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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.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker calls for fight against HIV/AIDS in cooperation with INGOs, NGOs, other organizations Hluttaw urged to guarantee equality, freedom, social justice of national races residing in the Union

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July—The fourth regular session of the First Pyithu Hluttaw continued for 16th day in Hluttaw Complex, here, today, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 400 MPs.

Regarding the question of Dr Ne Lin of Seikkan Constituency about the staff infected by communicable diseases including HIV, Deputy Minister for Labour U Myint Thein replied that factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department under the Ministry of Labour is undertaking such major responsibilities as ensuring full legal rights to workers for protection of their interests, worksite safety and health care services. It is



Representatives attending 16th-day fourth regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw.—MNA

enforcing the existing laws and rules on labour affairs, conducting educational

courses and monitoring the working conditions of hazardous factories and

workshops with a view to reducing worksite accidents and work-related diseases.

The Health Department enacted prevention against epidemics law in 1955 for

the people suffered from communicable diseases (See page 8)

No State-owned assets or enterprises sold in time of the incumbent government Commerce Ministry to reform its depts to effectively safeguard the consumers' rights at border camps and ports



NAY PYI TAW, 27 July—The 16th day Amyotha Hluttaw regular session was held at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this morning, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 209 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

Regarding the question raised by U Thein Win of Sagaing Region Constituency (9) on "auction, transfer and management of state-owned buildings and confiscated vehicles", Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw answered that there is no such selling of state-owned or confiscated assets and state-owned enterprises in time of the incumbent government.

The former government had sold 1482 state-owned buildings, with 1097 buildings left to be sold. The value of sold buildings is K 602.319 billion in which K 422.171 billion have been received and K 180.148 billion yet to be received.

A total of 775 state-owned businesses handed over by respective ministries have been sold by the previous (See page 9)

Representatives arrive at Amyotha Hluttaw meeting.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 28 July, 2012

Come back!

Sustainable growth which calls for perfect management of natural resources has risen to prominence in the wake of devastating disasters worldwide stemming from over-exploitation of the environment. The last two decades saw the world's economies especially the developed ones making a constant shift to knowledge-based and green economy.

This global trend has put a higher value on learning society capable of surmounting challenges under the possible scenario. Education index is one of the determining factors in Human Development Index of a nation. Our country at the moment is in critical need of human capital that can lead the nation towards its goal as it is undergoing a series of drastic reforms.

The country's workforce is not in a position to grasp all the opportunities to be presented at present and in the near future, mainly because of their limited professional knowledge. We have ever been proud of our rich, valuable natural resources but never have enough knowledge to make use of it. In consequence, we could do nothing but to surrender the lion's share of our natural resources to foreign companies.

The President, in his speeches on a number of occasions, heartily invited Myanmar expats to come back home to join hands with the government in office for national development. Myanmar is ranked as one of the least developed nations in Asia-Pacific Region. But, the capacity of Myanmar people is beyond question if provided with a favourable environment in which they can demonstrate their skills. The success stories of Myanmar migrants around the world are convincing evidence of this fact.

The government alone cannot cope with all the daunting challenges on the revolutionary path toward the democratic nation but it calls for collaborative efforts of the government and the people in unison, once noted the President, requesting the Myanmar expats in various fields of works to return to the homeland and do their bit for economic prosperity of own kith and kin.

It is human nature to look for pastures new when situations are hard or hopes are fading. But, we could finally see the light at the end of tunnel now as the country is moving toward a new inspiring chapter. Various challenges and threats big or small await all of us. If you still cherish your motherland and your families and friends, why don't you come back and join with us? Please, come back!

PEFA's findings on Myanmar tax system explained

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July— Jointly organized by Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, World Bank and Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability, a press conference on Myanmar tax system was held at the meeting hall of the department here on 26 July.

A delegation led by Senior Economist Dr. Tuan Minh Le of PEFA from 24 to 26 July held talks with officials from Internal Revenue Department on existing income tax Law, Trading Tax Law, Office Act and Myanmar Stamp Act, tax policy and tax management, which are being practised by IRD. The press conference packed with Director-General and officers of IRD is meant to explain the findings on Myanmar tax system in comparison with international tax system.

Taking the advices from the missions of World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency, International Tax and Investment Centre, Myanmar Development Resource Institute and Centre for Economic and Social Development as well as from scholars at home and abroad, the Internal Revenue Department is carrying out plans to acquire technical assistances for technology and human resources development and cooperation processes, relating to the pros and cons of current tax system, procedures and current and long-term reforms.—MNA

Coordination meeting on Farmland Rules (Draft) held

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July— Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing this afternoon delivered an address at the coordination meeting on Farmland Rules (Draft) at the ministry.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union minister said that as the President has signed to announce the Farmland Law and the Vacant, Virgin and Fallow Land Management Law on 30-12-2011, the Rules (Draft) Drawing Work Committee drew the rules (draft) in detail for issuing the rules. The experts and officials scrutinized and drew the rules to protect the rights of the citizens and farmers, and legal experts from the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union scrutinized the legal words and terms. He invited the discussions to add necessities to the rules in conformity with the mother law.

Chairman of the Work Committee Deputy Minister



Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing making a speech at the coordination meeting on Farmland Rules (Draft).

MNA

U Ohn Than explained that members of the work committee, scholars, experts from the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union and representatives from the ministries are to participate in the discussions with necessary supplementary in line with the guidance

of the President to hold detailed discussions with the relevant departments and experts over the draft rules.

After that, experts from the ministries and the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union participated in the discussions.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Ministers U Ohn Than and U Khin Zaw, Secretary of the Work Committee Director-

General of the Settlement and Land Records Department U Myint Swe, work committee members officials of the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union, the General Administration Department, Central Bank of Myanmar, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

MNA

Rural development, poverty alleviation discussed in Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July— A work coordination meeting on allocating K1 billion paid out by the Union government for Rural development and Poverty Alleviation in Kachin State took place at the meeting hall No. 2 of the Kachin State government's office on 25 July.

Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai said, in his speech, that the Union government paid out K 1 billion to be used in carrying out rural development tasks and poverty alleviation activities, and that it is needed to use those amount of money in the main tasks such as water supply, electricity supply, repairing of village to village streets, maintenance of bridges and supporting to agriculture and breeding sectors.

Afterwards, Speaker of Kachin State Hluttaw U Rawam Jone, state ministers, state representatives, state level officials participated in the discussions about mainly tasks that need to be carried out in rural development and poverty alleviation in each township.—MNA



The 43rd Intake of Defence Service Officers Training Course social group recently donated K 330,000 to the fund of Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Executive committee Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Rtd).—NLM

Donations made for locals in Rakhine State

YANGON, 27 July— Due to the riots occurred in Rakhine State, locals lost their houses and possessions. To assist them wellwishers provided cash and kind in a ceremony which was held at Maykhala Hall of the Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township here this morning.

At today's event, in memory of daughter Ma Ei Shwe Sin, U Kyaw Myint and Daw Khin Nwe Nwe family of Hline Township donated K 500,000 and two packages of clothes, U Tin Ngwe and Daw Tin Tin Win family of Yankin Township, K 100,000 and four packages of clothes, Ma Thanda Lin family of Dagon Myothit (North) Township, K 100,000 and one package of clothes, in memory of late parents and Major Nyi



Wellwishers donate cash and foodstuff for locals of Rakhine State through officials at Fire Services Department (Head Office).—MNA

Maung, Daw Thein Hsa family of Sangyoung Township, K 100,000, Ma Nan Mo Kham Aye from

Bangkok K 50,000, U Maung Sein and Daw Yin Shwe family of Pabedan Township K 10,000 and one package of

clothes, U Thein Oo-Daw Ohnma and family from Bahan Township two packages of clothes through Director-General of the Fire Services Department U Tin Moe and officials concerned.

The donation amounted to K 311,231,823.

Similarly, the Relief and Resettlement Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw has been accepting donations for the victims since current situations.

The officials concerned accepted the donation of various kinds of clothes worth K 38,100 made by the Ministry of Cooperatives yesterday morning, who returned the certificate of honour and spoke words of thanks.

MNA

Iraqi SWAT forces stand guard outside Camp Ashraf, home to exiled Iranian opposition members, during a 2011 protest by Iraqis calling for the camp to be closed. The UN refugee agency called on Thursday for "cooperation, patience and understanding" in a dispute involving Iranian exiles at a camp in Iraq who refuse to leave for a new transit centre.— INTERNET



UN refugee agency calls for patience in Iraqi camp dispute

WASHINGTON, 27 July — The UN refugee agency called on Thursday for "cooperation, patience and understanding" in a dispute involving Iranian exiles at a camp in Iraq who refuse to leave for a new transit centre." Protection and solutions for some 3,200 current and former residents of the camp are the primary objectives of efforts led by the United Nations to close the camp peacefully and resolve the situation of its residents," the UNHCR said in a statement. So far, around 1,900 inhabitants have moved from camp New Iraq (formerly Ashraf camp) to the new Hurriya (Liberty) transit centre near Baghdad, but the transfers stopped on 5 May.

About 1,200 members of the People's Mujahadeen of Iran refuse to leave New Iraq camp, despite a UN-brokered accord with Iraq to leave as a first step toward finding homes in other countries. The group, which has been on the US terror blacklist since 1997, says it has renounced violence and has asked Washington to remove it from its list of terrorist organisations. Opposed to the regime in

Teheran, the Iranian camp residents cite inhuman conditions at Hurriya and broken promises on the part of the Iraqi government with regards to its quality.

The UN agency, which assesses the protection needs of those in the camps, called on the Iraqi government to continue to offer resettlement solutions to those in need, "consistent with its long-standing tradition of generosity and hospitality". The agency's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Erika Feller, also said that Iraq should "assist people to stay safely and decently until such solutions can be materialized". The camp has been in existence since the mid-80s and most of its residents are of Iranian origin, the UNHCR says.

Earlier this month, the US government said the Iranian exiles must leave the camp if they are to be removed from Washington's terror blacklist. The UNHCR appeal follows the presentation on Tuesday of a UN roadmap to the Iraqi government and Ashraf residents to resolve the dispute.— *Internet*

Two NATO soldiers killed in southern Afghan blast

KABUL, 27 July— Two soldiers with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) were killed on Thursday in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast in restive southern Afghanistan, the military alliance confirmed

in a Press release on Friday morning.

The brief Press release disclosed neither the nationalities of the victims nor the details about the incident under the ISAF policy, only saying "it is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to

the relevant national authorities."

Troops mainly from US, Britain and Australia have been stationed in the southern region within the framework of ISAF to curb Taliban-linked insurgency there.

Violence has been on the rise since Taliban insurgents launched an annual spring offensive on 3 May.

The simple but difficult to be detected Taliban weapon, the IEDs used in making suicide vests and roadside bombs, has proved a challenge for Afghan and NATO-led forces in the insurgency-hit country.

The casualties bring to 260 the number of foreign soldiers who have been killed in Afghanistan since beginning this year.

Xinhua



A boy inspects a damaged police pick up truck at market where a car bomb exploded in Diwaniya Province, 150 km (95 miles) south of Baghdad on 23 July, 2012.

At least 107 people were killed in bomb and gun attacks in Iraq on Monday, a day after 20 died in explosions, in a coordinated surge of violence against mostly Shi'ite Muslim targets.

REUTERS

American pleads guilty to trying to export missile parts to Iran

CHICAGO, 27 July— A California man pleaded guilty in Chicago on Thursday to a felony charge of trying to illegally export missile parts to Iran, which the United States says is working to build nuclear weapons. Andro Telemi, 42, faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. He pleaded guilty without entering into an agreement with the government.

Telemi, a naturalized US citizen from Iran, had been indicted in 2009 along with Iranian national Davoud Baniameri, 39, also of California. Baniameri pleaded guilty last year and was sentenced to four years in prison. The United States prohibits US citizens from business dealings with the government of Iran, and has recently put in place new harsh penalties for banks that deal with the nation. Congressional negotiators are working on new sanctions aimed at further restricting Iran's oil revenues. Iran's relations with the United States have been strained since an Islamic revolution toppled the US-backed Shah of Iran in 1979 and Shi'ite Moslem militants seized the US embassy and took 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.— *Reuters*

US to let Myanmar import ban expire, at least temporarily

WASHINGTON, 27 July— A US ban on imports from Myanmar was set to expire, at least temporarily, at the end of September because of a clash between lawmakers over funding for an African trade provision. The two issues are tied together in a bill that has the backing of the Obama administration and that lawmakers hope to pass before their month long August recess. The White House has eased some sanctions on Myanmar in response to economic and political reforms. It does not favour lifting the import

ban yet.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell proposed separating the two measures so the ban on imports from Myanmar could be renewed.

But Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, a Democrat, objected on the grounds that it would jeopardize approval of the African trade measure, which he said was vital to clothing industry jobs on the continent.

He rejected McConnell's charge that Democrats were turning renewal of sanctions on

Myanmar "into a partisan issue" after years of strong support from both parties.

Baucus said he hoped to worked with Senator Tom Coburn, an Oklahoma Republican, in coming days to address his concerns about funding for the African trade provision.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act, first passed by Congress in 2000, allows eligible countries in sub-Saharan Africa to ship thousands of goods to the United States without paying import duties.

Reuters

Hacking experts find new ways to attack Android phones

LAS VEGAS, 27 July—Hacking experts on Wednesday

demonstrated ways to attack Android smartphones using methods they said work on virtually all such devices in use today, despite recent efforts by search engine giant Google (GOOGO) to boost protection. Experts showed off their prowess at the Black Hat hacking conference in Las Vegas, where some 6,500 corporate and government security technology workers gathered to learn about emerging threats to their networks.

"Google is making progress, but the authors of malicious software are moving forward," said Sean Schulte of Trustwave's SpiderLabs.

Google spokeswoman Gina Scigliano declined to comment on the security concerns or the new research. Accuvant researcher Charlie Miller demonstrated a method for delivering malicious code to Android phones using a new Android feature known as near field communications. "I can take over your phone," Miller said. Near field communications allow users to share photos with friends, make payments or exchange other data by bringing Android phones within a few centimeters of similarly equipped devices such as another phone or a payment terminal.—*Reuters*



A promoter displays a Samsung Note android phone during its launch in Jakarta on 8 Nov, 2011.

REUTERS

Shocking security slip at UK airport allows 'paperless' 11-year old boy to fly to Rome

LONDON, 27 July— Airport officials have launched an urgent inquiry after an 11-year-old boy boarded a Jet2 flight to Rome on his own from the Manchester Airport without any passport or boarding pass.

Liam Corcoran was only found en route and was returned home on Tuesday. Several members of the staff from the airline Jet2 have been suspended in this matter

so far. "This extremely

serious matter is now being urgently investigated by officials from the airport and airline. It is clear that documentation has not been checked correctly at security and the boarding gate," The *Telegraph* quoted a Manchester Airport spokesman, as saying.

"The boy went through full security screening so the safety of passengers and the aircraft was never

compromised," he added.

Liam evaded five security checks to board the flight. The aeroplane's captain was only alerted to the extra passenger when other passengers raised concerns during the flight.

It has been reported that the boy had run away from his mother while she was shopping at Wythenshawe Civic Centre and made his way to the airport.—*Internet*



Chinese People's Liberation Army soldiers place sandbags to block a breaching dyke after heavy rainfalls hit the Fangshan district of Beijing, on 25 July, 2012.

REUTERS

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

Black Hat: Iris scanners ‘can be tricked’ by hackers

LAS VEGAS, 27 July — Security researchers have discovered a way to replicate a person’s eye to bypass iris-scanning security systems. A team at the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid was able to recreate the image of an iris from digital codes of real irises stored in security databases. The findings were shared at the annual Black Hat security conference in Las Vegas. It raises doubts over what is considered to be one of the most secure methods of biometric security. Researcher Javier Galbally and his team, which included researchers from West Virginia University, were able to print out synthetic images of irises.

In one experiment, the researchers tested their fake irises against a leading commercial-recognition system. In 80% of attempts, they said, the scanner believed

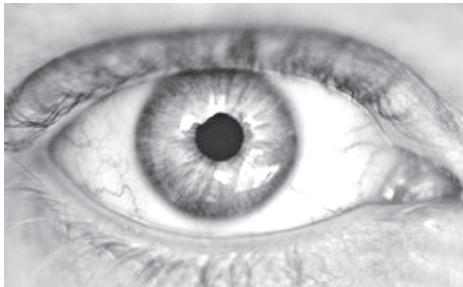
it was a real eye. While researchers have been able to create realistic iris images for some time, it is thought that this is the first instance where the fake image can be generated from the iris code of a real person—a method which could be used to steal someone’s identity. An iris code is the data stored by recognition systems when it scans a person’s eye. It contains around 5,000 different pieces of information.

The research was explained to an audience at the annual Black Hat conference, a meeting of the leading figures in IT security from across the world. Shawn Henry, the former head of the FBI’s cybercrime unit, gave a key speech at the event. He urged security experts to counter-attack in their attempts to stamp out criminal activity. “We need warriors to fight our

enemies, particularly in the cyber world right now,” he told his audience.

“I believe the threat from computer network attack is the most significant threat we face as a civilised world, other than a weapon of mass destruction.” He called on the computer security industry to begin looking at ways of gathering intelligence on possible attacks and attackers, rather than seeking simply to block them when they happen. “It is not enough to watch the perimeter,” Mr Henry said. “We have to be constantly hunting, looking for tripwires.” Intelligence is the key to all of this. If we understand who the adversary is, we can take specific actions.”

For the first time, Apple representatives will be speaking at the Black Hat event. The company is expected to outline security features in the coming release of its latest mobile operating system, iOS. The appearance comes at a crucial time for Apple. Earlier in the year, the company’s Mac range suffered a malware attack, with more than 500,000 machines infected.—*Internet*



Iris scanners are widely recognised as one of the most secure biometric security measures.
INTERNET

Termites’ crystal backpacks help them go out with bang



Ageing workers assist soldiers in defending their colony.
INTERNET

LONDON, 27 July — A species of termite has been found to inflict more damage on its enemies as it ages. When defending their colony, some termites “explode”, releasing chemicals that injure intruders. A previously unknown crystal structure has been discovered that raises the toxicity of their chemical weapons. As worker termites grow older, they become less able to perform their duties. Yet this newly discovered structure allows ageing workers to better defend their colony. The research was published today in *Science*.

When faced with a threat, many termite species employ a type of altruistic suicide known as “autothysis” in order to deter attackers. In a few species, workers join “soldier” termites in the defence of their colony and perform these acts of suicidal

defence. However, a twist to this system has been discovered in a species from French Guiana. “My PhD student, Thomas Bourguignon, was studying termite community ecology and collecting species when, casually, he found something really special,” Prof Yves Roisin from the Free University of Brussels told BBC News.

By rupturing their bodies, *Neocapritermes taracua* release a toxic chemical that sticks to intruders, holding them fast and corroding their bodies. [Autothysis] is usually a one component system. The defensive secretions are stored in salivary glands, but in these species there is a ‘backpack’ with two crystals carried outside the body. When the termite bursts, the two mix together, producing the more toxic compounds,” Prof Roisin explained. The

“backpacks” are formed from pouches on the outside of the body. Although termite societies contain castes of “soldier” individuals with vastly enlarged mandibles that have evolved for the purpose of attacking intruders, workers can join fights and perform defensive suicides should the need arise. The research shows that as workers in this species grow older and more incapable of performing other tasks, they store up crystals that produce a chemical reaction when mixed with glandular secretions. This increases the toxicity of their explosive defence mechanism.

Biologists believe it allows the ageing workers to become more “useful” to the colony as sacrificial, defensive bombs. How the crystals are synthesised is, as yet, unknown. Also unknown is whether other species in the genus have evolved a similar backpack system. “There are some five or six species in the genus, but it’s the only species [that carries a backpack] we’ve seen so far,” Professor Yves Roisin said. “It’s quite strange.”—*Internet*

Galaxy phones drive Samsung to record profit again

SEOUL, 27 July — Samsung, the world’s largest technology firm by revenue, reported another record-high quarterly profit as customers flocked to Galaxy smartphones, helping it outdo rivals even at a challenging time for the global tech industry. Samsung Electronics Co said Friday its net profits swelled to 5.2 trillion won (\$4.5 billion) in the April-June quarter, a 48 percent jump from a year earlier. The earnings were lower than a median forecast of 5.6 trillion won in a poll of seven analysts by *Yonhap* Infomax, but investors still cheered the result, sending Samsung shares up 4.3 percent in Seoul. Samsung, the world’s largest maker of mobile phones, televisions and memory chips, benefited from runaway demand for its Android-powered smartphones as rivals including Apple Inc were yet to release new models.

The robust sales of smartphones such as the company’s flagship Galaxy S3 helped Samsung paper over a slowdown in other consumer electronics sectors such as televisions and personal computers that has been painful for its rivals and

component suppliers. Its second quarter operating profit spiked 79 percent over a year earlier to 6.7 trillion won and its revenue rose 21 percent to 47.6 trillion won, matching Samsung’s guidance released earlier this month. The operating profit, also at an all-time high, was up 15 percent from the previous quarter. Despite nagging worries about debt-crippled Europe, analysts are expecting Samsung to achieve a record-high profit in the third quarter when Galaxy S3 sales are expected to reach a peak before Apple unveils its new iPhone, anticipated in October.

“The third quarter is expected to be marginally positive as demand for consumer electronics goods, including smartphones and

tablets, remains strong and a stream of new products hit the market. Supply for display panels is also expected to increase, as TV makers prepare for the year-end holiday season,” Samsung said in a statement. In the second quarter, Samsung’s mobile business contributed 63 percent of Samsung’s entire operating profit by generating 4.2 trillion won profit. Analysts estimate that Samsung sold around 50 million smartphones in the second quarter, including about 6.5 million Galaxy S3 phones. Although the company does not release its mobile-phone sales figures, Samsung probably outperformed competitors in the top-end smartphone market, while having a tougher time competing with Chinese

brands such as ZTE and Huawei in low-end smartphones, analysts said.

Samsung’s strong result come a few days after Apple reported earnings that fell short of expectations as consumers snapped up cheaper iPhones or delayed purchase in anticipation of a new iPhone model. Apple, which makes only one phone model, said it sold 26 million iPhones in the second quarter, up 28 percent from a year earlier. Samsung, which boasts a wide range of mobile phones with various screen sizes, designs and price ranges, extended its lead over Apple in smartphone shipments in the last period, said analyst Lee Sei-cheol at Meritz Securities.

In the first quarter, Samsung was estimated to have beat Apple in smartphone shipments by about 10 million units. In the April-June period, Samsung probably sold 23 million more smartphones than Apple, according to Lee.

The two companies, which together control more than half of the world’s smartphone market, are scheduled to meet on 30 July in a San Jose court for a US trial on mobile patents.—*Internet*



In this 7 July, 2010 file picture a man walks past near the logos of the Samsung Electronics at its show room in Seoul, South Korea.—INTERNET



A DJ plays music at a club in Warsaw on 4 Jan, 2012.
REUTERS

Pop music too loud and all sounds the same: official

LONDON, 27 July — Comforting news for anyone over the age of 35, scientists have worked out that modern pop music really is louder and does all sound the same. Researchers in Spain used a huge archive known as the Million Song Dataset, which breaks down audio and lyrical content into data that can be crunched, to study pop songs from 1955 to 2010. A team led by artificial intelligence specialist Joan Serra at the Spanish National Research Council ran music from the last 50 years through some complex algorithms and found that pop songs have become intrinsically louder and more bland in terms of the chords, melodies and types of sound used.

“We found evidence of a progressive homogenization of the musical discourse,” Serra told *Reuters*. “In particular, we obtained numerical indicators that the diversity of transitions between note combinations—roughly speaking chords plus melodies—has consistently diminished in the last 50 years.” They also found the so-called timbre palette has become poorer. The same note played at the same volume on, say, a piano and a guitar is said to have a different timbre, so the researchers found modern pop has a more limited variety of sounds. Intrinsic loudness is the volume baked into a song when it is recorded, which can make it sound louder than others even at the same volume setting on an amplifier.

The music industry has long been accused of ramping up the volume at which songs are recorded in a ‘loudness war’ but Serra says this is the first time it has been properly measured using a large database.—*Reuters*

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

US weighs retail sweep after Wal-Mart bribery scandal

WASHINGTON, 27 July—US authorities are considering launching a wide-ranging examination of the retail industry for violations of an anti-foreign bribery law, after Wal-Mart and other retailers have come forth with their own potential offenses, people familiar with the matter said. Retailers have been reviewing their international operations in light of a bribery scandal at Wal-Mart Stores Inc's (WMT) operations in Mexico that is the subject of investigations by the Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The conduct was thrown into the public spotlight in April, when a *New York Times* report said that management at Wal-Mart de Mexico (WALMEXV.MX) orche-

strated bribes of \$24 million to help it grow quickly in the last decade and that Wal-Mart's top brass tried to cover it up. Other retail companies have also since reported to US agencies suspicions of their own potential violations, which in turn has the Justice Department and SEC considering a sweep of the entire industry, said the sources, who are working with companies who have unearthed potential issues but declined to be identified.

The people would not reveal which retail companies have reported problems, but the development could signal that the retail industry faces an expensive legal headache that could last for years. An SEC spokesman, a DOJ spokeswoman and Wal-Mart

declined to comment. It is not clear which firms would be



People walk past a Wal-Mart store with a banner reading "Low prices, every day, in everything" in Mexico City in this 21 April, 2012 file photo. REUTERS

included in an industry sweep by authorities.

A number of US retailers, selling everything from apparel to electronics and office products, have extensive operations abroad. The government teams that enforce the US anti-foreign bribery law, the Foreign Corrupt Practices

Act, have often turned to industry-wide reviews when they find misconduct at a few companies that could be indicative of more widespread problems. The SEC as a regulatory agency usually conducts the sweeps, though the DOJ does on occasion participate as well.—Reuters

Health Tip: Eat a nutritious breakfast

Breakfast is the first opportunity of the day to eat a nutritious, healthy meal.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics offers these healthy breakfast suggestions for you and your family:

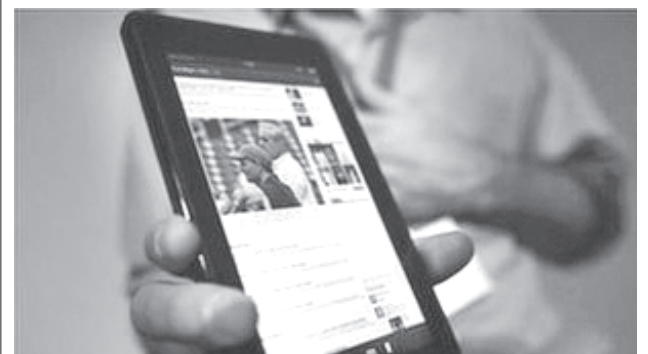
- * Offer a lean protein, such as Canadian bacon, eggs, cheese, deli meat, peanut butter or yogurt.
- * Pair the protein with a whole-grain carbohydrate, such as a whole-grain cereal, bread, waffle or pancake or oatmeal.
- * Don't forget fruits and vegetables; top yogurt with some fruit or chop up veggies to add to an omelet.
- * If you don't have time to prepare a nutritious breakfast in the morning, prepare as much as you can the night before.

Amazon reports 96% fall in Q2 profit on robot deal

NEW YORK, 27 July — The online retailer Amazon has reported a 96% fall in profits to \$7m (£4.5m) for the three months ending in June, down from \$191m a year earlier. The company blamed the fall on a \$65m loss from its purchase of robot-maker Kiva systems earlier this year. Sales rose 29% to \$12.8bn, slightly lower than analyst predictions.

The company also blamed the strong dollar, which made its products more expensive in Europe and other key markets, for the drop in earnings. Amazon also warned it would make a loss of between \$50m and \$350m in the current three month period. Amazon agreed to buy Kiva Systems, which makes robot technology to automate warehouses, for \$775m in March. It hopes the technology will eventually boost its productivity and profitability. Amazon's shares rose 1.2% in after-hours trading following the release of the results.

Internet



Sales of Amazon's e-books continue to be helped by its Kindle Fire, but the strong dollar has hit revenue.

INTERNET

High-carb diet tied to breast cancer risk for some

LONDON, 27 July—Older women who eat a lot of starchy and sweet carbohydrates may be at increased risk of a less common but deadlier form of breast cancer, according to a European study. The findings from a study of nearly 335,000 European women, published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, do not prove that sweets, French fries and white bread contribute to breast

cancer—but they do hint at a potential factor in a little understood form of breast cancer. Specifically, the study found a link between high "glycemic load" and breast cancers that lack receptors for the female sex hormone estrogen, so-called "ER-negative" breast cancers.

A high glycemic load essentially means a diet heavy in foods that cause a rapid spike in blood sugar, such as processed foods made from white flour, potatoes and sweets. The study, conducted by Isabelle Romieu of the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, France, looked at nearly 335,000 women who took part in a long-running European study on nutrition factors and cancer risk.—Reuters

Volkswagen's record sales boost profits



VW said it was outperforming rivals in all its markets.

INTERNET

LONDON, 27 July — German car giant Volkswagen has sold a record number of vehicles so far this year, helped by its presence in developing markets. Net profits for the first six months of the year were 8.8bn euros (\$10.7bn; £6.9bn), up 36% from a year earlier. First half deliveries rose 8.9% to a record 4.6 million vehicles.

Volkswagen, whose brands include Audi and Skoda, has major markets outside the depressed eurozone. Sales in China and Latin America rose sharply. Earlier this month, Volkswagen agreed to raise its stake in Porsche to give it total ownership of the luxury sportscar maker. Its Bentley brand did particularly well, with sales rising almost 50% to 5,000 models.

Professor Doctor Martin Winterkorn, the chairman of Volkswagen's management board, said VW's geographical spread had contributed to its strong performance. "Our strong position in the international markets will enable us to outperform the market as a whole—despite the challenging environment.— Internet

Shift work link to 'increased risk of heart problems'

LONDON, 27 July—Shift workers are slightly more at risk of having a heart attack or stroke than day workers, research suggests. An analysis of studies involving more than 2m workers in the *British Medical Journal* said shift work can disrupt the body clock and have an adverse effect on lifestyle. It has previously been linked to an increased risk of high blood pressure and diabetes. Limiting night shifts would help workers cope, experts said. The team of researchers from Canada and Norway analysed 34 studies. In total, there were 17,359 coronary events of some kind, including cardiac arrests, 6,598 heart attacks and 1,854 strokes caused by lack of blood to the brain.

These events were more common in shift workers than in other people. The BMJ study calculated that shift work was linked to a 23% increased risk of heart attack, 24% increased risk of coronary event and 5%

increased risk of stroke. But they also said shift work was not linked to increased mortality rates from heart problems and that the relative risks associated with heart problems were "modest". The researchers took the socioeconomic status of the workers, their diet and general health into account in their findings.

Dan Hackam, associate professor at Western University, London Ontario in Canada, said shift workers were more prone to sleeping and eating badly. "Night shift workers are up all the time and they don't have a defined rest period. They are in a state of perpetual nervous system activation which is bad for things like obesity and cholesterol," he said. The authors say that screening programmes could help identify and treat risk factors for shift workers, such as high blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Internet

Working night shifts can disrupt the body's clock and lead to health problems.

INTERNET



Steroid stanozolol mimics testosterone, boosts muscle

LONDON, 27 July — Greek high jumper Dimitris Chondrokoukis has tested positive for doping with an anabolic steroid which has featured in several Olympic positive dope tests in the past. An old, relatively cheap and easy-to-detect drug, stanozolol, like other anabolic steroids, is designed to mimic the effects of the male sex hormones testosterone and dihydrotestosterone.

Higher levels of testosterone cause anabolic changes in the body, including an increased rate of protein synthesis. This in turn can boost muscle growth and an ability to recover more quickly between bouts of strenuous exercise. Experts say power and

strength sports are the events where potential cheats are most likely to use such steroids.

Stanozolol, first developed in the 1960s, is now available as a cheap generic, often sold under the brand names Winstrol and Tenabol. It can be taken either as a liquid suspension, as a tablet, or in injectable form. Its legitimate uses include the treatment of anemia and a condition called hereditary angioedema, which can cause sudden attacks of swelling in the hands, arms, feet, face or airways. Fellow Greek Leonidas Sampanis, a weightlifter, tested positive for the same drug during the Athens Olympics in 2004, as did Russian weightlifter Albina Khomic.— Reuters

Cameron ready for judo diplomacy with Putin

LONDON, 27 July— Russian President Vladimir Putin, a black belt in judo, may spar with Britain's prime minister in the diplomatic arena over Syria at a judo match during the London Olympic Games, British sources said on Tuesday.

Sources close to British Prime Minister David Cameron said he would accompany Putin, a former KGB agent, to a match if the Kremlin leader attends the Games, and is likely to press him over Syria.

Last month Putin's spokesman said he might make his first visit to Britain in nine years to watch the judo contest at the Games, which start on Friday. The British sources said it was not yet clear whether Putin would be coming to London.

Russia has faced growing Western criticism of its position on Syria, with countries like Britain demanding Moscow drop its support for President Bashar al-Assad.

An impromptu meeting

will give Cameron an opportunity to put pressure on Putin over Russia's opposition to UN sanctions against Assad's government, one British source said.

Putin, a one-time judo champion in his native city of St Petersburg, has sought to advance his macho image at home by releasing photographs of himself practicing judo, saving wild tigers and riding a horse bare-chested in Siberia. His diplomatic stance on Syria has been tough, as well.—Reuters



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (R) shakes hands with Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron during their meeting before the G20 summit in Los Cabos on 18 June, 2012.—REUTERS

APEC tourism ministers meet in Khabarovsk on sustainable development

VLADIVOSTOK, 27 July— The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) tourism ministers met on Monday in Khabarovsk city, Russia, to discuss the sustainable development of the tourism industry, local media reported.

During the two-day APEC tourism ministerial meeting, the ministers will continue their joint work and discuss the achievements in tourism development, including tourism as the driver of growth and prosperity in the region, comprehensive growth in the tourism industry, the sustainability of the tourism business and tourist destinations, efficiency and regional economic integration, according to the *Interfax* news agency.

Interfax said APEC nations shared a common goal of improving the quality of tourism service, despite the disparity among their tourism development level.

The tourism industry is crucial for both the development and cooperation of regional economies, as a sustainable development of the tourism industry is conducive to economic growth, employment, investment, poverty reduction and environmental protection.

Xinhua



US Olympic tri-athlete Sarah Groff and her friend (L) sit in an ice bath at their home in Hartford, Vermont after a day of training. Groff, 30, will be one of three US athletes to compete in the women's triathlon on 4 Aug, starting with a 1,500 metre swim in the Serpentine lake in Hyde Park and followed by a 40-kilometre bike ride and a 10-kilometre run.—REUTERS

Korea, US to stage annual joint military drill next month

SEOUL, 27 July— South Korea and the United States will conduct their annual joint military drill next month, the US Combined Forces Command (CFC) said on Monday. The drill dubbed Ulchi Freedom Guardian is slated for 20-31 Aug and aimed at strengthening the readiness of forces of the two allies, according to the CFC.

"The exercise will be based on realistic scenarios and enable the two allies to train on their essential tasks

with a whole of government," Gen. James D Thurman, CFC commander said in a statement.

The CFC had informed the army of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) through its Panmunjom Mission of the dates and non-provocative natures of the exercise, the statement said, adding that Neutral Nations Supervisory commission observers would monitor the drill.

"Training exercises like Ulchi Freedom Guardian are

carried out in the spirit of the 1 Oct, 1953, ROK-US Mutual Defence Treaty and in accordance with the armistice," the statement said, adding that the war games will also "highlight the longstanding military partnership, commitment and enduring friendship" between the two allies.

According to Seoul's *Yonhap News Agency*, the computer-aided exercises will mobilize some 56,000 South Korean troops and about 30,000 US soldiers, including some 3,000 from the US and other bases around the Pacific region. In addition, some 440,000 people from South Korean central and local authorities are expected to take part in counter-terrorism exercises and disaster prevention trainings.

Xinhua

Disaster-hit museum celebrates 11th anniversary

TOKYO, 27 July— A museum dedicated to the works of manga artist Shotaro Ishinomori celebrated its 11th anniversary in tsunami-hit Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture.

Ishinomori is known for "Kamen Rider" and other titles. The museum was established to display his

original drawings, but closed after being severely damaged by last year's tsunami.

People in Ishinomaki held an event to celebrate the museum's anniversary on Sunday at a nearby makeshift shopping street.

Parents and children watched a live stage performance by local heroic

characters, and also enjoyed making original manga key holders.

Children cheered as they saw a new monument to Ishinomori's character known as "Kikaida" on the temporary shopping street.

Its old version in the city center was washed away by the tsunami.—Internet

Restoration work is underway at the museum for its reopening before the end of the year.

The president of the company that operates the museum says he wants to make the reopening an opportunity for people of all ages to enjoy Ishinomori's great works. The museum attracted about 200,000 visitors every year before the tsunami.—Internet

China solar firms say EU complaint signals trade war

BEIJING, 27 July— China's solar firms warned of a trade war on Thursday, calling on the Chinese government to respond with all means to an anti-dumping complaint filed by European competitors that they said could be a fatal blow. Ratcheting up the stakes in ongoing disputes within the industry, companies led by Germany's SolarWorld (SWVGD) on Wednesday

asked the European Union to investigate claims that Chinese firms had been selling their products below market value in Europe—the world's biggest solar market.

SolarWorld spearheaded a similar initiative in the United States, leading the world's largest economy in May to impose duties of about 31 percent on solar panel imports from China. "If the EU were to follow the precedent of the US

and launch an anti-dumping investigation on Chinese solar products, the Chinese solar industry would suffer a fatal blow," Yingli Solar's (YGE) chief strategy officer, Wang Yiyu said.

"The investigation would also trigger a whole-scale trade war between China and the EU, which would cause huge losses to both parties," he said at a briefing by four major Chinese solar firms - Yingli,

SunTech (STP), Trina (TSL) and Canadian Solar (CSIQ). Western solar companies have been at odds with their Chinese counterparts for years, alleging they receive lavish credit lines to offer modules at cheaper prices, while European players struggle to refinance. Trade action in Europe could prompt China to return fire by taking similar measures against western solar companies.

"We call on the Chinese government to take all necessary and resolute measures to protect the legitimate interests of the Chinese solar industry," Wang said. Close to 60 percent of China's solar exports, worth \$35.8 billion, were shipped to the EU in 2011, the four Chinese companies said. Europe accounted for 74 percent of global solar installations in 2011, according to industry association EPIA. The European Commission has 45 days to decide if it will start an investigation.—Reuters



A patient (3rd L) receives traditional acupuncture treatment with mashed garlic, herbs and ignited dry moxa leaves placed on the back to treat rheumatism as another patient (R) receives cupping treatment at a hospital in Hefei, Anhui province, China, on 18 July, 2012.—REUTERS

Water supply to 33,000 houses cut off in Osaka

OSAKA, 27 July— Water supply has been cut off since Monday morning in a city of western Japanese prefecture of Osaka, affecting more than 33,000 households, local authorities said.

According to Sakai City in the prefecture, the water supply failed after one of the city's water mains burst on Monday morning, and the drinking water supply remains suspended throughout the day.

While the city hurries its repair works on the service pipe, emergency water supply centers with water wagons were set up in several areas of the city. The cause of the failure is also under investigation.—Xinhua



Employees carry solar panels at a solar power plant in Aksu, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on 18 May, 2012. REUTERS

Myazedi and Rosetta Stone Inscriptions

Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

Bagan stone inscriptions are the archives of Bagan history of over three centuries. They record contemporary events of the kings and people of those days. Among many stone inscriptions on display at the archaeological site museum in Bagan, there are some world renowned ones of which "Myazedi Stone Inscription" is the most focussed of scholars of Bagan archaeology and culture. It is often compared to the Rosetta Stone Inscription of old Egypt.

Although Myazedi stone inscription and Rosetta stone inscription are too far apart in terms of land and culture and in terms of time, but in terms of their historic importance they have similarity. Myazedi stone inscription was dated 1112 A.D. or 474 Myanmar Era, whereas Rosetta stone inscription dated far back into B.C. 196. But just as the former is an important archaeological evidence for the history of ancient Bagan, so also is the latter in regard to ancient history of Egypt.

Myazedi stone inscription was discovered near Myazedi Pagoda at Myinkaba Village to the south of ancient Bagan, so it is known by the name of that pagoda. There are two such inscriptions. The one on display at the Bagan museum was discovered in 1886-87 by a German Pali scholar and Superintendent of the Epigraphic Office of the Indian Archaeology Survey, Dr. Charles Forchhammer. The one which is now set up on the platform of Myazedi Pagoda was first discovered in the Ku Byauk Kyi Temple. It was broken in three pieces. These two inscriptions are identical and they were set up by Prince Rajakumar of Bagan period. Therefore they are wellknown in Myanmar history as "Myazedi Stone Inscription" or "Ku Byauk Kyi Stone Inscription" or "Rajakumar Stone Inscription".

The one on display in the museum is a square pillar of sand stone, five feet and eleven inches high, one foot and two inches wide, with the inscribed area of three feet and six inches. The one on the platform of Myazedi Pagoda has the two sides wider than the other two sides.

Rosetta stone inscription was discovered near an ancient town called Rosetta in the Nile Delta in Egypt. So it is known by the name of that town. It is an inscribed black stone of lava type. During the battle of the Nile which Napoleon I of France fought in 1799, a French military officer discovered it. In 1801, when the British defeated the French and took over the ancient Egyptian seaport capital Alexandria, Rosetta stone inscription was taken to England. Now it is on display at the British museum,

London. It measures three feet and nine inches high, two feet, four and a half inches wide and eleven inches thick. The upper portion and the right side corner are broken and broken pieces are still at large.

Myazedi inscribed pillar is quadri angle, each side bears an inscription in a different language. So there are four languages namely Pali, Myanmar, Mon and Pyu. Rosetta stone has three languages, namely Hieroglyphics, Demotics and Greek. Myazedi stone inscription is one of the earliest stone inscriptions so far discovered in Bagan. Regarding Rosetta Stone inscription, it is not one of the oldest but it is one of the most important stone inscriptions for Egyptian history.

Because of Myazedi stone inscription, it is possible to decipher Pyu letters. Similarly thanks to Rosetta stone inscription Hieroglyphics, ancient pictorial writings of Egypt could be read and interpreted. Previously Egyptian Hieroglyphics were enigma to the scholars. On Rosetta stone the same subject was recorded in three different languages. In deciphering Egyptian Hieroglyphics, clues were obtained from the other two languages. First by means of Greek letter, Demotics letters were deciphered. Secondly, by means of Demotics letters, Egyptian Hieroglyphics were gradually deciphered. The scholar who could first decipher Rosetta stone inscription was an English philologist named Thomas Young. He was able to pick out the word "Ptolemy" from Egyptian Hieroglyphics. But it was the French scholar named Jan Francios Champollion who could decipher the entire Hieroglyphics on Rosetta stone.

Myazedi stone inscription dated (1112 A.D.) was the work of Prince Rajakumar, the son of King Kyansittha (1084-1112 A.D.). Rosetta stone inscription was dated B.C. 196 in the reign of Egyptian King Ptolemy. Myazedi stone inscription records Prince Rajakumar's religious dedication whereas Rosetta stone inscription is a royal order on religious beliefs. So both stone inscriptions deal with religious matter. But they provide us data contributory to our research on history, sociology, customs, traditions, philology and culture of time.

Kyanzittha, one famous knight-errant of King Anawrahta had a love affairs with a girl named Thambula while he was hiding in a monastery because Anawrahta sent his warriors to arrest him on charge of disloyalty when Kyanzittha had to flee from the monastery, he gave his ruby ring to his pregnant wife saying "If a son is born, come to me with this ring as I would become king. If a daughter is

born, sell this ruby ring and live a comfortable life."

Myazedi stone inscription tells us that Prince Rajakumar was the son of King Kyanzittha and consort Thambula. When Kyanzittha ascended the throne, Thambula and son arrived at the court. Thambula was raised as queen "Uhsaukpan" and the son as Prince Rajakumar and lord of Seven Districts of Danyawadi hill region. Since the King had chosen his grandson (by another queen) Alaungsithu to be his immediate successor to the throne, Prince Rajakumar could not become heir apparent. Though Prince Rajakumar missed the chance of succession, he harboured no grudge against his father but proved a good faithful son observing filial duties. When the father grew old and was about to die of ripe age, Prince Rajakumar made a gold Buddha image and enshrined it in Ku Byauk Kyi Pagoda and he also dedicated to that Pagoda three villages of farm labourers which his father gave him. It was a token of his love for his father and filial gratitude to his parents. In the presence of his father and Venerable head monks, Prince Rajakumar performed the religious rites whereby the merit of his religious dedication was shared with his father who became overwhelmed with joy and elation by exclaiming "Welldone" three times.

The inscription also includes his wish, blessings and curse. Rajakumar prays that for that religious dedication he made in honour of his father, "May I attain Thabiññuta (Enlightenment of Buddhahood)". Then he cursed, "Those who molest or persecute three villages of labourers dedicated to the Pagoda shall never see Metaya, the next Buddha."

Myazedi stone inscription is the oldest Myanmar prose literature. Sentences are short and direct in meaning. Judging by the quadrilingual nature of this inscription, one may safely say that there were four languages flourishing at Bagan of that time. The date of King Kyanzittha's accession, reign and death were mentioned in the inscription. We can thus collaborate the dates of the accessions of King Anawrahta, Sawlu, and Alaungsithu. As the theme of the inscription was the fulfillment by the faithful son of his filial duty and gratitude to his father, we get from it a glimpse into parents-children social relations of that time, whereas Rosetta stone inscription provides us some data for our study of customs and beliefs of ancient Egypt.

Myazedi and Rosetta, the two stone inscriptions are world renowned.

Two haemodialysis machines donated to Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital

YANGON, 27 July—An organization namely Japan Heart donated two Nipro Haemodialysis machines worth US\$ 32000 to Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital was held at the Renal Department of the hospital at 10 am today.

At first, Chairman of Japan Heart Dr Hideto Yoshioka and Managing Director Mr Yoshinori Komaru of Myanmar Yutani

Co Ltd that will install the machines at the hospital donated the machines to Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Tin Nwe Kyi and Dean of Renal Department Dr Daw Khin Thida Lwin.

Japan Heart will donate six similar machines worth US\$ 96000 to Yangon General Hospital.

MNA

Drug possessor, user arrested in Hline Township

YANGON, 27 July—Members of Yangon East District Anti-Drug Squad and member of Hline Township Police Station searched the house of Ahaung (a) Kyi Kawt Hong, 35, at Hline Myintmo Housing in Ward 10 at 7.40 pm on 19 July.

The authorities seized WY brand 800 stimulant tablets (80 grams) worth K 4

million, 32.64 grams of marijuana in small Ovaltine bottle worth K 9792 and a mobile phone.

At 8 pm, the squad also searched Min Zaw Oo, 37, who arrived there to buy stimulant tablets, and seized one lead slab designed as using stimulant tablet kept in the box of cigarette, K 10000 to be spent in buying

Crime News

stimulant tablets kept behind bag of long pan, one driver licence and one mobile phone.

Therefore, Hline Police Station opened files of lawsuit against the two persons, under MaYa (pa) 2/2012, and sections 15/19(a)/20(a) and 21 of narcotic drug and psychotropic substance law.

Myanma Alin

DISTRICT NEWS

Overflows hit residences of Bago in heavy rains

BAGO, 27 July—Ward 31 and seven wards of Bago are flooded annually. As departments concerned dredged the drains for proper flow of water this year, people expected to subside water level of flood this year.

This year, heavy rains hit Bago in the month of

Waso due to strong monsoon. Therefore, Nilar Street and Nilar 2nd Street of Kyunthaya Ward and Setpaing Ward were flooded beginning 6 waxing of Second Waso. The local people use boat for their transportation.

Kyemon



Cash assistance provided to offspring of veterans

YANGON, 27 July—Myanmar War Veterans Organization provided cash assistance to outstanding students in 2011-2012 academic year matriculation examination, students of university/college and Defence Services academies and high school students was held at the office of Mingaladon Township War Veterans Organization on 21 July.

Lt-Col Min Han (Rtd) of Yangon Region War Veterans Organization Supervisory Committee and Chairman of Township WVO Major Aung Hla (Rtd) presented K 2,435,000 provided by MWVO Central Committee Headquarters and K 1,353,000 by Township WVO to 190 students of veterans.—Kyemon

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker ...

(from page 1)

including HIV. Civil servants in service have the right to receive medical treatment, take sick leave and medical pension and receive other social allowances in line with procedures concerned.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann expressed his point of view about the question that the disease is on the global radar and is the global health issue of major importance. Prevention is better than cure, there goes a saying. Prevention is more effective and more useful than treatment. This calls for public education campaigns of the Health Ministry and ministries concerned. Only then, focus can be made on



Daw Nan Wah Nu of Kunhing Constituency makes discussion.
MNA

prevention of carriers and persons in their work and social circles against the disease. If the preventive measures fail to thwart the disease, there comes the role of Health Ministry and related organizations for medical attention. Less than 50 per cent of the country's population of 60 million people may know well about HIV/AIDS, which only adds more barriers to prevention and curing of the disease in comparison with other countries. This is far more serious when coupled with traditional shyness of Myanmar people over such cases. If there are certain cultural characteristics harmful to the health of citizens and people or the rights of people, those must be changed in a subtle way. Although a custom, a tradition or a rite should be cherished, it must be handled subtly if that particular characteristic poses threats to health and other problems to own national races, citizens and the humans.

HIV and AIDS are major concerns for the globe and

Myanmar as well. So, the focal ministry should play a leading role in cooperation with INGO, NGO and other organizations for fighting the global major killer through systematic approaches, suggested the Speaker.

U Hla Maung of Chaungzon Constituency, U Kun Lein of Falam Constituency, U Ngun Maung of Haka Constituency, U Kyaw Tin Shwe of Mongshu Constituency, Daw Nan Sae Aua of Hpa-an Constituency, Daw Nan Wah Nu of Kunhing Constituency, U Stephen of Kengtung Constituency, U Soe Yel of Dimawhso Constituency, U Maung Maung Nyan of Pantanaw Constituency and U Kyaw Naing



U Ngun Maung of Haka Constituency participates in discussion.—MNA

Htay of Indaw Constituency discussed the proposal of U T Khun Myat of Kutkai Constituency about enactment of a specific law for protection of national races people.

They argued that provisions in the article (22) of the constitution are determining factors for harmonious development of social life of national races people and thus those facts must be put into practice no matter what.

The Hluttaw is required of placing an emphasis on adoption of a particular legislation for protection of interests of national races people.

The country now is practicing democracy and thus attitudes and overall dimensions of the old system must be reviewed. A special focus on guaranteeing equal rights of national races people and promulgation of law protecting the rights of national races people must be at the top of the agenda of the government.

Concerted efforts must be exerted for promotion of

traditional cultural heritage of national races. In addition, minorities on the verge of extinction should be given special care for their revival enacting a specific law as early as possible.

The failure to exercise parliamentary democracy system well in the post-independence period led to the death of the rights of national races people, and in consequence, the disputes had sparked off conflicts. Over six decades have elapsed since the beginning of the conflicts with national races. For building lasting genuine peace, the paragraph (d) of the article (21) of the constitution states that necessary law shall be enacted to make citizens' freedoms, rights, benefits, responsibilities and restrictions effective, steadfast and complete.

The lack of a law protecting the rights of national races people would lead to disunity among national races, decrease in patriotic spirit, less loyalty to the State, the governed's mistrust of the administration, increase in doubts of national races over the State.

The proposal is concerned with the rights of all the national races people residing in the Union and it is consistent with the same aspiration of the national races, making clear that a law for national races in dire need.

Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Kyaw Kyaw Win seconded the proposal. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint discussed that the national races mentioned mean all the national races including Burmese. Provisions in the constitution make sure there is no discrimination against races and religions. The nation would be built strong with the unity of all the national races if the provisions could be enforced effectively in practice. All the national races, taking themselves as the sons and daughters of the motherland, Myanmar, are residing under the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. In line with the constitution, all the national races have the right to enjoy equality, freedom and social justice. So, there is no reason to object the proposal, seconded the deputy minister.

Union Foreign Affairs Minister receives Former MP of House of Councillors and party of Japan



Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin receives former Member of the House of Councillors and Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Association Mr Hideo Watanabe and Chairman of Nippon Foundation and Goodwill Ambassador for the Welfare of National Races in Myanmar Mr Yohei Sasakawa.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Wunna Maung Lwin received a Japanese delegation led by former Member of the House of Councillors and Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Association Mr. Hideo Watanabe, and Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, and Goodwill Ambassador for the Welfare of the National Races in Myanmar Mr. Yohei Sasakawa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 17:00 pm on 27th July. During the meeting, they cordially discussed on the

matters relating to promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation, and the development assistance programme for the welfare of the national races in Myanmar. The member of the House of Representative, and Acting Chairman of Policy Research Council of the Democratic

Party of Japan Mr. Yoshihiko Sengogu, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr. Takashi Saito, and Director-General of the Southeast and Southwest Asian Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Kunio Umeda were also present at the meeting.

MNA

Golf training to launch for golf enthusiasts

YANGON, 27 July—U Chan Han and U Ko Ko Lay, golf coaches of HAN Golf Masters will open golf training course for juniors and intermediate course for those who completed basic golf course at Asia Centre Golf Driving Range in Mandalay from 9 to 11 August.

Those wishing to attend the courses may contact HAN Golf Masters Pro-shop at Asia Centre Golf Driving Range, Ph09-2017639 and 09-8604015.—MNA

Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo of the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union argued that the proposal is based on the paragraphs 38 and 46 of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People held on 13 September, 2007 plus provisions of the constitution. The proposer in his proposal defined the provisions of the declaration on the grounds of justice, democracy and human rights, equality, anti-discrimination, and good governance. Lawmakers need to take a wide spectrum of facts into consideration in writing a specific law for handling specific cases under the likely scenario.

In line with the provisions of the constitution, national races representatives are allowed to be elected to region or state or self-administered legislature. Also in regions or states, 29 national races representatives

elected have been appointed as national races affairs ministers responsible for taking care of the issues of national races. So, the proposal for enactment of a law protecting the rights of national races is consistent with provisions about the affairs of national races in the constitution and thus should be promulgated, seconded the deputy attorney-general.

The law to be drafted should cover various aspects as promotion of language, literature, arts and culture of national races, strengthening unity, amity and mutual assistance among national races and socio-economic development of national races inclusive of education, health, economy, and transportation.

In addition, it needs to prescribe appropriate provisions concerned with all the national races as cultures and traditions vary from one national race to another.

Moreover, sharing of responsibility should be taken into consideration in enforcing the intention of the law to be formulated. So, a commission comprising MPs, representatives of the executive branch, national races affairs minister under the aegis of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in line with the constitution to legitimate the proposed law.

The Hluttaw approved the proposal. The Hluttaw approved the export/import bill as amended by the Amyotha Hluttaw and further proceedings would be made in line with Pyithu Hluttaw Rule 163, announced the Hluttaw.

One question was answered, one proposal discussed and approved and one bill passed at today's session. The session came to an end at 1 pm and the 17th session continues at 1 pm on 30 July.

MNA

No State-owned assets...

(from page 1)

government. Remaining 78 businesses will be reassessed by the new privatization commission. The value of sold businesses is K 665.599 billion in which K 500.381 have been received and K 165.218 billion yet to be received.

The remaining parts of payment will be extracted within designated period in accordance with rules and regulations. Myanmar Investment Commission has invited BOT tenders for transforming combined office of Yangon Region on Strand Road and Myanmar Railways Head Office on Merchant Street in Yangon into hotels to cope with increasing number of foreign tourists, and for transforming historic buildings in Yangon—Ministers' Office in Bo Aung Kyaw street and High Court near Maha Bando Park—into museums.

There is no sale of confiscated vehicles in time of the current government. A total of 682 vehicles were auctioned in January and February, 2011. More than K 15.013 billion have been deposited to Myanmar Economic Bank. A total of 529 vehicles which could be repaired have been shared among Union ministries. Other 262 vehicles with bad conditions were incinerated. The similar approach will continue to be applied for the confiscated vehicles.

Regarding the question raised by U Aung Cho Oo of Bago Region Constituency (11) on "repair of primary schools in Minhla Township in Bago Region", Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu answered that the maintenance and construction of basic education schools are carried out yearly by the fund of the government, the combined fund of the government and the parents and donations of wellwishers.

Funds will be allotted in 2013-2014 fiscal year to repair Kywetalin Basic Education Primary School, Nigawdayon BEPS, Taungsalegon Basic Education Post Primary School, Seinthaya BEPS and Pantaw BEPS in Minhla Township of Bago Region.

Regarding the question raised by Dr Htay Win of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (5) on "upgrading Ninyan Basic Education Middle School in Lemyethna Township in Ayeyawady Region to Basic Education High School (Branch)", the deputy minister answered that, as there are only 135 middle school students at Ninyan BEMS, it will not be upgraded into BEHS (branch).

Regarding the question raised by U Thet Lin of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (8) on "upgrading Kyeinbinse Village BEMS (Branch) in Nyaungdon Township to BEMS", the deputy minister answered that, as there are only 277 middle school students at the school, it will not be upgraded into BEMS.

Regarding questions raised by U Khin Maung Yi of



Amyotha Hluttaw Representative
Dr Htay Win asking question.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative
U Thet Lin raising question.—MNA

Ayeyawady Region Constituency (6) on "work plan for procuring 1 million tons of rice reserve" and "launching investigation on consumer goods which illegally entered into the market", Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint answered that there is a fall in rice price of the world rice market as India sold two million tons of its rice reserve. Farmers faced unprofitable conditions as paddy and rice prices are declining when monsoon paddy is harvested. To stabilize domestic rice price, Rice Reserve Supervisory Committee was formed.

The government has planned to finance K 10 billion, Myanmar Rice Industry Association K 10 billion and Central Cooperative Union K 10 billion in procuring rice reserve. The committee has formed four sub-committees and purchased monsoon paddy at the price of K 330,000 per 100 baskets of rice equivalent to 46 pounds after careful calculation of appropriate rice price. But cent per cent success was not achieved.

The committee's brokers purchased summer paddy at the price of K 320,000 per 100 baskets of rice equivalent to 46 pounds after careful calculation of the right price with respective

Consequences of election ...

(from page 16)

systems being exercised by global countries depend on their histories and social political situations. Consequences of the election system rest on basic causes regarding principles, religion, ethnic affairs, race, language and social standing of the people of the country. After systematically studying the various important situations, election system should be chosen in the country in democratic transition period or newly-emerged democratic nation or established democratic nation or the nation with parties established or the nation where parties are yet to clearly operate their functions, he explained.

Moreover, he said that as it must be assessed whether the Promotional Representation System (PR System) recommended by the political parties is in conformity with the concepts of the constitution or not, the suggestion was sent to the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union for seeking its recommendation. The Constitutional Tribunal of the Union will give the best recommendation for the suggestion, he noted.

Whatever it may be, he invited frank and optimistic

discussions on the election system which is important for the future of the State.

The Union Election Commission will submit the outcome from the meeting to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw after reviewing it so as to made decisions necessarily. When the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw which is the highest legislature of the State has approved it as a law, the Commission will carry out necessary tasks for it, he said.

After that, responsible persons of Democratic Party (Myanmar), All Mon Regions Democracy Party, Democracy and Peace Party, Shan Nationalities Democratic Party, Chin National Party, Union Democratic Party, Rakhine Nationalities Progressive Party, Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party, National Democratic Force and Unity and Peace Party submitted their suggestions on reform of election. Members of the Union Election Commission and the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union reviewed the submission.

Next, the Chairman of the Union Election Commission explained the future tasks for suggestions and gave the concluding remarks.

After the meeting, the Chairman of the Union Election Commission cordially greeted the participants at the meeting and they posed for documentary photo.—MNA

High Level Policy Seminar on Central Banking focuses on monetary reforms



Union Minister U Hla Tun delivers an address at High Level Policy Seminar on Central Banking.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July—The Central Bank of Myanmar under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue and Germany-based Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) jointly organized the High Level Policy Seminar on Central Banking at Thingaha Hotel, here, this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun said that in the transition period, efforts are being made for reforms of currency and monetary affairs of the State. The meeting was aimed at applying current situation of Myanmar, future prospects, plans of reform and challenges based on the experience and suggestions of the experts from central banks and monetary organizations of the regions for development of monetary sector of Myanmar.

He continued that central banks of Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore, International Monetary Fund, Bank for International Settlement, Asian Development Bank Institution (ADB), high level officers and experts from Hitotsubashi University of Japan, Financial Market Operations and Development, Bank Regulation and Supervision and Capacity Building and Governance field will participate in the meeting based on their experiences. The meeting participants are to seek policy decisions, best ways for development in the future. Based on these best ways, reforms will be implemented on priority for strengthening the monetary sector, he said.

After that, Chairman of the BOD Organization and CEO Dr Bandid NiJathaworn of Thailand said that the seminar was held with the aim of reforming the monetary affairs of Myanmar, and CBM and FES will discuss technological assistance.

After that, Director-in-charge Mr Henning Effner for Malaysia and Myanmar of FES said that FES is one of the Germany-based NGOs and is providing assistance for development projects of over 100 countries. The organization has been also rendering assistance to Myanmar for its development tasks since 2005. The organization will help tasks of the Central Bank for stability of macroeconomy and monetary reforms.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein, Governor of CBM U Than Nyein, departmental heads, the economic advisory group to the President, the economic advisory group to Ministry of Finance and Revenue, members of Myanmar Banks Association, the rector of Institute of Economics and senior officers.

The meeting focused on monetary policy, financial market operations and development, banking regulation and supervision and capacity building and governance.

MNA

organizations, rice entrepreneurs and rice specialized companies.

The longer the storage period, the lower the quality of rice by its nature. The summer rice has to be sold before the monsoon rice is purchased. A total of 37,284 tons of rice reserve have been procured to date.

To ease impact of fall in rice price on farmers, necessary steps will be taken to buy monsoon paddy. Amount of rice to be procured and period of procurement will be designated and publicized soon.

Trade volume at border trade camps in 2004-2005 fiscal year was US \$ 778 million, in 2011-2012 FY US \$ 3367 million. Goods illegally entered into the market with the estimated value of K 47.532 billion were seized in 11,475 cases from 2005 to 2011. Trafficked consumer goods, edible oil, medicines, drugs and gems were seized.

On 7 January, 2012, departmental combined teams of Yepukan and Mayanchaung Commodity Inspection Camps were dissolved and transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs. As of 16 January, 2012, duties and tasks of respective camps were transferred to relevant departmental organizations. Customs department and police force are mainly responsible for illegal commodity in world nations.

Regional authority, Customs Department and Myanmar Police Force are working in coordination under directive of the President Office in 2012 to stop trafficking of goods including oils and medicines that could cause dangers to the public.

The Ministry of Commerce is undertaking consumers' rights protection tasks under ASEAN Economic Community Implementation Committee. The ministry will reform its departments to effectively safeguard the consumers' rights at border camps and ports.

The Ministry of Finance and Revenue opens customs offices in border entries to stop trafficking.

Secretary U Tin Maung Win of Mandalay Region Constituency (3) and Member Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative Maj Myo Tun Aung of Amyotha Hluttaw Monetary and Revenue Committee submitted report of the committee.

The representatives willing to discuss the report could submit their name lists.

The Hluttaw will continue for 17th day on 30 July. At today's session six questions were answered and one reported submitted.—MNA

Union Auditor-General receives officials of IMF



Auditor-General of the Union U Lun Maung receives a delegation currently in Myanmar led by Mr Sandeep Saxena of Public Financial Management (PFM) Mission of International Monetary Fund at Office of Auditor-General of the Union.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July—Auditor-General of the Union U Lun Maung received a delegation currently in Myanmar led by Mr Sandeep Saxena of Public Financial Management (PFM) Mission of International Monetary Fund at Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, here, this morning. They discussed matters on management of government financial matters of Myanmar by means of the Auditor-General of the Union.—MNA



CSC ISSUED: Staff Officer U Win Myat Htut of Township Immigration and National Registration Department hands over citizenship scrutiny cards for 81 students of Pahtet Village Basic Education High School to Township Education Officer Daw Than Than Nwe in Kyunsu Township of Taninthayi Region on 12 July. MYANMA ALIN

Truck with out of brake control upside down

YEDASHE, 27 July—Due to out of brake control, a truck hit the gate of level crossing and then caused an accident in Yedashe Township. At 4 am on 22 July, a six-wheel Nissan being driven by Thet Hlaing, 31, of 3rd Street in Elar Myothit from the north to the south lost control of brake and hit the gate of the level crossing while 7-up Yangon-Mandalay train at the junction of the motor road and Yangon-Mandalay railroad near Nyaungbinkaing Village, north of Yedashe. After hitting the gate, the truck plunged into the west



Accident on the road

of the road and then caused upside down. In the traffic accident, the gate of the level crossing was damaged and a metal door worth K 87500 of the rolling stock No. BMCXF 12856 of the train fell. Moreover, the upside down of the truck caused destruction to a concrete post of communication and telephone lines. Yedashe Police Station opened a file against the offender under Pa/206/2012 of section 279 of the criminal law and Pa/207/2012 under railway act 126 (c). Kyemon

Information for trafficking in person

The government is carrying out undertakings of prevention against trafficking in person with momentum. In so doing, telephone numbers are announced as the connections with authorities concerned for enabling the people to actively participate in the tasks of anti-human trafficking. These telephone numbers are 067-412555 and

067-412666 in Nay Pyi Taw, 09-49555666 in Muse, 09-49555777 in Mandalay and 09-49555888 and 09-49555999 in Yangon.

Damages and destroyed houses and property of local people in North Okkalapa Township hit by tornado on 19 July night.



Vocational training course concludes

YANGON, 27 July—The domestic training course No. 4/2012 concluded at the vocational training school at 135 on Dhammzedi Road in Bahan Township of Yangon Region on 20 July afternoon. After giving a speech, Head of Yangon Region Social Welfare Department Deputy Director U Tin Zaw Moe presented certificates to the trainees. The training course No. 5/2012 was opened on 23 July. The training courses on

tailoring, knitting, bodies and brassier, food making, floral arrangement that will last two

District News

months each will be opened on 28 July. Myanmar Alin



Bamboo chopstick produced in Leiktho

LEIKTHO, 27 July—Due to market demand, a lot of bamboo are being cut off from the bamboo groves from forest reserves in Leiktho of Kayin State daily so as to

make bamboo chopsticks. The local people residing near forest reserves in Leiktho and Thandaung of Kayin State and Toungoo and Yedashe townships of

Bago Region can earn incomes by production of six-elbow bamboo per K 50. It is their livelihoods. There are many chopstick factories in the region. To supply their demands, bamboo is produced from the forests by truck daily. That is why it is necessary to take care of environmental degradation. Kyemon



Bamboo being extracted local people from forest reserves in Kayin State by truck to make bamboo chopsticks.

Traffic rules training course conducted in Toungoo District

TOUNGOO, 27 July—Toungoo District Directorate of Road Administration opened the traffic rules course No. 6/2012 at its office on 17 July. Altogether 115 trainees attended the course. UD Daw Thida Kywe talked about injuries, deaths and disability at heads due to lack of wearing motorcycle helmets. Head of District Directorate of Road Administration U Thaung Myint explained traffic rules

and disciplines for pedestrians. After that, the head of district department presented

helmets to those who scored high marks in the motorcycle licence test. Kyemon



Tornado hits North Okkalapa Township

YANGON, 27 July—A tornado hit (L) ward in North Okkalapa Township of Yangon Region with heavy rains at 9.15 pm on 19 July. Corrugated iron sheets of houses on Padamya, Saddan, Sagawa, Sagawa 1st Street, Khema 3rd Street, Khema 8th Street, Seinchel, Thitsa, Dawna and Khaingshwewa streets were blown. Moreover, some of houses collapsed and branches of trees fell down during three minutes of event. There was no casualty in the event. The tornado hit 103 houses. The debris was cleared by workers of Township Development Affairs Committee, Township Electrical Engineer's Office, Ward Administrator and party and members of Fire Brigade. In addition, local authorities provided 2060 CI sheets for damaged houses to local victims.—Kyemon

Japanese lifespan shorter after quake

TOKYO, 27 July— Average life expectancies for Japanese have become shorter since the 11th March disaster in northeastern Japan last year.

Japan's health ministry said on Thursday that the average lifespan for Japanese women stood at 85.9 in 2011,

down 0.4 from the previous year.

This means that Japanese women, who'd had the world's longest life expectancy for 26 years, have given up the top spot to women in Hong Kong, at 86.7 years.

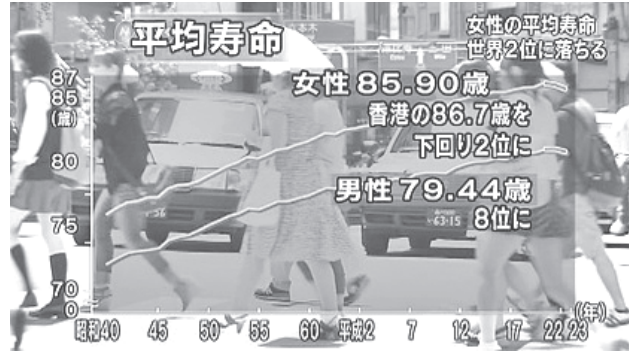
The ministry also said Japanese men's lifespan in

2011 was 79.44 years, down 0.11 from a year earlier. Japanese men fell from 4th place in 2010 to 8th, trailing Singapore and Sweden.

The average lifespan for both Japanese men and women fell for a 2nd consecutive year since 2010 due to a scorching summer that caused many deaths from heatstroke among the elderly.

The ministry also attributes the falls to the earthquake and tsunami disaster in which nearly 20,000 people were killed or went missing.

It also says that behind the drop in women's lifespan is a rise in suicides among women in their 20s.—NHK



Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, chairman and managing director of Biocon Ltd., speaks during a news conference in the southern Indian city of Bangalore on 8 March, 2007.
REUTERS



India's Biocon expects to launch psoriasis drug by end FY13

MUMBAI, 27 July — Biocon, India's top listed biotechnology company, expects to launch Itolizumab, a drug to treat psoriasis, by end of the current fiscal year, its Chairman Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw said.

"We are going to apply for market authorization very soon. Hopefully, if everything goes well, by end of this fiscal, we should be in the market," she told Reuters by telephone.

Biocon's consolidated net profit rose 12.5 percent 788 million rupees during the fiscal first quarter ended June, it said.— Reuters

Drought diminishes mighty Mississippi, puts heat on Congress

CHICAGO/WASHINGTON, 27 July — The severe drought in the US Midwest wreaked more havoc across the country on Thursday, forcing barges on the Mississippi River to lighten loads for fear of getting stuck and raising concerns about higher prices for food and gasoline.

Damage to crops in the most extensive drought in five decades and the pressure of the November elections sparked some action in the US Congress to bring relief to farmers and make progress on a generous farm bill.

"When times are tough for farmers, they tend to be more active politically," Iowa Senator Charles Grassley said, urging fellow Republicans to act on the farm bill and avoid punishment at the polls.

US House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner said on Thursday that Republican leaders were working with

the Agriculture Committee "on an appropriate path forward."

"I do believe the House will address the livestock disaster programme that unfortunately in the last farm bill was only authorized for four years," Boehner said.

Rain in the northern Midwest overnight improved corn and soybean crop prospects, and grain prices eased back a bit from near-record highs.

But only light rains fell over parched areas of Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Illinois overnight, and more heat and dryness in the southern Midwest was forecast."

There should be some improvement in areas like the Dakotas and Minnesota," Andy Karst, an agricultural meteorologist for World Weather Inc, said.

"They have had some good rains of up to an inch or more and there should be more rain and more

improvement over the next week."

At the Chicago Board of Trade, corn for September delivery closed 12-1/2 cents lower at \$7.82 a bushel, down 5 percent from last week's record high.

August soybeans closed 38-1/4 cents lower at \$16.56, down 7 percent from last week's record high.

September wheat

closed 18-1/2 cents lower at \$8.84-3/4, down 7 percent from last week's four-year high. Crop scouts on Thursday reported corn yield prospects down about 27 percent from last year in central Iowa, the largest producing state.

But dousings from recent night-time rains had helped soybeans. Early planting also may be helping soybeans survive the worst effects of the drought, scouts said.

Reuters



Corn plants struggle to survive on the drought-stricken farm field in Oakland City, Indiana, on 24 July, 2012.

REUTERS

London pollution may hinder athletes

LONDON, 27 July — London's poor air quality could cause problems for Olympic athletes trying to break world records if a summer heat wave continues, British scientists said on Thursday as levels of pollution hit their highest since 2006. The London Olympics has struggled with an array of teething problems in the run up to the Games, from security and transport concerns to the threat of union strikes. At one stage, even chilly wet weather looked like it might spoil the show. But on the eve of the Games, temperatures and levels of ozone pollution have soared, breaking a World Health Organization guideline and potentially causing breathing difficulties for athletes, King's College University researchers said.

"It won't be able to get enough oxygen in the body to perform at the highest level. What that means is they probably won't be breaking any records under these conditions," Professor Frank Kelly, Director of King's College London's Environmental Research Group, told Reuters. "They're not ideal for athletics and certainly not for long distance events," he added. The British government issued an air quality warning for ozone

levels on Wednesday after ozone concentration in parts of southern England reached over 190 micrograms per cubic metre. The World Health Organization guideline is 100.

Athletes are thought to be especially vulnerable because they breathe in lots of air very quickly over many hours, said Dr Gary Fuller, a senior lecturer in air quality measurement at King's College. Even non-Olympians may notice the pollution levels. "Probably about 20 percent of the healthy population will feel some tightening of the chest as they go about daily normal activities," said Kelly. "If people are involved in any sort of exercise, they're probably going to feel even more effects." Government officials said most people were not affected by short term peaks in ozone but those with existing heart or lung conditions may experience increased symptoms.

The increase in ozone levels was caused by searing temperatures heating up traffic and industrial pollutants and the hot air recirculating slowly across densely populated south east England and western Europe. A cooler front is expected to arrive in Britain in time for the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games on Friday.— Reuters



Buildings in the centre of the city are obscured in a haze, as seen from Crystal Palace in south London on 26 June, 2010.— REUTERS

Two soldiers killed in blast in southeast Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, 27 July — Two Turkish soldiers were killed in the mainly Kurdish southeast on Friday when the vehicle they were traveling in was hit by a remote-controlled explosive, security sources said.

A third soldier and one civilian were also wounded in the attack, which occurred around 7 am (0500 GMT) near the town of Lice in Diyarbakir Province, they said.

Security officials blamed the attack on the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which has waged a 27-year campaign against

the Turkish state in which 40,000 people, mainly Kurds, have died.

Explosives were buried in a road near military barracks and were set off by remote control when the vehicle carrying soldiers passed, the officials said.

Turkey, the European Union and the United States all list the PKK as a "terrorist" organization.

The PKK, based mainly in northern Iraq, has scaled back its demands for a Kurdish homeland for Turkey's 14 million Kurds to greater cultural rights and political autonomy.— Reuters

Cuban president expresses willingness to hold equal talks with US

HAVANA, 27 July — Cuban President Raul Castro voiced on Thursday willingness to hold "equal to equal" dialogues with the United States.

Any day they want, the table is set. This has already been said through diplomatic channels," Castro said at an official ceremony marking the National Rebellion Day in the eastern city of Guantanamo.

If they want to talk, we will talk," Castro said, adding that no topic is off-limits as long as it is a dialogue between equals.

Cuba and the United

States have not had diplomatic relations for more than 50 years, as the latter has imposed an embargo on the island nation.

Cuba's National Rebellion Day pays tribute to the events on 26 July, 1953, when the father of the Cuban Revolution Fidel Castro and his followers attacked government barracks in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba, unleashing a chain of events that finally toppled dictator Fulgencio Batista (1952-1958) six years later.

Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGSAO TONG VOY NO (147)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAO TONG VOY NO (147) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.7.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANIK VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANIK VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.7.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEANET SHIPPING
CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PHILIP VOY NO (029)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHILIP VOY NO (029) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.7.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BIENDONG TRADER VOY NO (1230)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG TRADER VOY NO (1230) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.7.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Cuba tests biofuel vehicle

HAVANA, 27 July —Cuba has for the first time tested in a vehicle biofuel from the jatropha plant produced in a new factory on the island, state-run media reported on Sunday. The biofuel was used to drive an automobile 1,500 km.

Part of the first 400 liters of the biofuel turned out by the plant were mixed in a 70-30 ratio with diesel and used to power a 2007 Toyota Hilux, the head of the Applications Centre for Sustainable Development, engineer Jose Sotolongo, said.

The biodiesel was produced using the oil of Jatropha curcas, an inedible flowering plant, at the factory opened a week ago in the eastern province of Guantanamo.

The facility has the capacity to produce more than 100 tonnes per year of liquid biofuel.

The official said that the vehicle used in the test is part of the BIOMAS-CUBA project, which is being participated in by several government departments with the support of the

Swiss Development Cooperation Agency.

He said that after a week of testing the biodiesel, the automobile was running with greater efficiency than normal, a situation he attributed to the lubricating effects of the jatropha oil, state news agency AIN reported. Sotolongo also said that the biofuel could be used in gasoline-powered vehicles but "in the proper proportion".

Among the project's advantages, promoters emphasized, is the fact that an inedible plant is being used that does not compete with the island's food production, in contrast to other nutritive species — including corn and sugarcane — that are being used by other countries in similar biofuel production projects. The project is being subsidized by the Cuban state with an eye toward integrating energy and food production on the local scale rather than using human food crops to supply fuel.—Internet



Luo Yanyan, survival test participant, escapes from the flooded car and swims to the bank of the Ganjiang River in Nanchang, capital of east China's Jiangxi Province, on 26 July, 2012. Journalist Luo Yanyan and diver Cao Dongjun tested tactics to escape from a flooded car on Thursday amid widespread fear triggered by the death of a Beijing car owner last Saturday in a heavy rainfall hitting the Chinese capital. They had life vests, two emergency hammers, a cell phone, a pair of high heels and a 28-liter can of oxygen that they could share in case of an emergency. When the test began, the car was hoisted up by a crane and dropped into water about 50 meters off the riverbank.—XINHUA

White powder sent to five police stations

OAKLAND, (Calif), 27 July—Five San Francisco Bay-area police agencies received envelopes filled with white powder in the mail, officials said.

The unidentified substance, determined not to be hazardous, was delivered to police in Hayward, San Leandro, Berkeley and Union City on Friday and Oakland police confirmed on Saturday they had been recipients as well, the *Oakland (Calif.) Tribune* reported.

Berkeley police called the Berkeley Fire Department,

which used a chemical detector to determine the substance wasn't toxic.

"We were able to use a device that could immediately identify what kind of substance we were dealing with, so we were able to know right away that it was non-hazardous," Berkeley Deputy Fire Chief Gil Dong said.

The deliveries prompted the US Postal Service and the FBI to start an investigation, although authorities had not said whether they believe the deliveries were connected.

Internet



A journalist checks the radiation level with her dosimeter at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in February 2012.—INTERNET

Japan, TEPCO ignored nuclear accident risks

TOKYO, 27 July— Japanese and Tokyo Electric Power officials ignored the risks of an atomic accident because they believed in the "myth of nuclear safety", a government panel's report on the Fukushima crisis said recently.

"The fundamental problem lies in the fact that utilities, including TEPCO, and the government have failed to see the danger as reality as they were bound by a myth of nuclear safety and the notion that severe accidents do not happen at nuclear plants in our country," said the 450-page report.

The study, completed by a government-appointed panel including scholars, journalists, lawyers and engineers, also said Fukushima staff were poorly trained to deal with the crisis after the plant's reactors went into meltdown last year.

Monday's report is the fourth to probe the crisis, after the earlier release of a damning parliamentary study, a private report by a group of journalists and scholars as well as an investigation by Tokyo Electric Power, or TEPCO, operator of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi plant.

Meltdowns at the plant sent clouds of radiation over a wide area, forcing tens of thousands of people from their homes, some possibly for the rest of their lives.

Emergency power for the reactors' cooling systems was damaged by a giant tsunami triggered by a massive 9.0-magnitude earthquake.

The report said that TEPCO and the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) were ill-prepared to cope against a tsunami and severe accidents.

"Preparedness for a large-scale complex disaster was insufficient; and they were unprepared for the release of a large amount of radioactive materials into the environment caused by a containment failure," it added.

Internet



People inspect the aftermath of a car bomb attack in Baghdad's Shiite enclave of Sadr City, Iraq, on 23 July, 2012. An onslaught of bombings and shootings killed scores of people across Iraq on Monday, in the nation's deadliest day so far this year. The attacks come days after the leader of al-Qaida in Iraq declared a new offensive seeking to re-assert its might in the security vacuum left by the departing Americans.

INTERNET

S Korea's GDP growth posts 0.4 pct in Q1

SEOUL, 27 July— South Korea's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 0.4 percent in the second quarter from three months earlier, the central bank said on Thursday.

Real GDP, the broadest measure of economic performance, expanded 0.4 percent during the April-June period from the previous

quarter, slower than a revised on-quarter growth of 0.9 percent for the first quarter, according to an advance estimate by the Bank of Korea (BOK).

From a year earlier, the real GDP advanced 2.4 percent, down from a revised on-year expansion of 2.8 percent in the prior quarter.

Xinhua

Man spots own stolen bike

Police in Boston said the victim of a \$1,500 bicycle theft spotted someone riding the pilfered vehicle the following morning.

Investigators said the Trek 7500 bike was stolen on 20 July night from the Black Bay and the victim confronted a man, identified as Joseph Joseph, 45, when he saw him riding the bicycle on 21 July morning in the South End, the *Boston Herald* reported on 23 July.

Police arrived and the owner showed them the receipt from the purchase of his bike, which matched the serial number.

Joseph said he bought the bike for \$100 from a man who was selling it on the street.

"He stole the bike. I just bought it, I didn't steal it," Joseph said.

Joseph was charged with buying, receiving or concealing a stolen good.

A girl participates in the Colour Run in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



Many of the 15,000 participants in the 5k Colour Run in Michigan ended the

event covered in a rainbow of coloured powders. The event on 22 July in

Runners doused in coloured powder

Ypsilanti involved the runners starting with white T-shirts and having coloured powder tossed onto them when they passed through various stations, the *Detroit Free Press* reported on 23 July. John Connors, a regional director of the Colour Run, said the purpose of the event is to encourage all types of people to exercise.

"We really strive to create an atmosphere that's really inclusive of everyone," he

said. Connors said the \$40 participation fees will benefit local charities including the Michigan Elvisfest, the Ypsilanti Area Jaycees, Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels and SOS Community Services.

Connors said another event is planned for on 5 August in Grand Rapids, Mich, and already has been sold.

News Album



A mail processing clerk sorts mail.

old postal sack," postal service spokeswoman Josefine Raneke said.

Postcard arrives 50 years late

A Swedish man said he recently received a postcard his sister sent to their deceased father about 50 years ago.

Claes-Hakan Svensson said the postcard had been addressed to his father, Hakan Svensson, and bore a

postmark from 1962, and arrived recently at his Varberg home, Swedish news agency *TT* reported on 22 July.

"I didn't understand anything at first, Hakan Svensson is my father and he has been dead for 15 years," Svensson said. "My sister

sent it from a summer camp when she was 10 years old."

The post office said such late deliveries are rare occurrences.

"It is difficult to know what has happened. A postcard can fall between some furniture or get left in an



Bruce Springsteen opens up about depression

NEW YORK, 27 July—New Jersey rocker Bruce Springsteen says he has been in psychotherapy for 30 years as part of his long-term battle with depression.

Springsteen, 62, told *The New Yorker* magazine there is also a link between his problems and his work, noting his famously long and energetic live stage performances are fueled by "pure fear and self-loathing and self-hatred."

"Look, you cannot underestimate the fine power of self-loathing in all of this," he told the magazine. "You think: 'I don't like anything

I'm seeing. I don't like anything I'm doing, but I need to change myself. I need to transform myself.' I do not know a single artist who does not run on that fuel."



Bruce Springsteen delivers remarks at a rally for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama at The Mall in Cleveland on 2 Nov, 2008.

INTERNET

The magazine said the Grammy Award-winning recording star's father suffered from depression, was possibly bipolar and frequently refused to take his meds. "My dad was very nonverbal — you couldn't really have a conversation with him," Springsteen said.

"My parents' struggles, it's the subject of my life," he added. "It's the thing that eats at me and always will. My life took a very different course, but my life is an anomaly. Those wounds stay with you, and you turn them into a language and a purpose."

Internet

Madonna let off by cops despite waving guns on stage in Scotland gig

Saturday's show.

She was slammed by critics, as she kept the routine in her set less than 48 hours after the Colorado cinema killings.

The 53-year-old singer even joked with the crowd that the concert may be 'cut off' because of Scotland's gun laws, brought in after the Dunblane massacre in 1996.

But the Lothian and Borders force insisted there would be no action taken over the firearms display at the gig,

the *Daily Record* reported.

The show 'her first in Scotland' didn't go down well with many punters.

Lindsay Galbraith, from Glasgow, tweeted: 'Madonna gig pretty disappointing and sound at Murrayfield truly awful.'

And Aileen Muir wrote: 'Perhaps the worst concert I've been to.'

Thousands of fans got in for nothing after organisers released free tickets online.

Internet



Madonna performs during the opening night of the UK leg of her MDNA Tour in Hyde Park in London on 17 July, 2012.—INTERNET

GLASGOW, 27 July—Madonna will not be facing any charges by cops after she defied a ban on waving guns on stage at her Murrayfield gig.

The Queen of Pop had been warned not to brandish the dummy weapons before

'Life is Good' tops US album chart

LOS ANGELES, 27 July—Nas' "Life is Good" is No 1 on the US album chart, *Billboard.com* reported on Wednesday. Coming in at No 2 on the *Billboard* 200 is Zac Brown Band's "Uncaged," followed by the "Kidz Bop 22" compilation CD at No 3, Frank Ocean's "Channel Orange" at No 4 and Justin Bieber's "Believe" at No 5.

Rounding out the top tier are Phil Collins' "Hits" at No 6, One Direction's "Up All Night" at No 7, the soundtrack to "The Dark Knight Rises" at No 8, Adele's "21" at No 9 and Maroon 5's "Overexposed" at No 10.—Internet



American rapper Nas performs at Hammersmith Apollo in London on 20 July, 2010.—INTERNET

Piven to star in Masterpiece series

BOSTON, 27 July—Actor Jeremy Piven is to star in the drama series "Mr Selfridge," a co-production of America's Masterpiece/WGBH and Britain's ITV Studios.

The programme was created by Emmy Award-winning writer Andrew Davies, whose credits include "Pride and Prejudice" and "Bleak House."

"Mr Selfridge" is set in the early 1900s and tells the real-life story of the flamboyant and visionary US founder of London's lavish department store Selfridge's.

"Adding Jeremy Piven to



American actor Jeremy Piven attends the "Arqiva British Academy Television Awards" at The Royal Festival Hall in London on 27 May, 2012.—INTERNET

our legendary list of Masterpiece actors is a real treat," Masterpiece executive producer Rebecca Eaton said in a statement Wednesday. "'Mr Selfridge' has all the qualities viewers expect from our programs — a riveting story, fabulous production values, a first-rate cast, and now... shopping!"

Piven is an Emmy- and Golden Globe Award-winning actor best known for his work on the HBO comedy series "Entourage," as well as in the films "Lucas," "Say Anything," "Serendipity" and "Smokin' Aces."—Internet

Lena Headey and Peter Loughran divorcing

LOS ANGELES, 27 July—British actress Lena Headey has filed for divorce from musician Peter Loughran in Los Angeles Superior County Court, records show.

People.com reported on Wednesday Headey, in papers filed on 20 July, cited irreconcilable differences as the reason for the breakup of the marriage. She and Loughran married in May 2007 and separated last year, the celebrity news Web site said.

They have a 2-year-old son together. Headey is one of



Lena Headey

the stars of TV's "Game of Thrones."—Internet

Peter Jackson mulling 'Hobbit' trilogy

WELLINGTON, 27 July—New Zealand director Peter Jackson is in talks with Warner Bros about releasing his two-part film "The Hobbit" as a trilogy, *The Wrap* reported. If a deal is struck for a third movie, Jackson would shoot some additional footage and combine it with film he has already shot, the entertainment news Web site said, adding another installment would mean the actors involved would have to renegotiate their contracts to compensate them for their additional work.

"The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" is to open 14 Dec and "The Hobbit: There and Back Again" is set for release 13 Dec, 2013. It is unclear how the possibility of a third "Hobbit" film might affect the franchise's release schedule. Jackson helmed three "Lord of the Rings" films based on the fantasy novels by JRR Tolkien. "The Hobbit" is a prequel to the "Rings" adventures and features some of the same characters.—Internet



New Zealand director Peter Jackson



Britain's Craig Bellamy (L) celebrates after scoring against Senegal, as his team mate Ryan Giggs runs toward him, during their men's Group A football match at the London 2012 Olympic Games in Old Trafford, Manchester, northern England on 26 July, 2012.—REUTERS

Late Senegal goal denies Britain victory

MANCHESTER, 27 July — Hosts Britain were denied victory on their return to the Olympic Games after a 52-year absence when they were held to a 1-1 draw by debutants Senegal in their opening Group A match at Old Trafford on Thursday. Britain looked to be heading for a win after Welsh veteran Craig Bellamy, at 33 one of their over-age players, lashed home after 20 minutes. But Senegal, who rallied strongly after the break, equalized in the 82nd minute when Moussa Konate timed his run perfectly to stay onside and clip the ball past goalkeeper Jack Butland.

Britain almost stole all three points in the 88th minute when Aaron Ramsey set up substitute Marvin Sordell but he shot against the bar. Britain

coach Stuart Pearce told reporters afterwards: "On reflection I would have to say a draw was probably a fair result, although of course I would have preferred a win. "However there was some very good elements of the game we will build on for the next match against UAE on Sunday."

Senegal coach Aliou Cisse, whose team faced some criticism for their physical approach said: "African teams are not just about physique because we also have tactical and technical qualities. We are going to try and prove this at the Olympics." Senegal's young team — eight of the players in their squad were developed at an academy founded by Senegalese-born former France international

Patrick Vieira — could well make a mark on this tournament.

While Senegal were making their Olympic debuts, Britain was returning as hosts having been absent since the Rome Games of 1960 because of political differences involving Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland regarding their own independence within FIFA. But all that was forgotten as a near capacity crowd of 72,476 enjoyed a memorable night which began with Uruguay beating the United Arab Emirates 2-1 in the group opener. They were also close to witnessing a British win, but were denied the chance despite an excellent performance from Britain's other Welsh veteran, skipper Ryan Giggs.— Reuters

Kompany commits to Man City until 2018

LONDON, 27 July — Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany has committed himself to the Barclays Premier League champions until 2018. The Belgian defender has signed a six-year contract with City, the longest deal handed out in the club's recent history. The 26-year-old skippered City as they won the 2011/12 Barclays Premier League, their first title in 44 years. "For me, if you are good somewhere then there is no reason to look elsewhere," Kompany told City's website.

"Man City as a project is not just a project of the owners or the people employed by the club, it is also my project. "I have been here since the beginning and I have seen everything at the club change inside and out. "I have the feeling that I have contributed to it too. It is good to know that I can be at City for another six years. It is a compliment that the club feels so highly of me. "Hopefully, in the future I will have a bigger impact than I already have. I am good here. The fans have given me an incredible reception which is one of the main reasons that I signed

this new deal.

"My family is happy and there are so many more trophies to win at this club — that is why it makes it so special. I take it with great pride that I have been chosen to be captain and lead this team. Especially in England, more than other competitions, being the captain has got a lot

to do about responsibility and challenge."

"This Man City project was probably one of the most difficult projects in Europe to be part of and so far we have all done a good job even though a lot of people said [success] wasn't going to happen so quickly. I like the kind of characters that we



Vincent Kompany led Manchester City to the Barclays Premier League title in 2011/12.—INTERNET

more responsibility involved with it. I thrive on responsibility; the more I get the more I perform, I am at the right club because I have built something here already. I have never denied that this can sometimes be the hardest team in the League of which to be captain, but like I said I

have in our team, I like the challenges we have ahead of us. Now is the time to build the culture of winning. We are in the right time; we are in the right moment." Kompany has made 126 Barclays Premier League appearances since joining City in 2008 from Hamburg.— Internet

Feel good factor adds to Britain's confidence

WOKING, 27 July — Four days after celebrating on the Champs Elysees, British riders are still buzzing from a monumental Tour de France campaign and, beaming with confidence, look to ride the crest to kick start their Olympic



Cyclist Bradley Wiggins of Britain rides during a training session for the Cycling Road Race ahead of the 2012 London Olympic games on the Box Hill circuit, 30 km (18 miles) southwest of London, on 26 July, 2012. REUTERS

campaign in style. Four years after winning eight Olympic cycling gold medals, seven of them on the track, Britain have taken road racing by storm with Wiggins claiming the Tour title in a British one-two ahead of Chris Froome.

On Saturday, world champion Cavendish, backed by what Team GB riders hail as the "best British Olympic road race ever assembled", will be the favorite for the Olympic road race on the 250-km (155 miles) course starting from The Mall in London. Four of the

five riders in Team GB won a stage on the Tour de France this year, including Cavendish taking the last two sprint stages by decimating his rivals.

"It's difficult to calibrate anything like that but it (the Tour de France campaign) gives the whole team a lift," team principal David Brailsford, who oversaw Team Sky's Tour campaign, told reporters at Foxhills, a quiet countryside retreat in Surrey on Thursday. Brailsford paid a visit to the British track team, and Team Sky's performance on the Tour was the main item of discussion. "They're all just buzzing from it, the riders themselves, the sprinters, Chris Hoy, Vickie (Pendleton), all the pursuit team they're all on a high from it," he said.

"We will be relishing to carry the momentum from the Tour. They haven't switched off. It captured a lot of people's imagination and raised the interest in cycling, it's the perfect way to step into the Olympic arena and get the first medal on the first day." "We're buzzing," admitted Cavendish, who believes he is part of a "dream team" and revealed he considered quitting the Tour de France after a gruelling stage in the Alps. "If we want to win this bike race we could not be in a better situation."

Reuters



Japan's Yuki Otsu (L) celebrates with his team mates Maya Yoshida (C) and Hiroki Sakai after scoring against Spain.—REUTERS

MANCHESTER, 27 July — Japan produced the first upset of the Olympic Games when they beat potential gold medalists Spain 1-0 while favorites Brazil survived a scare before beating Egypt 3-2 on the opening day of the men's soccer competition on Thursday. Hosts Britain, making their first appearance at the Games for 52 years, were denied a win in front of a 72,000

crowd at Old Trafford when Senegal scored a late equalizer in a 1-1 draw.

Uruguay, back in the Games after an 84-year absence, came from behind to beat a lively United Arab Emirates side 2-1 in the earlier game at Old Trafford. On a day when all 16 teams were in action, there was also a win for Belarus, playing in their first major international

Japan shock Spain, favorites Brazil win

tournament, beating New Zealand 1-0 at Coventry. The real upset though was at Hampden Park where Japan stunned Spain, looking to become the first country to hold the World Cup, European crown and Olympic title at the same time.

The Spaniards finished the Group D match with 10 men after midfielder Inigo Martinez was sent off just before halftime having found no answer to Yuki Otsu's 34th minute goal. Asked if this was Japan's best ever win coach Takashi Sekizuka said: "We looked forward to the match very much and showing how much we have to offer was the main point." Now we have to prepare for winning the games

against Morocco and Honduras but I am very pleased with the result today."

Despite Spain's hopes of winning the title, Brazil are favorites to take their first Olympic soccer gold. They began with an ultimately nervy 3-2 win over Egypt in Cardiff after goals from Rafael, Leandro Damiao and Neymar had put them 3-0 ahead after only 30 minutes.

Egypt rallied in the second half with goals by Mohamed Aboutrika and Mohamed Salah with 14 minutes to play. Neymar, who scored from a header, told reporters: "We need to improve, but it is always better to improve for the next match after a win."— Reuters

Piercy sets course record for Canadian Open lead

ONTARIO, 27 July — American Scott Piercy birdied his final hole for a course record and a one-shot lead after the opening round of the Canadian Open on Thursday while Ernie Els struggled in his first outing since winning the British Open. Piercy mixed two eagles and five birdies with a lone bogey at a rain-softened Hamilton Golf & Country Club for an eight-under-par 62 that set the course record and gave him a one-shot lead over compatriot William McGirt and Britain's Greg Owen.

American Robert Garrigus (64) was a further shot back while 2011 Masters champion Charl Schwartzel and former world number one Vijay Singh were among a pack of seven golfers sitting three shots back of the leader. Owen, who started on the back nine, opened with a disastrous double-bogey at the par-four 10th and a bogey at the par-four 11th but was red-hot the rest of the way for his seven-under-63. "I am putting well and when I putt well I feel confident," said Owen.

"I don't always putt well, it's a poor part of my game, so when I start feeling it a little bit it just gives me more confidence to go out and hit better shots." Els, fresh off his British Open triumph on Sunday, had a steady start but finished with a two-over-par 72 after failing to recover fully from a triple-bogey at the par-four 11th hole. World number nine Matt Kuchar, the highest ranked player in the \$5.2 million event, fired a three-under 67 while defending champion Sean O'Hair stumbled to a five-over-par 75.— Reuters



Scott Piercy of the US studies his putt on the ninth hole during the first round at the Canadian Open golf tournament at Hamilton Golf and Country Club in Ancaster Ontario, on 26 July, 2012.—REUTERS

International Sports

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(28-7-12 09:30 am ~ 29-7-12 09:30 am) MST

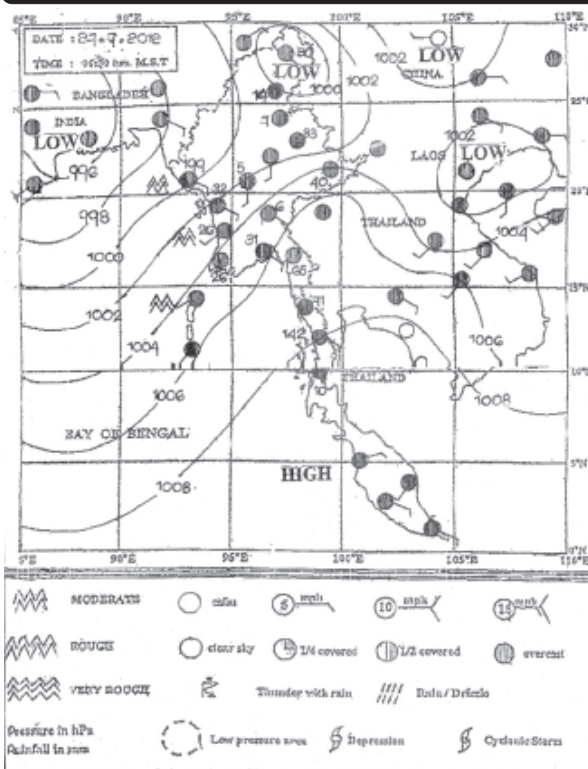
- * News
- * International Standard of Chef Exam
- * News
- * Food Trip (Episode-1) (Part-I)
- * News
- * Road to 27th SEA GAMES 2013 "Table Tennis"
- * News
- * The Hotel Amara (Part-I)
- * News
- * Australian Secondary Schools Exhibition 2012
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * News
- * Kun Chaung Hydro Electric Power Station
- * Thailand Myanmar Business Matching
- * News
- * Annual South East Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Meeting
- * Myanmar Movie (Love Be Win)

MYANMAR TV

(28-7-2012) (Saturday)

- 7:00 am 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:25 am 2. To be Healthy Exercise
- 7:40 am 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:05 am 4. Poem Garden
- 11:00 am 5. Martial Song
- 11:25 am 6. Game For Children
- 11:50 am 7. Round Up Of The Week's TV Local News
- 2:45 pm 8. Dance of National Races
- 4:20 pm 9. Cultural Dances
- 4:30 pm 10. Teleplay (Traffic)
- 5:10 pm 11. Beautiful "ASEAN"
- 5:15 pm 12. Documentary
- 5:30 pm 13. Game For Children
- 6:35 pm 14. Celebrity and Dinner
- 8:00 pm 15. News
- 16. Cartoon Series
- 17. TV Drama Series
- 18. Gitadagale Phwinfbaohn

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 28th July, 2012

Sr. No.	Region	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	28/82	24/75	Widespread rain (IH)	(100%)
2	Kayah	23/73	20/68	Fairly widespread rain	(100%)
3	Kayin	28/82	21/70	Widespread rain	(100%)
4	Chin	22/72	16/61	Widespread rain (IH)	(100%)
5	Upper Sagaing	29/84	25/77	Widespread rain (IH)	(100%)
6	Lower Sagaing	33/91	24/75	Scattered rain	(100%)
7	Taninthayi	28/82	21/70	Widespread rain (IH)	(100%)
8	Bago	28/82	22/72	Widespread rain	(100%)
9	Magway	32/90	25/77	Scattered rain	(100%)
10	Mandalay	29/84	22/75	Scattered rain	(100%)
11	Mon	28/82	21/70	Widespread rain (RH)	(100%)
12	Yangon	30/86	21/70	Widespread rain	(100%)
13	Rakhine	28/82	21/70	Widespread rain (RH)	(100%)
14	Southern Shan	19/66	15/59	Fairly widespread rain	(100%)
15	Northern Shan	24/75	20/68	Fairly widespread rain	(100%)
16	Eastern Shan	22/72	20/68	Fairly widespread rain	(100%)
17	Ayeyawady	30/86	23/73	Widespread rain	(100%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	28/82	22/72	Some rain	(100%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	30/86	21/70	Some rain	(100%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	29/84	24/75	One or two rain	(100%)

During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Magway Region, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Regions and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Rakhine and Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Sittway (7.83) inches, Myeik (7.13) inches, Laungmye (5.31) inches, Changon (5.12) inches, MraukU (4.61) inches, Kyauktaw (4.29) inches, Dawei (3.78) inches and NayPyi Taw (Tatkon) (3.54) inches.

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

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of strong monsoon.

Water level of Sittoung River rises at Yedashe Township



YEDASHE, 27 July—Heavy rains beginning 22 July caused overflows of creeks and drains in Yedashe Township. Ward 6 of Yedashe and Nyaungbinkaing Village

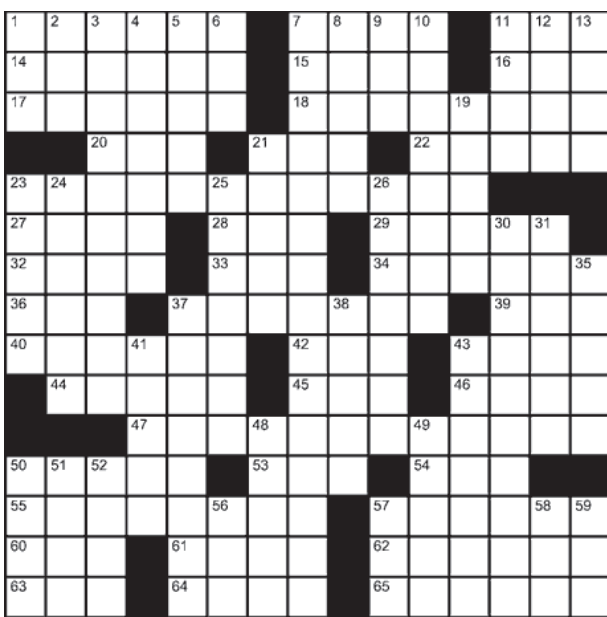
and Nyaungbintha Village were flowed. The motor road on southern part of Swa, farmlands and Ohnbinkwe Village were flooded.

Sittoung River reached 628 cm of water level on 24 July and but its danger level is 1029 cm. On 25 July, water of the river touched Ohnbinkwe Village.

Administrator of Yedashe Township U Soe Min and officials of Township Agriculture and Irrigation and Agriculture Departments provided necessary assistance to the flood victims from the inundated villages in heavy rains.

From mid-July to September last year, Pynhtaung Village northeast of Myohla, Kyuzaung Village southeast of Thagara, Shwekazaung Village east of Swa and Shwethaung and Kyweyaingbyin villages east of Yedashe were evacuated from the flood areas to the safe places.—Kyemon

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1. Easy open flip top (2 wds)
- 7. Spanish sparkling wine
- 11. Branch
- 14. "Seinfeld" gal
- 15. Eastern ties
- 16. Compete
- 17. Bring up
- 18. Taps (2 wds)
- 20. French vineyard
- 21. "Thank You (Faletti-

- nme Be Mice ___ Agin)" (#1 hit of 1970)
- 22. Intuitive feeling
- 23. Tendencies
- 27. Abnormal respiratory sound
- 28. Discouraging words
- 29. Growls
- 32. Bad day for Caesar
- 33. Schuss, e.g.
- 34. XC
- 36. Bit of a draft
- 37. Ancient Grecian district NW of Athens

Down

- 39. "___ we having fun yet?"
- 40. Mountain range section
- 42. ___ King Cole
- 43. Hip bones
- 44. African antelope
- 45. Nod, maybe
- 46. Plundered
- 47. Tail of a dressed fowl (2 wds, pl.)
- 50. Go off script (hyphenated)
- 53. Director's cry
- 54. Amazon, e.g.
- 55. Person to whom money is owed
- 57. Calmer
- 60. Embrace
- 61. Cobblers' tools
- 62. Overlay
- 63. "I" problem
- 64. Bank deposit
- 65. Dimethyl sulfate and others
- 8. To the rear
- 9. Strength
- 10. Debility
- 11. Shakespeare, the Bard of ___
- 12. Reduced instruction set computer (acronym)
- 13. Speed
- 19. ___ International Film Festival in Korea
- 21. Arouse
- 23. Geometrical solid
- 24. Unit of angular measure
- 25. To such an extent
- 26. Catches fire
- 30. Land (2 wds)
- 31. Bitter conflict
- 35. "The Second Coming" poet
- 37. Using both lips
- 38. Jeer
- 41. Flavorful
- 43. Writer who uses sarcastic humor
- 48. Bawl out
- 49. Scruffs
- 50. Advil target
- 51. Dope
- 52. Child's plastic construction brick (trademark)
- 56. Quip, part 3
- 57. Bauxite, e.g.
- 58. Anderson's "High ___"
- 59. "Star Trek" rank: Abbr. (2 wds)

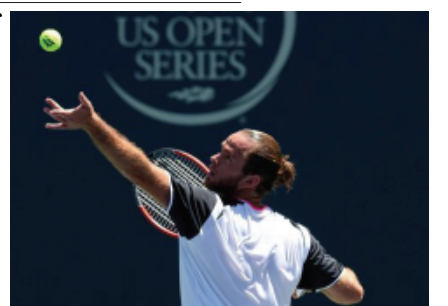
Malisse reaches last eight at ATP LA Open

LOS ANGELES, 27 July — Xavier Malisse reached the quarter-finals of the Los Angeles Open after some last-minute changes to his serve which the fifth seed used to overpower Aussie Matthew Ebden 6-4, 6-3. Malisse, who is into his third quarter-final at the UCLA campus facility, had snapped a losing streak here going back to 2005 when he won his opening match on Tuesday.

The brave last-minute technique modification on Thursday resulted in a superlative 90 per cent average on first serves, an instant dividend for the 32-year-old ranked 72nd in the world.

"We've been working on changing my serving

Xavier Malisse of Belgium serves to Matthew Ebden of Australia during day four of the Farmers Classic Presented By Mercedes-Benz at LA Tennis Centre.



technique," said Malisse, who will next play two-time champion Sam Querrey of the US, the second seed. "We only really changed it this morning, but I worked on it a bit in doubles (Wednesday).

I'm turning my foot a bit more on the court to get more power. It seems to be working," said the winner, who advanced with eight aces in a 73-minute win which also featured 22 winners and three breaks of serve against number 78 Ebden, a quarter-finalist last week in Atlanta."

I guess I have a new weapon. In tennis you can always learn new stuff, but you have to be open to change. That's the only way you can get better. Hopefully I can keep serving like this."—Internet

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives chairmen, vice-chairmen, general secretaries of Group of Friends of Democracy Parties

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July— Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann cordially met with party chairmen, vice-chairmen and general secretaries of Group of Friends of Democracy Parties at Zabuthiri Meeting Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 2 pm today.

Also present at the meeting together with the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw were chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw Committees and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

After the meeting, the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw posed for documentary photo together



with those of Group of Friends of Democracy Parties. MNA

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann meets with chairmen, vice-chairmen and general secretaries of Group of Friends of Democracy Parties. MNA

Consequences of election system rest on basic causes regarding principles, religion, ethnic affairs, race, language and social standing of the people of the country



Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye speaking at coordination meeting with chairmen and general secretaries of Group of Friends of Democracy Parties.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July— The Union Election Commission and chairmen and general secretaries of Group of Friends of Democracy Parties held a coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the Union Election Commission office, here, at 10.30 am today, with an address by Chairman of

the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye. It was also attended by member of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Dr Tin Aung Aye, members of the Union Election Commission and staff, chairmen and general secretaries of 10 Friends of Democracy Parties.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of the UEC U Tin Aye said that it was the second meeting with officials of political parties. He thanked the political parties for their positive reactions and suggestions for strong and weak points over the 2012 by-election at a meeting after the by-

election. The election is essential for choosing representatives of the people to really flourish democracy in the nation, he said. The Union Election Commission adopted the motto “to ensure freedom and equality through genuine democracy based on election” and is

striving for holding the best free and fair elections in the nation, he said.

In light of the background political history and election processes of Myanmar, the Commission is reviewing its tasks to correct the wrong, he said. In making assessment, he stressed the need to take discussions and reviews of the political parties into consideration.

Ten Friends of Democracy Parties were

invited to review and discuss strong and weak points of their paper on Suggestion on Improvement of Election System, he added.

In studying the international election systems within the reach, some differences can be seen among the countries. Basically, there are three systems such as the Plurality-Majority System or Majority Election System known as First Past the Post (FPTP), the Proportional Representation System (PR System) and the Semi-Proportional System known as Mixed Member Proportional Voting (MMP), he added.

With regard to the basic principles of the election systems, it is impossible to exercise the same election system in different countries. The election system is the most important choices of the human society in any democratic nation. It is obvious that selection of election system deeply affects the future politics of the State. It can be seen that various election (See page 9)

Late Senegal goal denies Britain victory



PAGE 14

Japan shock Spain, favorites Brazil win



Japan's Yuki Otsu (L) celebrates with his team mates Maya Yoshida (C) and Hiroki Sakai after scoring against Spain. PAGE 14

Malisse reaches last eight at ATP LA Open



PAGE 15

Flood Warning

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July— According to the 12:30 hr M.S.T observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk (1099) cm has exceeded by (29) cm about 1-foot above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level (1070) cm during the next (48) hours commencing this noon, said the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA