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Thursday, 26 July, 2012

President U Thein Sein felicitates Maldives counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July—On the occasion of the 47th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Maldives which falls on 26th July 2012, His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Mohamed Waheed, President of the Republic of Maldives.—MNA

True patriotism

- * It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- * Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

President U Thein Sein receives red carpet treatment from Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—The welcoming ceremony for President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra of Thailand took place at State Guesthouse in Bangkok of Thailand at 10 am on 23 July.

On arrival at State Guesthouse to attend the welcoming ceremony, President U Thein Sein was cordially greeted by the Thai Prime Minister.

The President and the Thai Prime

Minister took salute of the Guard of Honour on the dais while the state band played Myanmar and Thai National Anthems.

The President and the Thai Prime Minister inspected the Guard of Honour.
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*President U Thein Sein
of the Republic of the Union of
Myanmar cordially greets Prime
Minister Ms Yingluck
Shinawatra of Thailand.—MNA*



Thai investment invited in rubber, oil palm and other commercial plantations to be established for development of job creation in regions sharing border with Thailand

President U Thein Sein

Thai government would push forward for earliest completion of Dawei Deep Sea Port Project for it would be biggest deep sea port in region

Thai Prime Minister Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra



President U Thein Sein meets Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra of Thailand at Inner Ivory Room of Thai Koo Fah building of State Guesthouse in Bangkok.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met Thai Prime Minister Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra at Thai Koo Fah of State Guesthouse in Bangkok, Thailand on 23 July morning.

Present on the occasion together with President U Thein Sein were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Myint Hlaing, U Tin Naing Thein, U Aung Kyi, U Than Htay and U Win Myint, chief ministers of Kayin State and Taninthayi Region, the adjutant general, deputy ministers, the Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand and

(See page 9)

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 26 July, 2012

Neighbours never say "no"

President U Thein Sein has just wrapped up his first-ever visit to neighbouring Thailand since taking office. The reformist President's visit to the next-door vibrant economy is to boost economic prospects as the country has opened up to investments far and wide the globe.

The President and Thai Premier Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra cleared the doubts that persist over Dawei Special Economic Zone, showing their unflagging support for multi-billion-dollar project being implemented by Italian-Thai Co Ltd. The project is scheduled to complete by 2018 and will feature steel mills, refineries, a petrochemical complex and power plants. Bypassing the Malacca Strait, the strategic deep-sea port will shorten the transportation route to Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

The two leaders agreed to establish connectivity between Dawei Special Economic Zone in the southernmost part of Myanmar and Laem Chabang industrial estate of Chonburi seaboard of Thailand.

Another significant agreement sought on the three-day trip is setting up a ministerial-level working group to implement comprehensive economic cooperation between the two countries. Thailand also agreed to help Myanmar get ready itself for 2014 ASEAN chairmanship and pursue economic reforms and sustainable development.

Myanmar and Thailand have long-standing economic relations along the course of the history. Thailand is the second largest foreign investor in Myanmar, second only to China, the regional economic powerhouse.

The President's official visit is assumed to be renewal of friendly relations between the two countries since the good neighbours are a deciding factor behind the development of a nation.



U Than-Daw Shwe and family in 10th Ward, on Anawrahta Road, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region donated K 330,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Joint-Secretary of EC U Nyi Nyi Lwin recently.—NLM

Donate blood

President U Thein Sein meets staff families of embassy and military attaché office



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein greets staff from Myanmar embassy and military attaché office in Thailand.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and delegation members, while in Bangkok of Thailand, visited the residence of Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Tin Win at 7:30 pm on 22 July.

The President and his entourage were welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Tin Win and wife Daw Thu Yin, Military Attaché Col Win Maung and wife Daw Myint Myint Kyi and staff from Myanmar embassy and military attaché office.

Myanmar ambassador, military attaché, staff from Myanmar embassy and military attaché office and the Myanmar students paid respects to the President in accord with the Myanmar tradition.

In his words of admonition, the President said that peace prevails in the country and progresses are tangible in politics and peace-making efforts with armed ethnic groups in border areas.

The government is taking measures to reduce poverty

rate and develop domestic job opportunities. Foreign investments are being invited in pursuit of economic development.

Myanmar is establishing amicable relationships with the international community. Diplomats and families and scholars discharging duties and attending schools in Thailand should do their bits to improve friendly relations between Myanmar and Thailand while the government is striving to improve the friendly ties. Myanmar embassy should help and safeguard Myanmar workers in Thailand.

The embassy should offer immense care to trafficked citizens, if any, in connection with respective NGOs. Dignity of the country and the people should be uplifted through unity while living in a foreign country.

The President then gave away gifts to the ambassador, the military attaché, staff families of the embassy and the military attaché office and Myanmar scholars.

The ambassador and wife hosted a dinner to the President and party.—MNA

Cash and kind donated for people in Rakhine State

YANGON, 25 July—Cash and kind were donated to people of Rakhine State who lost property and possessions in recent unrest at Maykhalat Hall of Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township here this morning.

Magway Region Government and people donated K 1,360,750, 27 baskets of rice and seven bales of clothes as second installment; faculty members and students of Meiktila Technological University, K 1,035,000 and seven bales of clothes; U Than Win and wife Daw Than Than Myaing, K 40,000 and two bales of clothes; U Myo Kyaing and wife Daw Mi Mi Wah, K 10,000 and one bale of clothes; Ingyin Beauty Parlour in Yankin Township, one bale of clothes, blanket and mosquito net; and Ma Khin Pyae Sone and Ko Nyan Lin Htein, one bale of clothes each through FSD Director-General U Tin Moe and officials.

The donation at the FSD (Head Office) has amounted to K 310,021,823 to date.

MNA

Flood warning

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—According to the 10.30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Toungoo is 522 cm. It may reach its danger level 600 cm during the next 24 hours commencing this noon.

According to the 10.30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Ngawun River at Ngathaingyoung is 1111 cm. It may reach its danger level 1130 cm during the next 24 hours commencing this noon, announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA

Union Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Maldives counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July—On the occasion of the 47th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Maldives which falls on 26th July 2012, His Excellency U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Abdul Samad Abdulla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives.

MNA

MV Taunggyi carrying relief items arrives in Sittway

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—MV Taunggyi of Myanmar Five Star Line arrived in Sittway, Rakhine State, on 23 July to unload packages of medicines, stationery, clothes, foodstuff and various household goods to be provided to the locals at the relief camps.

The relief aids were donated by people from four corners of Myanmar.

To distribute the items to the victims as soon as possible, Tatmadawmen and officials concerned of Myanmar Port Authority assisted in unloading the packages from the vessel and then transported them to the warehouse of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Sittway.

MNA

Mukherjee sworn in as Indian president

NEW DELHI, 25 July—Former finance minister Pranab Mukherjee called for action to tackle India's dire poverty as he was sworn in as president on Wednesday during an elaborate display of pomp and circumstance.

The presidency is mainly a ceremonial role, but Mukherjee used his acceptance speech to appeal for India to prioritise the hundreds of millions of poor who have been left behind by recent economic growth.

Mukherjee, 76, arrived for the swearing-in ceremony in a regal cavalcade escorted by horse-mounted bodyguards and was greeted by a military guard of honour

lining the route leading to the parliament building in New Delhi.

After receiving a 21-gun salute, Mukherjee addressed lawmakers and spoke of erasing poverty from the "dictionary of modern India" and striving for equality for all.

"For our development to be real, the poorest of our land must feel that they are part of the narrative of rising India," he said.

"There is no humiliation more abusive than hunger. Trickle-down theories do not address the legitimate aspirations of the poor. We must lift those at the bottom," Mukherjee also touched



India's new President Pranab Mukherjee (4R) is escorted by presidential bodyguards and parliamentary Speaker Miera Kumar (C) and Vice President of India Hamed Ansari (5L) as he arrives for his swearing-in ceremony at parliament in New Delhi on 25 July, 2012.

INTERNET

on corruption, a thorny issue that has dogged the Congress party government that he served in as finance minister until last month. "Corruption is an evil that can depress a nation's mood and sap its progress," he said. "We cannot

allow our progress to be hijacked by corruption." Mukherjee, the official Congress party candidate, was elected president on Sunday after winning 69 per cent of the votes cast by national and state lawmakers.—Internet

Colorado judge bans cameras in hearing when shooting suspect charged

AURORA, 25 July—The judge in the case of the man accused of Friday's shooting rampage at a Colorado movie theater on Tuesday ruled that no cameras or electronic recording equipment will be allowed at next week's hearing when formal charges will be filed.

Arapahoe County District Judge William Sylvester issued the written ruling in response to a request by Denver-area media for expanded media coverage of the July 30 hearing for James Holmes.

The public defenders appointed as Holmes' defence attorneys had objected to the request, according to court papers. Monday's initial appearance for Holmes had been televised over the objection of his attorneys.

Holmes will be charged formally on 30 July.

Reuters

Colorado shooting suspect James Eagan Holmes (L) sits with public defender Tamara Brady during his first court appearance in Aurora, Colorado, on 23 July, 2012.—REUTERS



Suicide bomber behind Bulgaria bus attack had help

SOFIA, 25 July—A suicide bomber who killed five Israeli tourists when he blew up a bus in Bulgaria last week was backed up by an organized group who helped him plan and carry out the attack, Boiko Borisov, the Bulgarian prime minister, said on Tuesday.

Borisov said police had not yet identified the bomber whose attack also wounded more than 30 people at Burgas



Debris from a bus that was damaged in a bomb blast on Wednesday is seen outside Burgas Airport, about 400km (248 miles) east of Sofia on 19 July, 2012.—REUTERS

airport last Wednesday, but said the man had not acted alone.

"These are extremely experienced people who have followed strict conspiracy rules," Borisov told reporters after meeting John Brennan, a counter-terrorism adviser to US President Barack Obama.

"From what we see, they arrived nearly a month beforehand, changed rental cars, and travelled to different cities ... and not more than one of the people we are looking for was captured on either security camera," Borisov said.

He declined to give more details on the plotters. Borisov said that the bomber's DNA and finger prints had not matched anything held on file by Bulgaria or by partner spy agencies and that police were still working to identify him.

But he suggested that the attacker, whose bomb was concealed in his backpack, may have entered Bulgaria on a plane from the European Union's "Schengen" passport-free travel zone. He did not elaborate.

Israel has accused Iran and the Lebanese Islamist group Hezbollah of the bombing. Iran has denied the accusations.

Borisov said that Bulgaria—a member of both the EU and NATO—would not say who it thought was responsible for the attack until the investigation was complete.

Reuters

Al-Qaeda says carried out Iraq attacks

BAGHDAD, 25 July—Al-Qaeda's affiliate in Iraq has claimed responsibility for a spate of attacks across the country targeting mostly Shi'ite Muslim targets this week that killed and wounded hundreds of people. The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) said in a statement posted on radical Islamist websites on Tuesday that it was behind the recent attacks, which it called its "Destroying the Walls" campaign.

At least 116 people were killed and around 300 wounded in bomb and gun attacks on Monday, by far the bloodiest day of violence since US troops withdrew in December. A day earlier 20 died in bombings as part of a coordinated surge of violence. The ISI often hits Shi'ite targets to try to stir up the type of sectarian violence that drove Iraq to the edge of civil war and killed tens of thousands of people in 2006-7.—Reuters



A policeman stands near the site of a bomb attack in Kirkuk, 250 kilometres north of Baghdad on Monday.—REUTERS

Romney promises firm US foreign policy

WASHINGTON, 25 July—On the eve of a trip abroad, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney promised a robust foreign policy and accused President Barack Obama of weakness in the face of US adversaries.

"This is very simple: If you don't want America to be the strongest nation on Earth, I am not your president," Romney told a convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. "You have that president today."

Romney was cutting in his criticism of how Obama has dealt with Israel, accusing the president of neglect and "shabby treatment" of a key ally.

Although US voters remain focused on the economy, the war in Afghanistan, conflict in Syria and the growing



Republican presidential candidate and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney delivers remarks about the shooting in Colorado during what was supposed to be a campaign event at Coastal Forest Products in Bow, New Hampshire on 20 July, 2012.—REUTERS

influence of China make for a critical backdrop in the campaign for the 6 November election.

Often criticized by Democrats as lacking experience abroad, Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, travels to Britain, Israel and Poland this week to try to boost his foreign policy credentials.

The Republican blamed the White House for national security leaks to the media and assured war veterans that a Romney administration would keep a tight lid on secret information.

"What kind of White House would reveal classified material for political gain?" Romney said. "I'll tell you right now: Mine won't."

He blasted Obama over the leaks, including those about the raid that killed al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and cyber-warfare that has reportedly been used against Iran.

Attorney General Eric Holder last month appointed two chief federal prosecutors to spearhead an investigation into suspected leaks of classified information amid allegations the White House made the disclosures to boost Obama's re-election chances.

"This conduct is contemptible," Romney said. "It betrays our national interest. It compromises our men and women in the field. And it demands a full and prompt investigation, with explanation and consequence," Romney said.—Reuters

UK, France agree on more military cooperation

LONDON, 25 July—Britain and France signed two agreements on Tuesday for further cooperation on the use of military drones, the British Ministry of Defence said. British Defence Minister Philip Hammond and his French counterpart, Jean-Yves Le Drian, pledged closer military ties and called the countries cooperation as "natural as it is necessary."

"We will continue to draw on each other's strengths and respective investments to get the best possible support for our Armed Forces," Hammond said in a statement.

The agreements came as Le Drian made his first visit to London since taking office in May, following the presidential victory of Francois Hollande.

The first agreement represented the initial phase of a collaborative "demonstration program" for a Future Combat Air System, or FCAS, unmanned air system. The other agreement enables cooperation between the two nations on the Watchkeeper Tactical unmanned air system, which provides the British armed forces with surveillance and reconnaissance.

The neighbours already have a close defence relationship, and the latest agreements signal Hollande's intention to maintain the defence and security cooperation treaty signed last year by his predecessor, Nicolas Sarkozy, and Prime Minister David Cameron.

Reuters

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

Russia's Progress M-15M freighter fails to re-dock with ISS

Moscow, 25 July — Russia's Progress M-15M resupply freighter failed to re-dock with the International Space Station (ISS) due to certain emergency situations in the station's new Kurs-NA rendezvous system, Russia's Mission Control Centre (MCC) said on Tuesday. The unmanned Progress M-15M, which arrived at the ISS in April, undocked from the station early Monday morning to conduct a series of tests of the upgraded Kurs-NA rendezvous system.

According to a spokesman of the MCC, the Kurs-NA system warned of a possible emergency situation and called off the re-docking when the Progress M-15M was approaching at a distance of 15 km to the ISS. The MCC didn't provide more details about the operation, only confirming that the Progress M-15M was now at a safe distance to the ISS. The MCC also revealed the Progress freighter would be maneuvered to a distance of 500 km to the ISS later Tuesday and the next re-docking was scheduled on Sunday.

"We are considering to carry out the re-docking again on 29 July, after Japan's cargo spacecraft HTV's docking with the ISS," the spokesman said. The cause of the failed re-docking has been investigated, he said, stressing that the Progress freighter was still controllable and has not posed any threat to the ISS and its six crew members. The US space agency NASA said in a statement the re-docking of the Progress freighter to the ISS has been postponed "due to an apparent failure in the new Kurs-NA rendezvous system."

"Progress 47 (classified as Progress M-15M in Russia) flew approximately 1.8 miles below the station to a safe distance away from the orbiting outpost, where it will remain until another attempt is made to re-rendezvous with the space station," NASA said. Progress freighters have been the backbone of the Russian space cargo fleet for decades. Russia lost a Progress cargo ship in 2011 for the first time in 30 years. Besides, after the retirement of the US shuttle fleet, Russia's Soyuz spacecraft have become the only way for astronauts to reach the ISS at least until the middle of the decade. —Xinhua



The system has a notification system alerting the user to appointments and allowing Facebook posts.

INTERNET

ISPs split over UK open Internet code of practice

LONDON, 25 July — Several leading UK Internet service providers have refused to sign a code of conduct designed to guarantee "full and open access" to the net. Ten ISPs including BT, O2 and Talktalk backed the agreement promising not to restrict or block content unless there was a reason to deploy "reasonable traffic

management practices". But Virgin Media said the principles set out were too vague while Vodafone said the code was "impractical".

Everything Everywhere also opted out. The Open Internet Code of Practice builds on an earlier traffic management agreement — which the three hold-outs did agree to — adding three new

commitments:

* ISPs promise open and full access to the net across their range of products.

* Firms cannot market a subscription package as including "internet access" if certain kinds of legal content or services are barred.

* Members must not target and degrade content or applications offered by a specific rival.

Exceptions to the rule include sites or services blocked by a court order; the need to manage congestion on the network if too many people are using data-hungry services at once; the imposition of data caps that are part of a user's contract; and the use of parental blocks deployed to keep children safe. If breaches of the code occur they will be considered



Virgin Media said the current code was "open to misinterpretation" and refused to sign up. — INTERNET

Photo News



Solar Impulse arrives at its home base in Payerne, Switzerland, on 24 July, 2012. The world's biggest solar powered aircraft, Solar Impulse, on Tuesday touched down at its home base in Payerne, Switzerland, crossing the finish-line for its fuel-free intercontinental voyage. — XINHUA

Apple releases OS X Mountain Lion system upgrade

NEW YORK, 25 July — Apple has announced the latest version of its Mac operation system will be released on Wednesday. OS X Mountain Lion makes it easier to share material to social networks and also introduces a notification panel similar to that found on many smartphones. The news was revealed in the company's third quarter earnings release. Mac sales were 2% up on the year, but the results fell short of many analysts' forecasts. The firm's shares dropped about 5% in after hours trading on Wall Street.

Apple first announced the latest update to its operating system in February. The update continues a trend to introduce features to its desktop and laptop families that have already been implemented on its iPad and iPhone mobile devices. These include the ability to upload and synchronise material with its iCloud internet storage service; the introduction of the iMessage service allowing text message-like chats between the firm's computers and handsets; the ability to easily share material to Twitter; and an application to compare the user's video game scores against those of their friends.

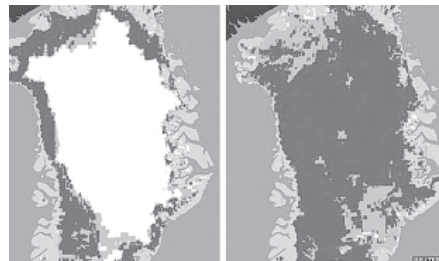
The firm has also taken steps to aid its expansion in China including the adoption of Baidu as a search service built into its web browser's toolbar, and buttons to make it easy to share material to the Sina Weibo microblog, and the video sites Youku and Tudou. However, the firm's decision to keep its Mac system distinct from iOS for mobile devices is set to be challenged by October's Windows 8 release by Microsoft. Microsoft is offering users the chance to run the same system on both their tablets and desktop computers, making it easier to share software between them. — Internet

Satellites reveal sudden Greenland ice melt

WASHINGTON, 25 July — Greenland's massive ice sheet has melted this month over an usually large area, NASA has said. Scientists said the "unprecedented" melting took place over a larger area than ever detected in three decades of satellite observation. Melting even occurred at Greenland's coldest and highest place, Summit station. The thawed ice area jumped from 40% of the ice sheet to 97% in just four days from 8 July. Although about half of Greenland's ice sheet normally melts over the summer months, the speed and scale of this year's melting surprised scientists, who described the phenomenon as "extraordinary".

NASA said that nearly the entire ice cover of Greenland, from its thin, low-lying coastal edges to its centre, which is 3 km (two miles) thick, experienced some degree of melting at its surface. "When we see melt in places that we haven't seen before, at least in a long period of time, it makes you sit up and ask what's happening?" NASA chief scientist Waleed Abdalati said.

"It's a big signal, the meaning of which we're going to sort out for years to come." He said that because this Greenland-wide melting has happened before they are not yet able to determine whether this is a natural but rare event, or if it has been sparked by man-made global warming.



The first image shows Greenland's ice sheet on 8 July, the second reveals the thawed area just four days later.

INTERNET

Scientists said they believed that much of Greenland's ice was already freezing again. Until now, the most extensive melting seen by satellites in the past three decades was about 55% of the area. Ice last melted at Summit station in 1889, ice core records show.

The news comes just days after Nasa satellite imagery revealed that a massive iceberg, twice the size of Manhattan, had broken off a glacier in Greenland. "This event, combined with other natural but uncommon phenomena, such as the large calving event last week on Petermann Glacier, are part of a complex story," said Nasa's Tom Wagner.

Internet

Vodafone said the code was "impractical" as it would have restricted how it marketed its packages. INTERNET



up to the plan, while Microsoft and the BBC were among those to praise its creation.

The businesses which declined said they all supported the idea of an open internet, but had qualms about the code itself. Virgin Media suggested the circumstances under which traffic management practices could be deployed needed to be defined more strictly. "These principles remain open to misinterpretation and potential exploitation so, while we welcome efforts to reach a broad consensus to address future potential issues, we will be seeking greater clarity before we consider signing," said a spokesman. Vodafone said it objected to the agreement because of the restrictions it would impose on the way it marketed some of its subscription packages.

Internet

by a forum including the ISPs, the communications regulator Ofcom and media companies, known as the Broadband Stakeholder Group.

Net neutrality campaigners have long warned of the risk of a two-tiered system under which ISPs could charge premium rates for full Internet access, or act to ensure their own video content was sent glitch-free while throttling material sent by other catch-up TV services. The Netherlands

became the first European country to pass a law forcing ISPs to guarantee equal access in May. However, no such right exists in the UK, although Ofcom has warned it might intervene if it saw a problem developing. Ed Vazey MP, the Minister for Culture, welcomed the new code. "The Internet has been built on openness and low barriers to entry, and this agreement will ensure that continues," he said. Be, BSkyB, Kcom, Giffgaff, Plusnet, Tesco Mobile and Three also signed

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

Health Tip: When lugging luggage

Before you pack your bags for your next trip, make sure you read up on how to prevent back pain from lugging luggage.

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons offers these suggestions:

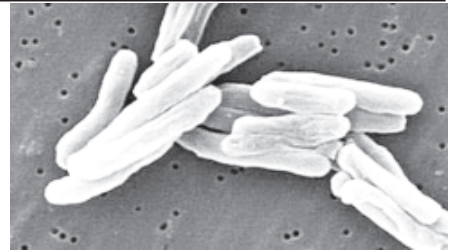
- * Buy luggage with wheels and a handle that's sturdy and lightweight.
- * Don't overpack, and use several small bags instead of stuffing everything into one heavy suitcase.
- * Lift with your legs instead of your back, bending at the knees and holding the luggage close to your body.
- * If possible, use both hands to carry luggage.
- * If carrying a shoulder bag, make sure you switch sides often.

Internet

Hope for more effective TB treatment

LONDON, 25 July — Hopes of a new, more effective therapy for tuberculosis have been raised following the results of early trials. The study showed three drugs given in combination killed more than 99% of TB bacteria after two weeks of treatment. The therapy appeared to be equally effective on the drug-resistant form of the disease in the trials of 85 patients, a team led by Stellenbosch University in South Africa reported. Larger studies are now taking place to further test the technique.

TB is one of the oldest and most deadly infectious diseases. About 1.4m people a year die each year from it, mainly in developing countries. Current treatments usually involve people taking drugs daily for six months. The drug-resistant strain is much harder to treat and can involve up to two years of therapy. Of the three drugs used in this study, published in the *Lancet*, one is new, while another is not yet licensed.



TB kills about 1.4m people a year across the world.— INTERNET

Andreas Diacon, lead researcher for the trial, said: "The results of this study give healthcare providers on the frontlines of the TB epidemic hope for better, faster tools needed to stop this disease." Mario Raviglione, a TB expert at the World Health Organization, said: "The results look strongly promising from this early trial." "We could shorten drug regimens substantially for everyone, regardless of whether the form of TB is sensitive or multi-drug resistant." — Internet

Japan's exports slide in June hurt by global slowdown

TOKYO, 25 July — Japan's exports dipped in June, the first drop in four months, as slowdown in key markets including Europe and China, hurt demand. Exports dipped 2.3% from a year earlier, compared with a 10% jump in the previous month. Shipments to the European Union declined by 21.3%, while those to China were down by 7.3%. Japan relies heavily on exports for growth and there have been fears that a global slowdown may hurt its economy. Analysts warned that exports may continue to remain weak in the near term.

"Exports remain sluggish and you can't expect much from external demand to drive the Japanese economy in the latter half of this fiscal year," said Yasuo Yamamoto, a senior economist with Mizuho Research Institute. Mr Yamamoto added that if the debt crisis in eurozone worsened and the US and Chinese economies slowed down further, the impact on Japan's exports and economy may be even more pronounced. "I don't think the Japanese economy is sliding back into recession, but that possibility cannot be totally ruled out."

To make matters more complicated for policymakers, imports also fell in June, indicating that domestic demand in Japan was not increasing enough to offset the decline in exports. Imports fell by 2.2% during the month, from a year ago level after having jumped more than 9% in May. While a big role in the decline in imports was played by the fall in oil prices, analysts said that the drop in Japan-bound shipments of other commodities indicated an overall weakness in domestic demand.

Imports of iron and steel products fell 12%, while



The pace of growth for Japan's car exports has also slowed in recent months.— INTERNET

shipments of non-ferrous metals declined more than 10%. Analysts said the slowdown in exports coupled with a weak domestic demand indicated that Japan's growth may slow down.

"Back in April, the main scenario for Japan was that the economy would recover

on domestic reconstruction demand and an expansion of exports. The export part of that scenario is crumbling," said Seji Adachi of Deutsche Securities. "Japan's economic recovery could have already peaked in the first half of the year."

Internet

Sunbed tanning kills 800 in Europe every year

PARIS, 25 July — Sunbed users run a 20 percent higher risk than non-users of developing skin cancer, according to a report that blamed some 800 melanoma deaths in Europe every year on indoor tanning. About 3,400 of some 64,000 new cases of cutaneous melanoma diagnosed in 18 European countries every year are related to sunbed use — more than five percent, said a statement issued by the *BMJ* medical journal.

The risk doubled if tanners started before the age of 35. The findings were based on an analysis by researchers of 27 studies on skin cancer and sunbed use conducted between 1981 and 2012 in Britain, France, Germany and other countries. They found a "1.8 percent increase in risk for each additional sunbed session per year", said the statement.

"The authors believe that earlier studies have tended to underestimate the risk of indoor tanning because the use of these devices is relatively new." The study authors from the International Prevention Research Institute in France and the European Institute of Oncology in Italy urged tougher regulation and restricting children's access to tanning salons. — Internet



4G will provide superfast broadband to mobiles.— INTERNET

Ofcom reveals 4G mobile auction plans

LONDON, 25 July — Telecoms regulator Ofcom has unveiled plans for the auction of fourth generation (4G) bandwidth for mobile phone services. The sales process will start later this year but bidding will not begin until early 2013, which Ofcom said was in line with its previous timetable. The regulator says it expects consumers to start getting services in late 2013. It wants to see "at least four credible national wholesalers of 4G mobile services" to promote competition. The auction will sell chunks of radio spectrum to support future 4G mobile services, which will allow users to download data such as music and videos at much faster speeds.

The regulator has previously said that the spectrum to support 4G services will not be available to use until 2013. It says its plans should see mobile broadband rolled out to at least 98% of people in rural areas across the UK. The auction will offer the equivalent of three-quarters of the mobile spectrum currently in use — some 80% more than released in the 3G auction which took place in 2000, Ofcom said. It now wants to see at least four wholesalers of 4G mobile services so that consumers will benefit from better services at lower prices. — Internet

AT&T smartphone sales fall in 2Q, boosting net

NEW YORK, 25 July — AT&T Inc on Tuesday posted the best profitability ever in its wireless arm, paradoxically because it sold fewer smartphones. The largest telecommunications company in the US said its subscribers are now holding on to their phones longer: The rate of upgrades to new phones was at a record low in the second quarter. That's good news for the company because it to subsidizes each smartphone by hundreds of dollars to be able to sell it to customers for \$99 or \$199. iPhones, in particular, are expensive to sell, because Apple charges AT&T an average of around \$650 for each one.

In March last year, AT&T started telling subscribers that they had to stay on contract for 20 months before they would be eligible for a new phone at the fully subsidized price. Before that, some high-paying customers had been eligible for upgrades after just 12 months. "It appears our policy is working," John Stephens, AT&T's chief financial

officer, told analysts on a conference call. He said another big contributor to the low upgrade rate was that many people upgraded late last year, when the latest iPhone debuted. AT&T activated 5.1 million smartphones in its latest quarter, down from 5.5 million in the same period a year ago. That helped boost wireless operating income by 18 percent in the quarter, to \$4.9 billion.

Analysts still expect AT&T's profits to take a dive this fall, when the new iPhone comes out. In what's become an annual ritual, buyers flood AT&T and Apple stores, and AT&T pays dearly for the privilege of having the nation's most popular network for iPhones. The tighter upgrade policies don't seem to be scaring off AT&T subscribers. They were more loyal than ever in the quarter, helping AT&T outdo analyst expectations by adding a net 320,000 subscribers on contract-based plans in the quarter.

However, more than half of the new subscribers were

tablet users, who pay less than smartphone users. Also, AT&T continues to lag Verizon Wireless, which already has more subscribers. Last week, Verizon reported adding 888,000 subscribers to its rolls in the quarter. The strong wireless results helped boost Dallas-based AT&T's net income to \$3.9 billion, or 66 cents per share, for the April to June period. That's up 8.7 percent from \$3.6 billion, or 60 cents per share, a year earlier. For the latest quarter, analysts expected earnings of 63 cents per share.

Internet



In this 6 May, 2012, file photo, a woman talks on her cell phone outside an AT&T store in New York. AT&T is seeing declining smartphone sales, leading to the best profitability ever in its wireless arm as it saves on phone subsidies.

INTERNET

Discussions in Hluttaw should not include characteristics and behaviors of a person

Discussions about a proposal must be related with proposals under debate at the Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker urges some representatives to strictly abide by Hluttaw laws and rules in making discussion

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—The 14th day regular session of the Pyithu Hluttaw continued at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 10 am today, attended by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and 406 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

In the question and answer section, U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency asked **whether there is a plan to manage transport for passengers with the use of high-class vehicles.** Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Chan Maung replied that local and foreign investments are invited to systematically operate passenger transport service in Yangon with convenience of passengers and traffic safety.

At present, Oriental Transportation Enterprise Company Ltd of Japan and Road Transport Administration Department are holding coordination meeting so as to carry out mutual interest of transport. On completion of passenger transport sector, emphasis will be placed on other transport services. Likewise, local and foreign companies are invited to put their investment in the transport sector. Myanmar Investment Commission allows Joint Venture between the Japanese company and Road Transport in principle, and the two hold discussions in detail. On completion, first-class vehicles will be run in Yangon City.

U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Palaw Constituency raised a question **not to sell sea sand as sales of sea sand to Singapore harms marine biodiversity.** Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan replied that remarks will be sought from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries over loss of pasture area for marine creatures at sea and their migration due to extraction of sand. At present, there is no information and evidence on degradation of water resources. If the Ministry of Transport finds any situation on environmental degradation and destruction at entrance and exit routes to the ports due to sand extraction in Taninthayi Region, it will review work permits.

The Ministry of Commerce does not issue export licenses directly for trading sea sand and river sand. The ministry allows export of sea sand and river sand as a special matter in dredging sandbanks for development of river courses and ports with the recommendations and scrutiny of respective ministries and region/state governments.

In the section of holding proposal discussion, U Kha Mai Mon Kwam (a) U Kha Maing Tan of Sumprabum Constituency, Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung Constituency, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of Kawhmu Constituency, U Ohn Kyaing of Mahaangmye Constituency, U Kyaw Thiha of PyinOoLwin Constituency, U Min Thu of Ottarathiri Constituency and U Shwe Maung (a) U Adul Rawzek of Buthidaung Constituency discussed the proposal on promulgation of national races rights protection law submitted by U T Khun Myat of Kutkai Constituency.

In his discussion, U Kha Mai Mon Kwam (a) U Kha Mai Tan of Sumprabum Constituency said that the State is responsible for safeguarding the rights of national races and ethnics and national cause. It is necessary to enact the law safeguarding nationalities' rights. It is a good timing to enact law safeguarding national races and allow the national races to enjoy the fundamental rights to make sure that they are not lagged behind in term of their social life and development while accelerating development of other sectors.

Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung Constituency said that while implementing other sectors with added momentum, it is necessary to empower to the national races to enjoy fundamental rights to make sure that they are not lagged behind in term of their social life of the national

and development sector.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of Kawhmu Constituency discussed that the present constitution does not specifically define the word national races. The their discussions focus on rights of national races classified by the states they live. In Myanmar, states are suffering from much poverty. Generally, it is obvious that development of states is not satisfactory. Moreover, total ceasefire cannot be seen in the internal strife till today. Therefore, it can be said that protection of the rights of national races is wider and deeper than preservation of languages and culture. That is why she urged all the Hluttaw representatives to participate in discussions for emergence of a genuine democratic nation based on equality and mutual respects and trusts inseparable from Panglong Spirit and to amend and enact the laws for protection of the rights of nationalities.

U Ohn Kyaing of Mahaangmye Constituency participated in discussions. He said that the people stick to heroism and it is original characteristic of the national races. While struggling in the colonial era during about 100 years, Bogyoke Aung San had come out as the national leader. Bogyoke Aung San had the capability to rally the entire nation, and people of the whole nation firmly believe that he was a great leader. Unfortunately, he fell during the period when the independence of the nation was almost regained. At the same time, the vacancy of leader emerged in the history longing for Bogyoke Aung San. After over 40 years, a leader who can be substituted in the place of Bogyoke Aung San came out. The person is Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from the Hluttaw. The entire people look Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as a clone of the national leader or representative of the national leader. It should utilize the icon of leader in peace process and development of the nation. At this opportune time, the President and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi are to join hands in harmoniously establishing the new era for emergence of a genuine and developed democratic nation, he suggested.

In his discussion, U Kyaw Thiha of PyinOoLwin Constituency expressed his thanks for concerned efforts of the Speaker of the Hluttaw and all Hluttaw representatives to enact the laws with the free participation of all national races in the discussions at the Hluttaw. If all the national races sign the peace deal and the law is promulgated by implementing the proposal before 2015, he expressed his firm belief that the peace and modern developed nation will come out.

U Min Thu of Ottarathiri Constituency said that the discussions at the Hluttaw in which all the national races can participate should be laws and provisions to grant and protect the rights of the national races so as to emerge a Union assembly in the future. The national race representatives in the Hluttaw cannot hold open discussions on rules and regulations as much as they can. He said that with regard to the rights of national races, it is necessary to enact a law on politically-demanded recognition such as self-administration and autonomy rights in addition to literature, culture and customs of national races in conformity with the Our Three Main National Causes which are three principles of the State.

U Shwe Maung (a) U Abdul Razak of Buthidaung Constituency discussed that the present time is the time the country is marching towards modern, developed, democratic nation in line with Constitution 2008. Such measures as supplementing, amending, and revoking of out-of-date laws posing barriers to establishment of new democratic nation and promulgating of laws beneficial to the State and people are in action in the legislature with added momentum. It is of great importance for enactment of a law protecting



Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency raising question.—MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung Constituency raising question.—MNA

the rights of national race people, from which the State power comes.

In response to the discussions, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann said that **all the MPs are bear sub-section (f) of Section 130 of Pyithu Hluttaw Rules in mind before discussing a specific proposal. Hluttaw representatives must abide by Section 130 (c) of the rule that states discussion should not include characteristics and behaviors of a person in general and the sub section (e) states that discussions about a proposal must be related with proposals under debate at the Hluttaw.** The behaviors mentioned sub-section (e) of Section 130 of Pyithu Hluttaw indicate either good or bad ones. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then urged the Representatives to strictly abide by Hluttaw laws and rules in discussing matters in the future.

The Speaker said he had presented a proposal for enforcement Pyithu Hluttaw law and rules and reiterated it to makes sure there was no ambiguity. The Speaker said he had to listen carefully to discussion of U Ohn Kyaing and scrutinize whether it is in line with law or rules before putting forward to Hluttaw. U Min Thu from Ottarathiri Township Constituency had asked to make preliminary speech as the Speaker was clarifying Hluttaw laws and rules to Hluttaw representatives. The Speaker said he had interrupted his speech as he would like to clarify further for clearer picture of parliamentary issues and Hluttaw representatives. **The fact that national race representative could not discuss frankly in the Hluttaw was not acceptable, noted the Speaker warning against it, inviting question to any national race representative about it. The second point, said the Speaker, was that legislation was the major responsibility of the Hluttaw. The Hluttaw was never before in the past but it was in existence now in new era under new system. The main obligation of the Hluttaw was legislation and the second responsibility was to monitor responsible organizations and people to make sure their adherence to legislations and existing laws promulgated by the Hluttaw with check and balance system.** Regarding the legislation of the Hluttaw, Hluttaw representatives had to discuss the bills submitted by Union level agencies and legitimate them. In so doing, bills were published in newspapers to collect the opinions of the people, if a bill was to be submitted. Only then, would the participative process be wider. The nearest example is that members of Pyithu Hluttaw committees, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives including the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and officials of respective

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw regular session continues for sixth day One bill approved, one report and one proposal discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw regular session continued for sixth day at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here at 1.05 pm today, attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 612 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives.

As there is no one to discuss Important Commodity and Service Bill sent by the President with remarks, the bill was then approved.

U Min Swe of DaikU Constituency and U Soe Tha of Twantay Constituency discussed report on supplementary budget submitted by Public Accounts Committee on 23 July. They discussed that the period between 1 October and 30 October should be designated as the financial year to avert financial difficulties because the construction projects with large fund are carried in open season and supplementary budget could be requested in May. It would help prepare budget request for the next fiscal year. The farmers will get higher prices for their crops as they are in no rush to repay agricultural loans.

The report is decided to be reviewed by the

committee, together with Hluttaw representatives, respective government representatives.

U Aung Thein Lin of South Okkalapa Constituency, U Myint Thein of Magway Constituency, U Khaing Maung Yi of Ahlon Constituency, U Min Thu of Ottarathiri Constituency, U Min Swe of DaikU Constituency, U Khin Maung Nyo of Pauk Constituency, U Hla Swe of Magway Region Constituency (12), U Tin Mya of Sagaing Region Constituency (7), Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency (1), U Sein Win of Maubin Constituency, U Kyaw Myint of Myanarung Constituency and U Sai Thiha Kyaw of Mongyai Constituency seconded the proposal submitted U Tin Htut of Zalun Constituency on “doing justice in confiscation of farmlands not to harm farmers”.

They discussed that the government should acquire the approval of the people through sympathy towards the farmers who constitute majority of the population as there are unfair confiscations of farmlands with no appropriate compensations granted, excessive confiscations and transfers.

The issue should be handled fairly to ease socio-

Services Personnel from the Pyithu Hluttaw. Pyithu Hluttaw representatives represent the people of each region far and wide the country. The Hluttaw representatives must be accountable to the people of each region to accomplish duties of the Hluttaw. **A considerable amount of time may need to carry out legislation and some laws need be amended. The Hluttaw representatives must strive to perform legislative duties with the mindset to revamp the existing laws. The newly sworn-in Pyithu Hluttaw representatives are urged to work in cooperation with the experienced lawmakers.**

U Win Myint of Patheingyi Constituency submitted a proposal to declare movable and immovable assets and interests of persons assigned to Union government members, Region or State government members for emergence of Good Governance and Clean Government. U Pe Than of Myebon Constituency seconded the proposal.

The Hluttaw representatives who are willing to discuss the proposal are to submit their name list not later than 1 am on 26 July as the Hluttaw agreed to discuss the bill.



U Khin Maung Nyo of Pauk Constituency participates in discussion.—MNA



U Min Thu of Ottarathiri Constituency takes part in discussion.—MNA

economic difficulties and improve hard earned lives of farmers.

The approval of the Hluttaw will be sought on 26 July to form investigation commission to ease sufferings of farmers by farmland acquisition.

The seventh day session will be held on 26 July. **MNA**

Discussions in Hluttaw should not include...

(from page 6)

organizations heard concerns of people regarding the foreign investment law which had been first discussed at Amyotha Hluttaw that it could undermine the interest of the country at MICT Hall in Yangon. The bill is being discussed at the Pyithu Hluttaw as it requested to return the bill from the Amyotha Hluttaw. It is discussed again at the Hluttaw because the desire of the people is the interests of the country and citizens. **New Hluttaw representatives and all Hluttaw representatives are informed that legislation is being carried out by Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives, considering public sentiments.** Further clarification needs to be made as regards legislation by national race representatives, instead of the Hluttaw. Representatives from 330 townships and Defence

U Sai Maung Tin of Laikha Constituency and U Sai Kyaw Myint of Mongnai Constituency discussed the proposal on drafting the legislation safeguarding the rights of the ethnic people.

U Sai Maung Tin of Laikha Constituency discussed the 2008 constitution granted equitable rights of citizens. In retrospect, the rights of ethnic people were ignored despite provisions granting fundamental rights and duties of citizens in 1947 constitution and 1974 constitution. Respective legislation should be prescribed to ensure equitable rights for the national races regarding religion, culture, literature, arts, education, health, business and job opportunities.

U Sai Kyaw Myint of Mongnai Constituency discussed that the law should safeguard equitable rights to ethnic people in border regions regardless of race, region, and religion.

At today's session, two questions were raised, one proposal discussed and one new proposal submitted.

The Hluttaw session concluded at noon today and will continue for 15th day on 26 July.—**MNA**

DISTRICT NEWS

Educative talks on Myanmar traditional culture given

YANGON, 25 July—Yangon North District Women's Affairs Organization held the talk on Myanmar traditional culture for women at Ayeyawady Hall of Basic Education High School No. 1 on 13 July.

Chairperson of Yangon North District WAO Daw Sein Sein Soe presented the first prize to Ma Yadana Tun Naing of Insein Township, Chairperson of Township WAO Daw Tin Tin Oo, second and third prizes to the winners and the township education officer, prizes to outstanding students in the 2010-2011 academic year matriculation examination.

Kyemon



Ferry transports travellers across Sittoung River by rope

YEDASHE, 25 July—The local people residing along Sittoung Basin from the north to the south use a temporary bridge across Sittoung River in summer from the east to the west.

In the rainy season, the local people pass across the river by motorboat or ordinary boat. Some of them pass the river by holding the rope from one bank to another. Such system can be seen at Yesin Jetty near Hnawbin Village of Yedashe Township.—*Kyemon*

Books donated to village library in Labutta

LABUTTA, 25 July—A ceremony to donate books and publications to Lin Yaung Chi Library was held in Latachaung Village in Myitpauk Village-tract in Labutta Township on 8 July morning.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Bo Bo Min Thaik made a speech. Staff Office of District Information and Public Relations Department Daw Sanda Kyi explained durability of library.

Cultivation of Palethwe paddy hybrid demonstrated

KYONPYAW, 25 July—A demonstration on cultivation of Palethwe hybrid paddy strains was held on five acres of farmland of farmer U Myint Ohn in Myeyetaung Village-tract of Kyonpyaw Township of Patheingyi District on 18 July morning.

At first, Township Administrator U Than Sein gave a speech, and Deputy Director of Ayeyawady Region Agriculture Department U Myint Thein explained use of 14-point good agriculture pattern.

The demonstration was attended by Head of Township Agriculture Department U Hla Myo Nwe and staff, members of agricultural promotion committee and local farmers of village-tracts.—*Myanma Alin*



After that, the township administrator, the staff officer of District IPRD and wellwishers donated 427 books to the library.

The one-storey RC library was built with contributions of the State and the people.—*Myanma Alin*

President U Thein Sein receives ...

(from page 1)

The Thai Prime Minister introduced her welcoming party to the President.

The President also presented his entourage to the Thai Prime Minister and the welcoming ceremony concluded.

The President met with foreign ambassadors to Thailand who attended the welcoming ceremony at



President U Thein Sein and Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra take salute from the Guard of Honour.—MNA

Purple Hall of Thai Koo Fah Building in State Guesthouse.

Also present at the welcoming ceremony were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Myint Hlaing, U Tin Naing Thein, U Aung Kyi, U Than Htay and U Win Myint, Chief Ministers U Zaw Min and U Myat Ko, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Deputy Ministers U Myo Aung, Thura U Thauung Lwin and Dr Win Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Tin Win and departmental heads.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand,

Foreign Affairs Minister, high ranking officials and Thai ambassador were also present at the welcoming ceremony.

After welcoming ceremony, the President signed the visitors' book at Outer Ivory Hall in Thai Koo Fah Building of State Guesthouse.

President U Thein Sein met with Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra at Inner Ivory Room.

Together with President U Thein Sein, the Union minister for Foreign Affairs and the Myanmar ambassador to Thailand attended the meeting.

MNA



President U Thein Sein and Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra inspect the Guard of Honour.—MNA

President U Thein Sein attends luncheon hosted by Thai Minister of Industry and Chairman of Board of Investment

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein enjoyed a luncheon hosted by Thai Minister of Industry and Chairman of Board of Investment Mr. Pongsawat Sawasdiwat at Le Nirmandie Hall of Mandarin Oriental

Hotel, Thailand at noon of 22 July.

Also present at the luncheon were Union Ministers, Chief Ministers of Kayin State and Taninthayi Region, the Adjutant-General, deputy ministers and departmental heads.

MNA



President U Thein Sein introduces his entourage to Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra.—MNA



President U Thein Sein attends luncheon hosted by Thai Minister of Industry and Chairman of Board of Investment Mr Pongsawat Sawasdiwat at Le Nirmandie Hall of Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Bangkok.

MNA

Thai investment invited in rubber, oil palm and other commercial...

(from page 1)

departmental heads. The Thai PM was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Mr Yongyuth Wichaidit, Deputy Prime Minister General Yuthasak Sasiprapa, the head of political advisory group to the prime minister, ministers, the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar and senior officials.

The Thai PM expressed thanks for Myanmar President's visit to Thailand at the invitation of Thai government, adding that the 65th anniversary of the establishment of Myanmar-Thai diplomatic ties would be celebrated in Thailand on a grand scale coming year.

The President thanked the Thai PM and government for invitation to visit Thailand, warm welcome and kind hospitality, expressing his belief that the visit would further cement the existing bond and promote mutually-beneficial cooperation.

Thailand was the second largest investor in Myanmar in terms of trade, investment and economic cooperation, said the President noting that Thailand had invested over 9 billion USD till 30th April, 2012, accounting for 23.32 per cent of total foreign



President U Thein Sein and Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra pose for documentary photo together with delegation members at signing ceremony of agreements.—MNA

investment in Myanmar.

The bilateral trade volume reached 4515.0 million USD in 2011-2012 fiscal year, 24.9 per cent up in comparison with last year, as a sign of increase in trade relations.

The President remarked that signing of MoU between the two countries on establishment of Dawei Special Economic Zone would bring about closer bilateral economic cooperation in addition to better economic performance and increased job opportunities for the countries and peoples in Greater Mekong Subregion. Thus, it must be pushed forward for urgent implementation of the economic zone, urged the President.

Along with the increasing stability along Myanmar-Thai border, it needed to create jobs for people residing in border

regions to guarantee their socio-economic life. So, the Myanmar government would open more border trade camps, more border industrial zones and establish commercial-scale plantations and production industries along the border, revealed the President who proposed for officially opening of border trade camps in Htiki and other accessible places along Myanmar-Thai border.

The President expressed his interest in establishment of border industrial zone in Htiki and Myawady-Thingan Nyinaung, proposing further coordination for purchase of electric power from Thailand and Thai entrepreneurs' investment in those projects.

The President invited Thai investments in rubber, oil palm and other commercial plantations to be established for development of and job

creation in regions sharing border with Thailand.

The President noted that about 2 million of Myanmar workers were working in Thailand and MoU on cooperation in labour affairs was signed in 2003. The Thai government had allowed five document issuance teams from Myanmar to undertake related works in Thailand, achieving some success.

The President thanked the Thai government for its decision to extend the expiring validity of work permit of Myanmar workers till December this year.

However, there still remained a considerable number of illegal Myanmar workers in Thailand who were reported to be sent back to border after December. The President tabled his point of view that the two neighbours should cooperate in line with international procedures for legalizing Myanmar

workers.

Authorities concerned in Thailand were issuing renewed form of temporary passports for Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand but extension of visa needed to be done in offices concerned in Thai-Myanmar border, posing difficulties to Myanmar migrant workers. The President proposed for issuance of visas at one stop service at six temporary passport issuance offices and three offices at Myanmar border.

The President proposed to the Thai government for assisting in guaranteeing same rights of Myanmar migrant workers with Thai workers whose basic pay was raised in April, 2012.

The President proposed to the Thai government for running direct flight to such historical sites in Myanmar as Mandalay and Bagan and more chartered flights to Myanmar for promotion of tourism between the two countries, inviting for mutual cooperation in promotion of border region tourism and in search of tourism market.

Myanmar was rich in such renewable energy as wind, solar power, thermal power, and bio power, said the President inviting Thai investors for working in partnership with Myanmar companies for utilization of such renewable power wide and far.

As to foreign relations, pressure from foreign countries had declined following the internal political stability and progressive reform process. The government in office had been more open to foreign countries and international organizations. However, there still remained sanctions, for example, extension of

sanction against Myanmar by US Congress. But anyway, the incumbent government had released its grip over the businesses in country, guaranteeing no threats to foreign investment.

The President extended thanks to the personnel concerned for arranging visit to Laem Chabang deep sea port which was established with foreign investment in his tour of Thailand, commenting it as good experience for Myanmar.

The President again expressed his thanks to the Thai Prime Minister and personnel concerned for all the hearty convenient arrangement and hospitality in his goodwill visit.

The President wished better-than-now health for the Thai King on behalf of Myanmar people and well-being of the Thai PM, the cabinet and the people and sustainable economic prosperity of Thailand.

The Thai Prime Minister confirmed that the Thai government would push forward for earliest completion of Dawei Deep Sea Port Project for it would be the biggest deep sea port in region.

The Thai PM added that she would convey the Myanmar President's wish for Thai King to the royal palace. The two nations could hold joint commission under the leadership of foreign ministers in Phuket in 2008, said the Thai PM who proposed for the net meeting in coming November.

The Thai PM expressed special thanks for successful cooperation between the two neighbours in labour issue, anti-human trafficking campaign, and fight against illicit drugs.

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Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Surapong Tovichakchaikul sign MoU in the presence of President U Thein Sein and Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra.—MNA

Thai investment invited in rubber, oil palm and other commercial...

(from page 9)

The Thai PM proposed for establishment of border gate in for bilateral trade on the route to Nay Pyi Taw from Pha Bong, Mae Hong Song the opposite bank of Pha Wat, Chiang Mai of Thailand.

JTC meeting would be held soon at which the proposals for border region development of the two countries could be discussed, said the Thai PM.

The Thai Prime Minister said that Thailand had formed Thai-Myanmar Friendship Association for promotion of existing bilateral economic cooperation, proposing the Myanmar side to found similar association.

The Thai Prime Minister said that Thailand in cooperating with Myanmar in its economic reforms would focus on four points mentioned under—(1) to cooperate with Myanmar in its work programmes for capacity building and constitutional development, (2) to cooperate with Myanmar in its preparation for taking ASEAN



President U Thein Sein and Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra hold joint press conference at Thai Koo Fah Building in Bangkok of Thailand.—MNA

chairmanship in 2014, (3) to cooperate in economic reforms and other development undertakings, (4) and to cooperate with Myanmar in its infrastructural development.

In discussion with the Myanmar President for Dawei Region Special Economic Zone project, the two nations had agreed to form ministerial-level work committees which had now been formed. The Thai PM proposed for the meeting of two work committees in August for further coordination with regard to the project.

The Thai Prime Minister expressed her pleasure to share Thailand's experience in taking ASEAN chair with Myanmar, promising to cooperate with the latter in XXVII SEA Games in 2013.

The Thai Prime Minister

recommended formation of rice association for taking actions ahead possible scenario of rice market as both countries were rice exporters.

The Thai Prime Minister asked Myanmar side to assist in signing MoU between Stock Exchange of Thailand and the Central Bank of Myanmar for investment of Thai businessmen and corporate companies in Myanmar's capital market.

The Thai Prime Minister reiterated the Thai government policy of not allowing any organization opposing Myanmar government taking stronghold on the soil of Thailand.

The Thai Prime Minister revealed Thailand's readiness to assist refugees along the

border in returning their homeland.

The Thai Prime Minister suggested coordination between ministries concerned of the two countries for issuance of visas for Myanmar migrant workers without restrictions, allowing Myanmar migrant workers enter by air, and the issues of cross-border workers from the other side.

The Thai Prime Minister guaranteed the same salary for Myanmar migrant workers equal to Thai workers. She expressed her thanks to the Myanmar President and ministers for their goodwill visit to Thailand.

The Myanmar President extended his special thanks to acknowledge and support of Thai government for political and economic reforms of Myanmar, adding that Myanmar would arrange for joint commission on bilateral cooperation and promotion of cooperation along the border for fight against illicit drugs.

The Myanmar President suggested step-by-step implementation of Dawei special economic

zone projects under sector-wise coordination.

The Myanmar President said the Myanmar government was speeding up its peace negotiations with national race armed groups. He added that although ceasefire agreement had been reached, it was still making political discussions with them and thus border trade camps were planned to open where there was no threats to security.

The President confirmed to the reconstitute the existing Myanmar-Thai Friendship Association for better functions. He thanked Thai side for its willingness for economic cooperation with Myanmar based on four points.

The President remarked the hosting of XXVII SEA Games in 2013 as the fresh challenge to the country, asking for Thailand's experience and cooperation in news coverage and broadcast and material requirements.

The President added that establishment of rice market mechanism could be discussed in detail with the Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation

who accompanied him in his tour.

If there were investment in Myanmar, there would follow financial flow, said the President who promised to assist in signing of MoU between Stock Exchange of Thailand and the Central Bank of Myanmar as necessary.

The President thanked for Thai government's decision to offer equal remuneration to Myanmar migrant workers and plans for vocational training courses.

The President expressed his commitment to implement the facts in MoU and joint statement made during his Thailand tour, thanking delegates from Thai side at the discussion.

After the discussion, agreements were signed. In the presence of the two State leaders, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and Thai Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Surapong Tovichakchaikul signed MoU on comprehensiveness development in Dawei Special Economic Zone and related regions and on cooperation for development in Myanmar between Myanmar government and Thai cabinet. Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay and Thai Energy Minister Mr Arak Chonlathanon signed the joint declaration in establishment of energy forum and exchanged the documents.

The President, the Thai Prime Minister and those present posed for documentary photo.

The two State leaders then gave joint press conference at Purple Hall, briefing Myanmar's President to Thailand and promotion of bilateral cooperation.—MNA

Myanmar and Malaysian businessmen to meet on 8 August

YANGON, 25 July—Malaysian businessmen led by The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) will hold a meeting for cooperation in transport sectors in Myanmar at Ball Room in Parkroyal Hotel at 8.30 am on

8 August.

Myanmar businessmen may attend the meeting and enlist at UMFCCI Head Office, Ph from 01 214344 to 214349 (Ext; 122/177) not later than 30 July.—MNA



Photo shows Laem Chabang Port in Chonburi Province of Thailand.(news on page 16)—MNA

President U Thein Sein arrives at Bangkok of Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein accompanied by delegation members left here by special aircraft on 22 July morning and arrived in Don Mong Airport of Thailand at 11 am local standard time.

Deputy Head of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr Komate Kamalgnavin and Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Win welcomed President U Thein Sein and delegation members Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi, Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, Chief Minister of Tanintharyi Region U Myat Ko, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Office, Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thauang Lwin, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint, departmental heads, peasant delegation, worker delegation and industrial zone delegation on board the special aircraft at Don Mong Airport.

The President was warmly welcomed by Member of Privy Council Mr Thepkamol Devakula, Deputy Prime



President U Thein Sein being welcomed by officials at Don Mong Airport of Thailand.—MNA

Minister Gen Yuthasak Sasiprapha, Minister for Transport Mr Charupong Ruang-suwan, Thai Ambassador to Thailand Mr Pisanu Suvanajata, Myanmar Military Attaché to Thailand Col Win Maung, staff of the embassy and the

military attaché office and families.

Later, the President and party arrived at Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Bangkok by car.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw regular session continues for 14th day

Five questions answered, one bill approved

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—Amyotha Hluttaw regular session continued for 14th day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this morning, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 207 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

Five questions were raised and answered and one health bill was approved.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint answered queries raised by five Hluttaw representatives.

Regarding the question raised by U Nyo Tun of Rakhine State Constituency (11) on “whether there is plan to resume construction of new Anchaung (lower village) bridge in Rakhine State”, the deputy minister answered that the construction project started since 15-12-2010 has been completed by 70 percent. As K700 million fund was allotted to the project in 2012-2013 fiscal year, the lower structure of the bridge has been completed. The construction is not paused, but waiting for 25 steel beams from Myanmar Economic Corporation. The bridge construction is scheduled to complete in this fiscal year. The repair of the old bridge is being carried out to maintain regular road transportation.

Regarding the question

raised by U Thet Lin of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (8) on “whether there is plan to upgrade Hsamalauk-Maubin motor road from gravel road to tarred one”, the deputy minister answered that the priority is given to ensure regular availability of the road in monsoon and tarmacking the road will be carried out in open season and is scheduled to complete by the end of this fiscal year.

Regarding the question raised by U Gam Hsai of Kachin State Constituency (2) on “whether there is plan to collect construction materials in advance to repair damaged bridges in Waingmaw Township of Kachin State”, the deputy



Member of Bill Committee U Sai Paung Nap reads report.—MNA

minister answered that Nammyitkha bridge, Pamwekha bridge and Khawamkha bridge on Myitkyna-Bhamo road and a bridge on Waingmaw-Hsaron-Kanpaikti road, out of six exploded bridges, have been repaired. Coordination with Kachin State government is being made to repair Spectrum Bridge on Washaung-Hsaron-Kanpaikti friendship through BOT company if the stability is restored in the region. Bailey steel trusses are collected in advance.

Regarding the question raised by U Kham Swin Mohn of Kachin State Constituency (5) on “whether there is plan to upgrade Thaingnig-



Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Thet Lin of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (8) raising question.—MNA

Tiddim road to the tarred one”, the deputy minister answered that the Union government has planned to widen one-mile-and-six-furlong length of the road, to tarmack seven-furlong length of the road and to construct one RC bridge by spending K20 million fund this fiscal year. Budget request will be submitted to the Union government to upgrade the road in 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Regarding the question raised by U Nyunt Hlaing of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (4) on “how the construction project of Hinthada-Tharawaw Ayeyawady river crossing bridge which could contribute to transportation and trade”, the deputy minister answered that a Japanese team is making feasibility study for the construction of Hinthada bridge. The construction will be carried out, depending on the situation of the State budget. There is no plan currently to carry out the construction.

Member of Bill Committee U Sai Paung Nap read out the report of the committee on “Bill Amending Traditional Medicine Council Law” and approvals were sought for two amended paragraphs.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Ohn Khin submitted the proposal to approve the bill and the Hluttaw decided to approve it.

The session concluded at 10.50 am and will continue for 15th day at 10 am on 26 July.—MNA

Myanmar to host International Marathon

YANGON, 25 July—In a ceremony in Yangon, Yoma Strategic Holdings signed on as title sponsor of Myanmar’s first international marathon after the country’s many years of absence from the sport.

About 1000 participants, including both locals and foreigners, are expected to take part in this historic event on 27 January 2013. They will have the option of running one of three race distances: the featured race, a 42km marathon, or two shorter races, a 10km run and a 3km run.

The races will begin and end at People’s Park, situated one block from one of Yangon’s most iconic and picturesque landmarks, the Shwedagon Pagoda.

“The Yoma Yangon International Marathon will be an historic event for both Yangon and Myanmar, as the country re-establishes its international sporting credentials. The marathon will allow participants to enjoy some of the best of what our city has to offer—not only the sights and sounds off the main roads, but also the city’s lakes, scenic bridges and historic monuments,” says David Shin, representing Sporting Republic, one of the race organizers.

Speaking at the official event announcement launch yesterday at FMI Centre in Central Yangon, Yoma Strategic Holdings Chairman Serge Pun was quick to express his appreciation to local authorities in the Yangon government: “We appreciate the support of the Government of Yangon for this, the inaugural Yoma Yangon International Marathon, and look forward to continuing the relationship next year and into the future.”

The race is a charity event with all proceeds from race entries to be donated to various charitable projects in Myanmar.

“The Government of Yangon is proud to support the Yoma Yangon International Marathon,” said a spokesperson for the Yangon City Development Committee, “Hosting an international sporting event is an opportunity to showcase Myanmar’s latest developments to the world while bringing about a welcome boost to the local economy. We look forward to hosting the world’s marathon runners in Yangon.”

Entry to the three distance races is priced from US\$22 to US\$44 and can be made through the official event website: <http://www.yangonmarathon.com>.

A corporate/Team Challenge Entry is also available and prizes will be awarded for;

- Largest Team Award: The largest team entry from any one group
- 42km Winning Team Award: A minimum of three from each team must complete the marathon course and the fastest combined time wins
- 10km Winning Team Award: A minimum of five from each team must complete the 10km course and the fastest combined time wins.—NLM

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For Kabushiki Kaisha F.C.C.,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd
Room 1508-1509, Sakura Tower, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
utm@kcyangon.com

Dated 26 July 2012

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (004)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (004) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.7.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Apple's reports lower-than-expected rise in Q3 profits

NEW YORK, 25 July — Apple made a net profit of \$8.8bn in the three months ending in June, up 21% from a year earlier but lower than forecasts. The consumer gadget and computer maker reported \$35bn in sales, up from \$28.6bn in 2011. But sales of its iPod digital music player fell 10% while Mac computer sales flatlined, up just 2%. It will pay shareholders a rare dividend of \$2.65 per share on 16 August.

Apple — the world's most valuable company — sold 26m iPhones. That is a rise of 28% but slower growth than many analysts had forecast. By contrast, sales of Apple's tablet computer, the iPad, rose 84% from the same period last year. "We're thrilled with record sales of 17 million iPads in the June quarter," said Apple's chief executive Tim Cook.

But, David Rolfe of Wedgewood Partners said: "What is key is the mixture

between iPhone and iPad, the iPhone has higher margins. iPhone sales were lower than expected — meaningfully lower — and that translates into a big hit on the bottom line." Analysts had forecast third quarter revenue of \$37.2bn, according to a Thomson Reuters poll. Apple's forecast for sales in the fourth quarter — the three months ending in September — was still lower at \$34bn, which disappointed investors. Apple shares fell nearly 5% in after hours trading. Like many US companies, the strength of the US dollar against the euro and other currencies makes US-made goods more expensive overseas. Added to that, the faltering economic recovery in the United States combined with recession in major markets such as Europe is also making it more difficult to sell consumer electronics. Apple also faces stiff competition from Samsung's Galaxy S3 and HTC's One X

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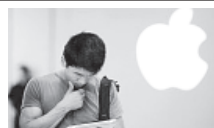
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Ph: 09 73 150 632

Email: law_chambers@seasien.com.mm
(For: Domern Somgiat & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)

Dated. 26 July, 2012.



Strong iPad sales failed to offset disappointing sales of iPhones in the three months to 30 June.

INTERNET

smartphones.

"European sales dipped by a very surprising 6%... The combination of Samsung's big roll-outs and suddenly weakening European consumer demand in June created some issues," said Tero Kuittinen of Alekstra. Apple is due to launch the iPhone 5 later this year but the group is under pressure to come up with a whole new generation of products to secure its position in the technology sector. "We've also just updated the entire MacBook line, will release Mountain Lion [its new operating system, on Wednesday] and will be launching iOS 6 this Fall. We are also really looking forward to the amazing new products we've got in the pipeline," said Mr Cook.

Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV AN BINH VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN BINH VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.7.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV AMITY VOY NO (1201)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AMITY VOY NO (1201) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.7.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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CO LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

Cut air pollution, buy time to slow climate change

OSLO, 25 July — Cutting soot and other air pollutants could help "buy time" in the fight against climate change, a senior US official said on Tuesday as seven nations joined a Washington-led plan. Air pollution, from sources ranging from wood-fired cooking stoves in Africa to cars in Europe, may be responsible for up to six million deaths a year worldwide and is also contributing to global warming, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) said.

Seven countries — Britain, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy and Jordan — formally joined the US-led Climate and Clean Air Initiative, bringing the total of members to about 20 since the plan was launched in February.

"If we are able to do this we could really buy time in the context of the global problem to combat climate change," Jonathan Pershing, US deputy special envoy for climate change, told a telephone news briefing from Paris.

Pershing said that time was "desperately" needed to slow global warming. Unlike

other developed nations, the United States has not passed laws to cut greenhouse gas emissions despite proposed cuts by President Barack Obama.

Pershing said that Washington was in talks trying to attract more nations to the air pollution plan, including China and India which are the number one and three emitters of greenhouse gases respectively, with the United States in second.

The US-led plan in Paris focuses on limiting soot, heat-

No damage, tsunami after 6.6 quake hits off Indonesia's Sumatra

JAKARTA, 25 July — A strong earthquake with a magnitude of 6.6 struck off northern Sumatra in Indonesia on Wednesday, the US Geological Survey said, but authorities said there was little chance of a tsunami.

The quake was felt by residents on the island of Simeulue off Sumatra's northwest coast but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

"The quake has no tsunami potential," said Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, a spokesman for the National Disaster Mitigation Agency. "Some people ran away from their houses. We don't have any house damage."

The Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said there was no threat of a widespread, destructive tsunami after the quake, about 330 km (205 miles) southeast of Indonesia's Banda Aceh. It said there was a "very small possibility" of a local tsunami. —Reuters



A child wearing a surgical mask holds up a placard with a drawing next to other children, during a march aimed at pressuring local authorities to take stronger actions against air pollution in Guadalajara on 15 July, 2012.

REUTERS

Knitters to cover airplane weathervane

Knitters in Canada say they are banding together to cover a DC-3 aircraft converted to use as a weather vane with knitted yarn next month. Jessica Vellenga, one of the organizers of the "yarn-bombing" project in Whitehorse, Yukon, said knitters across North America have made donations toward the cause of covering the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport weather vane, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp reported on 23 July.

"A lot of local knitters

have participated," she said. "We've had donations from Ottawa, Toronto, Huntsville, Texas, Ohio, lots of different places.

"We had a great donation from a young lady who's 11 years old and she wanted to donate a little bit to the yarn bomb. She decided to help us meet our world record and we also had a lovely box of goods come from the National Arts Center," Vellenga said.

She said the attempt to create the world's largest airplane cozy is scheduled for 11 August.

Canadian knitters will work together on a "yarn-bombing" project



News Album

Russell Crowe to direct feature film

LONDON, 25 July—Actor Russell Crowe is set to don the director's hat for a feature film.



Actor Russell Crowe

He will direct a biopic on late comedy legend Bill Hicks.

The 48-year-old was originally in talks to play the lead role in the project, but will now step behind the camera for the film, written by his former schoolmate Mark Staufer, reports starpulse.com.

"Bill Hicks' life is tragically short, but spectacularly interesting. The screenplay has gone through a number of drafts and we'll go into production early next year,"

said Staufer. "It is a huge role for someone, made all the more special, or downright scary, by the fact the director is an Oscar-winning actor like Russell," he said.

Hicks lost his battle with pancreatic cancer in 1994. He was 32.

The project won't be Crowe's first directorial challenge. He has previously shot short films and his singer wife Danielle Spencer's music videos.—Internet

Robert Pattinson denies marriage rumours

LONDON, 25 July—Actor Robert Pattinson has denied reports of a secret wedding with actress girlfriend Kristen Stewart.

The couple have been in a long-term relationship since meeting each other on the set of the "Twilight Saga" films, and recent reports have indicated that they are in a live-in.

"There was a magazine, with these pictures, saying I was getting married. No one

ever knows what is true or what isn't," contactmusic.com quoted Pattinson, 26, as saying.

"Even my own mum called to ask me if it was true. It's not.

At least, not yet. But it is true that Kristen has always done something to me that others haven't," he added.—Internet



Actor Robert Pattinson

It's love in Greece for Gaga!

LONDON, 25 July—Singer Lady Gaga has reportedly found a new love interest in Greece.

The 26-year-old singer, who is busy getting her 10 million pounds-worth palace in Crete, has found an inclination towards a restaurant owner named Giovanni, reports dailystar.co.uk. "Gaga is very taken with Giovanni. He is a fast-talking Romeo with his own business, and she can't

seem to keep away from him. They got to know each other when she started eating in his restaurant on a regular basis," said a source.

The businessman is also teaching the singer Greek customs and language.

"He's teaching her the language and all Greek customs. She'll definitely need to know them when her luxury pad is finished in Crete," the source said.

Internet



Singer Lady Gaga



Actress Sharon Stone

Stone breaks down on stage

LOS ANGELES, 25 July—Actress Sharon Stone was overwhelmed with emotions during a speech at the charity aids event and was filled with tears on stage.

The 54-year-old was on stage while presenting the Award of Courage to computer tycoon Bill Gates at the American Foundation for Aids Research (AMFAR) gala in Washington, DC.

She also appreciated Gates for his donation of almost USD 2.5 billion to various aids organizations across the world, reports contactmusic.com.

"People will continue to live because of you," Stone said.—Internet

Russell Brand feels responsibility towards Perry

LONDON, 25 July—Comedian Russell Brand feels a responsibility towards ex-wife Katy Perry and says he will always have feelings for the singer.

"It was right for as long as it was right and now it's right that we are not together. I feel a responsibility to her.

She's living in Hollywood and I don't want her to read things that make her think I have anything other than love for her. Because I don't want her to be hurt," contactmusic.com quoted Brand.

Brand married Perry October 2010 after dating for

just a year and admits marriage is hard and takes a lot of work.

"It is really hard to be married to someone. So really the fact is, this is a person I love and I don't want to hurt her," he said.—Internet



Comedian Russell Brand

Ben Stiller to reunite with Jonah Hill for new comedy

LONDON, 25 July—Actors Ben Stiller and Jonah Hill, who are currently seen together in "The Watch", are set to star in new comedy "Aloha".

Hill came up with the idea for "Aloha" and it was developed by the pair and

producer Shawn Levy on the set of "The Watch".

Screenwriter Nicholas Stoller, who directed Jonah in "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" and "Get Him to the Greek", is in negotiations to pen the script, reports contactmusic.com.

Stiller and Hill previously teamed up on "Night of the Museum: Battle of Smithsonian".—Internet

Actors Ben Stiller and Jonah Hill,



A New Jersey lifeguard said the engagement ring his wife lost on the beach was brought to him while he was on duty about two weeks later.

Mike Booth, a lifeguard at a beach in Margate, said his wife lost her wedding and engagement rings at the beach July 6 and was unable to find them despite a

Missing ring found at beach

volunteer search party, the Press of Atlantic City, NJ, reported on 23 July.

However, Don Spivack, 74, said he was at the beach on 24 July when he saw the engagement ring glistening in the sand.

He remembered his wife and two daughters told him about how they helped search for the missing rings so he brought the item to the lifeguard post, where Booth was on duty.

"I couldn't believe it,"

Booth said. "The wedding band is still missing but certainly if I had to find one, I'm glad we found the engagement ring."

He said the ring cost him the equivalent of several paychecks. He said he used his phone to send a picture of the found ring to his wife.

"She's going to wake up to a happy picture," he said. "I thought it was gone for good and I'm just happy and thankful that someone's honest with that."

Stolen pig statue found damaged

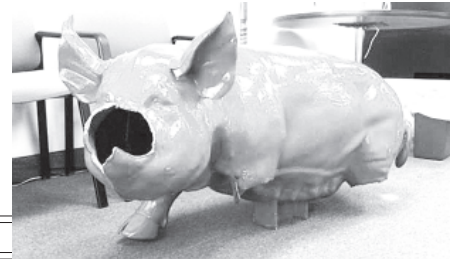
Police in Michigan said a stolen pig sculpture valued at \$6,000 was found with three of its legs missing and its snout damaged.

Garden City police said the Willy the Pig sculpture, which was taken from Garden City in June, was found on 20 July in the yard of a home on

Whitmore Lake, WDIV-TV, Detroit, reported on 23 July.

Police said the base of artist Sophie Marie's sculpture was found last week in a field with other fragments.

Marie had leased Willy the Pig to the Downtown Development Authority for two years.



A damaged Willy the Pig.



Arsenal's Laurent Koscielny scores a goal against AC Milan during their Champions League last 16 second leg soccer match at the Emirates Stadium in London on 6 March, 2012.—REUTERS

France's Koscielny seals long-term contract with Arsenal

LONDON, 25 July — French international Laurent Koscielny has signed a new long-term contract with Arsenal, the Premier League club announced on Tuesday. The 26-year-old has become a defensive mainstay for manager Arsene Wenger and strong performances in the English top-flight earned him four caps for France including a trip to Euro 2012. "Laurent has been outstanding for us over the last two seasons," Wenger told the club's website (www.arsenal.com).

"When you consider that until 2009 he was playing in Ligue 2 in France and that he is now performing at the very top level in the Premier League and for his country, the development that he has shown has been absolutely exceptional." Laurent is a top-class player and I am very pleased he has decided to commit his future to the club. Koscielny ensured Arsenal gained qualification in to the 2012/13 Champions League when he scored the winner against West Bromwich Albion on the final day of the season.

He said he was delighted with the contract extension and was looking toward a bright future with the Gunners. "I'm delighted to have reached agreement with the club. I have had a fantastic time here and look forward to an exciting future with Arsenal," said Koscielny. The centre-back joined Arsenal from FC Lorient in 2010 and after an injury interrupted start has gone on to make a total of 85 appearances.—Reuters

AC Milan beat Schalke in friendly



A second-half goal from Urby Emanuelson, pictured in March 2012, gave AC Milan a 1-0 friendly win over Schalke 04 on Tuesday in a pre-season warm-up match played in Gelsenkirchen.

INTERNET

GELSENKIRCHEN, 25 July — A second-half goal from Urby Emanuelson gave AC Milan a 1-0 friendly win over Schalke 04 on Tuesday in a pre-season warm-up match

played in Gelsenkirchen. The Italian visitors, who were missing several players who had been called up for Euro 2012, came closest to scoring in the first half through Stephan El Shaarawy, while Lewis Holtby threatened for the Germans.

Schalke sent on Klaas-Jan Huntelaar and summer signing Tranquillo Barnetta after the restart but Milan's pressure proved too much as Emanuelson scored the decisive goal in the 64th minute. The Dutchman rounded 'keeper Timo Hildebrand to slot home after being played in by Brazilian Robinho.

Internet

Real Madrid rout Oviedo to open pre-season

OVIEDO, 25 July — Real Madrid drubbed Spanish third-division side Real Oviedo 5-1 Tuesday in a pre-season warm-up match, despite Jose Mourinho fielding a second-string team. Mourinho started just three members of his regular first-team squad: Alvaro Morata, Esteban Granero and 'keeper Antonio Adan. But Real Madrid came out guns blazing as Lucas Vazquez scored in the ninth minute, Denis Tchernyshev 30 minutes later and Esteban Granero two minutes after that.

Matar Diop Martins gave Oviedo a spark of hope when he scored six minutes after the break, but Argentine Angel Di Maria promptly doused it with goals in the 56th and 74th minutes. 'Los blancos' take on Benfica in a second friendly Friday before heading to the United States to continue their pre-season.—Internet

Pique open to future China move

BARCELONA, 25 July — Gerard Pique has revealed he would consider playing his trade in China one day, but for now he is perfectly happy at Barcelona. The Spain international is currently on holiday in the republic and admits he has been quite taken with the country and its inhabitants.

"I'm very happy playing for a team like Barca," Pique explained during a Q&A session with fans on Chinese website Tencent Weibo. "But, as a professional player, my future has a lot of

possibilities. I really like China, I've had a marvellous time here..." Pique also added that his two closest friends in the Blaugrana dressing room are Carles Puyol and Cesc Fabregas.

"Puyol takes care of me like an older brother would; he explains football to me," the former Manchester United man enthused. "Our friendship goes well beyond being just teammates: we often eat together. When it comes to Cesc, we've known each other since we were nine years old. We don't keep



Gerard Pique

secrets from each other; we're really good friends." Pique, who played his part in Spain's Euro 2012 success, returned to Camp Nou from Old Trafford in 2008.

Internet

Brazil's goalkeeper out of London Olympic Games with injury

LONDON, 25 July — Brazil's goalkeeper Rafael Cabral has been withdrawn from their Olympic Games squad with an injury to his right elbow, the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) reported on Tuesday.

A scan showed the Santos keeper's elbow was badly bruised during practice on Monday and he would not recover in time to take



Brazil goalkeeper Rafael Cabral

part in the men's soccer tournament at the London Games, team doctor Jose Luis

Runco said.

Fiorentina's goalkeeper Neto will replace Cabral in the first team, while 19-year-old Gabriel, from AC Milan, will be the substitute. Coach Mano Menezes will call up a replacement, the CBF said on their official website (www.cbf.com.br). Favorites Brazil kick off against Egypt in Group C on Thursday.

Reuters

Williams sisters and Wimbledon look like gold

Bob and Mike Bryan, who were denied entry into the Olympic media center for not having validated credentials.

Serena, still basking in the glow of her fifth Wimbledon singles title, quickly made it clear, however, that she was not back in London for a few laughs, but for medals. If the 14-time grand slam winner can claim the women's gold she would become the only player to win all four slams, plus singles and doubles gold. "It's exciting to be back so soon, usually we have to wait 12 months to walk back on to centre court," Serena, who will set up camp with her sister and the rest of the US tennis team at a hotel near Wimbledon, told the news

conference.

"For me, I'm going to be really excited to have such a quick turn-around and get back on the grass where I love to play." Since rejoining the Summer Games program in 1988 after a 64-year absence, tennis and the Olympics have not always been a comfortable fit, with many players putting a grand slam victory ahead of a gold medal. Wimbledon and the Olympics, two ancient sporting institutions, will come together, however, at the All England Club. "Growing up as tennis players you always dream of winning grand slams and doing well at tournaments like Wimbledon," said Venus, who will defend the doubles title with her sister.—Reuters



Manchester United great Ryan Giggs, pictured in June 2012, said on Tuesday an Olympic gold would rank among the best moments of his career as he prepares to play his first international tournament at the age of 38.

INTERNET

"As a footballer you don't start off thinking you'd like to win a gold medal in the Olympics, you set out to win leagues and cups and European cups and hopefully we'll get the chance to go a long way." Giggs said it would be an unusual sensation to play at Old Trafford for a team other than United, for whom he has been a mainstay for nearly 15 years. "It will be strange but I have done it once before, when Wales played England here," he said. "It was strange that day because we were in the away dressing-room but fortunately we are in the home dressing-room this time. It will be different for me."

Internet



Real Madrid's Lucas (L) scores the opening goal past Real Oviedo's goalkeeper Adan (R) during their friendly football match at the Carlos Tarteri Stadium in Oviedo. Real Madrid won the match 5-1.—INTERNET

International Sports

Focus Myanmar TV Programme**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

(26-7-12 09:30 am ~ 27-7-12 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Buddha's Day in Rural Way
- * News
- * Bagan, The Rhapsody of Myanmar Culture
- * News
- * Evergreen Classical Music (Part-9)
- * News
- * Beautifying tasks for Inlay Lake
- * Grow Noni: Become a Millionaire
- * News
- * Japan-Myanmar Cultural and Sports Exchange (Part-II)
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * Southern Chin State Traveler's Art
- * News
- * Investment Environment of Myanmar
- * News
- * UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador
- * Myanmar Movie (Longing For Mother)

MYANMAR TV

(26-7-2012) (Thursday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:25 am
- 2. To be Healthy Exercise
- 7:40 am
- 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 7:55 am
- 4. Dance Of National Races
- 8:15 am
- 5. Dance Variety
- 8:40 am
- 6. Myitta Pawana By Mingun Sayadaw Phayagyi
- 4:00 pm
- 7. Martial Song
- 4:20 pm
- 8. Cute Little Dancer
- 4:40 pm
- 9. Teleplay (Forest)
- 5:10 pm
- 10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:15 pm
- 11. Instrumental Music
- 5:20 pm
- 12. Song Programme
- 5:35 pm
- 13. Science and Environment
- 6:20 pm
- 14. Myanmar Series
- 6:40 pm
- 15. Approaching Science Discovery World
- 8:00 pm
- 16. News
- 17. Documentary
- 18. TV Drama Series

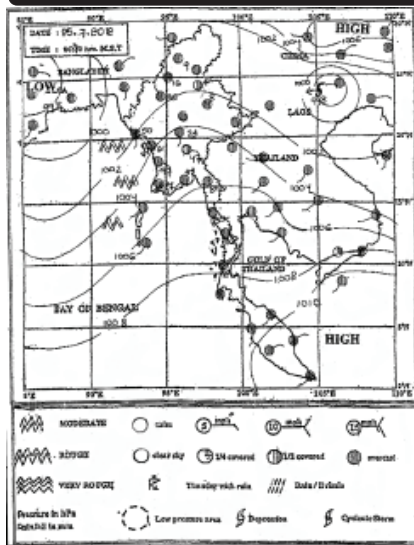


CASH DONATED TO HOSPITAL: U Win Myint-Daw Kyi Kyi Win and family of Monywa donated one ECG3 Channel and two 10-litre oxygen cylinders to Monywa General Hospital on 18 July. Medical Superintendent Dr Than Htut accepts donations.—KYEMON



HEALTHY ACTIVITY DEMONSTRATED: At the talks on prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever, health staff demonstrated checking of larvae at water tanks and DHF preventive measures in Ward 4 of Lanmadaw Township in Yangon Region on 21 July.

MYANMA ALIN

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**Weather forecast for 26th July, 2012**

Sr. No.		Temperature (°C/F)		Forecast	
		Maximum	Minimum		Percent
1	Kachin	31.88	25.77	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
2	Kayah	25.77	19.66	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
3	Kayah	25.77	21.70	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
4	Chin	22.72	15.69	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
5	Upper Sagaing	29.84	24.75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
6	Lower Sagaing	37.99	24.75	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
7	Tainthary	29.84	23.73	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
8	Bago	27.81	23.73	Widespread rain or thundershowers (H)	(100%)
9	Magway	33.91	26.79	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
10	Mandalay	33.91	25.77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
11	Mun	26.79	23.72	Widespread rain or thundershowers (H)	(100%)
12	Yangon	28.82	23.72	Widespread rain or thundershowers (H)	(100%)
13	Rakhine	29.84	21.70	Widespread rain or thundershowers (H)	(100%)
14	Southern Shan	19.66	16.61	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
15	Northern Shan	29.84	21.68	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
16	Eastern Shan	26.79	21.70	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
17	Ayeyawady	28.82	23.73	Widespread rain or thundershowers (H)	(100%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	29.84	22.72	One or two rain or thundershowers	(100%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	28.82	22.72	Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at times	(100%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	33.91	25.77	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today

During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions. Fairly widespread in Mandalay and Bago Regions. Shan and Chin States and Widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Bago and Yangon Regions and Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Ayeyawady and Tainthary Regions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thatta (10.87) inches, Maungdaw (9.13) inches, Kawakarek (7.95) inches, Hpo-on (7.29) inches, Ngathachung (5.39) inches, Tangung (5.00) inches, Bilin (4.96) inches, Bago (4.88) inches and Nay Pyi Taw (4.87) inches.

Bay Inference: Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of strong monsoon.

The iRobot doc will see you now: Roomba maker enters the ER

SANTA BARBARA, 24 July — Some of us complain their doctors are too stiff, lack warmth and are too robotic. But calling such doctors "robots" may be a disservice to RP-Vita — the latest telepresence, healthcare bot from InTouch Health and iRobot. RP-VITA (Remote Presence Virtual+Independent Telemedicine Assistant), unveiled this week at the Clinical Innovations Forum in Santa Barbara, is a remote-controlled telepresence robot that combines InTouch's "telemedicine" technology and the autonomous navigation innovations introduced in iRobot's AVA robot at CES in 2011.

iRobot, which also makes the popular Roomba robot home vacuum, made a \$6 million investment in InTouch in January of this year. It may be controlled via joystick, but RP-Vita does have some awareness of its environment. It employs a dazzling array of sensors that include PrimeSense Sensors (the same ones you find in the Kinect for Xbox 360), two cameras that together approximate normal human vision, sonar and a laser range finder. It also creates a map of the hospital and knows the location, for example, of its roll-into charging base.

When the caregiver logs off, RP-Vita, which gets about five hours of activity on a charge, automatically returns to the base. It also features a large screen where the attending doctor's face will appear. That doctor could be anywhere she has access to the Internet (and a Webcam).



RP Vita with Nurse and Patient.—INTERNET

RP-Vita's web portal currently works on an Apple iPad or a laptop or desktop. RP-Vita is not, at least for now, designed for use in the mill checkup and house calls. It focuses on urgent care in the emergency room and ICU. Once RP-Vita is in place, it can, via local Wi-Fi and a cloud based medical record system, collect patient data and, with another caregiver present, check vital signs via connected otoscopes, ultrasound devices and a built-in stethoscope. All the information collected and sent through InTouch's telemedicine system is encrypted and then shared with the attending doctor (who is controlling the robot from her remote location).

For as smart as RP-Vita is right now, it's likely to get even more so by the end of the year. It already has built-in autonomous navigation, but won't be able to use it in a hospital environment until the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) give its approval, perhaps as early as the end of this year.—Internet

Olympic and Paralympic Games will be hosted in same city until 2020

LONDON, 25 July — An agreement has been signed to ensure that the Paralympic Games will be held in the same city as the Olympic Games through until 2020. The agreement was reached at the 124th International Olympic Committee (IOC) session held in London, just three days before the Olympics begin and 36 days before the Paralympics.

Jacques Rogge, the president of the IOC, and Phillip Craven, the president of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) extended the current co-operation agreement that was signed in 2006 and ran through to the 2016 Games. "I'm delighted to extend our close co-operation with the IPC through to 2020. They have a fundamentally important role in the Olympic movement and we are pleased to continue to support this

partnership," said Rogge. "This is excellent news for the Paralympic Movement, especially coming so close to the start of the biggest ever Paralympic Games in London," said Craven.

"The agreements secure the continued growth of the Movement and our members. Since 1988 we have benefited from using the same venues, infrastructure and levels of detailed planning as the Olympic Games and through this agreement it will continue through to at least 2020. We are grateful to the IOC for their continued and growing support. Without them the Paralympic Games would not have grown to the superb sporting spectacle it is today. By working together over the coming years we can continue to deliver a 60 day global celebration of sport."

Xinhua

U Kyaw Mra Retd. Director, Sports and Physical Education Department Retd. General Secretary, Myanmar Olympic Committee (75) years

U Kyaw Mra, second eldest son of (former Chief Secretary to the Govt of the Union of Myanmar & Former Special Adviser of Public Administration Division, UN Hdqrs, U Shwe Mra-Daw Khin Tint), brother of U Tun Mra-Daw Maibelle Maw, U Soe Mra-Daw Yin Ung, U Win Mra-Daw Mya Mar Mar Win, U Mg Mg Mra-Daw Tin Tin Khaing, U Paw Myint Oo-Daw Mra Sandy, U Aye Kyaw-Daw Mra Hninzi, Dr Rai Mra-Dr Katherine Ba Thike, Dr Aung Mra, Dr Zan Mra-Dr Aye Khin Tu passed away at Sakura Hospital on 25-7-2012 (Wednesday) at 5:40 am. Funeral will be at YAY WAY CEMETERY on 27-7-2012 (Friday) at 12 noon.

Bereave Family

President U Thein Sein visits Laem Chabang Port, Industrial Estate in Chonburi Province, Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and his entourage on 22 July arrived in Chonburi Province, where they observed Laem Chabang Port and Industrial Estate.

On arrival at the Regional Development & Economic Center-4, Chairman of Board of Investment and Minister of Industry of Thailand Mr. Pongsawat Saawasdiwat extended greetings, and Secretary General Mr. Arkhom Termpittayapaisith of National Economic and Social Development Board presented reports on progress of economic development of Thailand and connectivity between Dawei Deep Sea Port in Myanmar and Thailand's Seaboard.

President U Thein Sein



President U Thein Sein views progress of Laem Chabang Port in Chonburi Province, Thailand.—MNA

then heard reports presented by Governor Dr. Verapong Chaiperm of Thailand Industrial Estates on development of Thailand's Seaboard and governance and by Secretary General Dr.

Atchaka Sibunruang of Thailand Board of Investment on Thailand's investment policies and its related rules and regulations.

The President and party proceeded to their Laem

Chabang Port Observation Tower where they were reported by Managing Director Mr. Chalermkeat Salakhom of Port Authority of Thailand on the construction of Laem

Chabang Port and its present progresses.

At the tower, the President and his entourage caught an aerial view of Laem Chabang Port and looked around Amata Industrial

Zone in Chonburi in a motorcade.

In the evening, they arrived back at Bangkok through Bang-Na Trad concrete expressway.

MNA

President U Thein Sein arrives back from Thailand



Myanmar delegation led by President U Thein Sein being welcomed back by Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and officials at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and party arrived back here by air at 9 am today after paying a goodwill visit to Thailand at the invitation of Prime Minister of Thailand Ms Yingluck Shinawatra.

The Myanmar delegation led by President U Thein Sein was welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, Union Minister for Electric Power No 2 U Khin Maung Soe, Union Minister for Health Dr. Pe Thet Khin, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye, departmental heads, Charge d'Affaires of the Thai Embassy Mr. Kallayana Vipattipumprates and embassy officials.—MNA

Flood warning

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—According to the 12.30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an is 700 cm. It may reach its danger level 750 cm during the next 24 hours commencing this noon, announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

France's Koscielny seals long-term contract with Arsenal



Arsenal's Laurent Koscielny scores a goal against AC Milan during their Champions League last 16 second leg soccer match at the Emirates Stadium in London on 6 March, 2012. PAGE 14

Real Madrid rout Oviedo to open pre-season



Real Madrid's Lucas (L) scores the opening goal past Real Oviedo's goalkeeper Adan (R) during their friendly football match at the Carlos Tartiere Stadium in Oviedo. Real Madrid won the match 5-1. PAGE 14

Strong earthquake jolts

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—A strong earthquake of magnitude (6.2) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Simuelue, Northern Sumatra, Indonesia) about (970) miles south of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (07) hrs (00) min (30) sec MST on 25th July, 2012, announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA