Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Moroccan King

NAY PYI TAW, 30 July—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Morocco, which falls on 30 July 2009.—MNA

It is time to think of efficient use of energy as well as alternative energy sources

Myanmar working its best to have energy supply security embarking on programmes for energy efficiency and conservation as well as development of alternative, renewable energy sources

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends 27th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 July—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the Twenty-Seventh ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting at the convocation hall of Mandalay University in Mandalay this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Tha, Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Ministers for Energy, Deputy Ministers and officials of ASEAN countries and dialogue partner countries—the People’s Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of India and Australia—Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Pushparathan Sundram of the ASEAN Secretariat, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government Office, departmental heads and guests.

The Prime Minister said: It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address at this important 27th ASEAN Ministers’ on Energy Meeting and associated meetings. On behalf of the Government and the people of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to extend our warmest welcome to all ASEAN delegates as well as delegates from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, Australia and India to this historic city of Mandalay.

Myanmar is most delightful to have the opportunity to host this important event which includes meetings, forum and dialogue between energy ministers and high level businessmen. (See page 7)
Safeguard cultural heritage and national character

Myanmar culture has existed and flourished since yore. Cultural heritage above ground and ancient cultural heritage unearthed in Myanmar stand witness to the fact that Myanmar culture has been flourishing since human beings have come into existence on Myanmar soil.

The Ministry of Culture is taking steps for excavating and safeguarding Myanmar cultural heritage and national character. Ancient cultural heritages need to be safeguarded as they are in danger of disappearance with the passage of time.

The tasks include the maintenance of religious buildings, excavating of palaces and city walls of ancient Myanmar kings, conducting research into the findings in ancient cities and collection of historic items, stone inscriptions and palm leaf and Parabaik.

A researcher team of Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department and Historical Research Department conducted research works in ancient Pile City of Myittha Township, Kyaukse District, Mandalay Division in early June. Launching the excavation tasks at No 15 Mound out of 30 mounds, the team found the structure of a Buddhist religious edifice. The religious edifice found is identical with the structure and brick decorations of religious buildings found in ancient Beikthano city and Srikheatra city. Based on the findings, research into cultural heritage and national character of ancient Beikthano, Hanlin, Srikheatra cities will be carried out.

The government is trying its utmost in safeguarding ancient city walls that cover cultural heritage and national character as a national concern. At such a time, excavation and safeguarding of religious edifices and cultural heritage is to be carried out with added momentum. And only then, will historically priceless Myanmar cultural heritage be in perpetual existence.

New school building in Hlegu Township handed over

YANGON, 29 July — A ceremony to hand over the new school building of Padaukmyaing Education Primary School in Darpain (South) village, Hlegu Township, Yangon Division was held at the school on 22 July. The school, which is 60 feet long and 30 feet wide, was donated by Rotary Club of Tokyo Chuo District 2750 W.C.S and Rotary Club of Furabashi East District 2790 W.C.S of Japan. On behalf of the donor, Director U Nyan Lin of Myanmar PLG Travels and Tours Co., Ltd handed over documents relating to the school to the school administrative board.

Donors and students have documentary photo taken in front of the new school building of Padaukmyaing Education Primary School in Hlegu Township.

Commander attends coord meeting of Sagaing Division Public Works

YANGON, 29 July — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe delivered an address at the coordination meeting of Sagaing Division Public Works at the office of Sagaing Division PDC on 17 July.

The Sagaing Division Superintending Engineer reported on road and bridge works, the chief engineer of road construction special group (11) and senior engineers of Sagaing, Monywa, Shwebo, Katha, Kalay and Khamti Districts on work progress in the 2008-09 financial year and funds for construction of roads and bridges in the 2009-10 financial year.

Then the commander watched the final match of the 18th Commander’s Shield Football Tournament at the sports ground of the command and presented the championship shield to the winning team.

Coord meeting on testing quality of cyclone shelters and hillocks held

YANGON, 29 July – Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein attended the coordination meeting on testing quality of cyclone shelters and hillocks in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and work progress at the hall of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development on 27 July and gave necessary instructions.

It was also attended by officials of Yangon Division Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Science and Technology, Auditor-General’s Office (Ayeyawady Division Audit Team) and Public Works, the managing director and officials of T.O.P quality control group. The deputy minister left instructions on cyclone shelter and hillock tests and heard reports presented by those present.

Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association (Kyoto) donates cash to storm victims

YANGON, 29 July — Chairman Mr Koji Chino of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association in Kyoto of Japan donated US$ 10,000 for Myanmar storm victims to General Secretary U Ye Htut of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association at the office of the association in Kyoto of Japan on 21 July.

Donors and students have documentary photo taken in front of the new school building of Padaukmyaing Education Primary School in Hlegu Township.
Pakistan rescues boys trained as suicide bombers

ISLAMABAD, 29 July—Pakistani security forces fighting Taleban militants in and around the Swat Valley have rescued nearly a dozen boys brainwashed into becoming suicide bombers, according to officials.

A senior security officer in North West Frontier Province said nine boys were found during raids, while two more had voluntarily surrendered, and a Army commander in Swat spoke of more being handed over by their families. "They have been brainwashed in such a way that they even call their parents infidels," Bashir Bilour, senior Minister in the provincial government, told Reuters.

Bilour said the boys were shown films about oppression of Muslims in the Palestinian Territories and Indian-held Kashmir, and were given purported religious instructions to convince them that they would go to heaven if they killed enemies of Islam. Brigadier Tahir Hameed, an officer leading military operations in Mingora, Swat's main town, said the Taleban had forced many families to let them take their boys.—MNA/Reuters

NATO involved in incident killing Afghan civilian

KABUL, 29 July—The NATO-led force says an Afghan civilian has been killed and five others wounded after its troops clashed with insurgents in southern Afghanistan.

The military alliance says the clash happened in Zabul province on Tuesday but gave few details. It said six civilians were treated at a NATO base but one died. It said it is investigating the incident. The issue of civilian casualties has been a constant source of friction between President Hamid Karzai and the US military commanders. Soon after assuming command of NATO and US forces last month, Gen Stanley McChrystal ordered troops to limit the use of airstrikes to prevent civilian casualties.—Internet

Motorcycle bomb kills eight people near Baghdad cinema

BAGHDAD, 29 July—Eight people were killed when a motorcycle bomb exploded near a cinema in Baghdad on Tuesday, a well-informed police source said.

The attack took place in the Shiite-dominated New Baghdad district in southeastern Baghdad around 7 pm (1600 GMT), said the source who declined to reveal his name.

Thirteen others were injured and several shops close to the scene also damaged, according to the police source.

Earlier in the day, US Defence Secretary Robert Gates paid a surprise visit to Iraq on security issues, disputes between the central government and ethnic Kurds along with tackling arms sales ahead of the gradual withdrawal of US troops by the end of 2011.—Internet

Casualties of Afghan people in invasion of NATO troops led by US

KABUL, 29 July—The NATO troops led by the US have invaded Afghanistan and there 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.

According to the Internet news, a total of 8254 Afghan people were killed and 16,985 injured seriously as from the day when the NATO troops led by the US invaded Afghanistan to 28 July.

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<th>No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Seriously injured Afghan people</td>
<td>16,985</td>
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NATO Invasion of US and allies kills, injures Iraqi people

BAGHDAD, 29 July—There has been daily casualties in Iraq since the US and its allies have invaded the country.

The total number of casualties as from the day they invaded the country to 28 July reached 698,099 and the total number of serious injured people reached 1,257,249 according to the news on the internet.

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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The total number of seriously injured people</td>
<td>1,257,249</td>
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Roadside bombing kills two civilians in N Afghanistan

KABUL, 29 July—A roadside bombing against police left two civilians dead and injured four others in the relatively peaceful northern province of Nangarhar.

Monday evening, Zabihullah Mujahid, who claimed to speak for Taleban fighters, told media via cell phone from undisclosed location that the outfit carried out the explosion leaving six police dead and wounded.—INTERNET
Israeli army chief says war with Hezbollah unlikely

JERUSALEM, 29 July—Israel’s military chief said on Tuesday that the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) is closely monitoring the situation along the border with Lebanon but no eruption of hostilities is expected on this front, local daily Ha’aretz reported.

Chief of General Staff Gahi Ashkenazi was quoted as telling recruits of the Kfir infantry brigade, “there was an incident which to our understanding was an explosion of a weapon cache belonging to Hezbollah, which is being handled by the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the Lebanese government.”

Car bomb explodes in Spain, dozens injured

MADRID, 29 July—A car bomb exploded early Wednesday near a police barracks in the northern city of Burgos, injuring several dozen people, the Interior Ministry said. The blast was being blamed on Basque separatist group ETA.

The explosion caused major damage to the barracks and slightly wounded 46 people, mainly from flying glass, and 38 were taken to hospitals, regional ministry representative Miguel Alejo said.

The bomb detonated around 4:00 am (0200 GMT, 10 pm EDT Tuesday) and left a crater which had filled with water, the local daily El Comercio reported.

US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has died or gone missing in the process. This kind of game should help the state’s cash crisis. It remained unclear, however, how soon the state could stop issuing thousands of IOUs to vendors and contractors.—INTERNET

Schwarzenegger signs budget with more welfare cuts

SACRAMENTO, 29 July—Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a revised $55 billion budget on Tuesday that he said contained “the good, the bad and the ugly,” including additional cuts to child welfare programmes, health care for the poor and AIDS prevention efforts.

Schwarzenegger used his line-item veto authority to save an additional $656 million that will let the state restore a reserve fund he said is needed for tough times. Democrats immediately protested the social spending reductions and threatened to block his political agenda during his final months in office.

“This kind of game playing by the governor doesn’t bode well for success in terms of water, corrections, pensions or any of the other items he is looking to in order to build some kind of real legacy,” Assembly Speaker Karen Bass said.

The new budget only forecasts for a meeting with US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton next week. The UNHCR said nearly a quarter of a million Somalis had fled their homes since 7 May, when newly unified insurgents launched a concerted attack on Mogadishu, the capital. The US State Department says some of the insurgent leaders have links to al-Qaeda. Up to 12,000 civilians have taken shelter in the northern town of Bossasso, the base where smugglers take them across the perilous waters of the Gulf to Yemen. UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond told reporters in Geneva.

Seven percent of fifth-graders homeless

LOS ANGELES, 29 July—Seven percent of US fifth-graders and their families have experienced homelessness — 11 percent for blacks — and it takes a toll, researchers say.

The multisite study by researchers at the University of California in Los Angeles and the Rand Corp also found that children who had experienced homelessness at some point during their lives were significantly more likely to have an emotional, behavioral or developmental problem. They were more likely to have witnessed serious violence with a knife or a gun; and were more likely to have received mental health care, the study says.

Dr Tumaini R Coker of Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA and the Rand Corp and colleagues analyzed data from a study of 5,147 fifth-grade students. Interviews of students and parents were conducted during the 2004-05 and 2005-06 school years and included children from Birmingham, Ala; Houston and Los Angeles.
Mexico City launches free insurance to boost tourism

MEXICO CITY, 29 July—Mexico City launched on Tuesday a plan of free insurance to attract more tourists who were diminished by fears of A/H1N1 flu there, the epicenter of April’s A/H1N1 flu outbreak. “Mexico City receives jobs due to the visits of foreign tourists, now we are giving something back,” the city’s tourism minister, Alejandro Rojas Diaz Duran, told media while launching the plan at an upscale hotel.

Under the measure, tourists checking in at hotels in the city will automatically receive the insurance coverage, and tourists that stay with local friends and relatives can also register for the coverage at any hotel with their return tickets. The insurance, provided by Mapfre company, not only tackles with the flu symptoms, but also covers medical emergencies from road accidents to appendicitis, and provides a hotline for tourists who lose passports or need emergency advices.

“This measure will allow us to recover much faster,” said Rafael Garcia Gonzalez, head of the Mexican Hotel Association, at the event. He estimated the hotel occupancy rates might rise to 70 percent in August thanks to this measure.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Dancers perform Korean dance during a performance celebrating the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, in Changchun, capital of northeast China’s Jilin Province, on 28 July, 2009. —Xinhua

Turkey’s economy expected to shrink by 5.2% in 2009

ANKARA, 29 July—Turkey’s economy would shrink by 5.2 percent in 2009, the semi-official Anatolia news agency quoted a report as saying Tuesday.

That was a worse prediction than a 4.1 percent contraction expected by the Turkish Industrialists’ and Businessmen’s Association (TUSIAD) in April, said the latest report by TUSIAD.

The gross domestic output (GDP) value would tumble 8.4 percent in the second quarter, less steeper than the 13.8 fall in the first quarter under the impact of the global financial crisis, said the report.

However, the Turkish economy would recover to an annual growth rate of 3.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009, the TUSIAD said. —Xinhua

National Oilwell Varco’s second-quarter profit falls 48%

HOUSTON, 29 July—National Oilwell Varco, the world’s largest maker of oilfield equipment, said Tuesday its second-quarter profit fell 48 percent to 220 million US dollars, from 421 million in the year-earlier quarter.

Total revenue also declined to 3.01 billion dollars from 3.33 billion dollars the same period last year, the Houston-based company said in a statement.

Two segments of the company’s operations — distribution services, and petroleum services and supplies — saw near 30 percent sales declines, while revenues from selling rig technology, its largest business, stayed relatively flat at 1.92 billion. The backlog, a reflection of future business, fell to 8.7 billion from 9.6 billion at the end of the first quarter, the company said. —Xinhua

Oil prices fall as consumer confidence drops

NEW YORK, 29 July — Oil paused its two-week rally and fell nearly 2 percent on Tuesday as US consumer confidence dropped for the second consecutive month.

Light, sweet crude for September delivery fell 1.15 US dollars, or 1.7 percent, to settle at 67.23 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Oil prices were weighed by a difficult job market. Adding to oil’s loss was sentiment remained hampered by a difficult job market. Adding to oil’s loss was the fact that investors took profits from previous gains and the dollar rebounded against a basket of major currencies.

The market now was awaiting the inventories data due to be released on Wednesday, which was expected to be a buildup in crude, also pushing oil prices lower. —Xinhua

Chinese industrial enterprises profit to see growth in 2H

BEIJING, 29 July—Chinese industrial enterprises profit might see growth in the second half of this year due to the accelerating recovery of the economy, a senior analyst told Xinhua on Wednesday.

Dong Xian’an, an analyst with domestic Industrial Securities, estimated that industrial enterprise profits might bounce back to a growth of 30 percent year on year in the fourth quarter.

Large-scale industrial enterprises in 22 Chinese provinces across the country saw their profits decline 21.2 percent year on year to 894.14 billion yuan (130.9 billion US dollars) in the first half, but the decline rate was 11 percent points lower from the first quarter, which shows signs of recovery, according to National Bureau of Statistics figures released on Tuesday.

“The production and profitability situations of these firms had improved due to the government’s effective stimulation policies,” said Zuo Xiaolei, an economist with Beijing-based China Galaxy Securities, adding that the profit decline rate would continue to narrow down in the second half of this year. Profit in 27 of the total 39 industrial sectors had reported a profit increase or at least a slowdown in decline — including the petrochemical, power generation and other sectors. —Xinhua

US Steel reports quarterly loss on weak demand

NEW YORK, 29 July—US Steel Corp, the largest US-based steel maker, reported quarterly loss Tuesday on weak demand. The Pittsburgh-based company said it lost 392 million US dollars during the second quarter as the global recession hurt demand. Quarterly revenue fell 68 percent to 2.13 billion dollars.

It was the company’s second straight quarterly loss. In April, the company posted its first quarterly loss in more than five years, citing anemic demand. Shares of US Steel Corp shares fell 2.2 percent to 40.35 dollars after the company said it expected all of its business sectors to operate in the red in the third quarter. —Xinhua

The British students learn Chinese language as they attend the Sino-British Sports and Culture Summer Camp held in Haimen City of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 28 July, 2009. —Xinhua
Vietnamese officials inspect illegal elephant tusks found in a shipment in March from Tanzania. Media reported on Wednesday that customs officials had uncovered 200kg of tusks in Hai Phong port that came from Kenya. Internet

Iraqis sad about ancient Babylon relics ravaged by war

BAGHDAD (Baghdad), 29 July—The famous Lion of Babylon is lying on the filthy ground and surrounded with barbed wire, more than six years surrounded with barbed wire, more than six years after the US-led invasion.

West of the palace of Nebuchadnezzar II, the palace of Saddam Hussein, which contains dozens of rooms, still boasts manuscripts which are glorifying the former president. The place has become a resort for lovers and doves, as many of its doors and windows were looted after the collapse of the former regime.

Qadouri, an Iraqi who visited the ruins 11 years ago, told Xinhua sadly: “The occupation forces had no mercy for this ancient land which hosts significant sites of the human history. They parked their tanks and heavy armored vehicles with relics at Saddam Hussein’s palace near the ruins of Babylon.”

Internet

Fla cops catch man running with cash register

Authorities caught a Lake Worth man running down the street with a stolen cash register. Greenacres police reported that a 32-year-old man entered a restaurant on Thursday afternoon and asked for change for a $10 bill. When the cashier asked to see the bill, the man reportedly began screaming, “I want change!”

Police said the man then grabbed about $40 from a tip box, picked up the cash register containing nearly $300 and ran out.

The officers who arrested the suspect handled a caseload of prehistoric couple who lived some 14,000 years ago will be one of the most important finds of human remains from the prehistoric era in Europe. Now, it’s hoped, they will reveal important information about how they lived and died.

Coxingi with the final stages of the Tour de France, the new Bike Expo opened in Munich this. Some 200 exhibitors from 25 countries will be displaying their latest products until Sunday.

Heavy monsoon rains leave 22 dead in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 29 July—Flooding and landslides brought on by two days of heavy monsoon rains in Nepal have left 22 people dead and several more missing, officials said on Tuesday.

Home Ministry official Iswor Regmi said the death toll from the rains that began over the weekend could rise as reports pour in from remote villages, some of them several days’ walk from the nearest town or telepho.

Internet

Bombed Indonesia hotels re-open

JAKARTA, 29 July—Two luxury hotels in the Indonesian capital Jakarta, which were struck by suicide bombers earlier this month reopened on Monday, a hotel spokeswoman said.

The JW Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotels reopened less than two weeks after the twin blasts on 17 July killed seven people, most of them foreigners. Marriott spokeswoman Ina Ilimiaviatta said.

“We have resumed our normal business operations today. We hope to be able to reach an average hotel occupancy of 60 to 70 percent like before, in spite of the bombings,” she said.

“We have certainly increased our security measures, with some new approaches which I cannot tell you as they’re confidential.”

The two main areas damaged by the bombings — a lounge in the Marriott and a restaurant in the Ritz-Carlton — remain closed.

Police believe the bombings are likely the work of a radical splinter faction of the Jemaah Islamiyah regional militant network led by Malaysian-born terror mastermind Noordin Mohammed Top.

Internet

Singapore to host regional centre for intellectual property disputes, UN says

UNITED NATIONS, 29 July —Asia’s first centre for dealing with disputes related to intellectual property including trademarks, copyright and patent issues will open in Singapore, UN officials said here on Tuesday.

An agreement signed by the United Nations World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Singaporean Government will pave the way for training and advice on procedures and provide a dedicated dispute resolution facility in the region, the officials said.

The new centre is designed to complement the mediation work carried out by WIPO’s Geneva office, which was set up in 1994 and has handled a caseload of more than 30,000 disputes since then with the amounts in dispute ranging from tens of thousands to hundreds of millions of dollars.

Any parties may avail themselves of the dispute resolution procedures offered by the center, regardless of nationality or domicile.

They may be held anywhere in the world, in any language and under any law chosen by the parties.

Internet

Brothers reunite after seven decades

A 70-year-old man in Spokane, Wash, says he was thrilled to see his brother for the first time since they were separated at an Idaho orphanage 70 years ago.

Spokane resident John Mellinger Jr said while he knew he had a brother somewhere in the world for nearly 30 years, finally seeing 71-year-old Dan Newbern in person on Wednesday was a unique thrill.

The two were then separated at an Idaho orphanage 70 years ago and met up in 1994 and has handled a caseload of more than 30,000 disputes since then with the amounts in dispute ranging from tens of thousands to hundreds of millions of dollars.

Any parties may avail themselves of the dispute resolution procedures offered by the center, regardless of nationality or domicile.

They may be held anywhere in the world, in any language and under any law chosen by the parties.

Internet

Clerk gives robber a knuckle sandwich and a zap

A robbery attempt in Houston turned into a knuckle sandwich for the suspect. Sandwich store clerk Yava Matthews punched the man in the mouth as he tried to get away with some money.

Matthews said she “initial response was to hit him. So I hit him.”

Matthews went to the bathroom and came back with “tussling, tussling and tussling,” so she asked customers and others witnessing the struggle if anyone had something to restrain the man.

Internet

A tap with water illuminated to show blue for cold and red for hot is just one of many technical tricks in this apartment in the German town of Oldenberg. It’s been specially equipped with all kinds of technical wizardry designed to make life safer for elderly citizens. Water and electricity use are constantly monitored as any deviation from the norm could indicate an emergency situation to which emergency services could quickly react.

Internet
It is time to think of efficient use of energy as well as alternative energy sources...

(from page 1)

As you all are aware that this meeting comes at a time when we are embracing global challenges such as energy security, climate change, environmental degradation and global financial crisis.

These issues adversely affect economic and social development and the well being of our people. It is therefore crucial for all countries, particularly all of us in this region to tackle these challenges collectively and effectively.

The region’s over-reliance on external sources of oil would have serious implications on the security and stability of energy in the region. It is time to think of efficient use of energy as well as alternative energy sources.

Sustainable development of the ASEAN region requires devoted efforts to regional energy security endeavours. It requires practical policy and strategies to enhance energy management, closer cooperation in energy project development, fossil fuels and to mitigate environmental impact and to harness the effects of climate change, serious considerations have been made and plans are in place to promote private participation in the development of biofuels.

Presently, test plants and some small scale plants are in operation to produce biofuels.

Myanmar will do its utmost endeavours to cooperate with other ASEAN member countries as well as ASEAN+3 and EAS countries in its efforts for energy security, climate change issues and

Prime Minister General Thein Sein cordially greets energy ministers and deputy energy ministers from ASEAN Countries, China, Japan, ROK, India and Australia and Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Secretariat.—MNA

Priming Minister General Thein Sein receives energy ministers and deputy energy ministers from ASEAN Countries, China, Japan, ROK, India and Australia and Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Secretariat.—MNA

The Theme of this event is “Securing ASEAN’s Energy Future Towards Prosperity and Sustainability”.

It is my belief that this theme is quite appropriate and timely for what we all are facing today and our aspiration for the future.

We have to work together for energy security and sustainable development.

Among others, energy is crucial to transform ASEAN into an Economic Community by 2015 in a secure, prosperous, rules-based, competitive, resilient and integrated way.

Since ASEAN is one of the fastest growing economic regions of the world, energy demand is higher and higher by economic and demographic growth. The

efficient energy usage, clean energy promotion and development of alternative and renewable energy including research and development, sharing of experiences and technical know-how.

Myanmar attaches great importance to ASEAN Energy Cooperation Programmes and is actively participating in the regional cooperation activities.

Myanmar has been working its best to have energy-supply security and at the same time embarking on programmes for energy efficiency and conservation as well as development of alternative and renewable energy sources.

In order to reduce price instability, dependence on

mitigation of environmental impact.

In conclusion, I wish you all to achieve fruitful deliberations and great success in the meeting.

Next, the Prime Minister posed for the documentary photo together with Deputy Secretary-General Mr.

Chad N Jacinto, Director Mr Wong Siew Kwong of Energy Planning and Development Branch of Singapore, Thai Minister of Energy Mr Wannarat Channukul, Vietnamese Minister of Industry and Trade Mr Vu Huy Hoang, Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Pushpanathan Sundram of the ASEAN Secretariat, Chinese Vice Minister of National Energy Management Department Mr Liu Qi, Director-General Mr Ueda Takayuki of Ministry of Economic, Trade and Industry of Japan, Korean Deputy Minister of Economic Mr. Jungwgan Kim, Head of Energy and Environmental Affairs Branch and Energy and Tourism Branch Mr Brendan Morling of Australia and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Aloke Sen.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein together with Deputy Secretary-General Mr Pushpanathan Sundram of ASEAN Secretariat, energy ministers, deputy energy ministers and officials from ASEAN Countries, China, Japan, ROK, India and Australia have documentary photo taken at the opening ceremony of the 27th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein cordially greets energy ministers and deputy energy ministers from ASEAN Countries, China, Japan, ROK, India and Australia and Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Secretariat.—MNA
They are deceiving the people into misunderstanding are claiming as if the Tatmadaw is power-craving. That is clear evidence.”

“President Dr Maung Maung promised that he would hold a presidential election in three months. But, some politicians hide the people, doesn’t it?”

“By the way, the Tatmadaw government wants to hold on power, then.”

“The government can do nothing, because 92.48 per cent of the voters cast yes votes to approve the constitution in 2008. The people voted freely and fairly in the referendum. The people all know that it is indeed mandate.”

“The Tatmadaw is power-craving. Those who are making the process take too long are some people without much knowledge and self-control. As a matter of fact, the multiparty system cannot be practised without politicians. Our country still needs many politicians of younger generations. I would say parties must pay first priority to national interest.”

“My right to vote and the Tatmadaw government wants to hold on power.”

“My right to vote and the Tatmadaw government wants to hold on power.”

“My right to vote and the Tatmadaw government wants to hold on power.”

“My right to vote and the Tatmadaw government wants to hold on power.”
New nation can be visualized

Ko Ko Nyi Nyi

could grab it, and when they took it, all was spilled off the table. So, they were very angry. On the right side of them were a four feet long fork and a four feet long table knife. They could not put food into their mouths. They were trying to eat, but in vain. That was the life of hell denizens. At another place, they saw a similar scene. But, there all the people had good looking with a fair complexion. They were wearing smiles and all laughing. They loved each other. Some were singing and some were dancing. So, he thought why they were happy. They tried to offer food to others rather than trying to eat. They were serving food, and passing food to each other. All sounded healthy and happy.

“They then, asked the king of the hell what it was.”

“The king of the hell replied ‘This is the heaven.’

“What is the previous place?”

“That is hell.”

“The only difference between the hell and the heaven is that hell denizens are very eager to eat, they never think of welfare of others, and sharing food with others. They remain noisy and angry trying to put food into their mouths, but they can never do so.”

“Denizens in the heavens shows loving-kindness, compassion and sympathetic joy for each other.”

“I see, brother. People with evil spirits have to suffer evil consequences in the hell, and good-hearted people can lead a peaceful life in the heavens.”

“Myanmar people are by nature pious and polite attitude of the people.”

“Then, he asked the king of the hell what it was.”

Translation: MS

YANGON, 29 July—

Jointly organized by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and UNICEF Myanmar, Social Sector Workshop Focusing on Vulnerable Children was held at Mindon hall of Sedona Hotel here yesterday morning. Director-General U Soe Kyi of Social Welfare Department made an opening speech on the occasion.

Director-General Dr Mamur Sunosi of Social Welfare Department of Indonesia explained the facts about social welfare tasks being carried out in Indonesia.

Dr Yoshimi Nishino, Dr Mahesh Patel, Mr Zhu Camack, Ms Keetie Roelen and Mr Qingsheng (Social Assistance Department, China) from UNICEF Myanmar, Prof Dr Huck-ju Kwon of Seoul University of the Republic of Korea and Retd professor Dr Daw Than Ngwe of Law Department of Yangon University took part in the discussion.

Governmental officials, responsible persons and high-ranking officials from NGO's, UNICEF Myanmar and Social Policy, Planning Monitoring and Evaluation were present at the workshop. The workshop continues today.—MNA

Lt-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence views paddy transplanting and direct seeding competitions of Bago Division.—MNA

Lt-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence attended concluding of ploughing for cultivation of monsoon paddy in Bago Division

NAY PYI TAW, 29 July—

Lt-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence delivered an address at the ceremony to conclude the ploughing for cultivation of monsoon paddy in Bago Division, paddy transplanting and direct seeding competitions held near In-taing Village in Taungoo Township this morning and presented prizes.

It was also attended by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Hla Min, division/district/township departmental officials, members of social organizations, contestans and local people.

Lt-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence delivered an address. Next, the commander made an address. The district chairmen presented reports on concluding of ploughing for cultivation of monsoon paddy to the commander.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ko Ko and party watched the paddy transplanting and direct seeding competitions and put fingerlings into the fields.

Next, they viewed agricultural educative booth and farm equipment booth.

Lt-Gen Ko Ko, the commander and officials awarded winning teams. MNA

Social Sector Workshop Focusing on Vulnerable Children held

YANGON, 29 July—

Myanmar Geosciences Association to hold talks

YANGON, 29 July—

Organized by Myanmar Geosciences Association, member U Zaw Zaw Aye and advising geotechnical engineer Dr Win Naing who have experiences at international levels in geotechnical engineering field, will give talks on the subject at the building of Engineers’ Association on Hlme University Campus from 9 am to 12 noon on 1 August.

The topic of the talks are “Application of observational method on Geotechnical Engineering”, “Diaphram wall support deep excavation in soft ground”, and “DMT Test in Geotechnical Engineering”. Technicians from departments concerned, students and those interested are invited to attend the talks. MNA

Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint opens Commander’s Shield chess contest of Yangon Command held on 29 July.—MNA

Director-General U Soe Kyi of Social Welfare Department delivers speech at Social Sector Workshop Focusing on Vulnerable Children.—SOCIAL WELFARE
Concluding of ploughing for monsoon paddy and transplanting of paddy

(from page 16)

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and party viewed the paddy transplanting contest. Next, they released fish into the paddy fields. Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party viewed agricultural equipment, pumps, fertilizers, pesticides and spraying equipment, fishing nets, agricultural booth and salesrooms displayed near Thilawa Port and Dagon Bridge. Later, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and officials presented prizes to the outstanding townships.

NAV PYI TAW, 29 July—Companied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe and personnel, Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, on 24 July, inspected condition of Myintge-Sagaing road section.

On arrival at construction site of Thiri Mingla overpass in Obo Ward in Sagaing, Lt-Gen Tha Aye heard reports on construction of the overpass and called for timely completion of the bridge. Lt-Gen Tha Aye then inspected construction works and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye together with the Commander and departmental personnel visited construction site of the 200-bed two-storey RC extended patient ward and new operation theatre in Sagaing on 25 July. The project engineer reported on construction of wards upon which Lt-Gen Tha Aye stressed the need for speedy completion. Lt-Gen Tha Aye then inspected construction works in the hospital. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Tha Aye proceeded to Ruby Industrial Zone in Sagaing Division and viewed furniture and sawn timber produced by the factories and task of weaving in the industrial zone.

At the briefing hall, Lt-Gen Tha Aye heard reports on ongoing tasks and gave instructions on planting of trees that are suitable to the region along both sides of the road and for greening of the environs. Lt-Gen Tha Aye then inspected Hlataw-Wetlet-Theikseintgyi road section. Later, Lt-Gen Tha Aye went to Hanlin main drain in Thayaing village of Wetlet Township and heard reports on facility of the main drain. Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspected road works on Sagaing-Shwebo road section.

27th AMEM held

NAV PYI TAW, 29 July—The 27th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting was held at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay this morning, attended by ministers for energy from member countries, deputy ministers, senior officials, deputy secretary-general and personnel from ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Centre for Energy-ACE, representatives of Head of ASEAN Power Utility and Authority-HAPUA.

First, Thai Minister for Energy Mr Wannarat Channakui who presided over the 26th AMEM delivered an address. Next, Minister for Energy Brigi-Gen Lun Thi presiding over the 27th AMEM spoke on the occasion. Minister for Industry and Trade Mr Vu Huy Hoang of Vietnam acted as co-chairman and matters related to energy sector were discussed at the meeting.

Honorary awards, prizes winners honoured

NAV PYI TAW, 29 July—Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented certificates of honour and cash awards to one Excellent Performance in Administrative Field (Second Class) award winner, two Excellent Performance in Social Field (Second Class) award winners, 31 Excellent Performance in Social Field (Third Class) award winners and 12 Public Service Good Medal winners, and trophies and cash awards to mass sport activity prize winning Bago Division, Shan State (East), Mandalay Division, Salaygi, Kalewa and Mongphyat townships at the hall of the Ministry of Sports, here, yesterday afternoon.

Director-General U Thaung Hlaik of Sports and Physical Education Department also gave certificates of honour and cash awards to winners in the short story, article and photo contests.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents certificate of honour to a winner.—MNA

After viewing prize winning works of the contests, the minister posed for documentary photo together with award and prize winners.—MNA

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi makes an opening speech at the 27th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting.—MNA

NAV PYI TAW, 29 July—Accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe and personnel, Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, on 24 July, inspected condition of Myintge-Sagaing road section.

On arrival at construction site of Thiri Mingla overpass in Obo Ward in Sagaing, Lt-Gen Tha Aye heard reports on construction of the overpass and called for timely completion of the bridge. Lt-Gen Tha Aye then proceeded to Sagaing Division and gave instructions on ongoing tasks and weaving at Ruby Industrial Zone in Sagaing Division.
**Toxic phenol leaks after tanker overturns**

HANGZHOU, 29 July—

Emergency services are trying to contain and clean up a spillage of the toxic chemical phenol, which occurred when a tanker overturned in east China late Wednesday, local authorities said.

The tanker sporting Fan was carrying nine tonnes of phenol from Shanghai to Huzhou City of Zhejiang, the official said.

The tanker driver summoned Zhang said the tanker overturned when he tried to evade a car coming in the opposite direction. A tanker worker summoned Fan was slightly injured and the vehicle’s top was damaged.

The phenol will seriously affect the environment, the firefighting department official said.

Phenol, also carbolic acid, a toxic white crystalline solid with antiseptic properties, is used in antiseptic surgeries and production of drugs and cosmetics. Internet

**Study: Tanning beds as deadly as arsenic**

LONDON, 29 July—

International cancer experts have moved tanning beds and other sources of ultraviolet radiation into the top cancer risk category, deeming them as deadly as arsenic and mustard gas. For years, scientists have described tanning beds and ultraviolet radiation as “probable carcinogens.” A new analysis of about 20 studies concludes the risk of skin cancer jumps by 75 percent when people start using tanning beds before age 30. Experts also found that all types of ultraviolet radiation caused worrying mutations in mice, proof the radiation is carcinogenic. Previously, only one type of ultraviolet radiation was thought to be lethal.

The new classification means tanning beds and other sources of ultraviolet radiation are definite causes of cancer, alongside tobacco, the hepatitis B virus and chimney sweeping, among others.

The research was published online in the medical journal Lancet Oncology on Wednesday, by experts at the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, the cancer arm of the World Health Organization. “People need to be reminded of the risks of sunbeds,” said Vincent Cogliano, one of the cancer researchers.

“We hope the prevailing culture will change so teens don’t think they need to use sunbeds to get a tan.” Internet

**Daimler posts $1.51 billion loss in second-quarter**

BERLIN, 29 July—

Germany’s Daimler AG said Wednesday that it lost euro 0.6 billion ($1.51 billion) in the second quarter as the recession hurt car and truck sales and the company took charges related to its stake in Chrysler. But the company saw signs of a turnaround and its shares rose. The loss in the April-June period compared with a profit of nearly euro 0.3 billion a year earlier. Analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters had expected a net loss of euro 1.5 billion. Despite the third quarter loss in a row, the company predicted a “gradual improvement” in its operating profit in the coming months. The news helped push Daimler shares up 5.3 percent to euro 31.67 in Frankfurt trading.

Sales fell 25 percent to euro 19.6 billion in the quarter compared with euro 26 billion last year. Internet

**Microsoft and Yahoo in 10-year Web search partnership**

SANFRANCISCO, 29 July—

Microsoft and Yahoo inked a 10-year Web search deal to better compete against market leader Google but stopped short of combining their display advertising businesses.

Yahoo shares fell 7.5 percent, as some investors were disappointed by the limited scope of the deal. Shares of Microsoft edged higher, while Google shares fell 1 percent.

Those that were looking forward to a take-out, the deal today was rather disappointing,” said Marc Paol, U.S. market strategist for Cantor Fitzgerald. “The 10-year pact, it’s not a bad thing. It’s not as good as what investors expected.”

Under the deal announced on Wednesday, Microsoft’s Bing search engine will be the exclusive algorithmic search and paid search technology for Yahoo’s sites, while Yahoo will be responsible for selling premium search ads for both companies. Yahoo estimated the deal will boost its annual operating income by about $500 million (305 million pounds) and yield capital expenditure savings of $200 million. Yahoo also expects the deal to boost annual operating cash flow by about $275 million.

Yahoo reported income from operations of $13 million in 2008, hurt by $487.5 million in goodwill impairment charge and $107 million in restructuring charges. In 2007, operating income was $695 million.

Ross Sandler, analyst at RBC Capital Markets, said some people will be disappointed that Microsoft did not give Yahoo a big upfront payment, but noted that the partnership was good overall for the two companies. Internet

**Macao’s A/H1N1 confirmed cases climb to 174**

MACAO, 29 July—

Macao reported seven newly confirmed cases of Influenza A/H1N1 on Wednesday, bringing the total number of such cases to 174.

The newly confirmed cases concerned three male patients and four female patients, of whom the oldest was 59 years old while the youngest was just a 20-month-old baby, according to Macao’s health Bureau.

According to the statistics from the Bureau, some 11 patients who tested positive for the A/H1N1 flu virus were still receiving medical treatments at local hospitals, and their health conditions remained stable. Internet

**A file photo shows confiscated elephant tusks at Hai Phong, Vietnam, from a previous seizure by customs officials in March. Vietnamese authorities have uncovered 200kg of elephant ivory tusks illegally imported from Kenya.** Internet

**Internet**

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 30 July, 2009**
Verizon to cut 8,000 jobs

New York, 29 July—US telecommunications giant Verizon said it would cut 8,000 jobs in 2009 to reduce costs during the economic slowdown.

“Although we are taking steps to mitigate the negative impacts of the economy in the short-term, we also need to more significantly reduce the wireline cost structure over the next 12 to 18 months,” Chief Financial Officer John Killian said in a conference call.

The company trimmed its workforce by 8,000 employees in 2008 and said it would continue to reduce expenses in travel, real estate and other areas, the San Francisco Business Times reported Tuesday. Verizon Communication Inc. currently employs 235,000 workers, the newspaper said.

Mayors say Canada has no swine flu plan

Summerside, 29 July—Canada has no plan to keep essential services going if a swine flu pandemic becomes a plague, a key national group of mayors and other municipal officials said.

“The global outbreak of the H1N1 virus has exposed a serious gap in the federal government’s overall pandemic preparedness strategy,” Federation of Canadian Municipalities President Basil Stewart wrote in an open letter to Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq.

With no complete national plan or even guidelines in place, “critical services that provide the foundation for effective pandemic response measures” are at risk, his letter said.

The health of workers who keep cities and towns running would be especially important in a pandemic escalation, the federation argues.

For instance, police may be needed to keep order outside hospitals and clinics, transit workers would be needed to get health workers to their jobs and municipal health officials would have to coordinate the disease response, the federation says.

The federal government created a 500-page pandemic plan in 2006, but the municipalities say it’s incomplete, The Globe and Mail reported.

Glacier thawing speeds up in Yangtze River sources

Xining, 29 July—Glaciers covering almost 233 square kilometers have melted over the past 30 years in the source area of the Yangtze River, China’s longest waterway, due to global warming and the melting is accelerating, experts said Tuesday.

By last year, the total area of glaciers had decreased to 1,051 square kilometers from 1,283 square kilometers in 1971. Nearly 1 billion cubic meters of glaciers were melting yearly, said Xin Yuanhong, senior engineer at the Water Resources and Geology Institute of western Qinghai Province.

About 164 square kilometers of glaciers melted in the source area in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau from 2002 to 2008. However, the figure was only 68 square kilometers from 1971 to 2002, said Xin, who participated in the ecological and geological survey on the source area of the Yangtze River.

The melt can reduce water in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, dry up lakes and trigger desertification, said Xin. He said the rising temperatures in the area due to continuing global warm were the major cause of the glacier melt.—Internet

French auto giant PSA slumps to first half loss

Paris, 29 July—French auto giant PSA Peugeot Citroen said Wednesday it slumped to a first half loss of 962 million euros (1.37 billion dollars) as the global economic crisis hit the auto industry.

In its 2008 first half, the company reported a net profit of 733 million euros but finished the year with a net loss of 343 million euros as the economic crisis decimated auto sales. PSA said it was maintaining its forecast for a 12 percent fall in the European vehicle market this year, with “the beginning of a recovery seen towards the end of 2010.”—Internet

Latina cancers to soar in US

Champaign, 29 July—Breast, cervical and other cancers in US Hispanic women will soar in the next 40 years, a health professor says, calling for improved cancer screenings.

“It’s really a train wreck waiting to happen, and we’re not doing enough to anticipate women’s needs. Even right now, we are not doing a good job of providing services for these women.”

Hispanic women must become more aware of the significance and value of cancer screenings and easy access to places for screenings, Buki said.

The expected surge in cancers will come with a projected tripling of the US Hispanic population by 2050, Buki said.

Screening for cancer can lead to earlier diagnoses, which in turn may extend life, research suggests. “It’s women knowing the importance of cancer screening and at the same time, being able to access information and screening services,” Buki said. “Also, we need to provide information and access to support services to women already diagnosed.”—Internet

At least five killed, five injured in attacks in Colombia

Bogota, 29 July—At least five militaries and civilians were killed and five others were injured in the attacks launched by suspected rebels in the northeastern department Choco in Colombia, local authorities said on Tuesday.

Pastor Mosquera, the mayor of the municipality Medio San Juan in Choco, said six more people have disappeared so far, and only two injured are under medical care, while three others are hiding at inaccessible places in fear of being further attacked by the suspected rebels.

Tatiana Valencia, representative of the local government, said the attacks were launched by the Revolutionary Armed Force of Colombia (FARC), which has not been confirmed yet.

Internet

People perform local dance during the carnival held to revive the cyclone-torn town of Nagarote, Nicaragua, on 27 July, 2009.—INTERNET

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Internet

Rescuers work at the scene where a truck overturned and collided with three cars in the opposite direction on the east Ring Road No. 5 in Beijing, capital of China, on 28 July, 2009. —INTERNET

Internet

Mayors say Canada has no swine flu plan

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**WHO Tanning beds can cause cancer**

**LONDON, 29 July—** Ultraviolet radiation tanning beds and UV radiation were moved up to the highest cancer risk category by a World Health Organization agency, officials said.

A special report in the August edition of The Lancet Oncology said the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a part of WHO, moved tanning beds up to the highest cancer risk category—carcinogenic to humans. The use of sunlamps and sunbeds was previously classified as probably carcinogenic to humans.

Dr Fathi El Ghissassi and colleagues at IARC in Lyon, France, said the comprehensive meta-analysis concluded that the risk of skin melanoma is increased by 75 percent when use of tanning devices starts before 30 years of age. In addition, all types of ionizing radiation were also classified as carcinogenic to humans including:

- Radon gas, which seeps from soil, rocks and building materials, causing lung cancer.
- Plutonium and its decay products.
- Radium and its decay products, affecting the bones of medical patients.
- Phosphorous-32 and its decay products, causing acute leukemia in medical patients.
- Radiiodines, affecting the thyroids in children and adolescent survivors of nuclear reactor accidents.—Internet

**Calcium scoring helps predict heart events**

**MUNICH, 29 July —** German researchers say they may be able to predict future severe cardiac events in patients with known coronary disease using coronary calcium scoring. Coronary artery disease is a condition in which plaque—cholesterol, calcium, fat and other substances builds up inside the arteries that supply blood to the heart. When plaque builds up in the coronary arteries, blood flow to the heart is reduced and may lead to arrhythmia, heart attack or heart failure. Lead author Dr Marcus Hacker of Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich, Germany, said single photon emission computed tomography myocardial perfusion imaging is a nuclear medicine diagnostic procedure that provides excellent three-dimensional images of the coronary arteries to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery disease.—Internet

**Anesthesia may not harm baby’s brain**

**ROCHESTER, 29 July —** US researchers found in a preliminary study that the use of anesthesia during delivery was not harmful to the baby. The Mayo Clinic study, published in Anesthesiology, found the incidence of learning disabilities was equal between children who were delivered vaginally and those who were delivered via C-section but with general anesthesia.

Study co-author Dr Randall Flick said the study also found babies delivered by Cesarean using an epidural anesthetic—which numbs only the lower region of the body and does not involve the mother going to sleep—had a substantially reduced risk for learning disabilities later in life. “The risk was reduced by about 40 percent compared to children delivered vaginally and those delivered via Cesarean section but with general anesthesia,” study leader Dr Juraj Sprung said in a statement.—Internet

**A/H1N1 flu death toll in Colombia reaches 13**

**BOGOTA, 29 July—** The Colombian government confirmed four new deaths from A/H1N1 flu on Tuesday, raising the death toll to 13 in the country.

The Social Protection Ministry said three men in the capital Bogota and a woman in Cundinamarca province died of A/H1N1 flu. The ministry said there have been 259 confirmed cases of A/H1N1 flu in the country so far, as well as 7,838 suspected cases.

The Colombian government has tightened control at hospitals and health centers to avoid a large-scale spread of the disease in the country.—Internet

**A/H1N1 flu death toll in Brazil reaches 56**

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 29 July—** Brazil’s health authorities announced 10 more deaths from A/H1N1 flu on Tuesday, raising the death toll in the country to 56.

Seven of the victims were from Sao Paulo state in southeastern Brazil, while the other three were from Rio Grande do Sul state in the south of the country. Earlier on Tuesday, the authorities announced the death of a man in Paraiba state in northeastern Brazil.

Sao Paulo state has the highest death toll in the country with 27 victims so far, followed by Rio Grande do Sul state with 19, Rio de Janeiro state with five, Paraana state with four and Paraiba state with one.—Internet

**A/H1N1 flu death toll rises to 17 in Ecuador**

**QUITO, 29 July —** The Ecuadorian health authorities reported on Tuesday three new cases of death from A/H1N1 influenza, raising the death toll in the country to 17.

Ecuadorian Vice Health Minister Marcelo Aguilar said on Tuesday that the three victims died during the last two days. Aguilar said the number of infected patients in the country has risen to 783.

He also said the virus has been detected in 18 of the 24 provinces in the country, including the border areas with Colombia and Peru. The most affected provinces are Guayas and Pichincha.—Internet

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Pienaar hopeful of Everton contract resolution

LIVERPOOL, 29 July—South Africa midfielder Steven Pienaar expects to sign a new contract with Everton despite rejecting the Premier League's initial offer.

Pienaar is a transfer target for Atletico Madrid and Fiorentina and reports that he had snubbed Everton's contract offer led to suggestions he would quit Goodison Park.

But the 27-year-old is adamant he is still happy at Everton and revealed that the negotiations remain on-going to extend his current deal, which expires in 2011. “It is seldom that both parties come to an agreement at the first attempt,” Pienaar said.

“Coming to such an important agreement takes time. We have only just started discussions and we will keep on talking until hopefully we get a deal that is right for both parties. “The fact that it is taking time does not mean I am unhappy at Everton, but this next contract for me is obviously very important at this stage of my career.”

Austrian striker Hoffer signs with Napoli

VIENNA, 29 July—Austrian international striker Erwin Hoffer signed for Serie A side Napoli from Rapid Vienna on Tuesday, the selling club announced in a statement. The 22-year-old, scorer of two goals in his 11 international appearances, signed a five year contract with the side coached by former Italy national coach Roberto Donadoni.

Napoli finished 12th in last season’s Serie A title race.—Internet

Ronaldo opens Real account in pre-season friendly

MADRID, 29 July—The world’s most expensive footballer Cristiano Ronaldo got off the mark for his club Real Madrid here on Tuesday as they ran out 4-2 winners over Ecuadorian side Liga de Quito in the Peace Cup.

The 23-year-old Portuguese star - who cost Real around 94 million euros when he joined from Manchester United - won and then converted a penalty in the 48th minute as Real set up a semi-final on Friday with Italian giants Juventus.

However, it was one of Real’s less high profile signings of the close season Esteban Granero, otherwise known as El Pirata or The Pirate, bought from Getafe, who stole the show with a goal and created another for German international defender Christoph Metzelder.—Internet

Safin brings Indy champ Ginepri back to earth

LOS ANGELES, 29 July—Eight-time Wimbledon champion Marat Safin defeated the ego of last weekend’s Indianapolis winner Robby Ginepri with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 come from behind win to reach the second round of the Los Angeles Open.

Safin, who last won a match in the first round at Roland Garros nearly two months ago, lifted his own spirits as he made a respectable showing in what is meant to be his final season in the game at age 29.

Safin was fresh from an exhibition tour, but here hours earlier against Pete Sampras. “If you beat Pete Sampras you know you have a good chance of beating Robby Ginepri,” he joked. “Robby is playing really well, coming from a title last week. He’s a tough player. The match was well-played from both of us. I got up a break in the beginning of the second set and that helped me to turn the match around.”

Villa ‘happy’ to remain at Valencia

MADRID, 29 July—Spanish international striker David Villa, a long-time target of both Real Madrid and Barcelona, said on Tuesday he was happy to stay at Valencia.

“I was told that I must leave Valencia for the good of the club, then they changed their minds,” he said.

“My situation depends on the decision of the club. They have decided that I am still happy at the club, and I am happy about the goals I have for the start of this season,” he was quoted as saying on the club’s website.

Valencia planned to sell top several players, including Villa, to help solve its financial difficulties.

“I am a tough player. The match was well-played from both of us. I got up a break in the beginning of the second set and that helped me to turn the match around.”

Second seeded American Venus Williams defeated Stephanie Dubois of Canada 6-2, 6-3 in the opening round of the 70000 dollar WTA Bank of the West Classic.

Williams is also playing doubles with her sister Serena who had to work for her 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) victory over China’s Li Na in the night match. “It was a great match to get my rhythm, hit a lot of balls and work on my shots,” said Williams, who won titles here in 2000 and 2002. “It’s all about the mentality. I usually adjust pretty quickly. I do want to try new and different things.”

In other matches, Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia outlasted Aleksandra Wozniak 6-4, 6-6, 7-5. The 23-year-old cleared the air about the recent separation of his parents, saying that the personal event did not affect his tennis.

“My family was always very supportive in my career,” Nadal said.

“These changes are somewhat difficult to digest. But that’s not what affected me. The real problem was my knees.”

He said that returning to the game will be a gradual affair, perhaps with sharply redefined priorities.—Internet

Venus and Serena advance in ‘hometown’ tournament

STANFORD, 29 July—Second seeded American Venus Williams defeated Stephanie Dubois of Canada 6-2, 6-3 in the opening round of the 70000 dollar WTA Bank of the West Classic. Williams is also playing doubles with her sister Serena who had to work for her 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) victory over China’s Li Na in the night match. “It was a great match to get my rhythm, hit a lot of balls and work on my shots,” said Williams, who won titles here in 2000 and 2002. “It’s all about the mentality. I usually adjust pretty quickly. I do want to try new and different things.”

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Internet
A keeper feeds a polar bear cub in Laohutan Ocean Park in Dalian of northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 29 July, 2009. Two polar bear cubs, one female and one male, were born in Laohutan Ocean Park.—INTERNET

Torrential rains leave 66 dead, 66 missing in south China

CHENGDU, 29 July—Rainstorms have left at least 66 people dead, 66 missing and more than 30,000 relocated from their homes since the beginning of June in the southern China provinces of Sichuan, Jiangxi, Hunan and Guizhou and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

In Sichuan Province, landslides triggered by rainstorms killed 46 people and left 66 missing, said Wei Hong, deputy governor of the province.

The death toll from the landslide in Kangding County on July 23 had risen to 12 with 42 still missing, said the Jiangxi Provincial Government announced Wednesday.

Officials from the Guangxi Province Department of Land Resources have identified 1,868 high-risk sites where potential landslides pose threats to 190,000 people and 1.5 billion yuan worth of properties.—INTERNET

WEATHER

Wednesday, 29th July, 2009
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain have been isolated in Kayah State and Magway Division, scattered in Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Yangon and Tanintharyi Division and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Kayin and Mon States, isolated heavyfall in Chin and Rakhine States, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.08) inch, Kawbureik (6.89) inches, Hpa-an (4.01) inches, Shwepyin (3.86) inches, Palataw (3.82) inches, Ye (3.78) inches, Dawei (3.58) inches, Thaton (3.39) inches, Kyantaw and Thaton (3.03) inches each and Aunglan (0.24) inch.

Maximum temperature on 28-7-2009 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 29-7-2009 was 69°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 29-7-2009 was 96%.

Total sun shine hours on 28-7-2009 was (0.1) hours approx. Rainfall on 29-7-2009 was (0.31) inch at Mingaladon, (0.59) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.67) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 28-7-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 29th July 2009: Rain will be isolated to scattered in Kayah State. Mandalay, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State, upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine, Mon and Chin States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 30-7-2009: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-7-2009: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-7-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

Warning of high tide

YANGON, 29 July—The Public are hereby informed that exceptionally high spring of from 20.0 feet to 20.3 feet high above the datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period from 6th to 10th August 2009. It is not serious because the high tides have reached up to 21.7 feet high above datum in the years 2007 and 2008, and that the warning is issued only because high tide reaches over 20 feet high above datum.

Concluding of ploughing for monsoon paddy and transplanting of paddy of Yangon Division held

YANGON, 29 July—The concluding of ploughing for monsoon paddy and transplanting of paddy of Yangon Division was held at the paddy field in Letyetsan Village of Thanlyin Township this morning, with an address by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence. The commander also made a speech. The chairman of District Peace and Development Council presented the reports on ploughing for cultivation of monsoon paddy to the commander. (See page 10)

Preventive measures against DHF taken in five townships

YANGON, 29 July — As part of efforts for preventing the outbreak of dengue hemorrhagic fever, preventive measures against the DHF were carried out in Ahlon, Dagon, Insein, Dagon Myothit (South) and Dagon Myothit (North) townships today.

Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin went to the townships and inspected the preventive measures. Before the inspection tour, the mayor met with officials concerned at the office of Ahlon Township Development Affairs Committee this morning and gave instructions on prevention of the mosquito-born disease. Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin also inspected the construction of the new building for No.1 Basic Education High School in Ahlon Township and dredging drains and upgrading of roads in Tamway Township.

One more patient found infected with New Influenza A (H1N1)

Number of patients with the virus reaches to ten

NAY PYI TAW, 29 July—The Township Health Department transferred a 57-year-old man, who had returned from Singapore, to Yangon General Hospital yesterday as he had a fever. The National Health Laboratory gave him a medical check-up and he was found infected with the New Influenza A (H1N1) virus. The patient arrived back Myanmar by flight No MI-512 on July 20.

Up to now, the number of patients infected with the virus has reached ten in Myanmar and four out of them have been discharged from the hospital as they have fully recovered. The specialists are taking intensive care of remaining six patients.

So far, the National Health Laboratory has examined 107 suspected patients and only ten were found A (H1N1) positive.—MNA

New nation can be visualized

A handful of politicians with excessive greed, anger and conceit are troubling the people, and millions of people are impoverished.