Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend Waso robe offering ceremony of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) families

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July—The Waso robe offering ceremony of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) families of the Ministry of Defence was held at Anawrahta Hall, here, at 9.30 am today, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Maha Wirutayama Taikthit Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara, Secretary Nyaunglon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa and member Sayadaws, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, State Peace and Development Council member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife (See page 8)

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation
PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 2 July, 2009

**Maintain bridges built for regional development**

The government is building networks of roads, railroads and bridges the length and breadth of the nation for parallel development of all regions of the Union.

It was on 29 June that a new bridge was launched into commission. It is the Hti-se-kha bridge built across the Thabat creek near Hti-se-kha village in Loikaw Township in Kayah State.

The Hti-se-kha bridge is the 227th bridge 180 feet and above long in the nation. The opening of the Hti-se-kha bridge will facilitate the transport of local products along the Taungoo-Leiktho-Yardo-Loikaw-Hopong road and thus health, education and socio-economic life of the local people are about to develop soon.

The upper structure and the foundation of the new bridge are of reinforced concrete type. The bridge is 241 feet long, with 24-foot-wide lane and a 3-foot-wide pedestrian lane on each side of it, can bear up to 60 tons of load and the clearance of the bridge is 40 feet wide and 6 feet high.

As the Hti-se-kha bridge will contribute to the social and economic development of the local people in Kayah State, it is necessary to maintain the bridge in order that it can last long and be of long-term benefit to the local people.

**All this needs to be known**

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattened
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

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**Metal spray method introduced to repair machine parts**

**Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min makes a speech at introduction of the use of damaged repairing machine parts and spare parts with the use of metal spray method at Insein Locomotive Shed in Insein.**

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min of MR reported on use of metal spray at Ywahtaung Factory. General Manager U Than Hsin Myint of RIEC Co on matters related to metal spray, use of machinery and coating materials, Managing Director U Phyo Hsan of KME Co on repairing task and works and CEC member U Myint Zaw of Myanmar Industries Association on development of technology and industries.

Next, those present viewed machine parts and spare parts repaired with the use of the metal spray method, rubber equipment for factories and workshops, use of machinery for applying metal spray, coating materials and practical works.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Thura U Thaung, Lwin, departmental heads of ministries and responsible persons of Myanmar Industries Association.

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**Laying corner stones for Sasanna Beikman of Maha Arnhittokanther pagoda held**

**Yangon, 1 July**—A ceremony to lay corner stones for Sasanna Beikman of Maha Arnhittokanther pagoda was held in the compound of the pagoda in Pyin U Lwin on Lashio-Mandalay motor road on 26 June.

Station Commander, Commandant of DSA Brig-Gen Zeyer Aung, Commandant Brig-Gen Hsan Oo of DSTA, Commandant of Military Hospital (700-bed), Chairman of Pyin U Lwin District Peace and Development Council U Aung Myin, Commandant Col Aye Hsan of Tatmadaw Engineering School, Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees Lt-Col Nyan Tun (Retd), Principal Police Brig-Gen Their Tin of Police Training Department, Chairman of Township PDC U Aye Lwin laid corner stones for the Sasanna Beikman.

Afterwards, Commandant Brig-Gen Zeyer Aung and officials concerned accepted cash donated by wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them. Over K 76 million was donated by wellwishers for the first time.

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**Tea farms thriving in Haka**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 1 July**—Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hong Ngai on 10 June inspected the tea farms of departments and Kyaboat tea farm in Haka.

On 12 June, he attended the opening ceremony of Thinam-Marsaung-phiyan earth road and inspected it.
Iraqis celebrate US pullback but bombing kills 33

Baghdad, 1 July — Not a single American soldier was in sight. Gone, too, were the American helicopters whose buzz has defined Baghdad’s background track.

Left alone to protect the capital on Tuesday were thousands of Iraqi troops and police manning checkpoints, with army tanks deployed at potential trouble spots and convoys of pickup trucks with machine guns roaming the streets.

But it was elsewhere, 180 miles to the north, that military officials delivered their first deadly challenge to Iraq’s security forces on a highly symbolic day after the formal withdrawal of US combat troops from cities at midnight.

A car bombing devastated a food market in the city of Kirkuk, killing at least 33 people and wounding 90. The early evening attack, which bore the hallmarks of Sunni extremist groups like al-Qaeda in Iraq, was the second in the Kirkuk area since a truck bombing killed 82 people on 20 June. — Internet

Major attacks in Iraq since 1st January

Baghdad, 1 July — Major bombings in Iraq since 1 January, when a new US-Iraqi security pact took effect:

- 30 June — Car bomb hits crowded outdoor market in the northern city of Kirkuk, killing 27.
- 26 June — Bombed vehicle explodes in a motorcycle bazaar, killing 19.
- 24 June — Bomb rips through crowded market in Baghdad’s Sadr City, killing 78.
- 20 June — Truck bomb explodes near a Shiite mosque in Taza, near Kirkuk, killing 82.
- 10 June — Car bomb explodes in market near Shiite city of Nasiriya, killing 30.
- 21 May — Bomb in mainly Sunni area of Baghdad kills 15 people, including three Americans.
- 20 May — Parked car bomb tears through restaurants in northwest Baghdad, killing 41.
- 6 May — Parked car bomb explodes at a produce market in southern Baghdad, killing 15.
- 29 April — Twin car bombings in Baghdad’s Shiite district of Sadr City kills 51.
- 23 April — Suicide bomber hits Iraqis collecting humanitarian aid in Baghdad, killing 31.
- 23 April — Suicide bombing in Muqdadiya kills 53 people, including 44 Iranian pilgrims.
- 6 April — Series of bombings in Baghdad kill 37 people.
- 26 March — Car bomb tears through market in Shiite area in east Baghdad, killing 20.
- 23 March — Suicide bomber strikes Kurdish funeral in Jalula, killing 27.
- 10 March — Suicide bomber targets tribal leaders at market in Abu Ghraib, killing 33.
- 8 March — Suicide bomber strikes police academy in Baghdad, killing at least 30.
- 5 March — Car bomb tears through livestock market in Hillah, killing 13.
- 13 February — Female suicide bomber targets Shiite pilgrims in Musayyib, killing 40.
- 11 February — Twin car bombs explode at a bus terminal and market area in Baghdad, killing 16.
- 4 January — Female suicide bomber strikes Shiite pilgrims in Baghdad, killing 38.
- 2 January — Suicide bomber hits tribal leader’s home in Youssifiya, killing 23. — Internet

NATO Invasion of US and allies kills, injures Iraqi people

Baghdad, 1 July — There has been daily casualties in Iraq since the US and its allies have invaded the country.

Casualties of Iraqi people

The total number of casualties as from the day they invaded the country to 30 June reached 697,762 and the total number of serious injured people reached 1,256,160, according to the news on the internet.

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<td>1.</td>
<td>Death toll of Iraqi people</td>
<td>697,762</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>The total number of seriously injured people</td>
<td>1,256,160</td>
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</tbody>
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Casualties of Afghan people in invasion of NATO troops led by US

Kabul, 1 July — The NATO troops led by the US have invaded Afghanistan and they are there for a long time.

A number of Afghan people are killed and injured due to invasion of the NATO troops led by the US.

Casualties of Afghan people

According to the Internet news, a total of 8028 Afghan people were killed and 16,510 injured seriously as from the day when the NATO troops led by the US invaded Afghanistan to 30 June.

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US soldier killed in combat in Iraq

Baghdad, 1 July — The U.S. military says an American soldier has been killed in combat in Iraq.

A statement says the Multi-National Division — Baghdad soldier died Sunday but further details were not released.

The statement was issued Monday, on the eve of a deadline for U.S. combat troops to withdraw from Iraq cities.

American soldiers will still be in urban areas but their mission will shift from one of combat to training and advising their Iraqi counterparts.

The statement says the soldier’s death is under investigation. At least 4,319 members of the U.S. military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003. — Internet
**Hong Kong’s exchange fund rises to $225.6 billion USD**

**Hong Kong, 1 July** — The assets of Hong Kong’s Exchange Fund stood at $1.76 trillion US dollars ($225.6 billion US dollars) at the end of May, up 144.7 billion HK dollars (14.7 billion US dollars) from a month earlier, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority said on Tuesday.

Foreign currency assets grew by 98.1 billion HK dollars in May thanks to purchases of foreign currencies with HK dollars and valuation gains on foreign currency investments, the Monetary Authority said.

The Hong Kong dollar assets rose by 16.6 billion HK dollars thanks to a rise in the balance of the banking system and valuation gains on HK dollar equities.

**Big cities see resurgence in population growth**

**Washington, D.C., 1 July** — Reversing a decade-long trend, many of America’s largest cities are now growing more quickly than the rest of the nation, yet another sign of an economic crisis that is making it harder for people to move.

Census data released on Wednesday highlight a city resurgence in coastal regions and areas of the Midwest and Northeast, due to a housing crunch, recession and higher gas prices that have slowed migration to far-flung suburbs and residential hotspots in the South and West.

**Gunmen fire on group of Detroit teens, wounding seven**

**Detroit, 1 July** — Gunmen in a green minivan opened fire on a group of teenagers waiting at a bus stop near a Detroit school on Tuesday, wounding seven including two who were in critical condition, authorities said.

Five of the teens had just left Cody Ninth Grade Academy, where they were taking summer classes, when they were shot at the nearby bus stop. The gunmen exited a vehicle and “asked for a person by name” before they “opened fire at the crowd,” said Detroit Public Schools Police Chief Roderick Grimes.

Detroit Police were looking for two suspects in a green minivan, said spokesman Rod Ligons.

Officers were interviewing some of the victims in the hospital on Tuesday evening, he said.

Four boys and three girls ranging in age from 14 to 17 years old were hospitalized, two of them — a 16-year-old boy and a 17-year-old female — in critical condition, said Deputy Chief James Tolbert.

Gas station owner Steve Hakim said he saw two people with T-shirts covering their heads run across his lot toward the bus stop. Then he heard about 10 gunshots, saw a boy and a girl fall down and called 911.

**Law enforcement officials look over the scene in west Detroit where gunmen in a green minivan opened fire on a group of teenagers waiting at a bus stop near a Detroit school, on 30 June, 2009.**

**Job losses hit June consumer confidence**

**New York, 1 July** — Mounting job losses and other economic realities caught up with Americans in June, pushing down a key barometer of consumer sentiment after a streak of gains built on glimmers of hope.

Some economists say the reality check offered by Tuesday’s report from the New York-based Conference Board may not augur well for spending in the critical months ahead.

The Conference Board said its Consumer Confidence Index now stands at 49.3, down from its revised May level of 54.8.

The drop coincided with mixed messages in the housing market. A report from the Treasury Department showing foreclosures jumped in the first quarter compared with 2008’s fourth quarter. But a key housing price index showed price declines moderating.

**Immigrants in US are asking for money from home**

**Fairview, 1 July** — For five years, immigrant day laborer Leo Chamale wired money twice a month from New Jersey to his family in Guatemala. Recently, he stepped up to the money transfer window for a different purpose — to ask that his family send some of his savings back to him.

“I hadn’t worked for five months, and I was two months behind on rent, so I had them send $1,500,” the 21-year-old Chamale said in Spanish.

“My mother said, ‘That’s a lot of money!’”

With the US economy in a ditch, money transfer agencies have been reporting a decline in the wages immigrants are sending back to their home countries. Now, it appears some immigrants are going a step further — asking their relatives to wire them money back.

“We’ve never seen this before,” said Marlen Miranda, manager of Peerless Travel in Fairview, which runs a money transfer service.

“I mean, one or two people might receive money for a special reason, but not this quantity of people.”

Miranda said she has seen her customer base dwindle from 200 people to 75 who regularly use her money transfer services each month. Of those 75, Miranda said, about 20 now come in to receive money instead of sending it home.
Russia sends US communications satellite into orbit

MOSCOW, 1 July—Russia launched a carrier rocket on Tuesday to send a US communications satellite into space, new agencies reported, citing the Khourinchev state space research and production center.

Alexander Borbrenov, press secretary of the Khourinchev centre, said a Russian Proton-M carrier rocket, with a Sirius FM5 atop, blasted off at around 23:10 Moscow time (1910 GMT) from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan.

Earlier, an official from the Russian Federal space agency (Roscosmos) said the satellite is expected to separate from the booster 9 hours later.

“The satellite will take up a point in a geostationary orbit at 96 degrees, western longitude,” the Itar-tass news agency cited the unnamed official as saying.

The launch, originally scheduled for Monday, was postponed one day due to some glitches when the Briz-M booster was fueled last Wednesday.

The Sirius FM5 satellite, manufactured by the US Space Systems/Loral Company and owned by US broadcasting magnate US Space Systems/Loral Company, will function in orbit for 15 years.

Plane lands safely at New York airport after bird strike

NEW YORK, 1 July—A plane landed safely at New York’s LaGuardia Airport on Tuesday morning after reporting a bird strike on its approach. According to New York local TV channel NY1, the US Federal Aviation Administration said American Airlines flight 1256 hit birds at an altitude of 900 feet (about 274 metres) while nearing LaGuardia Airport.

Once the pilot landed, he noticed that the nose gear’s hydraulics was not working.

The plane, a 737-800, was towed to a gate. The passengers safely got off, and a large bird was found in the landing gear.

There were no injuries to any of the 140 aboard including five crew members.

The incident came months after another bird strike forced US Airways flight 1549 to splash land in the Hudson River.

Global IT spending to drop nearly 11% in 2009

SAN FRANCISCO, 1 July—Global spending on information technology (IT) may fall 10.6 percent in 2009, more sharply than the 3-percent decrease projected at the beginning of the year, market research firm Forrester said on Tuesday.

Forrester now expects growth of IT spending in the United States to hit bottom sooner, Forrester noted. Forrester now expects growth of IT spending in the United States to resume in the fourth quarter of 2009, followed by revival of IT buying in other markets in 2010.

US company kicks off nonstop flight from LA to Havana

LOS ANGELES, 1 July—Long Beach-based company Cuba Travel Services Inc kicked off nonstop flights from Los Angeles to Havana on Tuesday.

The five-hour flight takes off from the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) at 11 am local time, and is the only Cuban flight for Cuba Travel since July 2004, when the Bush administration tightened rules governing travel to Cuba, according to the company.

US President Barack Obama repealed the 2004 travel restrictions in April. A bill pending in Congress would end the travel ban for all Americans.

The flight runs every Tuesday and can accommodate 150 people, said the company.

At least 20 die in eastern Peru as passenger boats crash

LIMA, 1 July—At least 20 people died, including several children, in eastern Peru department Ucayali when two passenger boats crashed on the Ucayali River at around 5:00 am local time on Tuesday, regional authorities told local media.

The accident took place close to San Jose de Pacache, a small town in Peru’s Amazon rainforest, where the two boats were carrying over 100 passengers, the port captian in departmental capital Pucallpa told media. The exact number was not known because they are cargo boats carrying people on an informal basis.

A small boat rescued two people from the river and carried them to the nearby town of Puerto Callao, in Coronel Portillo municipality. These survivors alerted rescuers.

Both boats had set out from Pucallpa heading for Iquitos, a city in north-eastern Peru.
Flight 447 black box search goes on past deadline

Paris, 1 July—French investigators say the search for the black boxes of Flight 447 is continuing although they are no longer certain to emit signals.

The flight’s voice and data recorders are guaranteed to emit signals for 30 days after an accident. On Tuesday marks 30 days since Air France Airbus A330 plunged into the Atlantic.

All 228 people aboard were killed.

Martine del Bono, spokeswoman for the French air accident investigation agency, says “it is continuing the search” as long as there is a “reasonable” chance of locating the black boxes.

She gave no final deadline on Tuesday for ending the search. The black boxes could be key to determining what happened to the plane.

Brazil has ended the search for more bodies.

66 French people onboard crashed Yemeni airliner

Paris, 1 July—Sixty-six French people were onboard the Yemenia Air jetliner that crashed early Tuesday off the coast of Comoros, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said in a statement on Tuesday.

In the statement, Kouchner expressed “sincere condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims.”

French President Nicolas Sarkozy has asked the French military to help with the search operation, particularly the military personal in the Indian Ocean territories of Mayotte and Reunion.

The jetliner, an Airbus A310, crashed early on Tuesday into the Indian Ocean as it approached the airport on the Comoros islands in heavy winds and bad weather.

The plane was carrying 153 people—142 passengers and a crew of 11. Yemeni officials said a child has been rescued alive from the sea.

Israeli-Palestinian talks stand at crossing point

Jerusalem, 1 July—The Israelis and Palestinians are at a key point in their relations: they can have a true, lasting peace or else take the road to self-destruction, Ron Pundak, one of the key architects of the original 1993 peace accord between the two Middle Eastern neighbours, warned on Tuesday.

The options on the table are “to march towards peace, regional cooperation and prosperity,” or “to move in the direction that we are moving now, a devastating direction,” Pundak told an international gathering of academics at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

The real Zionists are those who believe in an Israeli state next to a state of Palestine, with eastern Jerusalem as its capital and its territory to include the West Bank, currently occupied by Israel, said Pundak, who now heads the Peres Center for Peace.

“I know what you want, you know what I want. It’s time for decisions now,” added leading Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat, with a sense of urgency in his voice.

European Commission calls for smoke-free EU by 2012

Brussels, 1 July—The European Commission on Tuesday called on all European Union (EU) member states to install laws to protect their citizens from exposure to tobacco smoke by 2012.

The EU member states are asked to adopt and implement laws to fully protect their citizens from exposure to tobacco smoke in enclosed public places, workplace and public transport, within three years of adoption of the commission’s proposal by them.

They are also asked to enhance smoke-free laws with supporting measures to protect children, encourage efforts to give up tobacco use and to have pictorial warnings on tobacco packages.

Currently, 10 EU countries have comprehensive smoke-free laws in place. Britain and Ireland have the strictest smoke-free provisions with a complete ban on smoking in enclosed public places, on public transport and in workplace. Bulgaria is due to follow suit in 2010.

PARIS, 30 June, 2009. — XinHua

Relatives and friends of passengers aboard the Airbus flight A310-300 from Yemen arrive at a crisis center at Charles de Gaulle airport near Paris, on 30 June, 2009.

The first Europeans were cannibals: archaeologists

Scientists in Germany have published details of flutes dating back to the time that modern humans began colonising Europe, 35,000 years ago.

The flutes are the oldest musical instruments found to date. The researchers say in the Journal Nature that music was widespread in prehistoric times.

Music, they suggest, may have been one of a suite of behaviours displayed by our own species which helped give them an edge over the Neanderthals.

The team from Tubingen University have published details of three flutes found in the Hohle Fels cavern in southwest Germany. The cavern is already well known as a site for signs of early human efforts; in May, members of the same team un-revealed a Hohle Fels find that could be the world’s oldest Venus figure.

The most well-preserved of the flutes is made from a vulture’s wing bone, measuring 20cm long with five finger holes and two “V”-shaped notches on one end of the instrument.

“Oldest musical instrument” found

The most well-preserved of the flutes is made from a vulture’s wing bone, measuring 20cm long with five finger holes and two “V”-shaped notches on one end of the instrument.

The remains of the “first Europeans” discovered at an archaeological site in northern Spain have revealed that prehistoric men were cannibals who particularly liked the flesh of children.

“We know that they practiced cannibalism,” said Maria Bermudez de Castro, one of the co-directors of the Atapuerca project, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A young Ohio man allegedly broke into a Cincinnati-area house while the owners were on vacation and stayed there for a week.

Nicholas Truesdell not only slept in the master bedroom of the four-bedroom house in Anderson, he watched television and spent time on the computer, the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office said. He effectively “used the residence as his own,” investigators said.

While he was at it, Truesdell allegedly drove the owners’ car, a 2007 Nissan Altima. Investigators said he entered the house by forcing a rear window open.

News Album

Burglar lived in house for a week

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A motorcyclist performs during the first in Belarus freestyle motocross show in the main square of Minsk.
Foreign Minister back from Bahrain

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July—A delegation led by U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, arrived at Yangon International Airport this evening by TG 305 after attending the first ASEAN-GCC Full-Fledged Ministerial Meeting held on 29 and 30 June in Manama, Bahrain.

The Myanmar delegation participated in the ASEAN-GCC Preparatory Meeting on 29 June and attended the Dinner hosted by His Excellency Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in the evening.

Subsequently, the Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and delegation attended the first ASEAN-GCC Full-Fledged Ministerial Meeting on 30 June. During the meeting, the issue of the enhancement of the ASEAN-GCC Cooperation, the issue of Exchange of views on Developments in the ASEAN and the GCC and other regional and international issues were cordially discussed.

In the afternoon, His Majesty Shaikh Hamad Bin Isa Khalifa, the King of Bahrain, received the visiting Foreign Ministers and hosted with a luncheon. After the meeting, the ASEAN and GCC Ministers issued the Joint Press Statement of the 1st Full-Fledged ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meeting, ASEAN-GCC Join Vision and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat of ASEAN and the Secretariat of GCC was signed by the two Secretaries-General.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) included Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and United Arab Emirates (UAE). —MNA

9th SOMTC commences

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July—The opening of the Ninth ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (9th SOMTC) hosted by Myanmar took place at the meeting hall of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association here this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Brig-Gen Win Sein, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, departmental heads and officials, the Ambassadors of ASEAN countries to the Union of Myanmar and embassy staff, the Resident Representatives of UN Agencies, delegation members of ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN countries and guests.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo made an opening address and the opening ceremony concluded.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe posed for a documentary photo together with the delegation leaders of ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN countries and cordially greeted those present.

Then the Ninth ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (9th SOMTC) followed. The meeting will be held up to 3 July.

—MNA

Kawhmu Township People’s Hospital gets X-ray room and related equipment

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi attended the ceremony to donate X-ray room, X-ray machine, dentist chair and related equipment by Shwe Natural Gas Project which is a joint venture between the Ministry of Energy and companies at Kawhmu Township People’s Hospital on 29 June.

First, the minister and the representative of Shwe Natural Gas Project opened the ceremony.

Next, the minister gave accounts on donation of the companies of Shwe Natural Gas Project and spoke words of thanks on behalf of the township.

Dr. Su-Yeong Yong explained purpose of donation, and Director-General Dr Daw Khin Pyone Kyi of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) and a local spoke words of thanks. Then the minister and guests observed newly-opened X-ray room, X-ray machine and dentist chair. Afterwards, the minister visited newly-built Mitta Village near Kamapa and Nyaung-ngu villages and greeted the villagers. — MNA

Home Affairs Minister receives delegation leaders of ASEAN countries

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July—Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo received officials of the ASEAN Secretariat and leaders of the delegations that arrived in Nay Pyi Taw to attend the 9th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime at the hall of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, here, this morning. Also present at the call were departmental heads and officials.—MNA

1st Asian Youth Games commence

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 July—The 1st Asian Youth Games were opened at the National Stadium in Singapore on 29 June evening.

Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Vice-Chairman of Asian Olympic Council Mr Timothy Fok and the Chairman of Singapore Olympic Council opened the games. It was also attended by the Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee for Sports and the Myanmar sports contingent.

Over 1,400 athletes from 45 countries took part in swimming, diving, track and field, beach volleyball, football, yachting, shooting and bowling events. See Sandra Nyunt of Myanmar stood sixth in the men’s diving event, Nyi Nyi Tun, eighth in the men’s 400-m race trial and Phyu Phway 11th in the women’s 1,500-m race event.—MNA

Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo addresses the opening of 9th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime.

MNA

 clamour for the statutory backing of the draft law.

The bill, which has been described as a protectionist measure, has been criticized by some economists as being likely to increase inflation and discourage investment.

However, proponents of the bill argue that it is necessary to protect local industries from unfair competition and to preserve jobs.

The bill is expected to be passed by the state parliament within the next few weeks.
Senior General Than Shwe, wife ...

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer Waso robes and offertories to Secretory Nyaungdon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa.—MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet offer Waso robes and provisions to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin donate Waso robes and offertories to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Lt-Gen Tin Aye of Ministry of Defence offers Waso robes and alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA

The Chairman Sayadaw administered the Five Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaiing Kyaiing offered Waso robes and alms to Chairman Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San donated Waso robes and offertories to Secretary Nyaungdon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa.

General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet presented Waso robes and alms to the Sayadaw.

The Commander-in-Chief (Amm), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General and their wives and family members of the Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air), Adviser U Arnt Maung supplicated on the agenda of the ceremony.

First, the ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa.

The Secretary Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the congregation led by Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaiing Kyaiing shared merits gained.

The ceremony ended with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanaam Ciram Titthatu.

Later, the Senior General, wife and party offered meals to members of the Sangha.—MNA
Programmes to beautify Yangon discussed

Yangon, 1 July — The Committee for Beautifying and Upgrading Yangon held its meeting No. 11/2009 at the City Hall of Yangon City Development Committee here yesterday.

In his speech, Patron of the committee Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence said that it is required to reach the goal City green, tidy and clean. He stressed the importance of organizing local people to abide strictly by the rules and regulations with a sense of self-discipline.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint and the chairman of the Leading Committee vice-mayor reported on work progress and follow-up programmes.

The chairmen of the work committees and officials reported on accomplishment of work. Lt-Gen Myint Swe fulfilled the requirements and gave concluding remarks. — MNA

Industry-1 Minister honours outstanding students

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 July — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and wife attended the 8th ceremony to honour distinction winners of the matriculation examination for 2008-2009 academic year in Myingyan and awarded the nine outstanding students on 29 June.

The minister presented award to the outstanding students of the Government Technological College (Myingyan) and Myingyan Technological College.

Wellwishers contributed K 4 million to the education funds of the township through Myingyan District Education Department.

Minister U Aung Thaung makes a speech in meeting with local people of Nabuaing village in Myingyan Township.— INDUSTRY-1

Thaung also met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people from three villages in Myingyan Township on 29 June and provided bags of cement and K 500,000 for repair of seven schools in the township. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo receives delegation leaders of ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN countries. (News on page-7)— MNA

Commander inspects regional development tasks in Myingyan, Taungtha Townships

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 July — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe inspected repair work of Mya Kan Tha drinking water lake near Laydan village in Myingyan Township, cultivation of monsoon groundnut at the farmland of Farmer U Chit Nyein in Tityon village, the integrated farming of Ohubu village in Taungtha Township and Taungtha dam near Nabekan village on 23 June and gave necessary instructions.

On 24 June evening, the commander delivered an address at the opening of Central Command Commander’s Shield Football Tournament at Kyaukdaing Football Ground. Then the commander and party enjoyed the match. — MNA

CPT Minister inspects auto-exchanges in Sagaing Division and Kachin State

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 July — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspected digital auto-exchange in Kyun-hla, auto-exchange and post office in Kawlin, auto-exchange in Wuntho and microwave station and auto-exchange in Inn-daw in Sagaing Division and fulfilled the requirements.

The minister attended the opening ceremony of digital auto-exchange in Mawlu. Managing Director U Tha Oo of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and Col San Aung of North-West Command formally opened it. Next, the minister looked into construction of auto-exchange in Mawhan of Kachin State where he called for timely completion of works meeting set standards.

On 28 June, the minister attended the opening of CDMA (450) auto mobile carrying system held at Moenyin and tested the call for mobile communications.

Afterwards, the minister was present at 15th prize-presenting ceremony in Seinle Yadana hall of Moenyin and delivered an address. The minister and officials presented prizes to outstanding students and teachers. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence makes a speech at the meeting No. 11/2009 of Committee for Beautifying and Upgrading Yangon.— MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw attends the opening ceremony of digital auto-exchange in Mawlu.— CPT
Villages of Bago Division have easy access to modern communications

Article and photos: Reporter Peinzalok Thein Nyunt

Youths browse the Internet in Public Access Centre next to Bago Division Myanma Posts and Telecommunications office.

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A man using CDMA-450 mobile phone at a public phone booth on Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Bago Division.

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Auto exchange in Swa, Yedashe Township, Bago Division, which was transformed from manual exchange.
Kazakhstan not to supply n-materials to other countries

ALMATY, 1 July—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev said on Tuesday that Kazakhstan will never supply nuclear materials that could be used to make weapons of mass destruction to other countries. After 49 years of tests at the Semipalatinsk test site, around one million Kazakh citizens have suffered from radiation poisoning, Nazarbayev told a joint news conference with Israeli President Shimon Peres in Astana, the Interfax news agency reported. “Kazakhstan suffered the severities of nuclear tests itself.”

Therefore, countering nuclear weapons and its proliferation is “very acute and important” to Kazakhstan, he said. “Kazakhstan guarantees that it will not provide its nuclear materials to other countries,” he said.

Semipalatinsk was once the world’s largest nuclear test site, where nearly 500 tests were carried out from 1949 to 1989. Nazarbayev ordered the shutdown of the site in 1991. —MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam collects $9.6b for state coffers in first half

HANOI, 1 July—Vietnam’s Ministry of Planning and Investment said the country collected 171 trillion Vietnamese dong (9.6 billion US dollars) from January to mid June this year for the state coffers, local newspapers the New Hanoi and the Vietnam News Agency reported Tuesday.

The amount is equal to 43.9 per cent of this year’s target, said the ministry. The country collected 105 trillion Vietnamese dong (5.89 billion US dollars) from domestic activities from January to mid June while contributions of export and import activities to the state revenue was 41.1 trillion Vietnamese dong (2.3 billion US dollars) for the same period, according to the newspaper.

Another amount of 23 trillion Vietnamese dong (1.29 billion US dollars) of the state revenue was collected from crude oil. The rest was from other sources, said the newspaper.

Meanwhile, the country spent 197.5 trillion Vietnamese dong (11.09 billion US dollars) from January to mid June, accounting for 40.2 per cent of this year’s forecast. —MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe exports 22 million kilos of Virginia tobacco

HARARE, 1 July—Zimbabwe has so far exported a total of 22.1 million kilos of Virginia tobacco valued at about 66 million US dollars to various destinations in the first five months of this year, according to The Herald on Tuesday.

However, this is a decrease from the 38.5 million kilos worth 115.5 million dollars from the amount of tobacco that was exported during the same period last year. This is attributed to challenges such as pricing and poor deliveries that haunted the sector last year.

Last year, a total of 61.3 million kilos were exported during the first five months of the year. The month of February recorded the highest tobacco exports of 10.3 million kg worth 10.3 million dollars compared to 14 million kilos last year.

May recorded the least amount of tobacco exported. A total of 1 million kilos worth three million dollars were exported, while last year, same period, 3.9 million kg were exported. —MNA/Xinhua

China raises gasoline, diesel prices

BEIJING, 1 July—China raised gasoline and diesel prices by 600 yuan (about 87.8 US dollars) per ton, starting 12:00 a.m. Tuesday.

The adjustment was in response to “recent international oil price fluctuation” under the country’s new fuel pricing mechanism, as international crude prices kept rising, said the statement. According to the new mechanism, China’s domestic prices are to be “indirectly linked” to global crude prices “in a controlled manner.”

Under the pricing mechanism, China would consider changing benchmark retail prices of oil products when the international crude price rises or falls by a daily average of 4 per cent over 22 working days in a row. —MNA/Xinhua

Panama seizes over a ton of cocaine

PANAMA CITY, 1 July—Panama officials have seized over a ton of cocaine, the National Police said on Tuesday.

The shipment was found under the false floor of an articulated truck in Antón, a municipality 153 kilometres west of the capital Panama City, the police said, adding that the drug’s packaging was marked with panda bears, triangles and the number 88.

The Police said the operation was in a joint Monday operation with the Drug Prosecutors Office, six Panamanians and a Nicaraguan were arrested at the scene. Police also seized 30,000 dollars in cash, and a sedan vehicle during the operation.

Cocaine found in Panama usually on its way from Peru, Colombia and Bolivia, where all the world’s cocaine is grown, to the United States, which ties with Spain for the largest per capital consumption rate. Panama seized 55 tons of the drug during 2008. —MNA/Xinhua

Chinese media gather to cover the first ticket sales for 2010’s World Expo in Shanghai

Chinese media gather to cover the first ticket sales for 2010’s World Expo in Shanghai, where China once again plans to showcase its growing global importance by staging the most extravagant World’s Fair ever. —INTERNET

Cameroon president names new PM in govt. reshuffle

YAOUNDE, 1 July—Cameroon President Paul Biya on Tuesday named Philemon Yang as the new prime minister of the country in government reshuffle efforts, state radio said.

The newly appointed premier, who used to be the secretary general at the presidential office, replaces Ephraim Inoni at the head of the government, which includes 12 ministers, according to a presidential decree broadcast on state radio. —MNA/Xinhua

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GATI MAJESTIC NO (93909)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI MAJESTIC NO (93909) are hereby notified that the vessels will be arriving on 2.7.2009 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 GATI COAST TO COAST
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ASIA INNOVATOR NO (5)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIA INNOVATOR NO (5) are hereby notified that the vessels will be arriving on 2.7.2009 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.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

COMPLETION OF MARRIAGE
Maung Win Lwin
son of U Ko Ko Gyi, Managing Director (AMTK Co., Ltd) and Daw Than Yee, residing at Pabedan Township, Yangon Division.

and

Ma Nwe Nwe Win, B.Sc (Physics)
(AMTK Co., Ltd.)
daughter of U Win Kyi, Assistant Chief Engineer (Retired) and Daw Kyin Than, residing at Ahtione Township, Yangon Division were married with the consent of both parents on (4.6.2009) in Bangkok, Thailand.

Both Parents and

Maung Win Lwin+Ma Nwe Nwe Win

Bank Holiday
All Banks will be closed on 6 July (Monday) 2009, Full Moon of Wasso being public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

A crane at a construction site in central Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia has announced measures to liberalize the economy as it heads into recession, winding back a decades-old policy of positive discrimination for Malays.—INTERNET

South Sudan fighting sparks fear of wider conflict
NASIR, 1 July—Thick lines of sweat run down the face of Peter Gatwech as he clutches the dressing around the bullet hole in his belly.

“I was hit by the guns of the soldiers when we were fighting,” said the 24-year old cattle keeper from the Jikany branch of the Nuer people, his voice quivering with pain. The young man is one of 33 wounded from the latest round of vicious fighting in southern Sudan who have received treatment in the hospital in Nasir, an impoverished town of mud and thatch huts in Upper Nile state.

“...They were sending supplies to the Luo, an impoverished town of mud and thatch huts in Upper Nile state. “They were sending supplies to the Luo, and we had to stop them,” he added, referring to a rival Nuer people whose lands border Jikany territory. Gatwech was with several hundred armed Jikany men who launched an attack in mid-June on a river convoy of 30 barges carrying United Nations food aid, killing at least 40 of the 150 southern soldiers acting as its escort.—INTERNET

Beijing Olympics assets auctions collect 28 m USD
BEIJING, 1 July—The last auction of Beijing Olympic assets closed on Tuesday, bringing the total deals to 189 million yuan (27.7 mill US dollars), an increment of 260 percent from the evaluation price.

Seventy-six items, including sofas and seats at the chairman platform in the Bird’s Nest, or the National Stadium, were sold for 563,000 yuan Tuesday. The Beijing Equity Exchange have sold out more than 700,000 items from the 2008 Games at 25 auctions in nearly a year, including furniture, household appliance and properties at the Games’s opening ceremony.—INTERNET

Over 3,330 children treated dengue fever for first 6 months of this year
PHNOM PENH, 1 July—Cambodia’s dengue fever is a serious problem for children because most infected cases have been occurred on children, official of Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

“We has been treated 3,333 children infected with dengue and other ten have been killed by the hemorrhagic fever so far this year,” said Ngan Chantha, director of anti-dengue fever department of Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

“We have to enhance education and public campaign on the dengue to raise awareness among our people in rural and urban areas.”

The local community has to be careful with children because the rainy season is starting now. It will be easy for the mosquitoes to lay eggs in the water jar. The tiger mosquito is a gent from water-born virus that “we have to enhance education and public campaign on the dengue to raise awareness among our people in rural and urban areas.”

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Study says Tunguska explosion caused by comet

ITHACA, 1 July—US scientists say research involving the exhaust plume from a NASA space shuttle launch suggests the 1908 Tunguska explosion was caused by a comet.

The mysterious explosion leveled 830 square miles of Siberian forest and a cause has never been determined. But Cornell University researchers say findings from their study indicated the explosion was nearly certainly caused by a comet entering the Earth’s atmosphere.

“It’s almost like putting together a 100-year-old murder mystery,” said Professor Michael Kelley, who led the study. “The evidence is pretty strong that the Earth was hit by a comet in 1908.”

The researchers contend the massive amount of water vapor spewed into the atmosphere by the comet’s icy nucleus was caught by high-energy eddies in a process called two-dimensional turbulence, which explains why noctilucent clouds formed a day later many thousands of miles away.

Noctilucent clouds are the Earth’s highest clouds, forming naturally in the mesosphere at about 55 miles over the polar regions during the summer months.

H1N1 influenza shifted to younger people

TEMPLE, 1 July—The newest strain of the H1N1 influenza reveals an age shift toward a younger population compared with seasonal influenza, US researchers say.

The researchers say 87 percent of the deaths and 71 percent of the cases of severe pneumonia occurred in people ages 5-59.

“The data show that the vast majority of cases of severe pneumonia and deaths occurred among those ages 5-59, which is atypical when compared with the age pattern supported by seasonal flu,” one of the researchers, Gerardo Chowell-Puente of Arizona State University, said in a statement. “If resources or vaccine supplies are limited, focusing prevention efforts on these age classes must be considered.”

Thailand’s total number of A/H1N1 patients rises to 1,473

BANGKOK, 1 July—Thailand’s Public Health Ministry on Wednesday announced 59 more patients who are confirmed to have been infected with the A/H1N1 flu virus, bringing the country’s total number to 1,473.

Of the total new confirmed cases, 41 are students and two others had just returned from overseas visits, Public Health Minister Wittaya Kaewsaparadai said.

Thailand’s total number of A/H1N1 flu virus cases in the EU (European Union) and EFTA (European Free Trade Association)countries rose to 8,179, with 717 cases in Spain and 5,937 in Britain. 288 in France and 417 in Germany, the ECDC said.

The ECDC publishes a daily situation report about A/H1N1 flu cases in the EU and EFTA countries based on official information from these countries.

More than two thousand new A/H1N1 cases confirmed in Europe

STOCKHOLM, 1 July—A European health agency said Tuesday that 2006 new A/H1N1 flu cases were reported in European countries within the last 24 hours.

Of the new cases, 1,687 were confirmed in Britain, 176 in Spain, 49 in France, 29 in Germany, 23 in Cyprus, nine in Finland, five in Switzerland, four respectively in Slovakia, Portugal and Greece, three respectively in Austria, Denmark and Romania, two respectively in Ireland and Hungary, one respectively in Sweden, Poland and Belgium, the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said in its daily situation report.

The total number of confirmed cases of the A/H1N1 flu virus in the EU (European Union) and EFTA (European Free Trade Association)countries rose to 8,179, with 717 cases in Spain and 5,937 in Britain.

Two buses drive in deep rainwater on a flooded street in Wuhan, capital city of central China’s Hubei Province, on 30 June, 2009. The city has been hit by seasonal summer rainfalls for days. —INTERNET

Purple sweet potato may fight cancer

MANHATTAN, 1 July—A US researcher says a specially cultivated purple sweet potato may help fight cancer.

Soyoung Lim of Kansas State University in Manhattan in Kansas says the Kansas-developed sweet potato has purple flesh high in anthocyanin—a flavanoid responsible for red/blue pigment that may have an anti-cancer effect. “Sometimes we can find purple sweet potatoes in the grocery store, but they don’t have this purple color on the skin and inside,” Lim said in a statement.

Doctor says peanut butter can be healthy

BOSTON, 1 July—A Boston doctor says eating peanut butter can be a healthy choice.

Dr Walter Willett of the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston says the presence of some saturated fat doesn’t automatically kick peanut butter into the camp of “unhealthy foods.”

“A olive oil, wheat germ, and even tofu—all considered to be ‘healthy’ foods—have some saturated fat,” Willett says in a statement.

“It’s the whole package of nutrients, not just one or two, that determines how good a particular food is for health.” Peanut butter has nutrients including fiber and some vitamins and minerals—especially potassium. Unsalted peanut butter has a terrific potassium-to-sodium ratio, which counters the harmful cardiovascular effects of a sodium surplus, Willett says.

Even salted peanut butter still has about twice as much potassium as sodium.
Football fans at Real welcome Kaka

Real Madrid new player Kaka thanks supporters during his official presentation at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid. Internet

MADRID, 1 July—Real Madrid's new 'Galactico' and former Reading goalkeeper Marcus Hahnemann, who arrived straightaway, added Doyle who signed a four year contract with Wolves website.

Promising young French midfielder Steven N'Zonzi became English Premier League side Blackburn Rovers fourth signing of the close season on Tuesday. The 20-year-old signed from Amiens on a four year deal - no transfer fee was revealed.

His signing comes just 24 hours after veteran Danish international defender Lars Jacobsen signed with them - French defender Gael Givet and midfielder Elrio van Heerden are the other new arrivals this summer.

United net Valencia

Ecuadorean football player Antonio Valencia

Manchester, 1 July—Manchester United said on Tuesday they have signed Wigan winger Antonio Valencia on a four-year contract for a fee believed to be in the region of 16 million pounds (22 million dollars). "Joining Manchester United is a dream come true for me," the 23-year-old Ecuadorean told the club website www.manutd.com.

"I have enjoyed my time at Wigan, but I am thrilled to have the chance to challenge for the biggest honours in club football here," he added.

"Playing in front of 76,000 fans alongside players like Wayne Rooney, Rio Ferdinand and Ryan Giggs will be an amazing experience. I can't wait to get started." United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has been a fan of Valencia, who spent two years with Wigan and helped turn the club into an established top flight side.

"Antonio is a player we have admired for some time now, having spent the last two years in the Premier League with Wigan," Ferguson said.

United’s new ‘number five’.

Wolves snap up promising French teenager

London, 1 July—Promising young French midfielder Steven N’zonzi became English Premier League side Blackburn Rovers fourth signing of the close season on Tuesday.

Mum’s the word as Dementieva reaches Wimbledon last four

Russia’s Elena Dementieva celebrates after beating Italy’s Francesca Schiavone 6-2, 6-2, in the 2009 Wimbledon Tennis Championships quarter-finals at the All England Tennis Club. Internet

London, 1 July—Elena Dementieva saluted her mother for coaching her to the top after the fourth seed eased into the Wimbledon semi-finals for the second successive year with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over unseeded Italian Francesca Schiavone on Tuesday.

Dementieva, the world number four, has been coached by her mother Vera for most of her professional career and the Russian believes she would never have made an impact on the tour without such close family support.

"To have my mom with me all the time is the biggest support. I just feel very lucky to have her with me all the time," Dementieva said.

"She’s been coaching me for such a long time and she knows me better than anyone else. She knows exactly what I need. It feels great to be with her."

I’m No. 1, no question - Safina

The top seed reached the Wimbledon last four for the first time on Tuesday with a 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-1 win over unseeded German teenager Sabine Lisicki.

Serena steamrollers Azarenka for Wimbledon semi spot

London, 1 July—Second seed Serena Williams reached the Wimbledon semi-finals on Tuesday with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Belarusian eighth seed Victoria Azarenka.

The 2002 and 2003 champion, who is yet to drop a set at Wimbledon this year, was barely troubled as she wrapped up victory inside an hour and 13 minutes on Centre Court.

Azarenka, 19, beat Williams in the Miami final in April — their last clash — but Williams had an overall 2-1 lead going into the Wimbledon quarter-final.

Williams raced through the first set, taking it in 26 minutes.
Weapons found in northern Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 1 July—The military in Sri Lanka said on Tuesday that two torpedoes and a launcher buried by the Tamil Tiger rebels have been found in the north by the government troops.

Officials from the Ministry of Defence said the two large scale torpedoes and the launcher were unearthed by the troops in Puthukudiyiruppu, the last LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) stronghold in the northern battle field. The torpedoes are 26 feet (about 7.92 metres) long and the launcher is 28 feet (about 8.53 metres) long, said the officials, adding that they had been kept underground in four different pits.

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse announced last month that the LTTE had been totally defeated with all the 15,000-square-kilometres territory formerly held by the rebels being recaptured by the government troops.

About 300,000 Tamil civilians displaced by the final battles between the government troops and the LTTE are now being housed in scores of camps in the northern Vavuniya and Jaffna districts. —MN/Xinhua

WEATHER

Wednesday, 1 July, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in lower Sagaing Division, scattered in upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State and Taninthayi Division and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States, isolated heavyfalls in upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions.

The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.83) inch, Kyaukpyu (6.45) inches, Hkamti (5.03) inches, Mawlamyine (4.34) inches, Gwa (4.29) inches, Chaungshone (3.46) inches, Thaton (3.19) inches, paung (2.76) inches, Hpa-an (2.67) inches and Aunglan (1.77) inches.

Maximum temperature on 30-6-2009 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 1-7-2009 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 1-7-2009 was 100%. Total sun shine hour on 30-6-2009 was Nil.

Rainfall on 1-7-2009 was (1.02) inches at Mingaladon, (1.02) inches at Kab-Aye and (1.15) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (37.72) inches at Mingaladon, (43.11) inches at Kab-Aye and (48.35) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 30-6-2009.

Bay influence: Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 2nd July 2009:

Rain will be isolated in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Chin and Kayah States and Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Shan State and Taninthayi Division and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas will be experienced off and along Deltic, Gulf of Mottama and Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph. Seas will be moderate for some else in Myanmar waters.

Outlook: for subsequent two days: Generally strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 2-7-2009: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-7-2009: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-7-2009: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Villages of Bago Division have easy access to modern communications

Phayagyi Village microwave station on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway in Bago Township.

The government is working hard to ensure equitable development of urban and rural areas throughout the country. As part of the drive, it is putting many projects into effect to improve the communication sector. Now, the nation has seen proportionate development in terms of communication in urban and rural areas, states and divisions and border areas.

During our recent tour of the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs of Bago in Bago Division, we interviewed the manager of Bago Division MPT. When asked about communications and organizational set-up, he said that Bago Division MPT was composed of three sectors: post, telegraph and telephone.

In respect of the post sector, he said that Bago Division had 41 full-time post offices, 17 part-time post offices, and 13 village representing post offices, totalling 71; that Express Mail Service (EMS) was available in Bago, Nyaunglebin, Pya and Toungoo townships; that the Domestic Express Mail Service Track and Trace Project had been launched in 26 townships since 1 May 2009, and then domestic express mail service track and trace for Bago Division was used in Bago and Toungoo offices only.

Express Money Order for Bago Division was available in 11 townships—Bago, Phayagyi, (See page 10)

MNA