Established 1914
Volume XVI, Number 92
2nd Waning of Waso 1370 ME
Saturday, 19 July, 2008

**Bahusaccaña, to have immensity of knowledge; this is the way to auspiciousness**

### 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

---

**Lt-Gen Myint Swe and wife attend Waso robe offering ceremony of NDC**

_YANGON, 18 July — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay attended the Waso robe offering ceremony of the National Defence College at the monastery of Alanpya Pagoda in the compound of NDC of the Ministry of Defence, here, this morning. The ceremony was also attended by members of the Sangha led by Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw (See page 10)***

---

**Maj-Gen Ko Ko meets with personnel, social organizations members and local people in Pathein and Maubin Districts**

_NAY PYI TAW, 18 July – Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence accompanied by officials concerned went to Malzali village in Nyaungdon Township, Maubin District, Ayeyawady Division, on 15 July. They were welcomed there by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe and officials. Maj-Gen Ko Ko, the commander and officials proceeded to Nyaungdon and met with division, district and township level departmental officials, members of social organizations and town elders at the office of Nyaungdon Township PDC. After hearing reports on facts about the township, arrangements made for the extended cultivation of monsoon paddy this year and regional development (See page 10)***

---

**Maj-Gen Ko Ko views growing of paddy on a farmland in Talaingsu village, Pantanaw Township. — MNA***
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Saturday, 19 July, 2008**

**Make relentless efforts for rural development**

The government is giving priority to the development of rural regions where the majority of the people reside.

Better transport plays a pivotal role in the development of rural regions. Therefore, new village-to-village roads and village-to-town roads are being built extensively along with small and large bridges, thereby enabling rural people to travel from one place to another with peace of mind.

A ceremony to inaugurate the bridge of Kyauktalon Dam constructed by local people and the Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at Yondaw Village of Taungtha Township, Mandalay Division, on 13 July. The emergence of the bridge has contributed a lot to the development of the economic, education and health sectors of local people.

Likewise, a suspension bridge across Myittha River in Gangaw Township, Magway Division, was opened on 9 June. The bridge was built at a cost of over K 50 million contributed by Magway Division Peace and Development Council and local people. The bridge can be of service to local people of 16 nearby villages all the year round.

In the meantime, projects for supply of drinking water, which is imperative for rural development, have been implemented. At present, over 30 townships in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions are enjoying the fruitful results of the projects. Similarly, model villages facilitated with new school buildings, rural dispensaries and libraries are being established.

At a time when relentless efforts are being made with added momentum for rural development under the leadership of the government and with the participation of well-wishers, we firmly believe that the socio-economic status of local people will surely be enhanced all the more.

---

**Sports Ministry offers Waso robes**

**NAV PYI TAW, 18 July—** The third Waso robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Sports was held at office No. 31, here, yesterday morning. Present on the occasion were Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and wife Daw Aye Aye, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Directors-General, officials and their wives and staff families. Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Aggavamsa of Maha Withutayama Ujusinthein Monastery in Nay Pyi Taw Pynnmana administered the Nine Precepts.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and wife Daw Aye Aye, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials offered Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha.

Afterswards, the presiding Sayadaw delivered a sermon and the congregation offered ‘soon’ to the monks.

---

**Health care provided in Theikpankongyi Village, Labutta Tsp**

**YANGON, 18 July—** Under the arrangements of the Ministry of Health, a medical team comprising specialists led by Deputy Head of Ayeyawady Division Health Department Dr Zaw Htay and other health staff members and the staff of Meltser International arrived at Theikpankongyi Forward Camp in Labutta Township to provide public health care on 29 June.

They took preventive measures against DHF, sprayed insecticides, pumped out salty water from the lakes and wells, built temporary rainwater tanks and gave public health knowledge talks.

---

**MCF Vice-President arrives back from Pakistan**

**YANGON, 18 July—** Vice-President U Kyaw Kyaw (Chairman of Competition and Disciplines Enforcement Committee) of Myanmar Cricket Federation arrived back from Pakistan after attending the Asia Cricket Council Annual General Meeting 2008 and the ACC 25th Anniversary Meeting 2008 organized by Asia Cricket Council held at Karachi, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 5 and 6 July.

He was welcomed back by Vice-President U Maung Maung and executives of MCF at Yangon International Airport.

---

**MYANMAR GAZETTE**

**NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—** The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Col Soe Kyi of the Ministry of Defence as Director-General of Social Welfare Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.
Breast-feeding triggers pulses of feel-good hormone

This reflex has long puzzled researchers because it requires large surges of oxytocin to pull off all of this. Using a special computer model, researchers from China, France, Italy, and the United Kingdom said on Thursday they now understand how it works. Their study, reported in the journal PLoS Computational Biology, suggests that breast feeding not only taps the normal brain cells involved in secreting oxytocin, but also recruits dendrites — whose normal job is to create communication channels between brain cells — into secreting the hormone. This increases communication between the neurons and creates a hub of oxytocin production that results in bursts of the hormone released at regular intervals. — Internet

Qantas cuts 4 pct of workforce, prunes growth plan

SYDNEY, 18 July—Australia’s top airline, Qantas Airways Ltd (QAN.AX), will cut 4 percent of its workforce and scrap its growth plan for the coming year, saying the business would be at risk if it fails to offset soaring fuel prices. The plan to cut 1,500 of its 36,000 workers was the carrier’s fifth belt-tightening in three months. It has previously raised fares twice and cut capacity twice. The global airline industry faces what it calls a “perfect storm” of skyrocketing oil prices, with carriers worldwide shedding jobs and closing down routes as losses mount. — Internet

Nazi hunter says closing in on ‘Dr Death’

BUENOS AIRES (Argentina), 18 July—The world’s top Nazi-hunter said Thursday he’s made progress in finding 94-year-old “Doctor Death,” a former concentration camp physician accused of torturing Jewish prisoners as they died and who may have been living for decades in Argentina or Chile. Efraim Zuroff, head of the Israeli branch of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, told a news conference that his mission to the southern reaches of the Americas led him to at least four people who claim to have seen Aribert Heim in the past 45 days. — Internet

Wipro 1Q profit misses forecast, remains cautious

BANGALORE, 18 July—India’s third largest information technology outsourcer, Wipro Ltd (WIPR.BO), missed forecasts with a 15 percent rise in quarterly profit, and said it was cautious in the near term, echoing its larger rivals. Wipro, which offers system integration, software application development and back-office services, said net profit rose to 8.14 billion rupees ($190 million) in its fiscal first quarter to June from 7.10 billion a year ago under US accounting rules. A Reuters poll had forecast a net profit of 9.02 billion rupees for Bangalore-based Wipro, which counts telecoms gear makers Cisco (CSCO O), Credit Suisse (CSGN VX), Nortel (NT N) and Nokia Siemens Networks (NSN UL) among its clients. Revenue rose 42.5 percent to 59.62 billion rupees, as it added 31 clients during the quarter. — Internet

Australian journalist held in drug case

SINGAPORE, 18 July—An Australian television journalist has been arrested in Singapore for alleged drug possession and faces up to 20 years in jail and 15 strokes of the cane, police and his employer said Friday. The Central Narcotics Bureau said the man was arrested Wednesday but did not identify him. Australia’s national television network, Australian Broadcasting Corp, said it was their New Delhi-based South Asia correspondent, Peter Lloyd, who was arrested. After Wells Fargo & Co and JPMorgan Chase & Co announced stronger-than-expected earnings this week, Merrill’s results served as a reminder that the credit crisis isn’t fading. Global banks and brokerages have been forced to take some $300 billion of write-downs in the past year, an amount that some believe could grow to $1 trillion before the turmoil has passed. “This was a difficult and disappointing quarter in terms of the bottom line,” Chief Executive John Thain told analysts on a conference call. “But, in spite of this loss, we likely have in our last two quarters more than replaced the capital that we lost.” Merrill’s quarterly loss came to $4.97 per share, after accounting for the fractioning of dividends for the three months ended 30 June. That compares to a year-ago profit of $2.01 billion, or $2.24 per share. The broker reported negative revenue of $2.11 billion versus revenue of $9.46 billion a year earlier. Analysts had expected that the New York-based brokerage would lose $1.91 per share, according to Thomson Financial. — Internet

Pelosi calls Bush ‘a total failure’

WASHINGTON, 18 July—House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called President Bush “a total failure” on Thursday, among the war, on energy, you name the subject, Pelosi said in an exclusive interview. The comments came two days after the president sharply criticized Congress over what he described as relative inaction over the course of the legislative term. At the White House on Wednesday, Bush noted that there were only 26 legislative days left in the fiscal year and said Congress would need to pass a spending bill every other day to “get their fundamental job done.” “This is not a record to be proud of, and I think the American people deserve better,” Bush said. VideoWatch Pelosi respond to criticism of Congress from the president. In the interview, Pelosi said the president was in no position to criticize Congress and brushed aside the criticisms as “something to talk about because he has no ideas.” — Internet

Credit crisis's latest assessment: $1.91 per share

The world’s biggest brokerage announced a wider-than-expected $4.89 billion second-quarter loss and said it was selling assets — its stake in media company Bloomberg LP for $4.4 billion and its Financial Data Services Inc subsidiary for $3.5 billion. — Internet

Wells Fargo & Co lost $2.24 billion in the quarter, blaming lower mortgage revenue and higher losses on credit cards. — Internet

Merrill Lynch posts 2Q loss; sells Bloomberg stake

NEW YORK, 18 July—Merrill Lynch & Co on Thursday issued its latest assessment of the damage it has suffered from the credit crisis: its fourth straight quarterly loss and write-downs from failed investments approaching $40 billion. The world’s biggest brokerage announced a wider-than-expected $4.89 billion second-quarter loss and said it was selling assets — its stake in media company Bloomberg LP for $4.4 billion and its Financial Data Services Inc subsidiary for $3.5 billion. — Internet

A Tarahumara child is breastfed by his mother in the hamlet of Rikinapuchi, northern Chihuahua state, Mexico, on 22 January, 2008.— Internet
Obama piles up 52 million dollars in June

WASHINGTON, 18 July—Democratic White House hopeful Barack Obama raised a huge 52 million dollars in June, more than double the haul of his Republican rival John McCain in the same month, his campaign said Thursday. The fundraising bonanza confounded some recent reports that Obama’s fundraising juggernaut might be slowing after he beat Hillary Clinton to the Democratic nomination.

Obama’s June total takes his record breaking fundraising for the 2008 race, the most expensive in history, to more than 330 million dollars. His total for the month was just shy of his all-time record monthly fundraising coup, when he piled up 55 million dollars at the height of his Democratic primary clash with Hillary Clinton in February.

Obama’s campaign manager David Plouffe announced Obama’s fundraising coup in an early morning email to Illinois senator’s suppor ters. “Because of your generosity and commitment, we’re reporting to the press today that this campaign is in a very strong financial position,” Plouffe said.

“In the month of June, supporters like you helped raise 52 million dollars.”

The Democratic National Committee said its fundraising combined with that raised by Obama topped 92 million dollars at the end of June.

BEIJING, 18 July—A spill of poisonous mining waste forced officials in a northeastern Chinese city to cut off water supplies earlier this week over safety concerns, state media said on Thursday.

Water in Donggang, a city of 150,000 people, was cut off on Tuesday when a sluice pipe burst at a nearby mine, sending tailings containing poisonous cyanogen pouring into a reservoir, Xinhua news agency said.

Supplies were restored on Wednesday, once experts had ensured that the water posed no health risk to consumers, the report said.

The incident at the Wulong Mining Co was being investigated. Chemical spills with serious health consequences are common in China.

In 2005, a massive chemical plant spill into northeast China’s Songhua River resulted in drinking water supply cuts affecting millions of residents in Heilongjiang province.

Water cut in Chinese city after toxic spill

Gore calls carbon-free electricity in 10 years doable

WASHINGTON, 18 July—Former Vice President Al Gore called Thursday for a “man on the moon” effort to switch all of the nation’s electricity production to wind, solar and other carbon-free sources within 10 years, a goal that he said would solve global warming as well as economic and natural security crises caused by dependence on fossil fuels.

“The answer is to end our reliance on carbon-based fuels,” Gore told a packed auditorium in Washington’s historic Constitution Hall. “When you connect the dots, it turns out that the real solutions to the climate crisis are the very same measures needed to renew our economy and escape the trap of ever-rising energy prices.”

Gore compared the challenge to establishing Social Security and the Interstate highway system, as well as landing a man on the moon — all successes that took more than a single presidency to accomplish and required members of both political parties to overcome their partisanship.

The Alliance for Climate Protection, a bipartisan group Gore leads, put the 30-year cost of his plan — both government and private — at $1.5 trillion to $3 trillion.

To speed up the transition to new energy sources, Gore said the single most important policy change would be to put in what we burn, not what we earn,” advocating a tax on carbon dioxide pollution.

Cancer survival depends on where you live

LONDON, 18 July—Your odds of surviving cancer depend on which country you live in. And, in the United States, it also depends on whether you’re black or white, a new study finds.

Economic differences among countries, access to health care, and the availability of cancer treatments feed the disparities in survival, the report said.

“There is a very wide gap in the odds of survival after a cancer diagnosis,” said lead researcher Michel Coleman, a professor of epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in Great Britain.

“Some of the range is understandable on the basis of the relative wealth of these countries,” he added.

The study also confirms the disparity in cancer survival among blacks and whites in the United States, Coleman said.

“The differences are large across the USA, and even in different metropolitan areas,” he said.

Coleman believes the differences among countries — and within regions of countries — is directly related to access to health care.

“This is not a question of the competence of doctors in any particular country,” he said. “This is an issue of the overall effectiveness of health services.”

The report was published in the 17 July online edition of The Lancet Oncology.

AIDS vaccine trial scaled back

WASHINGTON, 18 July—Plans for a large-scale trial of a potential AIDS vaccine are being dropped in favor of a smaller, more focused study, the National Institutes of Health said Thursday.

A scientist tests blood samples for HIV. Scientists have isolated two genes which may prevent people from contracting HIV or at least slow the rate at which they develop AIDS, a new study published in the journal AIDS has found. —INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 18 July—The trial of the vaccine developed by the Vaccine Research Center at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, had been planned to include 2,400 men in the United States in a study called PAVE 100.

However, the agency said that it decided that the vaccine did not warrant a trial of this size and scope. Instead NIAID said it will plan a smaller, more focused clinical trial designed to see whether the product has a significant effect on the amount of virus in a person’s blood.

If an effect is found, then additional studies, or an expansion of the study could be carried out.

NIAID said it acted on Wednesday after reviewing the results of the STEP trial, a study of another vaccine that was halted last fall after reports of an increased number of infections among volunteers taking part in the test. —INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 17 July—Former Vice President Al Gore called Thursday for a “man on the moon” effort to switch all of the nation’s electricity production to wind, solar and other carbon-free sources within 10 years, a goal that he said would solve global warming as well as economic and natural security crises caused by dependence on fossil fuels.

“If an effect is found, then additional studies, or an expansion of the study could be carried out. NIAID said it acted on Wednesday after reviewing the results of the STEP trial, a study of another vaccine that was halted last fall after reports of an increased number of infections among volunteers taking part in the test.”

Gore compared the challenge to establishing Social Security and the Interstate highway system, as well as landing a man on the moon — all successes that took more than a single presidency to accomplish and required members of both political parties to overcome their partisanship.

The Alliance for Climate Protection, a bipartisan group Gore leads, put the 30-year cost of his plan — both government and private — at $1.5 trillion to $3 trillion.

To speed up the transition to new energy sources, Gore said the single most important policy change would be to put in what we burn, not what we earn,” advocating a tax on carbon dioxide pollution.

Internet

Say goodbye to the computer mouse

SILICON VALLEY, 18 July—It’s nearly 40 years old but one leading research company says the days of the computer mouse are numbered.

A Gartner analyst predicts the demise of the computer mouse in the next three to five years. Taking over will be so intuitive computer environments, like touch screens and facial recognition devices.

“The mouse works fine in the desktop environment but for home entertainment or working on a notebook it’s over,” declared analyst Steve Prentice. He said that his prediction is driven by the efforts of consumer electronics firms which are making products with new interactive interfaces inspired by the world of gaming.

“You’ve got Panasonic showing forward facing video in the home entertainment environment. Instead of using a conventional remote control you hold up your hand and it recognises you have done that,” he said.

Wolver Mining Co was cut off on Tuesday, once experts had ensured that the water posed no health risk to consumers, the report said.

The Alliance for Climate Protection, a bipartisan group Gore leads, put the 30-year cost of his plan — both government and private — at $1.5 trillion to $3 trillion.

To speed up the transition to new energy sources, Gore said the single most important policy change would be to put in what we burn, not what we earn,” advocating a tax on carbon dioxide pollution.

Internet

Cancer survival depends on where you live

LONDON, 18 July—Your odds of surviving cancer depend on which country you live in. And, in the United States, it also depends on whether you’re black or white, a new study finds.

Economic differences among countries, access to health care, and the availability of cancer treatments feed the disparities in survival, the report said.

“There is a very wide gap in the odds of survival after a cancer diagnosis,” said lead researcher Michel Coleman, a professor of epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in Great Britain.

“Some of the range is understandable on the basis of the relative wealth of these countries,” he added.

The study also confirms the disparity in cancer survival among blacks and whites in the United States, Coleman said.

“The differences are large across the USA, and even in different metropolitan areas,” he said.

Coleman believes the differences among countries — and within regions of countries — is directly related to access to health care.

“This is not a question of the competence of doctors in any particular country,” he said. “This is an issue of the overall effectiveness of health services.”

The report was published in the 17 July online edition of The Lancet Oncology. —INTERNET
Obama says he wants a nuke-free world

WASHINGTON, 18 July—US Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama on Wednesday said he would like the world free of nuclear weapons and pledged to fight emerging threats posed by biological and cyber-terrorism.

The Senator from Illinois made the remarks at a roundtable discussion on national security in West Lafayette, Indiana.

“It’s time to send a clear message to the world: America seeks a world with no nuclear weapons,” he said.

“As long as nuclear weapons exist, we’ll retain a strong deterrent. But we’ll make the goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons a central element in our nuclear policy,” Obama added.

The remarks, delivered before a roundtable discussion with foreign policy experts, come before the presidential hopeful’s scheduled trip to Europe and Mideast. It is the second day in a row that he focuses his speech on national security issues.

Obama is trying to beat back the public perception that he is less experienced than his Republican rival John McCain when handling national security.

Shortly after he concluded his remarks, the McCain campaign released a letter signed by 10 retired admirals and generals touting McCain’s national security credentials.

China rejects Bush’s “religion freedom” remarks

BEIJING, 18 July—Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao on Wednesday rejected US President George W. Bush’s remarks concerning religion freedom in China, urging the United States to view China’s religious condition with a just and objective attitude.

“China is a country under the rule of law, and the Chinese Government protects its citizens’ freedom of religious belief according to law, and Chinese citizens enjoy full freedom of religious belief protected by law,” Liu said.

Liu’s remarks came in response to a question concerning the US President’s speech on Monday at the ceremony of the 10th anniversary of the American International Religious Freedom Act.

“We urged the United States to discard bias and view the religious situation in China with a just and objective attitude, and stop interfering in China’s internal affairs under the pretext of relevant issues,” Liu said.

Medvedev ratifies new Russian foreign policy paper

MOSCOW, 18 July—Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has ratified a new foreign policy paper on the general direction of the country’s diplomatic efforts, as well as its relations with the United States, Europe and NATO.

The top priority of Russia’s foreign policy is ensuring national security and nurturing a good international environment for its development.

The nation also aims to contribute to the process toward creating a just and democratic world through pushing for good neighbourly relations, collective solving of international problems and eliminating hotbeds of conflict, according to an article posted Tuesday on the president’s website.

Russia embraces an open, foreseeable and pragmatic foreign policy, the article said. The new framework, which extends and develops on a foreign policy paper approved by former president Vladimir Putin in June 2000, denounces unilateral actions unauthorized by the United Nations, which, Russia believes, will destabilize the world by causing tensions, provoking arms races, deepening conflicts, and creating national and religious rifts.

On relations with the United States, it says Russia will build a strategic partnership with the country and overstep barriers of strategic principles of the past.

OPEC revises down global oil demand for 2008

VIENNA, 18 July—The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has revised down global oil demand to 86.81 million barrels per day for this year, 90,000 barrels lower than its forecast in June. This is the fourth time OPEC has lowered its global oil demand forecast for this year. In its latest monthly report published Tuesday, the Vienna-based cartel also forecasted a daily demand rise of 0.9 million barrels in 2009, which represents a decline of 0.1 million barrels from estimated growth in 2008.

The report said demand for OPEC crude oil in 2008 would average 32 million bpd and, and in 2009, average demand would further decrease to 31.2 million bpd.

OPEC monthly oil prices reached a record high of 128 US dollars per barrel in June, 7.5 percent higher than the previous month, mainly due to rising Middle East tensions, financial market speculations, supply concerns over a storm threat in the Gulf of Mexico and the continued fluctuation of the dollar, OPEC said.

Iran, the second-largest oil producer of OPEC, started testing long-distance missiles last Wednesday, deepening global concerns about the future stable supply of OPEC oil.
Iran ready to negotiate
with US

TEHERAN, 18 July — Iran’s Government spokes-
man Gholam-Hossein Elham said on Tuesday
that Teheran is ready to hold talks with other
countries, including the United States, Iran’s
satellite Press TV reported.

“Iran, as a influential
power, is ready to hold
talks with other countries,”
Elham was quoted as saying, “but this willing-
ness should not be inter-
preted as a need or a form
of passivity.” He also
pointed out that direct
talks with Washington
could only take place when the time is right. The
two countries severed
diplomatic ties in 1979 when the Islamic revolu-
tion took place in Iran.

“The time for unilateral
talks and pressure has ended. You can not talk to
a great power like Iran using that kind of
language,” Elham added.

Elham’s comments
came after recent reports
that the United States is
willing to open an interest
section in Teheran for
issuing visas and carrying
out cultural activities.

Iranian Foreign
Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said
recently in New York that
Teheran will consider the
plan if the United States
presents the proposal
officially.

On Sunday, Iranian
President Mahmoud
Ahmadinejad said that he
was ready to talk with US
President George W Bush
directly. — MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia to produce
4,000 tons of organic rice
in 2008

PONOSO PESS, 18 July— Cambodia plans to produce
4,000 tons of organic rice this year for exports to EU
and US, a 1,000 tons rise over last year, English-Khmer
language newspaper the Mekong Times said Friday.

The Centre for Studies and Development in
Cambodian Agriculture will undertake the task, which
is expected as a key step to strengthen the agricultural
sector, said the paper.

Around 10,000 families in eight provinces are
producing the organic rice, said center director Yang
Sang Koma. “We think only organic rice production
can help the economic sector because this kind of rice
can be sold at a high price in local and international
markets,” he added.

Thanks to right climate and soil conditions,
Cambodia used to be a major rice producer and
exporter before wars ravaged the country around
1970s. Currently, Vietnam and Thailand have surpassed
Cambodia as the top rice exporters in the region.

EU “satisfied” of prisoners swap
between Israel, Hizbollah

BRUSSELS, 18 July— The European Commission
expressed here Wednesday satisfaction that Israel and
Hizbollah exchanged prisoners.

“I am satisfied that this exchange of prisoners
finally takes place,” said Commissioner for External
Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy Benita
Ferrero-Waldner.

“First and foremost this is a positive step taken by
both sides,” she said. “Today’s exchange is also a step
towards the full implementation of UNSC resolution
1701 and therefore contributes to regional stability.”

She urged that “those whose loved ones have died
deserve to receive the remains for burial”.

The commissioner commended the UN and all
those who contributed for their role played in making
this exchange of prisoners possible. — MNA/Xinhua

Large gas field found in N-E Romania

BUCHEST, 18 July — Romanian gas company
Romgaz has discovered a gas field with a storage
capacity of 200,000 cubic metres in the northeast, the official Rompres news agency reported Thursday.

Romgaz had planned in 2006 to explore gas fields in eight areas throughout Romania, said the company’s
general manager Francisc Toth.

Seven gas fields had been found, he added.
The state-owned corporation is Romania’s largest
producer and supplier of natural gas, taking up 41.2 per
cent of the domestic market. — MNA/Xinhua

Ex-Samsung chief handed three-year suspended jail term

SEOUL, 18 July — Former Samsung Group chief
Lee Kun-hee, one of South Korea’s most powerful
businessmen, was handed a three-year suspended jail
sentence on Wednesday for tax evasion, but was
cleared of other charges.

The court also fined
Lee 110 billion won (109
million US dollars), but
cleared him of charges of
breach of trust and illegal
issuance of convertible
bonds. His jail sentence
was suspended for five
years.

The decision not to
incarcerate Lee was widely
expected and comes only
a month after the head of
worlds No 6 automaker,
Hyundai Motor, was also
given a three-year suspend-
ed jail sentence after being
found guilty of fraud.

“We ruled against
an actual jail sentence as the
degree of illegality was
not significant enough,”
Judge Min Byong-hoon
said.

South Korean prose-
cutors had sought a seven-
year jail term and a 350-
billion won fine for Lee,
who led the country’s
biggest conglomerate for
nearly 20 years.

But analysts and
experts had expected Lee
to escape prolonged jail
time because judges have
often been lenient to corporate leaders con-
victed of white collar
crimes on the basis that
putting them behind bars
could hurt business. — MNA/Reuters

An Afghan woman clad in a burqa, left, talks with
a woman who was allegedly wounded by coalition
air strikes in the Zerko area of Shindand district, at
a hospital in the city of Herat Province Southwest
of Kabul, Afghanistan on 17 July, 2008. — INTERNET

A general view shows Teheran’s wealthy northern
neighbourhood as seen from the rooftop of a multi-storey
building in March 2008. The United States
will announce in the next month plans to establish a
diplomatic presence in Iran for the first time in 30 years, London’s Guardian newspaper said
on 18 July, 2008. — INTERNET

Large gas field found in N-E Romania

BUCHEST, 18 July — Romanian gas company
Romgaz has discovered a gas field with a storage
capacity of 200,000 cubic metres in the northeast, the official Rompres news agency reported Thursday.

Romgaz had planned in 2006 to explore gas fields in eight areas throughout Romania, said the company’s
general manager Francisc Toth.

Seven gas fields had been found, he added.
The state-owned corporation is Romania’s largest
producer and supplier of natural gas, taking up 41.2 per
cent of the domestic market. — MNA/Xinhua

Ex-Samsung chief handed three-year suspended jail term

SEOUL, 18 July — For-
er Samsung Group chief
Lee Kun-hee, one of South
Korea’s most powerful
businessmen, was handed
three-year suspended jail
sentence on Wednesday
for tax evasion, but was
cleared of other charges.

The court also fined
Lee 110 billion won (109
million US dollars), but
cleared him of charges of
breach of trust and illegal
issuance of convertible
bonds. His jail sentence
was suspended for five
years.

The decision not to
incarcerate Lee was widely
expected and comes only
a month after the head of
worlds No 6 automaker,
Hyundai Motor, was also
given a three-year suspend-
ed jail sentence after being
found guilty of fraud.

“We ruled against
an actual jail sentence as the
degree of illegality was
not significant enough,”
Judge Min Byong-hoon
said.

South Korean prose-
cutors had sought a seven-
year jail term and a 350-
billion won fine for Lee,
who led the country’s
biggest conglomerate for
nearly 20 years.

But analysts and
experts had expected Lee
to escape prolonged jail
time because judges have
often been lenient to corporate leaders con-
victed of white collar
crimes on the basis that
putting them behind bars
could hurt business. — MNA/Reuters
Minister calls for efforts for industrial development

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July — Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein met with deputy ministers of the ministry and departmental officials at the ministry here on 16 July and gave instructions to them.

At the meeting, the minister called for production of quality products and running of factories under the ministry at full-capacity. He also urged the officials to make efforts for the development of the industrial sector.

The deputy ministers of the ministry reported to Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein on the matters related to the production and plans of the ministry and the development of the industrial sector.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the minister.—MNA

The wise outstrips the intoxicated

Not intoxicated among the intoxicated and wide-awake among the sleeping, the wise one outstrips them as a swift horse outrips a weak one.

Dhammapada-29

Energy Ministry offers Waso robes

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and the congregation receive Nine Precepts from a Sayadaw at 3rd Waso robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Energy.—MNA

Ministry of L&F offers Waso robes

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—Under the aegis of the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and wife Daw Myint Myint Aye, the third waso robe offering ceremony was held at the Ministry here yesterday morning.

The congregation led by minister received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw U Damahapala of Ywaroo Monastery in Pyankapay village.

Afterwards, Sayadaw recited the parittas. The minister, Directors-General and Managing Directors donated waso robes and offertories to sayadaws. And then they shared the merits gained and offered “sooner” to Sayadaw.

MNA

Umbrella hoisted atop pagoda on Pantapwint Hill

YANGON, 18 July — A ceremony to hoist the umbrella atop the pagoda on Pantapwint Hill in Taikkyi Township was held in conjunction with the Waso robes offering ceremony yesterday.

Presiding Nayaka of Pantapwint Hill Missionary Monastery Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Bhaddanta Paññasara and laypersons sprinkled scented water on the diamond orb, the pennant-shaped vane and tiers of umbrella. Next, they hoisted them atop the pagoda.

In the afternoon, the Waso robes offering ceremony and the re-ordination ceremony followed.

NLM
The cyclone Nargis devastated some areas in Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions on 2 and 3 May. For continued survival of the storm survivors and a quick launch of rescue tasks, Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein and CEC member ministers held an emergency meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 May. In the afternoon the same day, the control office was opened in Yangon and rescue tasks were launched immediately.

The Ministry of Health opened its temporary control office at the emergency and outpatient department of Yangon General Hospital and provided health care. Doctors from Public Health and Disease Control Departments made field trips by helicopter, by car and by boat to Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun, Labutta, Wakema, Pyapon, Dedaye and Myaungmya townships. Severely injured victims were transferred by helicopter to Yangon General Hospital. Specialists provided health care to the victim patients.

I was much pleased to notice the eagerness of medical teams consisting of medical experts, specialists, general practitioners and nurses from hospitals under the Ministry of Health when I saw them off at Wadan Jetty in Yangon on 6 June before their departure for Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun, Bogale, Wakema, Pyapon and Myaungmya to provide health care there.

Some of the members were young with less experience in travelling, so I was concerned over them. Out of worry about them, I put them some questions such as “Do you take warm clothes, raincoats and mosquito nets?” My worries and anxieties were no more when young doctors said to me, “Don’t worry about that, sir. We take all necessary things and we are determined to get to our destination.”

I also saw off specialists, physicians, general practitioners and nurses at Wadan Jetty in Yangon on 19 May morning before their departure for Ayeyawady Division in three ships to provide health care in storm-hit areas such as Labutta, Bogale and Pyapon townships under the joint programme of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Transport.

The three ships were Vessel Taing Aye that would leave for Bogale, Vessel Ta-taing Hmway, for Pyapon Township, and Vessel Vessantara, for Labutta. On 11 June, they were reinforced with more specialists and nurses on board Vessel Pa Pa Win they proceeded by small ship or motorized boats to the villages that were inaccessible by larger vessels.

Team members gave treatment to the victim patients who visited the ships, and they also visited the patients to give treatment. Ayeyawady Division has a large number of rivers, creeks and lakes. So, it was difficult for the people of some villages near rivers or creeks to get to the townships hospitals, health departments and health care centres. So, various forms of mobile medical teams were formed.

Traditional medicine and modern medicine teams form the Traditional Medicine Department left Pathein by ship hospital Vessel Tet Ne Win Tun. They visited 21 villages in Ngapudaw Township by boat and by motorized boat and provided health care to the dwellers.

Specialists and members from the hospitals in Yangon opened a clinic at Kawhmu People’s Hospital to give treatment to injured people and sick persons and took disease control measures.

(See page 9)
Moreover, specialists and members of the medical teams opened a clinic in Kungyangon Township People’s Hospital and provided health care. Medical teams comprising township level health staff opened clinics in the wards of outskirts and villages and provided health care.

The deputy director-general (Treatment) met members of the medical teams at the emergency and outpatient department of Yangon General Hospital before their setting out and fulfilled the requirements on the ships in order to avert unnecessary delays and difficulties in providing health care services. It was also heartening to see the medical superintendent giving encouragement to the members and helping make arrangements.

In addition, medical teams led by deputy directors-general, rectors and professors of hospitals in Yangon made field trips to such storm-affected areas as Kawhmu, Kungyangon, Twantay and Thongwa townships and provided health care continuously. One hundred house surgeons from University of Medicine (1) and University of Medicine (2) in Yangon stepped up health care services by opening clinics in rural areas in the storm-hit townships under the leadership of academic teachers and supervision of heads of township health departments.

In the process, forward clinics have been opened in 12 regions in Pyinsalu Township, Ayeyawady Division. I felt very encouraged to see medical staff providing health care tirelessly at the clinics in Pyinsalu, Pyinkhayang, Thingangon, Saluseik, Theikpangongyi, Hlinephone, Polaung, Kwinpauk, Kyeinchaung, Setsan, Kadonkani and Kyoudah forward camps.

In the meantime, specialists were taking public health care and disease control measures such as sanitations, fumigation, chlorinating freshwater, encouraging use of fly-proof latrines, vaccinating pregnant women and under-15 children, and giving oral vaccines to under-five children against polio. Moreover, 73 final year students (health assistant) of the Community Health University also participated in the community health care services.

I was also pleased to witness the active participation of officers and other ranks of the Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence, and volunteers from the Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar Dental Association, Myanmar Nurses and Midwives Association, Myanmar Red Cross Society, internal NGOs, international NGOs and voluntary fare services in coordination with the Ministry of Health in the storm-ravaged areas.

I appreciated the humanitarianism of international medical teams that took part in the social welfare services in coordination with the Ministry of Health in the storm-ravaged areas.

I write this article to honour those who have carried out health care services in the relief camps, those from floating hospitals who gave treatments and those who discharged duties in the storm-hit areas for their goodwill and brilliant performances.

Translation: MS

****

A glow of pride in health care for storm victims

Dr Kyaw Myint

Sick people are receiving treatment on a floating hospital.

Vessel Tet Ne Win Tun leaves Pathein to give health care with the use of traditional medicines.
Lt-Gen Myint Swe and …

Bhadanta Sirinda of Alanpya Pagoda Monastery, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and wife Daw Kyin Myaing, Commandant of National Defence College Maj-Gen Mya Win, the deputy commandant and senior military officers and their wives.  

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, wife and party took the Five Precepts from the Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.  

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and wife offered Waso robes to the Sayadaw. The commander and wife donated Waso robes and provisions to the Sayadaw.  

The commandant of National Defence College, the deputy commandant and senior military officers presented Waso robes to members of the Sangha.  

The Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and Lt-Gen Myint Swe, wife and party shared merits gained. After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, wife and party offered meals to members of the Sangha. — MNA

Objecctives of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay offer Waso robes and provisions to a Sayadaw.— MNA

Maj-Gen Ko Ko meets with personnel, social…

(programme presented by the chairman of township PDC, Maj-Gen Ko Ko stressed the need for community peace and law and order, sound foundation of economic infrastructures and human resources development and extension of agricultural works in the region, collaborative effort of departments concerned and local people for regional development and preventive measures against floods of Pun Hlaing and Ayeyawady river.

MWAF holds Waso robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 18 July—The Organizational Department of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation organized the Waso robe offering ceremony at Mingla Market Dhammayon on Gyataywa Road in Bahan Township this morning.  

It was attended by Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay and members, Head of Organizational Department Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo and members, heads of departments, leaders of working groups, Secretariat members and members of Yangon Division, district and township Women’s Affairs Organizations.  

First, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Chairman of Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaba Bhaddanta Adivihana of Mula Seetaunggyae Monastery. Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay and members offered Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha.  

Secretary of Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundala of Ahlon Aungmingala Taikdih Monastery delivered a sermon and those presents shared merits gained.— MNA

MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay and members sharing merits gained at Waso robes offering ceremony.— MNA
Musical entertainment with sympathy for storm-hit areas of Mawlamyinegyun Township

I was pleased with the news that the executives of Myanmar Music Asiayon (Central) and renowned vocalists and musicians went to storm-hit regions of Mawlamyinegyun Township to donate foodstuff and personal goods to the people of the storm-hit villages.

The persons who relayed such news to me were Township Manager U Hla Soe and party of Mawlamyinegyun Township Inland Water Transport. Indeed, it was a good deed of the vocalists and musicians to stage entertainment at the villages.

At 3.15 am on 3 July, the double-decker Bula Kyaw Khang of IWT carrying the famous vocalists and musicians berthed at the new jetty in Mawlamyinegyun. I saw the executives of the Myanmar Music Asiayon (Central), famous vocalists and musicians on board the vessel.

On 3 July, the weather in the township was fine in the morning. Vessel Bula Kyaw Khang carried us left Mawlamyinegyun at 6.35 am and headed in the south-east direction. All the persons on board the vessel were happy and active. While the vessel was running along the river, I was preparing for interviews with responsible persons.

In an interview, Assistant Manager U Khin Maung Hla of Delta Branch of IWT said, “Under the arrangements of Managing Director U Hla Soe Tint of IWT, I go along with the vocalists and musicians of the Myanmar Music Asiayon to provide necessary assistance of the department for them on a trip to Mawlamyinegyun.”

Next, I had an interview with Township Manager of IWT U Hla Soe. He explained, “I have each and two pieces of battery to households of the victims. Moreover, one small Buddha image each was offered to every house. Happy smiles were seen on the faces of all. It can be said that they gave a helping hand to the victims.”

Meanwhile, I heard the music from the vessel. The famous vocalists sang the songs in rotation. I noticed many male vocalists namely R Zar Ni, Bo Bo Han, Yan Paing Soe, Guitar Pe Win, Tu Tha, Bo Phyu, Pe Kar, Tekkatho Ko Ko Zaw, Yazar Win Tint, Dollar, Song Composer Min Chit Thu, Artistes present supplies to storm victims in Upper Gyobyu Village in Mawlamyinegyun Township.

Manager U Hla Soe of Mawlamyinegyun Township IWT

Some of the villagers were dancing and singing the songs joyfully. After that, the vessel proceeded to Nathu Village. All the persons on board the vessel prepared their respective tasks for the next stop.

In the interviews with responsible persons of the Myanmar Music Asiayon (Central), vocalist Yan Paing Soe said, “I am discharging duties as Joint-Secretary-2 of the Asiayon. We all made donations to storm-affected villages of Mawlamyinegyun Township by spending the funds through a night of music concert held at Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay. Actually, the donations funded by live strata of the Asiayon reflected the unity of the Asiayon members. It was the first donation of the Asiayon.”

Vocalist Bo Phyu

He explained, “I am very happy for the successful completion of the donation ceremony. It was my first experience on entertainment tour of the villages on board vessel Bula Kyaw Khang together with those from the music circle. I would like to visit here once more, if it is possible. Over 90 vocalists and musicians were on board the vessel. We all make the villagers happy.”

At Nathu Village, supplies were distributed to the storm victims not only from Nathu Village but also from Tateik Village. Afterwards, we headed for Kyargaung Village, the final destination. I saw a large number of storm victims on the bank of Kyargaung Village in a distant view. We had planned to entertain them. At the village, the supplies were delivered to the victims, and the music entertainment was performed. The local villagers were joyful in the entertainment.

At 4.35 pm, we left for Mawlamyinegyun. At 6 pm, vessel Bula Kyaw Khang docked at Mawlamyinegyun. As a special show, the artists presented variety of songs to the local people.

Vocalist Bo Bo Han

At 7 pm, vessel Bula Kyaw Khang of IWT berthed at the new jetty in Mawlamyinegyun. I was preparing for the arrival ceremony. It was my first experience on the vessel Bula Kyaw Khang. While the vessel proceeded to Yangon, I, on board vessel Bula Kyaw Khang, was thinking some words “Music entertainment with sympathy” in my mind.

Translation: TTA
Myanmar Alin: 13-7-2008
Man convicted in 2006 Vermont school shoottings

BURLINGTON, (Vt.), 18 July—A man was convicted of murder Thursday for a shooting rampage that killed a teacher in an elementary school and his ex-girlfriend’s mother. After 4 1/2 hours of deliberations, jurors rejected the insanity defense for Christopher Williams, 29. Prosecutors said Williams set out to kill his ex-girlfriend and her mother after being turned away from their home when he came to collect his belongings after a breakup. Williams was found guilty of two counts of firstdegree murder, one count of attempted first-degree murder and one count of attempted second-degree murder. Another teacher at the school and a friend who had loaned him the gun were shot but survived.

Taleban leader killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 July—Afghan National Security Force and the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in a joint operation killed a Taleban leader in Now Zad district of Afghanistan’s Helmand Province, said a statement issued by ISAF Thursday. Mullah Bismullah Akhund was a senior Taleban leader responsible for supplying weapons and IEDs (Improvised Explosive Device) that have killed civilians and ISAF forces in northern Helmand, the statement said. Bismullah was closely associated with local Taleban leader Mullah Rahim, whose brother was also killed during this operation on 12 July, it added. Afghanistan has been the scene of increasing insurgency led by Taleban militants in terms of suicide bombings and ambushes though some 70,000-strong foreign troops are deployed. — MNA/Xinhua

Four Czech pilots refusing to go to Afghanistan grounded

PRAGUE, 18 July—The Czech military command decided to send four pilots who refused to undergo a training for helicopters to be deployed in Afghanistan to administrative work at the General Staff, the public Czech Television (CT) reported on Thursday. The four pilots from the Prerov air base refused to be trained for the helicopters to be used in Afghanistan. Air technician Jiri Kohout said their refusal was also motivated by the possibility to fly in Afghanistan.

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

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
ROAD TRANSPORT, YANGON DIVISION

INVITATION TO TENDER

TENDER NO.002/TRT/2008-2009

1. Sealed Tenders from eligible suppliers are invited for the supply of the following items:

(a) 9.00 x 20 (1500) Sets (Huaxing Brand-China)
(b) 7.50 x 16 (300) Sets (Huaxing Brand-China)
(c) 10.00 x 20 (200) Sets (Indo Brand-China)

2. Tender Documents are available at the office of Procurement & Stores Department, Yangon Division, Road Transport, No.375, Bogyoke Aung San Street, Yangon Myanmar. Commencing on the 21-7-2008

3. Tender will be closed on 4-8-2008 at 16:00 hours (The Road Transport reserves the right to reject any or all tenders)

4. Detailed information will be available at the office Procurement & Stores Department, Phone No. 01-252574 (or) 01-376549

Road Transport

US troops at risk from shoddy wiring in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 18 July—US soldiers face death and danger from shoddy electrical work at their bases in Iraq, raising further questions about a heavy reliance on private contractors, the New York Times reported on Friday. The Pentagon knew about the problems but did little to address them until Ryan Maseth, a member of the elite Green Berets, was electrocuted in January while taking a shower, the newspaper said. The Army says 13 soldiers have been electrocuted in Iraq since the invasion in March 2003 but the Times reported that internal documents show many injuries from shocks and losses from electrical fires. As recently as June, an electrical fire destroyed 10 buildings at a base in Falluja, forcing Marines to ask for donations to replace their belongings, the paper said. — Internet

NY man claims Subway baked knife into sandwich

NEW YORK, 18 July—A New York man claimed in a lawsuit filed on Wednesday that he found a knife with a 7-inch (18-cm) blade baked into the bread of his foot-long "Cold Cut Trio" Subway sandwich. John Agnesini, 26, a magazine designer, said he had already taken a few bites from the sandwich in late June when he spotted the knife jutting out from the bread’s crust. The lawsuit, filed in Manhattan state court, seekes one million US dollars. — MNA/Reuters

German firemen try to clean up large river oil slick

HAMBURG, Germany., 18 July—German firemen struggled to contain an oil slick on Thursday, a day after two ships collided near Hamburg. — MNA/Reuters

A fireman lays floating oil barriers on 16 July, 2008 on the Elbe river in Hamburg, northern Germany, after a tanker collided with another ship. German firemen struggled to contain an oil slick on Thursday, a day after two ships collided near Hamburg.— Internet

German plane makes emergency landing in Japan

TOKYO, 18 July—A German Air Lines Co Ltd plane made an emergency landing at an airport on Japan’s northernmost island of Hokkaido on Thursday, but no one was injured. Television showed the plane landing smoothly in misty weather at Shin Chitose Airport, after the airline said it planned to divert there on its way to its intended destination of New York.

The plane dumped fuel in the ocean and changed course after a cockpit indicator showed a problem with its lower source, a spokesman for Japan’s Transport Ministry said.

Korean plane makes emergency landing in Japan

McDonald’s franchisee fined 1 mn dollars for hiring illegal immigrants

WASHINGTON, 18 July—A company that owns 11 McDonald’s restaurants in Nevada was fined one million dollars Wednesday after pleading guilty to employing 56 illegal immigrants. The company, Mack Associates Inc., knew the employees were illegal immigrants and had offered them names and social security numbers belonging to other people, the US Justice Department said. The company pleaded guilty in federal court in Las Vegas to conspiracy to encourage and induce an alien’s unlawful presence in the United States and aiding and abetting an alien to remain in the country, the department said. The company’s director of operations also pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting an alien to remain in the country.

And the former vice president of Mack Associates pleaded guilty to inducing an illegal alien to remain in the United States and faces a possible sentence of up to five years in prison and a 250,000 dollar fine.—Internet
Washington, 18 July — The United States fails on most measures of health care quality, with Americans waiting longer to see doctors and more likely to die of preventable or treatable illnesses than people in other industrialized countries, a report released on Thursday said. Americans squander money on wasteful administrative costs, illnesses caused by medical error and inefficient use of time, the report from the nonprofit Commonwealth Fund concluded.

“We lead the world in spending. We should be expecting much more in return,” Commonwealth Fund senior vice president Cathy Schoen told reporters. The Commonwealth Fund, a private foundation, created a 100-point scoreboard using 37 indicators such as health outcomes, quality, access and efficiency.

They compare the US average on these to the best performing states, counties or hospitals, and to other countries. The United States scored 65—two points lower than in 2006. One key measure is prevention of premature deaths from easily treated conditions such as asthma and heart attacks. The United States fell from 15th to last among 19 industrialized nations on this measure from 2006 to 2008. The report estimated the US health care system could save 100,000 lives if it matched Japan or France, the top performers. Infant mortality remains high in the United States, with a rate of 7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, compared to 2.8 per 1,000 in Japan and 3.1 in Sweden.

Hollywood studios, SAG at impasse after meeting

Los Angeles, 18 July—Hollywood producers and the Screen Actors Guild failed to reach a contract agreement Wednesday after meeting privately for two hours. The sides have no further meetings planned.

The meeting came a week after the union rejected what the producers called their final contract offer.

Representatives for both sides declined comment.

The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers has been calling on union leaders to allow actors to vote on a contract offer that it said would provide $250 million in additional compensation over three years. The guild has said the estimated value of the offer is highly inflated.

The producers said if the offer is not ratified by 15 Aug, any proposed wage increases would not be made retroactive to 1 July. Actors have been working under a contract that expired last month.

It is seeking greater compensation for DVDs, something neither writers, directors nor a smaller actors union could secure in negotiations.

SAG also wants more say for actors when they are asked to endorse products in scripted shows.

Businessmen are pictured next to an airplane motor at Farnborough Airshow, Hampshire, on 15 July, 2008. US aerospace giant Boeing on Thursday signed its second major deal of the Farnborough International Airshow, clinching a multi-billion-dollar sale of ‘green’ jets to Air China.—INTERNET

US hearing set on “imperial Bush presidency”

Washington, 18 July — Impeachment is out for US President George W Bush, but a top US lawmaker said on Thursday he wants to take a look at his “imperial presidency.”

House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers announced his panel would examine possible Administration wrongdoing, which has included complaints that Bush misled the United States into the Iraq war in 2003.

“Over the last seven plus years, there have been numerous credible allegations of serious misconduct by officials in the Bush Administration,” said Conyers, a Michigan Democrat.

He scheduled a 25 July hearing on “the Imperial Presidency of George W Bush and possible legal responses.”

Conyers’ action follows hundreds of oversight hearings the past year and a half in the Democratic-controlled Congress on a host of Administration matters—from the Iraq war and torture to the firing of federal prosecutors and leaking of the identity of a CIA agent. Current and former Bush aides have refused to testify, claiming it would violate Bush’s right to private counsel from staff. Democrats are challenging their claim in court. — MNA/Reuters

US talks on Russia gas pipeline

Washington, 18 July — US and Russian diplomats have opened talks on a pipeline project between Turkey and Israel, Israeli Infrastructure Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said on Thursday.

The project consists of five pipelines that would carry water, natural gas, oil, electricity and fiberoptics from Turkey’s Mediterranean coast to Israel. “We are very close to reaching an agreement with Russia that would supply the pipeline with natural gas,” Ben-Eliezer said after meetings with Turkish energy officials over technical details of the pipeline project.

Feasibility studies on an accompanying oil pipeline will be done in 10 months, said Turkish Energy Minister Hilmi Guler, adding that the pipeline could carry at least 40 million tonnes of oil annually. — MNA/Reuters

Chavez says US ties would be no warmer with Obama

Caracas, 18 July — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Wednesday his prickly relations with Washington would not improve even if Democrat candidate Barack Obama wins the US presidential election in November.

Chavez, a relentless critic of US foreign policy and President George W Bush, advocates weakening the influence of the United States and calls the nation “the empire.”

Chavez told his supporters not to raise their hopes that relations with the United States would improve if Obama is elected US president, saying there was little difference between him and Republican candidate John McCain.

“The two candidates for the US presidency attack us equally, they attack us defending the interests of the empire,” Chavez said at a meeting of his socialist party. — MNA/Reuters

Chavez, a relentless critic of US foreign policy and President George W Bush, advocates weakening the influence of the United States and calls the nation “the empire.”

Chavez told his supporters not to raise their hopes that relations with the United States would improve if Obama is elected US president, saying there was little difference between him and Republican candidate John McCain.

“The two candidates for the US presidency attack us equally, they attack us defending the interests of the empire,” Chavez said at a meeting of his socialist party. — MNA/Reuters
Ronaldinho arrives in Milan to complete move

MILAN, 18 July — Ronaldinho arrived at AC Milan’s training ground on Wednesday where he was due to undergo a medical and sign a three-year contract.

Barcelona agreed late on Tuesday to sell the Brazil forward for an initial fee of 21 million euros (33.5 million US dollars) following two days of talks with Milan chief executive Adriano Galliani.

Ronaldinho and Galliani flew into Milan earlier on Wednesday and went straight to the Milanello training ground where the squad was gathering for the first day of pre-season work.

Some 4,000 fans were outside the gates to welcome the 28-year-old playmaker, who was FIFA World Player of the Year in 2004 and 2005 but struggled last season with form and fitness.

The formalities of the move will be concluded over the next couple of days and he will then be presented to the media.

Ferguson confirms Berbatov bid

MANCHESTER, 18 July — Alex Ferguson has confirmed that Manchester United have made Tottenham an offer for their Bulgarian striker Dimitar Berbatov.

United manager Ferguson had already revealed he was trying to sign a player who would significantly improve the European champions.

Now he has signalled an all-out attempt to prise Berbatov from White Hart Lane by going public with his interest.

“We have made Tottenham an offer on Berbatov and we have good expectations that this deal will go through,” Ferguson told The Sun.

“Berbatov has been impressive during a long time and would be a great addition to our attack.”

A move to Old Trafford would suit Berbatov, who is keen to play in the Champions League. But Tottenham are believed to want 30 million pounds (37 million euros) for their star player, while United are offering around 22 million pounds (27.6 million euros).

Yao Ming returns to action for China

HANGZHOU (China), 18 July — Yao Ming is back, transforming China’s basketball team and providing a big relief for Olympic organizers.

The Houston Rockets center marked his return from injury Thursday with 11 points in just over 12 minutes of play for the Chinese national team in an Olympics warmup against a Serbian squad.

Entering six minutes into the first quarter to huge applause from the crowd in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou, Yao appeared a little rusty, but made a solid contribution to China’s kickoff 96-72 victory in the four-team Stankovic Cup tournament.

The game was Yao’s first since a stress fracture in his left foot ended his NBA season in February and threatened his star turn as part of China’s team.

The injury has caused major concern among China’s Olympic organizers expecting him to become the face of the games and his return was certain to help them sleep easier.

Yao is considered a leading candidate to carry the Olympic torch on its final leg into Beijing’s grandiose new National Stadium.

Blake blames himself for struggling win at ATP Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS (Indiana) 18 July — James Blake had more trouble than expected in holding off South Korean qualifier Jun Woong-sun to post a 6-3, 7-5 win in the second round of the ATP Indianapolis Tennis Championships.

The top-seeded 2006 champion admitted he made his own life a misery at times on Thursday against the number 293 who had won his first ATP match this week.

“I shouldn’t have had as much trouble as I did,” said the number eight coming off of Roland Garros and Wimbledon second-round disappointments. “He made me work hard and gave me a scare.

“It had more to do with me than him today, maybe I felt him out a bit too much at first.”

Blake narrowly missed going into a third set and had to save two set points in the tenth game of the second then notch up his game to finish the job in 71 minutes. —Internet

Mediate in 3-way tie for the lead at British Open

SOUTHPORT (England), 18 July — From sunny San Diego to bleak and blustery Royal Birkdale, the expression on Rocco Mediate’s face didn’t change. He watched one final birdie tumble into the cup for a 1-under 69 and a three-way share of the lead in the British Open, straightened his 45-year-old back, then dropped his jaw into a smile that said, “How did that just happen?”

Others must have been wondering the same thing Thursday.

Ernie Els was playing some of his best golf in the worst of the weather until taking 45 shots on the back nine and posting an 80, his highest score in nearly two decades at his favorite major.

Phil Mickelson was up to his knees in grass right of the sixth green and never found his ball, taking a triple bogey that sent him to a 79. —Internet

China’s Yao Ming (13) aims to score as Serbia’s Boban Marjanovic (12) blocks during their match of the Stankovic Cup international basketball tournament on 17 July, 2008, in Hangzhou, China. Russia, Angola, Serbia, and China are competing in the tournament which is a warm-up for the Olympic Games. China won 96-72. —Internet
Costa Rica disappointed by US anti-drug aid package

SAN JOSE, 18 July — The Costa Rican Government on Wednesday voiced discontent with a recent US anti-drug aid package, saying the money is far less than what the country needs to combat drug trafficking.

The 4.2-million-US dollar-aid, provided by the United States under the anti-drug initiative called “Merida”, is not even enough to buy an anti-drug vessel, said Public Security Minister Janina del Vecchio.

“I don’t understand why the United States gave us so less money to fight drug traffickers,” she said.

The Costa Rican Government needs help from its allies, especially Spain, to carry on its anti-drug campaign, said the minister.

In June, the US Senate approved a 1.6-billion-dollar, three-year package of anti-drug assistance to Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, known as the Merida Initiative.

The package was signed into law by US President George W. Bush on 30 June.

Costa Rica and the United States started joint anti-drug operations and patrols in 1993. A large amount of drugs originated in Colombia have been confiscated since then.

Costa Rican police seized a total of over 30 tons of drugs since May 2006, when incumbent Costa Rican President Oscar Arias took office.

Strong wind, downpours leave 1,200 homeless in Chile

SANTIAGO, 18 July — Strong wind and rains in the past days in central-south Chile have made 1,200 homeless and isolated another 1,400, regional authorities said on Thursday.

Director of the National Bureau of Emergency (ONEMI) Carmen Fernandez has called for swift measures for food relief.

On Wednesday, the ONEMI said that 1,400 families were isolated in 13 communes of central-south Chile.

The ONEMI also estimated that 1,200 homeless were registered in the main affected areas.

The strong wind, which began on July 15, has continued until now, Fernandez said.

The official said that, as of Thursday afternoon, the wind has decreased, therefore “we can work much better, because it is difficult to have a real measure of the damages when the rainy season is in full development.” — MNA/Xinhua

British police seize 3 tons of cannabis

LONDON, 18 July — British police have seized three tons of cannabis resin in Coventry, central England, the BBC reported on Thursday.

The drugs were found in six pallets, each containing 500 kilos of cannabis resin bars, with some 20,000 pounds (40,000 US dollars) in cash. Two men have been arrested in connection with the haul.

A South Korean couple covered in mud are seen at Yonago, Japan, 19 July, 2008 recently — INTERNET
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

A glow of pride in health care for storm victims

I write this article to honour those who have carried out health care services in the relief camps, those from floating hospitals who gave treatments and those who discharged duties in the storm-hit areas for their goodwill and brilliant performances.