**Lt-Gen Ko Ko of Ministry of Defence inspects development of Labutta Township**

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug—Lt-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe and departmental officials, inspected progress in construction of Nyaungchaung Bridge Project in Kangyidaunt Township on 1 August.

After that, Lt-Gen Ko Ko and party asked after the patients at Labutta Township People’s Hospital and donated cash to them. They looked round in the compound of the Hospital.

On arrival at the briefing hall of Rwaynadi floating market construction site, Lt-Gen Ko Ko and party inspected buying and selling at the market.

Lt-Gen Ko Ko and party viewed collective fertilizer broadcasting ceremony held at the entrance to the town near Kyaukhmaw village in Labutta Township. (See page 8)

**Manufacturing power-tillers, part of transformation into mechanized farming**

Myanmar’s agricultural sector has made dramatic progress, as testified by the fact that the nation’s paddy output has surged to about 1600 million from only 630 million baskets in 1988.

The nation is now in the process of being transformed efficiently from conventional to mechanized farming. The majority of agricultural farmers across the nation use power-tillers including Leya-16 and Leya-22 power-tillers produced by the Agricultural Mechanization Department.

In its bid to help achieve the goal, the Agricultural Mechanization Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is expediting tasks such as reclaiming vacant lands, introducing mechanized farming, providing services for enriching soils of farmlands and harvesting, distributing farm machinery and machine tools, doing research on farm machinery and disseminating methods of using farm machinery.

On our tour of No (1) Farm Machinery and Machine Tools Factory in 9th Mile, Yangon, Factory Manager U Sein Hla Myint conducted as round it, saying, “Our factory started to produce one-wheel power-tillers at the end of 2008. Of the targeted 150 units, we have so far distributed 70 units to states and divisions including Yangon Division, Ayeyawady Division and Bago Division. We have set a target of 750 units for this year. We will have to boost production according to the demands.” (See page 8)

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**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

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Fullmoon Day of Wagaung 1371 ME

Wednesday, 5 August, 2009

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**Article: Mg Mg Htwe (MNA); Photos: Percy (MNA)**

One-wheel power-tillers at No (1) Farm Machinery and Machine Tools Factory in 9th Mile, Yangon.
Fullmoon Day of Wagaung, a day of religious significance

Today, the Fullmoon Day of Wagaung, is the Day of Metta Sutta in which message of loving-kindness, compassion and goodwill are sent out to all sentient beings. The Buddha delivered a sermon on Metta Sutta Paritta at Jatavana Monastery in Savaththi on the Fullmoon Day of Wagaung to 500 monks who were residing in the countryside.

The Day of Metta Sutta is usually held on the Fullmoon Day of Wagaung. The aim of the holding of Metta Akhاردaw Day on the Fullmoon Day is that in the time of the Gotama Buddha altogether 500 monks asked the methods of Kamathana (meditation) from the Buddha and entered the rain retreat (Buddhist Lent) at a forest. They were disturbed and threatened by some deities in the forest since the latter could not stay in the trees due to the power of the morality of the monks. Being unable to continue their practice of meditation they went back to Jatavana Monastery where the Buddha was residing during the Buddhist Lent. The Buddha exhorted them to take the might of Metta (loving-kindness) together with them and go back to the forest after delivering Metta Sutta to them.

The month of Wagaung is the fifth of the twelve months of Myanmar Calendar and it is in the rainy season. The designated flower of this month is Khatta (land lilies) and the traditional monthly festival is the Saryetan Pwe (the festival of charity by casting lots).

The Saryetan Pwe was taught at primary schools as one of the twelve traditional monthly festivals of Myanmar and was deeply entrenched in Myanmar society. And the festival had been upheld in Myanmar literature.

It can be said that with heavy rains the month of Wagaung contributes a lot to farmers who are extensively engaged in agriculture regardless of foul weather in the month of Wagaung.

At such a time, all the Buddhists are urged to do meritorious deeds and to avoid evil deeds through cultivating Metta, Karuna, Mudita and Upekka to each other in order to lead a peaceful life.

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Different US locations considered for Gitmo trials

WASHINGTON, 4 Aug — Staring at a January deadline, the Obama administration is debating between two dramatically different schemes for putting Guantanamo Bay detainees on trial: big-city courtrooms in the nation’s capital, New York and Virginia — or a one-of-a-kind super jail in the Midwest. And the participants, working in tense but amicable secret meetings, know the final and politically volatile decision about where to try detainees will be made by President Barack Obama, who set the deadline for closing the prison on the military base in Cuba to meet a campaign promise.

Dozens of Guantanamo Bay detainee cases have been referred to federal prosecutors for possible criminal trials in those Eastern Seaboard locations, officials told The Associated Press on Monday, as the Justice Department, Pentagon and national security officials also weigh whether to hold virtually all Guantanamo-related civilian and military trials at a Midwestern prison in Michigan or Kansas.

The administration could decide that rather than bring the detainees to trial in a number of cities, it will instead bring prosecutors and judges with terrorism experience to one site in the Midwest for trial, which would pose other serious logistical hurdles. Or they could settle on a combination of the plans. — Internet

Taleban fire rockets at Afghan capital; no deaths

KABUL, 4 Aug — Taleban militants fired at least nine rockets at the Afghan capital in a pre-dawn attack on Tuesday, one of them falling near the US Embassy in a rare attack on the Afghan capital less than three weeks before presidential elections, police and residents said. — Internet

40 killed in Zimbabwe bus crash

HARARE, 4 Aug — Zimbabwe state radio says a crowded bus slammed into a truck on a stretch of highway notorious for accidents, killing 40 people and injuring another 30.

Monday’s radio report said the bus swerved to avoid another stationary truck on the southbound highway 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Harare on Sunday.

The crash was close to the site of the accident in which Susan Tsvangirai, wife of Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, died in March. In May, 30 people died in a bus crash on the same stretch of highway. — Internet

Indian says Somali pirates release German ship

BERLIN, 4 Aug — A European Union naval spokesman says Somali pirates have released a German vessel after a ransom was paid.

British Royal Navy Cmdr John Harbour says "She put to sea on her own steam and she is continuing out to sea under the protection of European naval force units." He was reached at the headquarters of the EU’s anti-piracy mission in Northwood, near London.

He says EU forces had not yet boarded the vessel but that “the positive news is we have not heard of any casualties.”

He had no further details. — Internet

Three US soldiers killed in E Afghanistan

BEIJING, 4 Aug — Another three American soldiers of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) were killed in east Afghanistan on Sunday, according to an alliance press release.

It added that “Their patrol was first struck by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and then attacked by militants with small arms fire.”

Casualties in the NATO-led multinational peacekeeping mission have been on the rise in the past several months. Three US and one French soldier lost their lives in Taleban-linked violence on Saturday, bringing the international force death toll to over 75 for July.

The deadly month has seen the highest number of American killed.

The deathly month has seen the highest number of casualties for international troops since 2001, with 43 bringing the international force death toll to over 75 for July.

During the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s visit to India last month, the two countries have reported agreed upon two sites to build nuclear reactors with US nuclear technology. — Internet

China to build four more nuclear reactors

NEW DELHI, 4 Aug — India will soon build four more 700-MW capacity nuclear reactors, the country’s Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) announced on Monday.

“We are looking forward to launching new 700 megawatt power reactors. The government has already given in principal approval for four 700-megawatt units,” according to AEC Chairman Anil Kakodkar said in Chennai, southern India.

The decision to build four more nuclear reactors to meet the growing demand of nuclear power in the country came in the wake of the United States, Russia and European Union nations have expressed their willingness to sell nuclear technologies, materials and services to India.

The decision to build four more nuclear reactors was seized in April, after the ransom was paid. — Internet

German container carrier “Hansa Stavanger” which Somali pirates hijacked on 5 April, 2009. Somali pirates on Monday freed German cargo vessel Hansa Stavanger, which was seized in April, after receiving a ransom payment, a Kenyan maritime official told. — Internet
Philippine telecom giant’s mobile unit income up 23% in H1

MANILA, 4 Aug—Filipino Telephone Corporation (PilTEL), the mobile phone unit of telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT), posted a core net income of 6.3 billion pesos (about 131 million US dollars), up 23 percent on year, in the first half of the year, the company reported on Tuesday.

Net income improved by 34 percent to 7 billion pesos (about 145 million US dollars). Expanding subscriber base and increased revenues boosted PilTEL’s earnings in the first six months of the year. PilTEL officials said in a disclosure submitted on Tuesday to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

PilTEL remains a strong cellular phone brand in the Philippines, with its subscriber base expanding by 2.28 million to 16.6 million. Service revenues grew 5 percent to 8.6 billion pesos (about 180 million US dollars) in the first half of 2009.

Earnings before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization (EBITDA) increased by 3 percent to 7.7 billion pesos (about 160 million US dollars). PilTEL’s total expenses increased by 14 percent to 1.2 billion pesos (about 25 million US dollars). Internet

UBS posts billion dollar losses for Q2

ZURICH, 4 Aug—Swiss banking giant UBS on Tuesday said it lost 1.4 billion Swiss francs (916 million euros, 1.32 billion US dollars) during the second quarter, as it issued a “cautious” outlook for the coming months.

Market conditions improved during the period but the overall economic environment in most areas where the bank was operating remained recessionary, said UBS. “Sustainable recovery is not yet visible,” it added. Internet

Tourist arrivals in Australia decrease

CANBERRA, 4 Aug—Overseas tourist arrivals to Australia have fallen 5.1 percent in June, according to new figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on Tuesday. It reported that the short-term visitor arrivals in the month dropped 5.1 percent, to 442,500, compared to the previous month. This followed monthly decreases of 0.2 percent for April and 1.7 percent for May.

The figures were buffered by a steep rise in tourists from Malaysia and Indonesia. Malaysian visitors were up in trend terms by 45.5 percent over the 12 months from June 2008 and Indonesian visitors rose 12.6 percent over the same period. However, Japanese visitors dropped 29.5 percent over the year to June, while South Korean visitors dipped 20.3 percent. —Internet

Malaysia introduces special economic zone

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 Aug—Malaysia Tuesday introduced a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to boost economic growth for its east coastal region, local media reported.

The SEZ was aimed to attract 90 billion ringgit (25.7 billion US dollars) to an area covering two east coastal states of Terengganu and Pahang, said Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak when he launched the zone in Pekan, his hometown in the Pahang State.

The area measuring 25 kilometers by 140 kilometers would create 220,000 jobs by 2020, he said. He said that SEZ has special incentives for investors, including a ten-year tax exemption, 100 percent investment tax allowance, and exemptions from import and export duties.

Najib added that SEZ would attract more investments to the East Coast Economic Region (ECER).

ECER was launched in 2007 by former Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and it was aimed to develop the east coastal area covering four Malaysian states of Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang as well as Mersing, a northern district of the Johor State. Internet

Indonesian power firm issues 750 m USD worth of bonds

JAKARTA, 4 Aug—Indonesian government-run power firm PLN has issued US Dollar-nominated bonds worth 750 million US dollars, and planned to issue another bonds worth 1.5 trillion rupiah (151.6 million US dollars) in the fourth quarter this year, PLN Director Rudiantara said here on Tuesday.

“The 10-year service tenure bond was quickly bought by investors to an overbooked value of 8.6 billion dollars with most of the buyers were from Asian countries,” the Detik.com quoted Rudiantara as saying.

He said that the bonds, that were issued on Monday, offer a yield of 8.125 percent. PLN appointed UBS AG and Barclays Capital to handle the sale of the bonds in international market. Internet

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) labourers at work in New Delhi in June. Authorities in Delhi have admitted the city’s residents are “rude, impertinent and arrogant” and vowed to tackle anti-social behaviour before the Commonwealth Games open in the Indian capital next year. —Internet

Panasonic digital cameras. The Japanese high-tech giant announced a big first-quarter loss, blaming weak sales of televisions, digital cameras and other electronic goods during the recession.—INTERNET
A man visits the “Kahane Rapa Nui in the Pacific Islands” at the Central of Cultura of the Palacio de Moneda in Chile on 3 Aug, 2009. The show displays over 300 pieces of art from Tahiti, the Marquesas Islands and Rapa Nui, in Polynesia, New Guinea and Fiji Islands in Melanesia, as well as New Zealand and Australia, among other enclaves in the South Pacific.—Xinhua

PE class sending more kids to emergency rooms in US

BETHLEHEM, 4 Aug—The number of students who end up in emergency rooms because of physical education class injuries have increased significantly in the US since the late 1990s, according to a new study as quoted by media reports on Tuesday.

For the study, published in Pediatrics, researchers analyzed data from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance Study of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission. They found that the annual number of PE injuries increased 150 percent from 1997 to 2007.

Boys and girls tended to have different types of injuries. Boys were more likely to suffer head injuries, while girls were more likely to have sprains or strains to the lower extremities. Most of these injuries occurred during individual activities.

Other findings from the study show that there were an estimated 405,305 injuries in PE classes that resulted in emergency room visits during the 11-year study period (1997-2007).

Xinhua

19,553 anti-government guerrillas disarmed in Colombia

BOGOTA, 4 Aug—The Colombian government said on Monday that as many as 19,553 anti-government guerrillas have been disarmed from July, 2007 to 2007.

Furthermore, 1,636 guerrillas were disarmed in the first seven months of this year, and 265 more guerrillas surrendered in July, according to a government report.

Among the guerrillas who laid down their weapons in July, 232 were from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and 33 from the National Liberation Army (ELN). The number of rebels included 21 minors and 58 women.

Colombian guerrilla groups, led by the FARC and the ELN, have been fighting government troops for more than 40 years.

The Colombian government has promised that the former guerrilla fighters would be treated properly.

Colombian President Alvaro Uribe, who took office in August 2002, made the demobilization of guerrillas in Colombia a priority.—Xinhua

US flight hit by turbulence, 26 injured

WASHINGTON, 4 Aug—A US airplane was hit by turbulence and made an emergency landing in Miami, Florida, early on Monday, leaving 26 injured.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Continental Airlines night flight from Brazil to Texas was struck by the turbulence around 4:30 am (0830 GMT) about halfway between Puerto Rico and Grand Turk island, north of the Dominican Republic.

The Boeing 767, with 168 people on board, was diverted and safely landed at the Miami International Airport one hour later, according to authorities.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue officials told reporters that four people were seriously injured and 22 others were in stable condition with bumps and bruises, and those who were uninjured remained on the plane.

The cause and damage of the incidence was still under investigation, said the FAA.—Xinhua

Belgian prisoner who escaped in helicopter captured

BRUSSELS, 4 Aug—One of the three men that escaped from a Belgian prison last month was captured by police on Monday evening, according to media reports.

A Belgian prisoner who escaped in a helicopter captured in a dramatic breakout on 23 July is back in custody, reported VRT news on Monday. Abdelhaq Melloul-Khayari was detained by police in the Brussels municipality of Sint-Jans Molenbeek on Monday. He has been returned to Bruges where he will be questioned by an examining magistrate.

Melloul-Khayari is considered to be the most dangerous of the three men that escaped from the Bruges prison, 90 km west of Brussels. The 41 year old was serving a lengthy sentence for numerous bank robberies. A few years ago, he managed to escape from Verviers Prison in Liege Province.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Mexican authorities arrest leading drug smuggler

MEXICO CITY, 4 Aug—Mexican federal police have arrested a leading distributor of the illegal drug dextro methamphetamne, the Drug Enforcement Office said in a statement on Monday. The drug smuggler was arrested at a party where another 32 people were also seized for links to an organized crime gang.

The statement said that the former guerilla fighter, Miguel Angel Beraza Villa was in charge of routes that smuggled the drug, also known as meth, ice or crank, into San Diego, California, and El Paso, Texas.

The arrest took place in Apatingan, a town in the western Mexican province of Michoacan. The federal government has been carrying out a campaign against the ring there since a late June arrest triggered several attacks that killed 23 police officers in less than seven days.

In response, authorities deployed 3,300 federal police and soldiers to Michoacan. The local government deployed 200 officers to the party, as well as two Black Hawk helicopters and armored vehicles. The operation seized 13,000 US dollars in cash, 11 luxury vehicles and 30 cellular phones.—Xinhua

Equestrians attend a horse racing during the Nadam fair in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 2 Aug, 2009. Nadam, meaning entertainment and playing in Mongolian language, is a traditional entertainment and games festival of the Mongolian ethnic group.—Xinhua

Photo taken by Photographer Marco Fuller shows the remnant of this once-enormous volcano is bubbling, boiling and brimming over.

Xinhua

The new Light of MYANMAR Wednesday, 5 August, 2009

A man visits the “Kahane Rapa Nui in the Pacific Islands” at the Central of Cultura of the Palacio de Moneda in Chile on 3 Aug, 2009. The show displays over 300 pieces of art from Tahiti, the Marquesas Islands and Rapa Nui, in Polynesia, New Guinea and Fiji Islands in Melanesia, as well as New Zealand and Australia, among other enclaves in the South Pacific.—Xinhua
Human skulls and eyebrow bone structure more closely resemble the orangutan’s than the chimp’s or gorilla’s dramatically ridged eyebrow, they say. Indeed, humans share 28 anatomical characteristics with orangutans — whose hair is typically reddish-brown, instead of the brown or black hair typical of other great apes — compared with two with chimps and 11 with gorillas, Schwartz and Grehan say.

But defenders of the chimp theory produced genome evidence indicating chimps have a more than 98 percent genetic similarity with humans. This compares with a 97 percent similarity with the gorilla and only 96 similarity with the orangutan genome, they say. “As far as I know — and know Jeff well, and we are friends — he and John Grehan are the only two scientists on the whole planet who subscribe to this red-ape hypothesis,” Todd Disotell, an anthropologist with New York University’s Center for the Study of Human Origins, told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. “I think he is utterly, factually wrong.”

### Underweight team told to eat at least 15 eggs a day

India’s unfancied rugby sevens side must bulk up if they hope to make an impact at next year’s Commonwealth Games, eating seven meals and at least 15 eggs a day, the country’s South African coach said.

“I have told them (the players) they must eat at least 15 eggs a day, six for breakfast and the remaining nine any time, any how, during the day,” the country’s South African coach Norman Laker told the Telegraph newspaper. “The players have three meals a day and that’s not enough. In South Africa, elite rugby players have seven meals a day.”

India is rated a lowly 83rd out of the 95 teams in the International Rugby Board rankings which are currently headed by South Africa.

“Indian players weigh 72-77 kg on an average whereas the international players weigh between 88 and 100 kg. That is the weight difference you have to make up,” Laker said ahead of the team’s departure to South Africa for a training stint.

India is hosting the Commonwealth Games in October 2010.
The festival of charity by lot casting in Wagaung

Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

Wagaung, the 5th month of Myanmar calendar, has its literal meaning “the mid month of Buddhist Lent”, the peak of monsoon. Non-stop rain fills up and spills over all water bodies causing floods. Paddy planters are doing their job in full swing regardless of foul weather. Ground lilies (Crinum amomanum) of all varieties sprout up with blooms of colourful hues and fragrance everywhere in the country, deserving the status of the designated flower of this month, in Myanmar tradition. With the zodiacal sign of lion, this month is astrologically named Simha (Leo). Due to overcast sky, heavenly bodies are not visible. But astrologers say that in daytime, the sun and asterism Hpon Sha and at night the moon and asterism Tharawun appear astraide.

“Sayeytan Pwe” is the traditional monthly festival of Wagaung. Freely translated into English, it is the festival of charity by casting lots. Sayeytan are lots to draw to choose recipient monk of food, religious gift or alms in a religious offering. This custom of casting lots in religious charity originates in the lifetime of Gotama Buddha.

While Lord Buddha was residing in Weitaun Vihara at the capital Yezangyoy, there was the time of scarcity of food. Buddhist devotees could no longer provide alms food for all monks of the Vihara. Some wanted to select ten to twenty monks to offer food. Some wanted to provide food only on sabbath days. Some preferred to cast lots to decide recipient monks. Finally they referred the matter to Lord Buddha who expounded seven different modes of offering food to monks. They are as follows:-

1. Sangha-bhat which is the food offered to all monks.
2. Uddesa-bhat which is the food offered particularly to one or two monks.
3. Nimantasana-bhat which is the food offered to the invited monks.
4. Salaka-bhat which is the food offered to the monks chosen by casting lots.
5. Pakkkha-bhat which is the food offered to the monks on the waxing and waning moon days.
6. Uposathika-bhat which is the food offered to the monks on the Sabbath day and
7. Patipadaka-bath which is the food offered to the monks on the day after the Sabbath day.

Lord Buddha then said that He approved all of them. Since that time, offering of food to the monks by casting lots became a common practice among the Buddhists.

With the permission and at the direction of Lord Buddha, the monks chose one monk from among themselves and appointed him “Bhattuddesaka” the monk who was in charge of allotting food offered by donors. This monk must have special qualifications such as good health, activeness, managerial skill, freedom from biases and prejudices, being able to keep correct list of alloted and unallotted monks. The first “Bhattuddesaka” was Mahā Thera Aśin Daṭṭha. He discharged the duty of allotting Uddesa-bhat, Nimantasana-bhat and Salaka-bhat, with fairness and correctness.

The lots are either wooden or bamboo slats, strips or palm perleaves on which names and addresses of the donors of food are scribbled. They are put into a basket which is shaken upside down many times so that the lots are shuffled up. Monks queue up according to their serial numbers or the seniority of their ordained days to draw the lot. Then, they go to the houses as directed by their lots to partake of the food offered there. Originally, there was no rule fixing month, venue and date for casting lot. Myanmar Kings chose Wagaung as the month for performing this religious function because monks observing Lent vows and residing together in the same monastery might have difficulty in receiving enough food in Wagaung. Originally, casting lots was to provide food to monks. But, later all four basic needs of monks (Satayagiyaya — food, robe, shelter and medicine) are also, sometimes, donated by casting lots.

The earliest evidence of food offering to the monks by lots casting is found in the stone inscriptions at old Bagan. In lines 22 and 23 of Saw Hla Win pagoda inscriptions of A.D. 1268, 1290 and 1291, there was mention of Sayeytan (casting lots). King Thathu (A.D. 1298-1312) of Pinya dynasty built a big wooden monastery and offered it to a monk named Hsu Twin Pyit Sayawad as he was tested proved a learned monk of high education. But, the Sayawad advised the king to donate the monastery by casting lots. From that time began the festival of charity by casting lots.

Later, in the reign of King Tha Lan (A.D. 1629-48) of Nyaung Yan dynasty, most venerable monk Shwe Umin Sayadaw of Pakhan Gyi translated two Pali treatises — Culava pali nisiya and Culava pali Aṭṭhakatha nisiya — into Myanmar. In them, he translated two Pali words “Salaka” and “Bhatta” as “Sayey Tan” and “Hswan”, two Myanmar words. Salaka means wooden or bamboo sticks on which letters are scribed and bhatta means “hswan”, food for monks.

Myanmar literature of later periods made references to the charity by casting lots festival. This festival is sung in many forms of classical songs. Eminent poets and playwrights such as U Yar, Lu U Min, Hpo Thudaw L Min, Mei Kway, U Hpyae and U Pomyya mention this festival in their verses and plays. On page 229 of one Myanmar chronicle entitled “Kombangsaw Maha Yonmaun Thonban” Volume 2, the holding of the casting lots festival at the palace of King Baggidaw (A.D. 1819-37) was recorded as follows:-

“The 8th waning moon day of Wagaung, village monks and forest monks were invited to the palace. Eight priestly utensils and other officeries were arranged on two hundred and sixty paddayahpins (wooden frames in the design of a tree). Their majesties the king and chief queen donated them to the invited monks and they poured libation water. Their majesties next offered Salakabhat Sayeytan hswan (food for monks) to the monks.”

In all Myanmar religious functions, a festive mood is created by the gathering of lay devotees dressed in their finery, and dainty damsels carrying offertories on their heads, followed by parties of merry-maker youths who joyously sing, dance and play folk music of dho bat, ozi and byaw which befitt the occasion.

The full moon day of Wagaung is designated as the Day of Metta Sutta, one of the Suttas in Buddha Paritta. By chanting or reciting Metta Sutta, you send out to all sentient beings messages of your loving-kindness, compassion and goodwill. All who receive your good messages, reciprocate the same to you. You are immune from all dangers. You have no enemies, you have only friends.

Workshop on quality fish species held

YANGON, 4 Aug—The Myanmar Fishery Federation, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and the Myanmar Fisheries Entrepreneurs Association held a workshop on findings on fish production and quality fish species at the federation on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township here yesterday. The Federation of the Federation Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein delivered an introductory speech. MFF President U Htay Mint and MFEA Chairman U Than Lwin presented progress in local fish breeding and marketing; General Secretary U Win Kyaw, on local and foreign findings on fish breeding, and Dr Aung Naung Oo of the Fisheries Department, quality fish species. The presenters replied to the queries raised by the attendees. The minister gave concluding remarks.—MNA
Lt-Gen Ko Ko of Ministry of Defence inspects…

(from page 1)

On arrival at the briefing hall of new town plan project of Labutta, Lt-Gen Ko Ko heard the reports presented by departmental officials on construction of offices and houses. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Ko Ko urged them to meet standards and to complete on schedule and looked round construction of offices and buildings.

At the briefing hall of 200-bed hospital construction project, Lt-Gen Ko Ko left necessary instructions after hearing the reports presented by responsible persons on sector-wise.

Manufacturing power-tillers, part of transformation…

(from page 1)

Regarding the advantages of the machinery, he explained, “It costs less, it consumes less fuel. It is made of high quality iron. It is portable. And it can be used at any types of soil. We learn that it meets the customer satisfaction.”

A one-wheel power-tiller has a 5/6 hp engine. A farmer can plough 0.25 acre an hour if it is equipped with ploughshares, and 0.5 acre if it is equipped with harrows. It consumes only 0.5 gallon of fuel an hour. A unit is priced at only 570,000 kyats, less than the price of a pair of draught cattle.

The department sells one-wheel power-tillers by installment to farmers. The factory manager said, “Farmers can get power-tillers in cash both in our factory and offices of heads of state and division Agricultural Mechanization Departments and in tractor stations. In first installment, a farmer has to pay 300,000 kyats, and one year after that, he has to pay 270,000 kyats in the second installment. If without an engine, he has to pay 220,000 kyats in the first installment, and 200,000 kyats in the second installment. We charge no interest on the payments.”

We also visited Nos. (3) and (4) Farm Machinery and Machine Tools Factories in Kyaikkalot, Mingaladon Township.

We conducted interviews with some farmers at Phayagon Village-tract in Thanlyin Township, Yangon South District. Farmer U Kyi Aung said, “I have 20 acres of paddy fields. I have used farm machinery since 1996. I began to use one-wheel power-tiller this monsoon season. I bought it at 9th Mile factory. Previously, I used draught cattle to plough my fields, and it was very difficult for me to plough an acre in a day. Now, I use this power-tiller and I can plough three acres a day. It consumes only one bottle of diesel an hour. We work nine hours a day and it consumes only one and a half gallons of diesel. I use two units, so I can plough six acres a day. So, using power-tillers saves a lot of time and labour.

“We complete our work in a short time. One-wheel power-tillers work very well. It is easy to dismantle and fit it together. It takes a mechanic only about an hour to repair a breakdown power tiller. Tractors are far more effective, but we have to do a lot of extra work if we use a tractor. So, we choose power-tiller. A power-tiller is well enough to plough 20 acres of paddy fields. Now, I complete ploughing fields earlier than I did previously. It costs about 15,000 kyats if I plough an acre of field with draught cattle. Using a power-tiller saves half of the expenses. So, I would say farmers can make greater profits if they use power-tillers.”

Translation: MS Kyemon: 4-8-2009
Man arrested for attempted robbery

YANGON, 4 Aug—The police of Hlinethaya Police Station on patrol arrested a man for attempting to rob a taxi driver by cutting his throat with a blade on 20 July.

The taxi driven by Ko Thant Zin living in Tamway Township stopped and waited for passengers at the top of Pagoda Street, No 6 Ward of Hlinethaya Township. At that time, a young man came to the taxi driver and hired it for K 2,000 to Shwepyitha Bridge. The taxi driver was forced to stop by the man near Tezamuni Pagoda under attack of the driver with a blade on the hand shouted for help but the man opened the door of the car and ran away.

Policemen of Hlinethaya Police Station making patrol near Tezamuni Pagoda were in pursuit of attempted robber named Zu Ni Ko and arrested him immediately. In order not to cause similar cases, Yangon Division Police Force is giving talks on crime prevention.

Those from US and British Embassies visited NLD (Headquarters) 30 times in July

YANGON, 4 Aug—The National League for Democracy (Headquarters) kept in touch with the US and British embassies and is living up to their instructions. The people are criticizing such acts of the NLD and keeping a watchful eye on them.

CSSTB President meets UDNR students

YANGON, 4 Aug—President of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Kyaw Thu met students from two-year MA BEd course Nos 9 and 10, four-year Bed course Nos 41, 42 and 43, two-year BEd bridge course Nos 5 and 6, one-year BEd course No 19, and one-year junior assistant teachers training course No 19 at the University for Development of National Races yesterday morning.

Also present on the occasion were CSSTB member U Soe Oo, Rector U Zaw Min Thein, the pro-rector and deans.

Deputy Transport Minister attends road opening ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug—Deputy Director-General of Development Affairs Department U Soe Tin and responsible person of Thawtawin Construction Co U Aung Myint formally opened Htanzin-Hangwa-Pechet road section.

The deputy minister, Deputy Director-General of Development Affairs Department U Soe Tin and responsible person of Thawtawin Construction Co formally opened the road.
Programming fundamental course to be opened

YANGON, 4 Aug — Gusto Computer Training Centre will open its programming fundamental course on 12 August. It will teach the basic concepts and process, ways of thinking and techniques for all programming languages and programming techniques. After the course, trainees will improve problem solving skills and creative thinking skills and utilize the basic programming techniques. JAVA and C# language will be learned at the course to understand the programming.

Those interested may contact the training centre, No 11 on Shwetaungdan Street in Lanmadaw Township (ph: 222052 and 095144885). The course will last three months. MNA

Talks on Introduction to Risk Management on 6 Aug

YANGON, 4 AUG—Under the arrangement of Myanmar Hoteliers’ Association and with sponsorship of Bay View Beach Resort from Ngapali Beach, Banking expert U Wint Kyaw will give talks on Introduction to Risk Management at Asia Plaza Hotel at the corner of Bogyoke Aung San street and Seikkanthar street in Kyauktada Township here on 6 August. Executives, members and interested persons may attend the talks. It is also known that talks will be held on Thursday of the first week of every month.—MNA

Myaukyama Irrigation System in Monywa District

Myaukyama Dam Project was constructed in 1998 and supplied sufficient irrigation water to 12,000 acres of lands. In 2007, Myaukyama Supporting Dam was constructed across the Myaukyama Creek, about six miles upstream Myaukyama Dam. The maximum water storage capacity of Myaukyama Dam is 14,057 acre feet, and about 130,000 acre feet of water flow into it annually. So, the water surplus flows out of the dam through the sluice gate and the supporting sluice gate, thus calling for a supporting dam to store the spilled water. The dam stores about 93,300 acre feet of water spilled from Myaukyama Dam, so a new irrigation system was launched to supply water to 7500 more acres of farmlands.

He said that on completion the main canal would be 13.25 miles long, and the distributaries, 43.72 miles long in total, with 128 irrigation structures; that up to that time, the work for clearing wild plants had been completed by 43.36 per cent, building the main canal, by 24.14 per cent, construction of the approach road, Pale and Yinmabin townships in Monywa District, Sagaing Division. So, the project will help improve the socioeconomic life and the living standard of local people, and contribute towards the greening of the region.

Translation: MS Myanma Alin: 3-8-2009
US personal income falls in June, consumer spending rises

WASHINGTON, 4 Aug—The personal income of the United States fell in June, but consumer spending increased for the second consecutive month, according to a report released Tuesday by the Commerce Department.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Commerce Department’s major data provider says that consumers boosted their spending by 0.4 percent, slightly ahead of analysts’ estimates, following a spending increase of 0.1 percent in May.

The report says personal income fell 1.3 percent after rising by the same rate in May, when incomes were boosted by one-time payments from the Obama administration’s stimulus package. Economists formerly estimated personal incomes, the fuel for future spending, to fall 1 percent in June.

Consumer spending is closely watched because it accounts for about 70 percent of total US economic activity.

Ang Lee brings new film “Taking Woodstock”

BEIJING, 4 Aug— Forty years after the iconic ‘60s musical bash, Academy Award-winning director Ang Lee brings the spirit of Woodstock to theaters in his new film — “Taking Woodstock.”

James Schamus’ screenplay for the film is derived from a book by Elliot Tiber whose efforts to save his Jewish immigrant family’s dying motel in upstate New York did a lot to launch 1969’s Woodstock Music and Arts Festival.

Elliot is a young gay man who unwittingly sets wheels in motion that swiftly overwhelm him. Comedy performer and writer Demetri Martin plays Elliot. The film is his first in a leading role.

“Taking Woodstock” is a low-wattage film about a high-wattage event. Lee brings the spirit of the 1960s for him present an “innocence” that he was keen to capture. Director Ang Lee said, “I think to capture that spirit I think I want to take that, follow his lead, by thinking of it as a center of the universe, which is vague, somewhere far away, has to be light. And I want to see this human light comedy about Elliot’s journey and struggles.”

Lee says that the 1960s for him present an “innocence” that he was keen to capture.

Two Russian tourists feed a seal which has finished staging performances inside an open pool in a local zoo in Harbin, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 4 August, 2009. —INTERNET

Plane hits control tower at Thai airport, one killed

BANGKOK, 4 Aug—A passenger plane skidded off the runway and crashed into a building after landing on the Thai resort island of Samui on Tuesday, killing the chief pilot and injuring at least seven people including foreign tourists.

The Bangkok Airways flight landed in stormy weather and hit the airport’s old air traffic control tower, which had been converted into a fire station, said Kamikka Kernawutand, director-general of the Department of Civil Aviation. The co-pilot and six tourists were hurt.

“The heavy damage was at the front of the plane where the pilot was. It looks like he suffered from the impact,” police Maj. Col. Sayan Sartsri said.—INTERNET

A Chinese fisherman carries his catch of crabs onshore after returning from the East China Sea to the waterfront near Wenling city in east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 4 Aug, 2009. —INTERNET

Lithuanian ship crew taken hostage off Nigeria

VIENNA, 4 Aug—Five Lithuania crew members have been taken hostage from a cargo ship off the coast of Nigeria, the Baltic state’s foreign ministry said Tuesday.

The ministry said in a statement that according to available information none of the crew of the Lithuanian-flagged Saturnas had been converted in the attack by unidentified perpetrators.

The Saturnas belongs to Lithuania’s Limarko Shipping Company.

“The ship has not been damaged, it has not been pirated,” company president Vytautas Lygnugaris was quoted as saying by the Lithuanian-based Baltic News Service.

“The attack is ‘fresh’ — it occurred eight or nine hours ago—so I don’t want to make any further comments because we don’t have any more precise information,” Lygnugaris said.

The ship had a total crew of 14, all of them Lithuanian citizens.

Internet

Tropical Storm Enrique moves across the Pacific

MIAMI, 4 Aug—Tropical Storm Enrique is heading west-northwest in the Pacific while a tropical depression is expected to strengthen and become another tropical storm later Tuesday. It’s centered about 1,175 miles southwest of Baja California.

Farther west, a tropical depression is moving west-northwest with maximum sustained winds near 40 mph.

Tropical Storm Enrique is moving across the Pacific after a Bangkok Airways plane skidded off the runway while attempting to land during heavy rains on Samui island, Surat Thani province in southern Thailand on Tuesday, 4 Aug, 2009.—INTERNET

A Chinese fisherman carries his catch of crabs onshore after returning from the East China Sea to the waterfront near Wenling city in east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 4 Aug, 2009. —INTERNET

Chinese girls learn to play clay whistles from a local craftsman during a folk art festival in Yanggu county in east China’s Shandong Province, on 4 Aug, 2009. —INTERNET
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (036N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (036N) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 5.8.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PACIFIC BANGLU VOYNO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC BANGLU VOYNO (001) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 5.8.2009 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: NEOFIELD SHIPPING CO., LTD
KOREA

Phone No: 256924/256914

India reports its first A/H1N1 flu death

NEW DELHI, 4 Aug—India recorded its first death of flu A/H1N1 after a 14-year-old girl died of the disease on Monday, local media reported.

The girl, a student, died in a hospital in west India's Pune city, according to a report by private Indo-Asian News Service.

She was admitted to the hospital on 27 July and confirmed to have been infected with the flu virus three days later. She had been on ventilator in Intensive Care Unit before she died, said the report.

No further report about the death case is immediately available.

India has recorded more than 500 cumulative cases of flu A/H1N1 infection so far.

The latest cases involve two students and a 26-year-old who had returned from Germany. They are receiving treatment in an isolation ward in hospital, according to media reports.

South Africa confirms first H1N1 flu death

JOHANNESBURG, 4 Aug—South Africa has confirmed the country's first death from H1N1 influenza, agencies quoted a health department official from Western Cape as reporting on Monday.

The reports said a 22-year-old male student from University of Stellenbosch died on July 28th after suffering flu symptoms. The case became South Africa's first confirmed death related to the H1N1 virus.

The student first went to the campus clinic on July 20 with flu like symptoms. When he did not improve he went to a general practitioner.

Pneumonic plague kills 3rd man in NW China province

XINING, 4 Aug—Pneumonic plague claimed a third victim in northwest China's Qinghai Province on Monday, local health authorities said.

The victim was a man named Danzhi, 64, from the town of Ziketan, in Xining county in the Hainan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture.

The outbreak, which began 30 July and has caused a further nine people in the town to become ill, has already killed a 32-year-old herdsman and one of his neighbors, a 37-year-old man.

Of the nine patients in quarantined, one is in a serious condition and another has developed symptoms of coughing and chest pain. Most of the affected townspeople are relatives of the first dead man.

The pneumatic plague is the most virulent form of plague. For those who are untreated, the death rate is 60 percent and many die within 24 hours. Internet

Internet

The pneumatic disease is the most virulent form of plague. For those who are untreated, the death rate is 60 percent and many die within 24 hours. Internet

Internet
Vitamin D deficiency may increase heart risk factors in kids

LOS ANGELES, 4 Aug— Vitamin D deficiency is associated with an increased incidence of risk factors for cardiovascular problems such as heart attack and stroke in kids, two new studies find.


There was a clear association with cardiovascular risk factors. The 25 percent of youngsters with the lowest levels of vitamin D were 2.56 times more likely to have high blood pressure, 54 percent more likely to have low HDL cholesterol levels, 2.54 times more likely to have low blood sugar levels and 3.88 times more likely to have metabolic syndrome, a constellation of risk factors including obesity, high blood fats and high blood pressure, the two studies show. While previous studies have linked vitamin D deficiency to increased risk in American adults, few studies have looked at whether vitamin D can be associated with increased cardiovascular disease in children, said Jared P. Ras, who began his study while at Johns Hopkins University. He is now an epidemiologist in the division of cardiovascular sciences of the US National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.—Internet

Mental illness can be avoided in youth

TAMPA, 4 Aug—Intervention programs in schools, communities and healthcare settings can reduce risk for mental illness in young adults, a US researcher said.

Mary E. Evans of the College of Nursing at the University of South Florida & Institute of Medicine assessed a recently released government report on preventing mental disorders among young people and said specific risk and protective factors have been identified for many mental disorders.

The article, published in the Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing, said a number of interventions have been developed to provide training in parenting skills to prevent the development of aggressive and antisocial behavior.

In addition, some preventive interventions have targeted specific disorders such as depression and schizophrenia. Cognitive behavioral treatment for high-risk adolescents has lowered the rate of major depressive symptoms, Evans said.—Internet

US study shows exercise benefits leukemia patients

WASHINGTON, 4 Aug— One of the most bothersome symptoms of leukemia is extreme fatigue, and asking these patients to exercise doesn’t sound like a way to help them feel better. A new study released Monday from the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill indicates that exercise may be a great way to do just that, combating the debilitating fatigue that these patients experience.

In a first-of-its-kind clinical trial, a team of researchers from the Department of Exercise and Sport Science and UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center have shown that physical activity can significantly improve symptoms of fatigue and depression, increase cardiovascular endurance and maintain quality of life for adult patients undergoing treatment for leukemia.

A total of 10 patients undergoing treatment participated in the EQUAL (Exercise and Quality of Life in Leukemia/ Lymphoma Patients) study. Each patient was provided with specially-treated exercise equipment to minimize the risk of infection. They participated in an individualized exercise session while in the hospital for the 3-5 weeks of the induction phase of leukemia treatment.—Internet

Austrian scientists crack ground mechanism of skin cancer

VIENNA, 4 Aug— A research group led by Manuela Baccarini, scientist of the Centre for Molecular Biology of the University of Vienna, has found the ground mechanism of skin cancer such as the melanoma, providing new possibilities for skin cancer treatment, said a study released on Monday.

According to the study, the scientists have cracked the “proto-oncogene,” a transmission channel for the “Ras” signal. Their studies suggest that skin cancer is caused by the “Raf-1” protein that prevents cells differentiating into skin cells. “Ras” is a kind of protein, which is like a regulator under normal circumstances, regulating many signal transmission process in the cells. But when this protein is interfered, it will help to canceration, leading to skin cancers like melanoma. Differentiation or external influence is the cause for the interference in “Ras.” The unrestricted increase of skin cells, or proliferation, is the premise of skin cancer. —Internet

Women benefit more than men from exercise

CHAPEL HILL, 4 Aug— Women, particularly African-American women, experience greater cardiovascular benefits than men as a result of exercise, US researchers found.

The study, published in the Journal of Lipid Research, said the long-term study of more than 8,700 middle-aged men and women proves race- and gender-specific data on the cholesterol effects of physical activity — with women experiencing greater benefits than men.—Internet
**Terry won’t demand big-money signings**

**LONDON, 4 Aug—** Chelsea captain John Terry insists he won’t use his influence at Stamford Bridge to pressure new boss Carlo Ancelotti into making big-money buys.

Recent reports suggested Terry demanded assurances that Chelsea were still committed to signing high-profile players before he decided to spurn Manchester City’s advances last month.

The England defender was persuaded to stay after talks with Blues owner Roman Abramovich, after which Terry spoke of his relationship with the Russian in glowing terms.

But Terry was quick to play down talk that he was pressing Abramovich and Ancelotti to sign the likes of AC Milan midfielder Andrea Pirlo.

“I want to clear something up. I’m a player and it’s the manager and board who make those decisions,” Terry told the Daily Mirror. “The only thing I spoke about with the club was it was important people like Didier Drogba and Ashley Cole, whose contracts are up now, stay with us.”—Internet

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**Real Madrid closes in on Liverpool midfielder Xabi Alonso**

**MADRID, 4 Aug—** Liverpool is nearing an agreement to sell Spain international midfielder Xabi Alonso to Real Madrid, the English club’s managering director Christian Purslow confirmed on Monday.

Purslow met with Real Madrid representatives and discussed the question Sunday when he went with Liverpool to Barcelona in a friendly against Espanyol.

However, he insisted that the meeting did not mean the transfer saga, which has been dragging on for several weeks, would be resolved in the near future.

“This meeting has only served to put our positions on the table. We need to continue talking,” he told Spanish sports paper Diario AS.

The main problem seems to be Real Madrid’s unwillingness to meet Liverpool’s valuation of Alonso, a Spain international and a key part of the team that finished last season second in the English Premier League.—Internet

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**Healthy Hewitt confident about US Open chances**

**WASHINGTON, 4 Aug—** Former world number one Lleyton Hewitt made a triumphant return to hardcourts, exciting the Australian veteran about his US Open chances after missing it last year because of left hip surgery.

Hewitt dispatched US wild card Donald Young 7-5, 6-2 in a first-round match at the 1.4 million-dollar ATP Washington Classic, his first match since taking Andy Roddick to five sets last month in a quarter-final on Wimbledon grass.

“For the rest of the year that’s going to give me a lot of confidence,” said Hewitt. “I was close to getting to the semis at Wimbledon. I was probably only a point from beating Roddick.

“Hopefully for the US Open that will give me a lot of confidence for five sets on the hardcourts.”—Internet

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**Kalinic snubs Portsmouth as he signs for Blackburn**

**ZAGREB, 4 Aug—** Croatian international striker Nikola Kalinic signed for English Premier League club Blackburn Rovers on Monday for 7.5 million euros from Hajduk Split, the selling club announced on its website.

The 21-year-old had been a target for Blackburn’s rivals Portsmouth but opted instead to reject their overtures as Hajduk accepted a club record fee.

“I can at least focus on football,” said Kalinic, who was first capped in May 2008 having been at Hajduk since 2007.

“I want to begin training with my new team as soon as possible and get into top form,” added Kalinic, who scored 38 goals in the Croatian league.—Internet

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**Sharapova starts quickly at Los Angeles tennis**

**LOS ANGELES, 4 Aug—** Unseeded Maria Sharapova easily defeated Jarmila Groth of Slovakia 6-0, 6-4 in the first round of the 700,000 dollar WTA Los Angeles Tennis Championship.

Sharapova, whose best finish in this event was two semi-final berths, advances to play third seeded Victoria Azarenka in the second round.

Still trying to recover from major shoulder surgery, Sharapova was one of four Russians to advance on Monday on the hardcourts located in the south central LA suburb of Carson.

Sharapova reached the quarterfinals last week in Stanford.—Internet

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**No Vieira as Domenech stuns Ribery with call-up**

**PARIS, 4 Aug—** France coach Raymond Domenech has sprung a surprise by naming Bayern Munich midfielder Franck Ribery in his 22-man squad for the World Cup qualifier with the Faroe Isles in Torshavn on 12 August.

Ribery is still recovering from a knee injury and, having last trained on 12 July, indicated recently he was not yet match fit.

Domenech said that since Ribery could play for Bayern in their German Bundesliga opener next week, he would have no qualms about using the midfielder for “a brief spell.” “Franck said he would not be match fit for a full match but I’ve since spoken to him by telephone,” said Domenech.

“He is back training with Bayern, and he could play against Hoffenheim (on 8 August) and so he could be useful for us even if it’s just for a brief spell.”—Internet

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**Mokoena ready for W Cup after Portsmouth switch**

**BIRMINGHAM, 4 Aug—** Aston Villa are close to signing teenage star Fabian Delph from Leeds after agreeing a transfer fee for the England Under-21 midfielder.

Villa revealed on Monday that they had come to an agreement with Leeds which allows them to open talks with Delph over a move to Villa Park.

“Aston Villa can confirm that a fee has been agreed with Leeds United for Fabian Delph,” a statement on Villa’s website read. “Villa have been given permission to speak to the player.”—Internet

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**Rodrick ready to return after Wimbledon heartbreak**

**WASHINGTON, 4 Aug—** Andy Roddick declared himself mentally and physically ready for his return to competition after a month off following his heartbreak s loss to Roger Federer in the Wimbledon final.

The fifth-ranked US star will be back on the court Wednesday after a first-round bye at the 1.4 million-dollar ATP Washington Classic, having found perspective about the Swiss star’s historic marathon five-set victory.

“Heartbreaking for me, but at the same time not a lot of people get a chance to play for that title. That was not lost on me,” Roddick said Monday.

“Was it the greatest loss I’ve had as far as we afterward...? Yeah, that hurt. But at the same time it’s still a pretty good existence to play matches like that.”—Internet

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**Aaron Mokoena Portsmouth, 4 Aug—** Aaron Mokoena has revealed he was forced to quit Blackburn and join Premier League rivals Portsmouth to preserve his dream of captaining South Africa at the 2010 World Cup.

Mokoena will have the honour of leading out the Bafana Bafana when the competition is played on African soil for the first time next year.

The former Ajax midfielder feared staying at Ewood Park would put his place in Joel Santana’s line-up in jeopardy after starting only nine league games last season.

Mokoena, who signed a three-year contract with Portsmouth, said: “South Africa staging the World Cup is a dream come true but it starts now with Pompey.

“I need to do the business with the team and move onto the national team.”—Internet
Lampard backs England to deliver in South Africa

LONDON, 4 Aug—Frank Lampard believes England are finally ready to deliver at the World Cup thanks to Fabio Capello.

After failing to qualify for Euro 2008, England are firmly on course for next year’s World Cup in South Africa.Capello’s team have won all seven of their Group Six matches and Lampard admits the transformation is down to the England coach’s ability to make his players believe in themselves.

“In terms of England, I’ve never experienced a time when I have gone into matches feeling as confident as I do now,” Chelsea midfielder Lampard told the Sun. “The contrast with before is stark. Before, we felt we would probably lose or drop points and it gives you a really good sensation going into the season to feel so optimistic about the challenges ahead with club and country.

“I’m wary of falling into the trap where people ask if you can win it, you say you can, and then expectations rise. Of course we can win it, though, We are playing as well as we have done for a long time and there is a real confidence and togetherness about the group.”

England’s only previous World Cup success came in 1966 and they haven’t even reached the semi-finals since 1990. But Lampard expects England to be a much tougher proposition for opponents now Capello has helped them develop a more ruthless streak. — Internet

Chelsea’s Frank Lampard

WEATHER

Tuesday, 4th August, 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 Chin and Kayah States, upperSagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Kayin States, Bago Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfall in Kachin and Mon States, isolated heavyfall in Ayeyawady Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.04) inch, Machanbaw (5.39) inches, Bilin (3.54) inches, Pyarpom (3.51) inches, Kyekhkhame (3.31) inches, Pato (2.23) inches, Ye (2.68) inches, Yangon (Central) (2.48) inches and Taungdwingyi (0.12) inch. Maximum temperature on 3-8-2009 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 4-8-2009 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 4-8-2009 was 79%. Total sun shine hours on 3-8-2009 was Nil. Rainfall on 4-8-2009 was (0.20) inch at Mingaladon, (0.71) inch at Kaba-Aye and (2.48) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (74.33) inches at Mingaladon, (83.15) inches at Kaba-Aye and (87.52) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from South at (21:30) hours MST on 3-8-2009. Bay inference: Monsun is strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 5th August 2009: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Chin State and Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Rakhine, Kayin and Shan States, upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfall in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division. 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: Increase of rain in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 5-8-2009: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-8-2009: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-8-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 5 August, 2009

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring areas

Forecast valid until evening of 5th August 2009: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Chin State and Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Rakhine, Kayin and Shan States, upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfall in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division. 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: Increase of rain in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 5-8-2009: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-8-2009: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-8-2009: 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

Shwegyin River water level to fall below danger level

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug — According to the 12.30 hr M.S.T observation today, the water level of Shwegyin River at Shwegyin is 716 cm and it has exceeded by 16 cm (about 0.5 foot) above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level (700 cm) during the next 48 hours commencing noon today.

Myaukyama Irrigation System in Monywa District

Article: Kyaw Sein; Photos: Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)

With smooth transport, Monywa in upper Myanmar enjoys commercial growth. Our news crew from the Myanma Alin got to Monywa at midnight on 21 July. The following morning, we visited Myaukyama Irrigation System Project being undertaken by the Irrigation Department in Pale Township, Monywa District.

Under the arrangements made by Assistant Director U Zaw Min Naing (See page 10)

Whales sings with ‘more than one voice’

COPENHAGEN, 3 Aug — It wasn’t that many years ago that the bowhead whale was written off as extinct in the waters around Greenland and especially in Disko Bay in northwest Greenland where University of Copenhagen has its Arctic Field Station.

But now the situation has changed and adult bowhead whales, which can grow up to 18 metres long and weigh 100 tons, have returned to the bay. This is probably because global warming has opened up the Northwest Passage, making it ice-free at certain times of the year for the first time in 125,000 years. This gives bowhead whales from the northern Pacific a chance to reach Disko Bay and mate with the small local population.—Internet

Eighth patient infected with A (H1N1) discharged from hospital

No more infected patient in sight

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug — News was issued yesterday that seven out of 13 patients infected with A (H1N1) have fully recovered from their illness and they have been discharged from the hospital and remaining six—two at Waibargi Specialist Hospital and two at Yangon General Hospital, one at Yangon East Hospital and one at Insein General Hospital have also been on the mend.

Today, the eighth female patient, aged 23, has already recovered from her illness and she has been discharged from the hospital. Surveillance measures against those who came into contact with the patient were halted. Now there are only five patients being treated—two at Waibargi Specialist Hospital, two at Yangon General Hospital and one at Insein General Hospital. They are kept in separate rooms of the hospitals and they have been now on the mend. The Ministry of Health continues screening flu-suspected persons and no more infected persons have been found.—MNA