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

No country forms commission prior to enforcement of a relevant legislation: Union Minister

Pyithu Hluttaw regular session continues for 19th day

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives seen at 19th day regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug— The Pyithu Hluttaw regular session continued for 19th day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this morning, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 369 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

At today's session, three questions were raised, one proposal discussed, one proposal submitted and one notification given.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein answered two questions on pension and stamp duty raised by two Hluttaw representatives.

Regarding the question raised by U Soe Soe of Htigyaing Constituency on "**whether officials of National Intelligence Bureau and civil service assigned concurrently to the bureau who had been granted amnesty are qualified for pensions and rewards**", the deputy minister answered that bonus not exceeding the two third of pensions and rewards will be granted under Section 353 of Civil Service Rules to civil servants if he/she is dismissed. It requires agreement of Budget Department to be sought through the ministry concerned and 10-year services.

Under directive (6/90) of Defence Council, if a Defence Service personnel is removed from the service permanent due to immorality, debt problem, incompetence, and unprofessional conduct, the person is not allowed to enjoy any pension or reward. But, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, at his own will, could allow enjoying the gratuity since the date the authority confirmed the gratuity not exceeding two third of pensions and rewards originally entitled to. Though, it could not be assumed as the right.

The former civil service dismissed or removed from the post can apply for gratuity at respective departmental head. If the respective ministries and organizations send the dossier to the Ministry of Finance and Revenue because they decided to grant the gratuity, the ministry will assess it in

(See page 8)

Anti-bribery bill approved

Amyotha Hluttaw regular session continues for 19th day

The 19th day session of Amyotha Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—Amyotha Hluttaw regular session continued for the 19th day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here today, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 198 MPs.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win replied to questions of four MPs.

Regarding the question of Dr Htay Win of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (5) about **whether graveling of Ingapu-Nyaungkyo road section in Ingapu Township can be completed at the end of the open season of this year**, the deputy minister replied that three miles of gravel road was constructed and seven miles and two furlongs long gravel road was repaired in 2011-2012 fiscal year with the fund of the Border Affairs Ministry. The 10 miles and two furlongs long section on Ingapu-Nyaungkyo road has been graveled, remaining five miles and two furlongs long earthen section to be graveled with an estimated cost of 288.75 million kyats.

It is projected to gravel three miles long section in 2013-2014 fiscal year and two miles and two furlongs long section in 2014-2015 fiscal year with rural development fund of the Ministry of Border Affairs.

Regarding the question of U Aung Than of Magway Region Constituency No (10) about **whether there is plan**

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PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 2 August, 2012

New energy policy

When we build a hydropower dam it produces electricity at reasonable price when compared with fossil-fuel-used plants and releases nothing harmful into the air, water or ground. It doesn't burn anything, but just uses the gravitational force of falling or flowing water from the reservoir it holds to turn the turbines for electricity generation.

Generally, hydropower is an environment-friendly source of energy as well as a renewable energy, and the plants that produce such energy last longer; some even operates for 100 years. Frankly speaking, we cannot produce enough power even for domestic use yet, but we are doing our best to address this issue building power plants all around the country and many more are in planning stage or on the drawing board.

As we are water-resource rich, we rely mostly on hydropower. But it also has its drawbacks such as low production in the summer because of the fall of water levels in the dams, inundation of large areas of land especially in building mega dams followed by the resettlement programmes for people and wildlife and disruption of surrounding aquatic ecosystems both upstream and downstream the plant.

The most hazardous side effect we must consider is the failure risks. As mammoth hydropower dams hold back large volumes of water, any failure owing to below-standard quality, natural disasters or sabotage can be disastrous to settlements and infrastructure all along the downstream. Dam failures have been some of the largest man-made disasters in history.

Anyhow, our planners have in mind the methods of copping with many other disadvantages apart from the abovementioned ones in extending hydropower plants the core part of our new energy policy placing coal, gas and other resources as the source of power for the based load, and dammed-hydro facilities as peak load and reserve power.

Now our reform-minded government is inviting investments from home and abroad for swift and comprehensive implementation of the policy which does not leave behind ethnic concerns, natural environment, public-centred system and many other important factors.

U Han Nyein+Daw Ohn Kyi and family of Thamaing (2) Ward of Mayangon, Yangon Region, donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through member of EC U Kyaing Myint recently.—NLM

Full Moon of Waso, Dhammaçakka Pavattana Sutta Day

Ba Sein *(Religious Affairs)*

The Full Moon of Waso, the Dhammaçakka Pavattana Day falls on 2 August, 2012. The Full Moon Day of Waso associate with the four great noble and significant events related to the precious life of the Omniscient Gotama Buddha. On that holy day, the Buddha-to-be (the Gotama Buddha) took pregnancy in the womb of Queen Maya, wife of His Majesty King Suddhodana of Kapilavatsu Kingdom, and also on that holy day at the age of 29, the Buddha-to-be renounced the world, and after having full attainment of the Buddhahood, the Gotama Buddha preached. His first great sermon, Dhammaçakka Pavattana Sutta to His five disciples, in which He explained the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path, on the Full Moon Day of Waso. All five disciples received ordination and formed the first nucleus of the holy brotherhood of disciples known as the Sangha.

And also, on the Full Moon Day of Waso, the Omniscient Buddha performed the great miracle called the Twin Miracle. The reason for this was to dispel the wrong views of heretics and to prove that He possessed the attributes of a Buddha. It is the miracle of water and fire.

The Dhammaçakka Pavattana Sutta Day

Over 2556 years ago, the unrivalled Omniscient Buddha preached His first great Sermon, the Dhammaçakka Pavattana Sutta to His five disciples (Kondañña and other four) in the Deer Park, now known as Saranath, India, on the Full Moon Day of Waso. In commemoration of this significant and holy event associated with the precious life of the Buddha, the Buddhist peoples across the Buddhist world celebrate the Dhammaçakkapavattana Sutta Day on this Fullmoon Day of Waso by obsverving precepts delivered by members of the Sangha and respective fully listening to the Dhammaçakka Pavattana Sutta recited by members of the Sangha.

And also the generous Buddhist peoples perform meritorious deeds such as offering Waso robes, alms and other offertories to the members of the Sangha on the Full Moon on Day of Waso, the Dhammaçakka Pavattana Sutta Day.

Rains Retreat Period, Vassavasa

Observing the rains retreat period; confining oneself to a specific monastic dwelling for the three-month rainy period.

During the three months of monsoon rains, Bhikkhus go into retreat at a monastery designated before hand at the start of the rainy season. This practice was introduced during the life time of the Buddha. Before the Buddha decreed the raing retreat period, Bhikkhus walked across fields under cultivation. People started to criticize them as some people believed that plants and even drops of water were living beings. Why is it that the disciples of the Buddha go on travels all the year round and trample young plants and insects into oblivion while even members of other sects do not go on journeys during the rains? Even birds and animals have the good sense to stay in their nets or dens during the rains people complained. To put an end to this controversy, the Buddha decreed that the rains retreat period may be observed by taking up the designated residence during one of the two periods:-

(1) Earlier rains retreat period (purimavassavasa), commencing from the day after the Full Moon of Waso (roughly corresponding to July) and ending on the Full Moon day of Thadingyut (roughly corresponding to October);

(2) Later rains retreat period (pacchimavassavasa), commencing from the day after the Full Moon of Wagaung (roughly corresponding to August) and ending on the Full Moon day of Tazaungmon (roughly corresponding to November).

Cash and kind donated for locals of Rakhine State

YANGON, 1 Aug—As the local people of Rakhine State who lost property in various situations, cash and kind were donated today at the hall of Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township.

At the ceremony, Col San Lin (Rtd) and family of Mayangon donated K 100,000 in memory of late father U Saw Lin, mother Daw Kyi Kyi May and siblings, U Kyi Soe-Daw Than Sein of Mingaladon Township K 20,000, U Nyein Maung-Daw Khin Kyi and family K 100,000 and two bales of clothes, U Paw Chit-Daw Thaung Thaung Nu and family K 50,000, Ma Khet Khet Aung K 20,000 and one bale of clothes, Major Thein Han (Rtd) of Hintha Condo three coats, and members of Shan State (North) Fire Brigade K 100,000.

Director-General U Tin Moe of Fire Services Department and officials accepted the donations.

So far, the donations to the locals of the Rakhine State amounted to K 312,627,823.—*MNA*

Made in Thailand Festival from 1 to 12 Aug

Opening Ceremony of Made in Thailand Festival of Gamone Pwint (Kaba Aye) in progress.—MNA

YANGON, 1 Aug—The Made in Thailand Festival jointly organized by Gamone Pwint Co Ltd and Department of International Trade Promotion of Thailand will come to view from 1 to 12 August at Gamon Pwint (Kaba Aye) Shopping Mall, here.

The festival will be the largest concentration of Thai-made products here where customers can shop men's and women's wears, children's wears, slippers, cosmetics, consumer electronics, foodstuffs and plastic ware of well-known brands of Thailand like Vanson, Oasis, Kiddo, Valentino, Luigi Batani, Harzard, Giffini, No-body, Toffy Sweet, Fido Dito, Lily, Camella, C'Care, Lolane, Now How, Ferrize, Freewood, Aerosoft, Ragazzo, Patti, enjoying special discounts and gifts.

Branded men's wears like Luigi Batani, Valentino Rudy, Pierre Cardin will be on sale under buy one, get one system. Lucky draw programmes are waiting for customers who buy more than K 30,000 worth of items within a day.

MNA

Flood Bulletin

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—According to the 12:30 hr M.S.T observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk 1187 cm has exceeded by 117 cm about 4-ft above its danger level.

It remain above its danger level 1070 cm during the next 3 days, Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced.

MNA

Panetta: no Iran attack plans to be discussed with Israel

CAIRO, 1 Aug— US Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta denied media reports on Tuesday that he would discuss possible military attack plans against Iran during a brief visit to Israel.

Speaking at a press conference in Cairo shortly before departing for Israel, Panetta said he would be talking about "various contingencies", but said specific military plans would not be put forward.

"I think it's the wrong characterization to say we are going to be discussing potential attack plans. What we are discussing are various contingencies and how we would respond," he said.

Asked whether these included military options, he said: "We obviously continue to work on a number of options in that area, but the discussions that I hope to have with Israel are going to be more about what is the threat that we're confronting and to try to share both information and intelligence on that."

Western powers believe Iran is seeking the technology to build a nuclear bomb and Israel has repeatedly hinted it might use force to try to halt its arch foe's atomic programme. Teheran says its nuclear work is for peaceful purposes.

The United States has said it is determined to prevent Iran from getting the bomb, but has called on Israel to give more time for increasingly severe economic sanctions to work.

"Both of our countries are committed to ensuring that Iran does not develop a nuclear weapon and to that extent we continue to work together in the effort to ensure that Iran does not reach that point of developing a nuclear weapon," Panetta said.

Top selling Israeli daily Yedioth Ahronoth said on Tuesday that Panetta intended to show Israeli leaders the plans being drawn up by the Pentagon to stop Iran if diplomacy and sanctions failed to persuade Tehran to halt its nuclear programme.—*Reuters*

US Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta attends a meeting with Egypt's president Mohamed Mursi at the presidential palace in Cairo on 31 July, 2012. **REUTERS**

Bombing attack hits military intelligence building in Benghazi

TRIPOLI, 1 Aug— A bombing attack damaged the military intelligence building in Benghazi, Libya's second-largest city, early Wednesday morning, a security official told *Xinhua*.

There were no casualties in the attack, but the surface of the two-storeyed structure was seriously damaged in the explosion, according to Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Hydar, the official in charge of the security of the city. Several nearby buildings were also affected.

The attackers' identities remained unknown, he said.

There has been a wave of attacks against security installations in Benghazi since the start of Ramadan on 20 July, and many of which were targeted at officials of the former Qaddafi regime, he added.

On Monday, security officials defused a time-bomb placed in a local upscale hotel.

The overall security situation was deteriorating in Libya with increasing incidents of abduction, robbery and other forms of violence, while a large sum of weapons in the hands of civilians has become the top security challenge.

Xinhua

Iraqi security personnel inspect the site of a car bomb attack in central Baghdad, on 31 July, 2012. **—REUTERS**

Baghdad bombs kill 19, suicide attack on police foiled

BAGHDAD, 1 Aug—Twin car bombs hit Baghdad on Tuesday, killing at least 19 people, and security forces foiled a separate attack on a police station by two suicide bombers who hoped to blackmail the authorities into releasing al - Qaeda prisoners.

In a day of violence that underscored the seriousness of Iraq's struggle with insurgents, clouds of dark smoke rose above the centre of the capital where the car bombs exploded minutes apart, leaving the dead and wounded lying in the street or slumped inside a damaged minibus, witnesses and police said. As security forces began to help the victims, at least two suicide bombers dressed as police officers got into a nearby police station, where al - Qaeda prisoners were being held, and tried to free them, two security sources said.

It was unclear how many people had been killed or wounded in the assault, but both bombers had been killed, one security official said.

"Their aim was to take hostages in order to release major al-Qaeda prisoners," one senior security source said. "Most officers went to the floor above them to fight them, which is why they failed." The attack coincides with a surge in violence in Iraq and comes as bloodshed in neighbouring Syria is escalating. Iraqi officials have warned that some Sunni Muslim insurgents are heading to Syria and al - Qaeda's local Iraqi affiliate has called on its followers to intensify their campaign.

Al - Qaeda's Iraqi wing, Islamic State of Iraq, was badly weakened by the loss of top commanders in the war against US troops, but the insurgents remain active and have carried out at least one major assault a month since the US withdrawal in December.—*Reuters*

Downtown Oslo evacuated after fake bomb triggers alert

OSLO, 1 Aug— A wide section of the Norwegian capital's downtown area was evacuated on Tuesday and special forces were deployed after a suspected bomb — later found to be a training device — was found attached to a US Embassy vehicle.

The fake bomb was inadvertently left on the car and triggered a security alert when it tried to go through a routine check, Oslo police said in a statement.

Police, who had been criticised for reacting too slowly when gunman Anders Behring Breivik detonated a bomb in July last year before going on a killing rampage, cordoned off an area 500 metres (550 yards) around the embassy.

They also evacuated buildings, shut underground rail lines and brought in heavily armed special forces.

"Our bomb squad removed the object and found that it was a practice bomb which was previously used for an internal exercise at the embassy," the police statement said. The US Embassy declined to comment.

The embassy is planning to relocate due to security reasons to the outskirts of Oslo from its current location adjacent to the royal palace and near the foreign ministry.

Reuters

Norwegian police blocked off the area around a castle after a suspicious object is found outside of the US embassy in Oslo on 31 July, 2012. **—REUTERS**

Blast kills senior police officer in southern Afghan city

GHAZNI, 1 Aug—A remote-controlled bomb blast claimed the life of a senior police officer in Ghazni city, the capital of Ghazni province, 125 km south of capital city Kabul on Tuesday night, spokesman for provincial administration Fazal Rahman Sabawon said on Wednesday.

"Unknown men planted a remote-controlled bomb near the gate of the house of Nasrullah Andar, the deputy police of third precinct in Ghazni city, last night and when he was going home from mosque it exploded killing him on the spot," Sabawon told *Xinhua*.

Two of his sons were injured in the blast, he added.

He put the attack on the enemies of peace, a term used against the Taliban by government officials. However, the outfit has yet to comment.—*Xinhua*

Chinese mainland, Taiwan to hold new round negotiation

BEIJING, 1 Aug— Chief negotiators from the Chinese mainland and Taiwan for cross-Strait relations will hold their 8th round of talks on 9 Aug in Taipei.

Chen Yunlin, president of the mainland-based Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS), and Chiang Pin-kung, chairman of the Taiwan-based Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF), are expected to discuss and endorse an investment protection agreement.

The two sides are also expected to discuss and sign an agreement on customs cooperation, according to a press release issued Wednesday by the Taiwan Work Office of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

The release said the two agreements are important topics in the follow-up discussions of the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, which was signed between the two organizations in 2010.

The investment protection agreement will provide a system to promote and protect two-way investment of the two sides and deepen cooperation.

It will provide a better investment environment and rights protection to Taiwanese businesses conducting business on the mainland, and will be conducive to building a good environment for mainland businesses to invest in Taiwan.

The agreement on customs cooperation aims to strengthen cooperation in taxation, monitoring, anti-smuggling, statistics and other fields. It will meet the demands of the customs of the two sides in customs clearance and "effective supervision" of cargo.—*Xinhua*

The frigate "Yantai" of the 11th Chinese naval escort flotilla arrives at Constanta port, about 220 km East of Bucharest, capital of Romania, on 31 July, 2012. The Chinese frigate began a five-day goodwill visit to Romania from Tuesday. **—XINHUA**

Thai bomb squad check the site of a car bomb attack at a hotel in the Muslim majority province of Pattani, southern Thailand on 1 August, 2012. A bomb exploded outside the major hotel, causing a temporary blackout in the city of Pattani and wounding three people. **—INTERNET**

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

IDC: Samsung extends lead in smartphones

***Samsung Electronics' Galaxy Tabs tablet computers are displayed at the company's shop in Seoul, South Korea, on 27 July, 2012.—*INTERNET**

NEW YORK, 1 Aug— Samsung has extended its lead over Apple in smartphones, in part because its new Galaxy phones came out before Apple updated its iPhone, research group IDC said Friday.

Samsung's Galaxy S3 phones got good reviews when it was released late in the second quarter. In the US, the phones work with the faster fourth-generation, or 4G, cellular networks that major wireless companies have been building. The Galaxy's screen is larger than the iPhone's, while the Samsung phone is lighter and thinner.

An iPhone with 4G capabilities isn't expected until this fall. The current model, the iPhone 4S, came out in October, and sales typically drop several months after each release.

According to IDC, Samsung Electronics Co. shipped 50.2 million smartphones worldwide in the second quarter and had a market share of 33 percent, up from 17 percent a year ago. Apple Inc.'s fell slightly to 17 percent, from 19 percent a year ago. It sold 26 million iPhones in the April-June quarter.

Besides having the Galaxy S3 out months before a new iPhone, Samsung also benefited from its strategy of developing several devices for a range of consumers. By contrast, Apple targets only the high-end market with its iPhone. IDC's report came out the same day Samsung reported another record-high quarterly profit, thanks to Galaxy sales. Robust sales of smartphones helped offset a slowdown in other consumer electronics businesses such as televisions and personal computers.

IDC said the big question is how well Samsung's phones will sell once the new iPhone comes out.

Analysts believe Samsung will achieve a record-high profit again in the third quarter when Galaxy S3 sales are expected to reach a peak, but sales are likely to drop or slow in the holiday quarter once Apple's new iPhone comes out.—*Internet*

New beetle species found in remote arizona cave

NEW MEXICO, 1 Aug—A newfound species of beetle has been discovered in remote caves in Arizona, boasting long antennae and slender legs with hairlike tufts.

The beetle, Eleodes wynnei, was named after its discoverer, Northern Arizona University researcher Jut Wynne.

Since 2005, Wynne and his colleagues have identified three new genera (the plural of genus, the taxonomic classification above species) and more than 20 new species of cave-dwelling arthropods in caves in the Grand Canyon region, according to a statement from Northern Arizona University.

He also discovered five new species from Rapa Nui National Park on Easter Island and four new species at El Malpais National Monument in western New Mexico.

The newfound beetle occurs only in northwestern Arizona and southwestern Utah.

Wynne said the experience of having a species named after him is humbling, but he's most concerned with providing good science and guidance on managing and conserving cave resources.

"Caves are one of the most sensitive habitats on our planet," he said. "At the same time, given their location underneath our feet, these ecosystems have been overlooked from a resource management perspective."

Wynne said several parks and monuments on the Colorado Plateau are working to change this practice.

His experience working on Easter Island has shown that native species may still persist despite the drastic changes to the island's ecosystem over the last several hundred years.—*Internet*

The newly discovered beetle, Eleodes wynnei, found in a northern Arizona cave.
INTERNET

Apple to unveil iPhone 5, iPad mini on 12 September; iPhone release rumored for 21 September

SAN FRANCISCO, 1 Aug— Apple's (AAPL) sixth iPhone — constantly referred to as the "iPhone 5" for lack of a better name — is really starting to take shape now that production is ramping up. A fully assembled next-generation iPhone case was shown off in leaked photos over the weekend, and a subsequent report from iMore cites unnamed sources in placing the debut of Apple's next smartphone on 12th September alongside the "iPad mini" and a new iPod nano as well. Earlier reports suggested the new iPhone will launch on 21st September , so the timing of an Apple press conference on 12th September certainly makes sense. The launch of Apple's next iPhone is expected to be the company's biggest iPhone launch yet by just about every analyst that covers Apple, and the $249-$299 iPad mini is seen as taking a huge bite out of Android tablet vendors' business when it launches this fall.—*Internet*

Apple to unveil iPhone 5, iPad mini on 12 September; iPhone release rumored for 21 September.
INTERNET

China's Long March-5 carrier rocket engine undergoes testing

BEIJING/XI'AN, 1 Aug— China on Sunday successfully conducted tests on its new 120-tonne-thrust liquid oxygen (LOX) and kerosene engine for its new generation carrier rocket, the *Long March-5*, according to the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC).

The test was conducted in Xi'an, capital city of northwest China's Shaanxi province, according to the CASC's sixth research institute.

The LOX/kerosene engine underwent a test of a high rotational speed of nearly 20,000 revolutions per minute and a high temperature test of 3,000 degrees Celsius that lasted for 200 seconds, the China Central Television reported.

The high-performance engine, which is the first kind of high-pressure staged combustion cycle engine for which China has proprietary intellectual property rights, is non-toxic, pollution-free and highly reliable, according to the report.

The engine is much more powerful than the 75-tonne-thrust engines of the launch vehicles used in the already-launched *Shenzhou* spacecraft, the institute said.

It also makes China the second country in the world, after Russia, to grasp the core technologies for an LOX/kerosene high-pressure staged combustion cycle rocket engine.

The large-thrust carrier rocket under development, the *Long March-5*, is hoped to make its maiden voyage in 2014. Ahead of that, several limit-determining tests will be conducted to ensure the engine's stability and reliability, according to the statement.—*Xinhua*

Canada unveils "eyes" to guide next-generation space telescope

OTTAWA, 1 Aug—The Canadian Space Agency unveiled a piece of precision equipment Wednesday that will be used on the James Webb Space Telescope, the successor to the Hubble.

The Webb, billed as a powerful time machine capable of uncovering the origins of the universe, is scheduled for launch in 2018.

Canada's contribution to the biggest space telescope ever made is a two-in-one instrument. The first part is a Fine Guidance System, which consists of two identical cameras (just in case one fails), dubbed "Canada eyes" by the University of Montreal. It will enable the telescope to point at a celestial object within one millionth of a degree of accuracy, likened to measuring the width of a hair from five kilometres away.

The second, a spectrometer called the Near-Infrared Imager and Slitless Spectrograph, will search for galaxies formed after the Big Bang that created the universe some 13.7 billion years ago. It will also look for signs of life through the presence of oxygen, carbon dioxide and methane in planetary atmospheres around distant stars, and try to find new stars forming.

Retired astronaut Steve MacLean, head of the Canadian Space Agency, lauded the Canadian-made technology for its capability of "unprecedented levels of precision to conduct breakthrough science on board the largest, most complex and most powerful telescope ever built."—*Xinhua*

Chinese mapping satellite handed over to surveying authority

BEIJING, 1 Aug—The company responsible for designing the *Ziyuan III*, China's first high-resolution remote-sensing satellite for civilian use, has officially transferred its use to the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation, the satellite's primary subscriber.

Other departments, including the ministries of water resources, agriculture and land and resources, will also use data provided by the *Ziyuan III* to serve China's economic and social development, according to a statement released Monday by the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC). The satellite, launched on 9 Jan, represented a breakthrough for China in terms of the advancement of the satellite's technological standards. The satellite is tasked with providing data for use in land resource surveying, disaster prevention, agriculture and water resource development and urban planning.

It has a designed life expectancy of five years.

The *Ziyuan III* can conduct high-resolution, full-cover surveying and monitoring of islands located in China's coastal areas, the statement said. A regulation on the management of data collected by the *Ziyuan III* was also issued on Monday.

The regulation stipulates that the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence will handle the overall distribution of the *Ziyuan III*'s data, while the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation will handle data distribution and applications related to mapping.—*Xinhua*

Novartis drug Afinitor gets EU nod for breast cancer

ZURICH, 1 Aug—Novartis drug Afinitor, expected to become a major seller for the Swiss drugmaker, was approved by European regulators to treat women with a certain type of breast cancer, the company said on Monday.

The drug is the first in a class known as mTOR inhibitors to be approved for post-menopausal women with advanced hormone-receptor positive, HER2-negative breast cancer. American health regulators also backed the drug as a breast cancer treatment.

Afinitor, also known as everolimus, is designed to be given in combination with another drug, Aromasin, to treat women whose cancer has recurred or progressed after treatment with two other therapies. Aromasin is made by Pfizer Inc.

Novartis's drug is already approved to treat patients with four other types of cancer, including kidney and a rare type of pancreatic cancer.

"We expect Afinitor to comfortably gain blockbuster status by 2013 and to be an essential pillar for future revenue growth in pharmaceuticals," Kepler Capital Markets analyst Martin Voegtli said. He forecasts $2.2 billion in peak sales of the drug by 2017.

A man walks past the logo of Swiss drugmaker Novartis AG in front of a plant in Basel recently. —REUTERS

Shares in Novartis rose slightly in early trading. At 0815 GMT, the stock was 0.4 percent higher at 57.10 francs, lagging an 0.8 percent rise in the European healthcare sector.—*Reuters*

Health Tip: Help prevent malnutrition in seniors

Seniors are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition, so caretakers must ensure that the elderly get enough carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins and minerals.

The American Academy of Family Physicians offers this advice:

* Provide plenty of healthy foods and snacks.
* Flavour foods with fresh herbs and spices, avoiding salt.
* Offer prepackaged supplements, such as nutrition shakes.
* Promote daily exercise, even a little bit, to help stimulate appetite and promote strong bones and muscles.
* Plan social activities centreing around meals and exercise.

Internet

Japan's factory output drops 0.1 pct in June

TOKYO, 1 Aug—Japan's industrial output was down 0. 1 percent in June from the previous month, marking the third consecutive month of contraction, government report said Monday.

The index of output at factories and mines stood at 92.1 against the base of 100 for 2005, according to a preliminary report by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

The fall was mainly attributed to sectors including transport equipment, electrical machinery, and iron and steel amid a stronger yen and the slowdown in global economy.

The ministry also said that the index of industrial shipments slipped 1.5 percent to 93.7 and that of industrial inventories declined 1.4 percent to 107.3. The seasonally adjusted output reading followed a 3.4 percent decline in May. —*Xinhua*

Japan's industrial output was down 0. 1 percent in June from the previous month.—INTERNET

Eurozone economic confidence declines 2 points in July

BRUSSELS, 1 Aug—The eurozone's economic confidence declined by 2 points to 87.9 in July, mainly as a result of a loss of confidence in the industrial sector and among consumers, the European Commission said Monday.

The economic confidence in the form of the Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI) continued last month's recovery in Britain and Italy, by 1.7 points and 1.3 points respectively, while the Netherlands saw its ESI rise slightly by 0.6 point, the Commission's data showed.

However, the ESI recorded sharper falls in Germany, France and Spain, by 3.7 points, 2.3 points and 1.4 points respectively, according to the Commission.

Continuing the downward trend reported since March, confidence in industry fell 2.2 points in July, attributable to "decreasing production expectations, as well as a more negative assessment of the current level of overall order books and increasing stocks of finished products."

In the single currency area, the confidence in the services and retail trade sectors also declined in July, by 1.1 points and 0.6 point, the figures showed.

Consumer confidence, another part of the ESI, also weakened in the euro area by 1.7 points, amid "higher unemployment fears, as well as worsened expectations about the future general economic situation and savings," the Commission said.

Xinhua

HSBC reports 11-pct profit rise in first half of 2012

LONDON, 1 Aug—HSBC said on Monday that its pre-tax profit was 12.7 billion US dollars in the first half of this year, up by 11 percent year on year.

The bank giant said in its interim results that its underlying profit before tax dropped 3 percent to 10.6 billion dollars, and the revenues went up 4 percent, with particular increases in faster-growing regions of Hong Kong, rest of Asia-Pacific and Latin America.

The bank also announced that it had put aside 2 billion dollars to cover potential mis-selling claims and money-laundering fines.

The London-based lender said it continued to cooperate with authorities after US lawmakers last month accused it of failing to apply anti-laundering rules.

HSBC has been thrown into crisis when a U.S. Senate report found that it had allowed its affiliates in countries such as Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh to move billions of dollars in suspect funds into the United States without adequate controls.

Lawmakers said money laundered through HSBC-linked accounts benefited Mexican drug lords and terrorist networks, and skirted US sanctions on Iran.

HSBC apologized for the crisis which had already sparked the resignation of its head of compliance David Bagley.

"We apologize for our past mistakes in relation to anti-money laundering controls and it is a priority for senior management to build on steps already taken to manage risk and ensure compliance more effectively," Chief Executive Stuart Gulliver said.

"It is not possible at this time for HSBC to know the terms on which a resolution of the ongoing investigations could be achieved or the form or timing of any such resolution," the bank said.

"There is a high degree of uncertainty in making this estimate and it is possible that the amounts when finally determined could be higher, possibly significantly higher," it said.

Xinhua

Photo shows the sign of the HSBC bank headquarters in Mexico City, on 17 July, 2012.
INTERNET

A new BMW luxury car of the 5 series is pictured at the production line of the German car manufacturer's plant in the Bavarian city of Dingolfing 6 March, 2012.
REUTERS

BMW weathers weak Europe with near-record Q2

FRANKFURT, 1 Aug—Germany's BMW shrugged off a weak European car market to post its second-best quarterly operating profit ever, highlighting the growing divide between prospering export-oriented premium auto makers and their ailing mass market peers.

Earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) fell 19 percent from its record level last year to 2.27 billion euros in the second quarter, but still exceeded a consensus forecast of 2.19 billion euros in a *Reuters poll*.

"We still aim to exceed our previous year's sales volume and pretax earnings in 2012," said Chief Executive Norbert Reithofer in a statement on Wednesday.

The world's largest premium carmaker kept the EBIT margin at its core autos business stable from the first quarter, at 11.6 percent, weathering what it called "intense market competition" - which usually refers to rising incentive levels.

BMW is expected to have benefited from the euro's weakening against other currencies, being the German luxury carmaker with the biggest exposure to exchange rate fluctuations.

"With BMW having around 11.4 billion euros in 2012 net transaction exposure to US dollar/renminbi on our estimates, this could offer a solid tailwind for 2012-13 in our view," wrote S&P Equity Research analyst Marnie Cohen before publication of BMW's results, reaffirming her "strong buy" rating and 83 euro price target.

Peer Daimler's Mercedes-Benz cars business had a 317 million euro gain related to foreign exchange effects in the first half — boosting its quarterly margin by 1.6 percentage points — and Volkswagen's Audi saw its first-half results lifted by 300-400 million euros.

Reuters

Typhoon, severe tropical storm approach Japan

TOKYO, 1 Aug—A strong typhoon and a severe tropical storm are approaching southern Japan.

The Meteorological Agency says that as of 9:00 am on Wednesday, typhoon Saola was about 200 kilometres south-southwest of Ishigaki Island in the southernmost prefecture of Okinawa.

The typhoon has an atmospheric pressure of 965 hectopascals and is packing winds of up to 126 kilometres per hour. It is slowly heading north-northwest.

The agency warns that stormy weather may continue for quite some time in the southwestern islands.

The agency also says severe tropical storm Damrey was about 100 kilometres east-southeast of Tanegashima Island in Kagoshima Prefecture, as of 11:00 am on Wednesday.

The storm has an atmospheric pressure of 975 hectopascals and winds of up to 108 kilometers per hour. It appears to be moving west-northwest at 35 kilometres per hour. The agency warns the storm may approach the southern Kyushu region later on Wednesday. It says unstable atmospheric conditions may trigger intermittent downpours and thunderstorms along the Pacific coast from southern through central Japan until Thursday.—*NHK*

The Meteorological Agency says that as of 9:00 am on Wednesday, typhoon Saola was about 200 kilometres south-southwest of Ishigaki Island in the southernmost prefecture of Okinawa.—INTERNET

Second Israeli dies in self-immolation welfare protest

JERUSLEM, 1 Aug— A second Israeli who set himself on fire in protest at economic difficulties has died of his injuries, the hospital treating him said on Wednesday.

Akiva Mafi, a 45-year-old, wheelchair-bound army veteran, doused his body in petrol and lit it at a bus station on 22 July, after what friends described as a debilitating battle for welfare benefits.

He was the second such fatality after Moshe Silman, a debt-ridden member of a grassroots movement to lower the cost of living in Israel, self-immolated during a July 14 demonstration in Tel Aviv and died two weeks later.

Silman, 57, left a note accusing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's conservative government of "taking from the poor and giving to the rich". Local media later reported similar suicide bids among others suffering economic hardship.

Speaking on Israeli television after his cabinet approved a controversial new package of tax increases and spending cuts on Tuesday, Netanyahu described the self-immolations as tragic but cautioned against "drawing conclusions about the overall populace," which he argued had been spared deeper fiscal crises.

Internet

A model of the Tun Razak Exchange financial district located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.—INTERNET

Malaysia launches plans for new financial district in KL

KUALA LUMPUR, 1 Aug— Despite the global economic gloom, Malaysia is pushing ahead to build a new financial district within the capital city of Kuala Lumpur.

To be developed over the next 15 years, the project is expected to generate a gross development value of about US$8 billion. The plans for the new financial district were unveiled by Malaysia Prime Minister Najib Razak on Tuesday. Named after his late father, who was Malaysia's second Prime Minister, the Tun Razak Exchange will be developed in phases across 70 acres of prime land, within walking distance of the Petronas Twin Towers.

Mr Najib said Malaysia's economic success is by no means an accident.

"Against the challenging global backdrop, no country can easily buck the global trends," he said.

"Our success over the last couple of months, including Felda Global Venture Holdings and IHH Healthcare recording the world's second- and third-largest IPO, has not come by accident. Instead, this is the result of steady economic stewardship."

The exchange targets to attract 250 leading companies and create 500,000 jobs when completed. The first phase scheduled to be ready in 2016 has already won more than US$1 billion in foreign direct investment.

While showcasing his leadership to transform the country, Mr Najib hopes that the Tun Razak Exchange will springboard Kuala Lumpur to be one of top 20 livable cities in the world. The new district promises high speed connectivity, and a seamless link to transport and services with enhanced security.

Tadashi Maeda, head of infrastructure finance at Japan Bank of International Cooperation, said: "A real smart city should be linked by a smart grid, the entire city, transmission system to transmission with IT, otherwise it's not real smart city, just the fancy type of building complex."

1MDB, the state owned development board, has been tasked to develop the entire project. It is currently in talks with several parties to come on board as partners.1MDB plans to announce its first foreign strategic partner next month.—*Internet*

India power cut hits millions, among world's worst outages

NEW DELHI, 1 Aug— Hundreds of millions of people across India were left without power on Tuesday in one of the world's worst blackouts, trapping miners, stranding train travelers and plunging hospitals into darkness when grids collapsed for the second time in two days.

Stretching from Assam, near China, to the Himalayas and the northwestern deserts of Rajasthan, the outage covered states where half of India's 1.2 billion people live and embarrassed the government, which has failed to build up enough power capacity to meet soaring demand. "Even before we could figure out the reason for yesterday's failure, we had more grid failures today," said RN Nayak, chairman of the state-run Power Grid Corporation.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had vowed to fast-track stalled power and infrastructure projects as well as introduce free market reforms aimed at reviving India's flagging economy. But he has drawn fire for dragging his feet.

By nightfall, power was back up in the humid capital, New Delhi and much of the north, but a senior official said only a third was restored in the rural state of Uttar Pradesh, itself home to more people than Brazil.

The cuts in such a widespread area of the world's second most populous nation appeared to be one of the biggest in history, and hurt Indians' pride as the country seeks to emerge as a major force on the international stage.

"It's certainly shameful. Power is a very basic amenity and situations like these should not occur," said Unnayan Amitabh, 19, an intern with HSBC bank in New Delhi, before giving up on the underground train system and flagging down an auto-rickshaw to get home. "They talk about big ticket reforms but can't get something as essential as power supply right."

Power Minister Sushilkumar Shinde blamed the system collapse on some states drawing more than their share of electricity from the over-burdened grid, but Uttar Pradesh's top civil servant for energy said outdated transmission lines were at fault.

Asia's third-largest economy suffers a peak-hour power deficit of about 10 percent, dragging on economic growth.—*Reuters*

A customer holds a candle as he gets his haircut at a barber's shop during a power-cut in Kolkata on 31 July, 2012.—REUTERS

Poultry vendors arrange chickens at a Mexico City market, February 25, 2004.—REUTERS

Mexico accuses US of price dumping on chicken

MEXICO CITY, 1 Aug— Mexico's economy ministry on Tuesday accused the United States of engaging in price dumping with its chicken exports, but said it would not be taking any action for now.

In a statement, the ministry said it had concluded that US exporters were guilty of engaging in an "unfair" trade practice with its sales of chicken legs and thighs to Mexico. It did not provide additional details of its findings.

The ministry's foreign trade commission COCEX said it would not pursue retaliatory measures because of disruptions caused by a recent outbreak of bird flu in western Mexico.

Chicken prices have risen due to the bird flu outbreak and any decision to impose anti-dumping tariffs would require further action from the commission, the ministry said.

The major US chicken exporters association disputed the Mexican government's assertion.

"We have maintained from the beginning that we are not dumping product," James Sumner, president of the USA Poultry and Egg Export Council, told Reuters.

He added that it was "in the best interest of the United States and Mexico to avert any major trade disruptions."—*Reuters*

Photo shows a building which collapsed in last year's massive earthquake in southern New Zealand.—NHK

Designer admits structural faults in NZ building

TOKYO, 1 Aug—The designer of a building which collapsed in last year's massive earthquake in southern New Zealand says the building had structural problems.

The 22nd February quake claimed 185 lives, including 115 in the collapse of the Canterbury Television Building in central Christchurch. Among them were 28 Japanese students at an English language school in the building.

On Tuesday, David Harding testified at a hearing of the Royal Commission investigating the cause of the collapse. He prepared detailed information on the design of the CTV building.

The commission asked him about the building's structural faults pointed out in previous hearings by witnesses.

Harding admitted the faults existed. He also said he didn't have enough experience to design a multi-story structure like the CTV building.

The Royal Commission will hold the hearings until mid-August, and compile a final report by November.

NHK

Waso begins Buddhist Rainy Season Retreat

Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

The monsoon has arrived and is making its full round in the country. An agricultural country like Myanmar with a large extent of arable land is busy with wet cultivation. Crops of which paddy is the staple grain are grown widely. The three months, July, August and September of rainy season called "*Wathan*" in Pali is the busiest for Myanmar people — engaged in activities in rain, repairing houses, dykes, reservoirs, sowing, planting in the fields and farms, hardly any leisure to enjoy. Lord Buddha knew very much of their life in monsoon, for he had been a layman before he became Buddha. So he forbade his monks to go out and roam about for fear of disturbing in advertently the daily activities of the farmers in the fields and stepping upon insects and little animals frolicking in the rain. By prescribing a period of rain retreat during which monks are to stay in their respective monasteries and devote themselves to learning and practising of his teachings, monks become learned in Tipitakas and well trained in Vinaya [monks' Discipline].

The prescribed period of rain retreat is called "*Wa*" meaning monks verbally promising to the Buddha and to each other that "he would stay in his residence and would not go out for overnight travel during the prescribed period. Either in the evening or at night of the first waning moon day of Waso, all monks of the same monastery are gathered in the assembly hall with a shrine room of Buddha images. The hall and the shrine room are fittingly decorated for the occasion with flowers, candles, fruits, and offertories. The abbot or the head monk explains the meaning and importance of Waso rite. Starting with the most senior monk, every monk of the monastery each by turn recites the following formula of *Wa* vow in Pali "*Imasmin vihare iman tesaman vassam upemi*" [I shall stay in this monastery during the months of rainy season]. Every time each monk recites this vow either once, twice or thrice, the rest of the monks utter in chorus the word of appreciation in Pali "Sadu" [Welldone] three times.

If a monk has to travel unavoidably during the retreat he must make a formal request for a dispensation from the duties of retreat. This request is called "*Wa pan*" [request for leaves of absence] which should not exceed seven days. If he fails to make a formal request and stays away overnight he commits breach of *Wa* vow thereby he suffers *wa kyo*. "*Wa Kyo*" means losing the priestly character in consequence of a breach of monostic vow. Monks who suffer *wa kyo* are not entitled to receive Kathina robe and other monastic privileges. But monks strictly observe priestly rules. There is hardly any case of *Wa Kyo*.

For the convenience of the monks, Lord Buddha prescribed two alternative periods of *Wa* namely (1) *Purima Wa* and (2) *Pyitsima Wa*. *Purima Wa* or the first *Wa* begins on the first waning moon day of *Waso* [July] and ends on the day of the completion of three solid months which is the fullmoon day of Thadingyut (October). *Pyitsima Wa* or the second *Wa* begins on the first waning moon day of Wakhaung (August) and ends on the day of completion of three solid months which is the fullmoon day of Tazaungmon (November). Depending upon their condition monks may choose either of these two alternatives.

During the rain retreat monks devote themselves fulltime to the observance of religious learning and practice. In the Pariyatti monasteries teaching and learning of Tipitakas, all Buddhist scriptures, and literatures are intensively carried out by teacher and student monks, preparing for religious examinations annually held in Nayon (June). At the meditation monasteries, instructor monks teach pupils correct ways of meditation [Sanatha (concentration of mind)] and Vipassana (Insight meditation). Material needs of teacher and student monks are donated by lay devotees and public.

In the history of Buddhism, the fullmoon day of Waso is one of the important days. On this day four great events of Lord Buddha's life took place. Firstly, it was on the fullmoon day of Waso, Thursday, that Prince Siddhartha [the Buddha to be] was conceived in the womb of Queen Maha Maya, the chief queen of King Suddhodana of Kapilavatsu. Secondly, it was on the fullmoon day of Waso, Monday that Prince Sidathartha at the age of 29, after seeing four omens, renounced his mundane life and left his palace for forest to become a recluse. Thirdly, it was on the fullmoon day of Waso, Saturday that Lord Buddha gave his first sermon "Dhammacakka" to the five recluses namely Kondañña, Vappa, Bhaddiya, Mahanam, and Assaji in the Deer Park "*Migadawunna*". Fourthly, it was on the fullmoon day of Waso that Lord Buddha under the white mango tree in Sawutti showed his miracle to the heretics to subdue them. In Myanmar the fullmoon day of Waso is marked "Dhammacakka Day" which is observed by holding group recitation of Dhammacakka sutta at religious centres throughout the country.

Traditionally, the festive event of Waso is ordination. Historical evidences prove this festival of ordination in Waso was started at the early date of Myanmar history. Stone inscriptions mention of this event. Ordination of monks may take place in any month. But there are two special reasons for holding ordination in Waso. Firstly, it was on the fullmoon day of Waso that one of the five recluses whom Lord Buddha gave his Dhammacakka, Shin Kondañña became monk. Secondly, those who have passed religious examinations of the previous month (Nayon) are ready to be ordained in Waso, so that they can pursue learning Pariyatti during the rainy season retreat. Ordination festival in Waso is in sequence with religious examination festival in Nayon.

The purpose of ordination is two folds—to recruit for Sangha the Priestly Order so as to promote and perpetual Buddhism from those who choose to remain monk for life and to impart Buddhist education and culture to those who stay in monkhood for a certain period. It is a religious requirement for every Buddhist male to become novice or ordained monk. According to Buddhism the highest religious merit you can attain is by becoming yourself novice or being ordained monk if you are male, or by making your son or other's son novice or ordaining him monk. By performing this religious work, the performer becomes an inheritor of Buddha Sasana. The performer receives from the community an honorific title of "Shin Taka" for male and "Shin Ama" for female [man donor of novitiation, woman donor of ordination]. These titles are prefixed to their names. At death his or her body is carried with two ceremonial gold umbrellas shading it as a token of honour to the "deceased inheritor of Buddha Sasana".

Two historical evidences that support novitiation and ordination as religious requirements for the Buddhists are the novitiation of Prince Rahula, son of Lord Buddha and the ordination of Prince Mahinda and Princess Sanghamitta, son and daughter of Emperor Asoka.

A year after the attainment of Buddhahood, Lord Buddha returned to Kapilavatsu and resided at the Nigrodha Vihara monastery. One day while Lord Buddha was at the court of his father King Suddhodana, Rahula's mother Yasodhara told her son that Lord Buddha was his father and urged Rahula to ask patrimony from his father. When the son did accordingly Lord Buddha kept silent. When Lord Buddha returned to the monastery, the son followed repeatedly asking for patrimony. When they reached the Nigrodha Vihara, Lord Buddha told his disciple Shin Sariputtara to novitiate Rahula in the Sangha order. Making Rahula a novice (samenera) was the grant of his patrimony by Lord Buddha to his son because by becoming a probationer for monkhood Rahula was inheriting Buddha teachings from his father.

The evidence of ordination is as follows:-

Asoka was very lavish in charity and promotion of Buddhism. He built 84000 stupas, the same number of wells, tanks, monasteries etc to equal 84000 carpus of Buddha's teachings. He also sent out Buddhist missions to all directions. One day he asked his guru monk Shin Moggaliputta Tissa whether he deserved to be the inheritor of Buddha Sasana. The guru monk replied that although his religious giving were incomparably plenty he was only the contributor to the support of Buddhism and that only when he ordained himself or his own offspring or other's offspring, would he become inheritor of Buddha Sasana. On hearing that his son Prince Mahinda and daughter Princess Sanghamitta offered themselves up to their father for ordination.

Regarding the offering the Waso robes to monks, it is found in Buddhist history that it began with Visakha, a very wealthy lady who donated a grand *vihara* for Lord Buddha and his disciple monks. One day in the peak of monsoon, she saw some monks' robes were soaked, wet and torn by torrential downpours. She asked Lord Buddha if she be allowed to donate new robes to change for monks for use in rainy season. Lord Buddha gave consent. So Waso robes are meant for use by monks during obet rainy season retreat.

Myanmar Buddhists believe offering Waso robes to monks is an act of religious merit which brings not only spiritual gain of attaining Niverna but also fulfillment of material wants — long life, good look, wealth and happiness.

Festive atmosphere is created at the ordination ceremonies at Simas, recitation of Dhammacakka Sutta, chanting of Paritta and preaching of Dhamma followed by religious music, songs and dance vibrating and echoing throughout the country in the month of Waso.

THRICE SACRED DAY

* The Fullmoon Day of Waso falls today;
Waso Festival is held on grand scale.
Deeds of merit are heartily done
By the laity old and young.

* Buddha-to-be was conceived on that day,
Renounced worldly pleasures in solemn way,
Also the day Buddha delivered His Sermon first
To Five Disciples in the Deer Park.

* Known as Dhammacakka Pavattana Sutta,
It embodies the basic doctrine of Dhamma.
Soon after the attainment of Buddhahood,
He expounded the Four Noble Truth.

* Pain, cause of pain, cessation of pain,
And the way to cessation of pain,
Buddha thus provided the correct path
To liberation from the ills and hurts.

* The laity seek merit on this occasion,
Offering robes and alms in tradition,
Practise meditation or keep precepts,
Discern the essence of Dhamma in depth.

* Dhammacakka Day carries special significance indeed,
It signifies commencement of the holy Retreat.
May pure Theravada Buddhism flourish for ever!
May people enjoy peace throughout the world!

Maung Swe Ngae

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No. 36/2012
14th Waxing of Second Waso, 1374 ME
(1 August, 2012)

One Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw Representative substituted

According to the request made in accordance with Section 33 of Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law to substitute Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw Representative nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in first multi-party democracy general elections held on 7 November, 2010, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted for one Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw Representative stated hereunder in Notification No. 3/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011 with personnel shown against him.

Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw

BC 22626	(Substitution) BC 29751
Major Aung Myo Myat	Major Soe Naing

By order,

Win Ko
Secretary
Union Election Commission

No country forms commission prior to...

(from page 1)

accordance with existing laws and rules.

Regarding the question raised by U Myint Soe of Pyawbwe Constituency on **nationwide stamp duty exemption for loan deals**, the deputy minister answered that stamp duties are currently exempted in Yangon, Mawlamyine, Pathein, Sittway and Mandalay under Transfer of Property Act. As the law is not the one enforced by the Internal Revenue Department, the request was submitted to the Union government for the nationwide exemption coverage. The bill amending the Transfer of Property Act was run in the newspapers. Once the bill is enacted, the coverage of the tax duty exemption will extend over the whole country.

U Aung San of Pabedan Constituency raised a question on **adding Myanmar traditional sports in XXVII SEA Games and holding basic education/university and college/region and state sports games this academic year.** Regarding the question, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu answered that if a traditional sport is to be added to the Games, the participant countries must have the respective sports federation, rules of the game must be drafted, there will be complete referees, juries and coaches, five participating countries must agree with four at least participating in the event. The country is now in discussion for adding traditional martial arts and cane balls. The inter-school sports games will be held this academic year. Inter-region/state, inter-ministry sports games are held according to the sports calendar. Urgent, short-term and long-term plans are being implementing for development of Myanmar's sports standards. Young athletes must be encouraged to uplift the dignity of the country.

U Myint Thein of Magway Constituency and U Khaing Maung Yi (a) Khin Maung Yi of Ahlon Constituency discussed the proposal submitted by U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency on 11 July **urging the Union government to form an investigation commission regarding recent strikes in factories in Yangon not to harm the foreign investments**. They seconded the proposal saying that the formation of the commission will contribute to settlement of labour disputes for the long run. U Aung Thein Lin of South Okkalapa Constituency discussed that there are necessities in thoroughly enforcing new labour laws and the formation of the commission is not needed.

Union Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi discussed that one employees federation, one employers federation, 127 basic employees organizations, 11 employers organizations have been formed as the formation of labour organizations was allowed since 1 March, 2012. The formation of independent labour organizations will sow seeds of confidence between employers and employees, contributing to freedom of association and freedom of expression.

There were disputes between 53343 employees from 90 factories and their employers. Agreements have been signed eventually after democratic bargaining. Negotiations and arbitrations were made in the factories and the townships under Dispute Settlement Law. Involvement of workers in labour disputes is nothing questionable as it is a matter of concern for them.

A chief consulting officer of an international organization wrote in a letter to the minister that there is no country that forms an investigation commission before a new law takes action. Political intervention will not help settle labour disputes. Foreign investors are well-informed of new labour law of Myanmar, assisted by legal consultants. A new legislation calls for time to take effect thoroughly.

Formation of an investigation commission is like unearthing the seed of confidence and is very dangerous. The proposal should be withdrawn.

U Thein Nyunt called for vote as he said he had firm confidence in his proposal in the interest of the workers when the country witnesses flood of the foreign investments.

The Hluttaw decided not to approve the proposal with 43 yeses, 288 noes and 17 abstentions.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker warned some MPs against their discussions breaching laws and rules of the Pyithu Hluttaw. Deliberately or not, they are urged not to use unnecessary names and party titles.

Dr Chan Nyein of Kanbalu Constituency submitted a proposal on **preparing encyclopaedia about Myanmar nationals' history, culture, literature and customs.**

The parliamentarians willing to discuss the proposal are to register by 3 August with the date for debate to be announced later.

The Hluttaw notified the representatives of the distribution of copies of Bill Amending Traditional Medicine Law approved at the Amyotha Hluttaw for their knowledge.

Today's session concluded at 1 pm and the 20th regular session will be held on 6 August.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Aung San of Pabedan Constituency raises question.

MNA

Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu replies to queries.

MNA

Anti-bribery bill ...

(from page 1)

to upgrade Pakhangyi-Pakhannge inter-village road in Yesagyo Township to gravel facility and to repair two bridges on the road, the deputy minister replied that the inter-village road is about three miles and three furlongs long hard-surface gravel road and it is in serviceable condition, it was found. The township development affairs committee concerned would be asked to handle maintenance works yearly. The estimated costs for repairing the wooden bridge No. 1 measuring 140x15x24 ft is 36.4 million kyats and the wooden bridge No. 2 measuring 50x15x24 ft is 13 million kyats. The budget for repairing the No.2 bridge has been set in the 2013-2014 fiscal year rural development fund of Yesagyo Township development affairs committee and the budget for repairing the No.1 bridge would be set in 2012-2013 fiscal year supplementary fund of the Ministry of Border Affairs.

Regarding the question of U Htay Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency No (12) about **if the Border Affairs Ministry has a plan to construct 17 miles long gravel road from Kanpetle Village of Kokkokhahla Village-tract, Wundwin Township, Meiktila District to Thapan Village of Thapan Village-tract**, the deputy minister replied that Thapan-Pintale-Kokkokhahla road in Wundwin Township was 16 miles and three furlongs long road constructed around 1975. The road is still raw graveled one and in need of major repair.

Four furlongs long section on Pintale-Kokkokhala road was repaired in 2011-2012 fiscal year with the fund of Wundwin Township development affairs committee. It is estimated to cost 73.5 million kyats to upgrade the remaining 15 miles and seven furlongs into gravel one.

It would benefit the 48 villages and 40414 local people and repairing works would be undertaken with 2013-2014 fiscal year rural development fund of the Ministry of Border Affairs.

Regarding the question of U Sun Dok Ciint of Chin State Constituency No (6) about **if there is plan to upgrade the earthen road linking Sozan station to Saizan Village into three-season serviceable gravel one**, the deputy minister replied that the road is in Tiddim Township and 20 miles in length. It is planned to spend 60 million kyats donated by rural development bank ltd of the Border Affairs Ministry on upgrading the road as there is no enough State fund for the repair in this fiscal year. In addition, contribution of local people is a must.

Over the three-year project from 2013-2014 fiscal year to 2015-2016 fiscal year, K 25 million would be funded per one mile of gravel road by Rural Development Bank Ltd. If there still remain requirements, it would be projected in Myanmar-India border region development scheme to be implemented with the assistance of India.

Secretary U San Tun of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee explained the report of the committee in response to debate of MPs over anti-bribery bill. The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then approved the bill paragraph by paragraph.

Chairman of Financial and Legal Affairs Committee U Aung Tun submitted a proposal for approval of the bill, seconded by U Nyan Lin of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (3). The Hluttaw approved the proposal.

The session came to an end at 10.55 am and the 20th day session continues at 10 am on 6 August.

Four questions were answered, and report on anti-bribery bill read and approved at today's session.—*MNA*

Secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee U San Tun reads report of the committee.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Dr Htay Win of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (5) asking question.—MNA

UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situation in Myanmar calls on MNHRC Chairman

YANGON, 1 Aug—Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situation in Myanmar, accompanied by Acting Resident Representative Mr Ramesh M Shrestha of UN Agencies and officials, called on Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission U Win Mya and members at its office on Pyay Road, here, at 5.20 pm today.—*MNA*

UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situation in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana calls on Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission U Win Mya.—MNA

Union Minister, diplomats…

(from page 16)

In meeting with the victims, Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay said that the visit of diplomatic delegation was arranged by the government for the delegation members to know the present peace and stability process of the government for the riots that happened in Rakhine State, relief, resettlement and renovation tasks.

The diplomatic degegation members asked matters related to the riots and donated bags of rice and instant noodle packets to the victims.

Next, they visited construction of the houses in Thayay Konbaung Village and left for Sittway by helicopter.

In the evening, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin hosted a dinner to Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay, deputy ministers, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situation in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana, ambassadors of foreign embassies and diplomats, heads of UN agencies, responsible persons of Myanmar Islam Organization, religious leaders and departmental heads at Sittway Hotel.—*MNA*

***UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situation in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and delegation members meeting victims at relief camp of Aungmyay Bawdi Sasana Yeiktha in Kanyindan Myoma village-tract in Maungtaw.*—MNA**

World Breastfeeding Week activities launched

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—The launch of central level World Breastfeeding Week and Nutrition Week was held at the Ministry of Health this morning.

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, Deputy Ministers Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and Dr Win Myint, departmental heads, reps of UN agencies and social organizations attended the ceremony.

The Union minister said in his address that the breastfeeding week activities will be carried out in the whole August.

Expectant mothers and children are vulnerable to malnourishment, he said, calling for comprehensive approach by relevant organizations to tackle the issue.

Reform strategies in rural development and human resources development must be well-matched with the regional development plans, he said.

The Union minister said that the health sector must grasp every possible opportunity from reforms of the country.

The resident representatives of World Health Organization and the United Nations Children Fund delivered addresses.

The Union Minister and party fed under-five children Vitamin A tonic at Yinthwe Yadana pre-primary school of the social welfare department. The Union minister then presented awards to hospitals with impressive records.

The Union minister and party then viewed documentary photos capturing nutrition activities.

The World Breastfeeding Week is being celebrated in the whole country under the theme "Understanding the past, planning for the future".—*MNA*

Union Health Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin feeding Vitamin A tonic to under-five children of Yinthwe Yadana pre-primary school of SWD.
MNA

Representative of UNICEF speaking on the occasion.
MNA

***Representative of World Health Organization extends greetings.*—MNA**

Attorney-General of Union receives Head of EU Office in Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin received a delegation led by Mr Andreas List of Head of EU Office in Yangon at Attorney-General's Office, here, this morning.

At the meeting, Mr Andreas List said that he was appointed as resident representative of EU to Myanmar and he had visited the office together with former EU representatives.

As Myanmar will host the Rule of Law Seminar on 12-11-2012, he requested Attorney-General Office to act as a focal point, and the Union Attorney-General of the Union to deliver an on address at the opening ceremony. They had a cordial discussion on the Rule of Law Seminar.—*MNA*

Course No. 89 opened at Office of Auditor-General of Union

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—The Grade II and Grade III course No. 89 was opened at Office of the Auditor-General of the Union here this morning, attended by personnel of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, lecturers and trainees.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Auditor-General U Myo Myint said Office of the Auditor-General of the Union Training School was established on 1 April, 1958 with a view to turning out qualified auditors and ensuring systematic statistics management, and inculcating staff with a sense of adherence to rules and regulations.

The deputy auditor-general called on the trainees to abide by rules of the training schools to letter, to try hard for mastery of the theoretical knowledge shared and to apply the knowledge gained effectively at mother departments concerned.—*MNA*

Talks on Fundamental IT Engineer Examination on 11 Aug

YANGON, 1 Aug—The talks on Fundamental IT Engineer Examination (FE) organized by Myanmar Computer Federation in order to improve the IT field will be held at the conference hall of MICT Park in Hline Township, here, at 1.30 pm of the 11th August.

The exam is provided for those who are interested in the fields of computer programming, programming design and software development and IT.

Mr Kenji Ogawa, Vice President of IT HRD Headquarters, Information technology Promotion Agency (IPA) will give a lecture on ITPEC (FE) exam. Those interested may attend the talks.

It will be held in Pathein on 8 August, in Mandalay on 9 August and in Monywa on 10 August respectively.

For further detailed information is available at Myanmar Computer Federation, Ph: 652307, and Myanmar Computer Industry Association, Ph: 652276.—*MNA*

Yangon Region awards outstanding farmers

YANGON, 1 Aug—A concluding ceremony of plough of monsoon paddy and a transplanting contest and an awarding-ceremony for outstanding farmers in agricultural products producing were held at the farm of Indine Village-tract in Hlegu Township here this morning.

Among the crowd at the ceremonies were Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win and the deputy speaker, region ministers, the managing director of Myanma Agricultural Development Bank, departmental heads and officials concerned from agricultural companies and distinguished persons.

The Chief Minister and party released fingerlings into the farms after enjoying demonstration of planting paddy strains with the use of a transplanter.

They observed the transplanting skill contest, agricultural booths and show rooms.

After expressing the purpose of the ceremonies, the Chief Minister accepted the reports respectively presented by District Commissioners on district-wide concluding of plough of monsoon paddy for 2012-2013 in each district. The Chief Minister and officials awarded winners of the contests.

It was reported that a total of 1,096,718 acres (91.49%) have been planted among 1,198,739 acres estimated acreages to grow monsoon paddy this year.

MNA

***Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Region Hluttaw Speaker, Deputy Speaker and region ministers releasing fingerlings into the farms at Indine Village-tract in Hlegu Township.*—MNA**

New school building handed over in Salingyi Township

SALINGYI, 1 Aug—A ceremony to hand over new two-storey building with the name of Adipati of Basic Education Middle School Branch was held in Baikthayet Village in Salingyi Township of Monywa District in Sagaing Region on 6 July.

Sagaing Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Sein Win, Township Administrator U Zaw Moe Aung, Township Education Officer Daw Myint Myint Kyi and officials formally opened the new school building.

Member of School Board of Trustees U Kyaw Than handed over documents related to the building to Township Education Officer Daw Myint Myint Kyi.

The newly-opened two-storey building is 90 feet long, 30 feet wide and 22 feet high.—*Myanma Alin*

Information for anti-human trafficking

The government is accelerating its tasks in taking preventive measures against trafficking in person.

In so doing, telephone numbers are announced as the connections with authorities concerned for enabling the people to actively participate in the tasks of anti-human trafficking.

These telephone numbers are 067-412555 and 067-412666 in Nay Pyi Taw, 09-49555666 in Muse, 09-49555777 in Mandalay and 09-49555888 and 09-49555999 in Yangon.

Talks on taxation given in Phakant Township

PHAKANT, 1 Aug—Internal Revenue Department made a clarification on taxation at Pyinnya Yadana Hall of Basic Education High School in Phakant on 13 July.

At the talk, Township Administrator U Nyein Tun Kyaw made a speech. Head of Phakant Township Internal Revenue Department U Htet Nay Hein explained commercial tax and income tax, law, rules and regulations and procedures for tax payers.

He then replied to queries raised by teachers and students.

Myanma Alin

District News

Prizes awarded to outstanding student in Madauk

MADAUK, 1 Aug—The annual general meeting of parent-teacher association was held at Basic Education High School in Madauk of Nyaunglebin Township on 22 July afternoon.

At Nawade Hall of the school, Headmistress Daw Mar Mar Su gave a speech at the annual general meeting for 2011-2012 academic year. She then presented prize to Ma Hnin Aye Lwin, who passed the matriculation examination with four distinctions.

Myanma Alin

Summer paddy winnowed in Pyawbwe Township

YAMETHIN, 1 Aug—Summer paddy was winnowed on 16 acres of farm of U Win Nyint in Medee Village in Pyawbwe Township recently.

The local farmers grew Palethwe and Theehtetyin paddy irrigated by Natka Dam.

Natka Dam supplies water to 146 acres of summer paddy and 104 acres of cotton plantations. The region faced shortage of water in the past. Thanks to Nayka Dam, the local farmers can cultivate summer paddy and produced over 100 baskets per acre. Thus, they can earn increased income.

As the environs of the village are green due to irrigation facility, farmers from other villages gather grass for feedstuff of cattle.

"I have never faced boosting production of paddy. We are happy in earning large amount of incomes through sales of paddy. Thanks to the dam, the local people can grow any crops at anytime," said a local farmer.—*Kyemon*

Staff quarter of station hospital donated

NYAUNGLEBIN, 1 Aug—With the capital donation of Captain Khin Win-Daw Mu Mu and family of Yangon, a staff quarter of station hospital, the main building of hospital, male ward and female ward were opened at the station hospital in Madauk of Nyaunglebin Township in Bago Region on 22 July.

At the ceremony, Panngweyon Sayadaw and wellwisher family, U Tin Aung Soe, U Myint Wai, Head of Township Health Department Dr Khin Zaw, Madauk Station Hospital medical officer Dr Daw Khin Mar Lwin and ward administrator U Mya Thein formally opened the buildings.—*Myanma Alin*

SAPLINGS PLANTED*: The monsoon tree growing ceremony was held near mile post No 7/4 near Dayelmee-Okshitkon junction on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in DaikU Township on 14 July. Staff of Forest Department plant over 800 saplings.*
MYANMA ALIN

Cash assistance provided to war veterans, offspring in Monghsat

MONGHSAT, 1 Aug—Monghsat Township War Veterans Organization of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Committee provided cash assistance to older veterans and offspring of its members at Thiha Yadana Hall of Monghsat District General Administration Department on 14 July morning, with an address by Col Aung Thu Oo of local station.

Next, Col Aung Thu Oo, Deputy Commissioner U Thaung Tin Htwe and Township Administrator U Naing Aye presented cash assistance to four older veterans of above 75, three disabled veterans, 126 veterans and 126 offspring of veterans.—*Myanma Alin*

Basic firefighting course wraps up in Hmawby Township

YANGON, 1 Aug—The basic firefighting course No 1/2012 concluded at the hall of administrative office in Wanetchaung model village of Hmawby Township in Yangon Region on 22 July morning.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Thein Myint, Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Than Shein and Village Administrator U Myint Thien made speeches.

At the ceremony, Head of Township Fire Services Department U Than Htaik Soe presented a light fire engine to Auxiliary Fire Brigade of Wetnetchaung Model Village. An official of the brigade accepted it. After that, officials presented certificates and prizes to the respective trainees.

Myanma Alin

Trees in monsoon season planted in Kya-in-Seikkyi

KYA-IN-SEIKKYI, 1 Aug—The rainy season tree growing ceremony was held in Kya-in-Seikkyi Township of Kawkareik District in Kayin State on 20 July morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Soe Win and officials presented saplings to departmental personnel, social organization members, ward administrators, local people, teachers and students. They planted 450 saplings.—*Myanma Alin*

Local farmers winnowing paddy at farmland with the use of machine.

Strong winds hit village in Nyaunglebin Township

NYAUNGLEBIN, 1 Aug—Strong winds hit Kwindalalay Village of Inwaing Village-tract in Nyaunglebin Township of Bago Region on 24 July.

At 5.45 am, the strong winds destroyed 13 houses in the village. Three houses of 13 collapsed and the roof of 10 were blown.

The township administrator and officials provided necessary assistance to the strong wind victims.—*Myanma Alin*

Taiwan on alert as typhoon Saola approaches

TAIPEI, (China), 1 Aug— The Central Weather Bureau issued torrential rain and strong wind warnings for most of the island on Wednesday as slow-moving Typhoon Saola approached, and put its military on standby as the risk of landslides and flooding grew.

The typhoon has winds of around 119 km per hour and could bring up to 1,000 mm of rain to parts of Taiwan over the rest of the week, the Central Weather Bureau said. The storm is likely to skirt the northern tip of the island on Thursday, though there was also a chance it could make landfall, it said.

One village in the island's mountainous and sparsely populated northeast has been evacuated as heavy rain raised a risk of landslides, and several roads in the area closed, the government said. Heavy rain was falling in the capital Taipei on Wednesday morning, and city authorities will decide later in the day whether to order businesses and financial markets to close on Thursday. Tracking site Tropical Storm Risk rated Saola category two, the second-lowest on its scale of five, but forecast it could strengthen to a category three in 36 hours, when it will cross into southeast China.—*Reuters*

***Fishing boats are seen docked in a harbour as Typhoon Saola approaches the northeastern coastal town of Nanfangao in Ilan county on 31 July, 2012.*—REUTERS**

China urges US to cancel sanctions on Chinese bank

BEIJING, 1 Aug— China on Wednesday urged the United States to cancel its sanctions on the Bank of Kunlun and stop damaging ties between the two nations.

"The US side imposing sanctions, in accordance with its domestic law, on a Chinese financial institution has severely violated the principles of international relations and impaired the interests of the Chinese side," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said in a statement, voicing "strong dissatisfaction" and "resolute opposition" to the US move.

On Tuesday, the US government announced the sanctions on the Bank of Kunlun and an Iraqi bank that it accuses of doing business with Teheran.

"(The Chinese side) will lodge solemn representations to the US side in Beijing and Washington," Qin said. China and Iran have a normal state-to-state relationship and their normal, open and transparent business cooperation in energy and trade is unrelated to Iran's nuclear programme, he said, adding that the cooperation neither violates any resolution of the UN Security Council nor harms the interests of any third party.

"China's stance on non-proliferation is consistent and clear," Qin said, adding that the country firmly safeguards the international system of non-proliferation and is committed, together with all the parties concerned including the United States, to the efforts in pursuit of an appropriate solution to the Iranian nuclear issue.

"However, the US side has repeatedly imposed sanctions on Chinese enterprises and banks regardless of China's concern," the spokesman said. "That will affect bilateral cooperation between China and the United States." "The Chinese side urges the US side to immediately correct the wrongdoings, withdraw the groundless sanctions on the Bank of Kunlun, and stop doing anything harmful to China's interests as well as China-US relations," he added.—*Xinhua*

Pacific region on brink of El Nino — NZ weather scientists

A farmer guides his carabao on dry and cracked farmland in San Juan town, Batangas province, south of Manila on 18 April, 2010.
REUTERS

WELLINGTON, 1 Aug— The Pacific region is set to experience in the next three months an El Nino weather pattern, which can bring dry weather and affect crops, New Zealand scientists said on Wednesday. Sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific are warming, and tropical sea temperatures are near El Nino levels.

"Conditions in the tropical Pacific are currently on the brink of El Nino, and it is likely El Nino will develop during the early spring period," the National Institute of Water and Atmosphere (NIWA) said in its latest climate outlook. "The majority of climate models which NIWA monitors predict that the El Niño threshold will likely be exceeded during the August to October period."

The El Nino typically brings rainfall below the average to the Asia-Pacific region, threatening the yields of agricultural crops, while parts of Latin America and the continental United States may be hit by weather that is wetter than average. The US grain belt is now suffering its worst drought in 56 years, which carried corn and soybean prices to record highs last month on expectations of lower production. Weather scientists in Australia and Japan last month warned of developing El Nino conditions.

NIWA said the Southern Oscillation, an indicator of changing weather patterns, was close to zero last month, which signalled El Niño conditions were not yet fully in place. Current indications are that most of New Zealand, whose economy is driven by agriculture, would have normal weather conditions through to October, it said.

However, it added, there might be less rainfall than average in the eastern South Island, home to hydropower stations supplying more than two-thirds of the country's power. A La Nina pattern of cool water in the equatorial Pacific, which normally brings colder, wetter conditions to parts of the continental United States, ended this year, and there had been talk of an El Nino pattern developing before year's end.—*Reuters*

North Koreans are seen at a flooded village in Anju on 30 July, 2012 in this picture released by North Korea's official news agency KCNA in Pyongyang. —Reuters

Troops rescue 12 Malaysians off S Philippine waters

COTABATO CITY, 1 Aug— Government security forces have rescued on Wednesday at least 12 Malaysian nationals off the waters of Southern Philippine province of Maguindanao, a military official said. Col Prudencio Asto, Army's 6th Infantry Division Public Affairs chief, said the victims were rescued by elements of 51st Marine Company floating near the coastal village of Pura in Datu Blah town. Asto said the Malaysians, on board Woodman 38 and Woodman 39 vessels from the Port of Miri Sarawak, Malaysia, were heading to Indonesia when they were stopped and taken as hostage by pirates.

"They were taken as hostage for several days based on their accounts and the pirates took all their belongings. When their captors learnt that Malaysian authorities are looking for them, they were ordered to jump off the boats," Asto said.

"Local residents, who saw them floating, immediately informed our troops," he added.—*Xinhua*

Rome's Colosseum leaning slight, but not in danger — officials

ROME, 1 Aug— Rome's Colosseum might be leaning slightly but its stability is not in danger, said officials who on Tuesday announced that the ancient amphitheatre is about to undergo its first comprehensive restoration in 73 years.

An Italian newspaper reported at the weekend that the Colosseum, famous for hosting bloody gladiator fights in the days of the Roman Empire, was about 40 cm (16 inches) lower on the south side than on the north, suggesting it was in danger.

The Italian media described it as the "leaning tower of Pisa effect".

"There is no problem with its stability," Mariarosaria Barbera, Rome's archaeological superintendent, told a news conference.

"We are talking about a structure whose foundations are 13 meters (yards) deep. Roman constructions do not only stand up to centuries, they stand up to millennia," she said.

"We are monitoring it but there is no Tower of Pisa effect," Barbera said at the unveiling of the 25 million euro restoration project which will start in December and end in 2015.

The project, which had been delayed by three years of bureaucratic problems, will include the cleaning and restoration of the entire Colosseum, known in Roman times as the Flavian Amphitheatre.

It will be carried out in phases so that the Colosseum, which receives hundreds of thousands of visitors a year, will remain open. Only part of it will be covered by scaffolding at any one time.

"The monument is so big that there won't be too much inconvenience for visitors," Barbera said.

An underground visitors centre will be built under an adjacent piazza, freeing up more areas inside the monument, which are currently used as meeting points and ticket stalls.

Overall, some 25 percent more of the Colosseum will be open to visitors after the restoration, particularly the underground network of tunnels, storerooms and cages.

Two thirds of the underground parts are currently not open to the public.

Rome Mayor Gianni Alemanno said the traffic around the Colosseum will be re-routed by the end of the restoration to decrease damage from vibration. He said at a news conference it would be the first major restoration in 73 years.

"There have been various small projects but nothing of this level has been carried out in all this time," Alemanno said.

The work is being sponsored by Tod's, the luxury shoemaker and leather goods company.—*Reuters*

A worker is seen on a boom lift as he prepares for the restoration of Rome's ancient Colosseum, on 30 July, 2012.
REUTERS

UN team to tour flood-hit North Korea,

SEOUL, 1 Aug— A United Nations team will visit North Korea from Tuesday to assess damage from recent floods with a view to developing an aid plan, a UN official said, although the North's new leadership is yet to make any detailed response to the disaster.

The team will include some UN workers already in North Korea, Christopher de Bono, chief of communications for East Asia and the Pacific for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), told *Reuters* on Monday.

The trip follows a meeting between UN and North Korean officials on Monday, at which Pyongyang presented its assessment of the damage, he said without elaborating on the meeting.

"We have agreed to send an inter-agency rapid assessment team to the two most affected counties tomorrow (July 31)," de Bono said in an emailed statement.

North Korea remains one of the most isolated states in the world. That has not changed since new leader Kim Jong-un took power seven months ago, although floods have in the past provided opportunities for contact with the outside world.

"A UN response will be devised after the inter-agency mission confirms the damages and gauges the immediate requirements of the affected population," de Bono said.

Initial reports indicated the damage to farming areas and its effect on people was devastating.

North Korea's official media has reported that floods caused by torrential rainfalls from July 25 killed 88 people, left tens of thousands homeless and damaged farmlands.

Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (053)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (053) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.8.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (651)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (651) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.8.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DIAMOND STAR VOY NO (1)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DIAMOND STAR VOY NO (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.8.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W(2) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER S'PORE PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (124)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (124) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.8.2012 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
AGENT FOR: M/S PACC CONTAINER LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BRILLIANT PESCADORES VOY NO (38)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BRILLIANT PESCADORES VOY NO (38) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.8.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

HINDU FAMILIES WILL OFFER WASO ROBES AND SOON TO THE STATE SANGHA MAHANAYAKA SAYADAWS

Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh, Hindu has Organized for Hindu Families a Donation Ceremony to offer "Soon", Waso robes to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws and State Pariyatti Sasana University Sayadaws at Kabaye Hill "Mogok Soon Sa Kyaung" on Sunday 5th August 2012 from 9:00 a.m. onwards.

Hindu Families are cordially invited to participate and offer their Donations in this ceremony. They may contact Ph:09-5108541, 09-5014040,09-5000453,09-49260886 for further information.

Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh
No. 227, 37th Street, Yangon.

Tokyo Skytree welcomes one millionth visitor

TOKYO, 1 Aug—The world's tallest broadcast tower Tokyo Skytree celebrated its one-millionth visitor on Wednesday, 72 days after opening.

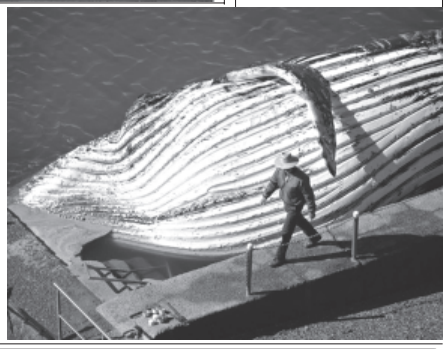
The 634-metre tower has 2 observation decks at 350 and 450 metres. The tower's operator held a ceremony for the lucky guest from Nagano Prefecture, central Japan. It was a family on summer vacation visiting the Skytree for the first time.

Rena Tanaka and her 6th grade son and first grade daughter were presented with flowers and a scale model of the tower.

Tanaka says she had wanted to go up the tower for a long time and was overjoyed to be the one-millionth visitor.

The Skytree's operator says they predicted they would reach the one-millionth visitor mark in early August so the turnout is in line with expectations.

Tokyo Skytree opened in May. It had 660,000 visitors in the first 50 days, who had reserved tickets. It has admitted over 300,000 more visitors since 11th July when tickets went on sale at the door.—*NHK*



A national parks ranger inspects a dead 30-tonne humpback whale in the Newport Beach rockpool north of Sydney on 1 Aug, 2012. The 11.6 metre adult humpback washed up in the ocean baths overnight as rough seas lashed parts of Australia's east coast on 1 Aug, 2012.— INTERNET

Recycled bottles illuminate dark homes in Philippines

WASHINGTON, 1 Aug—A liter-sized plastic bottle that contains water and bleach is shedding light on dark communities in the Philippines.

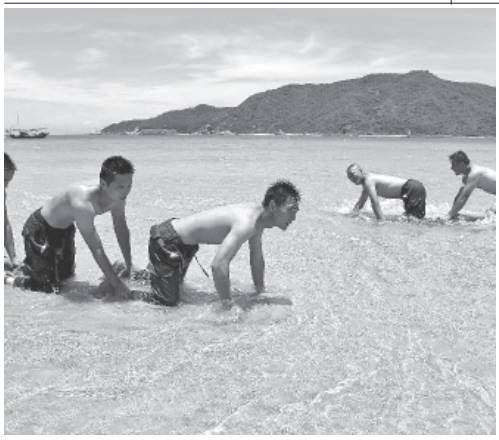
One organization, Liter of Light, is organizing people to build "solar bottle bulbs."

The bottle is sealed in an iron sheet and installed into a small hole in the roof of home.

The bottles absorb sunlight and emit about 55-watts of light into a dark interior, the Discovery News reported.

This is a boon for people in Manilla, the Philippines, where about 3 million homes are in the dark and have to rely on kerosene lamps for light.

These bottles provide a cost-effective and environmentally safe way to provide light to these families during the daylight hours.—*Internet*



VIP bodyguard students participate in a special training camp held by Genghis Security Acadamy (GSA), a professional VIP protection service provider, in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, on 30 July, 2012. A total of 109 bodyguard students, including 13 females, took part in the 21-day training camp which kicked off here on Monday. XINHUA

Hubble discovers ten billion-year old stellar dance

WASHINGTON, 1 Aug—The NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope has provided a delightful view of the crowded stellar encampment called Messier 68, a spherical, star-filled region of space known as a globular cluster. Mutual gravitational attraction among a cluster's hundreds of thousands or even millions of stars keeps stellar members in check, allowing globular clusters to hang together for many billions of years. Astronomers can measure the ages of globular clusters by looking at the light of their constituent stars. The chemical elements leave signatures in this light, and the starlight reveals that stars of globular clusters typically contain fewer heavy elements, such as carbon, oxygen and iron, than stars like the Sun.

Since successive generations of stars gradually create these elements through nuclear fusion, stars having fewer of them are relics of earlier epochs in the Universe.

Indeed, the stars in globular clusters rank among the oldest on record, dating back more than 10 billion years.

More than 150 of these objects surround our Milky Way Galaxy. On a galactic scale, globular clusters are not all that big.

In Messier 68's case, its stars span a volume of space with a diameter of little more than a hundred light-years. The disc of the Milky Way, on the other hand, extends over some 100 000 light-years or more.—*Internet*

Man attempts 'joggling' world record

A University of Florida student said he will attempt the "joggling" world record by running a mile while juggling five objects in Houston.

Matthew Feldman, an engineering student, said he plans to attempt the Guinness World Record at the Rice University track at 7 pm on that day, WKMG-TV, Orlando, Fla, reported .

Feldman said he is targeting the record of 7 minutes, 41 seconds for "joggling" — jogging and juggling simultaneously — a mile set by Bill Gillen.

Feldman said his record attempt will also raise money and awareness for victims of last year's tsunami in Japan.

News Album

Bees swarm around parked bicycle

Residents of a Swedish city said thousands of bees leaving their hive behind swarmed around a parked bicycle.

Witnesses in Kristianstad said the bees swarmed around the parked bike in Sodertorg square after apparently abandoning their old hive, *The Local* reported.

"Then the queen arrived and they started to come in droves after that," witness Jan Ekdala told the local *Kristianstadbladet* newspaper.

"In only five minutes it was a gigantic bee-swarm," Ekdala said. Experts said bees will often choose a gathering place, such as a tree branch,

after abandoning a hive while waiting for about 20-50 scouts to find a new permanent home.

Man leaves party, gets chased by bear

Police in Sweden said a man who wandered away from a party became lost in the woods and came face to face with a bear.

Officers said Robin Engstrom, 20, was attending a party in Flykalen and decided to take a walk in the woods with some beer and cigarettes, *The Local.se* reported.

Engstrom became lost in the woods about four miles from the village and soon found himself chased by a brown bear, police said.

The man climbed a hunting tower and pounded on the roof to scare the animal away. Police said, Engstrom was rescued after spending about three hours atop the tower. Engstrom said he tried to stay calm during his ordeal.

"I drank up the last of the beer and then I sat and smoked. One shouldn't get unnecessarily stressed," Engstrom said.

Why Rupert Grint became nervous

LOS ANGELES, 1 Aug— British actor Rupert Grint became nervous when he was shooting scenes for "Cbgb" when musician Cheetah Crome turned up at the shoot.

The movie is a biopic based on the nightclub in New York and describes the punk scene. The 23-year-old said he became more determined to do justice to the role.

"Cheetah Chrome was actually on set. It's the first time I've played a real person and there's a pressure to get it right. It's amazing he's still alive, given the amount of drugs he did. He's got a young son who was a big 'Harry Potter' fan, so it was nice to meet him," *Metro* newspaper quoted Grint as saying.

The musician also had some advice for Grint.

"Cheetah had some advice about my performance and I had to get his voice right, he had quite a distinctive drug-affected mumbling voice and I had to do an American accent. We're both ginger, so look similar. Hopefully people will buy it," he said.—*Internet*

British actor Rupert Grint

Britney Spears 'confused about marriage'

WASHINGTON, 1 Aug— Britney Spears is holding off planning her wedding because she isn't sure what type of wedding she wants.

The US 'X Factor' judge - who has been married twice before — is set to marry her former manager Jason Trawick and while he is keen to get married this Christmas, Britney is delaying plans as she is ''confused'' about whether she wants her nuptials to be huge or intimate.

A source told the National Enquirer that there is still no date or really even any plans in place yet, Contactmusic reported.

"Jason really hopes to get married around Christmas, and he wants to have a huge bash," the source said.

"Britney, on the other hand, is completely holding back from making any plans.

"Britney just isn't ready to commit to concrete plans, because she's not sure what the right thing to do is.

"She's confused. This is her third wedding, so she doesn't know whether she should go really big and make a huge statement or just do it super toned down," the source added.

Internet

Britney Spears

Jessica Biel writes poetry

LONDON, 1 Aug— Actress Jessica Biel, who is engaged to Justin Timberlake, says writing poems helps her stay in touch with her spiritual side.

"I like being able to write when I find the time to get into it. I love reading poetry and I have written poetry myself since I was in school," thesun.co.uk quoted Biel as saying.

"It's very calming and spiritual to be able to get in touch with emotions and states of mind to write poetry," she added.

The 30-year-old also loves spending time outdoors, which she believes stems from her upbringing.

Actress Jessica Biel,

"My father was always told me to go outside and appreciate nature. I was raised by hippie kind of parents and the wild and open spaces were something I was taught to value. I had a really great childhood and I still love being outdoors and having a healthy respect for nature," Biel said.—*Internet*

Lily Allen gripped by Olympic fever

LONDON, 1 Aug—Singer Lily Allen has been gripped by the Olympics fever, but is finding it tough to watch the Games with her male friends, who are rating athletes on their sex appeal.

"Watching Olympics with boys is unbearable. Female athletes are being scored on sex appeal only. Blood is boiling," tweeted the 27-year-old.

Allen was waiting to watch British diving pair Tom Daley and Peter Waterfield go for a gold medal Monday, reports contactmusic.com. In a series of tweets, she posted: "It's Tom Daley day! Go on Tom. And Pete, and all the other athletes competing."

Internet

Singer Lily Allen

Bill Murray colouring book published

CHICAGO, 1 Aug—"Thrill Murray: A Colouring-In Book Inspired by the Great Man of Cinema" will go on sale in the United States next month, its British publisher Belly Kids said.

The *Chicago Tribune* said the colouring book features 50 pages of interpretations of Murray, mostly by British artists, as he appeared on "Saturday Night Live" and in his films "Caddyshack," "Ghostbusters," "Groundhog Day" and "Rushmore."

The *Tribune* said editor Mike Coley came up with the idea to create the colouring book after a friend "went into an hourlong speech about why Bill was undoubtedly the sexiest man alive."

Coley said the resulting book is an expression of their admiration for Murray and "just a series of images inspired by the awesomeness of Bill."—*Internet*

Bill Murray takes a photo during the photocall for the film "Moonrise Kingdom" at the 65th annual Cannes International Film Festival in Cannes, France on 16 May, 2012.
INTERNET

Justin Bieber pens song for Selena Gomez

LOS ANGELES, 1 Aug— Singer Justin Bieber has reportedly written a new song for girlfriend singer Selena Gomez and her band The Scene.

Singer Justin Bieber

According to TV presenter Perez Hilton, the teen singer has even made singer Will.I.Am listen to it.

"He was like, 'Yeah, I wrote it for Selena.' It's great. And it was really awesome. It was really, really dope," contactmusic.com quoted Hilton as saying.

Gomez recently celebrated her 20th birthday with her boyfriend.

Internet

Johnny Depp ardent collector of celeb dolls

WASHINGTON, 1 Aug—Johnny Depp loves collecting celebrity dolls and has one of Lindsay Lohan with an electronic tag on her ankle.

''He owns dozens of limited edition Barbies. He's also got dolls based on Beyonce and Destiny's Child, the 'High School Musical' cast, New Kids on the Block, Elvis and even Donny Osmond," Contactmusic quoted a source as telling the *Daily Star*.

The insider also revealed that the 49-year-old even accessorises his dolls to reflect the goings on of showbiz news stories.

''The weirdest one is a Lindsay Lohan, complete with ankle monitoring bracelet from when she was under house arrest," the source revealed.

The strange hobby apparently helps the 'Pirates of the Caribbean' star take his mind off more serious matters.

Internet

Boxing: Tears spill, "Little Pacquiao" thrills

LONDON, 1 Aug—Boxing's smallest men took to the ring on Tuesday, bringing tears, the quickest knockout of the Games so far and the first sight of a thrilling Filipino who has trained with the great Manny Pacquiao.

The men's light-flyweights weigh no more than 49 kilogrammes and usually stand at just 162 centimeters (5 feet, four inches) but they can pack a punch as India's Devendro Singh Laishram proved in front of another packed house.

The 20-year-old from Manipur, who racked up the biggest score at last year's world amateur championships by notching up 40 points in three rounds, knocked Bayron Molina Figueroa down within a minute before forcing the Honduran into two standing counts. The referee eventually stopped the bout after two-and-a-half minutes.

"He wasn't a good boxer, I knew that, I'd sized him up. The coming rounds are going to get more difficult," the Indian, decked in luminous yellow boots, told reporters after his quick workout.

At 157 centimeters, Mark Barriga of the Philippines may be barely taller than the top rope in London's boxing arena but he made a big impression on Tuesday, showing off some lightning quick footwork and a rasping left hook. Ahead of the games, Barriga trained with the Philippines greatest sportsman Manny Pacquiao, the much decorated fighter who won professional world titles in eight different weight classes.

The 19-year-old, who has since been given the nickname 'Little Pacquiao', had far too much for fellow teenager Manuel Cappai, streaking to an easy 17-7 win and scoring almost half his points in a final round where he toyed with the Italian.

One light-flyweight who won't be joining the pair in Saturday's last 16 is France's Jeremy Beccu who could not hold back the tears as he spoke to reporters after losing 18 points to 17 to Birzhan Zhakypov of Kazakhstan.

"It's really unfair, I should have won. Nobody can convince me otherwise," said the 21-year-old from the northern town Auchel, who led by one point going into the final round. "I don't really understand it, the first round especially was given 6-6 and I clearly won it. I knew I had to fight against the judges also alas."—*Reuters*

India's Devendro Singh Laishram (R) fights against Honduras' Bayron Molina Figueroa in the Men's Light Fly (49kg) Round of 32 boxing match during the London 2012 Olympic Games on 31 July, 2012. —REUTERS

Phelps makes history with record 19th medal

LONDON, 1 Aug—Michael Phelps won the right to call himself the greatest Olympian of all time when the US team destroyed the field in the 4x200 metres freestyle relay on Tuesday to hand him his 19th medal.

Chinese prodigy Ye Shiwen won her second gold of the Games, setting an Olympic record in the 200m individual medley, after stunning swimming pundits with her victory and world record in the 400 medley on Saturday.

But the night belonged to Phelps, who swam the anchor leg of a relay that the Americans dominated from start to finish after Ryan Lochte handed them a commanding lead.

It was a historic moment in the 116-year annals of the modern Olympic Games, and an emotional one for Phelps, still a powerful force but no longer the commanding figure who won an unprecedented eight golds at the Beijing Games in 2008.—*Reuters*

Michael Phelps of the US holds his 19th Olympic medal after the US won the 4x100m freestyle relay final during the London 2012 Olympic Games. REUTERS

China's Tang fastest in 100m freestyle heats

LONDON, 1 Aug—China's Tang Yi set the pace in the preliminary rounds of the women's 100 metres freestyle at the London Olympics on Wednesday.

Tang swam a personal best time of 53.28 seconds to win her morning heat and finish first overall in the race to discover the fastest woman in water.

Australia's Melanie Schlanger, who won a relay gold medal on Saturday, won her heat in 53.50 to be second overall, just ahead of Denmark's Jeanette Ottesen Gray and Aliaksandra Herasimenia of Belarus, who dead-heated in last year's world championships final.

With the top 16 advancing to the evening semi-finals, there were no major casualties in the preliminaries although Australia's Cate Campbell and Sweden's Therese Alshammar both pulled out of their heats because of illness.

Campbell, who teamed up with Schlanger to win gold in the 4x100 freestyle final, withdrew because she was suffering a bout of gastro while Alshammar had a pinched nerve in her back.

Colorado teenager Missy Franklin qualified 10th, just two places behind her American team mate Jessica Hardy.

Reuters

China's Tang Yi swims in her women's 100m freestyle heat during the London 2012 Olympic Games.—REUTERS

Great Britain's Helen Glover (left) and Heather Stanning compete in the women's pair heats at the London Olympics.—INTERNET

Britain win first gold in women's pair

DORNEY, 1 Aug—Britain's Helen Glover and Heather Stanning stormed to victory in the women's Olympic pair on Wednesday to give the host nation their first gold medal of the 2012 London Olympics.

The win by clear water in front of 25,000 screaming fans was also the first Olympic gold medal to be won by a British women's crew.

The British duo had started as strong favorites for the title after dominating the international season and following their heat in which they set a new Olympic best time.

They jumped out to a length lead in the first 500 meters of the 2,000 meter course before extending that to win by clear water amid the deafening roar from the grandstands on the lake to the west of London. Australia took silver and New Zealand the bronze.—*Reuters*

International Sports

Le Clos slept with gold Olympic medal

London, 1 Aug—Chad le Clos slept with his gold medal on after edging out US Olympics legend Michael Phelps in the 200m butterfly final, his South Africa team-mate Oscar Pistorius revealed Wednesday.

Double amputee athlete Pistorius, dubbed the "Blade Runner", saw Le Clos in the lift heading down to breakfast the morning after Tuesday's night's thrilling victory over Phelps.

The 20-year-old swimmer was still wearing his gold medal and revealed he had not yet taken it off.

"I saw him in the lift this morning," Pistorius said.

"He had his medal around his neck, so I got to hold it and look at it. I said to him, 'where are you going?'. He said, 'oh, I'm going to the dining hall'.

"I was like, 'are you going to take your medal with you?' He said: 'I haven't taken it off since yesterday!' He slept with it around his neck!

"I don't know what's going to happen if he has another event. He'll have to swim with it strapped to his back."

Swimming: Soni tops 200m breaststroke heats

LONDON, 1 Aug—Rebecca Soni made the perfect start to the defense of her 200 meters breaststroke title when she set the fastest time in Wednesday's heats at the London Olympics.

The American showed no lingering effects of her narrow loss in the 100 breaststroke final two days ago as she glided her way through the pool to win her morning heat in a time of two minutes, 21.40 seconds.

She was more than a second, a big margin in elite swimming, ahead of her nearest rival, Denmark's Rikke Pedersen.

The top 16 advanced to Wednesday night's semi-finals from which the fastest eight will go through to Thursday night's final.

Reuters

South Africa's Chad Le Clos poses on the podium after winning the gold medal in the men's 200m butterfly final of the London Olympics on Tuesday.—INTERNET

Pistorius will become the first double amputee athlete to compete at an able-bodied Olympics when he lines up in the men's 400m.

He said Le Clos' efforts, beating Phelps into second place on a night when the American went on to claim a record 19th Olympic medal, boosted the South African team.

"Chad did a phenomenal job. As the youngster on the team he really stepped up and I don't think many in the world expected him to pip Phelps at the end like that," Pistorius said.—*Internet*

Unique server Ovtcharov Europe's last man

LONDON, 1 Aug—Few Olympians can claim to have a technique that has been heralded as one of Time magazine's inventions of the year.

But German table tennis player Dimitrij Ovtcharov's unique serve won that acclaim four years ago and he is hoping it can drive him to a shock win at the London 2012 Games.

Ovtcharov, ranked 12 in the world, beat Denmark's Michael Maze 4-3 in a tight and sometimes feisty match on Tuesday to move into the men's singles semi-final, where he is likely to face world number one China's Zhang Jike.

It leaves Ovtcharov, 23, as Europe's last hope in the singles competition.

"That was the most crucial game I've ever played, there were so many ups and downs," he said. "I lost control at one point, but something changed in the sixth set and I turned it round."

Kiev-born Ovtcharov won Olympic silver with German teammates in Beijing four years ago, bringing his serve to the attention of Time, which dubbed it "The New Ping-Pong Serve" in its list of the Best Inventions of 2008.

The German tries to befuddle his opponent by crouching low, springing back up and then slashing a backhand over. For variety, he tosses the ball high and plays a low forehand.

"The backhand serve is a big advantage against right hand players ... it was taught to me by my father, who was a great player," Ovtcharov said.

In Tuesday's first quarter-final Taiwan's Chuang Chih-Yuan thrashed his best friend, Romanian Adrian Crisan, 4-0.

"It makes it very difficult to play mentally," Chuang said of playing his mate. "I was sorry when I played him. It's like you are in a war and you have to kill your brother."

Chuang has gone further in his two previous Olympics and said he is confident of upsetting the Chinese favourites.

"I'm going in to win this match, I'm not afraid," he said.

Reuters

Germany's Dimitrij Ovtcharov celebrates a point against Denmark's Michael Maze in their men's singles quarterfinals table tennis match at the ExCel venue during the London 2012 Olympic Games.—REUTERS

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(2-8-12 09:30 am ~ 3-8-12 09:30 am) MST

* News
* Wazo Robe
* News
* Waso Festival, Auspicious Occasion of Myanmar
* News
* Fullmoon Day of Waso, Dhamma Cakka Day (Part-I)
* News
* Fullmoon Day of Waso, Dhamma Cakka Day (Part-II)
* News
* Chanmyay Yeiktha Medtation Centre (Chaw Dwin Gone)
* News
* Not Just a Bridge....But a comection of Humanity and Harmony
* News
* Four Greatest Places of Lord Buddha "Mingadawun-Delivering the first Discourse"
* News
* Social Protection Conference A Call to Action
* Myanmar Movie "Kamma"

MYANMAR TV

(2-8-2012) (Thursday)

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

7:40 am
2. Dhamma Puja Song

7:45 am
3. Vice Chairman Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Hinthada Moekaung Kyaungtaik Sayadaw

8:15 am
4. Nice & Sweet Song

8:25 am
5. Maha Wuntha Myat Buddha

4:00 pm
6. Martial Song

4:20 pm
7. Dhamma Cakka Thutta Reciting Competition (2st Prize Winner) (Than Lin) (B-E-H-S-1)

5:05 pm
8. Waso Pwe Taw

5:15 pm
9. Songs in honour of the month (Waso)

5:40 pm
10. Science and Environment

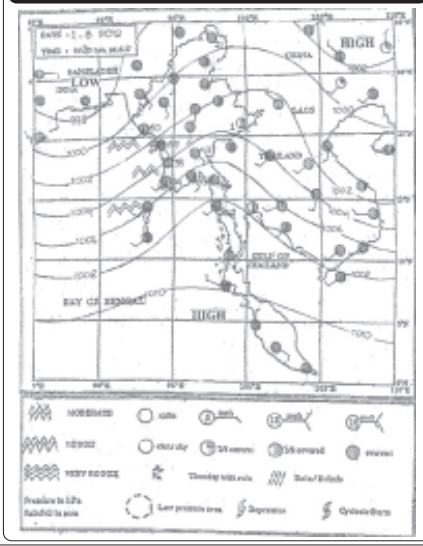
5:50 pm
11. Documentary

6:20 pm
12. Myanmar Series

6:35 pm
13. Approaching Science Discovery World

8:00 pm
14. News
15. Dhamma Sekkya by Sidagu Sayadaw
16. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 2nd August, 2012

Sr. No.		Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	32/90	26/79	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
2	Kayah	26/79	20/68	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
3	Kayin	25/77	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
4	Chin	25/77	18/64	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
5	Upper Sagaing	30/86	25/77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
6	Lower Sagaing	35/95	25/77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
7	Tanintharyi	26/79	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
8	Bago	31/88	24/75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
9	Magway	31/88	25/77	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)
10	Mandalay	35/95	26/79	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)
11	Mon	27/81	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
12	Yangon	32/90	22/72	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
13	Rakhine	30/86	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
14	Southern Shan	23/73	18/64	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
15	Northern Shan	29/84	21/70	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
16	Eastern Shan	30/86	22/72	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
17	Ayeyawady	27/81	24/75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	28/82	22/72	One or two rain or thundershowers	(100%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	32/90	22/72	One or two rain or thundershowers	(100%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	35/95	26/79	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today	During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing Region, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Mandalay and Magway Regions and Kayah State, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, fairly widespread in Bago and Yangon Regions, Kachin, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Tanintharyi Region, Rakhine and Mon States and isolated heavyfalls in Yangon Region and Kayin State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Gwa (5.31) inches, Kyaikmaraw (4.92) inches, Dawei (4.61) inches, Kyauktaw, Kawkareik and Thaton (3.50) inches each, Khayan and Mawlamyine and Launglon (3.03) inches each.
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	Monsoon is moderate to strong.

Exercise books donated to students in Yinmabin

YINMABIN, 1 Aug—Myanma Awba Co Ltd donated exercise books to Basic Education Primary School in Lapoh Village of Yinmabin Township in Sagaing Region on 18 July afternoon.

At first, Township Education Officer U Soe Myint Cho made a speech.

Next, an official explained the purpose of donation and sale agent U Maung Swe purpose of holding the ceremony.

Next, officials presented 96 dozens of exercise books worth K 316,800 for 96 students.—*Myanma Alin*

US Women's soccer team beats North Korea at the Summer Olympics

London, 1 Aug—The US women's soccer team beat North Korea on 31 July at the Olympic Games. The US earned a 1-0 victory and has accumulated a total of 9 points in the last three matches. Their next game will be against New Zealand on 3 Aug in the quarterfinals, and they have a strong chance of getting the gold medal at the Olympics.

Abby Wambach scored in the 25th minute of the July 31 match with North Korea and has reached a total of 141 career goals. She also received the honor of being the first woman from the US to make a goal at the Old Trafford. Wambach suffered a black eye in the previous match with Colombia, but her injury has been healing and did not affect her at this game.

The US clearly dominated North Korea during the entire game on 31 July. They controlled ball possession and made more shots. The light rain at the Old Trafford had no impact on them. The US made a total of 16 shots compared to North Korea's 3. In addition, goalie Hope Solo was not tested because their opponent rarely took chances.

It was possible for the US women's soccer team to leave the match with a higher score, but I think they deliberately avoided overexertion to save their efforts for the quarterfinals. Comments from coach Pia Sundhage confirm this idea because she mentioned they had "a chance to save some legs in the second half and we slowed down the game quite a bit." It was noticeable from the start of the match that North Korea did not pose a serious threat, and the US had no problems holding on to the lead.

Internet

Scientists unlock ocean CO2 secrets key to climate

A penguin swims near Arpoador beach in Rio de Janeiro on 5 July, 2012.
REUTERS

SINGAPORE, 1 Aug—From giant whirlpools to currents 1,000 km wide, scientists said on Monday they have uncovered how vast amounts of carbon are locked away in the depths of the Southern Ocean, boosting researchers ability to detect the impact of climate change.

Oceans curb the pace of climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels. The Southern Ocean is the largest of these ocean carbon sinks, soaking up about 40 percent of mankind's CO2 absorbed by the seas.

But until now, researchers were unsure what mechanisms were involved because of the remoteness and sheer size of the Southern Ocean.

"By identifying the mechanisms responsible for taking carbon out of the surface layer in the ocean, we're in a much better situation to talk about how climate change might impact that process," said oceanographer Richard Matear, one of the authors of the Southern Ocean study published in the journal Nature Geoscience.

The team of British and Australian scientists found that currents that take carbon from the surface to the depths occur at specific locations, not uniformly across the ocean as previously thought.

They found that a combination of winds, currents and whirlpools create conditions for carbon to be drawn down into the deep ocean to be locked away for decades to centuries. Some of the plunging currents were up to 1,000 km (600 miles) wide.

In other areas, currents return carbon to the atmosphere as part of a natural cycle.

But overall, the Southern Ocean is large net carbon sink, the authors say, calculating the area between 35 and 65 degrees south takes up the equivalent of 1.5 billion tonnes of CO2 a year, or more than the annual greenhouse gas emissions of Japan.

Scientists worry that a warming planet could disrupt this natural pattern by changing wind patterns and ocean currents.

Matear said by figuring how the Southern Ocean worked and using a new monitoring network of robotic ocean-going devices researchers will get a much better handle on how the seas between Australia and Antarctica are changing.

"Climate change will definitely interact with this process and modulate it," Matear, of Australia's state-funded Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, told *Reuters*.

Reuters

457 illegal residents held in UAE

ABU DHABI, 31 July—A total of 457 illegal residents have been nabbed in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in last few days during a country-wide hunt.

Among them, the maximum (268) were arrested in Abu Dhabi, 95 in Al Ain, 54 in Ajman and 40 in Ras Al Khaimah.

Assistant Under-secretary for Naturalisation, Residency and Ports Affairs, Major General Nasser bin Al Awadi Al Menhali hailed the public cooperation which facilitated tracking down of these people by the authorities.—*Internet*

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.

Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party leave for India

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—At the invitation of Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of Naval Staff of India Admiral Nirmal Verma (PVSM, AVSM, ADC), a Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing left here for India this morning by special aircraft of Myanmar Tatmadaw.

The Vice-Senior General and party were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, General Hla Htay Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Myat Hein and wife Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt, senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services was accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, senior military officers of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), officials, and Indian Defence Attaché to Myanmar Colonel Rajesh Kumar.—*MNA*

***Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing being seen off by officials on his departure for India.*—MNA**

Union Minister, diplomats observe recent situations in Rakhine State

Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanma Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay meets locals victims at Bandoola Hall of Alethankyaw Village in Maungtaw.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanma Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay, accompanied by Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, U Phone Swe and U Kyaw Kyaw Win, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situation in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana, ambassadors of foreign embassies and diplomats, heads of UN agencies and officials, responsible persons of Myanmar Islam Organization and religious leaders and departmental heads, left Yangon International Airport by special aircraft yesterday morning to witness acutal situations of Rakhine State and arrived at Sittway Airport at 9.30 am.

Accompanied by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko Naing, the Union Minister and party left for Alethankyaw Village of Maungtaw Township by helicopter. At the hall of Border Region Immigration Inspection Control Headquarters in Alethankyaw Village of Maungtaw Township, Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay explained occurrances in Rakhine State, supply of relief aids to the victims at relief camps, rehabilitation process, and tasks being carried out for ensuring peace and stability, relief, resettlement and rehabilitation.

At Bandoola Hall, they cordially comforted the victims. As the diplomatic observers asked of the actual situations, the victims explained occurrance of unrests. After that, the Union Minister presented bags of rice and foodstuffs to the victims at the camp.

On arrival at Mawrawady Village of Maungtaw Township, the Union Minister explained the design of houses to be rebuilt in the places of 109 burnt houses to the diplomatic observers. They viewed completion of houses and spoke words of encouragement to the villagers.

At Shweyinaye Village, they viewed the burnt houses and reconstruction of houses.

At the hall of Maungtaw District General Administration Department, the Union Minister, the deputy ministers and observers heard reports on occurrance of unrests in Maungtaw Township, peace and stability process, relief and resettlement tasks presented by Deputy Commissioner U Aung Myint Soe. The Union Minister replied to queries raised by the delegation members.

They visited Aungmye Bawdi Sasana Yeiktha relief camp and 4th-Mile relief camp in Kahnyindan Myoma Village-tract.

(See page 9)

London 2012 Olympics medal tally

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	United States	10	8	8	26
2	China	14	7	4	25
3	Japan	1	4	9	14
4	France	4	3	4	11
5	Germany	3	6	2	11
6	Russia	2	3	5	10
7	South Korea	4	2	3	9
8	Italy	3	4	2	9
9	Great Britain	2	2	4	8
10	Australia	1	4	2	7
11	Ukraine	2	0	3	5
12	Romania	1	2	2	5
13	Canada	0	1	4	5
14	North Korea	3	0	1	4
15	Kazakhstan	3	0	0	3
16	Brazil	1	1	1	3
16	Hungary	1	1	1	3
16	Netherlands	1	1	1	3
19	Colombia	0	2	1	3
20	South Africa	2	0	0	2
21	Mexico	0	2	0	2
22	Indonesia	0	1	1	2
23	New Zealand	0	0	2	2
23	Slovakia	0	0	2	2
25	Georgia	1	0	0	1
25	Lithuania	1	0	0	1
25	Slovenia	1	0	0	1
28	Taiwan	0	1	0	1
28	Cuba	0	1	0	1
28	Czech Republic	0	1	0	1
28	Denmark	0	1	0	1
28	Egypt	0	1	0	1
28	Poland	0	1	0	1
28	Sweden	0	1	0	1
28	Thailand	0	1	0	1
36	Azerbaijan	0	0	1	1
36	Belgium	0	0	1	1
36	Greece	0	0	1	1
36	India	0	0	1	1
36	Mongolia	0	0	1	1
36	Norway	0	0	1	1
36	Qatar	0	0	1	1
36	Moldova	0	0	1	1
36	Serbia	0	0	1	1
36	Singapore	0	0	1	1
36	Uzbekistan	0	0	1	1