Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to French Republic

NAY PYI TAW, 14 July — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic, on the occasion of the National Day of the French Republic which falls on 14 July 2008.—MNA

True patriotism

* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

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

NAY PYI TAW, 13 July—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attended the Waso robe offering ceremony of the families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) of the Ministry of Defence at Anawrahta Hall, here, this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa, Vice-Chairman Pyay Zawtikayon Pali Tekkatho Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadha Bhaddanta Kundalajoti (See page 8)

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

**Monday, 14 July, 2008**

**Sittoung Bridge (Moppalin) to bring about swift commodity flow**

Sittoung Bridge (Moppalin) linking Kyaikhto Township, Mon State, and Waw Township, Bago Division, was opened on 12 July. The 2392.7 feet long bridge is of steel beam type and it can withstand 60 tons of load.

The new Sittoung Bridge (Moppalin) was built in order to replace the old bridge that was no longer suitable for use as it was 45 years old.

Peace and stability, secure and smooth transport, rich in natural resources and swift commodity flow constitute a driving factor for improvement of the socio-economic status of the people. This being so, the government has built a large number of roads and bridges the length and breadth of the nation.

At present, altogether 235 bridges, all 180 feet and above long, including Sittoung Bridge (Moppalin) have been built, and a network of roads linking east and west and south and north of the country emerged.

Major bridges were built in Mon State and Sittoung Bridge (Moppalin) is the sixth of its kind in the state. With better transport, Mon State, Kayin State and Taninthayi Division, which were in no position to deal much in the past due to poor transport, have now been able to enjoy economic development resulting from swift commodity flow.

Construction of a large number of roads and bridges depicts the economic strength of the State and the creativity and innovations of Myanmar engineers. With regional development, the socio-economic status of local people will improve.

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**Prime Minister General Thein Sein felicitates counterpart of French Republic**

**NAY PYI TAW, 14 July—**General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Francois Fillon, Prime Minister of the French Republic, on the occasion of the National Day of the French Republic, which falls on 14 July 2008.—**MNA

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**Donations for storm-affected monasteries**

**YANGON, 13 July—**A ceremony to donate cash and religious books to storm-hit monasteries was held at the branch office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs here today.

At the donation ceremony, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepted K 26 million for the monastic education school in Nwezinyaw village in Mawlamyine Township by U Tin Sein- Thirithu Dhamma Theingi Daw Kyin Thein and family and 1250 religious books worth over K 5 million by U Chan Tha and Daw Ohnmar Myint. **MNA**

**Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepts religious books donated by wellwishers.**

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**MDG hosts dinner to sales representatives**

**YANGON, 13 July —**MDG hosts dinner to sales representatives of Lower Myanmar at Western Park Royal, Kandawgyi Garden here yesterday.

At the ceremony, National Sales Manager U Than Aung and Managing Director U Aung Maw Thein of the company extended greetings. In the lucky draw programme, three Sony TVs, four Digital Video Cameras, 29 Cameras and 24 DVDs were presented as prizes.

Next, they selected winners and the managing director presented first prize to Aungparsay snack shop in Mayangon, second to U Soe Naing (Myaungmya) and third to Daw Yin Nu (North-Dagon).

MDG has distributed Gold Roast coffee mix, Gold Roast Gold coffee mix, BenCafe coffee mix, Calsome nutritious cereal, Royal Myanmar Tea mix, Fresh-up lemon tea, Calsome Plus cereal, Calsome chocolate cereal and Calsome strawberry cereal throughout the country.—**MNA**

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**Flood Bulletin**

**NAY PYI TAW, 14 July—**The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology today issued a flood bulletin that the water levels of Homalin (2900) cm during the next (24) hrs, of Mawlaik (1230) cm, of Kalewa (1550) cm and of Monywa (1000) cm during the next (3) days. The water level of Ayeyawady river at NyaungU has exceeded by (7) cm above its danger level. The water level is rising by (1cm/hr) in average at present and it may continue to rise above (10)cm more. It is forecast to fall below the danger level of NyaungU (2120) cm during the next (2) days.

The water levels of Ayeyawady river at Hinthada is rising by 1.5 cm/hr in average at present and it is forecast to exceed its danger level (1342) cm during the next (2) days. **MNA**

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**MDG hosts dinner to sales representatives**

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At the ceremony, National Sales Manager U Than Aung and Managing Director U Aung Maw Thein of the company extended greetings. In the lucky draw programme, three Sony TVs, four Digital Video Cameras, 29 Cameras and 24 DVDs were presented as prizes. Next, they selected winners and the managing director presented first prize to Aungparsay snack shop in Mayangon, second to U Soe Naing (Myaungmya) and third to Daw Yin Nu (North-Dagon).

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Clinton on Obama’s VP potential list

WASHINGTON, 13 July—US Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama has listed his former rival, Hillary Rodham Clinton, as one of his vice presidential potentials, the Los Angeles Times reported on Saturday. According to the report, Jill Iscol, a Democratic donor, was told on Monday that Clinton is one of his running mates candidates.

Iscol, who was a faithful supporter of Clinton’s presidential campaign, told the newspapers that Obama has reached out to his former rival because he heard she was unhappy about the way she had been treated by the Democratic Party and the media. She also recalled that Obama said it would be a mistake not to have Clinton on such a list but her husband, former President Bill Clinton, was apotential “complication” to him.

“He said once you’re a president, even if you’re a former president, you’re always a president,” Iscol said. Speculations are increasing on whom the Illinois Senator would choose to be his vice presidential candidate. Those who are considered being on his list include Virginia Governor Tim Kaine, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius, and even Republican Senator Chuck Hagel.

However, Clinton’s supporters have been calling Obama to share the dream ticket with the New York Senator, who has won 18 million popular votes in the primary season.

NATO soldier dies of wounds in Afghanistan

KABEL (Afghanistan), 13 July—NATO says one of its soldiers died of wounds sustained in northern Afghanistan.

NATO said in a statement that the soldier was caught in an explosion in the country’s north.

The alliance did not identify the soldier’s nationality. It said he died Sunday.

There are nearly 53,000 troops from 40 nations serving in NATO’s International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.—Internet

Volcano erupts on a remote Island in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, 13 July—A volcano erupted Saturday with little warning on a remote island in Alaska, sending residents of a ranch fleeing from falling ash and volcanic rock.

Okmok Caldera erupted hours after seismologists at the Alaska Volcano Observatory began de-tecting a series of tremors. The explosion flung an ash cloud at least 50,000 feet high, said a geophysicist, Steve McNutt.

Nine people, including three children, were at Fort Glenn, a cattle ranch near the volcano on Unmnak Island, in the western Aleutians. They called the authorities on a satellite phone before losing the connection, the Coast Guard said. A vessel responding to a request for emergency assistance picked them up.

Okmok is 60 miles west of a busy fishing port, Dutch Harbor, on Unalaska Island. Ash was reported to be falling in the region, Mr McNutt said. The 3,500-foot volcano last erupted in 1997, Mr McNutt said.

It had shown signs of increased activity in recent months, he said.

Slow-moving hurricane hovers near Bermuda

This image shows Hurricane Bertha approximately 245 miles southeast of Bermuda. According to the National Weather Service at 10 pm EDT Bertha had sustained winds of near 90 miles per hour and was moving slowly toward the north-northeast at near 5 mph.—Internet

Small problems hamper iPhone launch

BEIJING, 13 July—The launch of Apple Inc’s new iPhone became an information-technology meltdownd on Friday, as customers were unable to get their phones working.

A spokesman for AT&T, the exclusive carrier for the iPhone in the United States, was quoted Saturday by the Associated Press as saying that there was a global problem with Apple’s iTunes servers that prevented the phones from being fully activated in stores, as had been planned. Instead, employees were telling buyers to go through a reactivation process released for that phone on Friday morning, which required the phone to be reactivated through iTunes. The new phone went on sale in 21 countries on Friday, creating a global burden on the iTunes servers, said the AP.

Apple’s new 3G iPhone. Home and perform the last step by connecting their phones to their own computers, spokesman Michael Coo was cited as saying.

However, the iTunes servers were equally hard to reach from home, leaving the phones unusable except for emergency calls.

The problem extended to owners of the previous iPhone model. A software update released for that phone on Friday morning required the phone to be reactivated through iTunes. The new phone went on sale in 21 countries on Friday, creating a global burden on the iTunes servers, said the AP.


Iran condemns McCain for cigarette joke

TEHRAN, 13 July— Iran has condemned US Republican presidential candidate John McCain for joking about killing Iranians with cigarettes and said it showed his “warmongering” foreign policy attitude, media said on Sunday.

McCain, who once sang in jest about bombing Iran, on Tuesday reacted to a report of raising US cigarette exports to the Islamic Republic by saying it may be “a way of killing ‘em.”

“Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini said: “McCain’s crude remark on the indiscriminate killing of the Iranian nation not only testifies to his disturbed state of mind, but also to his warmongering approach to foreign policy.”

In a statement quoted by the website of Iran’s state Press TV satellite station, Hosseini added: “We condemn such jokes and believe them to be inappropriate for a US presidential candidate. It is most evident that jokes about one of eight active genocides will not be tolerated by Iranians or Americans.”

McCain, known for acerbic comments and for sometimes firing verbally from the hip, was responding to a report that US exports to Iran rose tenfold during President George W. Bush’s term in office despite hostility between the two countries.

Eight killed by suspected leptospirosis in Philippines

MANILA, 13 July — The Philippine Government said on Saturday eight people have died and 77 fell ill with suspected leptospirosis in the wake of a typhoon disaster, the official Philippines News Agency reported.

The suspected leptospirosis was caused by either germs from rodents’ urine or heavy rat info-station, according to the report. The report quoted Department of Health officials as saying that all the deaths took place in the western Visayas region in central Philippine pines, which was severely hit by “Fengshen”, locally called “Frank”, last month.

Afghan civilians have suffered from a rash of bombings this month. Around 55 civilians were killed in a massive bomb attack on the Indian Embassy in Kabul on Monday, while a government commission said this week that U.S. airstrikes killed 47 civilians in Nangarhar on 6 July.

More than 2,300 people have died in insurgency related violence this year.

Small airplane accident in Chile kills nine

SANTIAGO, 13 July — A small airplane crashed Thursday in the south of Chile shortly after it took off from La Paloma Airport in Puerto Montt, capital of the region of Los Lagos, 990 kilometres south of Santiago, killing nine persons, authorities said.

A Beechcraft 99A aircraft took off from La Paloma Airport at 10:20 am local time (1420 GMT) on route to Melinka Island but it fell down near the airport at 10:30 am local time (1430 GMT), near a residential sector.

According to witness the left wing of the plane started on fire before the aircraft fell down.

This is the third aerial accident that occurs in the south of Chile in more than a month. The cause of the crash is unknown.

Nicaragua’s San Cristobal volcano spews gas, ash

MANAGUA, 13 July — Nicaragua’s San Cristobal volcano rumbled with a series of small explosions on Friday and spewed gases and ash that reached a small town in the northwest of the country, but authorities said no one was hurt.

San Cristobal, which stands 5,725 feet (1,745 meters) above sea level, is Nicaragua’s highest volcano and one of eight active volcanoes in the small Central American nation, according to the US Geological Survey website.

Nicaragua’s geographic institute Ineter said the San Cristobal volcano produced a series of tremors in recent weeks but said it did not pose an immediate risk to communities living in surrounding areas.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 14 July, 2008
Thai-Chinese forces launch anti-terror combined training

BANGKOK, 13 July — Special warfare troops from Thailand and China on Friday started their second combined training, with a theme of anti-terror, in Thailand’s northern province of Chiang Mai. Coded “Strike-2008”, the training will last twenty days.

First Sino-Thai combined training “Strike-2007” was conducted in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province in July last year.

In presiding over the opening ceremony, Zheng said this year’s training will highlight the theme of anti-terrorism, which is in line with the trends in current global and domestic security situation.

He reiterated that China is willing to enhance military exchange and cooperation with other countries to strengthen readiness for antiterror warfare and contribute to regional and global peace and stability.

The training involves 48 personnel from the special troops of both sides, 24 for each, who will be mixed into two teams to join in the combined training.

Divided into four stages, the training include basic training, skills training, combat tactics training, and comprehensive exercise, aiming to strengthen capability and readiness in combined training and commanding of the troops.

One killed, ten missing in building collapse in Egypt

CAIRO, 13 July — At least one was killed and four other people injured when a three-storey building collapsed Thursday in Egypt’s Nile Delta, the official MENA news agency reported.

Nawal Mohamed el-Sayyed, a 65-year-old woman, was killed when the building collapsed in eastern Mansoura, Daqahliya governorate, some 120 kilometres northeast of Cairo.

Rescuers are still trying to get 10 missing people from under the debris, said the report. No more details of the incident are available at the moment.

Building collapse incidents occurred from time to time in Egypt.

At least 35 were killed when a 12-storey residential building collapsed last December in the northern Egyptian coastal city of Alexandria.

Teenage girl dies in rocket attack in Pakistan’s tribal region

ISLAMABAD, 13 July — A teenage girl was killed when unidentified people fired rockets at the residence of a security personnel in Pakistan’s tribal region on Friday.

The 15-year-old Salma was killed on the spot while her sister and brother were injured in the attack at Salarzai area of Bajaur tribal region, according to the News Network International news agency. The injured were shifted to local hospital.

Teenage girl dies in rocket attack in Pakistan’s tribal region

The local political authorities have started to investigate the incident.

One killed, ten missing in building collapse in Egypt

A performer puts her head in a crocodile’s mouth during a performance in Beijing World Park on 5 July, 2008 file photo. Beijing World Park is a large area of gardens displaying miniatures of scenic spots throughout the world.

INTERNET

Britain’s credit crunch hits kids’ pocket money

LONDON, 13 July — Hard-up parents are cutting back on their children’s pocket money as the economic downturn starts to hit household budgets, insurer AXA said.

One in six told a survey that they had cut back or even stopped pocket money in the last six months.

Allowances can form a significant drain on home finances, with one in twenty 17-year-olds saying they receive between 100 and 200 pounds a month from the “Bank of Mum and Dad”.

Russia rebuffs US over Georgia mediation

MOSCOW, 13 July — Russia will reject moves by the United States to play a bigger role in defusing a standoff with Georgia. Interfax news agency quoted a Russian diplomatic source as saying on Friday.

“We don’t see any reason for anyone’s mediation in settling relations,” the agency quoted the unidentified diplomatic source as saying. “We have direct dialogue with Georgia and contacts are continuing,” the source said.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, on a visit to US ally Georgia on Thursday, called for a more intensive international effort to resolve a conflict over Georgia’s breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Abkhazia and South Ossetia both broke away from Tbilisi’s rule in wars in the 1990s. They have become the focus of escalating tension between Tbilisi and Moscow and some Western diplomats say they fear more violence in the regions.

Wild elephant kills four in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 13 July — A wild elephant straying into a village trampled four members of a family to death and injured another in southeastern Bangladesh, witnesses said on Friday.

The elephant attacked the villagers on Thursday night in the Bandarban hill district’s Lama area, 350 kilometres (210 miles) from the capital Dhaka.

It damaged several shops and three houses before returning to a nearby forest, villagers told reporters.

Elephants, an endangered species in Bangladesh, have killed 15 people on average annually in recent years in this South Asian country, where their forest habitats have shrunk due to encroachment by the rising human population.
Some townships in Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions were ravaged by the cyclone ‘Nargis’ in the early May 2008. On 3 May, the Prime Minister closely supervised the rescue and relief tasks being carried out day in, day out by servicemen, service personnel and social organizations.

Besides, the Head of State and the Deputy Head of State on their inspection tours comforted storm victims and gave guidance on the tasks. As a result, rescue and relief tasks could be expedited significantly. The government has designated the plan for taking care of the victims at the national level, and it is working hard to achieve the plan.

Departments, companies and well-wishers are making generous donations, while the government is spending billions of kyats on regeneration of the storm-hit areas and rehabilitation of the victims.

Similarly, world countries, regional and neighbouring countries, UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs are continuously donating humanitarian aid.

Moreover, the ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference was hosted in Yangon on 25 May. So, the donor countries are continuously providing relief supplies for the storm victims in accordance with their pledges.

The following tables show relief supplies donated by internal and international donors from 6 May to 28 June.

### Relief supplies donated by internal donors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Relief</th>
<th>Reconstruction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Relief supplies (ton)</td>
<td>Construction material (ton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government, organizations and people</td>
<td>2911.29</td>
<td>308.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foodstuff/medicine (ton)</td>
<td>1441.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Construction material (ton)</td>
<td>308.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Relief supplies donated by international donors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor countries and organizations</th>
<th>Relief</th>
<th>Reconstruction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31 countries, 19 organizations, donors</td>
<td>5814.046</td>
<td>173.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foodstuff/medicine (ton)</td>
<td>2388.154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Construction material (ton)</td>
<td>173.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Business materials</td>
<td>32.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Approximately, international relief supplies total $408.26 tons)

In order to achieve the target of ensuring better living conditions of victims than that before the natural disaster in reconstruction tasks, 16 feet x 20 feet durable houses with concrete post shoes, timber floors and timber plus bamboo walls, roofed with CI sheets are being built for the victims.

In contributing towards rehabilitation and reconstruction of storm-hit areas

Kyaw Swa Nge

Due to the contribution of the government, and local and international donors, storm victims have restored their agricultural farming and fisheries.

So, it is found that construction materials such as corrugated iron sheets, nails, timber and iron rods, and farming materials such as power-tillers, paddy seeds, fertilizer, water pumps, generators, fuel oil, fishing boats, and fishing nets for rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks are not many in proportion to relief supplies, foodstuff and medicines.

Now, relief tasks and disease control measures are in full swing thanks to efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw and generous donations of internal and international donors. So, rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks are under way.

For storm victims to be able to resettle in their original places, measures are being taken with added momentum for reconstruction of ravaged villages, providing them with temporary shelter, reconstruction of roads and bridges, opening of temporary health care centres, reopening of schools, and restoration of their businesses such as agricultural farming, fisheries and salt industries. In the process, supervision of the government, contribution of well-wishers, participation of domestic companies and supplies of international donors are being exerted in combination, and as a result, the whole operation has showed successful.

In order to achieve the target of ensuring better living conditions of victims than that before the natural disaster in reconstruction tasks, 16 feet x 20 feet durable houses with concrete post shoes, timber floors and timber plus bamboo walls, roofed with CI sheets are being built for the victims. In doing so, well-wisher companies have built thousands of houses with the assistance and under the arrangements of the government. And they are working hard to complete the programme in a short time. Moreover, there is a plan to establish new towns with about 1,000 houses each in places that are safe from strong winds and floods.

All the basic education schools in the storm-hit areas began before the end of June for local youths to pursue education continuously. Besides, self-reliant affiliated schools in some villages have been upgraded to government basic education schools. School textbooks have been distributed to every student.

Regarding vocational tasks, tractor camps have been opened region-wise and arrangements are being made to provide power-tillers and sufficient fuel in time for those who have resettled in their native places to fully engage in agriculture. Paddy seeds, fertilizers and pesticides are being distributed on credit to the victims. Small loans are being disbursed to farmers based on the number of acres.

In the meantime, local authorities are extending a helping hand to salvage the sunken fishing boats and repair them, and providing fishermen with small fishing boats, motorized fishing boats, engines, fishing nets, accessories, and fuel. Embankments are being built to prevent the salt farms being flooded with seawater, and salt farmers will be provided with kilns and equipment and cash assistance.

Due to the contribution of the government, and local and international donors, storm victims have restored their agriculture and fisheries. So, storm-affected areas with a

(See page 7)
The government is taking long-term preparedness against natural disasters, while carrying out rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks. So, it is fair to say that now long-term preparedness, rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks have been at the forefront of the operation.

According to the situations, storm-hit areas and victims need rehabilitation, reconstruction and preparedness supplies much more than relief supplies, foodstuff and medicines.

The rehabilitation sector calls for greater number and amount of supplies and equipment for restoration of the victims’ businesses such as cattle, small tractors, power-tillers, paddy seeds, fertilizers, water pumps, generators, fuel, fishing boats, diesel engines, fishing nets, fishing gear, kilns for salt farms and equipment. The reconstruction sector needs larger volume of construction materials such as CI sheets, nails, cement, timber, bamboo and iron rods.

Now is the period of rehabilitation and reconstruction undertakings. So, well-wishers and donors should donate greater proportion of construction materials and vocational equipment to ease the sufferings of the victims.

Translation: TTA+MS

* It can be seen that most of the aids provided by the International community are relief items and foodstuff which were needed only in the relief period.

* As the relief and preparedness measures have been carried out in the storm-hit regions successfully, the rehabilitation and reconstruction works are being undertaken at present.

* Now, it is necessary to give priority to making donations of construction materials such as CI sheets, nails, cement, timber and iron rods and donations of such as power-tillers, paddy strays, fertilizers, water pumps, generators, fuel, fishing boats/machines and fishing nets for rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks and resuming businesses.
and member Sayadaws, Tipitakadhara Dhamma-bhandagarika Sayadaws, Vice-Chairman of the SPDC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Command-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Members of SPDC and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers, of the Ministry of Defence, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, ministers and their wives and families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air). Adviser U Arnt Maung acted as master of ceremonies and supplemented on the agenda of the ceremony.

First, the ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa. Next, the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Vice-Chairman Sayadaw wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing donated Wao robes and offerings to Secretary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San donated Wao robes and offerings to Vice-Chairman Sayadaw wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and the congregation receive Nine Precepts from the Vice-Chairman Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing...
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, SPDC Members, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, and ministers.

Afterwards, the Secretary Sayadaw delivered a sermon and the congregation shared merits gained. Next, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and members offered a day’s meals to members of the Sangha.

House surgeon team leaves for Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 13 July— Under the arrangements of the Ministry of Health, doctors, nurses and health assistants are providing health care to storm victims in storm-hit regions in Ayeyawady Division.

A 55-member medical team comprising house surgeons from Universities of Medicine-1 and Medicine-2 together with their supervisors left here for Kungyangon, Kawhmu, Kyauktan and Twantay Townships in Yangon Division and Labutta, Myaungmya, Wakema and Bogale Townships in Ayeyawady Division. Before their departure for storm-stricken regions, Deputy Director-General Dr Win Myint of Health Department, Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Nu Nu Tha and officials encouraged them and attended to the needs.

The house surgeons will provide free medical treatment to local people and perform preventive measures against infectious diseases in cooperation with local health staff in the storm-hit regions.

Agriculture and Irrigation Minister attends coord meeting on higher output of agricultural produce

YANGON, 13 July— A coordination meeting on boosting agricultural production was held at Irrigation Department in Yankin Township here on 11 July, attended by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Directors-General and Managing-Directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, departmental heads and members of Yangon Division Agricultural Coordination Committee.

In his address, minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo called for meeting of the targeted cultivation acreage and gave instructions to grow paddy in storm-hit Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions in time, to make efforts for boosting of per acre yield, to use quality paddy strains in stead of normal ones, to distribute methods for durable use of chemical fertilizer without wastage, to promote use of worm-cast in farming in addition to natural fertilizer and bio fertilizer, to plant more physic-nut plants, to strive for higher cultivation output.

Next, members of Yangon Division Agricultural Coordination Committee reported on cultivation of monsoon paddy and seasonal crops. The minister and heads of departments and enterprises attended to the requirements. It has been planned to cultivate 1240000 acres of monsoon paddy in Yangon Division of which over 900000 acres have been already cultivated.
**YANGON Division USDA sponsors construction of middle school**

*Article and Photos: Reporter Than Swe (Pabedan)*

Under the close supervision of Central Executive Committee member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (In-charge of Yangon Division) Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Yangon Division USDA has spent its funds on construction of a two-storey building measuring 160 feet by 30 feet at No. 6 Basic Education Middle School on Sarga Road in Ward 4 of South Okkalapa Township recently.

Engineers of the Engineering Department (Building) of Yangon City Development Committee contributed the engineering technology to construction of new school building.

As a significant point, there was no wooden structure at the building. All parts of the building were constructed with H-type steel beams, steel tie beams, steel purlins and steel principal rafters.

The new school building was two-storey one. The three feet high floor of the ground flat was placed with reinforced concrete. On the first floor, the decking steel plates were put under concrete at the slab. Before placing the concrete, steel rods were placed as a network to become the stronger slab. Reinforced concrete posts and beams were not used in construction of the main pillars and beams of the new school building. With regard to the use of H type steel beams, Head of Engineering Department (Building) U Zaw Win said that the construction of the building could save time by using H type steel beams. Moreover, he added that the withstand of steel structure can be better than that of the reinforced concrete one. In addition, the age of steel structure can be longer than any other types of structure, he said.

As part of efforts to promote the education sector of the nation, Yangon Division USDA set the plans to build two more two-storey school buildings and seven more one-storey school buildings in Yangon Division.

Translation: TTA

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**Sayadaw to deliver Desana on 17 July**

YANGON, 13 July — Joint-Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Manitasiribhivamsa will deliver Desanas at Maha Ordination Hall in Pabedan Township at 7 pm on 17 July.

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**Telecommunications facilities inspected in Yangon, Ayeyawady Divisions**

YANGON, 13 July — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspected Kawhmu Auto-exchange and Kungyangon Auto-exchange today.

He also viewed the site chosen for construction of Kungyangon communications centre.

At the office of Dedaye Township Peace and Development Council, the minister met the managing directors, chief engineers and staff. Next, he inspected Dedaye Auto-exchange and the site for construction of the microwave station.

At the International Underwater Cable Station in Pyapon, the minister viewed installation of machines. Afterwards, he chose the site for construction of the microwave station and CDMA 450 camp.

Next, the minister inspected the installation of new TWD 06 exchange in Kyaukkasan Sports Grounds in Yangon.
Miss Universe 2008 contestants are seen during a rehearsal in Nha Trang, Vietnam, on 12 July, 2008. The 57th annual Miss Universe competition will take place in Nha Trang, Vietnam at the Crown Convention Center on 14 July, 2008.—INTERNET

Vietnam, Brazil agree to boost multifaceted ties

HANOI, 13 July — Vietnam and Brazil have agreed to strengthen cooperative relations in various fields, including economy, trade, investment, oil and gas, fishery, healthcare, education and poverty reduction, local newspaper Vietnam News reported Friday.

During talks between the Brazilian President and his visiting Brazilian counterpart Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, meetings between the Brazilian President and other Vietnamese ministers were released through the Vienna-based daily Xinhua on 10 July, the two sides emphasized the importance of promoting economic growth while developing social justice to fight against poverty, hunger, illiteracy and discrimination.

Vietnam and Brazil have eyed two-way trade of one billion US dollars in 2010 from 323 million dollars in 2007 and 43 million dollars in 2002.

The two sides also reached consensus on continuing to enhance bilateral cooperation in international organizations and multilateral forums such as the United Nations and the World Trade Organization.

OPEC cuts oil demand forecast for 2030

VIENNA, 13 July — The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) cut its global oil demand forecast for the year 2030 in its annual World Oil Outlook (WOO) released here.

According to the WOO 2008, OPEC forecasts that world oil demand would amount to 113.3 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2030. This is lower than the cartel’s previous forecast of 117.6 million bpd published a year ago.

For the current year, the cartel is forecasting a world oil demand of around 86.9 million bpd.

The lower forecast for 2008 is partly due to higher oil price assumptions. OPEC said.

Fossil fuels would continue to provide most of the world’s energy needs with a share consistently over 85 per cent in 2030, OPEC said.

Non-crude sources including oil sands and biofuels would also occupy a significant share of the world’s energy supply in 2030, it added.

Moreover, almost 11 million bpd of non-crude oil supply coming from non-OPEC nations by the year 2030 is foreseen, OPEC said. This is lower than the cartel’s previous forecast of 117.6 million bpd published a year ago.

For the current year, the cartel is forecasting a world oil demand of around 86.9 million bpd.

The lower forecast for 2008 is partly due to higher oil price assumptions, OPEC said.

Moreover, almost 11 million bpd of non-crude oil supply coming from non-OPEC nations by the year 2030 is foreseen, which would be an increase of more than eight million bpd from the 2006 level, the Vienna-based cartel said.

Taleban take 35 policemen hostage in N-W Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 12 July — Local Taleban have taken 35 policemen hostage in Pakistan’s North West Frontier Province (NWFP) on Wednesday, local TV channel Dawn News reported.

Some Taleban militants surrounded the Doaba police station in Hangu District of NWFP and demanded the release of some Taleban who were arrested by security personnel earlier, said the report.

The Station Head Office of Doaba police station has sought immediate help from paramilitary forces.

Seven Taleban militants were arrested by security personnel in an operation earlier.

Security forces started to crack down on Taleban militants in Khyber Tribal Agency in late June. However, the government last week directed the Army to suspend the operation so that tribal elders could resume peace talks with the militants.

Kidnapped civilians released in S Philippines

MANILA, 13 July — Suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits have freed all the five employees of an electric company abducted two weeks ago in the Philippines’ southern province of Basilan, reports said on Friday.

Four of the employees of Basilan Electric Company, identified as Emilberto Singson, Alberto Singson, Paul Helwig, and Ian Helwig were released through the efforts of a crisis management team led by Basilan Vice Governor Al Rasheed Sakahalul on Thursday night, local radio station dzBB reported.

The five employees were abducted on 26 June in Tuburan town, one of whom was released just hours after the abduction. The kidnappers demanded one million pesos (22,000 US dollars) for the release of the remaining hostages.

They initially set Tuesday as deadline but agreed to extend it indefinitely. The four released on Thursday are in good condition and are scheduled to undergo debriefing procedures, according to Police Provincial Director Salik Macapantar.

French government to cut 30,000 jobs next year

PARIS, 13 July — The French Government will not have new employees to succeed over 30,000 civil servants who are due to retire next year, Eric Woerth, Minister for the Budget, Public Accounts and the Civil Service, said Thursday.

Some 30,000 to 32,000 positions will not be filled after old employees leave next year, which means the same number of civil servants will be slashed. Woerth told the local newspaper Les Echos.

It will be an unprecedented effort made by the French Government and is quite close to the staff cut goal which will hire only one person after two retirees.

The move will save the government some 100,000 euros (158,000 US dollars) and half of them will be distributed to civil servants as bonus. President Nicolas Sarkozy has promised for several times a staff reduction in the civil servant system to ease the pressure of government debt and budget deficit.

Iraqi men are taken out of a house and detained by US soldiers during a military operation in Baghdad’s Sadr City on 12 July, 2008. —INTERNET

Xinhua
Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 17th July (Thursday) beginning of Buddhist Lent 2008, being holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

B'desh's population to stand at 172 mn in 2020

DHAKA, 13 July—Bangladesh’s total population will increase to 172 million in 2020 and 210 million in 2060 from 140 million presently, an official said here on Thursday.

“We have taken measures to reduce the birth rate to keep population within 172 million in 2020 and 210 million in 2060,” caretaker government’s food, health and family adviser Shawkat Ali said while addressing a Press conference arranged a day ahead of the “World Population Day 2008”. Ali said the country’s population is 140 million without giving any sources.

MNA/Xinhua

ASN says French uranium leak was low level

PARIS, 13 July—France’s nuclear safety authority (ASN) said on Thursday it had provisionally classified a leak of liquid containing uranium on a site in southeastern France earlier this week at level 1 of the INES nuclear scale. The International Nuclear Event Scale (INES), used to measure the potential danger of accidents at nuclear installation, has seven levels, the lowest of which is zero.

“The ASN has provisionally classified this event at the level one on the INES scale,” the ASN said in a statement.

Areva said late on Tuesday that 30 cubic metres of liquid containing uranium, which was not enriched, was accidentally poured on the ground and into a river at the Tricastin nuclear site.

MNA/Reuters

Official says PLO studies suspending talks with Israel

RAMALLAH, 13 July—A senior Palestinian official said on Thursday that the Palestinian leadership is studying the possibility of suspending the peace negotiations with Israel until the latter stop settlements’ activities.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, secretary general of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), told a news conference that the PLO is seriously considering the Israeli plans of expanding Jewish settlements in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

“We study the possibility of suspending the peace negotiations with Israel until the return of President Mahmoud Abbas from his visit to Paris on the 13 of July,” said Abed Rabbo.

On Wednesday, Israel decided to build 1800 more housing units in the settlement of Har Homa, the settlement between Bethlehem and Jerusalem, which the Palestinians call “Jabul Abu Ghneimeh”.

“I will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in Paris next week. Both are joining a conference on the Middle East that would include leaders of Arab countries,” said Abbas.

“President Abbas will inform Olmert and other Arab leaders that if Israel continues settlements expansion in the West Bank and Jerusalem, the Palestinians would not hold the peace negotiations with Israel.”

Abed Rabbo accused Israel for carrying out all kinds of actions in the West Bank “to weaken the Palestinian (National) Authority such as what the Israeli Army does against charity organizations in Nablus”, — MNA/Xinhua

Sotheby’s old masters sale fetches over $100m

LONDON, 13 July—A rediscovered painting by Frans Hals, believed until recently to be a copy of the Dutch master, has sold for 14 million US dollars nearly twice its pre-sale estimate.

The picture helped Sotheby’s raise its 101.5 million US dollars overall in its London old masters auction late on Wednesday, the second highest amount at an equivalent sale in the company’s history.

“...the highlight of tonight’s sale was the extraordinary breadth of the buyer base,” said Alex Bell, head of old masters for the auctioneer.

“Our sales are now attracting a more diverse and international spectrum of buyers than ever before.”

Sotheby’s, rival Christie’s and other auction houses are hoping that the art market boom can continue despite spreading economic gloom elsewhere. The emergence of super-rich Russians and other new buyers in India, China and the Middle East has helped spur values to record highs, and companies hope the breadth of buying will underpin a market some experts argue is over-inflated. — MNA/Reuters

Drive with care

Britain considers visas from 11 more countries

LONDON, 13 July—Britain announced on Thursday that it is considering expanding visa requirements to citizens from 11 additional countries including South Africa.

Nationals from more than 100 countries, equivalent to three-quarters of the world’s population, need a visa to come to the United Kingdom.

But following a “Visa Waiver Test” of all non-European countries, the government said there is a “strong case” to add 11 more.

These are: Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

The test looked at the level of risk nationals from countries posed in terms of illegal immigration, and crime and security.

British said visitors from these countries will now need a six-month visa. That will become a permanent requirement, unless the “risk” posed by nationals from these countries is significantly reduced by the end of the year. — MNA/Reuters

MNA/Xinhua

Table: 1. News print Paper (48.8 Gsm) 3960 Tons
(28½” x 30” x 40”)
2. Woodfree paper (70/80 Gsm) 25 Tons
(31½” x 43”) 3. Art Card (4x6”) 32 Tons 4. Art paper (4x6”) 10 Tons 5. Web Offset Ink (a) Black 13150 Kg (b) Yellow 1850 Kg (c) Magenta 680 Kg (d) Cyan 1715 Kg 6. Sheeted Offset Ink Black 950 Kg 7. (a) Orthofilm (22” x 32”) (50 sht/pkt) 185 Pks (b) Developer (5 Lit/Bot) 250 Bots 8. Imagetteset film 466 mm x 60 m 105 Rolls 9. Negative Plate & Chemical (a) 915 x 0.3 mm 1700 Shrs (b) 1035 x 740 x 0.3 mm 1000 Shrs (c) 889 x 609 x 0.3 mm 3500 Shrs (d) Developer (5 Lit/Bot) 100 Bots 10. Positive Plates (a) 635 x 745 x 0.3 mm 950 Shrs (b) 1065 x 785 x 0.3 mm 510 Shrs 11. Wipe on Developer & Others (a) Coating A+B 107 Sets (b) Developer 250 Lits (c) Gum Solution 250 Lits (d) Fountain Solution 50 Lits (e) Gum Arabic (20 Lit/Bot) 10 Bots 12. Stiching Wire (a) 23 Gauge 1600 Coils (b) 24 Gauge 650 Coils 13. Riso Ink & Master Roll (a) Riso Ink (Black) RA 14 Chgs (b) Riso Ink (Black) RZ 7 Chgs (c) Master Roll RZ 9 Rolls


NASA telescopes spot star “factory”

WASHINGTON, 13 July — Telescopes looking back in time to more than 12 billion years ago have spotted a star factory—a galaxy producing so many new stars that they have nicknamed it the “baby boom” galaxy.

The remote galaxy is—or was—pumping out stars at a rate of up to 4,000 per year. In comparison, our own Milky Way galaxy gives birth to an average of just 10 stars per year they reported on Wednesday.

“This galaxy is undergoing a major baby boom, producing most of its stars all at once,” said Peter Capak of NASA’s Spitzer Science Centre at the California Institute of Technology.

“If our human population was produced in a similar boom then almost all of the people alive today would be the same age.” Capak said in a statement.

Writing in Astrophysical Journal Letters, Capak and colleagues said they used several telescopes including NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope and Hubble Space Telescope to spot the prolific ancient galaxy, which belongs to a class of galaxies called starbursts.  

Indonesia forms national board on climate change

JAKARTA, 13 July— The Indonesian Government announced the formation of a National Board on Climate Change (DNPI) chaired by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono here on Friday.

The DNPI also involved 17 government departments/ministries as well as the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency (BMG).

“The DNPI’s formation was formalized through a presidential regulation signed last July 4, after about one year of preparations,” Environment Minister Rachmat Witoelar told a Press conference at his official residence. The DNPI would work in the spirit of implementing the National Action Plan on Climate Change adopted in November 2007 or serve as the vehicle to achieve the plan’s objectives in dealing with and mitigating the impact of climate change, he said.

The DNPI’s tasks comprised the formulation of national policies, strategies, programmes and activities to control climate change, coordination of activities to implement the board’s mission to deal with climate change in terms of adaptation, mitigation, transfer of technology and funding.

Morocco banks on drip irrigation system to save water

RABAT, 13 July — The Moroccan Government has launched a programme of generalizing the drip irrigation system to save water and increase the irrigated lands to 700,000 hectares, or 50 per cent, local MAP news agency reported Thursday.

The north African kingdom is planning to slash the yearly demand of water by about one billion cubic metres, MAP said, quoting Water and Environment State Secretary Abdelkarim Zohoud as saying.

The programme is also expected to improve the income of farmers, as the government is raising its subsidies to drip irrigation systems by 40 to 60 per cent.

Morocco, most of which is arid desert, relies to a large extent on rainfall to supply water resource. The long, oft-repeated drought years have severely reduced the resource, and the lack of technology hampers exploiting the existing one.

Only 19 billion cubic metres of surface waters out of an estimate of 29 billion cubic metres is exploited, according to official figures.

New techs show promise for early earthquake warning

WASHINGTON, 13 July — Using remarkably sensitive new instruments, seismologists in the US have detected minute geological changes that preceded small earthquakes along California’s famed San Andreas Fault.

If follow-up tests show that the pre-seismic signal is pervasive, researchers say the method could form the basis of an earthquake warning system for impending quakes. The findings of their field investigations appears this week in the journal Nature.

“We’re working with colleagues in China and Japan on follow-up studies to determine whether this physical response can be measured in other seismically active regions,” said Rice University seismologist Fenglin Niu, the study’s lead author. “Provided the effect is pervasive, we still need to learn more about the timing of the signals if we are reliably use them to warn of impending quakes.”

Today’s state-of-the-art earthquake warning systems give only a few seconds’ warning before a quake strikes. These systems detect P-waves, the fastest moving seismic waves released during an quake. Like a flash of lightning that arrives before a clap of thunder, the fast-moving P-waves precede slower moving but more destructive waves.
**Queiroz leaves Man Utd to become Portugal coach**

LISBON, 13 July—Manchester United assistant manager Carlos Queiroz has been named Portugal coach for the second time, the Football Federation (FPF) said on Friday.

Queiroz, who fills the post left vacant by Brazilian Luiz Felipe Scolari, will sign a four-year contract. He is scheduled to be formally presented at a news conference on July 16. “I am very proud and honoured to be able to go back and serve my country,” the FPF quoted Queiroz as saying on its website (www.fpf.pt)

“This is a very special position that any professional would want,” he added.

“The first big objective is to qualify for the World Cup in South Africa (in 2010).”

His first game in charge will be a friendly against Faroe Islands next month ahead of their World Cup qualifying campaign against Sweden, Denmark, Hungary, Albania and Malta. Scolari stepped down after Euro 2008, following 5-1/2 years in charge, to join Premier League Chelsea who will again be one of the main challengers to champions United for the title.

United tried hard to keep their assistant manager at the club but must now prepare for the campaign without Queiroz, who added: “I want to thank Manchester United for the agreement reached, which made my return to Portugal possible”. His first spell in charge ended when the country failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals but FPF president Gilberto Madail said he was delighted with the appointment.

**Liverpool launches Beatles Day**

LONDON, 13 July — The British city of Liverpool home to the world-renowned Beatles launches Beatles Day on Thursday to celebrate the musical achievements of the band.

The event is to coincide with the 44th anniversary of the legendary band’s triumphant homecoming after conquering the United States in 1964, Sky news reported. Fans will vote for their favourite Beatles hit and a special concert at the Liverpool Echo Arena will be part of the celebration, with bands from across Britain playing cover versions of Beatles’ biggest hits.

There will also be a special fun run and parades through locations the band has made world-famous, including Penny Lane and Strawberry Fields.

**Inter director says Lampard really wants to join them**

MILAN, 13 July—Chelsea midfielder Frank Lampard is very keen to join Inter Milan, the Italian club’s director Gabriele Oriali said on Thursday.

“We have done everything possible,” Oriali told Mediaset television. “What is certain is that the player is very keen to join Inter Milan, the Italian club’s director Gabriele Oriali said on Thursday.

New Inter coach Jose Mourinho is keen to link up to a 2-0 victory against Aberdeen at Pittodrie on Saturday.

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Bulls gore runners, break bones in Spanish festival

PAMPLONA (Spain), 13 July — A man was gored in the thigh and four other people suffered cuts and fractured bones on the northern Spanish city. Doctors declined to comment on his condition. The other four were treated for injuries including a broken jaw and fractures.

An estimated 8,000 took part in the early morning run fleeing bulls weighing up to 700 kilograms (1,543 pounds) through the narrow cobbled streets of Pamplona. Dozens of people have been injured so far in the week-long festival, made famous by Ernest Hemingway’s novel “The Sun also Rises”.

A 23-year-old Irish tourist died after falling from the old city walls on Sunday, the first day of the festival, but before the first bull run.

Pakistan protests to US over Afghan border attack

ISLAMABAD, 13 July — Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with the United States over mortar fire from Afghanistan, which wounded six Pakistani soldiers, a military spokesman said on Saturday.

Six mortar shells fired across the Afghan-Pakistani border fell near a Pakistani post on Friday in the South Waziristan tribal region, a known sanctuary for al-Qaeda and Taliban militants.

“Our troops retaliated with fire immediately,” the spokesman said, adding that six Pakistani security forces personnel were injured and a number of casualties reported in Afghanistan.

“Most people in the Czech Republic oppose the Lisbon Treaty, a poll released Friday showed.

According to the survey conducted last month by the STEM polling agency, up to 53 per cent of Czechs are opposed to the treaty, against 47 per cent in favour.

By contrast, 53 per cent of respondents said “Yes” to the treaty in a previous poll released in April.

The Lisbon Treaty replaces the EU Constitution treaty, which was rejected by French and Dutch voters in 2005. The treaty cannot enter into force unless all EU member states approve it.

Hungarian soldier killed in Afghanistan

BUDAPEST, 13 July — Hungarian explosives expert Captain Krisztian Nemcs was killed by a bomb on Saturday in Baghlan Province, Afghanistan, the Hungarian Defence Ministry said. It was unclear that what caused the bomb to explode.

Most Czechs oppose Lisbon Treaty

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WEATHER

Sunday, 13 July, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 br MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, lower Sagaing Division, rain has been isolated in Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions, scattered in Shan, Chin and Kayin States, fairly widespread in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavy falls in Bago Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.43 inch), Bago (4.49 inches), Maungdaw (2.87 inches), Hakami (2.64 inches), Mawlamyine (2.44 inches), Sitwadi (1.57 inches) and Homa Bay (1.46 inches).

Maximum temperature on 12-7-2008 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 13-7-2008 was 71°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 13-7-2008 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 12-7-2008 was (5.6) hours (approx.).

Rainfall on 13-7-2008 was (0.08) inch at Mingaladon, (0.75) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.39) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (50.31) inches at Mingaladon, (60.00) inches at Kaba-Aye and (72.83) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southwest at (16:20) hours MST on 12-7-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 14-7-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Chin State and Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Kachin, Shan, Kayin States and upper Sagaing Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely attime Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon Taninthayi 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: Strong monsoon in the Andaman Sea.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 14-7-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 14-7-2008: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 14-7-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
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

In contributing towards rehabilitation and reconstruction of storm-hit areas

Now, relief tasks and disease control measures are in full swing thanks to efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw and generous donations of internal and international donors. So, rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks are under way.