Established 1914
NAY PYI TAW, 16 July— A ceremony to inaugurate the bridge of Kyauktalon Dam was held in Yondaw Village of Taungtha Township on 13 July morning, attended by Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung.
A local resident spoke words of thanks.
Chairman of Town
ship Peace and Development Council U Soe Soe Shwe, Secretary of Taungtha Township USDA U Than Htay Aung and Township Engineer U Ye Win formally opened the bridge. Secretariat Member U Aung Thaung and officials sprinkled scented water on the stone inscription.
The bridge was built with the contributions of K 7 million by the local people and construction materials worth K 11 million by the Secretariat Member.
The bridge was constructed with a view to promoting health, education and economic standards of the local people. At 10 am, the Secretariat Member met local authorities and members of USDA and social organizations at the office of the Township USDA.

He urged all to speed up undertaking of the five rural development tasks and to participate in the realization of the seven-step Road Map of the State and join hands with the social organizations in the interest of the local people. In the afternoon, the minister met officials at Vest Factory (Taungtha) and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the Secretariat Member met with District and Township PDC Chairmen, departmental officials, secretaries of District/Township and Ward Village USDAs, executives, members of social organizations and townelders at Mani Kinsana Hall in Myingyan.
At the meeting, the Secretariat Member gave instructions on participation in the tasks for realization of the seven-step Road Map of the State, carrying out five rural development tasks and following the policies and directives laid down by the government.—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

Fishing gear for fishermen in Dedaye
YANGON, 16 July — Fishing gear were presented to fishermen in Dedaye Township, Ayeyawady Division at the Fishery Department in the township yesterday.
Chairman of Dedaye Township Peace and Development Council U Myo Aung, Head of Hinthada District Fishery Department U Sein Thaung, Head of Ingapu Township Fishery Department U Hla Tun, Head of Zalun Township Fishery Department U Thein Han and Head of Dedaye Township Fishery Department U Thein Htak handed over 144 boats, 150 sets of 6.5 HP engines, 200 paddles, various kinds of fishing nets and gear to the fishermen of the township.

Members of Myanmar Red Cross Society taking part in the task to ensure smooth transport in Kyaukhmaw Village of Labutta Township recently.—MRCS

NAY PYI TAW, 16 July— A total of 2.2 million acres of land has been put under monsoon paddy in Ayeyawady Division up to 15 July.
Perform meritorious deeds daily

It was the Fullmoon Day of Waso, 103 ME and the entire forest of Migadawon (deer park) in Isipatanar lush and pleasant. The Lord Buddha delivered the first sermon called Dhammacakka Discourse to the Five Disciples in the evening when the sun was about to set in the west and the moon was coming out in the east.

The Lord Buddha said the practices to the extreme could not lead to the emancipation from Samsara: the circle of births and deaths.

He said that it is only Majjima Patipada or the Middle Way that can widen the scope of knowledge and it is the correct way towards Nibbana. He also explained the Four Noble Truths and preached the Noble Eight-fold Path that all creatures had to follow. The Noble Eight-fold Path provides benefits for both present and the future of mankind. That was why He mainly delivered the Noble Eight-fold Path in the Dhammacakka Discourse.

The Noble Eight-fold Path are the right view, the right thought, the right speech, the right action, the right livelihood, the right concentration and the right contemplation. They are noble practices.

Dhammacakka Discourse is the main factor of knowledge on religion and points out the way to Nibbana — the end of suffering. All Buddhist devotees must remember the blessings of the Lord Buddha and do meritorious deeds daily including donation, keeping the precepts and meditation in accord with the practices of the Noble Eight-fold Path.

Ayeyawady, Chindwin below danger level

NAy Pyi Taw, 16 July — The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology today issued a flood bulletin that the water level of Chindwin river at Monywa has fallen below its danger level starting this morning.

The water levels of Chindwin river are forecast to fall below their respective danger levels of Mawlaik during the next (36) hrs and Kalewa during the next (12) hrs.

The water level of Ayeyawady river at NyaungU has fallen below its danger level starting this morning. The water level of Ayeyawady river at Hinthada is rising by (10.5) cm/hr at present and forecast to fall starting from 18 July, 2008.

People’s Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Electric Power No. 1 Ministry offers Waso robes

Minister Col Zaw Min and wife offer Waso robes to a Sayadaw.—MNA

MNA

Work Proficiency Course No. 29 for auditors opened

Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung delivers a speech at work proficiency course No. 29 for auditors.—MNA

Cash donations made to storm victims

Yangon, 16 July—Well-wishers made cash donations to storm survivors through the donation centre at Central Bank of Myanmar (Yangon Branch) of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue in Yankin Township today. Finance and Revenue Deputy Minister Col Hla Then Swe accepted today’s donations of K111,050,000 including K36 million by U Soe Myint (Silver Elephant Co Ltd).—MNA
**Obama, McCain sharpen their dispute over Iraq war**

WASHINGTON, 16 July— The two major Presidential rivals sharpened their long-standing dispute over the Iraq War on Tuesday, Democratic Sen. Barack Obama calling it a costly distraction that must end while Republican Sen John McCain insisted it is a conflict the United States has to win.

"Iraq is not going to be a perfect place, and we don't have unlimited resources to try and make it one," Obama said in a speech in which he also said the United States must shift its focus to defeating the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan.

McCain blamed Obama for "trying to sound tough" by speaking publicly of taking unilateral action against those blamed for the terror attacks of 11 Sept, 2001. His comments followed Obama's references to that effect.

Undeterred, Obama said, "If Pakistan cannot or will not act, we will take out high-level terrorist targets like bin Laden if we have them in our sights."

Despite his rhetoric, Obama refrained from saying the administration's so-called surge in troop strength in Iraq had failed. Aides said his campaign Web site had been altered in recent days to remove references to that effect.

**US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,120**

WASHINGTON, 16 July—As of Tuesday, 15 July, 2008, at least 4,120 members of the US military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003. The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,357 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

It is one fewer than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated Tuesday at 10 am EDT. The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Nethelands, Thailand, Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, South Korea, one death each.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 30,409 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s weekly tally.

**Bertha becomes longest lived July storm**

HAMILTON (Bermuda), 16 July—Tropical Storm Bertha headed back out over open ocean and away from the US mainland Tuesday after it battered Bermuda, knocking out electricity to thousands on the Atlantic tourist island.

It is the longest-lived July tropical storm in history, according to the US National Hurricane Center. Bertha became the Atlantic season’s first hurricane, before weakening into a tropical storm. It is expected to strengthen over the next 24 hours, forecasters said.

The previous longest-lived storm, known as Storm No 2, occurred in 1960 and lasted just over 12 days, according to forecaster Daniel Brown. Bertha is entering its 13th day. The storm was centred 360 miles (580 kilometres) northeast of Bermuda Tuesday night, with sustained winds near 65 mph (100 kph), the center said. It was moving northeast at 6 mph (9 kph).

In Bermuda, the government dispatched cleanup crews and expected to restore power to 200 remaining customers by the end of the day. Bertha’s heavy rains flooded roads and its winds felled utility poles, leaving up to 7,500 without electricity on Monday. There were no reports of injuries.

**Study shows when kids become teens, they get sluggish**

CHICAGO, 16 July— One of the largest studies of its kind shows just how sluggish American children become once they hit the teen years: While 90 percent of 9-year-olds get a couple of hours of exercise most days, fewer than 3 percent of 15-year-olds do.

What’s more, the study suggests that fewer than a third of teens that age get even the minimum recommended by the government—an hour of moderate-to-vigorous exercise, like cycling, brisk walking, swimming or jogging.

The study’s lead author Dr Philip Nader, a pediatrician and professor emeritus at the University of California at San Diego.

Inactivity is linked with greater risks for many health problems, including heart disease, obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes.

The new findings come just a week after an influential pediatricians group recommended that more children have their cholesterol checked and that some as young as 8 should be given cholesterol-lowering drugs. That advice was partly out of concern over future levels of heart disease and other ailments linked to rising rates of childhood obesity.

**Israel identifies dead soldiers**

BEIRUT, 16 July—Lebanese militant group Hezbollah hands over the coffins they say contain the bodies of two Israeli soldiers.

The Israeli army has confirmed that human remains handed over by Lebanon’s Hezbollah as part of a prisoner swap are those of two of its soldiers.

The two men, Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser, were captured in 2006, but it was not certain they had died.

In return, Israel is handing over five Lebanese prisoners and the bodies of 200 Lebanese and Palestinian fighters.

The capture of the two Israeli soldiers sparked a month-long war between Israel and the Shia Islamist militant group. —INTERNET

**Modern buildings are seen on the skyline behind a pagoda in Beijing, on 15 July, 2008. The city has spent about US $40 billion on a modernization program in preparation for the 2008 Olympic Games, which open on 8 Aug. —INTERNET**
Russia resumes warship patrols in Arctic

MOSCOW, 16 July—The Russian Navy has resumed warship patrols in the waters around the Arctic Ocean archipelago of Svalbard, the first time since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. “The Russian Navy has resumed the presence of Northern Fleet warships in Arctic regions, including in the area of Spitzbergen,” the Navy said in a statement Monday. “We have been talking for a long time about widening our activity in the Arctic,” said navy spokesman Igor Dyagalo. “There is nothing aggressive in the interests of security.” According to the statement, the anti-submarine cruiser Severomorsk has arrived in the Arctic area and begun carrying out tasks. The cruiser Marshal Ustinov will also arrive after 17 July.

Under a 1920 treaty, Svalbard was placed under Norwegian sovereignty, which Russia does not recognize. Last year, Russia resumed warship patrols in Arctic Ocean waters around the archipelago for a long time about widening our activity in the Arctic, the Navy said in a statement Tuesday. “There is nothing aggressive in the interests of security.” According to the statement, the anti-submarine cruiser Severomorsk has arrived in the Arctic area and begun carrying out tasks. The cruiser Marshal Ustinov will also arrive after 17 July.

Iran rejects preconditions for nuclear talks

TEHERAN, 16 July — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Teheran will not accept any preconditions for nuclear talks with EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, the English-language satellite channel Press TV reported Tuesday.

“Teheran welcomes negotiations but will not accept the precondition set by the West - the suspension of uranium enrichment.” Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying on Monday evening.

Iran is ready to remove all international concerns regarding its nuclear programme, he said, adding that Iran is prepared to hold talks with any country over its nuclear standoff, except for the Israeli regime.

Iran’s top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili and Solana were due to meet in the Swiss city of Geneva on Saturday in an attempt to break the deadlock in the nuclear issue. Solana and Jalili will share points in two packages of incentives, said Ahmadinejad.

Solana handed over an updated package of incentives proposed by world powers and a letter from foreign ministers of the six countries and himself to Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki last month. Iran responded to the package in a letter to Solana early this month and also presented its own package of proposals to the world powers.

Gunmen kidnap two Turkish nationals in Afghanistan

HERAT (Afghanistan), 16 July — Unknown gunmen kidnapped two Turkish nationals working on a construction project in western Afghanistan on Monday, a senior police official said. Kidnapping has become a lucrative business in Afghanistan, where dozens of locals and foreigners have been abducted by criminals or Taliban-linked militants.

“The Turkish engineers were working on a project in the town of Islam Qala, bordering Iran, where they were kidnapped from the vehicle yesterday afternoon,” regional Police Chief Abdul Raahoof Ahmadi said.

“We found the vehicle and their passports inside the car... The kidnappers might have taken them on foot somewhere,” he said.

A Turkish Foreign Ministry official in Ankara said the two abducted engineers were Gokhan Gul and Erhan Gunduz, who were both working for the Turkish construction company Gulsen Insaat.

Lula criticizes EU’s harsh treatment on Brazilians

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 July—European nations must give Brazilians the same treatment as their citizens received in Brazil, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said Monday.

On his weekly radio programme, Breakfast with the President, Lula said that during a meeting of the Group of Eight (G-8) in Japan last week, he had discussed with European leaders the European Union’s current policies against immigrants.

“We want Brazilians and all the world’s people to be treated with respect, in a manner that takes human rights into consideration, and not as if they were delinquents,” he said. Cases of mistreatment against Brazilian immigrants and tourists have increased in Europe, especially in Spain, even before the EU approved a new immigration law last month. Under the tough new immigration rules, illegal immigrants will face up to 18 months’ detention before deportation and will be banned from re-entry to EU countries for up to five years.

Singapore sees “reasonable chance” of WTO success

GENEVA, 16 July — Singapore, a bridge-builder in global trade talks, sees a “reasonable chance” that next week’s high-stakes push for consensus in the Doha Round will yield success, a senior government official said on Monday.

Ravi Menon of the Singaporean Trade and Industry Ministry said ministers gathering from 21 July in Geneva would not be able to settle every issue in the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on cuts to export-impairing tariffs and subsidies.

But the second permanent secretary, in Geneva to lead Singapore’s delegation for a routine WTO policy review, said the meeting could result in the broad outlines of a deal in agriculture and manufactured goods, clearing the way for a comprehensive accord that would also span cross-border services.
Iran, Russia sign energy cooperation agreement

TEHERAN, 16 July — The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and Russian gas monopoly Gazprom signed an agreement to cooperate on development of Iran’s oil and gas fields, the official IRNA news agency reported on Monday.

NIOC Managing Director Sohollah Jashnaz and head of Board of Directors of Gazprom Alexei Miller signed the agreement on Sunday during an official ceremony attended by Iranian Oil Minister Gholam-Hossein Nozari, the IRNA said.

Based on the agreement, a joint company would be set up by the two countries for cooperation in the oil and gas fields, including in the development of Iran’s North Azadegan oil field, part of the large Azadegan field in southwestern Iran.

Constitution of oil and gas processing and transport facilities inside Iran are among the subjects included in the agreement, according to the IRNA.

The agreement also included possible participation of Gazprom in a planned peace pipeline that would deliver Iranian gas to India and Pakistan.

Miller also met Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Teheran on Sunday.

Asian-African conference on Palestine opens in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 16 July — Asian-African conference on Palestine was opened by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the State Palace here on Monday.

Over 220 delegates from 55 Asian and African countries took part in the two-day conference, Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda said.

Also present at the foreign ministerial level, conference the representatives from the Latin American region such as Brazil, Venezuela and Chili, he said.


The aimed of the conference was to boost the capacity building of Palestine, Indonesian state spokesman Dino Patti Djalal has said.

Farnborough International Airshow opens in Britain

FARNBOROUGH (Britain), 16 July— The 2008 Farnborough International Airshow (FIA) opened on Monday where aerospace organizations from around the world gathered in the southern English town of Farnborough to demonstrate their latest aerospace capabilities and products.

More than 1,500 exhibitors from 39 countries will be present at the world’s premier aerospace business event organized by Farnborough International Ltd, a subsidiary company of the Society of British Aerospace Companies (SBAC), the trade association for the UK aerospace industry.

The number of exhibitors increased by 5 per cent compared with the FIA 2006.

As many as 140,000 business visitors are expected to the exhibition from Monday to Friday, who are sure to be captivated by the sales campaign.

The world’s leading aerospace companies such as Airbus, the Boeing Company, BAE Systems, EADS, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and Rolls-Royce will all be present at the one-week global business event that showcases new and innovative products and the latest technological developments in the fast moving world of aerospace.

The aircraft and equipment exhibited encompass avionics, ground equipment, materials and private aviation.

Brazilian industry revises down growth forecast for 2008

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 July — Brazil’s National Federation of Industry has lowered its forecast for the country’s economic growth this year from 5.0 per cent to 4.7 per cent, local media reported Sunday.

Due to surging food prices around the world, Brazil’s inflation rate will stand at 6.4 per cent in 2008, 1.7 percentage points above the previously-predicted figure, the federation said in a recent report.

The Brazilian Government has set a target to bring the annual inflation rate under 6.5 per cent.

The report added that Brazil’s economic growth may become slower as the country has taken measures, including a tightened monetary policy, to cope with inflation.

—Xinhua

UAE introduces new cheque clearing system

ABU DHABI, 16 July— The central bank of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has introduced a new electronic image-based cheque clearing system that can reduce the time needed for settlement from the several days to four hours, local newspaper Gulf News reported on Monday.

The new cheque clearing system, or known as the Image Cheque Clearing System (ICCS), was implemented from Saturday, the UAE central bank was quoted as saying. “During the initial operation of the system, cheque will clear within a maximum of 36 hours. This time will be progressively reduced over the coming months...The system is capable of clearing cheque in four hours,” the bank said in a statement.

All items from Xinhua News Agency

An elementary school student holds her shoes while walking on a flooded street in Malabon City, Manila on Sunday.

Tropical storm Kalmegi has dumped rains in parts of the northern Philippines since Monday and classes were suspended in many areas of the capital.—INTERNET

Chinese new National Theater is seen behind buildings in the Forbidden City on 15 July, 2008. —Xinhua

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Obama tells blacks they must take responsibility

CINCINNATI, 16 July — Democratic White House hopeful Barack Obama on Monday urged Blacks to take more responsibility for improving their own lives, standing firm on a tough message that has been criticized by some African Americans.

Obama, who would be the first Black US president, was accused by civil rights leader Jesse Jackson last week of “talking down to Blacks”.

“Now, I know there’s some who’ve been saying I’ve been too tough, talking about responsibility,” Obama told the NAAACP, the nation’s oldest civil rights organization. “I’m here to report, I’m not going to stop talking about it.”

Jackson and others have criticized Obama for discussing the problem of absent fathers in many Black families and urging Black men to become more involved in their children’s lives.

In urging more engagement by Black fathers, Obama often talks about his own experience being raised by a White Kansas-born single mother and his grandparents after his Black Kenyan father left the family when he was two years old. He often tells Black audiences they must spend more time doing homework with their children and avoid letting them watch too much television. — MNA/Reuters

Kuwait speaker says US provocative toward Iran

KUWAIT, 16 July—The United States and other Western countries are dealing in a provocative way with Iran over its nuclear programme and should respect its sovereignty, Kuwait’s Parliament Speaker said.

The United States has refused to rule out military action if Iran continues with attempts to enrich uranium, which Washington suspects is aimed at making an atomic bomb but the Islamic Republic says is peaceful.

Jassem al-Kharafi said the West was using double standards in the dispute by trying to stop Iran’s nuclear programme while saying nothing about Israel, which is widely believed to possess the Middle East’s only nuclear arsenal. The Jewish state neither confirms nor denies possessing nuclear weapons.

“I think what is happening with regard to the Iranian nuclear file involves a lot of exaggeration... and the method was provocative,” state news agency quoted Kharafi as saying late on Sunday.

“The country has its status and strategy in the region and should not be threatened in the way which we saw,” he added.—MNA/Reuters

Ukrainian protesters denounce NATO exercises

ODESSA(Ukraine), 16 July—About 150 leftist demonstrators staged a noisy protest on Monday denouncing Ukrainian Black Sea naval manoeuvres with NATO servicemen, but did not disrupt the proceedings.

The protest, two months after Ukraine was given an assurance that it would one day join NATO, was smaller than in previous years and leaders of leftist parties stayed away.

Two years ago, thousands of protesters in the Crimea Peninsula, further south, halted the exercises and prompted US officials overseeing them to leave.

Public opinion remains opposed to joining NATO after decades of Soviet propaganda depicting NATO as a warlike enemy. Surveys show no more than 30 per cent of respondents back membership and Russia objects to any notion of Ukrainian NATO membership on grounds that it would undermine its security interests.

South Korea recalls envoy from Japan in island row

SEOUL, 16 July—South Korea said on Monday it would recall its ambassador from Tokyo in protest after Japan said it would write about a longstanding island dispute in school textbooks.

South Korea and Japan both lay claim to a group of desolate, rocky islets which Seoul calls Dokdo and Tokyo calls Takeshima. The area surrounding the islets has fertile fishing grounds.

The Japanese Government said it had informed Tokyo that Seoul would refer in a middle school teaching guide to the islands as Japanese territory.

“President Lee Myung-bak said he cannot help being deeply disappointed and feeling regret, considering the agreement between the two leaders to face past history and build a forward-looking Korea-Japan relationship,” South Korea’s presidential office said in a statement. “Japan should not repeat its behaviour of promising a forward-looking relationship with Korea but then stirring up a dispute such as the Dokdo issue once in a while when the government changes.”

South Korea recalls envoy from Japan in island row

India’s Air Force helicopters fly over during a flight display at the Farnborough aerospace show, in Farnborough, England, on 15 July, 2008. Airlines from oil-rich Middle Eastern countries have saved the world’s biggest air show, from an otherwise lackluster start, signing orders for around 150 planes worth more than US$25 billion on Monday.—INTERNET

Jewish settler suspected of firing rocket

JERUSALEM, 16 July — Israeli police have arrested a Jewish settler on suspicion he fired a makeshift rocket at a Palestinian Village in the West Bank, an Israeli newspaper reported on Sunday.

Micky Rosenfeld, a police spokesman, confirmed a suspect from the Yitzhar settlement was taken into custody on Saturday in connection with an investigation into illegal weaponry and said he would likely be held at least until Monday.

Rosenfeld said he had no comment on a report in the Yedioth Ahronoth daily that police suspected the settler, 20, was involved in firing a homemade explosive at the neighbouring village of Burin, in the occupied West Bank.

A young girl strains as she is assisted on a bar during training at the Luzan Juvenile Gymnastics School in Shanghai, China, on 14 July, 2008.—INTERNET
The Full Moon of Waso, the Dhammacakkavatattana Day falls on 17th July 2008. The full Moon Day of Waso associates with the four great noble and significant events related to the precious life of the Omniscient Gotama Buddha. On that holy day, the Buddha-to-be (the Gotama Buddha) took pregnancy in the womb of Queen Maya, wife of His Majesty King Suddhodana of Kapilavatthu Kingdom, and also on that holiday at the age of 29, the Buddha-to-be renounced the Kapilavatthu Kingdom, and also on that holiday at the age of 29, the Buddha-to-be renounced the Kapilavatthu Kingdom, and also on that holiday at the age of 29, the Buddha–to–be renounced the world, and after having full attainment of the Buddhahood, the Gotama Buddha preached His first great sermon, Dhammacakkavatattana Sutta to His five disciples, in which He explained the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path, on the Full Moon Day of Waso. All five disciples received ordination and formed the first nucleus of the holy brotherhood of disciples known as the Sangha. On that holy day, the Buddha–to-be (Gotama Buddha) explained the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path, in which He taught the Sangha on the Full Moon Day of Waso, and also on that holy day at the age of 29, the Buddha–to–be renounced the world, and after having full attainment of the Buddhahood, the Gotama Buddha preached His first great sermon, Dhammacakkavatattana Sutta to His five disciples, in which He explained the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path, on the Full Moon Day of Waso. All five disciples received ordination and formed the first nucleus of the holy brotherhood of disciples known as the Sangha. And also, on the Full Moon Day of Waso, the Omniscient Buddha performed the great miracle called the Twin Miracle. The reason for this was to dispel the wrong views of heretics, and to prove that He possessed the attributes of a Buddha. It is the miracle of water and fire.

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Yangon Command
Commander’s Shield Football Tournament opens

YANGON, 16 July — A ceremony to open Yangon Command Commander’s Shield Football Tournament 2008 was held at the sports ground of Yangon Command in Mingladon Township today.

The opening ceremony was attended by Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and wife Daw Kyin Myaing. The commander delivered an address.

After that, the commander and party enjoyed the match of the football teams of Yangon and Mingladon stations. Twenty teams from stations, regiments and units participate in the football tournament.—MNA

Deputy Minister inspects functions of National Health Laboratory, Yangon General Hospital

YANGON, 16 July — Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo yesterday morning met officials at the National Health Laboratory and gave necessary instructions. Officials reported on the organizational set-up of the division and tests. Deputy Director-General Dr Win Myint (Treatment) presented a supplementary report.

The deputy minister and party viewed virology unit, the laboratory of national Ilu unit and modern machinery. At Yangon General Hospital, the deputy minister and party inspected treatment for the patients and use of machinery.

At the National Blood Unit, the deputy minister and party viewed functions of the unit. In-chARGE Dr Thida Aung conducted them round the unit.

After inspecting registration of the lists of blood donors and use of modern machinery, the deputy minister left necessary instructions.—MNA

Vice-Mayor looks into prevention against DHF

YANGON, 16 July — Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa viewed public activities for prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever in Tamway Township this morning.

At the office of Tamway Township Development Affairs Committee, the vice-mayor heard reports on preventive measures presented by officials and left necessary instructions. He looked into preventive measures and a demonstration of use of insecticide-treated mosquito nets on 157th Street in Tamway Township.

Similar activities were undertaken in Dawbon, Mingala Taungnyunt, Bahan and Kamayut townships.

More international relief supplies arrive at Ygn Int’l Airport

YANGON, 16 July — Relief supplies for storm-affected regions continued to arrive here from abroad. A total of 63 734 tons of relief supplies donated by Thailand-based United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) arrived at Yangon International Airport today.—MNA
1. Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
2. Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
3. Keeping genuine patriotism based on national solidarity alive and dynamic
4. Turning out younger generation who will continue to safeguard the national culture and character

BEHSs in Mandalay inspected

NAI T TAW, 16 July—Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein inspected Yadanapon University, University of Distance Education and University of Foreign Languages in Mandalay on 14 July. During his tour, the minister also inspected No. 10 BEHS, No. 20 BEHS and No. 14BEHS and met with township education officers, the principals and teachers. At the meeting, he urged them to make efforts for meeting the target of the coming academic year and to assess the achievement of the previous academic year.—MNA

Minister looks into rehabilitation works in Bogale

NAI T TAW, 16 July—CEC Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspected reconstruction and rehabilitation works in storm-hit villages in Bogale Township on 13 and 14 July. The minister arrived at Sam Village in Bogale Township on 13 July and inspected completion of school buildings, 103 houses and latrines and cultivation. He also inspected cultivation of mangrove trees and ploughing with the use of power tillers. He also visited Dhamma Thakha village, Ywa’U monastery and Lattha Chaung in Kyunmyo Yyi Village-tract and distributed relief aids and cash to the residents. —MNA

Sports Minister supervises reconstruction of Kawhmu Township

NAI T TAW, 16 July—Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint inspects the students learning at village BEHS in Kawhmu Township.—MNA

Old students of Pyay GTI to offer Waso robes

YANGON, 16 July—The first Waso robe offering ceremony of the old Pyay GTI students will be held at Sasana Linkaya Maha Dhammabikram (Shweygin Dhammayon) on Komin Kochin Road, Bahan Township, here at 2 pm on 20 July. Those wishing to make donation robes may contact U Khin Maung Win (Phone 095043525), U Wai Lwin (Phone 095132774) and Cartoonist Ko Shwe Tun (Pyay) (Phone 095016876)—MNA

Member of NDPCC Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint inspects the students learning at Huunmaaing village BEHS (branch) in Kawhmu Township.—MNA

Waso robes offered to monasteries in Bago Division (West)

NAI T TAW, 16 July—Bago Division (West) Union Solidarity and Development Association on 12 July donated Waso robes and stationery to 27 monasteries in Bago Division (West) at the ceremony held at Dhammawadya monastery in Hmokshei Village-tract, Pyay. CEC Member of USDA Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay presented the donation to Sayadaws.

In the afternoon, the CEC member visited Myanmawarwon altristic school in Kyangin and presented Waso robes and alms to the abbot, stationery to the monastic education school; and cash assistance for regional development tasks to Township, Yangon South District yesterday morning.

The minister gave instructions to Dayawas on the need for repairing of the prayer hall damaged by the storm. He paid obeisance to Nyan monastery Sayadaw at Latkhaik village and offered robes to 27 monasteries in Kyangin and provided funds to the Sayadaw.

At the Warbalaukthauk village, the minister and party inspected the students learning at village BEHS and presented desks, foodstuffs and sport equipments.

The minister gave instructions to station hospital and religious buildings. At the high school (branch) of Huunmaaing village, the minister inspected learning of students and presented foodstuff and sport equipments to the students.—MNA
Alms food to be offered in Kyauktada during retreat period

YANGON, 16 July—Alms food will be offered to more than 500 monks including 447 from 10 monasteries at four prayer halls in Ward 9, Kyauktada Township, here, in the morning on Tuesdays for 13 weeks from 22 July to 14 October.

Waso robes and alms food will be offered to five monks from Panna Ramika Maha (A) monastery at Sasana Yangchi prayer hall on 40th Street (lower) in Botataung Township on Dhamma Cakka Day (17 July). The abbot of the monastery will invest the congregation with the Five Precepts at the prayer hall on every Sabbath Day during the retreat period.

The Pairs

All states have mind as their fore-runner; to them mind is supreme and of mind are they made. Therefore, if one, with defiled mind, speaks or acts, on account of the suffering follow one as the wheel follows the fact of that does wagon-bearer.

Dhammapada 1

Winners in essay and poster contests to mark World Population Day honoured

YANGON, 16 July—A ceremony to honour the winners in essay and poster contests to mark World Population Day 2008 and outstanding offspring who passed the matriculation examination for 2008 with flying colours of service personnel of Immigration and National Registration Department was held at the meeting hall of Population Department in Kyauktada Township, here, this afternoon.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint delivered an address and Head U Hla Daung of Yangon Division Immigration and National Registration Department explained the purpose of holding the ceremony.

Next, the commander and officials presented cash awards to winners who stood first, second, third and consolation prize in essay and poster competitions in commemoration of World Population Day 2008 and outstanding students.

Thai Government presents medicines for storm-hit regions

YANGON, 16 July—The Thai Government donated medicines to be used in healthcare services at storm-stricken areas in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions to Ministry of Health in a ceremony held at Yangon General Hospital yesterday.

Thai Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunnag explained the purposes of the donation and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo expressed gratitude. The Thai Ambassador handed over medicines to the Deputy Minister of Health who presented certificate of honour to the Ambassador.

Minister meets service personnel in Lashio and Muse

NAY PYI TAW, 16 July—Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Saw Lwin met service personnel of Shan State (North), Lashio District and Township Immigration and National Registration Departments at the district INRD office on 13 July.

The minister spoke of the need to follow the instructions of superior departments after realizing the rule and procedures of the ministry.

NAY PYI TAW, 14 July—Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Saw Lwin inspected office works at Immigration and National Registration Department in Muse.

The minister and party also inspected Nay Pyi Taw sub-power station No 8 near Uttarathiri, Nay Pyi Taw sub-power station No 2, main power station in Nay Pyi Taw Pyimmana, Nay Pyi Taw sub-power station, Nay Pyi Taw sub-power station No 6 and Nay Pyi Taw sub-power station No 3.

Electric Power No. 2

Minister inspects power stations in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 16 July—Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint together with Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Myint and departmental personnel looked into Shwemyo sub-power station which is under construction in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township on 12 July. At the briefing hall of the sub-power station, project manager (1) of Power Supply Project U Tin Aung reported on construction of pylons, potential power supply capacity and supply of raw materials.

The minister and party also inspected Nay Pyi Taw sub-power station No 3.
Exercise may prevent brain shrinkage

WASHINGTON, 16 July—Mild Alzheimer’s disease patients with higher physical fitness had larger brains compared to mild Alzheimer’s patients with lower physical fitness, according to a study published in the July 15 issue of journal Neurology.

For the study, 121 people age 60 and older underwent fitness tests using a treadmill as well as brain scans to measure the white matter, gray matter and total volume of their brains. Of the group, 57 were in the early stages of Alzheimer’s disease while the rest of the group did not have dementia.

“People with early Alzheimer’s disease who were less physically fit had four times more brain shrinkage when compared to normal older adults than those who were more physically fit, suggesting less brain shrinkage related to the Alzheimer’s disease process in those with higher fitness levels,” said study author Jeffrey Burns of the University of Kansas. —MNA/Xinhua

Dozens die in Egypt train crash

CAIRO, 16 July—At least 37 people have been killed in a collision between a train and several vehicles at a level crossing in northern Egypt, police have said.

Some 40 more people were injured in the crash near Marsa Matruh, 430km (270 miles) northwest of the capital Cairo. A truck failed to stop at the crossing and pushed several waiting vehicles into the path of the oncoming train, security officials said.

It is not known yet whether there were any foreign tourists among the victims. —INTERNET

Vietnam detains Australian woman over heroin packs

HANOI, 16 July—Vietnam has detained an Australian woman of Vietnamese origin for allegedly trafficking heroin hidden in her underwear while boarding a plane in Ho Chi Minh City to Sydney at the weekend, airport Customs said in a report.

Nguyen Thanh Huyen, 22, was detained at Tan Son Nhat Airport on Sunday night after Customs searched her belongings and found two packs of white powder, said the report seen by Reuters on Tuesday. —MNA/Reuters

Car bomb kills 12 in north Iraq

TAL AFAQ (Iraq), 16 July—At least 12 people have been killed and 30 others wounded in a car bombing at a market in the northern Iraqi town of Tal Afar Wednesday, Iraqi officials have said.

The attack targeted afternoon shoppers in the town, about 420km (260 miles) north-west of the capital, Baghdad.

It came a day after a series of attacks north of Baghdad killed some 40 people. —INTERNET

One ton of cocaine seized in joint Colombia-US operation

BOGOTA, 16 July—Colombian and US troops raided a boat Monday off Colombian Pacific coast, seizing 1,146 kilos of cocaine and arresting six suspected drug smugglers, Colombian National Army said.

The Army said the drugs, supposedly being sent to the United States, and the suspects, all Colombians, would be handed over to the National Unit of Anti-Drug and Maritime Interdiction.

The joint operation was launched under an agreement of maritime interdiction between Colombia and the United States aimed at combating drug trafficking.

Since the beginning of this year, the Colombian Army has seized more than 37.5 tons of cocaine with a street value of 937.5 million US dollars. Colombian President Alvaro Uribe has campaigned to eliminate drug trafficking, a campaign that has been funded by the United States.

US terrorist list hits one million names

WASHINGTON, 16 July—The US terrorist watch list now has one million names on it, partly due to the loose criteria for adding names to the list, a rights group said Monday.

“America’s new million record watch list is a perfect symbol for what’s wrong with this administration’s approach to security,” Barry Steinhardt, a spokesman for American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), said in a statement.

“It’s unfair, out-of-control, a waste of resources, treats the rights of the innocent as an afterthought, and is a very real impediment in the lives of million of travellers in this country,” he added.

The Inspector General of the Justice Department reported last year that the Terrorist Screening Center had over 700,000 names as of April 2007 and that the list was growing by an average of 20,000 names per month.

The watch list has become long and “bloated” naming several individuals who are probably not terrorists, Steinhardt said. —MNA/Xinhua

Road accidents are frequent in Egypt, killing about 6,000 people every year.

Many of the crashes are due to reckless driving, poor road and vehicle maintenance and lack of enforcement of traffic regulations, correspondents say.

In Wednesday’s accident, two train carriages overturned and another two were derailed by the force of the impact, state media reported.

A Fiat employee works on the assembly line of the Nuova Punto cars in Turin in 2006. The ACEA European automakers association has said that new car sales in Europe slumped 7.9 percent in June over one year as mounting inflation and soaring fuel prices spooked buyers. —INTERNET
Bomb leaves six USPI security guards dead in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 16 July—Six Afghan security guards with the US private security company USPI were killed on Sunday evening when their vehicle hit a roadside mine in southern Afghan province of Helmand, while a number of Taleban insurgents were killed in the clashed with police in the other district of Helmand, an official said on Monday.

Mohammad Hussein Andiwal, the provincial police chief, told Xinhua that the USPI convoy was hit by roadside bombing on the way to Gereshk District, six guards were killed and two others were wounded.

“All victims are Afghans,” he said.

In another incident happened in Marja District, around 30 Taleban militants ambushed four to five police posts at the same time. Andiwal said the heavy clashes lasting from late Sunday evening to Monday morning inflicted great casualties on the insurgents.

However, he failed to give the exact number of Taleban casualties but adding only two policemen were injured. Afghanistan has witnessed a surge of violence and riot throughout the south to the east over the past weeks.—MNA/Xinhua

Morales accuses USAID for conditioned assistance

LIMA, 16 July—Bolivian President Evo Morales said Monday that a US Government aid agency had “created problems” by providing conditioned assistance for his country.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) aims to promote the economic model of the capitalist and neo-liberalism systems by privatizing Bolivia’s state companies, said Morales, according to reports from La Paz.

On Sunday, Morales confirmed that he would discuss with Thomas Shannon, a top US State Department official in charge of Latin America, an “unconditional cooperation” between the two countries.

Farmers loyal to the president drove USAID workers from a coca-growing region in central Bolivia last month, accusing them of aiding government opponents. — MNA/Xinhua

99 affected by mass hysteria in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 16 July—A total of 99 people were attacked with mass hysteria, a kind of mass psychogenic illness, in Bangladesh’s southwestern Jessore District, about 164 kilometres southwest of capital Dhaka, the leading English newspaper The Independent reported Tuesday.

Among the victims are 95 students of five schools, four housewives of three villages and one school teacher, the newspaper said.

They were attacked with the disease from 2 July to 7 July. A total of 70 students were admitted to local hospital.

Mass hysteria became rampant in the country last year with several hundreds people suffering from it. Most of them were students.

Mass hysteria, a sort of temporary psychiatric problem, usually affects specific groups, mostly students aged between 13 and 25, who will suffer the symptoms of headache, convulsion and falling unconscious. The disease spreads quickly from one person to another.

Experts said an outbreak of the mass psychogenic illness is at a time of anxiety and worry. It is aggravated by malnutrition, tension and lack of tolerance. — MNA/Xinhua

Apple sells one million phones in first three days

LOS ANGELES, 16 July—Apple sold one million 3G iPhones in just three days after its launch in the United States, Hong Kong and 20 other countries, the company said on Monday.

Meanwhile, more than 10 million applications were downloaded from its newly opened App Store for the iPhone and iPod touch, according to the company.

Independent developers have created mobile applications that range from games to location-based social networking.

More than 800 applications are available through the App Store, More than 200 are free and those for sale cost less than 10 dollars.

On Friday, iPhone customers, including some who waited outside Apple stores overnight, were frustrated when the company’s iTunes server was overwhelmed by a global crush of simultaneous requests from new iPhone users and those updating the software for the older version of the iPhone and the iPod touch. The overburdened system prevented some phones from immediately being fully activated.

The glitch, though, did not appear to dampen iPhone fervour.

Fishing boat off Panama catches fire, six injured

PANAMA CITY, 16 July—A Panama-registered fishing boat caught fire near the waters of Panama’s South Punta Chame, leaving six Vietnamese crew members injured, said Panama’s maritime authorities on Monday.

None of the 11 Chinese crew aboard was injured. Bao E’sheng, representative at the Chinese Office of Commercial Development in Panama, told Xinhua.

Among the six injured, three were in serious condition.

The boat, Chung Kuo No 96, which belongs to a company from Taiwan, had 19 crew members aboard, with eight of them from Vietnam.

The boat is routinely operating in Panamanian waters, unloading, processing and transshipping its catches at Panama’s Vaca Monte Bay.

The cause of the fire was still under investigation.

Saudi Arabia employs 1.7 mn Bangladeshi workers

DHAKA, 16 July—Oil rich state Saudi Arabia has so far employed some 1.7 million Bangladeshi workers, Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Abdullah Bin Nasir Albasir said here on Monday.

“We will continue to recruit more workers from Bangladesh as there is no complaint against them excepting some minor cases of violation of rules,” the ambassador said at a Press conference here.

“Some 1.7 million Bangladesh workers are employed in Saudi Arabia, who are contributing largely to the development of Saudi Arabia,” he said.

According to the statistics of Bangladesh’s Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, Saudi Arabia in the first six months of this year employed over 100,000 Bangladeshis to support its various sectors including infrastructure development.

Over 5.6 million Bangladeshi live and work in more than 100 countries. The Middle East and South east countries are their main destination.

99 affected by mass hysteria in Bangladesh

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Experts said an outbreak of the mass psychogenic illness is at a time of anxiety and worry. It is aggravated by malnutrition, tension and lack of tolerance. — MNA/Xinhua

A paramilitary policeman prepares cannons that will fire salutes during the rehearsal for the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games in front of the National Stadium, also known as the Bird’s Nest, in Beijing, on 16 July, 2008.—INTERNET
Drive with care
More than 200 people took nearby mined-out area. cubic metres, came from a quarters estimated that the of 2:30 am Sunday. 69 managed to escape as return way at that time and working at the major air-bureau.

A Balinese man attends a cremation fire as the last bit of a mythical dragon known as a Naga burns prominent Balinese from Ubud were cremated in a rare and elaborate ceremony for/prominent Balinese from Ubud were cremated in a rare and elaborate ceremony for.

Thirteen trapped in north China coal mine flood.

FARNBOROUGH (England), 16 July—Bombardier launched a new 110-130 seat passenger jet, the CSeries, on Sunday in a Canadian bid to challenge industry giants Airbus and Boeing. Announcing the long-awaited launch, the eve of the Farnborough Air Show, the Canadian company said it had selected Mirabel near Montreal as the site to assemble the planes, which will enter service in 2013. Mirabel had been competing with Kansas City, Missouri. German airline Lufthansa has provisionally ordered 30 planes with an option for 30 more, Bombardier said. It has not so far signed a firm contract. The CSeries will sell for 46.7 million dollars each. Bombardier had previously indicated it was waiting for at least 50-100 orders before launching the aircraft, but orders were scarcer this year as high oil prices weigh on demand. “We are engaged in active and very promising discussions with a number of airlines worldwide,” Chief Executive Pierre Baudouin told a news conference.

France to crack down on under - age binge drinking.

Singapore not ruling out organ trading yet.

Measles kills 18 children in Somalia.

Thirteen trapped in north China coal mine flood.

Seven children were killed and 69 others taken to hospitals.

A Balinese man attends a cremation fire as the last bit of a mythical dragon known as a Naga burns during a ceremony for a deceased member of the Ubud royal family on 15 July, 2008, in Ubud, Bali, Indonesia. Balinese royalty and dozens of other prominent Balinese from Ubud were cremated Tuesday in a rare and elaborate ceremony for deceased royals.
Men’s tennis world rankings
LONDON, 16 July— Men’s tennis world rankings on Monday. (previous week’s rankings in brackets):

1. (1) Roger Federer (Switzerland) 6600
2. (2) Rafael Nadal (Spain) 6055
3. (3) Novak Djokovic (Serbia) 4945
4. (5) Nikolay Davydenko (Russia) 2970
5. (4) David Ferrer (Spain) 2945
6. (6) Andy Roddick (U.S.) 2065
7. (7) David Nalbandian (Argentina) 2030
8. (8) James Blake (U.S.) 1975
9. (9) Andy Murray (Britain) 1805
10. (10) Stanislas Wawrinka (Switzerland) 1785
11. (15) Richard Gasquet (France) 1445
12. (11) Nicolas Almagro (Spain) 1435
13. (12) Radek Stepanek (Czech Republic) 1410
14. (17) Tommy Robredo (Spain) 1400
15. (13) Fernando Verdasco (Spain) 1375
16. (14) Fernando Gonzalez (Chile) 1365
17. (16) Mikhail Youzhny (Russia) 1320
18. (19) Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (France) 1265
19. (18) Mohammad Reza Najafi (Iran) 1240
20. (20) Ivo Karlovic (Croatia) 1220

Polish, Ukrainian PMs discuss Euro 2012
WARSAW, 16 July — “Two countries, one team,” should be the slogan of preparations for Euro 2012 in Poland and Ukraine, Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko said here on Monday.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said that Poland and Ukraine have jointly received a chance for hosting Euro 2012 and will jointly make the project a success.

Preparations for the Europe’s soccer championship was the main topic of the talks between the arch-foes.

Charlton deny calling off Iran match over politics
LONDON, 16 July— English club Charlton Athletic have denied claims that a pre-season friendly against Iran was called off for political reasons.

Iranian media said on Monday that a complaint would be lodged to world governing body FIFA after Charlton pulled out of the match due to be played in Spain this week.

“We are going to lodge an official complaint to FIFA over Charlton’s behaviour,” Teheran Times daily quoted Iranian Football Federation vice-president Mehdi Taj as saying.

Arsenal chief says players cannot ignore credit crunch
LONDON, 16 July— Soccer players and clubs in Europe need to wake up to the realities of the global credit crunch by reinining in their wage and transfer fee expectations, the head of one of England’s leading teams said on Tuesday.

As Premier League wages burst the one billion pounds (2 billion US dollars) mark for the first time, Peter Hill-Wood, chairman of Arsenal, said the days of easy money had come to a sudden end.

The warning came despite rising revenues from television coverage of English and European soccer games and an influx of overseas billionaires.

“There is an awful lot of talk about big transfers and major demands of players but you will find throughout the UK and Europe that money is not quite as easy to obtain as it used to be,” Hill-Wood said in an interview published on the Arsenal website (www.arsenal.com).

He also warned against reading too much into reports about player transfers that were sourced to players’ agents.

Soccer player Ronaldinho, from Brazil, center, Sport Director of AC Milan Adriano Galliani, left, and President of FC Barcelona Joan Laporta are seen after a meeting in Barcelona, Spain, on 16 July, 2008. Ronaldinho transferred from FC Barcelona to AC Milan, the Italian club announced late Tuesday, ending several days of furious negotiations in which the Brazil playmaker appeared eager to avoid a move to Manchester City.—INTERNET

Iran says to play tournament in US
TEHRAN, 16 July— Iran’s basketball team have departed for a tournament in the United States, an official said on Monday, for a rare sporting encounter between the arch-foes.

Mohammad Mashouh, head of Iran’s basketball federation, said the Asian champions had been invited to a tournament in the state of Utah by the US National Basketball Association (NBA), ahead of next month’s Olympic Games in Beijing.

“Afther many requests made to Iran by the US basketball federation and after a review of the request by Iranian officials we accepted this invitation,” Mashouh told Reuters, without giving details on which US teams they would play. — MNA/Reuters

Zheng Zhi to lead Chinese team in Beijing
BEIJING, 16 July— Charlton Athletic midfielder Zheng Zhi will lead China’s under-23 squad at next month’s Beijing Olympic soccer tournament, local media reported on Monday.

Zheng, who turns 28 next month, together with defender Li Weifeng, 29, and striker Han Peng, 24, have been selected as the three over-age players by China’s Serbian coach Ratomir Dujkovic, the Beijing Daily said.

“It is my dream to march into the Olympic final in the Bird’s Nest, as the coach has said,” Zheng told the paper after scoring a penalty in a 4-0 warm-up victory over Malaysia in Jilin Province at the weekend.

Regular captain and playmaker of the senior team, Zheng suffered back and toe injuries during China’s failed bid to progress past the third round of Asian qualification for the 2010 World Cup.

Shanghai Shenhua’s Li, nicknamed “Big Head”, was Zheng’s predecessor as China skipper but was stripped of the post because of disciplinary problems.

MNA/Reuters

Ronaldinho’s future set to be decided
MADRID, 16 July— Manchester City are leading the race to sign Brazil forward Ronaldinho from Barcelona, the Primera Liga club’s president Joan Laporta said on Monday.

However, Italian media later reported that AC Milan were back in the driving seat after a day of talks.

Reports said Milan chief executive Adriano Galliani had been celebrating in a Barcelona hotel swimming pool with Ronaldinho and his brother/agent Roberto de Assis having come to an agreement.

Barcelona and Milan have yet to confirm a deal but Italian media said the Spanish club would take a couple of days to finalize the issue, with Ronaldinho’s wish to go to Milan rather than Manchester likely to be the deciding factor.

Spanish media have reported an offer of $32 million euros ($50.27 million), plus variables, is on the table from the English Premier League club City, more than Milan have offered. — MNA/Reuters

Soccer player Ronaldinho, from Brazil, center, Sport Director of AC Milan Adriano Galliani, left, and President of FC Barcelona Joan Laporta are seen after a meeting in Barcelona, Spain, on 16 July, 2008. Ronaldinho transferred from FC Barcelona to AC Milan, the Italian club announced late Tuesday, ending several days of furious negotiations in which the Brazil playmaker appeared eager to avoid a move to Manchester City.—INTERNET

German’s Andreas Beck returns to ball to co-patriot Rainer Schuettler during their first round match at the ATP Austrian Open tennis tournament in Kitzbuehel, on 15 July, 2008.—INTERNET
Colombo, 16 July—
The Sri Lankan military says it has captured a key coastal town in the north-west from Tamil Tiger rebels.

The military said Vidattalivu, about 20km (12 miles) from the town of Mannar, was used by the rebels’ naval wing to smuggle in supplies.

The Tigers, who retain control of other bases further up the north-west coast, have not commented on the claims.

The defence ministry said Vidattalivu had been captured by advancing soldiers on Wednesday morning. It is the first time since Indian peacekeeping forces left Sri Lanka in 1990 that troops have been in control of the town, a statement said. Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nana-yakkara said some fighting was continuing and troops were carefully searching the town for remaining rebels.

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Media says Toyota to cut 2008 global sales goal 3.6 pct

Tokyo, 16 July—Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) will cut its global sales target for calendar 2008 by 3.6 percent to around 9.5 million vehicles to reflect a sharp slowdown in the United States, Japanese public broadcaster NHK said on Wednesday. The world’s biggest automaker had said it would announce revised sales figures for the tough US market some time this month. A source with knowledge of the situation said Toyota would lower its worldwide sales target along with that. Shares of Toyota, Japan’s biggest exporter, were at their lowest in nearly three years. That underperformed a 0.9 percent decline in Japan’s transport equipment subindex (IETQPT). By early afternoon Toyota was down 0.4 percent while the subindex was down 0.1 percent.

Great white shark carcass found on Nantucket island beach

NANTUCKET, (Mass), 16 July—Scientists have determined that a carcass found on a beach on Massachusetts’ Nantucket island is a great white shark.

State Energy and Environmental Affairs spokeswoman Lisa Capone says shark experts hadn’t seen another great white wash up on a Massachusetts beach in at least two decades. The 6 1/2-foot-long young female shark was discovered Monday.

An expert from the state’s Division of Marine Fisheries examined the shark Tuesday.

Weather

Wednesday, 16 July, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 0900hr MIST:

Denting the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin and Kayah States, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in lower Sagaing, Magway and Yangon Divisions, scattered in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin, Kayin States and Ayeayawady Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Thandwe (2.40) inches, Potaung (1.89) inches, Ye (1.38) inches, Mawlamyine (1.14) inches, Maungdaw and Gwia (1.06) inches each, Myikyina (0.98) inch, Mandalay and Sagaing (0.39) inch.

Maximum temperature on 15-7-2008 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 16-7-2008 was 74°F. Relative humidity at (09:00) hours MIST on 16-7-2008 was 89%. Total sunshine hours on 15-7-2008 was (2.9) hours (approx). Rainfall on 16-7-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, (Nil) at Kabas-Aye and (0.11) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (51.46) inches at Mingaladon, (60.79) inches at Kabas-Aye and (74.09) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (09:30) hours MIST on 16-7-2008.

Bai inference: Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Adaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 17-7-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah, Mon and Kayin States, scattered in Mandalay, Magway, lower Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeayawady Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: General decrease of rain in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 17-7-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-7-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-7-2008: 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.

 witnessing 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

Power-tillers donated to storm-hit areas

YANGON, 16 July—Well-wishers donated power-tillers to storm-affected areas. Donor U Hlaing Hein of ZBT Co Ltd donated 3 Kubota power-tillers and machine parts worth K 8.1 million through the Headquarters of Union Solidarity and Development Association to Emergency Aid Supervisory Committee at Fire Services Department near the Tooth Relic Pagoda in Mayangon Township, today.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and officials accepted the donations and gave certificates of honours to the donors. —MNA

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.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint accepts three Kubota power-tillers and machine parts donated by U Hlaing Hein (ZBT Co Ltd) to storm-hit regions. — (SOCIAL WELFARE)