Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to President of Arab Republic of Egypt

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the occasion of the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt which falls on 23 July 2008.—MNA

Prime Minister felicitates Egyptian Counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July—General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Ahmed Nazif, Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the occasion of the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt which falls on 23 July 2008.—MNA

Aungmye Thazan Tsp honours outstanding students

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July—Outstanding students for 2007-2008 academic years of Aungmye Thazan Township, Mandalay, were honoured at the National Theatre in the township on 11 July morning.

The ceremony was attended by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung, Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Latt of Supreme Court (Upper Myanmar) departmental officials, students and their parents, well-wishers, and guests.

The commander delivered a speech on the occasion. Mandalay Division Education Officer U Aung Swe reported on pass rate of matriculation examination.

On behalf of well-wishers U Tin Maung, Daw Nan Hla San (Great Wall family), Secretary of the prize-awarding committee U Hla Myo presented the donation of K 4 million to the commander.

(See page 8)

Sanitation works carried out in sea water-flooded villages

YANGON, 22 July—Two teams for pumping out sea water made field trips to sea water-flooded villages caused by the storm in Mawlamyinegyun Township of Ayeyawady Division. The two teams pumped out sea water in Kyetshar, Kyunchaung, Mabay, Netmu, Myatthaywawa and Shaukchaung village tracts and carried out sanitation works. The teams in cooperation with the local people took measures to protect the drinking water lakes.

MNA

Weather Forecast for 23-7-2008

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

Yangon and neighbouring area: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring area: Isolated rain or thundershower. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Focus on boosting export of corn

Corn is in demand locally and globally. It is widely used in producing cordial, sugar, coffee and corn oil. So, there is a growing demand for the cereal throughout the world.

In Myanmar, corn is grown on a commercial scale in Sagaing Division as well as in Taungdwingyi, Aunglan, Pyalo and Koebin in Magway Division. Moreover, the crop is cultivated extensively in Pakokku, Minbu and Thayet districts, and Shan State (North) and Shan State (South).

Corn is grown mostly in the rainy season. It is grown in May and June and often comes into buds in November and December. Cold season corn is cultivated in October and November and is harvested in February and March.

Myanmar exports more than 200,000 tons of corn yearly through normal trade and border trade. For this year, over 70,000 tons of corn had been exported up to June.

Now, the government is taking measures including supply of sufficient irrigation water for improving the agriculture sector. As a result, many crops inclusive of paddy, corn and edible oil crops are being grown extensively through mixed-cropping and multiple cropping patterns.

Myanmar’s export of corn has increased since 2003-2004 fiscal year. So, it is required to make efforts for the crop to have a foothold not only in the markets of neighbouring countries but also in that of Asia. Therefore, farmers, on their part, have to cultivate corn on a wider scale and use better harvesting methods to help boost export of corn.

Energy Minister attends prize presentation ceremony in Kungyangon Township

YANGON, 22 July —Ministry of Religious Affairs conducted a ceremony to plant trees at the ministry here yesterday.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, departmental heads and staff employees of the ministry participated in the tree growing ceremony.

First, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung planted a Annona squamosa at the designated place. Next, the deputy minister and the directors-general also planted trees and they visited around the collective growing of trees by staff. A total of 9,250 trees were planted in the tree growing ceremony.

Religious Affairs Ministry plants trees

Department of Mawlamyinegyun Township was held at the department this morning.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung planted a tree at the monsoon season tree planting ceremony of Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Meeting for post-literacy campaign held

YANGON, 22 July —A meeting for post-literacy campaign of staff under the Information and Public Relations Department of Mawlamyinegyun Township was held at the department this morning. Head of the Township Department Daw Myint Myint Kyi explained the purpose of holding the post-literacy campaign. Next, those present dealt with matters on articles written by Chit Naing (Psychology).

Basic Sports Training Course (1/2008) of MANA concludes

YANGON, 22 July —The concluding ceremony of Basic Sports Training Course (1/2008) organized by Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association took place at the training hall of MANA yesterday evening.

Chairman of MANA U San Thein made a speech and the trainees demonstrated their athletic skills. Next, the chairman and personnel presented certificates to the trainees and coach U Htein Win Myint spoke words of thanks. Trainee U Tay Zar Aung donated K100,000 to the MANA through the chairman.

A total number of 20 trainees attended the three-month course.
Chavez in Russia to discuss closer ties

Moscow, 22 July — President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, in the Russian capital to discuss new arms contracts worth $1 billion and deals to expand Russian oil and gas companies’ presence in Latin America, called Tuesday for the two nations to become “strategic partners” to counter what he called an American threat against his country.

“That will guarantee the sovereignty of Venezuela, which the United States is now threatening,” Mr Chavez said, according to the official Russian news agency RIA-Novosti, at the start of two days of planned meetings.

President Dmitri A. Medvedev, who held talks with Mr Chavez in Moscow, called relations between the two countries important for regional security, the Interfax news service reported.

Mr Chavez’s visit to Russia presents something of a diplomatic puzzle for Russia.

Mr Chavez, a leading opponent of American global influence, has made clear that he would be happy to join Russia’s efforts to reestablish itself as a counterweight to the United States.

Obama touts ‘convergence’ on his foreign policy goals

WASHINGTON, 22 July — Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama on Monday almost boasted of the “convergence” of the US administration and his Republican White House rival John McCain around his foreign policy goals for the United States.

Obama said that after being fiercely criticized for proposing a 16-month timeline for US troop withdrawal from Iraq, both Baghdad and the White House have now “suggested that we needed some kind of time horizon.

“You know there was a whole verbiage around it, but there is a sense that we need to start to point to an end game here.”

In much the same way, the Illinois senator said, his suggestion months ago that two additional brigades were needed in Afghanistan was opposed by McCain, “and now there is convergence around the notion that we need at least two and maybe three brigades.”

Six civilians killed in Afghan attack on fuel truck

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN, 22 July — A provincial official says an insurgent attack on a fuel truck has killed six civilians in eastern Afghanistan.

The official, Abdul Waki Atak, says the truck was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade fired by insurgents in Laghman province on Sunday. Atak is a spokesman for the provincial governor.

Atak said Monday that two people were killed inside the truck and that four others died in a minibus that was caught in the blast. Insurgents regularly attack supply convoys for the US-led coalition and NATO troops in Afghanistan. Hundreds of civilians have been killed in insurgency-related violence this year.

World warned over killer flu pandemic

LONDON, 22 July — The world is failing to guard against the inevitable spread of a devastating flu pandemic which could kill 50 million people and wreak massive disruption around the globe, the Government has warned.

In evidence to a House of Lords committee, ministers said that early warning systems for spotting emerging diseases were “poorly coordinated” and lacked “vision” and “clarity”. They said that more needed to be done to improve detection and surveillance for potential pandemics and called for urgent improvement in rapid-response strategies.

The Government’s evidence appeared in a highly critical report from the Lords Intergovernmental Organizations Committee, which attacked the World Health Organization (WHO) as “dysfunctional” and criticized the international response to the threat of an outbreak of disease which could sweep across the globe.

Firefighter killed in standoff near St Louis

MAPLEWOOD, 22 July — A suburban St Louis firefighter is dead and two other emergency workers are wounded after a gunman opened fire during a standoff at his home in Maplewood.

The incident began with a report of a pickup truck fire in the St Louis suburb. When firefighters arrived, someone began firing shots. Police responded, and at least one officer was also reportedly struck.

KSDK-TV reported that a neighbor said at around 10:30 am, the fire suddenly intensified and loud popping sounds could be heard.

Maplewood city officials identified the slain firefighter as 22-year-old Ryan Hummert. Officials said he was shot to death as he got off the fire truck.

Hummert was the son of former Maplewood Mayor Andy Hummert. He began his career in August 2007 after graduating from paramedic training.

A Maplewood police officer was also taken to the hospital and was being treated for a gunshot wound to the right shoulder. Clark says his injury is not considered life-threatening.

The third injured emergency worker was taken to another hospital. There was no word on his condition.

Rescue forces evacuate a man from his car after a construction vehicle rampaged in Jerusalem, in what police call a terrorist attack.

Construction vehicle rampages in Jerusalem, driver killed, four hurt

JERUSALEM, 22 July — A Palestinian man from east Jerusalem rammed a construction vehicle into three cars and a city bus in downtown Jerusalem on Tuesday, wounding four people before he was shot dead, in a chilling imitation of an attack that took place in the city earlier this month.

The driver went on his rampage in a busy part of downtown Jerusalem, several hundred meters from the luxury hotel where US presidential candidate Barack Obama is supposed to stay Tuesday night as he kicks off a visit to Israel.

Internet
Sri Lanka rebels declare ceasefire for S Asia summit

Colombo, 22 July—Sri Lanka’s Tamil Tiger rebels declared a unilateral ceasefire with the military during a 10-day meeting of South Asian leaders starting this week.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said the ceasefire was an attempt to help ensure the success of the eight-member South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation conference in the capital.

“Our movement will observe a unilateral ceasefire... during the period of the SAARC conference from 26 July to 4 August and give our cooperation for the success of the conference,” the Tamil Tigers said in a statement.

Colombo is hosting the 15th SAARC summit which groups Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan as well as Sri Lanka.

However the rebels said they would be forced to take “defensive action” if the Sri Lankan government failed to respect the gesture and the military carried out any offensive.

“If the military disrespects our goodwill gesture of our people and our nation, (or) carry out any offensives, our movement will be forced to take defensive actions,” said Balasubramaniam Nadesan, head of the group’s political wing.

Cops release 911 tape in murder of two girls

NAPLES, 22 July—Italian newspapers, an archbishop and civil liberties campaigners expressed shock and revulsion on Monday after photographs were published of sunbathers apparenty enjoying a day at the beach just meters from where the bodies of two drowned Roma girls were laid out on the sand.

Italian news agency ANSA reported that the incident had occurred on Monday at the beach of Torregaveta, west of Naples, southern Italy, where the two girls had earlier been swimming in the sea with two other Roma girls.

Suicide bomb wounds three Afghan civilians in Kabul

KABUL, 22 July—A Taliban suicide bomber wounded three civilians when he blew himself up as he was challenged by police in the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Tuesday, the Interior Ministry said.

Taliban militants have launched some 100 suicide attacks so far this year, mostly targeting Afghan and international security forces, but as much as 80 percent of their victims are civilians, security experts say.

The bomber struck early in the morning in the Gozargah area of the capital, next to the walls of the historic tomb of Babur, the 16th century founder of India’s Mughal dynasty.

Only a leg of the bomber remained, lying on the ground.

“It was an attack next to be Babur gardens,” said Interior Ministry spokesman Zemarai Bashari.

“The suicide bomber wanted to get into (centre of the city), but there was a strong security checkpoint of the police so he was not able to infiltrate.

Pennsylvania woman charged with pregnant woman’s murder after cutting baby from womb

ALLEGHENY (Pennsylvania), 22 July—A woman in Pennsylvania has been charged with murder after she was alleged to have drugged a pregnant woman, cut her baby from her womb and tried to pass the child off as her own.

Andrea Curry-Demus, 38, is alleged to have used a “very sharp instrument” to rip out the baby while the mother may still have been alive.

The body of 18-year-old Kia Johnson was found on Friday in Curry-Demus’s bedroom.

Curry-Demus has a history of offences relating to baby snatchings. In 1990 she was sentenced to up to 10 years in jail after she was accused of stabbing a woman in an attempt to steal her child.

A day later she grabbed a three-week-old baby from hospital.

The infant girl was later recovered unharmed.

Portuguese authorities close investigation of missing British girl

LISBON, 22 July—Portuguese authorities are halting their investigation into the disappearance of British girl Madeleine McCann because detectives uncovered no evidence of a crime during their 14-month probe, the attorney-general said Monday.

The case will remain on hold unless new evidence emerges, the attorney-general’s office said.

The statement said detectives found no reason to charge any of the three people named as suspects: Madeleine’s parents Kate and Gerry McCann and local man Robert Murat.

All strenuously denied involvement in the disappearance and won libel awards from newspapers that suggested links.

Madeleine went missing in May 2007, a few days before her fourth birthday, during a family vacation in Portugal’s southern Algarve region.

Italian outrage over Roma drowning photos

Local news reports said the four girls found themselves in trouble amid fierce waves and strong currents.

Their bodies were eventually laid out on the sand under beach towels to await collection by police.

Photographs show sunbathers in bikinis and swimming trunks sitting close to where the girls’ feet can be seen poking out from under the towels concealing their bodies.

This handout photo from Prospero Production shows a boab tree being loaded onto the back of a truck before it is transferred from its home in the remote northern Kimberley district of Western Australia state. Australian Aboriginals replanted the ancient boab tree in Perth after it was driven thousands of kilometres with a police escort to save it from destruction.
Dollar slips on rising oil prices

NEW YORK, 22 July—The dollar weakened Monday under pressure from a rebound in oil prices, despite better-than-expected earnings from Bank of America that eased some concerns about the US financial sector.

The euro rose to 1.5921 dollars around 2100 GMT from 1.5846 late Friday. The dollar fell to 106.41 yen from 106.95. Oil futures prices, which plunged more than 16 dollars a barrel in New York last week, surged higher as a tropical storm barreled through the Gulf of Mexico, threatening oil installations.

New York’s main contract, light sweet crude for August delivery, advanced 2.16 dollars to close at 131.04 dollars.

Oil prices also found support from heightened geopolitical tensions over Iran’s nuclear program, suspected by the United States and other major powers of concealing a drive for atomic weapons.

After international weekend talks failed to make progress, the United States and Britain warned Monday that Iran faces further sanctions if it does not suspend its nuclear program. Tehran insists its program is strictly for energy production.

“The failure to make progress on the Geneva nuclear talks with Iran over the weekend provoked fears of fresh sanctions against the Islamic regime and helped push oil higher, stocks lower and rallied the EURUSD in the process,” said Boris Schlossberg, an analyst at Forex Capital Markets.

Trade powers struggle to save WTO round

GENEVA, 22 July—The United States, the European Union and emerging economic heavyweights will try again on Tuesday to line up the long- elusive trade-offs needed to save a deal to dismantle export barriers around the world.

The United States resisted calls on Monday to announce a cut in its ceiling for farm subsidies as a critical week of talks opened, saying it was ready to act as long as others do likewise, especially developing economies like Brazil and China.

The World Trade Organization’s Doha round of negotiations risks years of further delay without a breakthrough this week.

But some top trade officials doubted that would be possible, given the range of issues to be resolved and the fundamental differences that still separate rich and poor countries.

Logitech Q1 net profit rises 11.5 percent

NEW YORK, 22 July—Logitech International (LOGN.VX), the world’s largest maker of computer mice, posted an 11.5 percent rise in first-quarter net profit on Monday.

Boosted by the strong performance of Harmony-brand remotes.

First-quarter net profit rose to $29 million, or 16 cents per share, weaker than market expectations, and compared with $26 million, or 14 cents per share, last year.

The group was expected to post a 27 percent jump in net profit to $33 million, the average estimate in a Reuters poll of 12 analysts showed.

The company confirmed in a statement its financial targets of 15 percent growth in both sales and operating income for fiscal year 2009.

Gross margin in 2009 was expected to be above the company’s long-term target range of 32-34 percent.

Ford to shift focus to small car

BANGALORE, 22 July — US car company Ford Motor Co (FN) is about to alter its focus drastically and build more small cars, the New York Times said on Tuesday, citing people familiar with the plans.

Ford will make the announcement on Thursday, when it releases quarterly results, the newspaper said.

The company is expected to announce that it will convert three of its North American assembly plants from trucks to cars, according to the sources, the paper said. Ford will realign factories to make more fuel-efficient engines and produce six of its next European car models for the United States market, it added.

The company will also make its Mercury brand an integral part of its new small-car strategy, the newspaper said, citing the sources, who did not want to be named because of the timing of the official announcement on Thursday. A Ford spokesman did not return a telephone call seeking comment.

Batman film nears $200 million after first weekend

LOS ANGELES, 22 July — It turns out Batman is more of a superhero than first thought.

The latest installment in the Caped Crusader franchise, “The Dark Knight,” enhanced its status as the biggest movie opening of all time at the North American box office, according to final data issued on Monday by its distributor, Warner Bros Pictures.

The film grossed $158.355 million during its first three days of release across the United States and Canada — a $3 million improvement over Sunday’s estimate from The Time Warner Inc-owned studio.

It’s not unusual for final weekend data to veer slightly from the initial estimate. In the case of “The Dark Knight,” some rival studios had suggested Warner Bros. was a little optimistic, though no one really doubted that it would beat the opening-weekend record of $151.1 million set by “Spider-Man 3” in May 2007.

Afghans handle water melons at a market in the city of Kandahar province south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 21 July, 2008.
Report: 36 trapped in south China mine

BEIJING, 22 July— Twenty miners have escaped or been rescued from a flooded coal mine in southern China but 36 remain trapped, a state-run news agency said Tuesday.

Xinhua News Agency said 56 miners were trapped when the Nadu mine in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region flooded late Monday afternoon, but seven managed to escape. Another 13 were rescued, Guo Shengkun, secretary of the regional Communist Party Committee, was quoted as saying.

Xinhua said rescuers had made contact with 12 of the trapped miners, and were trying to send water and food to them. They are trapped 2,000 yards below the surface, it said. There has been no contact with the other 24 miners.

China’s mines are the world’s deadliest, with scores killed, Afghan attacks in Afghanistan while Taliban militants captured security clampdown reported.

US-led soldier among scores killed, Afghan district falls

KABUL, 22 July— An international soldier, eight security workers and dozens of rebels were killed in new attacks in Afghanistan while Taliban militants captured a remote district, authorities said Monday.

The soldier, who was with the US-led coalition helping Afghanistan to fight the insurgency, died Monday after being wounded in a bomb explosion in the southern province of Helmand at the weekend, the force said in a statement.

The death took to 138 the number of international soldiers killed in Afghanistan this year, mostly in hostile action. Nearly 220 foreign soldiers died in violence last year.

Four police officers and four security guards escorting a convoy of civilian trucks carrying supplies for foreign troops were killed in separate attacks in southern Helmand and Zabul provinces, officials said.

Security forces launched a counterattack and killed 15 rebels, provincial police chief Mohammad Hussein Andwal said, citing information from local residents who saw the bodies on the site near the Helmand capital Lashkar Gah.—INTERNET

Obama says Iraqi PM seeks US troop pullout by 2010

BAGHDAD, 22 July— US Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama said Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki has expressed his support for a pullout of US troops from Iraq by 2010, after meeting with the premier here.

“The Prime Minister said that now is an appropriate time to start to plan for the reorganization of our troops in Iraq—including their numbers and missions,” Obama said in a statement released by his senate office in Washington.

“He stated his hope that US combat forces could be out of Iraq in 2010,” he added in a joint statement released with fellow senators Jack Reed and Chuck Hagel, during their stopover in Iraq.

Obama met Maliki and Iraqi President Jalal Talabani in Baghdad after arriving on a two-day trip as part of a Congressional delegation.

His visit comes days after he confirmed he would withdraw most of the American troops in Iraq if he is elected president in November.

Maliki briefed Obama on recent progress in achieving security and stability, an Iraqi government statement said about the meeting.

“Iraq has succeeded in overcoming many difficulties and security challenges. It has achieved victory over al-Qaeda and militias and now aims to achieve economic success,” Maliki told Obama according to the statement issued by the premier’s office.—INTERNET

Three killed in attacks in Thai south

BANGKOK, 22 July— Separatist militants in Thailand’s deep south have killed three Thais, including two security officers, in a spate of violence days after an unknown rebel group announced a “ceasefire.”

One soldier was killed and five wounded on Tuesday when their patrol was ambushed in the southern province of Narathiwat, one of three provinces where a four-year-old insurgency has killed more than 3,000 people.

Gunmen fired on the 12-man patrol after setting off a roadside bomb, police said.

On Monday, six policemen and a civilian in the nearby province of Yala were wounded in a bomb attack. One of the officers died later in hospital. That same day in Narathiwat, a village chief was shot dead by suspected militants as he road home on a motorcycle.—INTERNET

Bizarre text message preceded China bus bomb blasts

BEIJING, 22 July— Chinese police are investigating a bizarre text message warning residents of Kunming to avoid buses hours before two bomb blasts killed two passengers in the Monday rush hour, local media reported.

The attack, which came amid a nationwide security clampdown ahead of next month’s Beijing Olympics, also injured 14 people in the city, capital of mountainous southwest Yunnan province.

Some residents received phone text messages in the early hours of Monday, the Southern Metropolis Daily said, presumably written on Sunday.—INTERNET

Dousing the flames:
Filipino residents use buckets of water to douse their dwellings made of light material during a fire that razed a slum area and injured at least four in Manila.—INTERNET
**Wise one protects non-intoxication as supreme treasure**

Fools, men of little intelligence, betake themselves to intoxication. The wise one protects non-intoxication as a supreme treasure.

Dhammapada-26

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**Group Round of Inter-Ministry Football Tournament continues**

NAY PYI TAW, 22 July

— The Second Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament 2008 continued its first round matches of group-C at Nay Pyi Taw and Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Paunglaung football grounds here this evening.

Among the spectators were Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, heads of departments, officials and football fans.

Ministry of Construction won over the Ministry of Information by 3-2 at Paunglaung football ground in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, and Ministry of Rail Transportation beat Civil Service Selection and Training Board by 7-0 at Nay Pyi Taw football ground.

Ministry of Sports will play against Ministry of Cooperatives at the Nay Pyi Taw football ground and Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development against Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in the group-D at the Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Paunglaung football ground tomorrow.—MNA

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**Cash and kind donated to storm victims**

NAY PYI TAW, 22 July

— Well-wishers from two states had made cash donations recently to the storm victims.

Well-wishers from Shan State (South) donated K 4,757,030 and provisions to the storm victims and well-wishers from Mon State, K 2,773,480 and relief aids. So far, a total of K 14,845,723,545 has been donated to the victims. The figure included K 613,160,800 donated to the Financial Subcommittee.—MNA

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**Tree planting ceremony held at Nay Pyi Taw National Herbal Garden**

NAY PYI TAW, 20 July

— Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Ministers Dr Mya Oo and Dr Paing Soe participated in the tree planting ceremony together with departmental officials at Nay Pyi Taw National Herbal Garden, here, this morning.

Officials of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Forestry, members of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council, Chairman and CEC members of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association and Traditional Medicine Department, totaling about 250 grew the trees.

The ministry has planted 35,358 herbal plants, flowery and shade trees. Today, 2,090 plants were grown. The Ministry of Forestry has planted 34,600 trees and 2,435 more saplings were grown today. Likewise, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation planted 2,130 more saplings to be added to 29,581 trees planted in the past.—MNA

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**Foreign Affairs Minister sends message of felicitations to Egyptian counterpart**

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July—On the occasion of the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt, which falls on 23 July 2008, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt.—MNA

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**Minister Dr Kyaw Myint participates in tree planting ceremony of Ministry of Health. — MNA**

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**Relief supplies arrive**

YANGON, 22 July—A total of 79,326 tons of relief supplies donated by Thailand-based WFP (World Food Programme) arrived at Yangon International Airport today.—MNA
Aungmye Thazan Tsp...

(from page 1)
The commander presented prizes for the highest pass rates at township level to the township education officers concerned; and prizes for the highest pass rates at high school level, to the principals concerned.

The commander presented cash awards and certificates of honour to 10 six-distinction winners; and officials, to distinction winners including 88 six-distinction winners.

In the afternoon, the commander attended the 20th ceremony to recite Maha Pathana and offer provisions at the Myesunwun Buddha Image. Also present were Abbot of Mandalay Phayagyi Taiklepaw Monastery State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Member Bhaddanta Karuna and members of the Sangha, Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and wife, members of the pagoda board of trustees, donors, and local residents.

The commander offered flowers, water, and alms food to the image. He supplicated on religious affairs to the monks.

He offered alms giving to 40 monks led by Abbot Bhaddanta Karuna.

Later in the afternoon, the commander attended the tree planting ceremony at the multi-purpose agriculture and livestock farm No 1 of MCDC in Yedaguntaung region, Pathein Pyin Township, and planted a Seintalone species mango sapling.

Next, he encouraged service personnel and social organization members who were collectively growing trees.—MNA

Refresher Course for Admin Staff Level-1 opened

YANGON, 22 July—The Land, Excise and Financial Account Keeping Refresher Course No 1/2008 for Admin Staff Level-1 of the General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs from the states and divisions was held at the Administration Development Training School of GAD in Mingaladon Township here yesterday morning with an address by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo.

In his address, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo said that the refresher course is being opened for admin staff level-1 who are assigned duties at the Township GADs in the states and divisions as deputy heads to be able to better understand the tasks of the land, excise and financial account keeping, and he stressed the need for the trainees to try their utmost in learning the tasks since they are to be applied in the practical field.

The six-week course is being attended by 50 deputy heads from the states and divisions.

MNA

F&R lifts two trophies in same football season

YANGON, 22 July—Finance and Revenue carried off Closing Cup Knockout soccer trophy after seeing off Commerce with 1-0 in the final match of the Myanmar League Cup and Closing Cup Knockout soccer tournament for 2007-2008 football season held at Aung San Stadium this afternoon.

Officials concerned presented prizes to fifth placed YCDC in Myanmar League Cup for 2007-2008, fourth placed Defence and placed Commerce, runners-up Kanbawza, runners-up Commerce in Myanmar League Cup and Closing Cup Knockout, champion F&R, top scorer Sa Htet Naing Win of Commerce and second top scorer Soe Myat Min of F&R.

next, President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw handed second best footballer Yan Paing of F&R silver ball award and K 300,000; best footballer Yaza Win Thein of Commerce golden ball award K 500,000 and Myanmar League Cup champion F&R medals, championship trophy, duplicated trophy and K 5 million.

On behalf of the Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports, Secretary of MOC Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik gave away Closing Cup champion F&R medals, championship trophy, duplicated trophy and K 3 million.—MNA

Houses for storm-survivors in Satsan Village in Bogale Township.

MNA


MNA

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, UN Humanitarian Chief Mr John Holmes and diplomats view a resettlement project. (News on page 9)—MNA
TCG Chairman and UN Humanitarian Chief visit storm-hit areas

YANGON, 22 July—Accompanied by Chairman of Tripartite Core Group (TCG) Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Under Secretary-General for UN Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr John Holmes and representatives of NGOs went to the storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division today and viewed rehabilitation works in the areas.

They flew to Bogale this morning by helicopter. Responsible personnel of UN agencies reported to them on rehabilitation works and supplying relief aids to storm-survivors.

They also met with a social organization in Bogale and responsible personnel of the organization briefed on distribution of relief aids and participation in rehabilitation works in cooperation with UN agencies. Afterwards, they viewed repaired religious buildings, departmental offices, schools and houses in a motorcade.

They also flew to the village of Satsan in Bogale Township and viewed students learning at the temporary school, reconstructed houses and resettlement of storm victims in the houses.

They went to the village of Kyeyanggyi by helicopter and viewed resettlement of storm survivors in houses reconstructed with the contribution of donors. During the tour of the village of Kyondar in Dedaye Township, they viewed fishing boats provided by the government to local fishermen and resettlement of local people.

On way back to Yangon, they viewed reconstruction of houses, cultivation of paddy and resuming of fishing in the storm-hit areas.

MNA

Myanmar delegation led by CEC Member of USDA U Aung Thein Lin poses for photo at airport before departure for People’s Republic of China.—MNA

Myanmar goodwill delegation leaves for PRC

YANGON, 22 July—At the invitation of Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU), Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Central Executive Committee Member U Aung Nyein Maung and Development Association left for the People’s Republic of China by air on 20 July.

The Myanmar delegation was seen off at the airport by officials of the USDA headquarters and their families. The 14-member delegation will stay in the PRC from 20 to 27 July. The delegation comprises secretaries, executives and officials of state, district and townships, and USDA headquarters.—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

Myanmar delegation led by CEC Member of USDA U Aung Thein Lin poses for photo at airport before departure for People’s Republic of China.—MNA

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu and UN Humanitarian Chief Mr John Holmes view students learning at a temporary school in Satsan Village, Bogale Township.—MNA

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu and UN Humanitarian Chief Mr John Holmes view fishing boats provided by the government to local fishermen in Kyondar Village in Dedaye Township.—MNA
IWT endeavouring for better transport

Article by Maung Tin Hlaing (Hotels & Tourism)

Managing Director of Inland Water Transport of the Ministry of Transport U Soe Tint and officials went to Mawlamyinegyun while the General Manager and officials went to Labutta which is 171 miles far away from Yangon to engage in rehabilitation of storm-hit regions of Ayeyawady Division. I got an opportunity to travel with them.

The duties of the General Manager and officials are to inspect the installing of new jetties and pontoons along the route from Yangon to Labutta and Waipulla. Vessel that was washed ashore in Labutta, putting the vessels that were washed ashore back to water, restoring of old Labutta jetty (Takha-13) and loading of green groceries, marine products and paddy of Kanbet and Beetoot villages, jetties of other towns along the Yangon-Labutta route and loading and unloading at those jetties, the floating hospital and Ba Yint Naung Vessel and attend to the needs.

It was found that well-wishers, companies, those from the states and divisions and departmental personnel are engaged in rehabilitation of the storm-hit regions day in, day out.

Among those engaged in rehabilitation of the storm-hit regions of Ayeyawady Division were the staff of IWT of the Ministry of Transport. They helped rebuild vessels and pontoons and transported relief aid and construction materials to the affected areas by boat and Z-craft.

The IWT is transporting passengers and cargo with the use of 505 motorized boats and boats in its bid to ensure smooth and speedy commodity flow. The department has transported 25 million passengers in average and about 4 million tons of cargo in average yearly. The aim of the IWT is to enable the people to travel from one place to another at reasonable prices and to play a pivotal role in the State’s transportation with least expenses. It charges three kyats and 80 pyas for a passenger per mile and six kyats for one ton of cargo per mile in its transportation of passengers and goods. In ferry route, it charges ten kyats for a passenger.

Soon after the severe storm that occurred on 2 and 3 May, the Managing Director of IWT and officials concerned made relentless efforts day in, day out to minimize the loss and damage of property.

I visited Maykha Vessel which arrived at Kakayan village in Labutta Township on 21 June. As the General Manager of the IWT and officials concerned helped lay jetties and pontoons along the Yangon-Labutta route to enable the vessels to run at full capacity in rehabilitation of storm-hit regions, vessels can dock safely, loading and unloading can be carried out swiftly, loss and wastage of cargo can be prevented and pontoons can be used for storage of cargo at a time when there is shortage of buildings. Since 4 June, the IWT has resumed its services.

There was no passenger dead or any cargo loss on 24 passenger lines of the IWT that were plying during the severe storm. This can be attributed to the systematic arrangement of the IWT under its security programme. The storm left 36 vessels sunk, four pontoons sunk and 32 vessels washed ashore totaling 72 out of 338 boats and motorized boats based in Yangon. However, the sunken vessels and those being washed ashore were put back into water in a matter of hours after the storm.

On 6 May, altogether 28 vessels made 35 runs in transporting 2562.5 tons of relief aid to Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun, Bogale, Pyapon, Dedaye, Pathein and Hinthada. Those responsible have been able to salvage all the vessels, crafts and pontoons.

Way Thandaya Vessel and Ba Yint Naung vessel served as floating hospitals on the Yangon-Labutta route, Tai Aye and Ponna Byan vessels as floating hospitals in Yangon and Bogale, Ta Tai Hmwe and Pa Donma vessels as floating vessels on the Yangon-Pyapon route and Pa Pa Win vessel as floating hospital in Mawlamyinegyun. Vessels of the IWT transported 10,252 baskets of paddy seeds from Rakhine State to the storm-hit regions of Ayeyawady Division.

The IWT is actively participating in rehabilitation of the storm-stricken regions by doing its bit, while striving for bringing about better transport and ensuring speedy and smooth commodity flow.

Translation: TS
(Kyemon: 18-7-2008)

Pa Pa Win Floating Hospital.

A watercraft being used as a pontoon.
Nepal picks first President

KATHMANDU, 22 July—Nepal's lawmakers picked the country's first president on Monday, rejecting a candidate backed by former Maoist rebels in a move that could plunge the Himalayan nation's nascent republic into more political turmoil.

Ram Baran Yadav, an ethnic Madheshi from the centrist Nepali Congress party, won 308 out of the 590 votes cast by the constituent assembly, defeating Ramraja Prasad Singh who had the support of the Maoists, officials said.

Soon after his victory, the new president met the 83-year-old Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, his political mentor.

"This is a victory of democracy and of all Nepali people," Yadav, a doctor told reporters after the meeting.

It was the first major vote in a special assembly since lawmakers decided to abolish the 239-year-old monarchy and declare a republic, part of a peace process that ended a decade-long civil war with Maoist insurgents.

In some ways, the new president may also help stabilize Nepal. As the leader of the country's lowlands, Yadav's election may help unite a country torn between its highland Himalayan cultures and the peoples of the plains.

There are now doubts that the Maoists, who are the biggest party in the assembly, will form a government with their chief, Prachanda, as prime minister.

"It is a result of an unhappy alliance," Matrika Yadav, a senior Maoist leader, told reporters.

"We'll not form the government... we'll play the role of a strong opposition and help prepare the constitution."

The assembly, elected in April, is meant to both govern the country and draw up a new constitution.

China, Russia complete border survey, determination

BEIJING, 22 July—China and Russia signed an additional protocol on the eastern part of borders they share, which marked the completion of all the 4,300-kilometres-long border survey and determination.

The protocol, with a map affiliated, was signed here Monday by Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and visiting Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Lavrov.

Yechury Monday accused CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury during a protest in New Delhi, 22 July—CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury Monday accused the United States of trying to make India a strategic ally to attack Iran. Yechury said India will end up servicing US planes and warships during an all-out attack on Iran.

Prime ministers in several countries like France, UK, Australia and Japan had to lose their jobs for siding with the Bush Administration. Here too, we will not stop till the United Progressive Alliance government is defeated, Yechury said.

Vietnam licenses third oil refinery

HANOI, 22 July—Vietnam has licensed a project on developing a petrochemical complex with investment of 6.2 billion dollars started in May. The complex, including the Long Son oil refinery, is scheduled to become operational in the second quarter of 2013. Its key investor is state-owned Vietnam National Oil and Gas Group (PetroVietnam).

An official from the Vietnamese Ministry of Planning and Investment said recently that the Long Son oil refinery is expected to have annual processing capacity of 10 million tons of crude oil.

Dung Quat, Vietnam's first refinery with an annual processing capacity of 6.5 million tons of crude oil under construction with investment of 2.5 billion dollars, is scheduled to operate in February 2009. Its sole investor is PetroVietnam.

Construction of the second oil refinery named Nghi Son in northern Thanh Hoa Province with initial investment of 6.2 billion dollars started in May.

China licenses new methods to quickly diagnose bird flu

PAKCHAI, 22 July—Researchers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) have recently developed a new genetic analysis method for quick diagnosis of bird flu, local media reported on Monday.

Four years ago, researchers at the Veterinary Institute of the DPRK Academy of Agricultural Sciences have partially discovered the bio-characteristics of the bird flu viruses, which were prevalent at that time and set up a gene bank, the official news agency KCNA said.

Over the years, the researchers have successfully developed a new genetic analyzing approach which can quickly diagnose various types and subtypes of bird flu virus with no need of standard serum or standard antigen.

Meanwhile, the researchers have also developed new diagnostic reagents with high sensitivity — over 95 per cent, whose accuracy is also much bigger than its predecessors. The DPRK has already established production processes for the new diagnostic reagents.

Lyrics Roberts, 33, of Rockville, Md. tests to see if the fish will be interested in her hand as well, as her toes are nibbled on by a type of carp called garra rufa, or doctor fish, during a fish pedicure treatment at Yvonne Hair and Nails salon in Alexandria, Va. on 17 July, 2008.—INTERNET

Two hippos fight in the Mara River in the Masai Mara National Reserve of Kenya, July 21, 2008. The Mara River, winding across the reserve area, is hippo's paradise for its excellent natural environment protected by the Kenyan government. —INTERNET

US accused of making India ally to attack Iran

NEW DELHI, 22 July—CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury Monday accused the United States of trying to make India a strategic ally to attack Iran.

"The country’s security is under threat as the US is planning to launch an attack on Iran, and India will be forced to join ranks with the US as a strategic ally," said Yechury during a protest on nuclear deal. Noting that Iran recently acquired nuclear capability and thus drew US ire, Yechury said that India “will end up servicing US planes and warships during an all-out attack on Iran.”

Debate in the United Progressive Alliance government is defeated, Yechury said.

Vietnam licenses third oil refinery

HANOI, 22 July—Vietnam has licensed a project on developing a petrochemical complex with investment of nearly 3.8 billion US dollars in southern Ba Ria Vung Tau Province. Vietnamese newspaper Investment reported Monday. The complex, including the Long Son oil refinery, is scheduled to become operational in the second quarter of 2013. Its key investor is state-owned Vietnam National Oil and Gas Group (PetroVietnam).

An official from the Vietnamese Ministry of Planning and Investment said recently that the Long Son oil refinery is expected to have annual processing capacity of 10 million tons of crude oil.

Dung Quat, Vietnam’s first refinery with an annual processing capacity of 6.5 million tons of crude oil under construction with investment of 2.5 billion dollars, is scheduled to operate in February 2009. Its sole investor is PetroVietnam.

Construction of the second oil refinery named Nghi Son in northern Thanh Hoa Province with initial investment of 6.2 billion dollars started in May.


**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (TGA-391)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (TGA-391) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.7.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (107)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (107) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.7.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV PHU MY VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHU MY VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.7.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE SHIPPING CO., LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV ASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (107) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.7.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.**

**Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (107) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.7.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.**

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**Chavez may hug Spain king, won’t shut up**

CARACAS, 21 July — Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez said on Sunday he would like to give the king of Spain a hug when he visits Europe next week, but the outspoken leader, referring to a diplomatic spat last year, said he will not shut up. King Juan Carlos sparked a fog in November by shouting “Why don’t you shut up?” at Chavez when he tried to interrupt a speech by Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero at the Ibero-American summit in Chile. Ties have improved since then and the Spanish Government said last week that Chavez will meet the king on a visit to Spain next week. “I’d like to give the king a hug, but you know, Juan Carlos, that I am not going to shut up,” a smiling Chavez said on his weekly television show before setting of to Russia for the first leg of his tour.

**MNA/Reuters**

**Tran’s Ahmadinejad says N-talks a step forward**

TEHERAN, 22 July—Iran’s President described talks with world powers on its disputed nuclear programme as a step forward as a step forward on Sunday, official media said, even though the meeting in Geneva failed to produce any breakthrough in the standoff.

At Saturday’s discussions in the Swiss city, the six powers gave the Islamic Republic two weeks to answer calls to rein in its nuclear activities or face tougher sanctions after talks ended in stalemate despite unprecedented US participation.

Prospects of ending the row looked dim as Iran’s top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili said Iran would not discuss a demand to freeze sensitive atomic work the West wanted to see stopped.

But Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad gave an upbeat assessment. “Any negotiation that takes place is a step forward,” he told reporters, according to IRNA.

“Yesterday’s negotiation is regarded as one of these forward-moving negotiations,” Ahmadinejad said.— MNA/Reuters

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**FAO warns of rising number of global hunger**

HAVANA, 22 July—The number of hungry people in the world has risen by 50 million and will continue to increase this year, a UN official warned Monday.

Senegalese Jacques Diouf, general director of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), made the remarks in a speech at the University of Havana, Cuba.

Diouf, who was invited by the local government, said the soaring food prices have worsened global hunger and pushed more people below the poverty line.

But if all governments made the hunger problem a priority and used the necessary financial resources, the current crisis could be solved, Diouf said.—MNA/Xinhua

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**A woman looks at the sculpture “Drifting Sand” by Vsevolod Averkiev at the beach of the Peter and Paul fortress in St Petersburg on 21 July, 2008.—INTERNET**
Texas, Mexico prepare for Tropical Storm Dolly

MCAllen, 22 July — Residents along the Texas-Mexico border kept a watchful eye on Tropical Storm Dolly on Monday, stocking up on plywood, generators and flashlights as forecasters predicted the storm would strengthen into a hurricane later this week and make landfall.

Hurricane warnings were issued late Monday for parts of the Texas and Mexico coasts, meaning hurricane conditions were expected in those areas by the end of Tuesday. The storm was expected to bring high winds and dump 10 to 20 inches of rain in coastal areas near the US-Mexican border. Emergency officials feared major flooding problems and urged coastal residents to prepare.

Shell Oil said it was evacuating workers from oil rigs in the western Gulf Of Mexico, and the federal government was trying to decide whether they could begin construction on a new border fence, which was to be combined with levee improvements along the Rio Grande in Hidalgo County. The National Hurricane Center in Miami issued a hurricane warning from Brownsville north to Port O'Connor. Meanwhile, a tropical storm warning was issued from Port O'Connor to the San Luis Pass, a strait south of Galveston.

The world’s leading microchip maker Intel on 18 July, 2008 at Manila’s Makati city, Philippines.—INTERNET

Grow your mobile in a pot? Maybe someday, say Nokia researchers

HELSEIki, 22 July—With a mobile phone you can make calls on the go, shoot photos and pinpoint your position on a map. And who knows, maybe one day you’ll be able to grow your phone in a pot, if the futuristic ideas of technology researchers come true.

The world’s leading mobile phone maker Nokia has worked for years with top experts to determine the needs and wants of tomorrow’s customers in order to stay ahead of aggressive new competitors Google and Apple as well as the more traditional device makers Samsung, LG and Motorola.

In 2007, the Finnish company spent some 5.6 billion euros (8.9 billion dollars), or about 11 percent of its 51-billion-euro net sales, on research and development. About 27 percent of its employees, or more than 30,000 people, work on research and development.

About 700 of whom are part of Nokia’s long-term research unit. The Nokia Research Centre is a global organisation with activities in Britain, the United States, China, Switzerland and Finland, among others.

“Right now we are looking for things that could be relevant for Nokia in 2015. It might be that the patent for a product is relevant in 2015 but that the actual product is further away,” Leo Kaerkkaeinen, a chief visionary at the Nokia Research Centre, told AFP. He would not disclose the industry secrets Nokia was working on but said the starting point for researchers was that anything was possible.

A 14 years old girl claps her hands to activate ‘Pico,’ a computer-designed movable toy, which helps children envision other design or inventions while taking a break from working on a digital art piece, background, she helped design for the ‘World Mural Project’ by the world’s largest microchip maker Intel on 18 July, 2008 at Manila’s Makati city, Philippines.—INTERNET

‘One woman, one egg’ IVF plan reduces chances of live births

LONDON, 22 July—Thousands of couples undergoing IVF treatment will find that their chances of having a baby are vastly reduced under a controversial new technique being promoted by the fertility watchdog, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA).

The authority is trying to cut the number of IVF twins and triplets by reducing the number of eggs implanted in mothers-to-be from two to one. This process is known as Single Embryo Transfer (SET). But findings from the first research into the use of SET reveal that it slashes the chances of a successful live birth to just 17 per cent.

If the preliminary findings are correct, the average 30-year-old woman undergoing IVF will see her chances of having a baby reduce from 30 per cent to 21 per cent according to the study. And a 40-year-old woman would see her chances fall from 14 per cent to 9.

The results are based on a two-year study of 110,000 patient records for the Department of Health, which will publish the study next year.—INTERNET

Most children with milk allergy tolerate warm milk

NEW YORK, 22 July—Seventy-five percent of children with cow’s milk allergy will be able to tolerate it if it is heated extensively, according to a report in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology.

Children with persistent milk allergy produce antibodies that react against specific milk proteins that their immune system recognizes as foreign, according to Dr. Anna Nowak-Wegrzyn, from Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, and her colleagues. Children who have outgrown their milk allergies still have milk-specific antibodies, but the specific milk proteins that trigger this reaction can almost entirely be destroyed through exposure to high temperatures.

Chris Nelson and his wife Merideth Canham-Nelson of Carmel Valley, Calif., started their year in beer in January with a visit to Anchorage, Alaska’s Great Alaska Beer & Barley Wine Festival.

Since then, they’ve attended a beer festival in Germany, downed Guinness in Ireland, and visited breweries and beer events in cities ranging from Boston to Seattle.

The next six months will take them to England, France, Belgium, and back to Germany for (what else?) Oktoberfest.

Beer geek’ couple Marks half the journey in their year in beer

CARMEL VALLEY, 22 July — A couple of self-described “beer geeks” have passed the six-month point in their year of searching out great beer around the world.

Lesley and John Brown with their daughter, Louise, the world’s first IVF baby.—INTERNET

DENVER, San Diego, Belgium, and back to Germany for (what else?) Oktoberfest.

With a mobile phone you can make calls on the go, shoot photos and pinpoint your position on a map. And who knows, maybe one day you’ll be able to grow your phone in a pot, if the futuristic ideas of technology researchers come true.

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**Wimbledon.** —

the world it is the winner of the French Open and
tennis, who is considered the number one player in

called Federer but if you ask anyone in the world of

ments, including three at Wimbledon.

the French Open and Wimbledon in the same year.

there was a lot of talk about Federer going into the

true number one.

his hardcourt campaign having held the ATP's number

Wimbledon finals, Federer has yet to be evicted from
top spot, arriving at the Toronto Masters for the start of
his hardcourt campaign having held the ATP's number
one ranking for 234 weeks.

But Becker, who was in Toronto on Monday to play
an exhibition match ahead of his induction into the


“..."I did say to him coming down 18 that I was sorry it
wasn't his story that was going to be told," Harrington
said. "I did feel that, but I wanted to win myself. In this
game, you have to take your chances when you get them."

Harrington seized his opportunity by smashing a pair of
fairway metals into the par 5s that carried him to a 32
on the back nine of blustery Royal Birkdale and made him
Europe's first player in more than a century to win the
British Open two years in a row. —Internet

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**Padraig Harrington wins 2nd straight British Open**

**Southport (England),** July 22 —

Padraig Harrington enjoys few

moments more than the walk down

18th fairway of a century-old

links course, especially with a

four-shot lead in the British Open

and the engraver putting the final
touches on the oldest trophy in golf.

He stopped the first day to share the moment with Greg
Norman, who knows this path all too well.

Celebration for one, sympathy for the other.

"I did say to him coming down 18 that I was sorry it
wasn't his story that was going to be told," Harrington
said. "I did feel that, but I wanted to win myself. In this
game, you have to take your chances when you get them."

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fairway metals into the par 5s that carried him to a 32
on the back nine of blustery Royal Birkdale and made him
Europe's first player in more than a century to win the
British Open two years in a row. —Internet

**Ferguson gives Ronaldo some fatherly advice over Real move**

**DURBAN,** July 22 — Manchester United manager Sir
Alex Ferguson has claimed that Cristiano Ronaldo would be
doing 'the worst thing' for his career if he succeeds
in persuading Real Madrid to sell him.

The 23-year-old Portuguese forward once again
refused to rule out a move to the Spanish champions
over the weekend, despite Ferguson's insistence last
Friday that he would not be leaving Old Trafford.

But Ferguson, in Durban ahead of United's friendly clash
with Orlando Pirates on Tuesday, insisted again that
Ronaldo will be staying at United.

And he also warned the player that Madrid is the
last place he should be attempting to move to. Ferguson
said: "If you were asked for advice by your son, you would
give him the best advice and the worst thing Ronaldo
could do at the age of 23 is to go to Real Madrid." —Internet

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**Chelsea’s Terry still haunted by penalty miss**

GUANGZHOU, July 22 — Chelsea cap-
tain John Terry admitted he was still
haunted by his horror penalty miss in the
Champions League final as he gears up
for the new season here.

Terry, who will lead Chelsea against
Guangzhou Pharmaceutical on Wednes-
day, said mental replays of the botched
spot-kick were his first thoughts every
morning.

"Every morning I wake up and it’s the
first thing on my mind. I still think of it," he
said.

"I’m still very disappointed by it, but
last season I said I’m a big man and have
a big character and it’s down to me to
deal with it.”

Terry slipped and sliced his kick
against the post in the Moscow shoot-
out, throwing away the chance to seal
the title and handing a lifeline to event-
tual winners Manchester United.

It was the 27-year-old defender’s last
contribution for Chelsea before their

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**Jankovic hoping to crown ranking milestone with slam win**

LOS ANGELES, July 22 — Jelena Jankovic’s childhood
ambition of topping the world rankings could be real-
ized with victory at this week's Los Angeles Classic but
the injury-prone Serbian would love to embellish the
feat with a grand slam win.

“Since I was a young girl it’s been my dream and
every player's dream to become number one and by
achieving that, you take the monkey off your back,”
Jankovic told Reuters ahead of the tournament at which
she is the top seed.

“When you get older, at least one day you can say you
were number one and no one can take that away from
you. You are in history and it’s a great achievement.

“But I would also like to win a grand slam, to take that
step forward and go to the next level.”

Jankovic has come close to topping the rankings
before, falling in the semi-finals of this year's French
Open to compatriot Ana Ivanovic with the number one
spot of the line.

A break in a deciding third set, the match seemed
there for the taking but Ivanovic played with more
ambition while Jankovic seemed to feel the pressure of
the moment. —Internet

100 meters showdown remains greatest draw

LONDON, July 22 —

Usain Bolt, Asafa Powell and
tyon Gas, all sub-
9.8 second performers,
ske sprinting's ultimate
validation in a 100 meters
downdraw that will be the
highlight of the athletics
program at the Beijing Ol-

ypics.

Despite being badly
tainted by the doping rev-

lies that felled the

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ympics.

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ympics.
Explorer aims to educate youth on the environment

LONDON, 22 July — After traveling around the Arctic Circle alone, walking across South America, venturing through African war zones and hiking deep into the Amazon, Borneo and Sumatra jungles, Mike Horn is ready to embark on his most ambitious project yet.

The 42-year-old South African adventurer is set to go on a four-year environmental outreach expedition around the globe, aiming to cover 62,000 miles, cross all the continents and oceans, and reach the North and South Poles.

He will walk, kayak, cycle, paraglide, ski and sail across rivers, lakes, mountains, desert, jungle, tundra and ice fields. Working with educational specialists along the way, Horn hopes to inspire young people to clean up the planet and make people aware of the Earth’s gloriously uninhabited areas.

Adventurer-explorer Mike Horn is seen aboard his 35-meter (115-feet) yacht ‘Pangaea’. Internet

India, Russia plan joint development of ‘smart’ tank

MOSCOW, 22 July — Buoyed by the remarkable success of supersonic BrahMos cruise missiles, India and Russia are now mulling the joint development of a futuristic ‘smart’ battle tank, featuring higher speed and better firepower.

“We put forward this idea (of developing the tank) at the turn of the 21st century. The Indian side has now come up with a similar proposal,” Nikolai Malakh, Director General of Russia’s biggest tank producer Uralvagonzavod (UVZ) said.

Malakh said preliminary discussions have already taken place and UVZ experts are now going to India to carry forward the issue on the margins of international seminar on the Future Main Battle Tank (FMBT) MNA/PTI

Kenya says WFP to buy local maize

Nairobi, 22 July — The Kenyan government said the UN World Food Program (WFP) will purchase 10 million bags (90kg/bag) of maize in the country annually.

Agriculture minister William Ruto said the move to buy the commodity locally will motivate farmers to invest in maize production as it would assure them of a market for their crop.

“We will now have a ready market for 10 million bags. This means farmers should now up production of the cereal,” he was quoted in the local daily Nation newspaper on Monday as saying. The minister said that the country produces an average of 35 million bags of maize yearly noting that it was not enough for the increased market.

The minister asked farmers to take advantage of the increased demand for maize locally and globally by increasing production. The National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) buys the maize from farmers for the country’s strategic food reserves. “Therefore, if NCPB would sell the 10 million bags to WFP, it means the government would be buying an extra 10 million from farmers to fill the void,” said Ruto. MNA/Xinhua

BRAHMOSS

Brazil, Colombia, Peru to combat drug, weapons trafficking

BOGOTA, 22 July — Brazil, Colombia, and Peru signed an agreement Sunday to jointly combat weapons and drug trafficking in the Amazon river area.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil, and his counterparts Alvaro Uribe of Colombia and Alan Garcia of Peru signed the agreement in Leticia, the capital city of the Colombia’s Amazon state. According to the agreement, the three countries will tighten controls along their border rivers to prevent drug traffickers and guerrillas from using them to transport weapons and drugs, said Colombian Defence Minister Juan Manuel Santos.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Tuesday, 22 July, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in lower Sagain and Magway Divisions, scattered in upper Sagain and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan, Kayah States and Taninthayi Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.39) inch, Mawlamyine (2.48) inches, Hkamti (2.36) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (2.33) inches, Thayawady (2.12) inches, Myitkyina (2.05) inches, Patoa (1.81) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (1.77) inches and Shweyinny (1.61) inches.

Maximum temperature on 21-7-2008 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 22-7-2008 was 76°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 22-7-2008 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 21-7-2008 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 22-7-2008 was (2.33) inches at Mingaladon, (1.77) inches at Kaba-Aye and (0.27) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-3-2008 was (56.46) inches at Mingaladon, (63.74) inches at Kaba-Aye and (75.98) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from SouthWest at (21.30) hours MST on 21-7-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 23-7-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated to scattered in Chin State, Sagain, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 23-7-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-7-2008: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-7-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

MNA/PTI
Make donations to the storm victims

Nobody may make donations freely.

Nobody 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.

☆ 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

Remote storm-hit villages enjoy health care

YANGON, 22 July—The Ministry of Health is taking measures to expedite health care services of storm survivors in Ayeyawady Division.

As part of the drive, a medical team comprising Dr Khin Nan Lon, Dr Aye Naing and Dr Aung Thu and health staff gave health care services for the storm survivors of storm-affected villages in Pyapon Township where transport is poor on 6 July.

The medical team checked up storm survivor patients, took preventive measures against dengue haemorhagic fever and gave educative talks on healthy living to the local people.—MNA

Houses built for storm survivors in Kyeinchaunggyi Model Village in Bogale Township. — MNA

Temporary school buildings in Satsan Village in Bogale Township.—MNA