Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspects reconstruction works in Ngapudaw, Hainggyikkyun

NAY PYI TAW, 19 July – Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe and officials arrived at Ngapudaw Township on 16 July.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko, the commander and party paid homage to Shwemyintin Pagoda and made cash donations for all-round renovation of the pagoda.

Next, Maj-Gen Ko Ko met with departmental officials, social organizations members and townswinders at the office of Ngapudaw Township PDC.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko heard a report on facts about the township and progress of agriculture, fishery, salt industries and other businesses of the township presented by an official, and stressed the need to extend the businesses. The commander made a supplementary report.

Next, Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party viewed beautifying of the township in a motorcade. At the station hospital in Kyonku village in the township, Maj-Gen Ko Ko comforted the patients and provided cash assistance to them.

They also visited Kyonku Village BEHS and inspected learning of school children and building of the new school building.

Next, Maj-Gen Ko Ko, the commander and party viewed progress of reconstruction of Hainggyikkyun in a motorcade and visited 16-bed Hainggyikkyun Station Hospital.

At Panmawady Hall, they met with departmental personnel, social organizations members and local people. Commodore Myo Myint Than of Hainggyikkyun Station reported to Maj-Gen Ko Ko on progress of reconstruction and rehabilitation works, distribution of relief supplies and assistance provided by the State for education and health sectors in cooperation with the members of social organizations and wellwishers, and the commander made a supplementary report.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko urged them to strive for ensuring better conditions than before the natural disaster in accordance with the guidance given by the Head of State.

In the evening, Maj-Gen Ko Ko met with officers and other ranks and their families at the hall of the station and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Educative talk on control of DHF in Maubin

YANGON, 19 July – An educative talk on control of dengue haemorrhagic fever in Maubin District, Ayeyawady Division was held at 200-bed People’s Hospital in Maubin this morning.

Secretary of District Peace and Development Council U Myo Sein delivered a speech. Head of Ayeyawady Division Health Department Dr Aye Ko Ko reported on outbreak of DHF in the division, Deputy Director (Malaria) Dr Than Win on undertaking of larvae control measures with the use of abate in the township.

Dr Aye Ko Ko presented insecticides to officials of Maternal and Child Welfare Association for day nurseries. Dr Aye Ko Ko and party inspected larvae control measures with the use of Abate in Ward 3 and in schools. — MNA

Media under colonialists’ influence, incapable of undermining Myanmar’s nationalistic fervour (2)

However much the media under the colonialists’ influence made attempts to undermine the rehabilitation and reconstruction endeavours, Myanmar people who knew thoroughly about the trickery of that media will continue serving the interest of the State and the people.

TEKKATHO MYAT THU

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**PERSPECTIVES**

Sunday, 20 July, 2008

For emergence of constant stream of intellectuals and intelligentsia

Today, measures are being taken through the education sector to help the Myanmar society enjoy technological development. In the process, the youth are being educated and nurtured in order that intellectuals and intelligentsia get along with the sector concerned.

Respective universities and colleges are to take a leading role in innovating technologies, modern methods and good foundations that are suitable for various social fields.

Now, good education environments are being created to be able to apply advanced techniques and technologies not only in the agriculture, livestock, forestry, mining and industrial sectors but also in social sectors.

Teachers, the major human resource in the education sector, are to guide the youth so that the latter’s goals contribute towards the interests of the nation, while teaching students subjects on arts and science to improve their education.

Today, the world has seen remarkable advancements in science and technology, along with changes in global events. So, teachers have to work hard to help the nation and the people catch up with the global advancements.

The nation will be able to produce a continuous stream of reliable intellectuals and intelligentsia if teachers guide, nurture and train the students effectively with goodwill, taking advantage of the good education foundations the government has built to fulfill the requirements in the education sector.

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**Minister for Industry-1 inspects factories in Insein Township**

**Yangon**, 19 July — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected concrete products factory of Myanma Ceramic Industries in Insein Township this morning.

The minister inspected production of concrete post shoes for construction of houses in the storm-hit areas and transport of the post shoes to the respective areas.

The concrete products factory and maintenance factories have produced 24,950 post shoes up to 18 July. The factories can produce 1,500 post shoes per day.

The minister also inspected shoe factory No. 1 (branch) of Myanma General and Maintenance Industries in Phawkan. He gave instructions on realization of the targets.

He inspected Win Thuza Shop (Phawkan) and observed the sale. —MNA

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**Deputy Foreign Minister receives UN Assistant Secretary-General**

**Yangon**, 19 July — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Tripartite Core Group (TCG) U Kyaw Thu received Mr Ajay Chhibber, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Regional Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Development Programme at 3 pm today at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here.

Also present on the occasion were Mr Martins Hildebrants, Deputy Chief of South East Asia and Pacific Division of the UNDP and officials concerned from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. —MNA

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**Grants provided to brilliant students of Myanmar Maritime University**

**Yangon**, 19 July — A ceremony to provide grants to brilliant students of Myanmar Maritime University who passed the respective maritime examinations was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this evening.

Under the arrangements of country rep SR Shipping Co Ltd, in Myanmar, STX Pan Ocean & STX Pos Ship Management Co Ltd of the Republic of Korea provided the grants to the outstanding students.

Manager U May Aung of SR Shipping Co Ltd explained the arrangements for the grants provided by STX Pan Ocean & STX Pos Ship Management Co Ltd to the guests.

Managing Director Mr Lim Chaeep of STX Pan Ocean gave an introductory speech.

Training Manager Mr Yang Seung-Hee reported on functions of maritime, energy production, shipbuilding and production of ship engines and maritime and shipping courses by STX economic group, the mother company of STX Pan Ocean & STX Pos. Rector of Myanmar Maritime University U Charlie Than thanked the company for providing grants and congratulated the outstanding students on their success.

Managing Director Mr Lim Chaeep presented cash assistance and certificates to 20 third, fourth and final year students.

STX Pan Ocean & STX Pos Ship Management Co Ltd ranks fourth in the shipbuilding in the world under the name of STX. Beginning 2007, S.R.Shipping Co Ltd located at Botahtaung Tower in Botataung Township has employed Myanmar sailors under the arrangement of the STX Co. Enquiry can be made through dialing 203012 and 201687. —MNA

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* 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

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* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

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**Managing Director Mr Lim Chaeep of STX Pan Ocean presents certificate and grants to a student of MMU.** —MNA
Iran's nuke issue should be resolved through diplomacy

**MOSCOW,** 19 July — Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, in a telephone conversation with his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad Friday, said the dispute over Iran’s nuclear programme should be resolved through diplomacy, the Kremlin press-service said.

“arney,” it said.

Iran’s top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili and the European Union (EU) foreign policy chief Javier Solana will meet in Swiss city of Geneva on Saturday to hold talks on the country’s nuclear programme.

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UK sprinter fails in bid to beat Beijing ban

**LONDON,** 19 July— British sprinter Dwain Chambers has failed in his London High Court bid to compete at the Beijing Olympic Games.  

Chambers, 30, had appealed against a lifetime ban from competing in the Olympics imposed by the British Olympic Association following a two-year suspension for failing a drugs test.  

Chambers, who served injunction against the BOA, which bans all doping violators for life from Olympic competition.

The sprinter’s lawyers argued that Chambers had expressed regret for his past behavior and deserved a place in Beijing, adding that he would strengthen Britain’s 100-meter squad.

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US military death toll in Iraq rises to 4,124

**WASHINGTON,** 19 July — As of Friday, 19 July, 2008, at least 4,124 members of the US military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,360 died as a result of hostile causes, the US military said Friday “of non-battle related injuries,” the US military said Friday.

The attacks follow a car bombing on Wednesday in the Nineveh city of Tal Afar that killed at least 15 people and wounded 30 others. And on that same day, a suicide car bombing near a US military convoy wounded five people. The number of US service member deaths in the Iraq war is at 4,124.

Eight have died so far in July. —Internet

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Mexico seizes ‘narco submarine’

**MEXICO CITY,** 19 July — Mexico found nearly six tonnes of cocaine in a makeshift submarine seized this week off the Pacific coast, the navy said Friday.

The 32-foot (10-metre)-long, green fiberglass craft was designed to travel just beneath the water, leaving almost no wake.

It was one of Mexico’s largest maritime drug seizures and the first time the country has seen drug smugglers using a submarine, the navy said.

Four Colombians aboard the submarine said they had navigated up the Pacific coast from Colombia, according to the navy.

Colombian officials said last month that diesel-powered drug submarines travel up to two weeks to reach Central America and Mexico. The drugs are then hauled overland into the United States.

Mexican special forces raided the submarine on Wednesday after they spotted it from the air by helicopter. They detained the crew and brought them and the vessel back to the Pacific port of Salina Cruz in Oaxaca state.

Colombia’s navy says each homemade submarine costs about $600,000 to make and is outfitted with propellers. The submarine find comes as troops on Thursday discovered 12 tonnes of marijuana in trucks near Tijuana at Mexico’s border with California, police said.

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French search for stolen Sentex

**LYON,** (France), 19 July—French anti-terrorist officers are searching for 28kg (61lb) of Sentex explosive missing from a depot in the suburbs of the city of Lyon.

France’s interior ministry confirmed an investigation was underway, saying the manager of the site had been suspended.

Sentex is a powerful explosive favoured by terrorist groups as it is odourless and difficult to detect.

Police said detonators were also missing and that they are treating the theft “very seriously”.

The depot, in a disused 19th century fort at Corbas, is used for storing explosives by a civil defence unit charged with the job of blowing up bombs and ammunition left over from the two world wars.

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Roadside bomb kills four Afghan security guards

**KANDAHAR** (Afghanistan), 19 July — Police say a roadside bomb and a militant attack have killed four private Afghan security guards in the country’s insurgency-wracked south.

Helmand provincial police chief Mohammad Hussein Andiwal says the roadside blast occurred around 6 am Friday in the province’s Nava district.

Three guards were killed and four wounded.

Zahid deputy provincial police chief Jalani Khan says Taliban militants attacked a convoy carrying supplies for NATO forces Thursday. The 30-minute gunbattle in his region killed an Afghan security worker and wounded five. More than 2,500 people — mostly militants — have died in insurgency-related violence this year in Afghanistan, according to an Associated Press tally of official figures.

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Mexico troops have seized nearly six tonnes of cocaine found in a makeshift fiberglass submarine — the first known use of a submarine for drug trafficking — traveling just beneath the surface of the Pacific Ocean. —Internet

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Three dead in Iraq suicide blast

**BAGHDAD,** 19 July — A suicide truck bomber in northern Iraq attacked an Iraqi army patrol on Friday, killing three soldiers and wounding seven others, an Interior Ministry official said. The incident — which occurred in Filfla west of Mosul in Nineveh province — is the latest strike in the northern region, where al Qaeda in Iraq maintains a strong presence and violence continues to flare in a country that is enjoying a decrease in fighting. Meanwhile, a Multi-National Force-Iraq service member died Thursday “of non-battle related causes,” the US military said Friday.

The attacks follow a car bombing on Wednesday in the Nineveh city of Tal Afar that killed at least 15 people and wounded 30 others. And on that same day, a suicide car bombing near a US military convoy wounded five people. The number of US service member deaths in the Iraq war is at 4,124.

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McCain advisor quits over ‘whiners’ comment

WASHINGTON, 19 July —Phil Gramm, an advisor to presumptive Republican candidate John McCain, resigned Friday following mounting criticism over his comment that the US had become a “nation of whiners” in relation to the economic woes confronting many Americans. Phil Gramm resigned on Friday as co-chair of Republican White House hopeful John McCain’s campaign after calling the United States a “nation of whiners,” the former senator said.

“It is clear to me that Democrats want to attack me rather than debate Senator McCain on important economic issues facing the country,” Grammsaid in a statement.

Soldiers killed in Kashmir blast

NARBAL (Kashmir), 19 July—At least seven soldiers have been killed in an explosion triggered by suspected separatist militants, police in Indian-administered Kashmir said.

More than 20 others were hurt when a bus carrying the troops was caught in the blast in the Narbal area, close to the provincial capital, Srinagar.

Some of the injured are said to be in critical condition.

Police said the soldiers were on leave and returning home. No group has said it carried out the attack.

Israel didn’t know of cluster bomb use

JERUSALEM, 19 July — A former Israeli defense official says the Israeli military used cluster bombs for two weeks during the 2006 Lebanon war without telling the Israeli government.

Hagai Alon, an adviser to then-Defense Minister Amir Peretz, says the government only learned of the cluster bomb use when European countries raised the issue after the war.

Alon spoke on Israel Radio on Saturday.

The military said in response that it updated the government on all issues throughout the war.

Cluster bombs open in flight and scatter dozens of bomblets over wide areas. UN experts say that of millions dropped over Lebanon, up to 1 million failed to explode.

Kenya’s violence threatens wildebeest

LIMA, 19 July — At least 19 people have been killed and more than 16 injured in two separate car accidents in Bolivia, according to information reaching here from La Paz, the country’s administrative capital.

A bus carrying 28 passengers plunged off a cliff in Sama hill on Friday morning, just 20km from its destination — the capital of Taraja state. Eight people were killed and 16 injured in the accident.

Another accident, which claimed the lives of seven persons, occurred in the department of La Paz Thursday night when a vehicle crashed into a bus on the Desaguadero highway connecting Bolivia with Peru.

The cause of the accidents is under investigation.

Car accidents in Bolivia kill 19

Desaguadero highway connecting Bolivia with Peru.

Department of La Paz Thursday night when a vehicle crashed into a bus on the Desaguadero highway connecting Bolivia with Peru. The number of animals being poached not being able to sustain the population.”

The political violence stemming from Kenya’s disputed election caused visitors to cancel their trips or look elsewhere for their vacation. And though the country has been peaceful for months, the tourists have stayed away.

Massai Mara, Kenya, 19 July — The migration of more than a million wildebeest between Kenya and Tanzania is one of the wonders of the natural world. Tourists from around the globe have flocked to Kenya to witness the herds streaming across the savanna and over the Mara River. But now this annual migration is under threat from poachers. “When the animals come into Kenya there is this big influx of poachers,” says Brian Heath, CEO of the Mara Conservancy that manages animal protection in the border regions of the park.

“Unless we control it we are in danger of the number of animals being poached not being able to sustain the population.”

The political violence stemming from Kenya’s disputed election caused visitors to cancel their trips or look elsewhere for their vacation. And though the country has been peaceful for months, the tourists have stayed away.

Poachers set steel snares amongst the thorn trees to capture wildebeest headed on their annual migration.

American Airlines flight diverted

OKLAHOMA CITY, 19 July — An American Airlines flight from Boston to Los Angeles was diverted to Oklahoma City on Friday after a passenger stripped nude and later tried to open an emergency exit door before being subdued by members of a professional soccer team and others, the FBI said.

Members of the New England Revolution of Major League Soccer were among those who grabbed the passenger near an exit door, FBI spokesman Gary Johnson said. Tie wraps were placed on the man, whose name was not immediately released. He was taken into custody in Oklahoma City and placed under psychiatric evaluation, Johnson said.

American Flight 725, a Boeing 757, arrived in Oklahoma City at 1:35 pm CDT and was back in the air an hour later, said American Airlines spokesman Tim Smith. It landed without further incident at Los Angeles International Airport at 3:13 pm PDT.

Craig Tornberg, the soccer team’s general manager, said he confronted the man as soon as he saw him emerge naked from one of the plane’s restrooms.

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American Airlines spokesman Tim Smith.

Stringer reported from Miami and Johnson from Oklahoma City. —AP

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The cause of the accidents is under investigation.
Pigs shot to train US soldiers

LONDON, 19 July — The US Army has defended a practice of shooting live pigs as part of a medical training exercise for soldiers heading to Iraq.

The military says the practice teaches troops emergency lifesaving skills needed on the battlefield when there are no doctors or medical facilities nearby.

“It’s to teach Army personnel how to manage critically injured patients within the first few hours of their injury,” said Major Derrick Cheng, spokesman for the 25th Infantry Division.

But animal cruelty organisation Peta has labelled the practice outdated and unnecessary and have urged the Army to rethink the plan.

“They’ve absolutely no reason why they have to shoot live pigs,” spokesman Holly Beal said.

Peta said the training was brought to their attention by a “distraught” soldier who told them of plans to shoot the pigs with M4 carbines and M16 rifles.

The organisation said there were more humane options available, including high-tech human simulators.

But Major Cheng said shooting pigs was the best option.

Illegal explosive found to be cause of killer furniture store blaze in N China

SHIJIAZHUANG, 19 July — The furniture market fire that killed nine people and injured another on Monday in north China’s Hebei Province was caused by an explosion when a store owner was trying to make explosive.

The blaze broke out at about 10 am at the three-story Sunshine Furniture Market in Quyang County, about 200 km southwest of Beijing, said a provincial public security department spokesman on Friday.

The dead, aged 19 to 40, included seven females and two males. They were all locals of Quyang and store employees. An injured man was still receiving treatment in hospital.

According to a police investigation, the store owner, a woman sur-named Chen, decided to make explosives in the market’s back lotto earn money. She hired seven people on Sunday night, paying each100 yuan (about 14.3 US dollars) a day. At 7 am Monday, they began making explosive in a shed. At 9:56 am, it caught fire after chemicals ignited the explosive.

The spokeswoman said Friday that agents seized drugs, rifles, grenades and ammunition. She declined to be identified in line with standard departmental policy. Rio is one of the world’s most violent cities and the site of frequent shootouts between police and drug gangs.

Police and soldiers are searching the river for the bodies but flooding by monsoon rain is making their efforts difficult.
Pakistan disputes US airstrike due to database gap

ISLAMABAD, 19 July — The Pakistan military rejected on Thursday US media reports that an American airstrike which killed 11 Pakistani soldiers happened because the US military did not know their post on the Afghan border was there.

US officials, who spoke to some media on condition of anonymity, said the preliminary results of a joint US-Pakistani investigation into the June 10 incident showed they did not have the location of the soldiers’ post in the Mohmand tribal region.

US coalition ground forces in Afghanistan called in air support after coming under fire from positions on a ridge overlooking the border.

Around eight militants were killed in the airstrike, but it also hit the border post manned by Pakistani paramilitary troops.

Pakistan’s military spokesman Major-General Athar Abbas said the information on the post’s location had been shared with the US military.

“We had shared with them everything, including grid coordinates of all the posts on our side, and even handed over to them marked maps, indicating the location of our posts,” he said. — MNA/Reuters

India discovers huge gas reserve worth $100b

MUMBAI, 19 July — India’s Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) has discovered a huge gas reserve of more than 600 billion cubic metres of gas in the Krishna-Godavari Basin (Deendayal Block), announced Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday.

“I wanted to go personally and congratulate the GSPC’s team for their big breakthrough and I therefore came here with my Cabinet ministers,” Modi said. He was speaking through video conferencing from Andhra Pradesh’s KG-22 basin to the media at the GSPC Bhavan.

“Today our find at KG-22 is worth 100 billion US dollars,” he said.

The GSPC team had slogged for three years in the middle of the sea digging over six kilometres deep to find the gas reserve. “By god’s grace the result has been satisfying. I congratulate all the team members,” he said.

The block covers an area of 1.850 square kilometres on the KG basin in Andhra Pradesh and GSPC as an operator has 80 per cent participating interest. — MNA/Xinhua

Japan local assembly rejects US military plan

TOKYO, 19 July — Lawmakers in Okinawa, southern Japan, passed a non-binding resolution on Friday against a government plan to relocate a US military base, a move that could affect local negotiations on the realignment.

Japan has tried to persuade Okinawa residents to agree to a planned move of the US Marines’ Futenma air base from the crowded city of Ginowan to the coastal city of Nago on the same island, part of a broader plan that would shift about 8,000 Marines to Guam.

But Okinawans have opposed the plan, complaining about noise and crime associated with the bases, and resentful of the island’s heavy burden under the US-Japan security alliance.

Okinawa plays host to the bulk of the 50,000 or so US troops based in Japan. “We strongly demand that construction be put off immediately,” an official at the Okinawa prefectural assembly quoted the resolution, addressed to the US and Japanese governments and the Okinawa governor, as saying. — MNA/Reuters

UK gas bills to soar as oil link strengths

LONDON, 19 July — British gas prices are going to be more strongly influenced by global oil markets for the foreseeable future and householders will have to get used to spending much more on energy unless the surge in oil costs is reversed, Eclipse Energy Group said.

Consultants Eclipse said in a report, commissioned by Britain’s biggest household energy supplier Centrica, that the link between oil prices and wholesale gas prices in the UK will get stronger over the next few years as declining output from the North Sea makes Britain rely more on imports.

“With the UK increasingly reliant on imported gas by pipeline and liquefied natural gas, the international oil price will, in the near future, be the main price driver behind our energy supplies, with an impact likely across consumers, businesses and the economy generally,” John King, Managing Partner of Eclipse, said. — MNA/Reuters

Lebanon’s Hariri meets Iraqi PM in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 19 July — Senior Lebanese politician Saad al-Hariri met Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki in Baghdad on Thursday in a further sign the Iraqi Government’s ties with the Arab world are expanding.

Hariri praised recent security gains in Iraq, the government said in a statement. Violence has dropped to a four-year low.

Few senior Lebanese officials have visited Iraq since the US-led invasion in 2003, but regional countries are starting to re-engage with the Shi’ite-ruled government.

“Today our find at KG-22 is worth 100 billion US dollars,” he said. — MNA/Reuters

Hariri, son of Lebanon’s slain ex-prime minister Rafik al-Hariri, is the Sunni Muslim leader of Lebanon’s majority parliamentary coalition.

He also heads a multi-billion dollar business empire, and his visit coincides with an Iraqi push for more foreign investment to help rebuild the country and provide jobs.

Last week Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan visited Baghdad, the first Turkish leader to do so since the US-led invasion to topple Saddam Hussein. — MNA/Reuters

Visitors to the Olympic Green take pictures of sculptures carrying Olympic flames, in Beijing, on 18 July, 2008. Organizers are putting the final touches to the sprawling Olympic Green where the main venues for the Olympic Games are located. — Internet
So, it founded Radio Free Asia (RFA) in Washington deposing the Socialist governments of East Europe. It established June Four radio station near Chicago and Chinese protesters through Hong Kong. Then, it organized a protest in Tiananmen Square. After the riot was exaggerated news stories.

The organization used the media weapon it had used in the Cold War against the nation concerned. In the late 1991 when the Soviet Union devestated. And it appointed expatriates of many countries in the nation. With the aim of attacking and overthrowing the party members and expatriates of many countries in the targeted countries, and between the targeted countries and international community. If necessary, it uses force to invade a targeted country. However, its excuses force it to do so are never reasonable.

It asked the intelligence units it keeps to launch political, economic, military and social attacks on the targeted countries to interfere in the internal affairs of those countries. It uses black journalism and disinformation to indoctrinate the people of the targeted country. Moreover, it wages psychological warfare and brainwashes the people of the targeted country. Now, in Myanmar, internal and external saboteurs are brainwashing the people with the use of invented news stories.

An organization in that country plants opposition party members and expatriates of many countries in BBC, VOA, RFA and DVB. Employing the experience of the media weapon it had used in the Cold War against the Soviet Union, it established many radio stations to dominate the airwaves around the world.

In the Cold War period, it founded RFE (Radio Free Europe) nearby Munich in Germany to sabotage eight Socialist countries of the Eastern Europe, and Radio Liberty or Radio Liberation also in Munich to devastate Soviet Union. And it appointed expatriates of the nation concerned. In the late 1991 when the Soviet Union was on the edge of collapse, BBC, VOA, RFE and Radio Liberty broadcast round the clock.

Fidel Castro regime has ruled Cuba since 1959. With the aim of attacking and overthrowing the governments of the Socialist countries in Latin America including Cuba, the organization established Radio Swan, then Radio Jose Marti and TV Marti and aired exaggerated news stories.

In May and June 1998, China saw a riot at the alienation instigation (especially at the instigation of that organization) in Tiananneen Square. After the riot was over on 4 June 1989, the organization took away some Chinese protesters through Hong Kong. Then, it established June Four radio station near Chicago and asked the Chinese expatriates to air broadcasts designed to attack the Chinese government.

The broadcasts of RFE proved successful in deposing the Socialist governments of East Europe. So, it founded Radio Free Asia (RFA) in Washington to attack China and Tibet, oust the Vietnamese. North Korean and Myanmar governments. RFA airs programmes in Chinese, Tibet, Korean, Vietnamese and Myanmar from dawn till dusk. Many expatriates from China, Tibet, Vietnam, Korea and Myanmar are appointed in RFA.

Furthermore, it founded DVB radio station in Oslo, Norway, for Myanmar renegades who were involved actively in the 1988 unrest. In September 2007, it hired a TV channel for the expatriates of DVB. The organization is behind the RFE, Radio Liberty, Radio Swan, Radio Jose Marti, TV Marti, June Four, RFA, DVB. The congress of its mother country provides a lot of funds for the stations.

That organization assigned duties to hundreds of American journalists and thousands of Asian, African, Latin American and European journalists in manufacturing fabricated news, applying a string of books compiled by retired officers and journalists.

Secretary of the US State Department Henry Kissinger, Chairman of Chinese Communist Party Mao Zedong and Chinese Prime Minister Zhou Enlai held a meeting at the residence of the Chairman of Chinese Communist Party in Beijing from 11 pm on 17 February to 1.20 am on 18 February 1973. I would like to present the discussions of that organization made at the meeting (based on facts of the book on discussions to go down in the annals of history compiled by Kyaw Win).

Mao Zedong: Well, let’s discuss the matters frankly without using any tortuous words. Actually, the long and tortuous remarks did not work. I had told your American reporter Mr Edgar Snow that the news of your organization was tortuous and complicated. And it was good for nothing.

Kissinger: I completely agreed with your wishes. So, millions of expatriates from many countries have returned to their homeland. It is common knowledge that the West Bloc are resorting to various ways and means including imposing economic sanctions against the nation and dissuading the international community from investing in Myanmar to undermine the nation-building endeavours and accusing the nation of using forced labour and violating human rights. They continued funding the remnant insurgents and sowing discord among national races to jeopardize the already-achieved peace and stability.

They attempted to cripple every step of the seven-step Road Map. The National Convention gained achievement only after overcoming a series of hardships and obstacles of destructive elements. The internal and external destructive elements created unrest in the nation when the State constitution was about to be drafted. However, the entire Myanmar people have been able to draw the constitution after warding off such disturbance with nationalism.

Again, when the national referendum was being held, the destructive elements were making attempts to undermine the process by means of air waves of BBC, VOA, RFA and DVB that aired fabricated news up to five times a day. But the entire Myanmar people who have already known the perpetrators of the destructive media unanimously cast votes in favour for the State constitution, and the constitution was thus approved with 92.48 per cent of votes in favour.

The severe storm by the name of Nagis struck Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago Divisions and Mon and Kayin States in lower Myanmar on 2 and 3 May 2008. The storm left over 80,000 people dead, over 50,000 missing and over 10,000 injured. The government and donors at home and abroad made generous contributions in the form of cash and kind in rehabilitation and reconstruction of the storm-hit regions in Ayeyawady Division. With generosity, goodwill and nationalistic fervour of the Myanmar people, the storm-hit regions have now returned to normal with a large number of new villages, new towns, new houses and new roads. It is known to all that internal and external destructive elements in collusion with some foreign broadcasting stations made attempts to undermine the drive for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the storm-hit regions.

However much the media under the colonialists’ influence made attempts to undermine the rehabilitation and reconstruction endeavours, Myanmar people who knew thoroughly about the trickery of that media will continue serving the interest of the State and the people. At present, the government and the people are enjoying the fruits of the two national achievements. The first achievement is that the entire Myanmar people have been making relentless efforts in the struggle for independence, prevalence of peace and stability after the independence, prosperity and development of the nation and the successful realization of the seven-step Road Map in the process of building a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation with nationalistic spirit from the time when they were fighting for independence to 60 years after regaining independence. In the course of that period, they gained a string of achievements overcoming sabotage perpetrated by internal and external destructive elements.

(Translation: MS + TS)
Later, representatives of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Fire Brigade, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, Myanmar Music Asiayon, Myanmar Thabin Asiayon, and Myanmar Artists and Artisans Asiayon paid tribute and laid wreaths before the tombs of Bogyoke Aung San and the fallen leaders.

MNA

Family members of Thakhin Mya pay tribute at the tomb of Thakhin Mya.

MNA

Family members of U Ba Cho lay a wreath at the tomb of U Ba Cho.

MNA

Family members of U Razak lay a wreath at the tomb of U Razak.

MNA

Family members of Mongpawn Sawbwa lay a wreath at the tomb of Mongpawn Sawbwa.

MNA

On behalf of U Aung San Oo, U Hla Pe lays a wreath at the tomb of Bogyoke Aung San.

MNA

Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and attendees pay tribute at the tombs of Bogyoke Aung San and fallen leaders.

MNA
NDPCC member inspects reconstruction works of storm-hit villages

NAY PI TAW, 19 July—Member of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint inspected road works of Labutta-Thonegaw-Ottwin-Hakesun road and progress of construction of new houses in Kyaikkalap village on 16 July. After hearing reports presented by departmental persons at the briefing hall of Shwe Thanlwin and AroyonU Companies Group, the minister gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister and party looked into nursery and lake, opening of groceries and growing of vegetables on manageable scale in Phonedawpyae Khonegyi village and attended to the needs.

The minister also inspected giving medical treatments to local people by members of Mon State Union Solidarity and Development Association.

Next, the minister looked into reconstruction works of Lower Pyunwa village. Afterwards, he held discussions on agriculture, fishery and salt-making businesses with townselders and officials at Thingankon village.—MNA

More Int’l relief aids arrive

YANGON, 19 July—Relief supplies for storm-affected regions continued to arrive here from abroad. A total of 76.337 tons of relief aids donated by Thailand-based United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and 68.667 tons of supplies by Malaysian Red Cross Society arrived at Yangon International Airport today.—MNA

Ayeyawady River below danger level

NAY PI TAW, 19 July—The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology under the Ministry of Transport today issued a flood bulletin that the water level of Ayeyawady River at Hinthada is falling by 0.25 cm/hr and it is forecast to fall below the danger level of Hinthada during the next (3) days.—MNA
Industry-1 Ministry offers Waso robes, plants trees

NAV PYI TAW, 19 July — The Ministry of Industry-1 organized the third Waso robe offering ceremony at the meeting hall of the ministry, here, on 15 July.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and wife Daw Khin Khin Yi and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gandhama of Myole Monastery, and the minister and wife, departmental heads and their wives donated Waso robes and alms to the members of the Sangha.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gandhama delivered a sermon. The congregation shared the merits gained and then offered meals to the members of the Sangha. Similarly, departments and enterprises under the ministry organized the Waso robe offering ceremonies.

Afterwards, the minister attended the opening ceremony of Basic Computer Course No 1/2008 and On-Job Training Course No 2/2008 at the meeting hall of the ministry and extended greetings. The six-week courses are being attended by 94 trainees.

On 16 July, the third monsoon tree planting ceremony of the ministry was organized in front of office No 37 in Nay Pyi Taw. The minister planted star-flower saplings and departmental heads also planted saplings at the designated places.

Next, they viewed participation of staff in growing shade trees and flowery plants.

A total of 5,995 flowery and perennial saplings were planted at the ceremony. The ministry has planted 37,771 trees so far. Moreover, the ministry plans to grow more saplings in the rainy season.

YESB holds 3rd Waso robe offering ceremony

YANGON, 19 July — The third Waso robe offering ceremony of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board under the Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 was held at the YESB Head Office on 17 July.

Present on the occasion were 15 members of the Sangha led by Secretary of Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundala of Aungmingalar Taikthit Monastery in Ahlon Township, Minister for Electric Power No-2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and wife Daw Win Win Nu, Chairman of YESB Col Khin Maung Soe, departmental heads and staff families.

The congregation led by the minister and wife received the Nine Precepts from the Sayadaw. The Sayadaw and members of the Sangha recited the parittas.

Next, the minister and departmental officials offered 112 sets of Waso robes and provisions worth over K 1.3 million to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundala delivered a sermon and those present shared the merits gained. Later, ‘soon’ was offered to the monks.

The minister and party inspected the supply of electricity and repair and reinstalation of gas turbine by skilled workers at Thakayta CNG Power Plant, and fulfilled the requirements.— MNA

Ministry of Labour holds Waso robe offering ceremony

Minister U Aung Kyi and wife offer robes and alms to a monk.

LABOUR

YANGON, 19 July — Social Security Board and Central Inland Freight Handling Committee of the Ministry of Labour held a Waso robe offering ceremony at Dhammayon Monastery.

U Aung Kyi and the minister’s wife, departmental heads and staff families offered Waso robes and provisions to Sayadaw Agga Maha Gandhama Taikthit Monastery in Ahlon. Pandita Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tejobhasa of State Working Committee of the Sangha.

Next, the congregation shared the merits gained. — MNA

ISD U-19 Novice Men’s Football Tournament continues

YANGON, 19 July — The second round matches of the 9th Sports Minister’s Cup Inter-State/Division U-19 Novice Men’s Football Tournament continued at Shan State Sports Ground in Taunggyi yesterday.

In the match, Taninthayi Division team cruised into the semifinal by beating a 2-1 win over Shan State (North) team.

On 20 July, Kayah State team will play against Kayin State team at the same place. — MNA

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On 20 July, Kayah State team will play against Kayin State team at the same place. — MNA

Discipline Enforcement Department of MWAFF offers cash and kind to nunneries

YANGON, 19 July — Head of Discipline Enforcement Department Daw Mya Thein and party of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation donated rice, edible oil, nun robes and cash to Nun Daw Indaçari of Thudhamma Medani Nunnery and Nun Daw Sammari of Thandayama Parijyati Nunnery in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana on 14 July.

At Zeyayama Nunnery, they presented cash and kind to Nun Daw Kąçesi.

The cash and kind donations on 14 July amounted to K 758,200.— MNA

Objectives 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
New evaluation of health of Nazi suspect

VIENNA, 19 July — Austrian authorities have ordered a new round of medical and psychiatric tests to determine whether a suspected Nazi is healthy enough to be extradited to Croatia to stand trial for alleged atrocities.

The public prosecutor’s office in the southern Austrian province of Carinthia said Saturday it hopes a fresh evaluation of 95-year-old Milivoj Asner will lay to rest doubts about his fitness. The Croatian-born retired police chief caused a stir last month when he was seen watching a soccer match in the city of Klagenfurt. Critics contend Austria is sheltering Asner from Croatia, which wants to try him for World War II-era atrocities against Serbs, Jews and Gypsies.

World Health Organization staff return to Iraq

GENEVA, 19 July—The World Health Organization (WHO) has for the first time since 2003 redeployed expatriate staff to Iraq, the United Nations agency said on Thursday.

It said several international staff had quietly returned to Iraq in late June, reestablishing a “permanent international basis” in the country after five years.

UN agencies withdrew international staff after the deadly bombings of its Baghdad headquarters in August 2003, but Iraqi nationals continued their aid projects.

The UN refugee agency recently sent back staff to Iraq.

WHO said it feared outbreaks of cholera and typhoid as summer approaches in Iraq.

Dr. Nazema Al-Gasseer, WHO country representative to Iraq, said a system was in place to check patients and water supplies for signs of cholera emerging after an outbreak which struck several thousand people and killed dozens last year.

“This is our immediate urgent priority and our focus again are internally displaced people because they are the ones at high risk,” she told a teleconference.

Pakistan-India Kashmir-related talks end

ISLAMABAD, 19 July—Pakistan and Indian officials held talks on Kashmir-related confidence-building measures in a “cordial and constructive atmosphere”, said Pakistani Foreign Ministry.

“The two sides discussed modalities for implementation of the decisions taken by the ministerial meeting of 21 May, 2008 on cross-Line of Control (LoC) travel and trade,” said a Press release from the ministry.

“They also reviewed measures to ensure effective implementation of the existing cross-LoC measures,” said the Press release.

The talks of Pakistan-India Working Group were scheduled to be held on 10 July but were put off due to a suicide attack on the Indian Embassy in Kabul.

The Working Group is meeting in line with the decision taken during the Foreign Minister-level review meeting of fourth round of Pakistan-India Composite Dialogue held on 21 May, 2008.

China has 64,000 drug supervision officials

BRUSSELS, 19 July—China reported 64,000 drug supervision officials working for 2,692 drug regulatory departments by the end of 2007, said a white paper published on Friday by the Information Office of the State Council.

Meanwhile, China attaches great importance to the building of a legal system for drug safety supervision and the State Council has promulgated 17 administrative regulations concerning drugs so far, according to the paper, titled Status Quo of Drug Supervision in China.

The national drugs watchdog, the State Drug Administration was established in 1998, and the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) was founded on the basis of the former in 2003, the paper said.

The SFDA is in charge of administrative supervision and technical supervision over the research, production, distribution and use of drugs (including Chinese crude drugs, prepared slices of Chinese crude drugs, traditional Chinese medicine preparations, chemical drug substances and their preparations, antibiotics, biochemical drugs, radioactive pharmaceuticals, serum, vaccines, blood products and diagnostic agents) and medical devices, the paper said.

Russia welcomes quake-affected Chinese students

NOVOKUZNETSK (Russia), 19 July—Russia’s Kemerovo state held a ceremony on Friday to welcome 93 Chinese students from China’s quake-hit Gansu Province.

The ceremony was held at a children’s recreational centre in Novokuznetsk City, a large coal-mining city in Western Siberia’s Kemerovo state.

Vice Governor of Kemerovo state Sergei Muravyov said the state has arranged colorful programmes for the children, including entertainment, sightseeing, coal mine visiting and sports.

Kenya could lose $300m over forest degradation

NAIROBI, 19 July—The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) warned on Friday that Kenya stands to lose a nature-based economic asset worth over $300 million US dollars to the tea, tourism and energy sectors if the forest of the Mau Complex continues to be degraded and destroyed.

The Nairobi-based UNEP said in a statement that the Mau Complex is not only an asset of national importance that supports key economic sectors in Rift Valley and western Kenya, including energy, tourism, agriculture and water supply, but it is also the single most important water catchment in the two regions.

Prime Minister Raila Odinga announced this week that the Kenyan government is taking steps to combat the destruction of the largest forest ecosystem in Kenya.

California’s unemployment rate continues to rise

LOS ANGELES, 19 July—California’s unemployment rate crept up to 6.9 per cent in June, a tenth of a percentage point from May to a nearly five-year high, it was announced on Friday.

The latest figure ties California with Mississippi for the third-highest jobless rate among the states, the US Bureau of Labour Statistics said. According to state records, the current unemployment rate is the highest since October 2003.
NOTIFICATION
On cancellation and withdrawal of sole copy right Trade Mark
My client U Myint Thein (N.R.C No. 12/La Tha Na(Nanging)(01002) residing at No. 94, (Second Floor), 2nd Street, Lai Tha Township, Yangon Division has registered SOJITZ Trade Mark at the Yangon Registrar of Deeds under Registration No.1686/08 on 5-3-08 and also posted a public notice in the 30-3-2008 Kyemon Daily issue on page 15. But we learned with great regret to learn from the lawyer of SOJITZ Yangon Branch Office, that the said Trade Mark happens to be the same as that Trade Mark of SOJITZ Corporation at Tokyo, Japan. My client had just started to sell and distribute gents, shirts separately and he did not export his products to foreign countries.

My client humbly requests SOJITZ Corporation to accept his apology for his unexpected accidental mistake he had committed and we admit and promise you that my client shall cancel sole copy right Trade Mark that he had registered, at the Yangon Registrar of Deeds and moreover, my client also pledges that he shall whatsoever not use this SOJITZ and Logo in future and look forward to receive SOJITZ’s magnanimity.

By authority and instruction of client
High Court Advocate & Legal Advisor
Residence: No.66 Padakuppari Street, Koromедь Township
Ph. 01-252574 (or) 01-376549
09-504-2003

McCaın says Obama’s Europe trip amounts to politics
Grand Haven (Michigan),19 July — Republican presidential candidate John McCain said on Thursday that he believes Democrat Barack Obama’s upcoming trip to Europe is tantamount to holding political rallies abroad.

McCain, speaking to reporters, also ridiculed Obama’s vow to withdraw US troops from Iraq in 16 months as risking losing the hard-fought gains won by US soldiers under a troop build-up ordered 18 months ago.

Obama soon to leave on a trip that will take him to Europe and the Middle East. At some stage the trip is also expected to take him to Iraq and Afghanistan, two thorniest foreign policy challenges that will face the next president.

McCain sought to clarify remarks he made on his campaign bus in Kansas City, Missouri, in which he said he disagreed with his communications director, Jill Hazelbaker, who told the Fox News Channel that Obama’s trip is “the first of its kind in the campaign rally overseas”.

The McCain campaign had emailed out Hazelbaker’s statement.

McCain said he did not consider Obama’s upcoming visits to Iraq and Afghanistan political, saying he had offered to go with Obama. But Obama’s other stops abroad, he said, seemed to have a political element, particularly a planned event at Germany’s Brandenburg Gate.

Sri Lanka says 27 killed in northern fighting
Colombo, 19 July — Sri Lankan troops killed 24 Tamil Tiger rebels and are advancing into a rebel-held area in the far north, after capturing a strategically important coastal town from the Tamil Tigers, the military said on Thursday.

The military said they captured the northwestern town of Vidattalivu on Wednesday, describing it as the main base of the Tigers’ sea wing and their logistics hub for the west. The military described the capture as a “fatal blow” to the rebels. — MNA/Reuters

Troops and veterans to get better treatment in Britain
London, 19 July — Armed Forces personnel and their families are to be given improved help over housing, health and education while compensation for seriously wounded troops will be doubled, the government announced on Thursday.

The cross-governmental reforms unveiled in a Ministry of Defence Service Personnel Command Paper aim to raise the standard of support for troops and their families. It comes after reports of how more than 1,000 soldiers were looked after by at least three senior service personnel and accusations the government was not upholding its covenant with the military to ensure those in the Armed Forces were looked after in exchange for putting their lives at risk.

The reforms see a doubling of payments for the most seriously wounded soldiers to $70,000, payments for life, with smaller increases for those less seriously hurt. — MNA/Reuters

Import of Indian drugs blocked by Pakistan Govt
Islamabad, 19 July — Pakistan government has blocked a proposal for importing 400 medicines from India following intense lobbying against the move by the local pharmaceutical industry.

The proposal forwarded by Pakistan’s Commerce Ministry was stalled ahead of an expected hike of up to 40 per cent in the prices of life-saving drugs in the country.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has reportedly issued a directive that no drug produced in Pakistan should be imported. Gilani also sought justification for importing from India 13 vaccines and some oncology drugs that are currently not produced in Pakistan, sources told the Dawn newspaper. However, the import of these vaccines and oncology products will continue.

Health Secretary Khushnoord Lashari will meet Commerce Secretary Asif Shah to ensure that the proposal for importing Indian drugs is closed.

Sources in the Commerce Ministry had leaked information about the proposal to import Indian drugs to the local pharmaceutical industry, which used its “contacts” to pre-emt the move, the daily said. — MNA/PTI

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 Tyres Sets with Tubes and flaps are quoted in Myanmar Association Market.
(a) 9.00 x 20 (1500) Sets
(b) 7.50 x 16 (300 ) Sets
(c) 10.00 x 20 (200 ) Sets
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 (b) Tender will be closed on 4-8-2008 at 16:00 hours (The Road Transport reserves the right to reject any or all tenders)
3. Detailed information will be available at the office Procurement & Stores Department, Phone No. 01-252574 (or) 01-376549

Road Transport

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<td>1. 3 Phase Induction Motor for Air Separator (Ks)</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
<td>21.7.2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Electrical &amp; Consumer Equipment For Tile Plant (Ks)</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
<td>21.7.2008</td>
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<td>1 Unit</td>
<td>21.7.2008</td>
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<td>1. Raw Materials For Tile Plant (Ks)</td>
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<td>1. Roller Chain (Ks)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Russia cannot meet arms contracts
Moscow, 19 July — Russia’s defence industry lacks the resources to meet all its arms export contracts, the head of Rostekhnologii State corporation said on Thursday.

“The Russian industry cannot meet some of the signed contracts,” the corporation’s Press office quoted Sergei Chemezov as saying at the Farnborough air show in Britain.

“A growth in the number of government orders and export contracts has overloaded defence enterprises whose productivity has not changed,” he added.

The arms trade, which brings Russia annually around seven billion US dollars, is a major source of income for the country and a source of national pride.

In the first decade after the collapse of the Soviet Union, when the Russian armed forces were struggling to survive on austerity budgets, export contracts helped the defence sector.

MNA/Reuters

For the rest of the text, please refer to the original source.
Uranium leak found at French nuclear plant

Paris (France), 19 July — Uranium-bearing liquid has leaked from a broken underground pipe at a nuclear site in southeastern France, the national nuclear safety authority said Friday. It was the second leak discovered at a French site this month.

Experts are working to determine how much leaked uranium is present at nuclear company Areva's plant in the town of Romans-sur-Isere, the Nuclear Safety Authority said in a statement. Specialists are to work to clean up the site.

The communique said the pipe is believed to have ruptured several years ago. It added that the pipe "was not in line with the applicable regulations, which require shock resistance ability sufficient to avoid rupture."

Areva spokesman Charles Hufnagel said the leak of lightly enriched uranium did not spread outside the site and had "absolutely no impact on the environment." He said the factory hoped the leak would be classified as a level 1 problem — the most minor of seven possible rankings.

Still, the announcement was a new blow for Areva after a similar incident last week, when a liquid containing traces of unenriched uranium leaked from a factory in Tricastin in southern France. Areva said that problem "did not affect either the health of employees and local populations, or their environment." — Internet

Sony Ericsson to cut 2,000 jobs for plummeted earning

Stockholm, 19 July — Mobile phone maker Sony Ericsson Friday posted a 97 percent drop in second-quarter earnings and said it would cut 2,000 jobs worldwide.

The Stockholm-based joint venture between Ericsson and Sony blamed the second-quarter income plummeted to 6 million euros (about 286 million US dollars in the year-ago quarter, due to tougher market conditions, higher development costs and negative effects from exchange rate fluctuations. — Internet

Earthquake hits off Japan’s coast

Tokyo, 19 July — A powerful earthquake has struck off the eastern coast of Japan, with officials warning that some regions could be hit by a small tsunami.

Japan’s Meteorological Agency measured the 6.6-magnitude quake just before noon off Fukushima prefecture.

The agency issued a tsunami warning for Fukushima and Miyagi prefectures.

Reports said buildings shook in Tokyo with the force of the quake, but there was not thought to be any serious damage or any casualties.

French aid workers abducted in Afghanistan

Paris, 19 July — Two French humanitarian workers were kidnapped Friday in Afghanistan, spirited at gunpoint out of the house they were sleeping in, aid group Action Against Hunger and the French Foreign Ministry said.

The two are believed to be alive, the Paris-based group said in a statement.

The kidnappers burst into the house where the two were staying in Nili, in the central Afghan province of Day Kundi, and made off with them in several waiting vehicles around 1 am on Friday (2030GMT Thursday), the statement said. The kidnappers had tied up guards posted outside the house.

The group said it was working to win the workers’ release as soon as possible and under the best possible conditions. It said the information it had indicated they were still alive.

Action Against Hunger said it suspended its activities in Afghanistan in response to the kidnapping. The group has been working since 1979 in Afghanistan, where it has 10 foreign staffers and about 150 local employees, according to its Web site.

France’s Foreign Ministry confirmed the kidnappings and said a crisis unit would be set up to help win the hostages’ liberation.

“Making humanitarian personnel a target is totally unacceptable,” the ministry said in a statement. "Humanitarian groups’ members are working tirelessly and often in very difficult connotations to help the Afghan people."

Crane collapses at Houston refinery, killing four

Houston, 19 July — One of the nation’s largest mobile cranes collapsed at a Houston oil refinery Friday, killing four workers and injuring seven others in the latest of several fatal accidents that have raised concerns about the safety of construction cranes.

The 30-storey-tall crane, capable of lifting 1 million pounds, fell over at a LyondellBasell refinery in southeast Houston about 2 pm, said Jim Roecker, the company’s vice president for refining.

The massive, deep red crane lay on top of a smaller, bright yellow crane on the grounds of the refinery. Ambulances and fire trucks were lined up outside. The casualties were in the area of the crane, but officials still aren’t certain whether they were on the crane or under it, Roecker said.

Three of the injured were treated and released at the scene, said Houston Fire Department assistant chief Omero Longoria. Two severely injured workers were taken by helicopter to Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center hospital and the other two injured workers was taken to a hospital by ambulance.

The crane belonged to Deep South Crane & Rigging. Roecker described it as one of the nation’s largest mobile cranes, at 300 feet tall with a 400-foot boom. Construction cranes run taller, but they are not mobile. — Internet

A scientist works at a gene therapy laboratory in Indiana, United States. French researchers believe that gene therapy — tested on lab animals — shows promise in combatting the tragic neurogenerative disease known as Huntington’s. — Internet

Japan is one of the world’s most earthquake-prone countries and experiences thousands of tremors each year.
**SPORTS**

**Kaka keen on Blues switch**

LONDON, 19 July — Kaka’s advisor, Diogo Kotscho, insists that the Brazilian playmaker is desperate to join Chelsea.

The Milan forward has long been touted as a potential summer transfer target for the Blues, with reports now suggesting that discussions have taken place between the two clubs in regards to a possible £80 million switch.

In the past the 26-year-old was seen as being an unobtainable object of desire, with the Rossoneri unwilling to part company with a player who provides their greatest creative influence.

However, with Kaka’s international team-mate Ronaldinho having now been unveiled at San Siro, and with their financial difficulties well-publicised, the Italian giants appear willing to enter into negotiations with any potential suitors.

**Milan’s Ronaldinho excited to play with Kaka**

BEIJING, 19 July — Brazil forward Ronaldinho said he was mostly looking forward to teaming up again with compatriot Kaka as he was unveiled as an AC Milan player on Thursday.

The San Siro was almost half full to welcome the 28-year-old, who wore a Milan kit as he waved to the crowd from the pitch.

Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti has said the former Barcelona man will probably play alongside Kaka in a Christmas tree formation with a main striker just ahead of them.

It is not just the Rossoneri fans and their coach drooling over the idea. “I will be exciting to play with Kaka. He is among the best in the world. He is also a friend, in the national team we play well together,” said Ronaldinho, who unlike Kaka is being allowed by the club to play at next month’s Olympics.

“Every player dreams of playing for Milan. It is a special emotion and I hope to bring happiness to all the fans.” — Internet

**CROSSWORDS PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**

3 Beautiful girl
8 Squeezing out water
9 Sailing vessel
10 Raw
11 Holy-water vessel
14 Pig pen
16 Select
17 Worn away
18 Beast of burden
20 Young dog
24 Male horse
25 Snake
26 Foot care
27 Liberated

**DOWN**

1 Terrible
2 Evil woman
3 Tingling
4 Purpose
5 Poll
6 Poll
7 University teacher
12 Arm joint
13 Finished
14 Stretch of water
15 Affirmative answer
19 Artist’s model
21 Killed
22 Resentment
23 Bury

**THE PACK OF RIDERS CYCLE UNDER A SCULPTURE OF BICYCLES DURING THE THIRTEENTH STAGE OF THE 95TH TOUR DE FRANCE CYCLING RACE BETWEEN NARBONNE AND NIMES, ON 18 JULY, 2008.** — Internet

**Stoke City signed Reading striker Dave Kitson, seen here in 2007, for a club record fee of £5.5 million pounds (6.9 million euros) on Friday. — Internet**

**Ronaldo will stay in Man Utd**

LONDON, 19 July — Sir Alex Ferguson has met with Cristiano Ronaldo and insists the Manchester United winger will not be sold to Real Madrid.

The Portugal international has been targeted by the Spanish giants throughout the summer, and had hinted that he was looking to secure a move away from Old Trafford.

But at a press conference in South Africa to mark the start of United’s preseason trip, Ferguson confirmed Ronaldo is going nowhere.

The Red Devils boss said: “The meeting went well — I think we both put across our points of view — where we stand and where the player stands.” — Internet

**Drogba demands showdown talks**

LONDON, 19 July — Unsettled Chelsea striker Didier Drogba is reported to want showdown talks with Blues boss Luiz Felipe Scolari.

The dramatic move is said to have come after the Stanford Bridge manager rejected a swap deal with Barcelona involving Drogba and striker Samuel Eto'o.

The Ivory Coast striker was chasing a move to Milan at the beginning of the summer but appeared to be having second thoughts following the arrival of the charismatic Scolari.

New Barca coach Josep Guardiola is reported to have told Eto'o he has no future at the Nou Camp and the Catalans are desperate to see the back of him. — Internet

**KJ Choi of South Korea reacts after his birdie putt on the 18th hole during second round play at the 2008 British Open Golf Championship at Royal Birkdale, Southport, northern England on 18 July, 2008.** — Internet
Obama opens foreign tour in Kabul

KABUL, 19 July—US Democratic presidential contender Barack Obama who flew to Kabul as part of a US congressional team has arrived in Afghanistan, at the start of a high-profile international tour.

He is later expected to visit Iraq, Jordan, Israel, Germany, France and Britain. Correspondents say Mr Obama is hoping to address security issues, seen as the weakest aspect of his presidential bid.

Opinion polls suggest Americans regard Republican John McCain as a better potential commander-in-chief.

After landing in Kabul, Mr Obama flew by helicopter to the east of the country where he was to visit troops, a US military spokesman said.—INTERNET

US sanctions fail to cripple Iran’s oil industry

WASHINGTON, 19 July — The United States, having long imposed sanctions against Iran for its controversial nuclear programme and alleged support for anti-US militants in Iraq, has failed to cripple the oil industry of the Islamic republic, the Wall Street Journal reported Friday.

The sanctions on Iran include measures imposed by the United Nations since 2006 and toughened at the start of a US congressional team's arrival in the country where he was to visit troops, a US military spokesman said.—INTERNET

Fausto, Bertha become hurricanes

MEXICO CITY, 19 July—Tropical Storm Fausto became a hurricane Friday far off Mexico's Pacific coast, while Bertha strengthened back into a hurricane in the open Atlantic.

The US National Hurricane Center in Miami said neither storm is expected to threaten land. Tropical Storm Elda, far off Mexico's Pacific Coast, was also expected to stay in the open sea.

Bertha became a Category 1 hurricane with maximum sustained winds near 75 mph (120 kph). It was located about 545 miles (875 kilometers) south of Cape Race, Newfoundland, and moving northeast at 25 mph (41 kph).

Bertha battered Bermuda earlier this week, knocking out electricity to thousands on the Atlantic tourist destination.

The hurricane center said it is the longest-lived July tropical storm in history, but it is expected to weaken in the coming days.

Hurricane Fausto strengthened slightly Friday night and had maximum sustained winds of 80 mph (130 kph). It was centred was about 450 miles (725 kilometers) southwest of Manzanillo, Mexico, and was moving northwest at 9 mph (15 kph).—INTERNET

WEATHER

Saturday, 19 July, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions fairly widespread in Shan and Chin States, Bago and Yangon Divisions and scattered in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in lower Sagaing Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Nay Pyi Taw, Kengtung and Shweygyi (1.06) inches each, Kawkareik (2.32) inches, Toungoo (2.17) inches, Mawlamyine (1.89) inches and Monywa (1.54) inches. Maximum temperature on 18-7-2008 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 19-7-2008 was 77°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 19-7-2008 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 18-7-2008 was (4.1) hours (approx).

Rainfall on 19-7-2008 was (0.36) inches at Mingaladon, (0.08) inches at Kaba-Aye and (0.08) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (51.93) inches at Mingaladon, (60.87) inches at Kaba-Aye and (74.17) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at (14:35) hours MST on 18-7-2008 was 45 kph. Bay influence: Monsoon is generally moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 20-7-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan, Mon and Kayin States, Bago, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions and isolated to scattered in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of decrease of rain in Coastal areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 20-7-2008: Isolated rain or thundershower. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-7-2008: One or two rain or thundershower. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-7-2008: Isolated rain or thundershower. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-7-2008: One or two rain or thundershower. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Make donations to the storm victims

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

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

- Certain internal and external anti-government elements, self-centred persons and unscrupulous elements are now seeking their self-interests by sending to the foreign news agencies stories about relief and rehabilitation work they have made up and shot on video.
- Storm victims are hereby warned to remain vigilant with nationalistic spirit against the deceptions of the self-centred persons and unscrupulous elements.

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

61st Anniversary Arzani Day observed

Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin lays a wreath in front of the tombs of Bogyoke Aung San and the fallen leaders.—MNA

Yangon, 19 July — The 61st Anniversary Arzani Day was observed at Arzani Mausoleum here this morning. Chairman of the Committee for Organizing the 61st Anniversary Arzani Day Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin attended the ceremony and paid tribute to the fallen leaders laying wreaths. It was also attended by Chairman of the Work Committee YCDC Secretary U Aung Than Win and members, departmental heads, members of Guard of Honour and officers of Myanmar Police Force and Fire Brigade.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin arrived at Arzani Mausoleum and took position first. Next, he laid wreaths before the tombs of Bogyoke Aung San and the fallen leaders and paid tribute to them. At the same time, the State Flag was lowered at half-mast, the Guard of Honour and the band saluted the fallen heroes. Afterwards, dispensing of Metta and two-minute silence in memory of Arzamis followed. Then the mayor left Arzani Mausoleum. Next, on behalf of U Aung San Oo, U Hla Pe laid a wreath before the tomb of Bogyoke Aung San and paid tribute. Family members of the fallen leaders laid wreaths and paid tributes to the tombs of the fallen leaders. (See page 8)

Wellwishers from States and Divisions continuously donate cash and supplies

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 July — Departmental personnel, members of social organizations and well-wishers from States and Divisions continued to donate cash and construction materials for storm victims. Wellwishers from Sagaing Division donated K 56,455,200 and those from Chin State K 1,514,500. Up to 18 July, the wellwishers have donated cash and relief supplies worth K 14,225,032,235 including K 36,523,700 to the Financial Subcommittee.

Weather Forecast for (20-7-2008)

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

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

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

Degree of certainty is (80%).