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True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.

* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

To improve socio-economic status of farmers, firm commitment sine qua non for development of agricultural sector

Vice-President U Nyan Tun visits high-yield hybrid rice plantations

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug— Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun attended a ceremony to complete planting Palethwe high-yield hybrid rice on the 440-acre at the Village of Alyinlo in Maezaligon Village-tract in Pyinmana Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area today.

At the ceremony, dawn meal was offered to Sayadaws and Members of the Sangha from Nay Pyi Taw Council Area at the briefing hall of the 440-model rice field.

During the ceremony, the congregation led by Vice-President U Nyan Tun received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw of Maha Ledi San Monastery in Pyinamana Ganda Vacaka Panditta Bhaddanta Eindra Vudha and donated offertories to them.

After the ceremony, the Vice-President visited the model rice field and viewed compound fertilizer, herbicides and rice strains including Palethwe rice, Basmati rice and ZH rice strain and groundnuts, sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, hybrid corn and beans and pulses.

The Vice-President presented clothes to female transplanters who completed the planting in the model farmland.

He also viewed the turbine installed at the 10-KW hydro power plant which supplies power to 20 households in the village.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun and party visited the 100-acre Basmati rice plantation at Tegyigon Village in Zabuthiri Township by KMA Co Ltd.

Myanmar has about 50 million acres of farmland and 13 million acres are put under rice in the rainy season.

As part of efforts for boosting per acre yield for the food security in the country and doubling income of farmers, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has been trying to grow good quality strains of seeds and to apply modern farming methods, said U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, in his report to the Vice-President.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President U Nyan Tun said that the government would step up its efforts for development of rural areas and poverty alleviation in the second phase of reform.

(See page 7)

Vice-President U Nyan Tun at 100-acre Basmati hybrid model rice plantation of KMA Co Ltd in Tegyigon Village of Zabuthiri Township.—MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw receives MP of Prosperous Justice Party of Indonesia and party

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint receives MP Dr Hidayat Nur Wahid of Prosperous Justice Party of Indonesia and party at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received MP Dr Hidayat Nur Wahid of Prosperous Justice Party of Indonesia and party at the Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex here at 4 pm today.

Also present on the occasion together with the Speaker were chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw committees, secretaries and members, officials of the Hluttaw Office.

At the meeting, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint clarified measures being taken by the government as regards the recent incidents in Rakhine State to the visiting delegation led by MP Dr Hidayat Nur Wahid who expressed his thanks for the clarification and blessed the brethren of Buddhists and Muslims in Rakhine State.

After the meeting, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and party had a documentary photo taken together with the visiting delegation led by MP Dr Hidayat Nur Wahid of Prosperous Justice Party of Indonesia.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 23 August, 2012

Be serious about traffic rules for road safety

With a series of changes going through in the country plus a significant economic growth, there is a growing number of vehicles that have become a part of life. So, it is required to take measures for safety of commuters and pedestrians whose lives have been put in danger by traffic accidents.

Now, roads inside and outside cities have been upgraded to better facilities for swift and smooth transportation, and there are frequent road accidents owing to some drivers' violation of traffic rules, reckless driving and driving under the influence.

In particular, drivers of passenger buses and ferry buses have to drive carefully in order to avert possible accidents. In this context, bus drivers should be really serious about traffic rules such as trying to overtake each other, taking too long at bus stops and using wrong roads or lanes to overtake other buses.

Pedestrians are something involved in road accidents as they fail to take zebra crossing, walking on roads rather than on pavements and crossing roads showing a total disregard of traffic rules. Each year, road accidents are largely due to reckless driving and so also are negligence of some pedestrians and mechanical problems.

Those responsible including members of the Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee are to try their best to cope with traffic jams and congestions which are a common sight in addition to giving a good knowledge of traffic rules and consequences of road accidents to drivers and road-users.

Therefore, those who make their daily appearance on roads should know well and follow traffic rules for road safety which has turned out to be an uphill battle.

My wife's short-to-the-point message to the son abroad for the sake of cutting phone bill

Fit and fine. And remit cash. Need it soonest. Ok, yep!

Cartoon *Maung Maung Lay*

Public companies, indispensable minimum foundation for capital market

***Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe makes a speech at proposals for buying shares in microfinance service of to-be-established Citizen's a Business Public Company and New City Development Public Company.*—MNA**

YANGON, 22 Aug—A ceremony to submit proposals for buying shares in microfinance service of to-be-established citizen's business public company and new city development Public Company was held at Cooperatives Bank Ltd Office in Saya San Plaza in Bahan Township yesterday noon.

Speaking on the occasion, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said that though Myanmar had practiced market economy since 1988, there had been a few number of public companies. It is high time the country established public companies for emergence of capital market in its drive for economic development.

New City Development Project would enable the participation of the entire public in implementing regional development and urban development undertakings as part of second wave economic reforms of the State.

Next, Chairman of Cooperatives Bank Ltd and Kaung Myanmar Aung Group of Companies U Khin Maung Aye and Vice-chairman of Kaung Myanmar Aung Co Ltd U Kyaw Tint Swe clarified focal points about the public companies.

Those present raised queries, followed by share proposal presentation of some businessmen.

MNA

Basic Diplomatic Skill course concludes

***Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint addresses at Basic Diplomatic Skills (28/2012).*—MNA**

YANGON, 22 Aug—The Graduation Ceremony of the Certificate Course and Basic Diplomatic Skills (28/2012) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at Wunzin Minyaza Hall of the Ministry at 10 am, today, with a closing address delivered by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint.

Also present on the occasion were Directors-General and responsible officials of the Departments under the Ministry, retired Myanmar Ambassadors, senior diplomats, professors and instructors as well as trainees.

The 12-week course comprises contemporary international affairs, holding international conferences, negotiation skills, international law, international economic relations, international etiquette, diplomatic and official correspondence and communication skills, among others and it was attended by 199 trainees.

It was also learnt that the Simulation of Formal Banquet was held at the Park Royal Hotel at 6:30 pm today as part of the curriculum of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, U Maung Myint attended the said occasion.—*MNA*

UMFCCI course concludes

YANGON, 22 Aug— A concluding of courses conducted by Human Resources Development Work Committee of the Republices of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), was held at UMFCCI Office Tower on Minyekyawswa road in Lanmadaw Township on 18 August.

At the ceremony, UMFCCI General Secretary Chairman Dr Myo Thet of Human Resources Development Work Committee made a concluding speech. After that Dr Myo Thet, CEC members, executive, course instructors presented certificates and outstanding awards.

A total of about 400 trainees are from office management course, international trade course, systematic distribution & management course, advanced sales and marketing course, business English course, human resource management course, financial management course, attracting investment for ventures growth: private and public course. —*MNA*

***U Zaw Win & Daw Khin Shein (Santhit family) on Market Street, Ward-2 in Hmawby Township, Yangon Region in memory of late both sides parents donated K 300,000 to Hninzigone Home for the Aged through EC Vice-Chairman U Aung Than recently.*—NLM**

Cash donated to SDCC

YANGON, 22 Aug—The nourishment treatment, providing stationery and cash assistance to Shwegondine Day Care Center was held at its center, here, on 19 August.

It was attended by trainees from EMPA 9th, EMPA 10th, MPA 11th, MPA 12th and MPA 13th Batch and Professor Daw Htay Htay Lwin of Applied Economic Department of Yangon Institute of Economics.

The Professor donated cash assistance to the Center through Staff Officer Daw Khin Mar Aye of the center.

The professor and trainees donated K 683,250.

MNA

Ecuador's leader says open to talks with Britain on Assange

QUITO, 22 Aug — Ecuador is ready to negotiate over the fate of Julian Assange if Britain withdraws a threat to raid its embassy in London where the WikiLeaks founder has sought refuge, President Rafael Correa said on Tuesday. Ecuador was incensed by a veiled British threat to enter the embassy to arrest the 41-year-old former computer hacker, who is trying to avoid extradition to Sweden, where he is wanted for questioning over allegations of rape and sexual assault. Correa has offered Assange asylum and told Britain to let him leave the embassy and fly to the South American country.

The leftist leader said Assange, who has been in the building for nine weeks, was welcome to stay there "indefinitely," but also said he was open to discussions. "Despite that rude, impertinent and unacceptable remark we're still open to dialogue," Correa told reporters in the coastal city of Guayaquil. "We don't expect an apology, but of course we expect Britain to retract the extremely serious mistake they made when they issued the threat that they could violate our diplomatic mission to arrest Mr Julian Assange." Foreign ministers from across Latin America broadly backed Quito's position as the government rallied regional support at a series of high-level meetings in Ecuador over the weekend.

Correa says he shared Assange's fears that from Sweden he could be further extradited to the United States and face charges there. His WikiLeaks website published a barrage of secret army documents and diplomatic cables in 2010 that exposed Washington's power-broking around the world.Correa has portrayed the saga as a struggle between a small country and "imperialist" powers, the United States and Britain. Local analysts say that playing up the "colonial" angle helps burnish Correa's anti-US credentials and could lift his ratings. It also plays well with his ally Venezuela's socialist President Hugo Chavez, the biggest critic of Washington in the region. Correa, a 49-year-old economist, has become popular with many Ecuadoreans by building hospitals and schools, and for programmes of cash handouts for the poor. He is well placed to win re-election next year if — as widely expected — he runs.

Wikileaks founder Julian Assange speaks to the media outside the Ecuador embassy in west London on on 19 Aug, 2012. REUTERS

Ecuador has said it might take the dispute over Assange to the International Court of Justice in The Hague. But it wants to convince London that it should let the Australian citizen travel to Ecuador, or give him written guarantees that he would not be extradited to the United States. Correa's government says there have been no talks since 15 August. Assange, whose platinum hair and friendships with the rich and famous have helped make him a global celebrity, spoke from the balcony of the embassy on Sunday. He denounced what he called a US "witch hunt" targeting him, but did not mention the accusations made against him by two women.

That omission infuriated many in Sweden, who say the sex crime allegations by two WikiLeaks supporters in 2010 have played second fiddle to unwarranted theories of a US-led conspiracy to extradite Assange with the help of allies in Europe. Correa said Ecuador never intended to stop Assange from facing justice in Sweden. "What we've asked for is guarantees that he won't be extradited to a third country," he said.— *Reuters*

US economic confidence remains at low level

WASHINGTON, 22 Aug — Americans continue to have both a negative view of current US economic conditions and a bleak outlook for the economic prospects, according to a Gallup poll released on Tuesday. The Gallup Economic Confidence index stood at -28 for the week ending on 19 August, basically unchanged from the previous week, the poll said.

Gallup reached the conclusion based on the result from a random sampling of more than 3,000 adults, with 2 percentage points in the margin of error. Americans' economic confidence has been low for most of the summer so far, with weekly averages hovering within a range between -23 and -29 since 11 June. Prior to that, Americans had been somewhat more optimistic, and the weekly average of -16 in late May represented the highest confidence reading of the year.

Gallup's Economic Confidence Index consists of two measures — one assessing current economic conditions and the other assessing the nation's economic outlook. Americans' perceptions of current economic conditions worsened to -30 last week, down two digits from the previous week, with 43 percent of respondents considering the economy to be poor and 13 percent rating it excellent or good.

Sixty percent of Americans believed the economy is getting worse, compared with 35 percent who said it is getting better, yielding an economic outlook rating of -25, a slight improvement from the previous week. With the first of the two back-to-back presidential nominating conventions about to begin next week, voters' views of the economy will take on increasingly political importance, said Gallup, which stressed its past surveys over the summer of 2012 showed no signs of any upward shift in Americans' economic optimism.

Xinhua

Greece's Prime Minister Antonis Samaras (C) leaves his office after a meeting with coalition party leaders in Athens on 1 Aug, 2012. — REUTERS

Greece needs more time to reform, PM Samaras tells paper

BERLIN, 22 Aug — Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras wants international lenders to give his indebted country more time to complete reforms that have been demanded as a condition for financial aid, he told Germany's *Bild* newspaper. Samaras, who meets Eurogroup chief Jean-Claude Juncker on Wednesday and French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel later this week, said that would help Greece return to growth.

Samaras, leading a country in its fifth year of recession at a time when social and political discontent are rising, is keen to soften the impact of budget cuts on society by seeking more time to push through his reforms." Let me be very explicit: we demand no additional money. We stand by our commitments and by fulfilling all our requirements. We have to crank up growth because that decreases the financial gaps," Samaras told *Bild* newspaper's Wednesday edition. "All we want is a bit of 'air to breathe' to get the economy running and to increase state income. More time does not automatically mean more money."

Samaras had been expected to lobby for Greece to be given two more years to get its budget deficit below three percent of GDP — currently scheduled for end-2014 — but he did not say how much more time he wanted. The deficit was 9.3 percent of GDP in 2011. Samaras said Greece, which has been bailed out twice, was making progress on the tough reforms that creditors have demanded but acknowledged much had gone wrong in the past. "We will soon have a smaller, healthier and significantly more efficient public service," he said. "We are making progress, we are reducing the overall number of public servants and I have decided to hire only one person for every 10 retired civil servants."—*Reuters*

People take part in an anti-terror exercise at the Seoul Station in Seoul, South Korea, on 21 Aug, 2012. South Korean military, civilians and government missions participated in the anti-terror exercise, part of the South Korea-US joint military exercise, code-named "Ulchi Freedom Guardian". XINHUA

UN atomic watchdog in new bid to unblock Iran probe

VIENNA , 22 Aug — The UN nuclear watchdog will try to persuade Iran to address questions about its suspected nuclear weapons research at a meeting on Friday, more than two months after previous talks ended in failure. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) issued a brief statement confirming the talks, to be held at Iran's diplomatic mission in Vienna, after diplomats told *Reuters* earlier on Tuesday that they expected a new meeting on that day.

The talks, to be attended by senior IAEA officials, will take place just a few days before the UN agency is due to issue its latest quarterly report on Iran's disputed nuclear programme. They could give Iran a last minute chance to influence the content of the report if it were to offer concessions to UN inspectors seeking access to sites, officials and documents they say they need to conduct their long-stalled inquiry. However, Western diplomats said they did not expect any breakthrough. Iran denies Western allegations it is seeking to develop nuclear weapons technology.

But its refusal to curb and be more transparent about its nuclear activity has led to increasingly tough sanctions and sparked speculation that Israel, Teheran's arch foe, might attack Iranian nuclear sites.

Iran "will try something", one of the diplomats said. But, "I don't see any bridging of the differences on the issues that were outstanding" in the last meeting on 8 June. The IAEA said its delegation would be led by Herman Nackaerts, its chief inspector, and Rafael Grossi, assistant director general for policy. The IAEA report — which is expected to say Teheran is pressing ahead with its uranium enrichment programme — will be submitted to the agency's 35-nation governing board, which meets on 10-14 September with Iran likely to again dominate the agenda.

The IAEA has failed in a series of high-profile meetings with Iran since January to make it end its stonewalling of the agency's inquiry.

Reuters

Turkish Embassy in Sweden evacuated due to suspicious package

STOCKHOLM, 22 Aug— The Turkish Embassy in Stockholm was evacuated on Tuesday evening due to a suspicious package found outside the embassy, reported Swedish media.

The package was found at 17:40 local time (1640 GMT) outside the Turkish Embassy which was located at Dag Hammarskjolds Road in the eastern part of Stockholm city. Staffs in the embassy were evacuated to an area nearby about 50 minutes later.

According to Swedish daily *Dagens Nyheter(DN)*, the bomb disposal officers were still on the way and people in a building near there were asked not to stay near windows towards the Turkish Embassy. "We still don't know if there is any threat related to the package," said Albin Naverberg from local police department to DN.— *Xinhua*

Policemen gather outside the Turkish Embassy in Stockholm, on 21 Aug, 2012.—XINHUA

Skype adds photo sharing in latest iOS update

SAN FRANCISCO, 22 Aug—Skype announced on Tuesday that it's adding photo-sharing capabilities to its iPhone and iPad apps, as well as improve the app's performance.

Photo sharing lets users to send pictures from your iOS device directly to other Skype users. According to the company's official blog, files of all sizes are accepted without needing to worry about reaching email size limits or paying pricey texting fees. Skype has also made changes to make the apps to run more smoothly. "We've made them less battery hungry when running in the background, so you'll now be able to answer Skype calls throughout the day when they come in," Skype said. "And, as you'll be able to keep Skype open, you can respond to or send IMs to friends and colleagues all day long." The company said it has also tried to make the app and contact list load even faster. The latest update — which supports any version of the iPad, as well as the iPhone 3G/3GS, the iPhone 4/4S and the second- and third-generation iPod Touch — is now available in the App Store.—*Internet*

BONUS: *10 Skype Chat Tricks for Power Users*

1. Change the Font and Text Size

Skype's default text size for chat is teeny. However, you can easily make it larger — and even change the type of font used. Go to the Tools menu at the top of your Skype screen and select Options. On the left-hand side menu, click on IM & SMS, then IM appearance. Now hit the Change font button and you can customize to your preference.

2. Change How a Contact's Name Is Displayed

You can adjust how someone's name appears on Skype, a handy tool if you want to differentiate between contacts with the same or similar names.

In the Contacts view, simply click on the person whose name you want to change. This will open a new window to the right with his name at the top.

Hover over his name and you'll see a little notepad and paper icon appear.

3. Hide the Typing Indicator

When in a Skype Chat with someone, you can see when the other person is typing (a moving pencil appears) and also when they are deleting (the pencil starts rubbing out).

If you'd rather people

did not see your entries and deletions before you message them, you can turn this option off.

Go to Tools > Options > IM & SMS > IM settings, then click on Show advanced options. Now just uncheck the Show when I am typing option.

4. Set Up Keyword Notifications

You can manage the Windows tray notifications and other alerts you receive when signed into Skype through the Tools, Options, Notifications/Alerts menus, but what's really cool is that you can set up keyword notifications for IM conversations.

When in a chat window, click on the Conversation menu, then select Notification settings. You can then enter the keywords you'd like to set up notifications for.

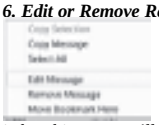
Now when the word is mentioned, you'll get alerted instantly. The word will also be highlighted in the chat window, so you can see it at a glance.

5. Quickly Edit Your Last Message

If you notice a typo in a message the moment after you send it, it's very simple to edit. Just hit the Up arrow and the message will appear back in the edit box.

Make the changes you need to and hit Send message to resend the edited version.

6. Edit or Remove Recent Messages



Alternatively, if you notice a typo in a message a few IMs later, you can still edit it, but this way you'll have to right-click on the message to do so.

You can also delete messages in the same way.

However, when you do edit a message, a little pencil icon appears next to it to indicate the change.

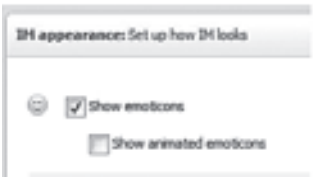
When you delete a message, a notification indicates "This message has been removed" and a trash can icon appears.

7. Stop Animated Emoticons

If animated emoticons really annoy you, stop the animation and just view static icons.

To set this up, head to Tools > Options > IM & SMS > IM appearance.

Here you can select to see animated icons or more sedate versions.



8. Display Multiple Chat Windows

person at a time, the standard view can be a little restrictive.

There is a simple way to have multiple chat windows open. Go to the View menu, then select Compact View.

To change it back, go through the same process and select Default View.

9. Create Line Breaks

By default in Skype Chat, if you press the Enter key, whatever you have typed will send as a message.

If you want to create a line break, hold down the Shift key then press Enter.

Alternatively, if you'd like this swapped over permanently, you can easily make that change. Go to Tools > Options > IM & SMS > IM settings > Show advanced options. Here you can decide whether you'd like the Enter key to send your IM or to insert a line break.

10. Use Some Hidden Emoticons

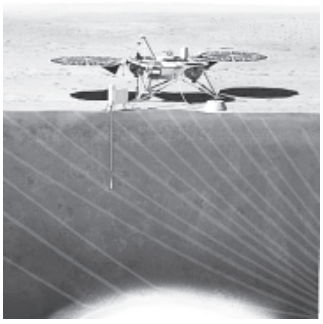
The common Skype emoticons can be accessed by clicking on the smiley at the top of the compose message box, but there are tons more you can use.

Here are some of our favorites. See below for how to generate them (from from left to right.)

(wfh) (bug) (drunk) (rock) (poolparty) (rain) (headbang) (fubar) (swear) (talk) (e) (o) (~) (mp) (skype)

Mars rover Curiosity prepares for test drive

LOS ANGELES, 22 Aug—Scientists on Tuesday prepared to send *Curiosity* on its first test drive over the billion-year-old rocks of Mars and said a busted wind sensor won't jeopardize its mission of determining whether life could exist there.



***This image provided by NASA shows an artist rendition of the proposed InSight (Interior exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport) Lander. After driving all around Mars with four rovers, NASA wants to look deep into the guts of the red planet.—*INTERNET**

Engineers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena turned four of the rover's six wheels in place this week in a successful "wheel wiggle" to test the steering for Wednesday's trek, mission manager Mike Watkins said.

"We are go for our first drive tomorrow," Watkins said.

The rover will move forward about 10 feet (3 metres), turn right, then back up and park slightly to the left of its old spot, Watkins said.

"You will definitely see tracks," he said.

The test drive is part of a health checkup the rover has been undergoing since arriving on 5 Aug. Eventually, the rover could roam hundreds of feet a day over the ancient crater where it landed.

Meanwhile, researchers discovered the damaged wind sensor while checking out instruments that *Curiosity* will use to check the Martian weather and soil.

The cause of the damage wasn't known, but one possibility is that pebbles thrown up by *Curiosity*'s descent fell onto the sensor's delicate, exposed circuit boards and broke some wires, said Ashwin Vasavada, deputy project scientist for *Curiosity*.

Internet

Endangered whales invade California coastal waters

SANTA CRUZ, Calif, 22 Aug—Grab your camera and binoculars: There's rarely been a better time to go whale-watching off the California coast.

Tourists from around the world have been flocking to Monterey Bay to catch a glimpse of the massive marine mammals, including impressive numbers of blue whales, the largest animals on earth.

Longtime observers say they've seen a sharp increase in endangered blue and humpback whales feeding near California shores, where they spend the spring and summer before heading to their winter breeding grounds off Mexico and Central America.

"It's phenomenal that these humongous creatures are out there and we just get to go out on a boat and go out and watch them," said Santa Cruz resident Susan Stuart after a recent whale-watching cruise.

What's bringing the whales so close to shore? A bumper harvest of their favourite food: tiny, shrimplike critters known as krill.

Strong northwest winds have been pushing up cold, nutrient-rich waters from the ocean bottom — a phenomenon known as upwelling. That has fueled blooms of phytoplankton that have led to an explosion of krill, the main food source of blue and humpback whales.

"The season overall has been pretty exceptional and we're not done," said Nancy Black, a marine biologist with Monterey Bay Whale Watch, which offers bay cruises twice daily.—*Internet*

***In an undated photo provided on 21 Aug, 2012, by Captain David Anderson's Dolphin and Whale Safari in Dana Point, Calif., spectators watch whales off the coast of southern California.—*INTERNET**

Wall Street slips after S&P 500 hits four-year high

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Aug, 2012.
REUTERS

NEW YORK, 22 Aug— Stocks fell on Tuesday after the S&P 500 hit its highest level in four years as the benchmark index faced technical resistance and traders cashed in recent gains.

The S&P 500 index hit 1,426.68, its highest intraday rise since May 2008. Volume has been light, as expected in August, and only three of the past 12 sessions have seen moves of 0.25 percent or more by the S&P.

"It's not uncommon that you run into some resistance at new highs," said Jim Paulsen, chief investment officer at Wells Capital Management in Minneapolis.

"Traders sort of play for a while to see which way the market is ultimately going to resolve itself."

Stocks rose early in the session and the euro rallied to a seven-week high against the US dollar, bolstered by talk that the European Central Bank will act to lower Spanish and Italian borrowing costs.

Bets on action from central banks in support of their stalling economies have helped move stocks higher.

However, US stocks lost momentum after the first hour as traders took profits.

The slow but steady climb over the past six weeks was partly due to better-than-expected data, including payrolls, retail sales and housing numbers that countered a previous string of disappointments.

"The US economy is showing signs of picking up again," said Wells Capital's Paulsen.

Still, he said major indexes will likely stall until the end of the month. He sees equities "teetering around this high until September, then we decide if the market is indeed making a move higher or if it's going to fail."

The Federal Reserve and ECB hold separate policy meetings next month that could decide whether further stimulus to the US recovery and measures to control the euro zone debt crisis are coming.

Reuters

China's crude oil output rises slightly

BEIJING, 22 Aug—China's crude oil production increased only 0.6 percent year on year to 17.24 million metric tons in July as the current economic slowdown dampened fuel demand in the country, according to data released by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) on Monday.

Chinese oil producers refined 34.16 million metric tons of crude oil, up 1.5 percent year on year, but oil product output increased 4 percent from a year earlier to 21.46 million metric tons, said the NDRC, China's top economic planner.

Meanwhile, the country's consumption of refined oil grew 4.4 percent to 21.86 million metric tons.

Xinhua

Hong Kong stocks close down 0.82 pct by midday

HONG KONG, 22 Aug—Hong Kong stocks moved down 165.11 points, or 0.82 percent to close on Wednesday's morning session at 19,934.98 points.

Xinhua

Nikkei opens 0.27 pct lower

TOKYO, 22 Aug—Nikkei opened lower on Wednesday following overnight falls on Wall Street.

In the first 15 minutes of trading, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average fell 24.36 points, or 0.27 percent, from Tuesday to 9,132.56.

The broader Topix index of all First Section issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange shed 1.63 points, or 0.21 percent, to 763.63.

Xinhua

China stock index futures open mixed Wednesday

BEIJING, 22 Aug— China's stock index futures opened mixed on Wednesday, with the contract for settlement in September, the most actively traded, down 1.4 points to open at 2,321.6.

The contract for settlement in October dropped 0.2 point to open at 2,33.48, and the December contract opened flat at 2,362.2.

The contract for settlement in March 2013 rose 5.2 points to open at 2,403.

The stock-index contracts, agreements to buy or sell the Hushen 300 Index at a present value on an agreed date, are designed to allow investors to bet on and profit from either gains or declines in the market.

The index futures were launched at the China Financial Futures Exchange (CFFEX) and started trading from 16 April 2010.

The CFFEX has set the base value for all the four contracts at 3,399 points.

Xinhua

Tobacco ad blitz as New Zealand plans branding ban

LONDON, 22 Aug— British American Tobacco (BAT) launched an advertising campaign in New Zealand on Wednesday opposing plans to introduce plain packaging, in a move the government immediately dismissed as a waste of money.

New Zealand announced in-principle support for plain packaging in April and has enthusiastically welcomed world-first legislation in Australia forcing tobacco to be sold in drab, uniform packaging with graphic health warnings.

However, the proposal will not be formally adopted in New Zealand until the government finishes public consultations on the issue, prompting BAT to launch an advertising blitz aimed at winning support for its cause.

The campaign — which includes print, radio and television advertisements, along with a website agreedisagree.co.nz — has the slogan: "We agree that tobacco is harmful. We disagree that plain packaging will work."

BAT New Zealand general manager Steve Rush said plain packaging infringed on his company's intellectual property and set a dangerous precedent that could eventually spread to other products such as alcohol.

"The branding on our packs has been created over many years and it belongs to us… the government shouldn't be able to just take that away," he said, declining to reveal the budget for the campaign.

Rush said there was no proof that plain packaging reduced smoking and it could backfire by fuelling an illegal market in tobacco products and forcing down prices.

"It's unsound policy and potentially counter-productive," he added.

Rush refused to rule out legal action if the plan went ahead. However, tobacco companies adopted the same tactic in Australia and were defeated last week in a landmark ruling.

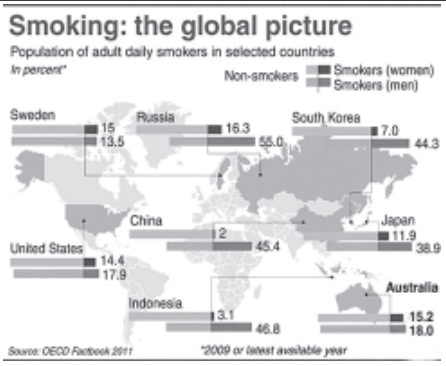
Health Minister Tony Ryall did not believe BAT would sway public opinion.

"I don't know why they're wasting their money," he said.

"They can take whatever actions they want... but I think New Zealanders have moved on from being influenced in this way. There's a lot of support for what the government is doing with tobacco."

The public consultation on plain packaging ends in October, with a final decision expected a few months later.

Internet



Graphic showing smoking rates in selected countries worldwide.—INTERNET

Smoking during pregnancy tied to kids' asthma

NEW YORK, 22 Aug— Children whose mothers smoked during pregnancy may have an increased risk of asthma — even if they were not exposed to secondhand smoke after birth, a large study of European children suggests.

Many studies have found that secondhand smoke may worsen kids' asthma symptoms, or possibly raise their risk of developing the lung disease in the first place.

But it's been less clear if smoking during pregnancy is linked to asthma. Most studies have not been able to tease out the possible effects from those of secondhand smoke after birth.

The new study, however, had a large enough group of kids who were exposed to smoking in the womb, but not after birth, according to the researchers.

And it found that those children were two-thirds more likely to have asthma by age six, versus kids whose moms did not smoke during pregnancy. Even smoking during the first trimester alone was linked to higher asthma risk.

The findings cannot prove that prenatal smoking was the cause.

But there are already plenty of reasons for women who are planning to have a baby to quit smoking, said Anna Bergstrom, a researcher at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm who worked on the study.

Smoking during pregnancy is linked to increased risks of miscarriage, low birth weight, certain birth defects and other pregnancy complications.

Reuters

A woman smokes a cigarette in Los Angeles, California. Somking during pregnancy tied to kid's asthma.
REUTERS

Summer lightening kills three in Ukraine

KIEV, 22 Aug—Three people were killed when summer lightning struck a bus stop near a village in southern Ukraine, authorities said on Monday.

Two males and a female were killed on Sunday at the bus stop near Krasnoarmejskoe village in the eastern Crimean peninsula after lightening hit.

Lightning strikes have killed at least eight Ukrainians so far this year, while around 10 people were injured.

Lightning, which frequently occurs during rainy summers, kills an average of 18 people annually in Ukraine and often causes fire, especially in the rural areas.

According to local experts, people's poor awareness of protecting themselves from lightening strikes is the main cause of the deaths.—*Xinhua*

Photo illustration shows a Qantas Boeing 747 taking off from the Sydney International Airport. Qantas Airways said on Tuesday it had suspended two pilots after they were reportedly involved in a heated argument in the cockpit of their Boeing 747 at Dallas airport .
INTERNET

Qantas pilots suspended after cockpit row

SYDNEY, 22 Aug— Australia's Qantas Airways said on Tuesday it had suspended two pilots after they were reportedly involved in a heated argument in the cockpit of their *Boeing 747* at Dallas airport.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* said the captain and second officer on the *747-400* due to make a long-haul flight to Brisbane last week were told they could not fly after disagreeing about the take-off calculations they needed to use.

"A captain and second officer have been withheld from service pending an investigation," a Qantas spokeswoman told *AFP*, without providing further details.

But Qantas said the flight was delayed by severe weather, not because of any altercation.

"Qantas flight QF8 from Dallas/Fort Worth to Brisbane on 14 August was delayed overnight as a result of severe thunderstorms in the Dallas area," the spokeswoman said.

The flight subsequently left on 15 August, reportedly after replacement pilots were brought in.

The *Herald* said the original pilots were close to hitting their 20-hour duty limits because of earlier weather delays, and that Qantas managers heard of their argument after bringing in the relief crew.

The incident comes just weeks after a Qantas pilot was suspended pending an investigation after she failed an alcohol test.

The pilot was removed from a passenger flight due to travel from Sydney to Brisbane just minutes before take-off over concerns she had been drinking.

Qantas has a strong reputation for safety, with the Australian flag-carrier never experiencing a fatal crash in the jet age.

Internet

Indonesian quake death toll rises to six

JAKARTA, 22 Aug—The death toll from a strong earthquake that struck central Indonesia at the weekend has risen to six, an official said on Tuesday, after rescuers reached villages that had been cut off by a landslide.

"Six people have died, including a nine-year-old boy, and 43 are injured. More than 400 homes are now damaged," National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho told *AFP*.

"There is still an area that we haven't accessed, so we'll send two helicopters there to distribute aid and assess the damage there. It's possible the death toll could rise, but we're hoping for the best."

The 6.3-magnitude quake struck the island of Sulawesi on Saturday evening at a depth of around 20 kilometres (12 miles), the US Geological Survey said, close to villages in the districts of Parigi Moutong and Sigi.

Landslides had blocked access to 14 villages in surrounding districts, and 300 soldiers and heavy equipment, including bulldozers, had been deployed to remove the debris, Sutopo said.

A child walks past a house damaged by a strong earthquake in Tuva village on the eastern Indonesian island of Sulawesi on 19 August. The death toll from the earthquake that struck central Indonesia at the weekend has risen to six, an official said on Tuesday, after rescuers reached villages that had been cut off by a landslide.
INTERNET

In this 19 Aug, 2012 photo, residents and journalists inspect a house that was damaged after a magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck in Sigie, Sulawesi Island, Indonesia. The death toll rose to six on 20 Aug, 2012, from a powerful weekend earthquake in Indonesia as rescuers reached mountainous villages that had been cut off by landslides, officials said. At least 43 others were injured, including eight in critical condition.—INTERNET

Indonesia sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" where continental plates collide, causing frequent seismic and volcanic activity.

Internet

TRAFFIC warns over 500 rhinos could perish this year

NAIROBI, 22 Aug— Global wildlife monitoring network TRAFFIC warned on Tuesday that 515 rhinos could perish by the end of the year if no action is taken to stem the illicit trade in rhino horns.

In its latest report, the agency said that with a total of 281 animals killed as of July, there was a "predicted loss of 515 by year end if current poaching rates continue".

South Africa, home to about three quarters of Africa's 20,000 or so white rhinos and 4,800 critically endangered black rhinos, has in recent years witnessed an unprecedented spike in sophisticated, violent and organized rhino-related criminal activities.

Last year 448 rhinos were killed compared to 13 animals in 2007.

South Africa has lately scaled up its fight against illegal poaching and trade in rhinos horns, arresting 176 suspects so far this year, more than the 165 arrested in the 12 months of 2010.

"It seems this year that efforts are begining to pay off. We have seen a great increase in arrests. We are also beginning to see some significant sentencing," said Jo Shaw, co-author of the report.

But she warned that even with the successful stories of high-value arrests the criminal syndicates appeared generally to be a step ahead — better equipped, well funded.

"As anti-poaching security levels are stepped up, the poaching gangs become more aggressive and increasingly sophisticated," she said.

The report named Vietnam as the worst offender fuelling the trade in the black market for rhino horns.

"The bottom line is that we are not close to ending this crisis yet, we are probably going to get record numbers this year," warned the report's co-author Tom Milliken, who is also an expert on rhinos at TRAFFIC. The grounded horn, which is believed by some to cure cancers, has taken on a new use and is now being pushed as a recreational drug mixed with drinks at elite "rhino wine associations" parties in the belief that it cures hangover.—*Internet*

Two rhinoceros graze in the savanah at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya. Global wildlife monitoring network TRAFFIC warned on Tuesday that 515 rhinos could perish by the end of the year if no action is taken to stem the illicit trade in rhino horns.—INTERNET

Americans tune out Afghan war as fighting rages on

KABUL, 22 Aug — It was once President Barack Obama's "war of necessity." Now, it's America's forgotten war. The Afghan conflict generates barely a whisper on the US presidential campaign trail. It's not a hot topic at the office water cooler or in the halls of Congress — even though more than 80,000 American troops are still fighting here and dying at a rate of one a day. Americans show more interest in the economy and taxes than the latest suicide bombings in a different, distant land. They're more tuned in to the political ad war playing out on television than the deadly fight still raging against the Taleban. Earlier this month, protesters at the Iowa State Fair chanted "Stop the war!" They were referring to one purportedly being waged against the middle class.

By the time voters go to the polls on 6 November to choose between Obama and presumptive Republican nominee Mitt Romney, the war will be in its 12th year. For most Americans, that's long enough. Public opinion remains largely negative toward the war, with 66 percent opposed to it and just 27 percent in favor in a May *AP*-GfK poll. More recently, a Quinnipiac University poll found that 60 percent of registered voters felt the US should no longer be involved in Afghanistan. Just 31 percent said the US is doing the right thing by fighting there now. Not since the Korean War of the early 1950s — a much shorter but more intense fight — has an armed conflict involving America's sons and daughters captured so little public attention.

"We're bored with it," said Matthew Farwell, who served in the US Army for five years including 16 months in eastern Afghanistan, where he sometimes received letters from grade school students addressed to the brave Marines in Iraq — the wrong war.—*Internet*

In this 10 Sept, 2011 file photo, President Barack Obama looks out over graves in Section 60 at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va, where he paid his respects to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the past decade. —INTERNET

To improve the socio-economy life of farmers,...

(from page 1)

To improve the socio-economy life of farmers, It is necessary to make a firm commitment to development of the agricultural sector as the population of farmers living in rural areas makes up about 70 per cent of the country's population, he added.

As Myanmar possesses fertile land, favourable weather for crops and also is rich in water resources, efforts should be made not only for food security in the country but also for exporting food to support the world's food security, he said.

He stressed the need for changing the mindset of the people in an attempt to boost the rice production of the country and urged to envision a future of food sufficiency in the time of prosperity.

The Vice-President called for changing the traditional fields to definite hectres and for construction of roads to transport agricultural produce, to be able to use agricultural machinery and to get definite statistics.

As a second phase of reforms, farmers should grow high-yield quality strains of seeds as the country is working hard to be able to harvest 60, 70 baskets of rice per acre while other neighbouring countries produce about 200 baskets per acre, he said.

Farmers have rights to grow any marketable crops but they are urged to grow quality seeds to be able to enjoy the advantage of growing quality seeds, he said.

He stressed the importance of the mechanized farming as a fourth phase of farming reforms to solve the problem of labour shortages in the farmland.

Mechanized farming would decrease the costs by a half and minimize the loss and wastages and produce quality crops, he said.

He also said that measures are being taken to organize cooperatives of farmers through cooperative sector and private sector efforts to be able to distribute good quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, costs for plantation and inputs and to decrease the costs for distribution.

Besides, establishing cooperatives of farmers is necessary to run the micro-credit schemes and using agricultural machinery effectively, he added.

He also called on farmers for doing livestock breeding while growing crops to earn extra income.

Afterwards, the Vice-President visited the 100-acre field of Palethwe Basmati rice and Union Minister U Myint Hlaing and officials conducted him around the field.—*MNA*

***Vice-President U Nyan Tun donates offertories to Sayadaw.*—MNA**

Vice-President U Nyan Tun inspects the 440-acre model farm which has been put under hybrid Palethwe rice.
MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun views transplanting skills demonstrated by famers at the 440-acre model hybrid Palethwe paddy plantation in Alyinlo Village.
MNA

Japan, Myanmar Judo players conduct joint training

YANGON, 22 Aug—Mr Hiromune Kudo (100 Kg) and Mr Keisuke Istubo (60 Kg), under the arrangement of Myanmar Judo Federation and Tokai University, will conduct joint training with selected Myanmar Judo players at Judo Training Camp in U Wisara Street here for a month from 14 August to 13 September.

Likewise, three male and two female Judo players made joint training with selected Myanmar Judo players from 23 to 30 June.

MNA

***Myanmar Selection Judo Team and Mr Hiromune Kudo (100) kg and Mr Keisuke Itsubo (60) Kg of Japan conduct joint training at Judo Camp on U Wisara Road.*—MNA**

Knowledge on traffic rules imparted

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug—Talks on traffic rules were given by Police Capt of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Police at the office of All Private Buses Line Control Committee (downtown) in the compound of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Bawgathiri Buses Terminal on 20 August.

The police captain discussed about traffic rules to be followed by drivers, bus conductors, motorcyclists, pedestrians, the causes of traffic accidents, traffic incidents with those present. This was followed by the question and answer section.—*MNA*

Auto mobiles industries in industrial…

(from page 16)

have to pay income taxes only when they make profits. If they make loss, they did not need to pay taxes.

Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Kyaw Kyaw Win replied to the questions of two representatives.

With respect to the question of U Ko Gyi of Aungmyethazan Constituency on **"if there is a control measure for illegal immigrants from populous countries into Myanmar"**, the deputy minister replied that Myanmar controls the foreigners who are in Myanmar under Foreigners Registration Act and Bylaws. On 11 November, 1964, Myanmar designated 23 regions as control areas for illegal immigrants.

***Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Ko Gyi of Aungmyethazan Constituency raises question.*—MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Le Le Win Swe of Tamway Constituency asking question.

MNA

Regarding the question of Daw Le Le Win Swe of Tamway Constituency on **"how citizen, associate citizen and naturalized citizen are designated",** the deputy minister replied: Under the Myanmar Citizenship Law (1982), Central Committee holds the meeting to decide citizen, associate citizen and naturalized citizen. This year, the Central Committee held the meeting for two times. And the central committee continues holding meetings.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint replied to the construction questions of two representatives.

With respect to the question of U Kyaw Khaing Win of Meisei Constituency on "**whether Union government has a plan to allow more funds for better roads in Kayah State" and "whether 11 road sections to be implemented by State Government are to be handed over to State Government only after they have been repaired by the Central government"**, the deputy minister replied:

As Eight roads are being built by Union government with its fund of K 1014.699 million and 11 roads, by the Ministry of Construction, with the State government's funds of K 1704 million, it no need to handed over to State government. With respect to the question of U Tin Hlaing of Kalay Constituency on **"what is the situation of progress of feasibility study on Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa road by foreign companies or experts" and "how the Ministry of Construction will carry out in 2012-2013 before India starts it",** the deputy minister said: according to the survey, current axis can be used if retaining system and conduit system are repaired. It needs to find new axis for some places. Before India starts upgrading, Public Works will carry out road works between mile post Nos.60/0 and 75/0 in 2012-2013.

At the bill submitting session, Pyithu Hluttaw Economic and Trade Development Committee Secretary U Khin Maung Oo submitted **Myanmar Citizens Investment Bill,** and member read out the Bill Committee's reports.

The day on which the bill to be discussed will be announced later. Those wishing to discuss it are to register their names along with para, sub-para and contents" they want to amend by 26 August.

At the discussion session, 12 representatives discussed the proposal submitted by Dr Chan Nyein of Kanbalu Constituency on 1 August on **"compilation of history, culture, literature and customs of Myanmar national races".**

Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win said that to avoid disagreements on the compilation of all national races' culture and tradition and customs, it needs to be carried not only by departments but also by other scholars, heads of national races, National Races Literature and Culture groups and other experts. In so doing, it needs to compile full history, literature, culture, traditions and customs along with photos. It needs to have volume 1, 2 and 3. The work is enormous and needs a lot of time, funds and human resources. So, it needs to form National Level Commission in which members from Ministry of Information, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education are formed. Formation of the commission will be presented to the President Office by Ministry of Culture.

***Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint replies to queries.*—MNA**

The meeting came to an end at 4 pm, and 23rd day session will go on at 10 am tomorrow.—*MNA*

Meetings for development of socio-economic status of people held

***Union Minister U Win Tun speaks at meetings for development of socio-economic status of people in Taninthayi Region.*—MNA**

YANGON, 22 Aug—The meetings on measures for rapid development of socio-economic status of the people in Taninthayi Region, Mon and Kayin States were held at Dawei, Mawlamyine and Hpa-an from 19 to 21 August, with the attendance of Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and for Forestry U Win Tun.

Region/State Chief Ministers, speakers of region/state Hluttaw, the deputy speaker, region/state ministers, Hluttaw representatives, departmental personnel, scholars of all aspects, entrepreneurs and NGO and guests attended the meetings.

The Union Minister said in his speech that sustainable development is vital important when we implement quick win projects in line with policy and procedures that will benefit for our nation as well as socio-economic development.

Regarding to the outcomes results of the meetings, the national level meeting will continue holding in Nay Pyi Taw sooner.

The stability of the state and economic development are key points. The above ground and under ground water resources can be used with the sense of environmental conservation, said the Union Minister.

When he held discussions in Tanintayi Region, Mon and Kayin States, he pointed out that reserved forest, protected public forest, watershed or catchment protection reserved forest and natural forests are protected from the danger of deforestation as well as timber extracted malpractices.—*MNA*

Opening of 17th South East Asian Junior Men's Volleyball Championship 2012 held

YANGON, 22 Aug—The opening of the 17th South East Asian Junior Men's Volleyball Championship 2012 under the supervision of Myanmar Volleyball Federation was held at Thuwunna Stadium this afternoon.

Chairman of the 17th South East Asian Junior Men's Volleyball Championship 2012 Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General U Thaung Htaik of Sports and Physical Education Department, the secretary-general of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, officials and enthusiasts attended the ceremony.

The Chairman of the 17th South East Asian Junior Men's Volleyball Championship 2012 delivered an address.

Newzealand team won Myanmar team 3-2 in Pre Round.

On 23 August, Newzealand team will play against Myanmar (A) team as the first match, Thailand and Myanmar (B) team as the second match and Vietnamese team and Indonesian team as the third match at the same stadium.

MNA

Flood warning for Sittoung, Shwegyin rivers

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug—The water level of Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded its danger level about 29 days starting from 24, July 2012. According to the 12.30 hr M.S.T observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded by 114 cm (about 3.7 feet) above its danger level.

It may remain above its danger level during the next three days.

The water level of Shwegyin River at Shwegyin has exceeded its danger level about three days starting from 19 August 2012. According to the 12.30 hr M.S.T observation today, the water level of Shwegyin River at Shwegyin has exceeded by 17 cm (about 7 inches) above its danger level.

It may fall below its danger level during the next 24 hours commencing this noon, announced by Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA

People in Rakhine State provided with cash and clothes

YANGON, 22 Aug—A ceremony to provide cash, clothes the people who lost their houses and property in recent situation in Rakhine State was held at Danyawady Monastery on U Htaungbo Road, Bahan Township, here, on 18 August.

At the ceremony, students from MPA course No. (9) conducted by the applied economy department of Yangon Institute of Economics donated K 200,000 and 11 bales of clothes.

Secretary of Rakhine State Rescue Committee U Kyaw Myint Aung accepted the donations and gave certificate of honours to them.

MNA

Will sericulture become contributor…

(from page 16)

would be implemented in 2014-2015 fiscal year depending on budget allocation.

Next, Chairperson U Mya Nyein of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill committee read report of the committee on Bond Dealing and Exchange Bill. Member of the committee U Soe Myint proposed to the Hluttaw to approve the bill, seconded by a MP. The Hluttaw approved the bill.

U Aung Chit Lwin of Sagaing Region Constituency No (11), U Zone Hle Htan of Chin State Constituency No (2) and U Tin Win of Magway Region Constituency No (8) discussed the proposal of U Nein Khin Paung of Chin State Constituency No (7) urging the Union government to enhance socio-economic status by encouraging sericulture by growing mulberry trees and producing cocoons.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than discussed that the ministry would supply adequate quantity of high yield disease-resistant silkworms, distribute quality mulberry trees, provide technical assistance and give loans. Chin nationals can also enter the business either in cooperation with local businessmen and with assistance of foreign countries. The proposal is to be undertaken by state government as reform measures and thus should be put on record.

U Min Lun Aung of Mon State Constituency No (3), U Maung Saw Phyu of Rakhine State Constituency No (4), U Sai Thantzin of Shan State Constituency No (4) and U Khet Htein Nan of Kachin State Constituency No (1) discussed the proposal of U Tin Shein of Taninthayi Region Constituency urging the Union government to help region/state governments to be able to organize traditional cultural performing arts competitions in their own places as national races affairs ministers have been appointed.

Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin replied that the leading committee for organizing Myanmar nationals' traditional cultural performing arts competitions met last month, agreeing to allow region/state governments organize competitions in respective regions and states. Those selected from the competitions will be eligible for final competition in the capital. Indigenous cultural performing arts competitions will be also be held in regions and states apart from regular competitions. Prize winners from regions and states will be invited to the capital to take part in skills demonstration in the efforts for flourishing traditional cultures of different national races and exchange of cultures.

The majority voted in favour of the proposals. Chairman of Public Complaint and Petition Committee U Aung Nyein proposed the Union government to make sure administrative personnel at different levels are adhere to laws and procedures to letter and to take legal actions against lawbreakers in the drive for bringing about clean government and good governance in establishing democratic nation.

The Hluttaw approved to discuss the proposal and called MPs to register if wishing to discuss the bill.

The session came to an end at 3 pm and the 33rd session continues at 10 am tomorrow. Five questions were answered, one bill approved, two proposals discussed and apprved and one new proposal put forward at today's session.—*MNA*

***Union Minister for Electric Power-2 U Khin Maung Soe responds to the questions.*—MNA**

***Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Aung Nyein of Magway Region Constituency No.2 asking questions.*—MNA**

***Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Thein Hlaing of Sagaing Region Constituency No. 8 asking questions.*—MNA**

Political party applies for establishing party

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug—Those wishing to set up political party have been applying to Union Election Commission for establishing political parties. On 22 August, 18 persons including U Kyaw Swa Soe applied to the commission for establishing Myanmar Farmers' Development Party.

Regarding the application, UEC has requested the ministries concerned to check whether the applicants are in conformity with provisions of Sections (4) and (6) of Political Parties Registration Law.

MNA

MWAF lectures women' affairs committees of Ministry of Transport

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug— Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation clarified its work programmes at the Ministry of Transport yesterday evening.

It was attended by President of MWAF Dr Thet Thet Zin, Secretary Daw Kyin San, Leader of Rules Enforcement Division Proton of Ministry of Transport's Women's Affairs Organization Daw Wai Wai, member of Board of Patrons Daw Nu Nu Htwe, Chairperson Daw Kyi Kyi Nyunt and members, members of Nay Pyi Taw WAO, heads of department and their wives, female staff and staff families of Ministry of Transport.

At the ceremony, the Proton of MWAF explained the emergence of MWAF and its background history, objectives and organizational set-up, Secretary of MWAF discussed formation of department, duties and functions and tasks being undertaken.—*MNA*

Two men killed in electrocution accident

YANGON, 22 Aug—Two men were killed in an electrocution accident in Thingangyun Township on 15 August.

Maung Tun Tun Win, 17, was electrocuted first as he touched a zinc sheet which is being charged from the electrical wire linking from the power line to his home. His uncle Min Kyaw Soe, 25, also died after getting an electric shock as he tried to save his nephew.

Myanma Alin

Athletes receive basic English proficiency skills

MANDALAY, 22 Aug — Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) has conducted Basic English Proficiency Course for the 2012-2013 Academic Year for the trainees of the institute.

Trainees from regions and states who are undergoing at the institute will receive basic English proficiency skills during the one-year course.

The opening ceremony of the Basic English Proficiency Course was held at the Institute on 19 August and Daw Nilar Win, Lecture of the University of Foreign Languages will give lectures on the basic English skills. .

Kyemon

District News

Mothers benefit from Nutrition activities

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 22 Aug — Nutrition activities carried out in Mawlamyinegyun Township on 17 August, distributing Feric acid tablets and Vitamin-A tablets to 40 breast feeding and pregnant women.

During the ceremony held at the Health Care Services Hall here, Dr Aye Aung, Medical Superintendent of Mawlamyinegyun Township 100-bed Hospital, Daw Thin Thin Aye, Chairperson of Mawlamyinegyun Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, and executives of the association presented the tablets to the expectant mother and breast feeding women.

Dr Aye Aye gave talks on do's and don'ts for pregnant mothers and ways for healthy life for pregnant mothers.

Myanma Alin

Photo shows houses are flooded at Daka Village in Kangyidaut Township.

Over 42000 rice field in Yekyi Township flooded

YEKYI, 22 Aug— Out of 94089 acres of rice field in Yekyi Township, Ayeyawady Division, over 42000 acres have been submerged in the flood.

The embankments of the Ayeyawady River in six townships are being eroded and the Ayeyawady River has overflowed, inundating six townships in Ayeyawady Division.

Local authorities has settled the flood victims at the relief camps and provided relief aids to them.

Ov 8350 flood victims are sheltering at 35 relief camps in Pathein Township, over 1050 victims at 11 relief camps in Kangyidauk Township, over 12100 victims at 60 relief camps in Thabaung Township, 357 victims at one relief camp in Kyonpyaw Township, over 3220 victims at 27 relief camps in Yekyi Township, over 2250 victims at 10 relief camps in Ngathaingchaung Township, 7901 victims at 71 relief camps in Kyaunggon Township.

Kyemon

People in Kume get free medical care

KUME, 22 Aug— "Byama" social organization has opened a clinic in Kume on 11 August to provide free medical care to local people.

Five doctors is giving medical care to local people on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 am to 11 pm and from 2 pm to 4 pm.

The clinic formally opened by Dr Win Naing, Head of Myittha Township Health Department, and Dr Kyaw Soe Tun from Kume Station Hospital.— *MNA*

Greek secret service to investigate wildfires

ATHENS, 22 Aug — Greece's secret service will join investigations into an unusually large number of wildfires across the country to see if arson has been involved, an official said on Tuesday. As Public Order Minister Nikos Dendias announced the decision, more than 20 major blazes were raging out of control in Greece, including one that has ravaged the eastern Aegean island of Chios for four days.

Dendias said in many cases authorities have "indications, if not proof, that the fires were lit intentionally," including blazes on Chios and the western resort island of Zakynthos.On Sunday, authorities on the central Aegean island of Andros arrested two French tourists on suspicion of starting a forest fire. A prosecutor planned to decide later Tuesday whether to press charges against them.

In Chios, firefighters were battling two major fronts in central and southern areas. Whipped on by gale-force winds, the blazes have wiped out large tracts of forest, olive groves and plantations of mastic trees whose resin production is a mainstay of the island's economy. About 360 firefighters, soldiers and volunteers were being assisted by two water-dropping planes and seven helicopters, the fire brigade said.

Internet

In this 19 Aug, 2012 photo local residents and firefighting volunteers are seen holding makeshift fire beaters as a large forest blaze looms on the Greek eastern Aegean Sea island of Chios. INTERNET

SW Pakistan bomb attack kills two, injures eleven

A Pakistani security official examines the wreckage of a car used in a bomb explosion in Quetta.—INTERNET

QUETTA, 22 Aug — Two civilians were killed and 11 others injured including three children when a car bomb targeted a paramilitary convoy on Tuesday in the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta, officials said. The explosives-packed car went off after vehicles of the paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC) passed, FC spokesman Murtaza Baig told *AFP*.

"The militants targeted two vehicles of FC but the remote-control device exploded after our convoy had passed the parked car," he said.Police and security forces are frequently attacked in the insurgency-plagued Baluchistan Province, of which Quetta is the capital.

Senior police official Wazir Khan Nasir told *AFP*: "The victims of the blast were all civilians who were passing from the area. The toll includes one man killed and 12 others wounded including two women and three children."The hospital staff said that an injured later succumbed to his injuries. "A man who was wounded in the attack in the morning, could not recover from his injuries and died later in the hospital," Muhammad Nawaz, a senior doctor in Quetta hospital told *AFP*. There was no claim of responsibility for the attack but the province, which borders Iran and Afghanistan, suffers from Taleban and local rebel attacks. It is also a flashpoint for sectarian violence involving Sunni and Shiite Muslims that has left thousands of people dead since the late 1980s.

Internet

US drone kills five militants in northwest Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 22 Aug — An unmanned American aircraft fired missiles at a vehicle in a Pakistani tribal area bordering Afghanistan on Tuesday, killing five suspected militants and injuring two, Pakistani intelligence officials said. The strike was part of a spike in American drone attacks, which have drawn official Pakistani criticism in the past. The spurt of drone action threatened to add tensions to relations between the two allies, just as they appeared to be improving. The latest drone strike came near Shana Khora village in North Waziristan, two officials said.

They said the area of the drone attacks is dominated by anti-US militant commander Hafiz Gul Bahadur. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters. Bahadur's group is known for frequent attacks on US troops in Afghanistan, but generally it does not carry out operations inside Pakistan. Several recent drone strikes have killed militants affiliated with Bahadur's group. Tuesday's was the third drone attack in North Waziristan within three days. On Sunday, drone-fired missiles killed 10 suspected militants in two strikes 12 hours apart.

The covert CIA drone programme has drawn strong criticism in Pakistan. Pakistani officials charge such strikes violate their country's sovereignty. Many Pakistanis complain that the strikes kill innocent civilians.

The US insists that drone strikes are essential to combat militant groups, like al-Qaeda. There is evidence that despite their critical public stance, the Pakistanis have sometimes quietly condoned the drone attacks.The US complains that the Pakistani army has carried out offensive against militants in all other tribal regions, but not North Waziristan.

Internet

A US Predator unmanned drone armed with a missile sets off from its hangar at Bagram air base in Afghanistan in 2009. INTERNET

China to formulate new five-year anti-corruption plan

BEIJING, 22 Aug — China will implement a five-year plan for eliminating corruption after the upcoming national congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), top official He Guoqiang said on Tuesday.

He, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPC, expressed readiness to improve anti-corruption efforts, describing the improvements as a "dynamic and long-term strategic project."

The 18th CPC National Congress will find new ways to prevent corruption both now and in the future, said He, who is also head of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

The spirit of the 18th CPC National Congress should be fully implemented in the formation of the next five-year plan to fight corruption, He said.

He said China has always paid great attention to fighting corruption and creating a clean government, adding that the country has created its own unique methods to combat corruption.

A sound system for punishing and curbing corruption is an important guarantee for the nation's development, He said.

Xinhua

Ancient tomb threatened by soil looters

CHANGSHA, 22 Aug — Chinese archaeologists said a 2,100-year-old tomb famous as the final resting place of a perfectly preserved female corpse is being threatened by residents' rampant soil looting as local residents believed that good "feng shui" there produced "holy soil". Mawangdui, a small hill in the eastern suburbs of Changsha, capital of central Hunan Province, is home to the grand tombs of the Marquis of Dai during the Han Dynasty (202 BC - 220 AD), as well as his wife and son.

In recent years, local residents have taken soil from the site to use for planting flowers or making marinated eggs, as they believe the site's good "feng shui" has produced a superior soil, said Li Jianming, curator of the Hunan Provincial Museum. "Some citizens say the tomb's good feng shui creates better soil," Li said. Most artifacts unearthed from the tombs are currently exhibited in the museum, but Li said the many holes left by those taking away soil have posed a threat to the tomb's external structures.

The Mawangdui site grabbed international attention when researchers found a female corpse that showed no signs of decay when her coffin was opened in the 1970s. An autopsy determined that the woman, identified as Lady Dai, died of a heart attack in her 50s. Thousands of well-preserved artifacts uncovered from the tombs, including a very thin T-shaped silk painting, have also contributed to the fame of the site.

Hunan's archaeological authorities said Mawangdui is co-managed by the provincial museum and a nursing home, but it has no security guards, except two elderly ticket sellers and some volunteers sent by the hospital. "We receive no funding or government subsidies, and our efforts can not stop the diggers' constant visits," said a hospital employee.—*Xinhua*

Balkans heat wave fuels forest fires in Bosnia

BANJA LUKA, 22 Aug — Authorities on Tuesday declared a state of emergency around a town in Bosnia's northeast and a tourist area was evacuated in the country's south as a heat wave fuelled wildfires across the Balkans and left people suffering heat exhaustion. Bratunac Mayor Nedeljko Mladjenovic declared the emergency as he said wildfires from several directions were threatening his town. Around 50 residents are helping firefighters and forest rangers fight a blaze creeping towards the suburb of Slapasnica, and the town's civil protection agency has asked for help from the army and residents.

In the country's south, firefighters are battling four blazes around the town of Konjic and townsfolk and tourists have begun evacuating houses near Boracko Lake as the extreme heat and strong winds have hindered the extinguishing of approaching blazes. Many tourists staying at the lake are Bosnians who live in Germany, returning home for the holidays. Zorica Muskovic arrived last week from Munich. "This is really not pleasant at all, I am scared. I want to leave as soon as possible," she told the *AP*.

Bosnians watch a forest fire at Boracko Lake near the town of Konjic, 50 km south of Sarajevo in Bosnia, on 21 Aug, 2012.—INTERNET

Aida Gakic from the Bosnian capital Sarajevo, who earlier evacuated two of her children from the resort, said she and her husband were unsure of the local fire brigade's capabilities, so decided to stay put and protect their property."—*Internet*

Fighting in Lebanese city for second night, seven killed

Sunni gunmen take position at the Sunni dominant neighbourhood of Bab al-Tebbaneh in Tripoli, northern Lebanon, during clashes with Alawites, on 21 Aug, 2012. **REUTERS**

TRIPOLI, 22 Aug — Seven people have been killed in Lebanon's northern city of Tripoli as clashes between Sunni and Alawites, fuelled by tensions over the war in Syria, continued for a second night, security and medical sources said on Tuesday. Around 100 people have also been wounded since the fighting erupted on Monday evening, they said.

Gunmen in the Sunni district of Bab al-Tabbaneh and their Alawite rivals in Jebel Mohsen have exchanged gun and grenade fire, despite action by Lebanese troops deployed in the port city, residents said. Two of the dead men were identified as residents of Jebel Mohsen, a hill inhabited mainly by Alawites which overlooks the predominantly Sunni area below, where five people were killed, medical sources said.

The area is one of Lebanon's most volatile sectarian fault lines and chronic Sunni-Alawite tensions in Tripoli have been heightened by the 17-month-old, mainly Sunni, uprising in Syria against President Bashar al-Assad, an Alawite. Clashes in the city killed 15 people in early June.

An army statement said soldiers had raided buildings used by gunmen and "retaliated swiftly against sources of gunfire". It said five soldiers were wounded on Monday evening and five, including an officer, were injured on Tuesday by a hand grenade lobbed at an army base.In addition, dozens of civilians and fighters were wounded in Bab al-Tabbaneh and in Jebel Mohsen, residents and medics said.— *Reuters*

Body of late Ethiopian Prime Minister arrives home

ADDIS ABABA, 22 Aug — Body of the late Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi arrived at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital on late Tuesday.

Families and relatives of the late prime minister, senior government officials, Ethiopian citizens and foreigners have been waiting for the arrival of the body of the late Prime Minister at the airport and around.

Meles Zenawi passed away last night due to sudden infection, state TV reported on Tuesday.

Meles had been recovering at hospital abroad, but passed away due to a sudden infection last night, Bereket Simon, Ethiopian Minister of the Government Communication Affairs Office, told reporters on Tuesday here in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. National flags are being kept half-mast and the country goes mourning of him.

According to the Ethiopian constitution, the Deputy Prime Minister is taking over acting prime minister." The constitutional procedures allow us to continue with the deputy prime minister as acting prime minister and he will take oath at the parliament," said Bereket.

Meles became president of the transitional government from 1991 to 1995. He was elected prime minister in 1995 and had been the country's prime minister till his death. *Xinhua*

***Soldiers wait for the body of the late Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, at the Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, on 21 Aug, 2012.*— XINHUA**

Rainstorms batter southern China, killing two

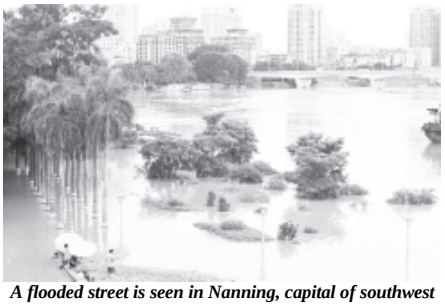
BEIJING, 22 Aug — Rainstorms have battered several southern Chinese provinces this week, toppling homes and killing a woman and her granddaughter in Hunan Province. The woman, 49, was buried together with the child in the rubble of their home that was washed down by flash floods in Shimen county on Monday night, the provincial flood relief headquarters in Hunan said in a Press release on Tuesday. Shimen county reported over 300 mm of precipitation in the 24 hours from Monday to Tuesday, it said.

Incomplete figures showed torrential rain destroyed 106 homes and forced more than 800 people to evacuate in the county, which has a population of 673,500. The downpour also destroyed roads, swelled 14 reservoirs, disrupted power supplies and caused landslides in many areas in the northwest of Hunan Province, the document said. Meanwhile, flood prevention authorities in the southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region also warned of floods on Tuesday on two swelling tributaries of the Pearl River, the country's third longest waterway after the Yangtze and the Yellow River.

Water levels in the Yujiang and Zuojiang rivers had topped their alarm lines as a result of floods in the upper reaches, the regional flood prevention and drought control headquarters said. As of 8 pm, the water level in Zuojiang was 1.07 metres above the danger line, while that of Yujiang River was an alarming 41.2 metres higher than the alarm level at one hydrological station near the regional capital, Nanning.

The local government has warned citizens to be on guard against dangers and called for round-the-clock monitoring of embankments. Rainstorm also wreaked havoc in many parts of the central Hubei Province on Monday and Tuesday. In Yichang city alone, 400 homes were toppled and more than 1,800 people were evacuated.

A thunderstorm also delayed 70 flights and canceled 16 others at a major airport in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province.—*Xinhua*



***A flooded street is seen in Nanning, capital of southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 21 Aug, 2012.*— XINHUA**

Nine killed, 68 injured in blast in southeast Turkey, PKK denies responsibility

ANKARA, 22 Aug — At least nine people, including four children, were killed by a remote-controlled car bomb in southeastern Turkey, Turkish officials said on Tuesday, while the banned Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) denied responsibility for the blast. A total of 68 people were injured in the blast near a police station in southeastern Turkish province of Gaziantep on Monday night, four of them in critical condition, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Besir Atalay told reporters on Tuesday.

Most of the others suffered slight injuries caused by shattered glass, said Atalay, adding that Monday's blast set several vehicles ablaze. "The vehicle used in the attack was a stolen one. It was brought to the site of the blast by a tow truck, with a high amount of explosives on board," Atalay said. "We made significant progress in finding those responsible for the blast," he said. The blast came amid an escalation of clashes between the Turkish security forces and the PKK. In the last two months, the PKK has intensified its attacks including kidnapping a lawmaker, launching attacks in the western parts of the country and targeting civilians in different towns.

However, the PKK denied carrying out the bombing attack in a statement published by the pro-Kurdish *Firat News* agency. "Our forces have nothing to do with this attack. We do not attack civilians," the PKK said in the statement. The PKK, listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey and most of the international community, took up arms in 1984 in an attempt to create an ethnic homeland in southeastern Turkey. Since then, over 40,000 people have been killed in conflicts involving the group.— *Xinhua*

Dominica, US net ton of cocaine

SANTO DOMINGO, 22 Aug — The Dominica and the United States authorities seized a ton of cocaine and arrested four Colombians on Monday, the Dominican officials said.

The joint Operation Anvil and Hammer was carried out in conjunction with Dominican Navy, the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), US Coast Guard and US Customs and Borders Protection agency, Dominica National Drug Control Bureau (DNCD) announced on Tuesday.

"We are working together with the DEA on all the information found of the four Colombians' hiding possession, which is used to located the people who were going to receive the 40 packages, each containing 25 packets," said the DNCD.

The Colombians were transporting the cocaine from South America towards the United States by a speed boat when they were arrested and taken to Puerto Rico, according to the statement.

Officials from both countries are now searching for the traffickers' Dominican accomplices, said the DNCD. The operation netted the single-largest cache of cocaine since last March, when 1,282.5 kg cocaine confiscated in the town of Juan Dolio, 45 km east of the Dominican capital of Santo Domingo.— *Xinhua*

About 24 arrested in Houston in major drug bust

HOUSTON, 22 Aug — About 24 people were arrested on Tuesday after agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Houston, the largest city in the US state of Texas, raided about 60 homes for growing marijuana.

According to local TV channel ABC13 reports, the raids, which started early Tuesday morning and lasted all day, were conducted in the counties such as Harris, Fort Bend and Montgomery. The raided homes were believed to be part of a marijuana growing operation.

Investigators said that the marijuana growing in a house in the Woodlands and 40 others across the area was linked to a Vietnamese organized crime ring.

"This Vietnamese organization, they do that, they look for homes in a very unassuming neighborhood and they move in. They rent the house, maintain a very low key. Sometimes they befriend the neighbours and they set up shop and try not to make any commotion," Houston DEA Special Agent Thomas Hinojosa was quoted as saying. The marijuana found in one home alone was reportedly worth about 6 million US dollars, and investigators described the marijuana that the homes were growing as "very strong, potent, very dangerous." *Xinhua*

***Chinese scientific research ship Dayang Yihao leaves the Apapa Harbor in Lagos, on 21 Aug, 2012. Chinese scientific research ship Dayang Yihao, or Ocean One, on Tuesday started its nine-day exploration and research mission in Nigeria's waters with Nigerian and Chinese scientists.* — XINHUA**

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MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (006)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (006) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.8.2012 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 INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (312)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (312) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.8.2012 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

A flock of European geese walk by the paddy field in Tonggui Township in the Xingqing District of Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 20 Aug, 2012. Nearly 5,000 mu (333.33 hectares) of organic rice fields with 50 geese seedlings per mu were planted in the Xingqing District in 2012. Since the European geese eat up weeds and pests in the fileds, the revenue increased by above 1,000 yuan (about 157 US dollars) per mu.— **XINHUA**

Dutch pension funds lose millions on Facebook investments

THE HAGUE, 22 Aug— The two biggest pension funds of the Netherlands have lost millions of euros due to the share price drop of internet company Facebook, the *Financial Daily* reported on Monday.

According to the Dutch newspaper, the pension funds for civil servants APB and careworkers pension fund PGGM both invested in the internet share despite warnings of hype surrounding Facebook's initial public offering (IPO).

Last week, the share Facebook reached its lowest point. Launched at 38 US dollars a share in May, Facebook is now trading at around 19 dollars.

Information registered with the US financial service authorities showed APB owned 330,500 Facebook shares at the end of June this year, an investment which was worth 12.6 million dollars at the time of its stock market launch. PGGM owned 316,226 shares, which are now valued at 6.3 million dollars.

Xinhua

Britain and Ireland tuning into Netflix

LONDON, 22 Aug— Netflix on Monday announced that one million people in Britain and Ireland signed up for the film and TV show streaming Internet service in the seven months after its debut there.

California-based Netflix boasted that it was the fastest adoption rate it has seen in any territory, outpacing by several times the speed with which it took Twitter or Facebook to hit that user mark globally. "This membership milestone is evidence that Netflix has rapidly gained popularity in (Britain) and Ireland," said Netflix chief executive Reed Hastings.

"Our British and Irish members clearly enjoy the ability to instantly watch a large variety of TV shows and films streaming from Netflix on their favorite devices whenever they want."

Comedy and drama were reported to be the most popular genres among Netflix viewers in Britain and Ireland, with Sunday nights proving the most popular time of the week for tuning in.

A survey commissioned by Netflix indicated that 10 percent of the British population devotes two or more hours daily watching TV shows delivered through the Internet.

"Consumers are beginning to spend more time enjoying entertainment services online, streaming TV and film, and this trend is only growing," Pollyanna Woodward of British technology television programme The Gadget Show said in a Netflix release.

Netflix last week last week revealed plans to launch film streaming services in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden by the end of the year.—*Internet*

Netflix envelopes sit in a bin with other mail at a US Post Office sort facility. Netflix on Monday announced that one million people in Britain and Ireland signed up for the film and TV show streaming Internet service in the seven months after its debut there.— **INTERNET**

Autopsy finds no alcohol or illegal drugs in NFL star Seau

LOS ANGELES, 22 Aug— Former San Diego Chargers football star Junior Seau had no alcohol or illegal drugs in his system when he killed himself earlier this year, according to a final autopsy report released by medical examiners on Monday.

Seau, a 20-year National Football League veteran and fan favourite widely regarded as one of the best defensive players of his generation, shot himself in the chest on 2 May at his home in Southern California. He left no suicide note.

Though preliminary findings by the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office confirmed that Seau had committed suicide, the 16-page report provides more comprehensive results and includes toxicology and other scientific tests.

The toxicology studies found therapeutic levels of a prescription sleep aid and a pain reliever in Seau's system but "no alcohol, common drugs of abuse or other medications."

Seau's death at the age of 43 came during heightened scrutiny of the effects of repeated blows to the head in football, ice hockey and other contact sports and the potential for such injuries to contribute to depression and other health problems in players.

The report said brain tissue from Seau was sent following the autopsy to the National Institutes of Health for analysis at the request of his family. It does not describe any evidence of brain damage or abnormalities.

Reuters

A picture of former San Diego Chargers and NFL linebacker Junior Seau is displayed as fans arrive at Qualcomm Stadium to participate in a "Celebration of Life" memorial, held in Seau's memory in San Diego, California in this 11 May, 2012 file photograph. **REUTERS**

GM to recall nearly 250,000 SUVs for potential fire hazard

CHICAGO, 22 Aug— General Motors (GM) will recall 249,260 sport utility vehicles as an electric short issue in the driver's door could cause overheating and fire, according to a company filing with the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The recall notice, reported on 15 Aug to the NHTSA and now published on the government agency's website, applies to 2006 models of the Chevrolet Trailblazer EXT and GMC Envoy XL, and 2006- 2007 models of the Chevrolet Trailblazer, GMC Envoy, Buick Rainier, SAAB 9-7x, and Isuzu Ascender vehicles.

NHTSA said the recall only affects the above cars that were originally sold or currently registered in Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia.—*Xinhua*

Topless babysitter found in parking lot

Authorities in Florida said they arrested a babysitter who was found lying topless in a hotel parking lot when she was supposed to be watching a 5-year-old.

Stacey Kerres.

Melbourne police said officers responded to a report of a child left alone for nearly an hour Thursday at the River Palm Hotel. After speaking to the child, who was playing video games with hotel staff, they searched the property and found babysitter Stacey Kerres, 47, lying topless in the parking lot near the room where the boy was staying with his mother, Florida Today reported Tuesday.

The boy told police his mother had gone to the casino and Kerres has frequently been called upon to watch him.

Police said Kerres had trouble speaking and was unable to tell them where the child was. Kerres was charged with child neglect and is due in court 18 Sept.

The case has been referred to the Department of Children and Families.

News Album

Lab tech found drunk with monkeys loose

Coley Oneal Mitchell.

Authorities in Georgia have arrested a lab technician who was found drunk and partially nude with two monkeys running loose out of their cages.

Coley Oneal Mitchell, 32, was found drunk and partially clothed in the Georgia Health Sciences University Lab Animal Services Technician locker room on 20 Aug while two monkeys were loose and unsupervised in the locked Animals Services Lab, WJBF-TV, Augusta, Ga., reported on Tuesday.

Mitchell was charged with public drunkenness by GHSU police officers and turned over to the Richmond County Sheriff's Office.

A school representative said the monkeys were not harmed.

"No animals were harmed during the incident, but the university takes the allegations very seriously. GHSU does not condone behavior that conflicts with the research, education and clinical missions of the university and employees are expected to conduct themselves, at all times, with integrity and respect," the representative said in a statement.

Nicole Kidman to be honoured by NY Film Festival

NEW YORK, 22 Aug— Nicole Kidman is being honored by the New York Film Festival in a gala tribute.

The Film Society of Lincoln Centre announced on Tuesday that Kidman will be celebrated at the 50th-annual New York Film Festival. The festival will also honour its longtime director Richard Pena in a second gala.

Actress Nicole Kidman

The film "The Paperboy" has been added to the festival's slate. It's directed by Lee Daniels and stars Kidman, Zac Efron, John Cusack and Matthew McConaughey.

Pena is also programming director of the film society. He is stepping down from Lincoln Centre this year following his 25th festival.

The gala for Kidman will take place on 3 Oct, with the Pena event following on 10 Oct. The festival runs 28 Sept through 14 Oct.—*Internet*

Nickelback

LOS ANGELES, 22 Aug— Avril Lavigne and Nickelback frontman Chad Kroeger aren't just making music together. They're getting hitched.

A spokeswoman for Lavigne confirmed a Tuesday report from People magazine that the 27-year-old pop singer and 37-year-old rocker became engaged earlier this month after dating for six months.

The magazine says Lavigne was introduced to Kroeger in February when they met to co-write a song for Lavigne's upcoming album.

It will be the first marriage for Kroeger and the second for Lavigne. She filed for divorce in 2009 from Sum 41 frontman Deryck Whibley after three years of marriage.

Lavigne surged to fame with her 2002 album "Let's Go." Kroeger has served as lead vocalist and guitarist for Nickelback since the band formed in 1995.—*Internet*

Avril Lavigne to marry Nickelback frontman

Avril Lavigne

Dick Van Dyke to get SAG achievement honour

LOS ANGELES, 22 Aug— Actor-comedian Dick Van Dyke is to receive a Hollywood life achievement award for his career and humanitarian accomplishments, the actors guild said on Tuesday.

The 86-year-old "beloved actor, singer, dancer, writer and comedian" will receive the Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award at the 19th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards 27 Jan, the SAG-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists performers union said.

SAG and AFTRA merged on 30 March.

The event will air live on TNT and TBS.

The annual award, which predates the first Screen Actors Guild Awards by 33 years, goes to an actor "for outstanding achievement in fostering the finest ideals of the acting profession."

Van Dyke — who was born Richard Wayne Van Dyke in West Plains, Mo., and grew up in Danville, Ill.— has also received five Emmys, one Tony Award and a Grammy.—*Internet*

Swift to perform at VMAs, US gymnasts to present

NEW YORK, 22 Aug— Six-time Grammy winner Taylor Swift will perform at the 2012 MTV Video Music Awards next month. But she won't be the only gold winner in the room.

The US Women's Gymnastics team — known as the Fierce Five — will be presenters at the 6 Sept show. Gabby Douglas, McKayla Maroney, Alexandra Raisman, Kyla Ross and Jordyn Wieber won the women's team gold medal at the Olympics this month and have been on a whirlwind tour ever since that included the couches of Jay Leno and David Letterman. Douglas, Maroney and Raisman also won individual medals.

Miley Cyrus, rapper Wiz Khalifa and alternative hip-hop artist Mac Miller will also present awards.

Drake and Rihanna lead with five nominations each. They'll battle Katy Perry, M.I.A. and Gotye for video of the year. Swift was at the centre of one of the award show's most memorable moments, when Kanye West hijacked her acceptance speech at the MTV Video Music Awards in 2009.

Six-time Grammy winner Taylor Swift

Swift said she will perform a new song from her coming fourth studio album at the awards show.

"It's such a different song than anything I've ever put out before," she says in a video promo for the awards.

Swift's first single from her forthcoming album "Red" set a digital sales record for a female artist. Swift sold 623,000 copies of "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together," according to Nielsen SoundScan, after announcing the 22 Oct release of her album last week.

Comedian Kevin Hart will host the VMAs live from the Staples Centre in Los Angeles. Performers include Green Day, Alicia Keys, Pink and One Direction.—*Internet*

Classical Brits to honour US film composer Williams

Actress Catherine Deneuve (L) poses with composer John Williams.

LONDON, 22 Aug—Five-time Oscar winning film composer John Williams will receive a lifetime achievement honour from the Classical Brit Awards in London in October, organizers said on Tuesday.

Williams won his first Academy Award more than 40 years ago with "Fiddler on the Roof", and went on to earn the famous statuette again with "Jaws", "Star Wars", "ET The Extra-Terrestrial" and "Schindler's List".

Including those wins, he was nominated for an Oscar nearly 50 times, reflecting his place at the pinnacle of soundtrack composition.

The 80-year-old American is still going strong, composing the music for the upcoming film "Lincoln" which is due to hit US theatres late this year. "For many, the first introduction to large-scale orchestral music was a cinematic experience," said Dickon Stainer and Barry McCann, co-chairmen of the Classic BRIT Awards committee, in a joint statement.

Reuters

Court docus show Cruise-Holmes divorce case closed

Actors Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes

NEW YORK, 22 Aug— The Tom Cruise-Katie Holmes divorce case is closed.

Court records filed in a New York City court indicate the case was closed Monday.

Holmes and Cruise said in July they had reached an agreement less than two weeks into their headline-dominating divorce case. Their lawyers and representatives wouldn't disclose details. The couple were married in Italy in 2006. They have a 6-year-old daughter, Suri.—*Internet*

Mariah Carey lobbies for Lenny Kravitz in "Idol" judge search

Singer Mariah Carey

LOS ANGELES, 22Aug— Wonder what Mariah Carey thinks of the reports that Nicki Minaj will be joining her on the "American Idol" judges' panel next season? Look no further than her twitter account.

As headlines suggested that Minaj's "Idol" recruitment was a done deal, Carey - who signed on as a judge for the singing competition in July - offered her own candidate for the spot: Lenny Kravitz.

Carey took to Twitter on Monday to post a picture of herself and "Let Love Rule" singer Kravitz with the plea, "@AmericanIdol What's going on? need the info!! What about this combo? :) if we could ever get him to do it!"

Carey joined the series following the departure of judges Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler.

As TheWrap reported previously, Carey will rake in $17 million to judge the show - the same amount that Lopez was seeking before parting ways with the show.

Reuters

Dick Van Dyke attend Backstage at the Geffen, a fundraiser honoring Carol Burnette in Los Angeles on 4 June, 2012.—INTERNET

Chelsea recruit Hazard promises better to come

LONDON, 22 Aug—Eden Hazard insists there is more to come after his sparkling Premier League debut — but is adamant he has no concerns about handling the physical nature of English football.

The Chelsea playmaker, 21, wasted no time making his mark following his £32 million summer move from Lille, setting up two goals inside seven minutes of his side's league opener at Wigan.

Hazard's contribution ensured Roberto Di Matteo's side got off to a winning start and they will attempt to build on that success when Reading visit Stamford Bridge on Wednesday.

His eye-catching efforts also made him the target for some heavy challenges, but the Belgium international was quick to dismiss the attention he received.

He said: "I already had a taste of these kind of tackles in the Community Shield."

"I was kicked quite a bit in the first half against Wigan but, in France, it was already like that for me."

"I wasn't aware I was the most fouled player in the match, I wasn't counting them."

Hazard, Juan Mata and Oscar are expected to contest the positions in support of the main striker Fernando Torres and the Belgian believes it will take time to properly bed in.—*Internet*

***Chelsea's Eden Hazard (R) and Wigan Athletic's James McArthur during their Premier League football match on 19 August.*—INTERNET**

Spurs sign Adebayor from Manchester City

LONDON, 22 Aug— Tottenham Hotspur have signed striker Emmanuel Adebayor from Premier League champions Manchester City on a permanent deal, the London club said on Tuesday.

The Togo international scored 18 goals in 37 appearances for Spurs last season on loan at White Hart Lane. The clubs were reported by British media to have agreed a deal last month for the 28-year-old, who had been earning about 170,000 pounds a week at City.

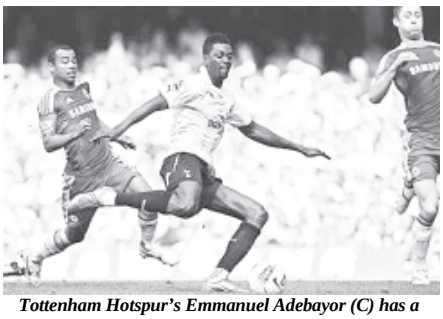
No financial details of the transfer fee were available but media reports put its value at five million pounds.

Adebayor joined Tottenham's north London rivals Arsenal from Monaco in early 2006 and moved to City in 2009 in the first wave of big-money signings by the Manchester club's Qatari owners.

But he fell out of favour when Roberto Mancini replaced Mark Hughes as City manager. He had a loan spell at Real Madrid in early 2011 before joining Tottenham for the 2011-12 campaign.

"I am pleased to be signing for Spurs on a permanent basis after finally agreeing my departure with Manchester City," Adebayor told the club website (www.tottenhamhotspur.com):

"It may have taken longer than expected but I am delighted to be back at Tottenham. I really enjoyed my time here last season and I am hoping we can achieve great things together again." *Reuters*



***Tottenham Hotspur's Emmanuel Adebayor (C) has a shot blocked by Chelsea's Gary Cahill (R) as Ashley Cole challenges during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London on 24 March , 2012.* —REUTERS**

International Sports

Late PGA season good vibes a habit for Dustin Johnson

NEW YORK, 22 Aug— Dustin Johnson has made a habit of thriving in the latter part of the PGA Tour season, good reason for him to be excited about his title defence at this week's Barclays tournament in Farmingdale, New York. The long-hitting American is the only player in the elite 125-strong field assembled at Bethpage State Park to have won FedExCup playoff events in each of the last two years and is eager to launch his bid for a third in Thursday's opening round.

"I play well at this time of the year usually, so I enjoy the FedExCup," Johnson told reporters on Tuesday while preparing for the first of the PGA Tour's four lucrative playoff events.

"I like the playoffs. This is time where you really need to play well. I've had a lot of success the last few years in the playoffs, and hopefully I can continue that this year."

Two years ago, Johnson won the third playoff event, the BMW Championship, before winding up fifth in the final FedExCup standings.

Twelve months ago at a rain-softened Plainfield Country Club in Edison, New Jersey, he triumphed by two shots at The Barclays, which was cut to 54 holes because of Hurricane Irene.—*Internet*

Dustin Johnson of the US

Anne Keothavong suffers defeat in Texas Open first round

Anne Keothavong

TEXAS, 22 Aug—Anne Keothavong lost on a final set tie-break to New Zealand's Marina Erakovic in the Texas Open first round.

The British number two was beaten 6-1, 5-7, 7-6 (11-9) by the world number 54.

Keothavong, 28, ranked 80 in the world, battled back after losing the opening set and was a break up in the final set only to lose on a tie-break.

Erakovic and British number one Heather Watson won their first round match in the doubles against Elizabeth Lumpkin and Yasmin Schnack.

They beat the Americans 6-2, 2-6, 10-8 to reach the second round.

Emily Webley-Smith was beaten by Croatian qualifier Mirjana Lucic 6-1, 6-2.

Britain's number 11 was given a late call-up as a lucky loser following Angelique Kerber's withdrawal with a shoulder injury but was comprehensively beaten by the world number 97. *Internet*

Dutch defender Buttner moves to Old Trafford

MANCHESTER, 22 Aug— Manchester United have completed the signing of Dutch defender Alexander Buttner from Vitesse Arnhem on a five-year contract, the Premier League club announced on Tuesday.

The 23-year-old, who was part of the preliminary Dutch squad for Euro 2012, has made 119 appearances over the last four years at the Eredivisie club.

"Alexander is one of the best young left backs in Europe and we're delighted to sign him," United manager Sir Alex Ferguson told the club's official website. "He's someone we've been watching for a while now. He gives us some really exciting options in that position."

Buttner, who becomes United's second Dutch signing in a week following that of striker Robin van Persie from Arsenal, added: "Joining Manchester United is one of the best days of my life. It's a team I have admired for many years now and I can't wait to join my teammates and play my part in helping the club be successful."—*Internet*

***Brett Holman of AZ Alkmaar (R) fights for the ball with Alexander Buttner (L) of Vitesse Arnhem in 2011.* INTERNET**

Van Garderen leads USA Pro Challenge after stage win

MT CRE STED BUTTE, 22Aug—American Tejay van Garderen pushed ahead in the final 300-metre uphill climb to capture the second stage and overall lead at the USA Pro Challenge on Tuesday.

Van Garderen, who finished fifth in last month's Tour de France, captured his first win of the season after completing the 159.3-kilometre ride from Montrose to Mt Crested Butte in three hours, 52 minutes and 24 seconds.

"I wasn't confident I was going to win, but I was confident I was going to try," said Van Garderen, who made his final surge to the ski resort finish suddenly as the early leaders faltered.

Fellow American Christian Vande Velde finished second in the stage in the same time as Van Garderen while Russia's Ivan Rovny was third, trailing by six seconds.

Van Garderen, who began the day 17th overall, moved into the race lead with the same overall time as Vande Velde but is the race leader based on his stage win.

Rovny moved into third overall while defending champion Levi Leipheimer of the United States is fourth overall after placing fourth in the stage and trails by eight seconds.

Wednesday's third stage of the seven-day race is a 210.1-kilometre ride from Gunnison to Aspen, Colorado, that features two climbs approaching 4,000 meters, the highest elevation in the second-year race. *Reuters*

***BMC Racing Team rider Tejay Van Garderen of the US and best young rider white jersey holder.* REUTERS**

Man City's Adam Johnson targeted by Liverpool, Spurs & Sunderland

LONDON, 22 Aug— Liverpool, Tottenham and Sunderland have registered an interest in signing Manchester City winger Adam Johnson. The 25-year-old made just 10 league starts last season and is likely to be sold before the transfer window shuts.

Sunderland are the only club to submit an offer so far, but Tottenham and Liverpool have made enquiries.

If the England international does leave Etihad Stadium, it is understood City will step up their interest in Swansea forward Scott Sinclair.

Johnson joined City from Middlesbrough in February 2010 and has scored 15 goals in 97 games.

But 43 of those appearances have come as a substitute and boss Roberto Mancini is open to the idea of letting him move on.

"Adam can have a future here but you should also understand when you are 23 or 24 years old, you want to play," the Italian said.

"If you are at a top team, you can't always do that, so if he wants to, he has to leave. If we can find a good solution, maybe it is better."

"But if that happens I will be so sorry because Adam is a good guy. He is a different player to the other strikers and wingers and maybe he could be important for us."

Johnson started England's victory over Italy last Wednesday but did not feature in City's 3-2 win against Southampton on Sunday.

Sunderland were understood to be the leading contenders to recruit Johnson before Tottenham and Liverpool made their interest known.—*Internet*

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(23-8-12 09:30 am ~ 24-8-12 09:30 am) MST

* News
* Japanese Film Festival
* News
* Lucrative Myanma Rattan Industry
* News
* Music Gallery
* Physical Fitness For All
* News
* Road to 27th SEA Games "Archery"
* News
* Reflections of Taungoo Period (Part-1)
* News
* Reflections of Taungoo Period (Part-2)
* News
* A Ceremony to recognize as Son-in-Law
* News
* Journey to Unimaginable Spots (Episode-1)
* Myanmar Movie ''Only Mom Can...''

MYANMAR TV

(23-8-2012) (Thursday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:40 am
3. Nice & Sweet Song

7:50 am
4. Health Programme

8:05 am
5. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

8:20 am
6. Selected Songs For 19th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions (2012) (Classical Song) (Amateur (Second) Division) (Level Men & Women)

4:05 pm
7. Cute Little Dancers

4:15 pm
8. Musical Programme

4:25 pm
9. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Economic)

4:35 pm
10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

4:40 pm
11. Teleplay (Forest)

5:20 pm
12. Science and Environment

6:20 pm
13. Myanmar Series

6:40 pm
14. Approaching Science Discovery World

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

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Weather forecast for 23rd August, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	32/90	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
2	Kayah	27/81	20/68	Scattered rain or thundershower	(100%)
3	Kayin	30/86	21/70	widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
4	Chin	24/75	16/61	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
5	Upper Sagaing	31/88	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
6	Lower Sagaing	37/99	27/81	Isolated rain or thundershower	(100%)
7	Tanintharyi	29/84	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH)	(100%)
8	Bago	32/90	24/75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
9	Magway	33/91	24/75	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(100%)
10	Mandalay	35/95	26/79	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(100%)
11	Mon	31/88	23/73	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
12	Yangon	26/79	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
13	Rakhine	32/90	22/72	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
14	Southern Shan	24/75	18/64	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
15	Northern Shan	32/90	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
16	Eastern Shan	28/82	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
17	Ayeyawady	27/81	23/73	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(100%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	34/93	24/75	Isolated rain or thundershower	(100%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	26/79	22/72	One or two rain or thundershower	(100%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	35/95	26/79	Isolated rain or thundershower	(80%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today	During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Bago and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Bago Region and isolated heavy falls in Tanintharyi Region. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Kawthoung (7.29) inches, Madauk (5.00) inches, Shwegyin (4.45) inches, Nyaunglaybin (3.26) inches, Homalin (2.84) inches and Putao (2.36) inches.
Bay Inference	Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
State of the Sea	Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Tanintahyi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for sub-sequent two days	Continuation of increase of rain in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Train derailment kills two women in Maryland, delays 9/11 hearing

BALTIMORE, 22 Aug — A freight train derailed on early Tuesday while crossing an overpass west of Baltimore, spilling tons of coal on top of two 19-year-old women who were sitting on the bridge and killing them, police said.

The accident also crushed nearby cars and damaged telecommunications lines in the area, affecting data connections as far away as Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where a pretrial hearing for five men accused of plotting the 11 September attacks was delayed by a day as a result.

The derailment occurred just after midnight as a CSX Corp train was headed east through Ellicott City, about 12 miles west of Baltimore, Howard County Police said in a statement. Police discovered the dead women during their early-morning investigation of the accident, the cause of which remains unknown. The National Transportation Safety Board has taken over the investigation.

The two women, identified as Ellicott City residents Elizabeth Nass and Rose Mayr, apparently were sitting on a ledge of the bridge over Ellicott City's Main Street when the derailment occurred, police said.

The police statement said the women had their backs to the train when it passed a few feet from them. "For an unknown reason, the train derailed, causing open cars filled with coal to tip over," the statement said. "Both NASA and Mayr were buried under the coal as it dumped from the train cars."

***Officials inspect part of a CSX freight train that derailed alongside a parking lot overnight in Ellicott City, Md, on 21 Aug, 2012.—*INTERNET**

The two had been sending Twitter messages shortly before the accident and police said they are aware of photos posted to Twitter that appear to have been sent from them on the bridge. A tweet from NASA's account, @LizNassty, sent shortly before the accident reads: "Drinking on top of the Ellicott City sign with @r0se_petals." One photo sent from NASA's account showed two sets of bare feet dangling over a darkened street, with the caption "Levitating."—*Internet*

A group of Indian students look up at part of a water slide that collapsed at an amusement park in Kolkata. At least 17 children were injured on Tuesday when a water slide collapsed at an amusement park in the eastern Indian city of Kolkata, police said.

INTERNET

17 children hurt in Indian amusement park accident

KOLKATA, 22 Aug — At least 17 children were injured on Tuesday when a water slide collapsed at an amusement park in the eastern Indian city of Kolkata, police said.

Crowds angered by the accident went on the rampage at Nicco Park on the outskirts of the city, smashing up facilities.

"At least 17 children suffered injuries after the water slide broke in the afternoon," senior police officer Surojit Karpurokayastha told *AFP*, adding they were taken to hospitals nearby, some with broken legs and arms.

A large number of police were called to the park to contain public anger, he said. Local media reported that the park was busy and that overcrowding may have been to blame for the collapse of the slide.

Internet

Top Israeli official talks Iran with senior rabbi

JERUSALEM, 22 Aug — The Israeli prime minister's national security adviser met with an influential rabbi to persuade him to support a military strike on Iran's nuclear sites, a party official said on Tuesday. Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the Shas Party's 92-year-old spiritual leader, met with national security adviser Yaakov Amidror last week, the official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters. He said he did not know the rabbi's response because the talks were private.

***This 8 March, 2002 file photo shows Rabbi Ovadia Yosef surrounded by members of his staff during a rally of his Ultra-Orthodox Shas party in Jerusalem.—* INTERNET**

The meeting comes at a time of public debate about the possibility of an Israeli attack against Iran to stop its nuclear programme. Israel and the West suspect Iran is aiming to build nuclear weapons. Iran insists the programme is for peaceful purposes.

Israeli leaders have been indicating impatience over Western diplomatic and economic moves to deter Iran, though some analysts believe the implied Israeli saber-rattling is a bluff to increase pressure on Teheran. Iranian leaders have rejected Israel's hints, threatening punishing retaliation. Israeli leaders have consulted with Yosef about weighty military decisions and other issues in the past, seeking his support and blessings.

Yosef, a former Israeli chief rabbi for Jews of Middle East origins, is revered by millions around the world as a scholar and spiritual leader.

His Shas Party is part of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government and would have a say in a decision over attacking Iran. Israel views Iran as an existential threat because of its nuclear and missile programmes, support for violent anti-Israeli groups in Lebanon and Gaza as well as repeated references by Iranian leaders to Israel's destruction. Israel submitted a letter to the UN on Monday over remarks by Iran's leaders in the past few days, calling for Israel's destruction.

The letter pointed to statements by Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Internet

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Auto mobiles industries in industrial zones will have to pay income taxes only when they make profits

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives sign attendance book.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 Aug— Pyithu Hluttaw Session continued for 32nd day, at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 10 am today, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 403 MPs.

At Today's session, six questions were raised and replied, one bill submitted, one proposal discussed.

At the question-and-answer session, Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win replied to the question of U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency on **"if there is a plan to telecast programme and discussions at fourth regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, live through Myanma Radio & Television (MRTV)".**

He said that, Sky Net TV channel that is making joint venture with MRTV has been broadcasting the programme and discussions live since fourth regular sessions of First Hluttaws held in 4 July. MRTV and MI Channel also broadcast breaking news. At present, MRTV's broadcasting system is analogue system. It can telecast only one channel. And it needs to spend a lot of time and money on the construction of a new network. So, MRTV is not in a position to broadcast Hluttaw sessions live as there is no any plan to extend new channel at present.

With respect to the question of U Thein Nyunt on **"if there is plans to telecast fifth regular session live",** the deputy minister replied that Myanmar has already got ASEAN's agreements to switch off the Analogue system in 2015. So, Plans are under way to shift from analogue to digital system. It will be implemented at a time when people would have access to 15 channels.

U Myint Soe of Pyawbwe Constituency raised the questions on **"whether there is a plan to lay down the policy of importing one-ton Left Hand Drive Light truck cars" and "whether there is a plan to give exemptions on trade taxes and income taxes of auto mobile industries in industrial zones as of 2012-2013 financial year"**

With respect to the first question, Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung replied that Industrial Development Committee would allow the import of either Left Hand Drive or Right Hand Drive auto mobiles in order that standard auto mobiles can be manufactured.

Regarding the second question, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein replied that those industries would

(See page 8)

Will sericulture become contributor to Chin State's economy?

Nay Pyi Taw 22 Aug— Amyotha Hluttaw session continued for 32nd day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall, Hluttaw Complex, here today, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 216 MPs.

Regarding the question of Dr Khin Maung Lay of Bago Region Constituency No (8) about **if there is any plan to relax passport application procedures for old age medics,** Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint replied that currently there was no plan to do, explaining the procedures in practice.

Regarding the question of U J Yawwu of Kachin State Constituency No (12) about **whether there is plan to transport foodstuffs and rice from Myitkyina to Putao with chartered flight (YX) at the cost of government,** Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein replied that Myanma Airways runs Myitkyina-Putao chartered flight at the request of Kachin State government and it is planned to operate chartered flights as priority in future.

Regarding the question of U Tin Shan of Taninthayi Region Constituency No (6) about **if there is any plan to run hi-speed passenger vessel back and between Yangon and Myeik either by Ministry of Transport or certain organizations or private companies,** the deputy minister replied that it is planned to operate such transport service in future for inland water transport. Permit would be given upon application an organization or a private company, but Inland Water Transport Department has no plan to operate hi-speed water transport between Yangon and Myeik.

Regarding the question of U Aung Nyein of Magway Region Constituency No (2) about charging extra amount in supplying electricity to household installed with electricity meter boxes in Thirty-six Village-tract of Yenangyoung Township, Union Minister for Electric Power No (2) U Khin Maung Soe replied that the total difference in electricity usage and supply of the village-tract exceeds 40 per cent, but the department only allows only 10 per cent and thus the village-tract has to pay additional charges. Such additional charges would not be levied more upon replacement of sub-standard transformers in those villages.

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives seen at 32nd day session.—MNA

Regarding the question of U Thein Hlaing of Sagaing Region Constituency No (8) about if there is any plan to provide 500 KVA generator to Kalay and to extend the proposed national grid to Kalay from Kalewa, the Union Minister replied that electricity is being supplied to Kalewa two hours per day with new 500 KVA generator and thus there is still no plan to provide additional generator to the town. Construction of 66 KV Kalay-Kalewa power line and power station

(See page 9)

Nicole Kidman to be honoured by NY Film Festival

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Britain and Ireland tuning into Netflix

P 12

Late PGA season good vibes a habit for Dustin Johnson

P 14

Chelsea recruit Hazard promises better to come

P 14