Prime Minister General Thein Sein on inspection tour of relief camps in Bogale and Pyapon Townships

For ensuring self-sufficiency in rice a string of dams and reservoirs were built in order to turn Sagaing Division into the rice bowl of Upper Myanmar like Ayeyawady Division which is the rice bowl of Lower Myanmar. With the emergence of Thaphanselk Dam Sagaing Division is now able to produce over 100 million baskets of paddy yearly. Likewise, plans are under way to turn Taninthayi Division into another edible oil pot like Magway Division which is the edible oil pot of the nation. In that regard, arrangements have been made to transport basic commodity from one place to another, and people no longer need to worry about it.

Weather Forecast for (9-6-2008)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area:
Isolated rain or thundershowers.
Degree of certainty is (80%).

Yangon and neighbouring area:
Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring area:
Isolated rain or thundershowers.
Degree of certainty is (80%).

We have to replace earth bricks with stone ones (1)

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Prime Minister General Thein Sein converses with orphans at Myaungmya Agricultural Institute—ANA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein converses with orphans at Myaungmya Agricultural Institute—ANA

They greeted members of Kachin State Red Cross Society who were undertaking reconstruction of the village. The Prime Minister cordially conversed with students from the village and consoled them that arrangements are being made to enable the students to pursue education at the temporary classrooms and to get necessary textbooks and stationery. The Prime Minister gave instructions to the officials on ensuring health and happiness of students and provision of assistance with goodwill for uplift of morale of the students.

After inspecting construction of tents in the village, the Prime Minister explained arrangements for ensuring temporary and permanent settlements for the storm victims and for enabling them to get suitable jobs.

They also viewed the monastery of the village. (See page 6)
Work under way for resettlement of storm victims

The government is undertaking rehabilitation tasks with greater momentum for improvement of education and health, construction of roads and bridges and supply of food, clothing and shelter needs of storm victims and arrangements to earn their livelihood.

Requirements such as food, clothing, utensils, mosquito nets and blankets for the storm victims at the relief camps have been fulfilled and basic needs for those who continue to live at the camp are also being provided.

The victims who would like to return to their native regions according to their wish are permitted to do so after temporary tents are built and one-week rates will be provided for them. Moreover, the nearest relief camps will make arrangements for fulfilling food requirements in the long run.

Farmers will be provided with power-tillers and paddy strains, fishermen with boats and other fishing gear and others who want to earn other livelihood with necessary items.

Arrangements are being made for supplying food, giving health care services and providing necessary assistance for the victims to earn their living. Now, efforts are being made to rehabilitate the agriculture sector, the main sector for economic progress of the State and to improve socio-economic life of local people, rice milling, salt industry and fisheries.

With genuine goodwill, the government is providing necessary assistance for survival of the local people while undertaking relief and rehabilitation tasks in storm-affected areas effectively under its leadership.

A&I Minister attends High-Level Conference on World Food Security: Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June—A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo who had attended the High-Level Conference on World Food Security: Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy held in Rome of Italy from 3 to 5 June arrived back Nay Pyi Taw Airport this morning.

They were welcomed back at the airport by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and departmental officials.

The Myanmar delegation comprised Myanmar Ambassador to Italy U Than Tun, Adviser to Agricultural Planning Department (Director-General) U Tin Htut Oo, Deputy Director Dr Tin Htut, Deputy Director-General of Fisheries Department U Khin Ko Lay, Deputy Director of Forest Department Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw, technician U Tun Myint of Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise.

The high-level conference commenced at the meeting hall of FAO Headquarters on 3 June and it was attended by the UN Secretary-General, 25 Presidents, three Vice-Presidents, 12 Prime Ministers, two Deputy Prime Ministers and 55 Ministers.

Italian President Mr Giorgio Napolitano, UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon and Pope Benedict XVI read the massages at the opening ceremony.

Next, Director-General of FAO Mr Jacques-Denonf made an opening speech. Afterwards, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was elected as meeting chairman and Ministers of Forestry and Fisheries from Congo, Japan, Slovenia, Dominican, the USA, New Zealand and Egypt as vice meeting chairmen and Rome Mayor Mr Gianni Allemano extended greetings.

In the conference, the Congolese President acted as the meeting chairman. Afterwards, 13 Presidents from Egypt, Brazil, Slovenia, Eritrea, Argentina, Sri Lanka, France Vanuatu, Spain, Djibouti, Croatia, Iran and Madagascar and the Japanese Prime Minister made speeches.

In the afternoon, non-governmental organizations from international community discussed food price hike and world climate changes. The Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Prime Ministers from Zimbabwe, Albania, Senegal, Namibia, Cuba, Tanzania, South Africa, Angola, Tunisia, Fiji, Yemen, Ivory Coast and Czech Republic made speeches.

Similarly, heads of World Bank, IMF, WHO, IFAD, WTO, UNCTD, WFP and CGIAR made speeches. The following day the conference continued. In the afternoon, Myanmar delegation leader Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo delivered a speech, saying that there has been gradual increase in the world food price and world reserve food has been in decline. Myanmar, on its part, is fulfilling regional and world food requirements and there had been climate change. He spoke of the losses and damages on account of cyclone Nargis that hit Myanmar on 2 and 3 May. He expressed thanks to international organizations for providing relief supplies to the storm victims. He said, energy security in the rural areas is being focused on. Cultivation of physic nut has been extended without effects on food security.

Next, Maj-Gen Htay Oo met with Vice-Chairman Mr Kanayo Nwanze of IFAD (International Fund For Agricultural Development) and discussed rehabilitation of storm-hit regions of Myanmar.

Afterwards, he met with Director Mr Alberto Zamberletti of FOCSIV, an International NGO, at Mediterranean Hotel. On 5 June, Maj-Gen Htay Oo met with Director-General Mr Jacques Denonf of FAO and Director Ms Josette Sheeran of WFP and expressed thanks to them for providing assistance for the losses and damages caused by the storm in Myanmar and discussed providing of further assistance.

Relief aids distributed in Labutta Township

YANGON, 8 June—Nineteen aid items including food, stuff and personal goods donated by wellwishers to Poelaung camp, Saluseik, Bituk, Kyarkan, Kanpet, Theik-pankonggyi, Pyinsalu, Pakeikwa, Sinchayya (Th ing a ng y i), Kwainpauk, Third-Mile camp and Fifth Mile camp arrived in Labutta of Ayeyawady Division from Yangon by car today. The supplies were distributed to the victims immediately.—MNA
Russia blames US for global financial crisis

St Petersburg, 8 June — President Dmitry Medvedev blamed “aggressive” United States policies on Saturday for the global financial crisis and said Moscow’s growing economic muscle could be part of the solution.

“Failure by the biggest financial firms in the world to adequately take risk into account, coupled with the aggressive financial policies of the biggest economy in the world, have led not only to corporate losses,” Medvedev told Russia’s main annual event for international investors in St Petersburg.

“Most people on the planet have become poorer.”

The Kremlin leader said investment by cash-rich Russian companies abroad, promotion of Moscow as a major financial centre and use of the ruble as a reserve currency were part of the answer.

These could help solve problems created by what he said was a gap between the United States’ leading global economic role and its apparent failure of international law and contravenes the most fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and, thus, requires a resolute and clear response on the part of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council,” Khazaee’s letter to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, dated 6 June.

Iran demands Security Council action on Israel threat

Washington, 8 June — Israel demanded action from the UN Security Council about an Israeli threat to attack its nuclear sites if it continues uranium enrichment, according to a letter released on Saturday by Iranian UN Ambassador Mohammad Khazae.

Israeli Transport Minister Shaul Mofaz was quoted on Friday in an Israeli newspaper saying that an attack on Iran looks “unavoidable” given the apparent failure of sanctions to deny Tehran technology with bomb-making potential.

“Such a dangerous threat against a sovereign state and a member of the United Nations constitutes a manifest violation of international law and contravenes the most fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and, thus, requires a resolute and clear response on the part of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council,” Khazaee’s letter to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, dated 6 June.

President Dmitry Medvedev

It’s true capabilities.

The Kremlin leader said economic nationalism had played a big part in triggering the current crisis, which he compared to the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Poland to fully withdraw troops from Iraq by mid-October

Warsaw, 8 June — Poland will withdraw all its troops from Iraq by mid-October, Polish Defence Minister Bogdan Klich said on Saturday.

The last Polish soldier will leave Iraq “in mid-October,” said the minister in an interview with local radio RMF FM.

“It will be an important ceremony which will end our political responsibility for the whole region,” he said.

“At the end of June, I will hand over to the Iraqis responsibility for the whole province” of Diwaniyah, said Klich.

Poland currently has some 900 military staff in Iraq, and 20 soldiers have died since 2003 when Poland deployed some 2,600 troops to Diwaniyah to back the US led military operation in the Middle East country.

G8 energy ministers look inward on oil, spare OPEC

Aomori, (Japan) 8 June — Group of Eight energy ministers on Sunday looked inward for solutions to oil’s unrelenting rally, touting the need for domestic efficiency rather than piling pressure on a resistant OPEC to pump more crude.

Oil prices rose more than $10 higher on Friday to a record above $139 a barrel, the biggest one-day surge, raising the threat of renewed protests across Europe and potentially forcing more Asian nations to relent on costly subsidies, stoking inflation.

But the Group of Eight nations that runs from top consumer the United States No 2 oil exporter Russia — plus non-G8 China, India and South Korea — could agree on little more than expressing “serious concerns” over oil prices, according to a preliminary communiqué given to reporters.

Agrow growing acknowledgement that the group of mainly consumer nations will have to find ways of tempering their own demand rather than counting on producers to pump ever more oil, they focused on technology, conservation and diversification.

Powerful storms swamp US Midwest, spawn tornadoes

Chicago, 8 June — Heavy rains caused flooding that forced hundreds of evacuations in Indiana, and a tornado raked Chicago’s suburbs on Saturday as violent thunderstorms pummeled the already soggy US heartland, authorities said.

The US Coast Guard was called out to help rescue stranded home- owners and motorists, and near-record flooding was forecast for rivers and creeks in western and central Indiana.

“We are getting a lot of rain and water. There are a lot of roads that are impassable. We are urging people to sit tight and stay off the roads,” said John Erickson of Indiana’s Department of Homeland Security.

Some roads and highways were inundated and part of Interstate 70 had washed away, Indiana authorities said.

No one had been seriously injured in the flooding but Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels declared an emergency in 10 more counties, added to the 41 counties declared earlier.

A motorist continues through a flooded street in Waukesha, Wisconsin on 7 June, 2008. Flash flooding is occurring in Southeast Wisconsin with forecasts of 6-10 inches of rain.

“With continuing to vigorously promote policies and measures for improving energy efficiency,” the 11 nations, which account for two-thirds of world energy consumption, said in the communiqué ahead of their meeting in Aomori, northern Japan.

They will share best practice and encourage more innovation in energy-efficient buildings, electronic equipment and transport through the newly formed International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation, they said.

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EU sues Portugal, Greece over training of drivers

BRUSSELS 8 June — The European Commission decided on Thursday to take Portugal and Greece to court for failing to transpose legislation on the training of professional drivers and to notify measures for its implementation.

While European Union (EU) member states have not done so despite two warnings from the commission, the executive body of the EU.

The commission sent a second warning to Portugal and Greece in June 2007 asking them to do this. But no appropriate national measures have been taken, said the commission.

This 2003 directive provides for compulsory initial qualification and periodic training of drivers of road vehicles for the carriage of goods or passengers.

Under the directive, member states should set up a system of qualification according to one of two options: a system based on coursework and a test, or a system based on a test only.

Periodic training is to be organized by approved training centres. Each driver has to undergo 35 hours of training every five years.

Russia shuts down N-reactor at SKhK

MOSCOW, 8 June — Russia Thursday shut down a nuclear reactor producing weapons-grade plutonium as part of a deal with the United States to reduce the risk of proliferation from Cold War-era nuclear bomb plants.

The reactor ADE-5 was at the Siberian Chemical Works (SKhK) in the town of Seversk in Tomsk region.

The first and second reactor of the SKhK. The first was stopped on 20 April, company representative Alexei Suglobov was quoted as saying.

Australian police uncover more child abuse cases

CANBERRA, 8 June — Australian police on Friday uncovered four cases of Australian children abused by members of a child pornography network, adding the total number of arrests to 94 so far.

Also on Friday, a former federal police officer arrested in a global operation appeared in a national capital court for sentencing submissions to child pornography charges he pleaded guilty to in March. Two men from Victoria and two from Queensland were added overnight to the list of 90 men arrested or summoned as part of Operation Centurion.

Queensland Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson revealed on Friday four children from his state had been identified as having been abused by members of the network.

S Africa to strengthen economic ties with Spain

JOHANNESBURG, 8 June — South African Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said on Thursday that South Africa is to strengthen economic ties with Spain.

Ronnie Mamoepa, the foreign affairs department spokesman, said Dlamini-Zuma's two-day visit was aimed at boosting economic ties between South Africa and Spain.

Economic relations between the two countries had grown rapidly recently, with total trade amounting to 19 billion rand (about 2.5 billion US dollars). It had doubled over the past four years and was heavily in South Africa's favour.

Dlamini-Zuma and her Spanish counterpart, Miguel Angel Moratinos, agreed that this augured well for the future development of economic relations. They agreed on concrete steps to further enhance this growing, mutually beneficial relationship. It was agreed, amongst others, that the two governments would actively encourage visits by business delegations.

In recent years Moratinos indicated that Spanish companies were actively exploring investment opportunities in South African sectors such as construction, agro-processing and tourism.

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Medvedev voices concern over falling understanding with EU

BERLIN, 8 June — Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said here Thursday that he is worried about “the narrowing of mutual understanding” between Europe and Russia on several key issues.

Speaking at a joint news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Medvedev said Russia and Europe had different attitudes over Nato’s expansion and the planned US missile shield system in East Europe.

However, he emphasized that Moscow enjoys close ties with Berlin, and his decision to make Germany his first European visit demonstrated Russia’s priorities.

The Russian president also said he will work with Merkel to remove obstacles to start the construction of a key gas pipeline, which could enable Russia to transport natural gas directly to Germany, bypassing transit countries such as Ukraine, Belarus and the Baltic States.

Students come out off the examination room of No 7 Middle School in Chengdu, southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on 7 June, 2008. China’s three-day national college entrance examinations begin on Saturday. Students except those who live in the quake-hit areas took part in the exams.

People walk in a flooded street after torrential rain in Hong Kong, south China, on 7 June, 2008. Rare torrential rains blackened the sky and lashed Hong Kong Saturday morning, forcing the closure of schools and hospitals, submerging vehicles and widely disrupting traffic in the city. The Hong Kong Observatory issued the highest black rainstorm warning signal on Saturday.

The reactor ADE-5 is the second and last reactor of the SKhK. The first was stopped on 20 April, "the SKhK. The first was stopped on 20 April," company representative Alexei Suglobov was quoted as saying.

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Mekong River countries pledge more fruitful eco coop

KUNMING, 8 June — Six countries along Asia’s Mekong River pledged for more fruitful efforts on Friday to realize a win-win regional economic development.

The six countries — China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand — officially set up the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Economic Corridors Forum in Kunming, capital of southwest China’s Yunnan Province.

Thanks to the efforts of these countries over the past decade, as well as the support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), conspicuous achievements had been made in the transport corridor construction within the GMS economic cooperation mechanism, said Chen Deming, China’s Commerce Minister.

These achievements had created favourable conditions for the region’s economic development and integration, he said at the first GMS Economic Corridors Forum.

“Currently, an urgent task facing us is to speed up the transformation of the transport, resources and regional advantages into economic advantages for the region’s development,” Chen said.

Other commerce officials attending the forum said mutual investment and cooperation should be strengthened in such fields as resources development, agriculture, light industry and tourism.

Brazil expects to produce 3.4 mln vehicles in 2008

RIO DE JANEIRO, 8 June — Brazil’s National Motor Vehicle Manufacturers’ Association said Thursday that Brazil is expected to produce 3.4 million units of autos in 2008, up 8.9 per cent from 2007.

The number does not include automobiles for farm usage and the association’s President Jackson Schneider said rise in credits continues to be the main contributing factor to the record production and sales.

Production for the January-May period reached 1.38 million units, up a record high of 21 per cent from the same period in 2007, it said.

Meanwhile, automobile sales also set a record, totalling 1.51 million units in the same period, an annualized increase of 30 per cent. Exports reached 5.6 billion US dollars, a 10.6-per-cent rise compared with last year.

Suez Canal total revenues reach $56b

CAIRO, 8 June — The total revenue of Egypt’s Suez Canal reached 56 billion US dollars since its reopening on 5 June, 1975, Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) Ahmed Ali Fadel said on Thursday.

Fadel made the announcement in a Press release to mark the anniversary of reopening the canal after the 1973 Middle East War, the Egyptian official MENA news agency reported.

He noted that a number of projects will be carried out to deepen and develop the waterway to secure the navigation through satellite and radar-guided cameras, with a new dredger being built to help deepen the waterway.

On Wednesday, Fadel announced that the Suez Canal revenues rose to 487 million dollars in May, setting a new monthly record.

As of 1 April, the SCA raised the tolls for ships transiting the international waterway.

EU expects US to turn to WTO in poultry dispute

BRUSSELS, 8 June — The United States is likely to escalate a trade row with the European Union over the EU’s ban on imports of US poultry by taking action at the World Trade Organization, an EU official said Friday.

“The idea that the Americans are going to take us to Geneva I think is very possible,” the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

“The US is going to take us to court. They believe this.”

The EU imposed the import ban in 1997 because US poultry producers use a low-concentration chlorine wash on chickens, a practice that is not permitted in Europe.

Washington has said poultry ban is a test case for the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), which it set up last year with Brussels to smooth trade and business between the two giant economies.

“The issue has been an irritant in transatlantic trade ties ever since. In a new move to get the row resolved, the US is going to take us to court. They believe this.”

The European Commission last month proposed ending the ban, though with strict conditions.

Jordan to build airport for agricultural export

AMMAN, 8 June — Jordanian Government has allocated about 750 acres (about 303.6 hectares) in Central Jordan Valley for building an airport to export agricultural produce, local daily Jordan Times reported on Thursday.

Jordanian Minister of Transport Alaa Batayneh said the government has completed initial studies for the airport and is currently carrying out detailed analysis in the airport’s area along with other preliminary studies.

The airport will have one runway and one small service building, according to Batayneh.

The Ministry of Transport will exempt all planes landing to load Jordanian agricultural produce from landing fees, while those landing to unload cargo will be exempted from 50 per cent of the charges, the minister said.

A freight train travels on a Chengdu-Baoji Railway bridge, with protected dangerously swollen ‘quake lake’ on Saturday, with water gushing into a man-made sluice in an operation monitored by satellite. —INTERNET

A man cycles past images of cars which are prices as an advertisement for a cellular phone company are seen pasted on a local bus in the city of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 7 June, 2008. —INTERNET
Prime Minister General Thein Sein on inspection tour…

(from page 1)

Afterwards, the Prime Minister handed over one CDMA 450 telephone and one set of loudspeaker donated by the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs to village authorities. He also presented cash assistance for members of Kachin State Red Cross Brigade to the leader.

After inspecting the arrival of power-tillers for the village, the Prime Minister instructed officials to supervise arrangements for ploughing of farmlands at full capacity.

On arrival at Kadonkani Village of Pyapon Township, the Prime Minister met departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women’s Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Red Cross Brigade.

Responsible persons of MRCS and members of Kachin State Red Cross Brigade reported on construction of make-shift shelters at Kadonkani Relief Camp and installation of the water purifier.

In meeting with officials, the Prime Minister heard reports on arrival of storm victims at Kadonkani Relief Camp from Kyunthaya Village and accommodation for them, and instructed officials that as the victims from Kyunthaya Village do not want to live in their village, they will be resettled in Kadonkani Village. Therefore, it is required to provide necessary assistance for them.

Next, the Prime Minister and party consoled the victims from Kyunthaya Village. He presented one CDMA 450 telephone to the village officials. The Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs donated one set of loudspeaker to them.

At the Relief Camp in Setsan Village of Bogale Township, the Prime Minister and party heard reports on reconstruction of the village and accommodation of storm victims from surrounding villages at the relief camp.

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister instructed officials to transport the victims from the relief camp to their respective villages of their own accord only after building temporary shelters for the victims, to make arrangements for enabling the victims to take out rations enough for one week and to issue them necessary foods from nearest relief camps for long term, to resettle the victims who want to live in the new place of the relief camp, to submit the arrangements for creation of jobs for the victims as soon as possible and to place emphasis on carrying out sanitation task and establishing new better environment.

They visited the village and the relief camp. While in the village, the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs donated six sets of loudspeakers to officials.

On arrival at the relief control office in Bogale, they viewed power-tillers donated by Htoo Trading for using them in agricultural tasks. Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung reported on progress in reconstruction of Bogale Township, and the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions.

They left Bogale for Pyapon by helicopter and viewed the condition of motor road. After that, they left Pyapon by helicopter and arrived back Yangon in the afternoon. —MNA
More International aid arrives Yangon

YANGON, 8 June — Five C-130 fligh carrying 28.323 tons of tents, plastic strings, soaps, bags, tubes of toothpaste, toothbrushes, bottles, ropes, clothes, water tanks and rain coats donated by the US and PG-701 flight carrying 2.47 tons of 44 packages of tarpaulins donated by Bangkok Airway arrived at Yangon International Airport today.

Relief supplies donated by wellwishers from abroad have been sent to storm-affected areas by helicopter, car and ship without delay.

Auto-telephone available in Mawlamyinegyun

YANGON, 8 June — A total of 350 auto-telephones have already been installed in Mawlamyinegyun Township and the remaining ones are being installed in the whole township coming 13 June.

Medical team of Thailand gives medical treatment to orphans

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June — Myaungmya District Peace and Development Council opened the Youth Training School (Temporary) for orphans at Myaungmya Agriculture High School in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

On 4 June, a 30-member medical team led by Dr Karnrom of Thailand gave medical check-up to the orphans and presented milk powder, foodstuff and medicines to the school.

Together with the medical team, Head of Myaungmya District Health Department Dr Kyaw Soe, Dr Kyaw Naing Win, Dr Tin Tin Phyu and four members of Yangon Mental Health Hospital, a 13-member team led by Dr Win Htut of Yangon University of Medicine-2 and 11 house surgeons led by Dr Daw Min Min Myo Lwin of North Okkalapa General Hospital plan to provide healthcare services to storm victims at relief camps in Myaungmya from 1 to 14 June.

Consortium of Dutch NGO personally donates power-tillers, tents to farmers in Labutta

YANGON, 8 June — A group led by Mr Simon Lang Broek, a representative of Consortium of Dutch NGO’s of Netherlands arrived at the port in Labutta Township this morning.

They left the port this afternoon by Aungtanwai Watercraft for Saluseik and Hlwasa villages to personally donate 50 power-tillers and 164 tents to the farmers.

In an interview with the group, Mr Simon Lang Broek said they found out that the news about Myanmar broadcast by foreign media was untrue. When they contacted the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and asked for permission to make donations in person, the government accepted it and even rendered necessary assistance. They would hand their relief items to the farmers and demonstrate how they work, said Mr Simon.

Power-tillers seen in Kyinchaunggyi village in Bogale Township.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein comforts storm victims of Kyinchaunggyi village in Bogale Township.

The Prime Minister General Thein Sein comforts storm victims at Kadonkani relief camp in Pyapon Township. (News on page 1)
We have to replace earth bricks with stone ones (1)

Kyaw Ye Min

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets local residents of Kadonkani village in Pyapon Township.

It seems to me after the storm Nargis, our country is more lively and the people have come to equip themselves with loving-kindness, goodwill and cohesion all the more, thus reflecting the saying ‘blood is thicker than water’.

It was very encouraging to note that soon after the catastrophe, ministers under the leadership of the Prime Minister making themselves into groups headed for the storm-affected areas and carried out relief and reconstruction tasks with might and main in concert with local people, national entrepreneurs, servicemen and social organizations. Since the natural disaster abated, the people of the states and divisions, entrepreneurs, merchants, and social organizations have been donating emergency supplies, purified water, vegetables, clothes and household utensils with great generosity and in bulk. That is a testament to the fact that four kinds of cardinal virtues flourish in Myanmar, a Buddhist country.

Members of the Red Cross Society, and specialists, doctors and nurses went down to the storm-hit areas including rural areas, and since then, they have been providing healthcare to local people. That shows the people of our country are helpful to each other. I would say that the efforts the people have been making with patriotic spirit, nationalistic fervour and Union Spirit to realize a national programme are remedying the devastating consequences of the storm.

When the relief and rehabilitation works were in full swing, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye made a trip to the storm-hit areas from 1 to 4 June. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye was accompanied by Prime Minister General Thein Sein, SPDC Secretary-Lt-Gen Tha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC Members Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing and Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee member ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, and deputy ministers.

During the trip, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye visited the relief camps in Kungyangon Township in Yangon Division and seven townships in Ayeyawady Divisions at the rate of two townships a day, cordially greeted storm victims individually and family-wise and fulfilled the requirements. Besides, he implemented short-term programmes in the interests of the storm victims as well as long-term programmes in the interests of the areas. So, it is fair to say that the trip of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye brought great benefits to the areas and the victims.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party left Yangon by helicopter and arrived at Kyaiiklat in Ayeyawady Division at 8.20 am on 1 June. He inspected by car the repaired roads in the town, and progress of reconstruction of the houses. At the Golden Jubilee Hall in Kyaiiklat, Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing gave an account of progress of reconstruction and development tasks in the township. In response, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye asked questions for further details and gave instructions on the tasks.

During his visit to the township people’s hospital, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye consoled the victims and encouraged the doctors, nurses and officials. Next, he inspected by car the conditions of the town and Myanmar Fishery Federation would provide for the fishermen to lead a normal life again. Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected progress of reconstruction of Pyapon District People’s Hospital, and gave instructions on tasks to upgrade the medical facility to a 200-bed one.

In the afternoon, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived at Sethsan Relief Camp in Bogale Township and greeted storm victims. And Vice-Senior General Maung Aye met with villagers and explained arrangements for giving a helping hand to storm
We have to replace earth bricks with stone ones (1)

Kyaw Ye Min

(from page 8)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye met with officials including region in-charge ministers and national entrepreneurs who are engaged in reconstruction of storm-hit regions and gave instructions on reconstruction of Kyaklat and Pyapon regions. He stressed the need for officials to strive for improvement of socio-economic life of local people while carrying out reconstruction and rehabilitation tasks when relief operations have been completed to a certain degree. And he urged them to help storm victims so that they can resume their livelihoods after resettling them and to make arrangements for preparedness measures against possible natural disaster.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived Mawlamyinegyun from Pathein on 2 June morning. At the briefing hall of the local battalion, they heard a report presented by Minister Col Thein Nyunt on reconstruction of Mawlamyinegyun Township, regional development tasks and requirements to be fulfilled. After hearing the report, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that reconstruction tasks call for construction of roads and bridges, fulfillment of food, clothing and shelter needs of local people as well as education and health of storm-hit regions and regeneration of livelihoods. And he spoke of the need to fulfil the specific requirements of each storm-hit region as the people of the regions are different in earning their livelihoods, and explained necessary assistance to be provided by the government.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party proceeded to Mawlamyinegyun Township People’s Hospital where they consoled patients and inspected the site chosen for upgrading the hospital into a 100-bed one. On arrival at Bogale, they heard a report presented by Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung on rehabilitation of Bogale and development tasks. After hearing the report, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave necessary instructions.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party left for Pathein by helicopter and greeted storm victims at the relief camp. And they inspected the village and asked local people the plight they had experienced, food, clothing and shelter needs, education of children and others. They went on to Theikpankongyi Village from Hlaingphon Village where they met with local people and explained arrangements for reconstruction of storm-hit villages and regional development. After inspecting repair of Basic Education High School in Theikpankongyi Village, they arrived back in Pathein by helicopter in the afternoon.

At 2.30 pm, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye held a meeting on reconstruction of Mawlamyinegyun and Bogale regions at Mya Ayeya Hall in Pathein and spoke of the need for officials concerned to carry out reconstruction tasks in parallel with upgrading tasks, bearing in mind that the development of storm-hit regions must be greater than that in the past and added that arrangements have already been made for a region to help another in time of emergency.

For ensuring self-sufficiency in rice a string of dams and reservoirs were built in order to turn Sagaing Division into the rice bowl of Upper Myanmar like Ayeyawady Division which is the rice bowl of Lower Myanmar. With the emergence of Thaphanseik Dam Sagaing Division is now able to produce over 100 million baskets of paddy yearly. Likewise, plans are under way to turn Taninthayi Division into another edible oil pot like Magway Division which is the edible oil pot of the nation. In that regard, arrangements have been made for fulfillment of basic commodities from one place to another, and people no longer need to worry about it.

(To be continued)

Translation: MS+TS
Industry-1 Minister inspects paper mill, sugar mill and sugarcane plantations

YANGON, 8 June—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, together with Director-General of Myanmar Foodstuff Industries U Thaik Tun, Deputy-General of Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries U Aye Mok inspected construction of 50-ton brown paper plant and 50-ton CTMP pulp factory near Yeni No 2 Paper mill on 5 June.

He looked into installation of machines, Dryer, pulp rolling machines, control room, machines, cutting machines, control room, machines, cutting etc. He gave instructions to upgrading of spare parts for durable use.

Next, he went to Ilonkwin industrial crop sugarcane plantations in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Division and inspected cultivation of a total of 1093 acres of Sinshweli and hipri sugarcane and gave instructions.

Upon completion of the project, the Minister explained arrangements to Zeyawady sugar mill where he inspected repair of machines for 2008-2009 sugarcane season and spare parts invented by the plant. He gave instructions to upgrading of spare parts for durable use.

Next, he went to Mawlamyineyun Township, presented basket of fruits to foreign technicians.

Rehabilitation of meat and fish sectors coordinated

YANGON, 8 June—The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries held the coordination meeting on rehabilitation of meat and fish sectors at the hall of Myanmar Fisheries Federation on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township yesterday morning.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein explained arrangements being made by the government and the ministry to provide assistance for rehabilitation of the fishery industry.

President of the federation U Thaik Tun, Chairman of Myanmar Offshore Trawlers Association U Maung Maung Soe, Chairman of Myanmar Fisheries Entrepreneurs Association U Thaik Tun and fishery entrepreneurs of Ayeawady and Yangon Divisions reported on losses in their works and rehabilitation.

The minister explained arrangements for distribution of fuel and fishery equipment and assistance of Myanmar Livestock and Fisheries Development Bank.

Later, the minister and party viewed fishery equipment and machinery to be provided for rehabilitation of the storm-hit regions of Ayeawady and Yangon Divisions.

Silver Tiger Co Ltd donates T-shirts to storm victims

YANGON, 8 June—Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and officials accepted 1002 T-shirts worth 5 million donated by Silver Tiger Co Ltd at Maykhalah hall of Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township this morning and presented certificate of honour to the donor. —MNA

PBA N R D A Minister performs rehabilitation tasks in Mawlamyinegyun Tsp

YANGON, 8 June—Member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, who is supervising relief works in Mawlamyinegyun Township, presented foodstuff, utensils, personal goods, snacks and hoes to 107 households who have been resettled in their home places made of home-grown nipa palm and tarpaulins donated by the government and wellwishers from abroad and at home yesterday.

The minister and party also delivered relief supplies to storm victims in the villages of Nathmu and Kyarchaung village-tracts.

PBANRDA Minister performs rehabilitation tasks in Mawlamyinegyun Tsp

Minister U Aung Thaung inspects industrial crop plantations in Kyauktaga Township. —MNA

Silver Tiger Co Ltd donates T-shirts to storm victims

Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein inspects fishing gear for rehabilitation of fishery sector in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions. —MNA

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint accepts donation of Silver Tiger Co Ltd. —MNA

MNA
Iraq says it wants to restrict movement of US troops

BAGHDAD, 8 June — Iraq said on Friday it would not grant US troops freedom of movement for military operations in a new agreement being negotiated on extending the presence of American troops on its soil.

Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih said the United States wanted its forces to operate with no restrictions, but this was not acceptable to Iraq.

The United States is negotiating an agreement with Iraq aimed at giving a legal basis for US troops to stay in Iraq after 31 December, when their United Nations mandate expires.

The negotiations are the subject of heated debate both in the United States and Iraq, where thousands have answered anti-American cleric Moqtada al-Sadr’s call for weekly protests after Friday Muslim prayers. While the Iraqi Government has confirmed there are major differences between the two sides in the negotiations, few details of the sticking points have been made public.

MNA/Reuters

Seven dead in Tokyo knife attack

TOYKO, 8 June — A man armed with a knife has killed seven people and injured 11 others in central Tokyo, on Sunday, Japanese media say.

The incident occurred in the Akihabara district, a busy shopping area known as Electric Town that is popular with young people and tourists.

A suspect, said to be 25-year-old Tomohiro Kato, has been arrested near the scene.

“Ten were missing, seven found. The excavation is still ongoing and we expect to find the rest shortly,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

Seven dead, three missing in Russia ship blast

MOSCOW, 8 June — Rescue workers found seven bodies on Friday in the smouldering rubble of a civilian cargo ship in Russia’s Kaliningrad region, a Navy spokesman said.

Ten were missing, seven found. The excavation is still ongoing and we expect to find the rest shortly,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

Ukrainian mine blast leaves 37 missing

DONETSK, (Ukraine), 8 June — A gas explosion at a colliery in Ukraine’s Donetsk coalfield on Sunday left 37 miners missing after it destroyed the mine shaft, making rescue attempts very difficult, officials said on Sunday.

Seven dead, three missing in Russia ship blast

MOSCOW, 8 June — Rescue workers found seven bodies on Friday in the smouldering rubble of a civilian cargo ship in Russia’s Kaliningrad region, a Navy spokesman said. Ten suspect had been missing following an explosion and fire on the ship the Yenisei in dry dock at a naval ship repair factory in Kaliningrad, a tiny enclave bordering Lithuania, Poland and the Baltic Sea.

“Ten were missing, seven found. The excavation is still ongoing and we expect to find the rest shortly,” he said. "The shaft has been destroyed. It is impossible to go below," she said. "The blast was very powerful. It shattered windows in the mine's administrative office and damaged the paneling of a lift."

Marina Nikitina, spokeswoman for the regional mine safety inspectorate, said 37 men were missing. Four miners were killed on the surface at the time of the explosion had been injured.

Gas explosions are a frequent occurrence in Ukraine’s outdated mines, many of which are loss-making and date from the 19th century. The Karl Marx mine in Yanakiyev, northeast of Donetsk, has been in operation for 110 years.

MNA/Xinhua

EU warns Estonia, Finland over gender equality

BRUSSELS, 8 June — The European Commission has sent letters of warning to Estonia and Finland over implementation of EU rules prohibiting discrimination in employment and occupation on the grounds of sex, said the commission on Thursday.

The commission believes the two countries have not fully implemented the 2002 directive on gender equality.

“This directive is crucial to tackling gender discrimination, one important goal of the European Union (EU). It was agreed unanimously by the member states and adopted in 2002, but EU directives cannot reach their full potential if they are not fully and correctly transposed into national laws,” said Vladimir Spidla, EU Commissioner for Equal Opportunities.

The warning took the form of a “reasoned opinion,” the second stage in infringement proceedings. The countries have two months to respond. If they fail to reply or if the response is unsatisfactory, the commission can decide to take them to the European Court of Justice.

MNA/Xinhua

Somali BBC contributor shot dead

MOGADISHU, 8 June — Gunmen in the southern Somali city of Kismayo have killed a local journalist on Sunday.

Somalia, mired in chaos and violence since 1991, is among the world’s most dangerous countries for journalists. At least nine other journalists have been killed in Somalia since February 2007.

MNA/Xinhua

Internet

Israeli raid on Gaza look more likely

KEN-GERON AIRPORT (Israel), 8 June — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said on Friday a major military operation into the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip was looking more likely.

Hours after troops killed two Palestinian gunmen during an incursion into the Gaza Strip, the latest of many, Olmert said Israel might have to carry out a major action in the territory to counter cross-border militant rocket fire.

MNA/Reuters

Tracks sit on a road, stuck on road blocks set up by farmers on strike, near Arroyo Seco, some 280 kms (173 miles) north of Buenos Aires, on 7 June, 2008. Argentina’s farmers continued Saturday their third strike in three months against the government’s new export taxes on grains.—INTERNET

Police and ambulance officers investigate along a street in Tokyo’s Akihabara shopping and amusement district on 8 June, 2008.—INTERNET

Somali BBC contributor shot dead

MOGADISHU, 8 June — Gunmen in the southern Somali city of Kismayo have killed a local journalist on Sunday.

Nasteh Dahir, who worked for both the BBC and Associated Press news agency, was shot in the chest and stomach outside his home.

The National Union of Somali Journalists said it was a "targeted assassination" and that the 26-year-old had received death threats.

MNA/Reuters

Iraq says it wants to restrict movement of US troops

BAGHDAD, 8 June — Iraq said on Friday it would not grant US troops freedom of movement for military operations in a new agreement being negotiated on extending the presence of American troops on its soil.

Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih said the United States wanted its forces to operate with no restrictions, but this was not acceptable to Iraq.

The United States is negotiating an agreement with Iraq aimed at giving a legal basis for US troops to stay in Iraq after 31 December, when their United Nations mandate expires.

The negotiations are the subject of heated debate both in the United States and Iraq, where thousands have answered anti-American cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's call for weekly protests after Friday Muslim prayers. While the Iraqi Government has confirmed there are major differences between the two sides in the negotiations, few details of the sticking points have been made public.

MNA/Reuters
Mexico seizes 2,900 tons of drugs, weaponry in 18 months

MEXICO CITY, 8 June — Mexican authorities have seized and destroyed some 2,900 tons of drugs in the first 18 months since President Felipe Calderon took office, the Special Investigation into Organized Crime (PGR) said Thursday. The authorities have also seized over 15,000 weapons, 900 grenades and 1.5 million bullets during the same period.

During the battle against organized crime and drug trafficking, security forces seized 7,402 ground, aerial and sea-based operations during the same period.

Iraq cracks down on oil smugglers with new law

BAGHDAD, 8 June — Iraq is to take tougher action against oil smugglers under a new law that was passed on Thursday aimed at plugging leaks in its oil industry that cost it billions of dollars every year in lost revenue.

The new Offences against Smuggling Law will give authorities the power to seize smuggler’s assets, including tankers and other vessels, impose fines and jail offenders for up to five years.

“This law is essential to fight the smuggling of oil which costs the country billions of dollars every year,” the head of Parliament’s oil and gas committee, Ali Hussain Balu, told Reuters.

He said current legislation was seen too weak to deter oil smuggling, a criminal activity that has flourished in the security vacuum that followed the US-led invasion in 2003.

But enforcement of the new law may be difficult. A report by the Pentagon in June 2007 said members of the Oil Ministry’s own Oil Protection Force, responsible for guarding oil infrastructure, were suspected of collusion in smuggling.

Iraq, whose main source of revenue is oil, needs huge investment after decades of sanctions and war. But sabotage and oil smuggling have robbed it of billions of dollars and hampered reconstruction.

“According to official reports handed to Parliament, Iraqis losing roughly 105,000 oil barrels a day from the southern fields in smuggling operations,” Balu said.

Gunmen kidnap two kids in S-E Nigeria

LAGOS, 8 June —Unidentified armed men on Tuesday in Nigeria’s southeastern Imo State kidnapped two kids of the speaker of the Imo state House of Assembly, Goodluck Opiah, local media reported on Thursday.

The two kidnapped kids, aged between 10 and 12, were said to have been accosted and taken away by the gunmen at the entrance of the speaker’s residence in Aba, a neighboring state on Tuesday.

Emmanuel Ezeozue, the Commissioner of Police in Imo state confirmed the kidnapping of two sons of the speaker of the state House of Assembly.

Ezeozue said following the report of the incident, the police had begun investigation into the matter, adding that the police were acting on a tip-off and have arrested three suspected kidnappers in a hotel in the state.

It was learnt that the Speaker’s sons were staying with their mother in Aba, Abia state at the time of the incident. Effort to speak to Opiah on phone proved abortive as his mobile phone rang without reply.

Kidnap cases have been on the increase in Imo State in the last two months, — MNA/Xinhua

The Crop Dusters team launch their flying machine into the Serpentine Lake in Hyde Park, London during the Red Bull Flugtag London 2008 competition, on 7 June, 2008. The competition is judged on various criteria including flight distance, creativity and personal performance.

INTERNET

Iraq, whose main source of revenue is oil, needs huge investment after decades of sanctions and war. But sabotage and oil smuggling have robbed it of billions of dollars and hampered reconstruction.

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MNA/Reuters
IEA urges $45 trillion “energy revolution” to halve CO2

TOKYO, 8 June — World governments must quickly start a 45-trillion-US-dollar “energy technology revolution” or risk a 130-per-cent surge in carbon emissions by 2050, the International Energy Agency warned on Friday.

In a report commissioned by Group of Eight leaders three years ago, the IEA also said that a goal of halving emissions by 2050 would require that the cost of carbon rise to 200 US dollars a ton.

Japan is urging leaders of the Group of Eight nations to set a global target to halve greenhouse gases by 2050, when they meet at a G-8 summit in Toyako, northern Japan, next month. The group’s energy ministers meet this weekend in Japan.

The report also said that oil demand would rise by 70 per cent if governments continued with current policies — an increase it said was equivalent to five times Saudi Arabia’s production.

“We are very far from sustainable development, despite the widespread recognition of the long-term problem. In fact, CO2 emissions growth has accelerated considerably in recent years,” said Nobuo Tanaka, Executive Director of the IEA, the energy watchdog for industrialized nations.

UK bird flu related to other European outbreaks

LONDON, 8 June — A virus in an outbreak of bird flu in southern England this week is the same subtype, H7N7, which has led to several other cases in Europe, including one that killed a veterinarian in the Netherlands.

Britain’s farm minister classified the strain on Thursday as a virulent H7N7, adding “it is likely to be related to viruses which have occasionally been detected in domestic poultry and wild birds elsewhere in Europe”.

An outbreak was confirmed at a chicken farm in Oxfordshire earlier this week. All the birds at the farm were slaughtered as a precautionary measure.

The Netherlands had a major outbreak of a H7N7 bird flu virus in 2003/04. Many poultry workers were infected with the predominant symptom, conjunctivitis, and one veterinarian died of respiratory distress syndrome.

UNSG urges world to end carbon addiction

UNITED NATIONS, 8 June — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday called on the world to put an end to the habit of producing carbon dioxide.

“Our world is in a grip of a dangerous carbon habit,” Ban Ki-moon said in his message for World Environment Day, which is observed annually on 5 June. “Addiction is a terrible thing. It consumes and controls us, makes us deny important truths and blinds us to the consequences of our actions,” he added.

Ban stressed that global warming was becoming the defining issue of the era and will hurt the rich and poor alike.

Brazil sets up reserves to protect Amazon rainforest

RIO DE JANEIRO, 8 June — Brazil’s President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Thursday signed a decree on the World Environment Day to create three reserves in the Amazon rainforest region. With the three reserves, two in the state of Amazonas, the largest in the country, and the third in Para, Brazil will have a total of 292 protected areas and its territories destined to environmental protection will increase by 4.3 per cent.

The setup of the reserves is part of the government’s programme to build a so-called “green wall” to prevent deforestation. Lula also signed two more decrees on the same day, with one being to extend indefinitely a deadline on restricting exploitation of mahogany in the Amazon forest.

The other is to establish a working group within 30 days to define the final details of a fund for the protection and conservation of the Amazon.
**SPORTS**

**EGYPT BEAT DJIBOUTI 4-0 IN WORLD CUP QUALIFIER**

**DJIBOUTI, 8 June** — African champions Egypt won their second World Cup qualifier inside six days with a comfortable 4-0 away win over Djibouti in their African zone Group 12 match on Friday.

Striker Amr Zaki opened the scoring five minutes before halftime in a match played in searing heat and Egypt doubled their lead soon after the break through midfielder Hosni Abd Rabou.

Egypt extended their lead with two more goals in the next minutes, first from captain Ahmed Hassan and then Ahmed Edd Abdelmalek.

Egypt came from behind to beat the Democratic Republic of Congo 2-1 in Cairo last Sunday to make the next minutes, first from captain Ahmed Hassan and then Ahmed Edd Abdelmalek.

Egypt came from behind to beat the Democratic Republic of Congo 2-1 in Cairo last Sunday to make their winning start to their bid to qualify for the World Cup finals for the first time since 1990.

Djibouti, who lost 8-1 to Malawi last Saturday, have now conceded 12 goals in their two games. The Congolese host Malawi in Kinshasa on Sunday. — MNA/Reuters

**IOC TO CRACK DOWN ON ILLEGAL BETTING IN BEIJING**

**ATHENS, 8 June** — The International Olympic Committee said on Friday it would crack down on illegal betting during the Beijing Games with the help of Interpol and major betting companies.

IOC President Jacques Rogge said a special unit would operate during the 8-24 August Games to monitor betting patterns and flag any unusual or suspicious bets.

"It is clear we need and have the collaboration with major bono fide betting companies," Rogge told reporters at the end of an executive board meeting. "We rely on them to advise us if there is an abnormal pattern of betting. It is in their interest to work with us and our interest to work with them," he said.

— MNA/Reuters

**PLATINI LAUNCHES EURO 2008 PARTY**

**VIENNA, 8 June** — On the eve of Euro 2008, European soccer chief Michel Platini called on players and fans on Friday to enjoy a great tournament in a party atmosphere but urged them to show respect and shun bad behaviour.

The three-week, 16-nation tournament, which organizers expect to attract five million visitors to joint host countries Austria and Switzerland, starts on Saturday when the Swiss take on Czech Republic in Basel.

Platini, the former French captain who became president of European soccer’s governing body UEFA last year, gave an upbeat news conference in Basel as he launched the first major tournament of his term of office. "The party is about to start," he said. "There will be a lot of crying, there will be a lot of laughing, a lot of very happy people."

— MNA/Reuters

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**Euro - 2008**

**AUSTRIA 0 - 1 CROATIA**

**GERMANY 2 - 0 POLAND**

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**CROATIA BEATS AUSTRIA 1-0 AT EURO 2008**

**VIENNA, 9 June** — Luka Modric scored from the penalty spot Sunday and Croatia held on for a 1-0 win over co-host Austria at the European Championship.

Modric put his team ahead in the fourth minute of the Group B match after Rene Aufhauser brought down Ivica Olic in the area. Dutch referee Pieter Vink awarded the penalty and Austria defender Emanuel Pogatetz was then given a yellow card for protesting.

With goalkeeper Jurgen Macho diving to his right, Modric sent the ball low into the middle of the net. — Internet

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**ITALY’S PANUCCI INJURED IN TRAINING**

**MOEDLING (Austria), 8 June** — Italy defender Christian Panucci limped out of training on Friday after tweaking a tendon in his right knee.

An Italian soccer federation statement said the 35-year-old returned to the dressing room only as a precaution.

If fit, Panucci looks certain to play at right back for the world champions in their Euro 2008 Group C opener against Netherlands in Berne on Monday. — MNA/Reuters

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**ANSWERS TO YESTERDAY’S CROSSWORD PUZZLE**


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**SINGAPORE’S QIN LI, NUMBER 7, AND UZBEKISTAN’S AZIZ IBRAHIMOV FIGHT FOR THE BALL DURING AN ASIAN WORLD CUP QUALIFIER BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN AND SINGAPORE IN TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN, ON 7 JUNE, 2008. UZBEKISTAN WON WITH THE SCORE 1-0.** — Internet

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**CROATIA’S IVICA OLC, CENTER, MISSES A HEADER AS AUSTRIA’S JOACHIM STAUDFEST, LEFT, AND GOALKEEPER JUERGEN MACHO, REAR LEFT, AND CROATIA’S NIKO KOVAC LOOK ON DURING THE GROUP B MATCH BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND CROATIA IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA, ON 8 JUNE, 2008, AT THE EURO 2008 EUROPEAN SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS IN AUSTRIA AND SWITZERLAND.** — Internet
**WEATHER**

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayah and Kayin States and lower Sagraing Division, scattered in Shan State and Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Shan State and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in Kachin and Rakhine States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.55) inch, Sittway (6.61) inches, Machanbaw (4.06) inches, Bago (2.29) inches, Toungoo (2.09) inches, Myitkyina and Kalewa (1.54) inches each.

Maximum temperature on 7-6-2008 was 83°F. Minimum temperature on 6-8-2008 was 71°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 8-6-2008 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 7-6-2008 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 8-6-2008 was (1.07) inches at Mingaladon, (0.71) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.51) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (32.64) inches at Mandalay, (39.53) inches at Kaba-Aye and (52.01) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southwest at (20:40) hours MST on 7-6-2008.

**Bay of Bengal inference:** According to the observation at (06:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over Southwest Bay has moved to West Central Bay and still persists. Monsoons is weak in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and moderate to strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 9-6-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kayah and Kayin States, lower Sagraing and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan and Chin States, upper Sagraing and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Kachin and Rakhiine States, Yangon Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**State of the sea:** Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Moderate monsoons.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 9-6-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-6-2008: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 9-6-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Make donations to the storm victims

- Everybody may make donations freely.
- Everybody may make donations to any person or any area.

However, wellwishers are urged to avoid unsystematic donations and acts that may tarnish the image of the nation and its people.

Certain internal and external anti-government elements, self-centered persons and unscrupulous elements are now seeking their self-interests by sending to the foreign news agencies the stories about relief and rehabilitation work they have made up and shot on video.

Storm victims are hereby warned to remain vigilant with nationalistic spirit against the deceptions of the self-centered persons and unscrupulous elements.

Health care services provided, rehabilitation tasks carried out in Mawlamyinegyun Township

YANGON, 8 June — The Ministry of Health sent a medical team led by Dr. Moe Hein to Mawlamyinegyun Township this morning by vessel Pa Pa Win to provide health care services to the storm victim patients of villages.

The team gave medical treatment to about 200 patients daily in the township in previous days. There has been no outbreak of infectious diseases.

In Kyarchaung Village of the township, NEP Co and Myanmar Red Cross Society together with Mawlamyinegyun Township Red Cross Society today installed a water purifier that can produce 5,000 litres of drinking water per hour and they are supplying drinking water to the surrounding villages free of charge.

Vessel Shwe Hu Ym sent carrying 2,100 bags of rice, farm equipment, clothing, foodstuffs, CI sheets, nails and relief supplies donated by well-wishers left Mawlamyinegyun and delivered the goods to Natmau, Kyeethon, Kyunchaung, Mabay, Kywechan, Kyonnamo, Shaukhaung and Bobituk villages this morning.

Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank will soon disburse K 8,000 per acre to the farmers including victim farmers from villages of the township as agricultural loan. MADB and Agricultural Mechanization Department will jointly sell Leyar-16 and Leyar-22 power-tillers to the farmers by installments.

A total of 770 storm victims from relief camps and other villages have moved to Kanback village on their own accord.

In an interview with a family having moved to Kanback Village, they said they came here on 28 May from Wakema camp of their own volition to live with their parents and they were not forced to do so. They received 22 kinds of relief items before they left. All the storm victims at the camp received relief supplies on equal terms. — MNA

Children vaccinated, agricultural facilities, paddy strains supplied, reconstruction tasks under way in Labutta Township

YANGON, 8 June — Children under five in relief camps, wards and village-tracts in Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Division have been vaccinated.

A total of 540 children under five and 720 children ranging from nine months to 10 years were given polio and measles vaccines in Yadanadipa, Third-Mile and Five-Mile relief camps today.

A clinic was built by Max Myanmar Co and the damaged school building of BEHS was under repair at Kanback village-tract in the township.

A total of 11 Leya-16 power tillers, 18 buffalo, 150 gallons of diesel and 25 gallons of gear oil and 200 baskets of paddy strains were delivered to the farmers in the villages.

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School children being taught at make-shift shelters of Third-Mile relief camp in Labutta Township. — MNA