NAY PYI TAW, 9 July—Mr Juan Jose Gomez Camacho, newly-accredited Ambassador of the United Mexican States to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, Nay Pyi Taw, at 10 am today.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department.

MNA

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

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

Thursday, 10 July, 2008

Promote trade

Every nation in the world is striving for economic development. The nations extract natural resources, produce agricultural crops and boost production of meat and fish in order to promote export.

With the concept that trading plays a pivotal role in Myanmar’s economic progress, the government is making endeavours for promotion of trade through the agreements on bilateral trade and on border trade.

Myawady border trade zone is one of the important regions to promote trade. With the transportation of commodities to other ASEAN nations via Thailand under border trade system, better opportunities for trading can be obtained.

Introduction of normal trade instead of border trading system will be of great benefit to both trade partners and traders in the long run. Businessmen engaging in trade are to take emphasis on export of high quality products in accord with the standards set and availability of markets.

Muse 105th mile border trade zone and Myawady border trade zone were established for direct export. Marine products, industrial finished goods, agricultural produce and others are exported through the zones.

In foreign trade, products can directly be exported not only through seaports but also via border trade zones.

Entrepreneurs, traders and service personnel need to make endeavours in harmony for export and import of quality products through the promotion of trade. By doing so, economic progress can be made.

Measures for sustainable development of self-reliant village libraries in Yamethin District coordinated

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with local authorities, wellwishers, staff of Information and Public Relations Department and local people to give instructions on sustainable development of village self-reliant libraries at the office of District IPRD in Myoma ward in Yamethin Township, Mandalay Division yesterday.

It was also attended by Director-General U Chit Naing of Information and Public Relations Department and officials, district and township-level departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, town-selders and wellwishers.

The minister stressed the need to support the sustainable development of village self-reliant libraries with the contribution of the strengths of local authorities, local people, wellwishers and social organizations members and staff of IPRD after laying down five work plans.

Next, Staff Officer Daw Myint Myint Khaing of Yamethin District IPRD reported the matters related to setting up of village self-reliant libraries and donations of wellwishers.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepted K 7.3 million donated by 36 village-tracts in the township, K 6 million by Pyawhwe Township Edible Oil Entrepreneurs Association, K 4.8 million by U Than Hlut (Myanma Jade Co), K 1.5 million by Yamethin District and Township USDA and K 100,000 by Daw Pale (Pale Restaurant) and presented certificates of honour to them.

IPRD Director-General U Chit Naing also accepted K 430,000 donated by wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

Deputy FM signs Book of Condolences for people killed by Typhoon Fengshen

YANGON, 9 July — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu signed the Book of Condolences that was opened at the Embassy of the Philippines at No. 50 on Saya San Road in Bahan Township today, for loss of lives due to Typhoon Fengshen in the central Philippines on 21 June.— MNA

Next, Chairman of Yamethin District Peace and Development Council U Oo Khaing reported on measures being taken for sustainable development of village self-reliant libraries to the minister.

After the meeting, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan cordially greeted those present.

Today’s donation for the establishment of self-reliant village libraries is K 20,130,000.— MNA

Five special criminal appeal cases heard in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July — The Special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Mandalay) U Khin Maung Latt, Supreme Court Judges of Supreme Court (Mandalay) U Myint Aung and U Kyaw Win sitting at court room No 1 of the Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) heard five special criminal appeal cases under Section 7 of the Judiciary Law, 2000 on 7 July.— MNA

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu signs the Book of Condolences at the Embassy of the Philippines.— MNA

Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) heard five special criminal appeal cases heard in Nay Pyi Taw

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Gunmen attack US consulate in Istanbul

ISTANBUL, TURKEY, 9 July.— Armed men attacked a police guard post outside the US consulate in Istanbul on Wednesday, and the ensuing clash killed three officers and three of the assailants, officials said.

At least one of the assailants opened fire at the post near the consulate’s main entrance at about 11 am, a US embassy spokeswoman said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

There were no reports of casualties among American consulate employees, she said. Guler said a policeman and a tow-truck driver were also injured.

The governor added that the battle outside the consulate was full with people waiting to collect US visas and said that gunmen, knowing they could not enter the consulate, approached the building with an aim to assault, reports CBS associate producer Ethan Yarar in Istanbul.

Authorities were trying to identify the attackers, he said. The attack occurred right outside the high-walled consulate compound in Istanbul’s Istinye district.

An unidentified man lies on the ground lifeless after an attack outside of the US Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, on 9 July, 2008.—INTERNET

McCain, Obama at odds over Iraqi withdrawal demand

WASHINGTON, 9 July.— Iraq’s hardening demand for a pullout deadline for US troops on Tuesday sent shockwaves through the White House campaign, putting Republican hopeful John McCain on the defensive.

McCain, who says it is too early to leave Iraq, said US pull-backs must be dictated by security conditions, after Democrat Barack Obama said the Iraqi government now shared his desire for a timetable for withdrawals.

Iraq Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said on Monday that Iraq was seeking such an arrangement in talks with Washington on the future US force structure in the country.

Iraq hardened its position on Tuesday, saying it would reject any security pact with Washington unless it set a date for the pullout of US-led foreign soldiers — a condition turned down by President George W. Bush.

But McCain, who has made staunch support for the US troop “surge” escalation strategy a centerpiece of his campaign, said that recent security gains should not be put at risk by an artificial timetable.

“The Iraqis have made it very clear, including the meetings I had with the president and foreign minister of Iraq, that it is based on conditions on the ground,” McCain said in an interview with MSNBC.

Nazi hunters seek to smoke out “Dr Death” in Chile

SANTIAGO, 9 July.— Nazi hunters are hoping to flush out the most notorious member of the Third Reich still believed to be alive, Aribert Heim, known as “Dr Death,” in southern Chile—with an advertising campaign.

Heim, who passed his 94th birthday on 28 June if he is still alive, documented the hundreds of victims he himself murdered and tortured at the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria during World War Two.

The Nazi hunters believe he is hiding out in the Patagonia region of southern Chile, also home to his daughter.

“In the last few days we’ve received information from two different sources, both relating to Chile, which we think have very good potential,” said Efraim Zuroff, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center which is hunting for Heim and hundreds of other suspected Nazis.

The group has put up a 315,000 euros ($495,000) reward for information leading to the arrest of Heim, known to have decorated his office during the war with human body parts, even using the skull of a man he decapitated as a paperweight.

Zuroff and his team will fly on Wednesday to Puerto Montt, a town 657 miles south of the capital Santiago where Heim’s daughter lives.

Iran tests missiles in Persian Gulf, Hormouz

TEHERAN, Iran, 9 July.— Iran’s state television says its Revolutionary Guards have tested nine long- and medium-range missiles in war games that officials say are in response to US and Israeli threats.

Gen Hossein Salami, a top Guards commander, was quoted as saying “the exercise is to demonstrate our resolve and might against enemies who in recent weeks have threatened Iran with a harsh language.” The drill was conducted in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormouz.

The report didn’t provide details but said the missiles fired included a new version of the Shahab-3 missile, which officials have said has a range of 1,250 miles.

The report comes less than a day after Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said he sees no possibility of a war with the United States or Israel.

Iran bomb kills three police officers, civilian

BAGHDAD, 9 July.— Iraqi police say a bomb in Fallujah has killed three police and one civilian.

A police official says 15 people also are injured after an explosion at 6:30 am A second blast caused the casualties. The police official spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to talk to the media.—INTERNET

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Obese men have poorer fertility

BARCELONA, 9 July.— Obese men have poorer quality sperm, perhaps because too much fat around their testicles causes them to heat up, scientists have suggested.

University of Aberdeen researchers looked at the sperm of over 2,000 men in couples having problems conceiving.

The heaviest men had a higher proportion of abnormal sperm, as well as other problems.

The scientists told a European fertility conference losing weight probably boosted fertility.

Being too fat can damage sperm

Being obese is already known to affect women’s chances of getting pregnant.

The men were divided into four groups, according to their BMI (body mass index).

Men who had a healthy BMI of 20 to 25 were had higher levels of normal sperm than those who were heavier.

But those with a higher BMI had lower volumes of seminal fluid, and a higher proportion of abnormal sperm.

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Three-year-old boy shot by police in Rio dies
Rio de Janeiro, 9 July — A three-year-old boy shot in the head by police in Rio Sunday night was pronounced dead Monday afternoon.
Joao Roberto Amaral was heading home with his mother, Alessandra Soares Amaral, and younger brother Sunday night when the family’s car was shot.
The boy was hit on his nape, ear and gluteus. His mother had mild injuries while his nine-month-old brother was unhurt.
Police said the family’s car got caught in the crossfire when officers were pursuing a gang of robbers. Private William, said he and his colleagues had only shot at the criminals.
However, several witnesses said the police had shot at Alessandra Amaral’s car without any warning and only stopped when the mother came out, asking for help.
The boy’s father, Paulo Roberto Amaral, was indignant following the police’s explanation for his son’s death.
“My boy was shot by the police,” he said. “They say it was a shooting, but they are lying. They gunned down my wife’s car as if she was a criminal.”

US, Poland fail to clinch deal on missile defence
Washington, 9 July — US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and her Polish counterpart Radoslaw Sikorski failed to clinch a deal on missile defence in talks here on Monday, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said.
Earlier this month, the United States and Poland reached a “tentative agreement” on the US plans to deploy missile interceptors in Poland.
The tentative deal is waiting for the final approval from the Polish Government.
US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will visit the Czech Republic this week to sign an agreement on the installation of a radar base on the Czech soil.
The United States has planned to build a radar base at the Budy military district, some 90 kilometres southwest of the Czech capital Prague, along with an interceptor missile base in Poland.

Israel signs prisoner swap deal with Hizbollah
Jerusalem, 9 July — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert’s office on Monday confirmed that Israel has signed a UN-mediated prisoner exchange deal with Lebanon’s Shiite militant group Hizbollah, local daily Ha’aretz reported on its website.
The Prime Minister’s Office said in a statement that Ofer Dekel, Israel’s chief negotiator for securing the release of abducted Israeli soldiers, signed the deal on Sunday after meeting in Europe with a German mediator charged by the UN with brokering the exchange. The office further stated that the signing of the deal was meant to trigger the execution of the swap. “The continuation of the deal’s implementation is conditioned on the existence of another few components,” the office said, without explicitly stating what those components were.

Sri Lanka, India sign oil exploration deal
Colombo, 9 July — Sri Lanka and India have signed an epoch-making Petrolium Resources Agreement in Colombo for the exploration and production of oil in northern Sri Lankan waters in the Mannar basin, the officials Daily News reported Tuesday.
According to the newspaper, the agreement was signed by Petroleum and Petroleum Resources Minister A H M Fowzie for Sri Lanka and Indrajit Benerjee, the chief financial officer of Cairn (Pvt) Limited of India on Monday.
In accordance with the agreement, Cairn India Limited will commence its exploration activities in Block SL2007/1A/001 in the Mannar basin which covers 3400 square kilometres, at depths between 200 to 1,800 metres within six months from Tuesday.
The exploration spending schedule of the company in the next three years is expected to be 112 million US dollars.
Once commercial extraction commences, the oil company will be allowed up to 65 per cent of the revenue to cover its investment.
The Sri Lankan Government will receive a 10 per cent royalty, a 50 million dollar production bonus, the profit share based on the investment, a 15 per cent tax on “contractor profit” and other taxes.
The exploration license is deemed to be valid for eight years and divided into three stages of three, two and three years.

West Nile virus detected near Los Angeles
Los Angeles, 9 July — California health officials issued a warning on Monday against West Nile virus which was detected in mosquitoes collected from two traps in Long Beach near Los Angeles.
In the warning, health officials urged residents to take precautions such as eliminating standing water that can attract the insects and using mosquito repellant.
The affected mosquitoes were collected as part of routine checks conducted by the Long Beach Health Department’s Vector Control Programme. Mosquitoes are collected weekly from traps that are set across the city. Across California, West Nile virus in mosquitoes has been detected in 14 counties, including Los Angeles and Riverside.

A bank of sky-scrapers dominate the skyline in the Asian city state of Singapore. Representatives from the world’s sovereign wealth funds have begun a closed-door meeting in Singapore as part of efforts to prepare voluntary guidelines for the funds.

Anti-war protesters shout a slogan during a rally against proposed US Missile Defence systems in front of the Defence Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, on 9 July, 2008. The protesters said the US missile policy will destroy peace in Northeast Asia. —INTERNET

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Democrats to open Obama nomination speech to public

WASHINGTON, 9 July—Barack Obama will accept the Democratic presidential nomination next month at a Denver football stadium that can hold more than 75,000 people after the political party decided to open the event to a than 75,000 people after stadium that can hold more convention 25-28 August in Denver, with daytime meetings and councils held at the Colorado Convention Centre and televised evening events at the Pepsi Centre sports arena, which can hold up to 20,000 people.

The party decided to hold the final evening’s televised events, including Obama’s nomination acceptance speech, at INVESCO Field at Mile High, the 76,125-seat stadium that is home to the Denver Broncos football team.

China tourism market

KUNMING, 9 July — China’s tourism market has become a magnet for international investment, raising about 150 billion yuan (21.8 billion US dollars) annually over the past few years, a senior tourist official said here Monday.

“The high-end international tourism products have made their way into the Chinese market, such as port calls by luxury liners and booming business for limousine and yacht rentals,” said Wang Zhifa, National Tourist Administration (NTA) deputy director. Despite this, Wang, who was here to attend an industry forum in the capital of southwest Yunnan Province, said the country still faced great hurdles even though it was poised to become the world’s largest tourist destination by 2015.

He said the industry still lacked large companies to take a leadership position in comprehensive tourism development. He added public service in tourism, from tourism consultation to toilets in scenic spots, had been substantially improved.

A resident who was wounded in a suicide bomb attack is rushed into the hospital in Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad on 7 July, 2008. —INTERNET

Iran’s non-oil exports reaches $5.819b in three months

TEHERAN, 9 July—Iran’s non-oil exports reached 5.819 billion US dollars in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20), local English-language daily Tehran Times reported Monday. According to the Public Relations Office of Iran’s Customs Administration, 9.92 million tons of various products including gas condensates were exported in the mentioned period of time, showing a 2.16 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2007. Iran’s Fourth Socio-Economic Development Plan has envisaged exporting 2.895-billion-dollar worth of non-oil products for the mentioned period of time. This is while the 4.257-billion-dollar export of products aside from gas condensates is 147 per cent of what was anticipated. During the first quarter of the current Iranian year, the country had 8.962 million tons worth 12.995 billion dollars of imports, showing a 20.39 per cent decrease in weight yet a 17.41 per cent increase in value.

China officials gather at the Great Hall of the People to review preparations for the Beijing Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in Beijing, capital of China, on 9 July, 2008, 30 days before the Olympics opens.

INTERNET

Australia could delay emissions trade beyond 2010

CANBERRA, 9 July — Australia’s Government said on Monday it could delay introduction of a planned emissions trading system expected to boost fuel and power prices, as polls showed its record recent popularity slipping.

The centre-left government’s top climate advisor, economist Ross Garnaut, last week unveiled a model for how the trading system could operate after its planned 2010 introduction, warning climate shift could devastate Australia’s fragile environment. But the treasurer of the most popular New South Wales State, Michael Costa, accused Garnaut of delivering a “Chicken Little” report predicting the sky could fall in on the economy and iconic tourist lures such as the Great Barrier Reef.

An activist from Oxfam, wearing masks depicting G8 leaders, place an activist dressed as a corn cob into an oil barrel during an anti-G8 event in Sapporo during the Group of Eight (G8) Hokkaido Toyako summit, on 7 July, 2008. INTERNET

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A fifth of EU Commission payments late

BRUSSELS, 9 July—More than a fifth of payments made last year by the European Union’s executive arm were late, with an average delay of almost seven weeks, EU Ombudsman Nikiforos Diamandouros said on Monday.

The European Commission should “make further improvements to its payment policy as quickly as possible, especially regarding more vulnerable contractors, such as individual citizens and small- and medium-sized companies and organisations”, Diamandouros said in a special report. The report from the head of the EU’s internal watchdog said that in 2007, the Commission was late in 22 per cent of payments made to its contractors from the bloc’s budget. The average delay was 48 days. — MNA/Reuters

A resident who was wounded in a suicide bomb attack is rushed into the hospital in Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad on 7 July, 2008. —INTERNET

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Israel’s Rafael successfully test anti-“Qassam” missile

JERUSALEM, 9 July— Israeli authority for development of weapons and military technology Rafael has successfully completed a series of test in the short-range missile defence system is it is currently developing as part of the project code-named “Iron Dome,” local daily Ha’aretz reported on its website on Monday. The tests, which were carried out at a test ground in southern Israel, were successful, said the report, citing Israeli security sources.

The tests involved the launching of a number of Tamir missiles - the type that is expected to be used by Iron Dome to intercept Qassam and Katyahsa rockets - and engineers evaluated its capabilities, in terms of such variables as effective range, command and control from the ground, speed and manoeuvrability.

Israel’s defence sources estimate that by the end of 2008 Iron Dome will be ready to undergo a major test that will evaluate the system’s ability to intercept a rocket. The test will include the launch of a rocket, which Tamir will try to intercept.

Six killed in shooting spree in southern Yemen

SANAA, 9 July— A vendor opened fire Monday in the port city of Aden, southern Yemen, killing four people and wounding eight others, and two of whom died in hospital due to serious injuries. According to witnesses, the vendor flew into a fury amid a dispute with others in a market and began to shoot indiscriminately. The man was later arrested by local police.

In August 2007, Yemen’s Ministry of Interior issued a statement banning carrying firearms into the capital city of Sanaa and provincial capitals. — MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lankan Air Force pounds rebels’ target

COLOMBO, 9 July— The military in Sri Lanka said Sunday that its Air Force bombed a gather point of Tamil Tiger rebels in the north in the afternoon amid intensive conflict between the two parties.

Official from the Ministry of Defence said Air Force fighter craft launched precision air strikes at a high profile LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) gathering point in the Vaddakachchi area of the Kilinochchi district at 3:30 pm (1000 GMT). They said the air raid was taken based on real time ground information.

Meanwhile, two LTTE rebels were killed in sniper attacks launched by the troops in the Karainmadai area of the Mannar district on Sunday, defence officials said. Sri Lankan Army Commander Sarath Fonseka said Monday that about 9000 LTTE rebels and 1700 government soldiers have been killed in fighting since the government launched its military offensive in August 2006.

The commander estimated that within about one year, the LTTE will lose its capability as a conventional force and can no longer fight against the troops in the same manner as before.

Having taking control of the whole Eastern Province from the LTTE in July 2007, the troops are currently battling the LTTE in the north with the aim of totally crushing the organization. — Xinhua

Two Indonesian diplomats injured in Afghanistan blast

JAKARTA, 9 July— Two Indonesian diplomats were reportedly injured in a car bomb attack outside the Indian Embassy in Kabul on Monday.

The Indian Embassy building in Kabul, which is located near the Indian Embassy, was severely damaged, Foreign Ministry spokesman Teuku Faizasyah said.

“Medical treatment is quite good there, so we hope they will get sufficient treatment,” www.kompas.com quoted the spokesman as saying.

The suicide car bomb has reportedly killed more than 40 people and injured hundreds of people, according to the website. — Xinhua

Hamas denies policing Israeli borders

GAZA, 9 July — The Islamic Hamas movement on Sunday denied accusations that it was policing the Israeli borders with the Gaza Strip, according to an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire.

“The movement did not arrest anyone because of the resistance and did not deploy any of its members on the borders to protect the Israeli occupation,” said Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoom.

Israeli media reported that Hamas arrested a number of Palestinian militants who violated the truce between Hamas and Israel which took effect on 19 June.

The reports also said that Hamas deployed its militants near the border areas to prevent rocket attacks by Palestinian factions against the ceasefire which does not cover the West Bank. — Xinhua

B’desh to set up fund for long-term disaster management

DHAKA, 9 July — The Bangladesh Government is working to set up a trust fund of about 4 billion US dollars for long-term disaster management, leading English daily The Financial Express reported Sunday.

“A joint government-donor assessment showed that a four billion US dollars fund will be required for long-term disaster management in Bangladesh,” secretary of the economic relations division (ERD) under finance ministry Aminal Islam Bhuyan was quoted as saying.

“The government is trying to mobilize resources for establishing a multi donor trust fund, he said.

A “recortador” leaps over a wild cow during an exhibition of riding and acrobatic skills at the bullring on the third day of the annual San Fermin festival in Pamplona on 8 July, 2008.

INTERNET

A young boy clears away algae from a beach in Qingdao, Shandong Province on 7 July, 2008. Thousands of Chinese troops and volunteers should clear unsightly algae from competition areas at the Qingdao Olympic sailing venue by Thursday, an official said. — INTERNET

China’s National Stadium, known as the Bird’s Nest, is seen a month before the opening of the Olympic Games, in Beijing on 8 July, 2008. With one month to go before the Olympics open on 8 Aug, Beijing was putting the final touches to its preparations on 8 July, although pollution worries and questions over media freedom remain. — INTERNET
I write this article out of my strong desire. I am not a writer or a professional in the literary field. I am just a public member and a native of Myanmar. I have to beg the pardon of the readers if this article does not meet the standard of usual ones. However, it is no exaggeration to write this article. I will just present what I have witnessed as they really are.

It was on 6 July evening. I happened to watch the evening news of the Myanmar Radio and Television. While watching TV, I was out of desire to present my opinions, so I write the article.

The news was about Prime Minister General Thein Sein’s tour of the storm-hit areas, and he supervised relief and rehabilitation tasks in Labutta and Napaval townships.

Actually, it was just a usual news story, not breaking news. Personally, I would say it was a heart-hits news. When I heard the signature tune for the evening news programme, I had already had my dinner, so I sat in front of the TV, holding a cup of plain tea and the jaggery bottle. The news heading was that the Prime Minister toured storm-affected areas. So, I paid careful attention to the news. At that time, I remembered something that when the world countries suffered natural disasters and leaders of the nations concerned inspected the scenes of the disasters for a while, world notorious TV stations gave media coverage of the news about the inspection tours. I am sure the leaders of our country love and protect the people at least as much as the leaders of those countries do however, I would say it is strange that the world notorious TV stations never screen such news stories of our country.

Just as I saw the pictures that appeared in the news, I felt very glad as well as pleased and happened to say ‘well done’. I thought that such feeling was pervasive delight. And one’s sympathetic joy should be placed equally on everyone, irrespective of wealth and status.

When I watched the scene that farmers were ploughing the fields. I was struck by the words that the world notorious TV stations never screen such scenes of the disasters for a while, world notorious media broadcast a news story that in an Asian country, fuel prices had gone up and not enough number of tractors were available, so cattle were used again to plough the fields, and cattle were bred and nurtured. The purpose of recounting the news story is just to help the viewers compare the situation in other country and that in ours and notice the attitude of the notorious media towards our country alongside the goodwill of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw towards the victims. While watching TV farmers working hard in ploughing their fields, I remembered a poem I learnt in my youth.

“Oh, farmer, how inspiring you are
Standing tall between two colours
Ground lush and green with paddy fields
And the sky with the blue colour

The poem reflects the might of the farmer working hard between the ground completely covered with lush and green paddy fields and the blue sky. That poem is the most suitable one to reflect and honour the diligence of Ayeyawady dwellers.

I saw a place which is not far from where the farmers who worked hard the whole day with the use of tractors can take a rest. I also saw houses built near the farmers ploughing on the farm. The wooden houses are new. There is a prayer hall at the head of the house. I saw a plastic sheet on the floor. I listened to the voice of the newscaster while watching pictures on TV. I heard him say that the government and donors would build better houses for the storm victims. While watching TV, I was out of desire to present my opinions. I witnessed that members of the government and donors would build better houses for the storm victims than the previous ones. What I heard matched what I saw. I put on record that words and deeds are relevant. I respect and think highly of those who do as they say. I would like to see those who treat leftover rice and roasted fish with fish paste and hot plain tea as those who said, “Fish and chips will be served. Please wait until everything is O.K.”

I want the nations of the world understand the attitudes of very Myanmar people.

Although I was born in Yangon and grew up there, my father was farm-bred. His native is Okkan, a small town. There is an expression that there are beautiful ladies in Okkan and Thonz. My father came to Yangon and married to my mother who is more beautiful than the ladies from Okkan and Thonz. My father went back to his native village with my mother and me very early. I do know the houses of the farmers in the villages. I know what kind of houses in my father’s village and those of my relatives are. Most of them are built of thatch and wall of bamboo matting. Though it is pleasant to live in summer, it is very cold in winter. In the rainy season, the houses sway because of the wind. As a son of the farmer from Okkan, I am very pleased to see the farmers in Ayeyawady Division living in the durable new houses. In his speech, the Prime Minister said the houses built for the storm victims with the contribution of the donors under the arrangement of the government will be better than the previous ones. I vividly see the government and the donors. I understand that those who donate goods and food are wellwishers. The Tatmadaw members and members of social organizations contributing voluntary service in the storm-hit areas are also wellwishers. Moreover, the Tatmadaw members (Army, Navy and Air) who save the victims and help build new houses for the storm victims, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Fire Services and Red Cross Brigade, volunteers, members of social organizations and health staff are wellwishers.

We can carry out rehabilitation tasks in a very short time after the severe storm due to unity and cooperation of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw.

I witnessed that members of USDA from various parts of the country help build the houses for the victims, roads and hospitals and dispensaries in Ayeyawady Division. The Tatmadaw members brought in timber for construction of the houses. They felt happy to see the new durable houses. Only those who can look at the kind heart of Myanmar people will see. Myanmar people do not ignore the traditional customs and spend much money in shopping. Vegetable patches were also built at the back of the houses. The Prime Minister himself gave vegetable seeds and farm implements to the victims living in the new houses. Presenting such farm implements is building spirit to stand on their own feet and helping those who are in need.

The government provides food and shows a place where fish abounds. There may be some people who think that giving vegetable seeds is a frivolous thing. I will give an example for those people. Magadu, a man who served in the elephant-shed of the palace, grew amaranth from little amount of seeds he got from the seeds seller. Later, he became a king name Woraz. I have read it in Myanmar reader when I was young. Myanmar people know the wider and deeper meaning of a saying, "A huge benefit can be made using a dead rat." Therefore, if one thinks the act of presenting vegetable seeds is an ordinary one, it will be wrong. When I saw the green paddy fields, the field under ploughing and new houses of the farmers as a background, I remember some lines of a short poem in my heart. ‘A hut on the farm lies in the horizon.’ I would like to rewrite the poem like this because of the view I see.

Everyone can visualize how much effort the government, the people and the Tatmadaw have made to enable storm victims to restore their businesses in a short time.
NAY PYI TAW, 9 July—Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min who is supervising rehabilitation tasks in Dedaye region, accompanied by officials concerned, arrived at Shankan village via Dedaye by powered boat on 7 July.

At Village Basic Education High School (Branch), the minister and party inspected progress in repairing damaged school and students who are pursuing education and presented cash assistance for desks through the school head.

Next, the minister and party looked into learning of the students at the temporary classroom in the compound of Mayan village monastery, paid homage to Wailuwati monastery Presiding Sayadaw U Kumara and donated CI sheets and cash to the Sayadaw.

Afterwards, the minister chose the site for the construction of permanent houses and gave necessary instructions. Next, he oversaw progress in building rural health centre in Hsukalat village and stockpile of rice for the storm victims.

On his way back to Dedaye, he inspected Dedaye Township People’s Hospital, medical ward for monks, delivery room and staff quarters and pediatric ward and attended to the needs. —MNA

Transportation returns to normal in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July — Transportation services have resumed on Buthidaung-Maungtaw Road and Taungup-Pyay Road in Rakhine State where roads were damaged due to recent torrential rain.

The torrential rain hit Rakhine State starting from 27 June, and on 3 and 4 July. The torrential rain caused landslides, damaged roads and bridges on Buthidaung-Maungtaw road on 3 July. Similarly, the rain on 3 and 4 July also damaged Taemaik, Taragu and Thetkepyin bridges on Thandwe-Taungup road and swept away conduit pipe near Kamslae Village and damaged some sections of Taungup-Pyay Road.

Local authorities, Tatmadawmen, policemen, staff of Public Works and members of social organizations had repaired the roads and bridges as from 4 July, and transportation on the roads has now returned to normal. —MNA

Minister inspects rehabilitation tasks and chosen site for construction of permanent houses near Mayan village

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On his way back to Dedaye, he inspected Dedaye Township People’s Hospital, medical ward for monks, delivery room and staff quarters and pediatric ward and attended to the needs. —MNA
NAY PYI TAW, 9 July—Prime Minister General Thein Sein of the Union of Myanmar received member of the House of Councilors of DPJ Party of Japan and President of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Parliamentary Federation Mr Hideo Watanabe and members at the meeting hall of the Government Office here at 4 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Director-General of Government Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of Protocol Department and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yasuaki Nogawa.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives member of the House of Councilors of DPJ Party of Japan and President of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Parliamentary Federation

Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets member of the House of Councilors of DPJ Party of Japan and President of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Parliamentary Federation Mr Hideo Watanabe at the meeting hall of the Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw attends ceremony of collective ploughing, nurturing of monsoon paddy and harvesting of summer paddy.—MNA

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspects Kyangin-Pakokku railroad

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July—Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe and Magway Division PDC Chairman Col Phone Maw Shwe, arrived at Nonpoh River Water Pumping Project in Nonpoh Village of Pakokku Township on 7 July morning and heard reports on construction tasks, installation of power lines and water pumps presented by officials.

The project is being implemented to irrigate 8,000 acres of land. At salt production field in Kyatphyae Village of Pakokku Township, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw heard reports on construction of the railroad, bridges, earth work and progress of tasks presented by Deputy Superintending officials of Public Works.

On arrival at the project site of Kyangin-Pakokku railroad, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw gave necessary instructions.

On completion of Kyangin-Pakokku railroad, the people will have easy access to Pakokku of Magway Division from Pathein of Ayeyawady Division. In addition, the people can travel from Pakokku to Gangaw and from Pakokku, ChaungU, Monywa, YeU and KhinU to other townships of Upper Myanmar.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party inspected weeding at the cotton plantations of Cotton and Sericulture Department of Myanma Industrial Crops Development Enterprise at Myitche Village.

After inspecting the maintenance work at Anawrahta Bridge (Ayeyawady), Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party viewed thriving physic nut and sesame plantations along both sides of the road.—MNA
A trip to storm-hit areas of Mawlamyinegyun Township

We, the news team of the Myanma Alin Daily, left Yangon for Mawlamyinegyun on 27 June by hovercraft Pathein Twintay. At 4.30 pm when the hovercraft started to leave, it was raining lightly. On the way through Twantay Canal, the wind speed and rain got stronger. I was anxious about the rumours such as storms, earthquakes and floods I had heard before departure from Yangon.

Regarding the weather, the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology issued that the wind speed of monsoon would be strong to a certain degree. The weather was steadily. The weather would not be worse. However, the wind speed and rain got stronger. I was anxious about the rumours such as storms, earthquakes and floods I had heard before departure from Yangon.

Therefore, I thought that the wind speed and rain got stronger. I was anxious about the rumours such as storms, earthquakes and floods I had heard before departure from Yangon.

We witnessed the progress of rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks and the continuous efforts of the storm victims for their development. On my trip to the storm-hit areas, I witnessed the progress of rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks and the continuous efforts of the storm victims for their development.

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Poor states not to blame for food price rise

SAPPORO (Japan), 9 July — Chinese President Hu Jintao on Tuesday rejected a charge that growing demand from developing countries is to blame for soaring food prices.

“This is not a responsible attitude,” Hu said in the northern Japanese city of Sapporo.

The spike in the cost of food had “added to the difficulties of the global poverty reduction efforts and affected regional stability”, Hu added.

What was needed, he said, was a more favourable external environment for the growth of developing countries.

His remarks were distributed in English to reporters by Chinese Embassy staff. Hu was speaking after talks with the leaders of four other big emerging economies — India, Mexico, Brazil and South Africa.

All live, which Hu said account for 42 per cent of the world’s population and 12 per cent of global GDP, will attend the final day of the annual summit of the Group of Eight rich nations on Wednesday, when climate change will top the agenda.

Hu called for closer bilateral and multilateral cooperation among developing countries.

“World economic growth cannot be sustained if developing countries remain in a state of backwardness,” he said.

The Chinese President called for an international cooperation framework on food security and said developing countries should have a greater voice in international decision-making.

Hurricane “Bertha” begins to weaken in Atlantic

MIAMI, 9 July — The first hurricane of the 2008 Atlantic storm season began to weaken on Tuesday in the open Atlantic as it headed in the direction of Bermuda, US forecasters said.

Hurricane Bertha, which on Monday became a powerful Category 3 hurricane on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale, had slipped back to Category 2 strength with top sustained winds of 105 miles per hour (165 kilometres per hour) by 11 a.m. EDT (1500 GMT), the US National Hurricane Centre said.

A d i t t i o n a l weakening is forecast during the next 24 hours,” the Miami-based centre said in an advisory, adding that cooler waters, dry air and unfavourable atmospheric winds conditions were affecting the storm.

The centre’s hurricane experts said Bertha had also begun a turn that would gradually take it to the north, signalling an increased likelihood that the US East Coast would be spared a hurricane or tropical storm strike.

The Gulf of Mexico where the United States produces a third of its domestic crude oil and a large chunk of its natural gas was well out of the firing line.

The wealthy mid-Atlantic British colony of Bermuda, however, would have to continue to keep an eye on the storm as it drifted slowly toward the island, a major centre for the world’s reinsurance industry, the hurricane centre said.

Vietnam to produce more coal in 2010

HANOI, 9 July — Vietnam will, under a recent national coal development strategy, explore more coal mines, and exploit more coal using advanced and environmentally-friendly technologies in the coming years, according to local newspaper Vietnam Economic Times on Tuesday.

Under the strategy on developing the domestic coal sector by 2025 approved by the Vietnamese Government on July 7, the country will produce 48-50 million tons of coal in 2010, and complete exploration of new coal mines in the northern Red River Delta by 2015.

Using more advanced technologies in all stages of coal production, the sector will churn out more high-quality coal, and affect the environment less.

Terrorism, biggest threat for peace

ANKARA, 9 July — Chief of Turkish General Staff Yasar Buyukanit said on Tuesday that terrorism was the biggest threat for global peace and security in the age of globalization.

Speaking at the “Silk Road 2008 General/Admiral Seminar” held in Mediterranean province of Antalya, Buyukanit said it was impossible to counter terrorism in national level with national policies.

“I n t e r n a t i o n a l cooperation has become the sine qua non for the fight against terrorism,” Buyukanit was quoted as saying by the semi-official Anatolia news agency.

“I think we all agree that terrorism is the most serious sickness of the 21st century although we could not make a common definition of it,” he said.

Buyukanit said that none of the terrorism types could be considered legitimate, no matter which ideology they advocate. “More than that, even tendencies close to the ideology of terrorism were unacceptable,” he stated.

100 kilos of cocaine hidden in farm machines seized in Spain

BUENOS AIRES, 9 July — In a joint operation of Argentine and Spanish police in Spain’s northeastern city of Barcelona Monday, 100 kilos of cocaine were seized and four suspected smugglers arrested.

The detainees included Argentine nationals, Argentine Customs officers said in a statement.

Police found the drugs hidden in farming machines with state-of-the-art technology and had to call in metallurgy specialists to extract the narcotics.

Spanish police in June detained 52 suspected Latin American drug smugglers and seized 100 kilos of cocaine.

On June 3, 10 ground crew members at Madrid Airport were arrested for allegedly being part of a drug smuggling group. Also detained was a sub-inspector of the National Police Corps from Torrejon de Ardoz, Madrid. He is accused of drug trafficking, money laundering and aiding illegal immigration. — MNA/Reuters
US DoE staff using Govt credit cards on personal use

WASHINGTON, 9 July—The US Department of Education employees was found using government credit cards on their personal consumption, according to a news report on Sunday.

The department’s inspector general issued an audit report, saying items and services paid by government credit cards for personal use included meals, items at clothing stores and rental cars and were worth 49,500 US dollars as a whole in the fiscal year 2006, said the Washington Post report.

Taking business travel expenses for instance, the audit report said that a total of 18,256 dollars had been inappropriately used by 34 employees including payments to clothing retailers and restaurants near their homes or office.

Four department employees was found having made 13,570 dollars in credit card withdrawals as the department’s travel allowance for meals and incidentals when they were not on business travel, it added.

For their defence, questioned employees said that they “inadvertently” used the cards to pay for personal expenses or charged meals at local restaurants, according to the report.

By releasing the report, the inspector general office called on the department to improve oversight of travel charge cards that are supposed to be only used for official travel, including to schools, training and conferences. “Inappropriate use of the travel card ... represents abuse of a government-provided resource, and compromises the integrity of the department,” it said.

MNA/Xinhua

Second arrest in case of murdered French students

LONDON, 9 July—British police have made a second arrest in their investigation into the murder of two French students in a frenzied knife attack in London after a man handed himself in to police, authorities said on Monday. Bio-engineering students Laurent Bonomo and Gabriel Ferez, both 23, were bound, gagged and repeatedly stabbed in Bonomo’s south London apartment in what police said were the most “frenzied, brutal and horrific” murders they had seen. — MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Xinhua
Prenatal vitamin D linked to kids’ dental health

NEW YORK, 9 July— By maintaining adequate vitamin D levels during pregnancy, mothers may be protecting their babies against early tooth decay in childhood, according a study reported Friday at the International Association for Dental Research meeting in Toronto, Canada.

Dr Robert Schroth from the University of Manitoba reported that mothers of children who developed cavities at an early age had significantly lower vitamin D levels during pregnancy than those whose children were cavity-free. The study team enrolled 206 women during the second trimester of pregnancy “as that is when primary teeth begin to develop and calcify,” Schroth explained in comments to Reuters Health.

They measured vitamin D levels in the women’s blood at enrollment and then followed them until their infants were around 1 year old. Only 21 women (10.5 per cent) were found to have adequate vitamin D levels. The average vitamin D level was about half what is considered adequate, the investigators found.

Among 135 infants who had their teeth checked by the team, roughly 22 per cent had noticeable enamel defects and about 34 per cent had early childhood tooth decay. “Considering that 90 per cent of this study group was comprised of urban Aboriginal women, the results may not be completely generalizable to the public at large,” Schroth noted.

MNA/Reuters

Satellites launched for Arab League and US firm

KOUROU (French Guiana), 9 July — An Ariane-5 rocket blasted off from Europe’s space base in French Guiana on Monday, putting into orbit satellites for the Arab League and a US-linked telecommunications firm, officials said.

Twenty-seven minutes after its launch from the Kourou base, the rocket released ProtoStar-1 — the first satellite for the new US-based telecommunications company ProtoStar. The satellite, built in Palo Alto, California by Space Systems/Loral, will help to provide direct-to-home television transmissions and broadband services throughout Southeast Asia.

Eight minutes later, the rocket released a BADR-6 satellite for Arabsat, the 21-nation telecommunications group of the Arab League, that is designed for direct television broadcasting to the Middle East and North Africa.

MNA/Reuters

New Zealand in global sustainability list’s top 10

WELLINGTON, 9 July — New Zealand has scored seventh place out of more than 140 countries for its environmental sustainability, the New Zealand Herald daily reported on Monday.

The Environmental Performance Index, a collaborative effort between Yale and Columbia Universities in the United States, was designed as a way of quantifying and benchmarking the environmental performance of each country’s policies.

MNA/Xinhua
Scolari charms his way through first Chelsea outing

COBHAM (England), 9 July — With his brave, halting English, ready smile and promise to try to keep Frank Lampard and Didier Drogba in London, Luiz Felipe Scolari charmed his way through his first public appearance as Chelsea manager.

The Brazilian coach even echoed his popular predecessor but one, Jose Mourinho, when he talked about being “special”.

“Yes I am special for my friends and for my family...but as a manager so-so,” Scolari, who won the World Cup with Brazil, joked at a packed news conference on Tuesday.

Such was the circus surrounding Scolari’s arrival that the Premier League and Champions League runners-up, who sucked Avram Grant in May, had to move his first news conference to a big hotel near the training ground.

Scolari, who only occasionally needed the help of an interpreter, said he felt no more pressure in the high-profile job under the watchful eye of billionaire owner Roman Abramovich than in previous jobs as Brazil and Portugal manager and at clubs in Brazil and the Middle East.

“If you are a coach in Brazil you know what pressure is,” he said. “I think I am prepared.”

MNA/Reuters

Fenerbahce sign Spain striker Guiza from Mallorca

ISTANBUL, 9 July — Fenerbahce have signed Spanish Euro 2008 winner striker Daniel Guiza from Real Mallorca in a four-year deal, the Turkish club said on its Web site (www.fenerbahce.org) on Tuesday.

Guiza is former Spain coach Luis Aragones’s first major signing since taking charge at the Istanbul club last week after he led his country to their first major title in 44 years.

No further details on Guiza’s signing were initially released by the club.

The 27-year-old was the top scorer in the Primera Division last season with 27 goals and scored twice during Spain’s triumphant campaign in which he was used mainly as a substitute.

Last season Fenerbahce reached the quarter-finals of the Champions League under Brazilian coach Zico, but they lost out to Istanbul rivals Galatasaray in the domestic title race.

MNA/Reuters

Bulgaria’s Dimitrov eyes senior title after Wimbledon win

SOFIA, 9 July — Bulgaria’s Grigor Dimitrov refused to get carried away at becoming his country’s first Wimbledon champion after victory in the boys’ singles at the grasscourt grand slam.

The 17-year-old Dimitrov clinched the junior title on Sunday with a 7-5, 6-3 win over Finland’s Henri Kontinen in the final.

“Yes, I won the Wimbledon title but it’s not such a big success for me as it’s only a junior title after all,” Dimitrov, who did not lose a set during his run, told reporters at Sofia airport on Monday. “I’ll be really satisfied when I win a men’s tournament of such magnitude.”

“To be honest, I didn’t expect to win because I wasn’t well prepared,” said Dimitrov, who will be given a wild card for next year’s main draw at Wimbledon.

“My main goal now is to establish myself among the top 100 in the men’s ranking and never leave there,” Dimitrov said.

“It’s a magnificent achievement for our country,” said Bulgarian tennis federation president Stefan Tsvetkov. — MNA/Reuters

Romario, Schumacher decline Champions League chance

MILAN, 9 July — Retired Brazil striker Romario and ex-Ferrari driver Michael Schumacher have declined an offer to play for San Marino’s SS Murata in their Champions League first qualifying round match at home to Gothenburg next Tuesday.

Romario’s fellow Brazil World Cup winner Aldair, 42, will play in the first-leg match however.

“On 23 May Romario’s father died and he told Aldair that he didn’t feel it was right to leave everyone to come and play. It is a shame because we were close to this dream,” Murata sporting director Denis Casadei told Italian media.

He said Germany’s retired seven times Formula One world champion Schumacher, a keen soccer player who sometimes turns out for his local club FC Echichens in Switzerland, had also turned down the chance to be involved. Romario, who is also 42, announced his retirement in April after a controversial career in which he claimed to have scored more than 1,000 goals. — MNA/Reuters

Panama complain to FIFA over treatment in El Salvador

PANAMA CITY, 9 July — Panama have complained to FIFA about the treatment they received during a 3-1 World Cup qualifier defeat in El Salvador last month, saying the players were the target of racism and bags of urine.

In a letter to world soccer’s governing body, the Panamanian federation also said their goalkeeper was struck by a bottle and that El Salvador’s captain threw a Panamanian emblem to the ground after the pre-match formalities.

El Salvador, trailing 1-0 from the first leg and 1-0 down at halftime in the return, scored three times in the last 20 minutes to win the preliminary tie 3-2 on aggregate and qualify for the group stage of the CONCACAF qualifying tournament.

Panama complained that on the eve of the game, they arrived for practise at the Cuscatlan stadium and were forced to get changed on the team bus after finding the gates locked.

While they were on the bus, local fans banged against the sides of the vehicle and hurled racist insults at the players, said the letter published on the Panamanian federation’s website (www.mareaopa.com).

“From the start to the finish of the game, our players were constantly insulted by the public who, in addition to the racist insults, threw bottles, bags of water and bags of urine, amid the indifference of the police, who should have given protection,” it said.

The letter added that goalkeeper Jaime Penedo was hit by a bottle as he prepared to take a goal kick but said the referee failed to stop the game.

Barca refuse to release Ronaldinho for Olympics

MADRID, 9 July — Barcelona on Tuesday refused to allow forward Ronaldinho to take his place in the Brazil squad for next month’s Olympic Games.

The out-of-form 28-year-old, who has been told he is surplus to requirements at the Spanish club, was named in Brazil coach Dunga’s squad for Beijing on Monday as one of the overage players.

“Ronaldinho has to report for training next Monday for the first work session of the 2008-9 season,” the Primera Liga club said in a statement on their Web site (www.fcbarcelona.com).

“The Olympics do not feature in the FIFA calendar and there are no special rulings on the issue, so the club is not obliged to release its players.”

“In recent weeks, sports director Txiki Begiristain has consistently stated that Barcelona’s objective is to have the maximum number of players available for the Champions League qualifier.”

MNA/Reuters

Dominik Meffert from Germany returns a ball to Andreas Seppi from Italy during the Suisse Open tennis tournament in Gstaad, Switzerland, on 8 July, 2008. — INTERNET
Ambush kills Darfur peacekeepers

**Darfur, 9 July**—Seven members of the joint UN-African Union peace mission in Sudan's Darfur region have been killed and 22 hurt in an attack, the UN says.

UN officials said it was one of the deadliest attacks on its forces in recent years.

Sudanese state media reports that 40 armoured vehicles ambushed the peace force while on patrol in North Darfur.

The UN-AU mission has been struggling to contain the violence in the region, with just 9,000 troops.

Heavy weapons, including mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, were used in this attack, UN officials said.

It is not known who carried out the attack.

Those who died included four Rwandan peacekeepers, one policeman from Ghana and another from Uganda.

It is unclear who was responsible. Numerous armed groups operate in Darfur—rebelfactions, pro-government militias and criminals.—Internet

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UNESCO lists Spanish cave paintings

**Madrid, 9 July**—Paintings in northern Spain which were declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO, the country's Culture Ministry said on Tuesday.

The paintings from the Paleolithic age show-animals such as bison and horses are in the Altamira cave in the Cantabria Region.

The cave was declared a heritage site in 1985.

Spain's Culture Ministry said in a statement that UNESCO had particularly valued the fact that the paintings were "perfectly dated and recognized by the scientific community".

**MNA/Reuters**

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Magnitude 6 quake startles southern Peru

**Arequipa (Peru), 9 July**—A magnitude 6.0 earthquake rattled southern Peru early on Tuesday, startling residents in the Andean country's second-largest city, Arequipa, who ran out of their homes into the streets.

The epicentre of the quake was located 33 miles (53 kilometres) north-northwest of Arequipa, according to the US Geological Survey. It was recorded at a depth of 46 miles (74 kilometres).

Peru's police and civil defence agency said there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage, but magnitude 6 quakes are capable of causing severe damage.

Witnesses said people refused to go back into their homes after the quake, fearing they might collapse in an aftershock.—**MNA/Reuters**

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UK firms’ cashflow weakest in at least 16 yrs

**London, 9 July**—Falling sales in a weak domestic market have left British firms facing their worst cashflow situation since records began in 1992, a survey from the British Chamber of Commerce showed on Tuesday.

The survey of nearly 5,000 businesses highlighted a sharp deterioration in conditions over the past three months as damage from the credit crunch spread beyond the banking sector and into the real economy.

The downturn was particularly evident in the service sector where confidence, hiring intentions, sales and orders all fell to their lowest level since the early 1990s.

"These results show a real risk of recession in the coming months," said David Frost, director general of the BCC. —**MNA/Reuters**

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**WEATHER**

**Wednesday, 9 July, 2008**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Kachin State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Mon State, isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Yangon Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.20) inch, Thandwe (4.84) inches, Thaton (4.06) inches, Theinzeayat (3.23) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (3.11) inches, Nyamekhba (2.95) inches, Khayoum (2.80) inches, Gwa and Zaungtu (2.72) inches each, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (2.44) inches, Myeik (2.28) inches and Hpa-an (2.05) inches.

Maximum temperature on 8-7-2008 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 9-7-2008 was 69°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 9-7-2008 was 91%. Total sun shine hours on 8-7-2008 was (0.5) hours (approx).

Rainfall 7-7-2008 was 2.95 inches at Mingaladon, (2.44) inches at Kaba-Aye and (1.82) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 2008 was 48.27 inches at Mingaladon, (58.15) inches at Kaba-Aye and (70.75) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southwest at (21:30) hours MST on 8-7-2008.

**Bay inference:** Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and generally strong in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 10-7-2008:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin, Shan, Chin States and upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Moderate to strong monsoon.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 10-7-2008:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 10-7-2008:** Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-7-2008:** 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-centred persons and unscrupulous elements are now seeking their self-interests by sending to the foreign news agencies 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-centred persons and unscrupulous elements.

Skyful liars attempting to destroy nation
- BBC lying
- VOA deceiving
- RFA setting up hostilities
- Beware! Don’t be bought by those ill-wishers

Witness may inform about misappropriation of internal and international relief funds and supplies

Anyone may dial the following phone numbers of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement if he witnesses or knows that the cash assistance and relief supplies donated from abroad and at home to the storm victims are kept for self-interest, traded, used for particular persons and organizations, or misappropriated for other purposes.

Head of Office Ph: 067 404021 and 067 404022
Deputy Head of Office Ph: 09 860 1002

Health care services in Mawlamyinegyun

YANGON, 9 July — A team led by Dr Zaw Win of Leprosy control Project of Health Department and Dr Htin Lin of National Nutrition Development and Research Unit studied the nutrition of children in the storm-hit areas in Mawlamyinegyun Township on 29 and 30 June. They discussed conducting course on distribution of food packets and health care services for children and pregnant women with health staff at the hospital.

On 30 June, a health care team comprising Dr Khin Khin Myint of Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital gave treatment to patients, prevention of communicable diseases and health knowledge.—MNA

Flood Bulletin

NAY PYI TAW, 9 July — According to the 06:30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Monywa (1027 cm) has exceeded 27 cm above its danger level. The water level may remain above its danger level during the next 72 hrs commencing noon today.

According to the 06:30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk (1094 cm) has exceeded 24 cm above its danger level. The water level may remain above its danger level during the next 72 hrs commencing noon today.

MNA