and Chris Smalling expected to be ready for start of campaign

Nemanja Vidic has been out since December 7th with a cruciate ligament injury. INTERNET

LONDON, 18 July — Manchester United are likely to begin the new season stronger than ever after manager Sir Alex Ferguson revealed Nemanja Vidic and Chris Smalling are expected to be fit for the start of the new Barclays Premier League campaign. United skipper Vidic was out for five months last season after rupturing his cruciate ligament during United's UEFA Champions League defeat by Basel in December. Smalling missed the final match of the Barclays Premier League campaign and the whole of UEFA EURO 2012 after sustaining a groin injury playing against Swansea City in May.

Injury problems have meant that United only took one senior defender, Rio Ferdinand, on their pre-season tour of South Africa and China. But their manager remains confident that both the former Serbia international and the England defender will be available for selection when they travel to Everton for their opening League encounter against Everton on August 20th. "Vidic will start the season," Ferguson told the club's official website."I am sure of that. He's still at that level of doing a good amount of training but not the competitive level that the other lads are at. He's better off staying at Carrington."

"Smalling has done a bit of training," he added. "He had a ruptured groin muscle which needed a lot of attention but he's made gradual progress and we expect him to start the season." Though Phil Jones has also missed the pre-season tour, he has been given extra time off to recover from his UEFA European Championship travails. However, Jonny Evans is likely to be sidelined for the start of the season after undergoing an operation.— *Internet*

Double-amputee sprinter, South African Oscar Pistorius, competes in a 400 meter race in Lignano Stadium, near Udine, northern Italy, on 17 July, 2012. Pistorius, known globally as the Blade Runner, will be running the 400 meters race at the London 2012 Olympic Games. — INTERNET

Oscar Pistorius finishes 2nd in 400 in Italy

LIGNANO, 18 July—South African double-amputee sprinter Oscar Pistorius finished second in a 400-meter race in Italy on Tuesday, his final tuneup for the London Olympics. Pistorius clocked 46.56 seconds — well off the personal best of 45.07 he ran at the same meet last year. Calvin Smith of the United States won in 45.52. "My time wasn't among the best. But I'm good physically and mentally," Pistorius said. "I've used a lot of energy in these past few days, both in training and with the media because of my participation in the Olympics. The race went well, I felt fine, I just lost a bit of acceleration halfway through."

Pistorius will become the first amputee track athlete to compete at the Olympics after being selected by South Africa to run in London. He's set to compete in the individual 400 and the 4x400 relay, although the team hasn't decided which leg he will run. "I'd prefer to run the third leg, that would be the best," Pistorius said. "But the first one could be fine. The relay is really my race. I've always done team sports."

Pistorius won last year's race in Lignano to qualify for the world championships. This time, he finished ahead of four other runners, including Jamaicans Ricardo Cunningham and Javere Bell. I could have done the same time as last year, but I didn't want to run the risk of getting injured," Pistorius said. "It wasn't important to test my speed today. It was like training, in the next two weeks I will try to do my best before London. I'm sure I can beat my personal best. The Olympics pushes me so much, that will make me run better." Also, American Lolo Jones won the women's 100 hurdles in 12.85. Ireland's Derval O'Rourke was second in 13.05.— *Internet*

Mixed fortunes for Olympic tennis hopefuls

CARLSBAD, 18 July — London Olympic hopefuls had mixed results at the WTA hardcourt event in Carlsbad, which offers them a final chance to warm up for the Summer Games tennis competition at Wimbledon. Fifth seed Christina McHale, due to join Venus and Serena Williams and Varvara Lepchenko on the US Olympic team, battled past Australian Jarmila Gajdosova, 7-6 (7/5), 7-5. New Zealand's Marina Erakovic, also headed to the Olympics, beat British Olympic hope Anne Keothavong 6-4, 6-0 in just over an hour and a quarter with five breaks of the Brit's serve.

Christina McHale during the Mercury Insurance Open against Australia's Jarmila Gajdosova in Carlsbad, California, on 17 July. McHale, due to join Venus and Serena Williams and Varvara Lepchenko on the US Olympic team, battled past Australian Jarmila Gajdosova, 7-6 (7/5), 7-5. INTERNET

"It was a tricky first round. Anne comes out hitting some big balls," said the Kiwi ranked 47th. "She doesn't give you much rhythm, but just getting into the match and settling down helped. I'm just getting used to the surface and moving well and trying to keep relaxed and positive as I can." McHale may have picked up some extra fighting spirit from her visit on Monday to the retired aircraft carrier *USS Midway*, now a floating museum docked in nearby San Diego harbour. McHale, the world number 27 who reached the Wimbledon third round, recovered from a break down against Gajdosova to take the opening set with a backhand winner down the line.

The American took the second thanks to a break of serve in the penultimate game, winning after almost two hours with nine aces. Seventh seed Yanina Wickmayer, a semi-finalist last week up the coast at Stanford and also London-bound, had to retire against trailing qualifier Chan Yung-Jan of Taiwan 7-6 (8/6) due to a back injury. Chan next faces Britain's Heather Watson, who beat Eleni Daniilidou of Greece 6-3, 6-3. American Vania King, a 6-1, 6-4 winner over Taipei's Chang Kai-Chen, will be the first opponent for top seed Marion Bartoli of France, who received a first-round bye along with second seed Dominika Cibulkova, third seed Jelena Jankovic and fourth seed Nadia Petrova. *Internet*

New Zealand's Marina Erakovic during the Bank of the West Classic on 12 July. Erakovic, also headed to the Olympics, beat British Olympic hope Anne Keothavong 6-4, 6-0 with five breaks of the Brit's serve on 17July. INTERNET

Galliani: AC Milan will replace Ibrahimovic with a champion

MILAN, 18 July — AC Milan CEO Adriano Galliani has promised that the club will replace Zlatan Ibrahimovic with "a champion", while at the same time revealing that Robinho will remain at San Siro. Rossoneri fans have been rocked by the news that their most prolific striker is on the verge of joining Paris Saint-Germain, just days after their defensive linchpin Thiago Silva also sealed a move to the Parc des Princes.

Galliani, though, is promising to find a worthy replacement for the Swedish striker before the close of the summer transfer window. "A champion will arrive in attack," he told Sky Sport24. "There is time until 31 August."It had been speculated that Robinho might also be allowed to leave, with Santos keen to bring the Brazil international back to the Vila Belmiro. However, Galliani insisted that the attacker is going nowhere.

"I told the directors of Santos that I am not selling him and that he will remain at Milan," the Rossoneri chief explained.Galliani also ruled out the possibility of a late attempt to hijack Roma's bid to bring Mattia Destro to the Stadio Olimpico, even though the Monza native admitted to having met with Genoa president Enrico Preziosi on Tuesday.

AC Milan CEO Adriano Galliani.

However, Galliani explained that while he gave Walter Sabatini the fright of his life by answering Preziosi's phone during the sit-down, he quickly put the Giallorossi director at ease. "When he heard who responded, he was terrified," Galliani laughed. "But then I told him that as far as we're concerned, there are no problems with Destro [going] to Roma." Goal.com has already revealed that Milan are considering replacing Ibrahimovic with Manchester City striker Edin Dzeko.

Internet

Chelsea set to announce deal for Brazil starlet Oscar

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 July — Chelsea is this week expected to confirm the signing of Brazilian starlet Oscar after the midfielder underwent a medical with the European champion on Tuesday. The 20-year-old's club Internacional is understood to have agreed to a 25 million pound transfer fee after rejecting an initial 20-million-pound bid.

Brazil coach Mano Menezes gave Oscar permission to have the examination just hours after arriving in London with the team's Olympic squad. Oscar has made six international appearances for Brazil and was one of the team's standout performers during a recent series of friendlies in Germany and the US. He has been given the No.10 shirt for the Olympic tournament by Menezes, who has earmarked Oscar for the team's playmaker role.

Brazilian starlet Oscar

Renowned for his slick passing, vision and speed, Oscar scored a hat-trick in Brazil's 3-2 defeat of Portugal in the final of last year's FIFA Under-20 World Cup in Colombia. Chelsea fans will have the chance to see their new signing in Brazil's Olympic warm-up match against Britain in Middles brough on Friday.—*Xinhua*

International Sports

Venus Williams loses Olympic tuneup singles match

WASHINGTON, 18 July — Venus Williams lost an Olympic tuneup on Monday during a World Team Tennis match attended by first lady Michele Obama. Williams, playing for the Washington Kastles, lost 5-0 to the Boston Lobsters' Irina Falconi in the women's singles portion of the match. In the best-of-five games format, Williams — ranked No 68 — struggled with her serve, double-faulting several times to the 85th-ranked Falconi.

Obama and daughters Sasha and Malia, who entered Kastles Stadium to applause, saw Williams help the Kastles to 5-1 mixed doubles and 5-1 women's doubles victories, but left before Williams lost her singles match. "I think I just cooled down, and I couldn't quite get started back up again,'' Williams said. "In team tennis, you really have to keep your energy up. You have to manage the stop and go. I didn't manage it that well.''Williams is trying to prepare for those types of challenges at the London Olympics, which begin July 28 for tennis. She called the 2012 Games "the ultimate achievement'' for her.

"This Olympics is more exciting for me,'' she said. All the other ones, I didn't have to worry whether or not I would make it. I was on top of the rankings.—*Internet*

Venus Williams

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(19-7-12 09:30 am ~ 20-7-12 09:30 am) MST

* News
* Investment Environment of Myanmar
* News
* Easily Cooked and Tasty Dishes "Fried Chicken Wing Stuff"
* News
* 27th SEA Games Preparations (Judo)
* MI People's Celebrities "Essential People"
* News
* The Mountain with Antique Stone Sculptures & Mural Painting
* News
* Preparations for ASEAN Economic Community in Myanmar
* News
* Sittway Evergreen Seaside Town
* News
* A Ceremony to inherit the Buddha's Legacy
* News
* Myanmar Movie "Whom do you love most"

MYANMAR TV

(19-7-2012) (Thursday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:30 am
2. Morning News

8:30 am
3. 65th Marty's Day live broadcast

4:00 pm
4. Martial Song

4:20 pm
5. CuteLittle Dancer

4:30 pm
6. One Village and One Product

5:00 pm
7. Song for Uphold National Splrit

5:05 pm
8. Instrumental Music

5:25 pm
9. Science and Environment

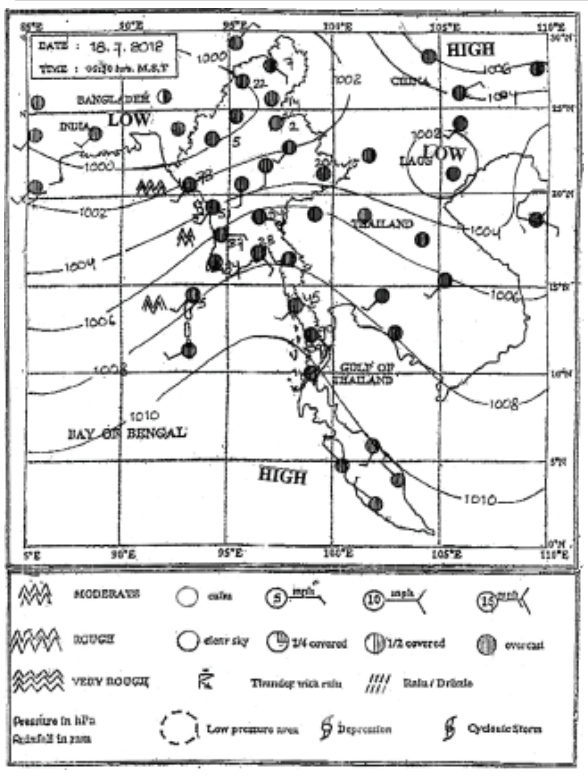
6:20 pm
10. Myanmar Series

6:40 pm
11. Approaching Science Discovery World

7:00 pm
12. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
13. News
14. TV Drama Series
15. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 19th July, 2012

Sr. No.		Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	29/84	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
2	Kayah	27/81	20/68	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
3	Kayin	30/86	21/70	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
4	Chin	22/72	16/61	Fairly Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
5	Upper Sagaing	32/90	25/77	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
6	Lower Sagaing	38/100	25/77	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)
7	Taninthayi	30/86	21/70	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
8	Bago	30/86	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
9	Magway	32/90	25/77	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
10	Mandalay	36/97	26/79	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)
11	Mon	30/86	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
12	Yangon	31/88	21/70	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
13	Rakhine	30/86	21/70	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
14	Southern Shan	24/75	16/61	Fairly Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
15	Northern Shan	27/81	22/72	Fairly Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
16	Eastern Shan	26/79	22/72	Fairly Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
17	Ayeyawady	32/90	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	30/86	22/72	One or two rain or thundershowers	(100%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	31/88	21/70	Some rain or thundershowers	(100%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	36/97	26/79	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today	During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukpyu (4.80) inches, Ye (4.72) inches, MraukU (4.37) inches, Taungup (4.09) inches, Dawei (3.70) inches, Thandwe (3.54) inches, Sittway (3.31) inches and NayPyiTaw (Yezin) (2.44) inches.
Bay Inference	Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
State of the Sea	Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at-times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph.
Outlook for sub-sequent two days	Strong monsoon.

ACCIDENT ON THE ROAD

Passenger car plunges to ditch

YANGON, 18 July— A passenger car of No.99 bus lines plunged into the ditch of Bayintnaung road between Yaychansin and Gatehaung bus stop in No.7 Ward in Shwepyitha on 17 July. Driver of the car U Than Hlaing tried to overtake a bicycle with speed at the place and the car dragged the bicycle. The biker was thrown away and his bicycle was crashed under the car. The car also lost control and plunged into the ditch. The driver escaped from the scene and the biker, U Win Khine, was rushed to Shwepyitha hospital. —*Kyemon*

Games organizers withdraw 500,000 soccer tickets

LONDON, 18 July— Half a million tickets for Olympic soccer matches have been withdrawn and stadium capacities reduced due to a lack of take-up, Games organizers said on Tuesday. Organizers will reduce capacities across venues by closing tiers of stadiums or whole sections of a ground.

Even after the reduction, 250,000 soccer tickets are still available with a further 200,000 set to be put up for sale before the Games begin on 27 July.

Games chief Seb Coe defended the move and said soccer ticket sales compared favourably with previous Olympics.

"They are in reduced size venues of course, we've had to scale down the size of those venues," Coe told reporters.

"We've sold more football tickets than we've sold anything else, we've got 37-38,000 tickets we've sold for Britain ladies v New Zealand which I think benchmarks pretty well for instance with the women's FA Cup final this year which was an all-London affair at the Emirates (Stadium)

***Yeomen Warders, also known as Beefeaters, are seen through Olympic rings mounted on a barge, as it is positioned in front of the Tower of London during a promotional event for the London 2012 Olympic Games, on the River Thames in London. on 28 February, 2012.*—REUTERS**

and they had about 5,000. "We are not in bad shape on tickets but football tickets at a Games are always the challenge. I think we'll do pretty well." The soccer competition is set to take place in six venues across Britain including the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, City of Coventry Stadium, Old Trafford in Manchester, St James' Park in Newcastle, Hampden Park in Glasgow and London's Wembley Stadium which will host both the men's and women's finals.

Organizers will also make 150,000 soccer tickets available for school children through their Ticketshare scheme. Fifty thousand non-football tickets are still available for the Games and a further 200,000 will be put up for general sale in the next ten days. Tickets are still available for sports including athletics, hockey and beach volleyball, while there are still some seats available in the higher price bands for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Games organisers have been dogged by criticism throughout the ticketing sales process with fans frustrated by online delays.—*Reuters*

Cristiano Ronaldo: Spanish league is the hardest in the world

Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo.

MADRID, 18 July — Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo has labelled La Liga as the "hardest" domestic competition in the world, and admitted that he is still basking in the glory of finishing on top of the pile last season. The Portugal international played a key role in his club's Primera Division title success, netting 46 times in total, and freely admits that ending Barcelona's run of three successive titles represents the highlight of his Blancos career to date.

"I think the best moment so far was winning La Liga," Ronaldo mused during an interview on Thai television. "Because I think the Spanish league is the hardest in the world. It has great teams like Barcelona and to finish nine points ahead of them...that says a lot."Ronaldo, who is currently holidaying in Thailand with his girlfriend Irina Shayk, was then quizzed again about Portugal's penalty shoot-out defeat by Spain in the semi-finals of Euro 2012.

The former Manchester United man was entrusted with the responsibility of the Seleccao's fifth spot-kick but he never get to take his turn, with La Roja clinching a 4-2 victory thanks to Cesc Fabregas.There was great debate over whether Ronaldo should have been used further up the order by Portugal boss Paulo Bento, but he still feels that it was much ado about nothing.

"They are just decisions," he mused. "I remember when I played the [Champions League] semi-final against Bayern Munich, I went first and missed the penalty. So, anything can happen; penalties are a lottery." Ronaldo is currently on an extended break after his exploits in Poland and Ukraine and is not expected to link up with Madrid until they embark on their preseason tour of the United States later in July.— *Internet*

Donald seeks Seve magic to win Open

ST ANNES, 18 July—Luke Donald is hopeful he can conjure up some Seve Ballesteros-style magic at Royal Lytham and St Annes this week to win the British Open and finally banish his blank sheet in the majors. It was at the compact, bunker-strewn Lancashire links course that the legendary Spaniard won two of his three Open titles — in 1979 and 1988 — and on both occasions his superb short game and scrambling abilities were key.Ballesteros, who died in May of last year at age 54 after a long battle against a brain tumour, entered golfing folklore during his 1979 triumph when he used his driver nine times in the final round and hit only one fairway.

***Luke Donald of England watches his shot from the second tee during a practice round in preparation for the 2012 British Open Golf Championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes on 16 July.* — INTERNET**

The highlight of that astounding performance came at the 16th when he fired his ball into a temporary car park to the right of the fairway. After a free drop, he hit a recovery shot to the edge of the green and calmly rolled in a 30-foot birdie putt. Donald, whose own short game is rated among the best in the world, was only 18-months old when Ballesteros was producing his magic, but he has seen replays of what happened from TV recordings.—*Internet*

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Pyithu Hluttaw session continues for eleventh day
Three questions answered, one bill discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—The eleventh day session of Pyithu Hluttaw continued at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 10.05 am today, attended by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and 401 MPs.

At the session, three questions were answered and one bill discussed.

Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung replied to the question of U Tin Maung Oo of Shwepyitha Constituency on if there is a plan to implement a better banking system so as to provide necessary capital for development of SMEs and how the government will extend a helping hand for the development of SMEs.

He said that 50 percent of total loan disbursed by Myanma Industrial Development Bank and state-owned Myanma Economic Bank went to the industrial sectors. With the aim of fulfilling the needs of SMEs, arrangements were being made for the emergence of a better banking system in cooperation with international organizations after Myanma Industrial Development Bank had been changed into Small and Medium Enterprise Bank.

Industrial Development Committee had been implementing industrial zones development and the construction of new industrials zones in cooperation with respective region/state governments. To meet the demand of basic skilled workers by SMEs, ministries were conducting the courses and turning out human resources. The government had placed more emphasis on the development of SMEs, which would create more job opportunities of the citizens, and aimed at establishing heavy industries.

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives attending meeting.—MNA

With respect to the question of U Aye Mauk of Mahlaing Constituency on how the government is carrying out for the

(See page 9)

Amyotha Hluttaw session continues for 11th day
Bill revoking the State Agricultural Produce Dealing Board Act, Report on National Development Planning submitted

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives attending meeting.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—The 11th day session of the Amyotha Hluttaw was held at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 10 am today, attended by 207 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives including Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint submitted the proposal to consider the Bill revoking the State Agricultural Produce Dealing Board Act, and Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Tun Zaw of Bago Region Constituency No. 12 seconded it.

The Hluttaw approved to consider the bill, and the Hluttaw representatives wishing to take part in the discussion on the bill may enlist their names, not later than 25 July.

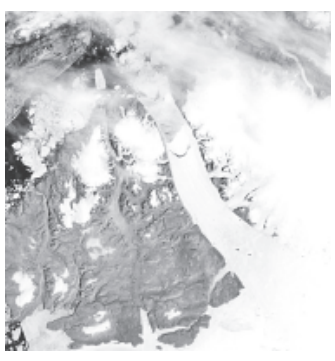
Chairman of the Amyotha Hluttaw National Planning Affairs Committee U Zaw Myint Pe, Secretary Major Zaw Myint and member U Sai Thant Zin submitted the report on recommendation for National Development Planning. Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Shu Maung of Shan State Constituency No. 8 supported it.

When the approval was sought from the Hluttaw to discuss the report, there was no representative who disagreed to the discussion of report. Thus, the Hluttaw announced agreement to discuss it.

With regard to the report, the Hluttaw representatives wishing to take part in the discussion on the report may enlist their names after the Hluttaw session.

The Hluttaw came to an end at 11.40 am, and the 12th day session will be held at 10 am on 23 July.

The Bill revoking the State Agricultural Produce Dealing Board Act and the Report on recommendation for National Development Planning were submitted at today's Hluttaw session.—*MNA*



Glacier in north Greenland breaks off huge iceberg

PAGE 4

Man Utd defensive duo ready for start of season

PAGE 14

Mixed fortunes for Olympic tennis hopefuls

PAGE 14

Water level forecast for third 10 days of July

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—The water levels of Ayeyawady river are forecast to rise above the present water levels by 120 cm (about 4 feet) at Myitkyina, Bhamo and Katha, 150 cm (about 5 feet) at Mandalay, Sagaing, Pakokku, NyaungU, Chauk, Minbu, Magway, Aunglan, Pyay, Seiktha, Hinthada and Zalun.

The water levels of Chindwin river are forecast to rise above the present water levels by 150 cm (about 5 feet) at Hkamti and Homalin, and 120 cm (about 4 feet) at Mawlaik, Kalewa and Monywa.—*MNA*