Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to President of the Republic of Maldives

NAY PYI TAW, 26 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 Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives on the occasion of the 43rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Maldives, which falls on 26 July 2008.—MNA

Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fishery Sciences meets

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—The seventh Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fishery Sciences was held at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation here this morning. Present on the occasion were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, heads of department, the president and EC members of the academy, scholars of related departments, resource persons and guests.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo delivered a speech saying strong economy is important for the development of the Union of Myanmar. Natural resources fundamental to the sectors of agriculture, fish and meat and forestry play a vital role in the improvement of socio-economy of the people and the development of the State. This is why measures are being taken to tap those resources in the long run. In doing so, the role of the academy and its efforts are very important. Today, global countries are facing food insecurity, climate change and soaring prices. With the dwindling oil resources, most are turning to production of bio-fuels. So, it is known to all that the agricultural sector needs to improve.

As today is the age of knowledge-based agriculture, it is necessary to speed up research work on boosting food production to feed the burgeoning population of the world. Advancements in information technology have opened up opportunities for research and development. It is important for Myanmar to effectively use modern technologies in every sector so as to catch up other countries. In doing so, emphasis is to be placed on not harming the natural environment and health of the people.

Like other nations, Myanmar needs to pay attention to use of bio-fuels. In producing crops for bio-fuels, it is necessary to take measures with care in order not to cause adverse effects on production of crops and tapping of resources. (See page 8)

Weather Forecast for (26-7-2008)

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

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

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

Unity is strength

Myanmar people should maintain the consolidated unity that is the key to the achievement because to rise from a natural disaster is a long-term plan.
For human resource development

The government is making all-out efforts for promoting the national education standard and development of human resources.

With a view to ensuring the emergence of human resources and creating equal learning opportunities across the nation, the government has designated the 24 special development regions each of which was facilitated with a university, a technological college and a computer college.

Starting from 20 January 2007, colleges in the 24 special development regions were upgraded to universities for those residing in those regions in addition to those residing in major cities such as Yangon and Mandalay to be able to pursue higher education within their reach.

For the emergence of qualified human resources the government has set up good education atmosphere capable of producing outstanding students.

Meanwhile, efforts are being made for teachers to be well-versed in their teaching carrier, upgrading curricula and syllabuses to international level and the extensive use of teaching and learning aids.

At a time when the government is creating higher learning opportunities the length and breadth of the nation we firmly believe that qualified human resources on whom the State can rely will emerge.

Mr Aminul Islam presents cricket sports gear to a responsible person of Myanmar Cricket Federation.

(News reported) — MCF

Foreign Affairs Minister arrives back from Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win this morning arrived back here from Singapore after attending the 41st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) and related meetings.

On 20 July, the minister attended the working dinner of ASEAN Foreign Ministers and briefed his counterparts on the recent development in Myanmar including the recent approval of the new State Constitution by the National Referendum, Myanmar Government efforts for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction of the people affected by the cyclone ‘Nargis’ and its cooperative activities with the United Nations.

On 21 July, the minister attended the opening ceremony of the 41st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, the launching of the ASEAN Studies Centre in Singapore, ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ working lunch and retreat. The minister made a statement at the ceremony for Myanmar’s Ratification of the ASEAN Charter and deposited the instrument of Ratification of Myanmar with the Secretary-General of ASEAN on the same day. Myanmar has thus become the seventh member state to ratify the ASEAN Charter.

In the evening, Minister U Nyan Win made a statement at the Press Conference for the release of the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment Report (PONJA) undertaken by the ASEAN-led coordinating mechanism.

At the press conference, the Singaporean Foreign Minister, the ASEAN Secretary-General, the UN Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Indonesian Foreign Minister also made statements on the report.

Minister U Nyan Win attended the Special Working Lunch of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers on 22 July to discuss the issue of border dispute between Thailand and Cambodia. The minister also attended the ASEAN plus Three Foreign Ministers Meeting and the East Asia Summit. Foreign Minister Informal Consultations was also held in the same afternoon.

On 23 July, the Myanmar delegation led by Minister U Nyan Win attended the Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) held separately between ASEAN and its 10 dialogue partners. In his capacity as the current Country Coordinator of the ASEAN-New Zealand dialogue relations, Minister U Nyan Win co-chaired the ASEAN-New Zealand Ministerial Meeting.

The minister participated in the 15th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Retreat and its plenary session and briefed the meeting on the recent developments in Myanmar. The ARF was attended by ministerial delegations from 27 participating countries of ARF.

The Myanmar delegation led by Minister U Nyan Win also attended the Signing Ceremony for Accession by Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to the Treaty on Amity and Cooperation of the Southeast Asian countries. The number of parties to the Treaty has thus reached 25.

While in Singapore, Minister U Nyan Win also held separate bilateral meetings with the heads of delegation and his counterparts from Cambodia, Japan, the People’s Republic of China, Australia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Timor Leste at their request and discussed matters of mutual interest and exchanged views on international and regional issues.

Together with the minister, other members of the Myanmar delegation, Director-General U Than Tun of the ASEAN Affairs Department, Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Tin of Political Department, Deputy Director-General U Tun Swe of the ASEAN Affairs Department, Assistant Directors U Kyaw Tin Shein and U Kyaw Si Thu and Head of Branch-1 U Tin Win also arrived back.

MNA

Special Appellate Bench judges five special criminal appeal cases

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July — The Special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) U Tin Tun Oo, Supreme Court Judges (Mandalay) U San Tin Yi and U Sein Hlaing sitting at court room No. 1 of Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) delivered judgement of 5 Special Criminal Appeal cases this morning. And then they heard 5 Special Criminal Appeal cases under Section 7 of the Judiciary Law, 2000.—MFA

MNA
Pakistan warns of nuclear arms race

VIENNA, 25 July—Pakistan has warned that a deal leading to increased Indian access to nuclear fuel could accelerate the atomic arms race between the rivals. The letter addressed to more than 60 nations comes less than two weeks before the 35-nation International Atomic Energy Agency board is expected to approve a so-called safeguards agreement setting up rules for inspecting some of India's civilian nuclear facilities. Approval of the safeguards deal is key in India's efforts to gain access to legal imports of nuclear fuel and technology from a 45-nation consortium known as the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Islamabad warns in the letter dated 18 July and addressed to members of the IAEA board and Nuclear Suppliers Group that the safeguards agreement would hurt nonproliferation efforts and "threatens to increase the chances of a nuclear arms race in the subcontinent."

Barge company to take care of Mississippi River spill cleanup

NEW ORLEANS (Louisiana), 25 July—The owner of the barge that spilled 419,000 gallons of oil in the Mississippi River said Thursday that although his company was not to blame for the accident, it will be responsible for the cleanup.

Paul Book, vice president of operations facilities for American Commercial Lines Inc, said at a news conference that divers were assessing the barge as it lay against a bridge pier. "We have reports of oil that is bubbling, coming from the bow and the stern compartments," he said. V-shaped booms containing skimmers have been placed below each compartment to collect and siphon off the oil, he said. The operation will be done twice. "We have high hopes that will stop the release... coming from the barge," Book said.

The spill, which polluted 98 miles of one of the nation's busiest waterways, resulted from a collision early Wednesday between the 61-foot barge carrying the fuel and a tanker. The two collided just north of the massive bridges connecting downtown New Orleans to communities across the river.

Britain cracks down on illegal downloading

LONDON, 25 July—Britain's six biggest Internet service providers have agreed to work with the government and music industry to clamp down on illegal downloading, a music industry association said Thursday. BT, Virgin Media, Orange, Tiscali, BSkyB and Carphone Warehouse signed up to a government-negotiated plan and will send letters to hundreds of thousands of prolific downloaders warning them their activity is being monitored, according to the BPI — formerly known as the British Phonographic Industry. The Motion Pictures Association of America also signed onto the plan.

Iran ends cooperation with UN nuclear arms probe

VIENNA, 25 July — Iran signaled Thursday that it will no longer cooperate with UN experts probing for signs of clandestine nuclear weapons work, confirming the investigation is at a dead end a year after it began.

On Thursday, Iranian Vice President Gholam Reza Aghazadeh appeared to signal that his country was no longer prepared even to discuss the issue with the IAEA.

Investigating allegations "is outside the domain of the agency," he said. Any further queries on the issue "will be dealt with in another way," he said, without going into detail.

Teheran dismisses the suspicions of

Qantas plane makes emergency landing with hole in undercarriage

MANILA, 25 July—A Qantas Boeing 747 passenger plane made an emergency landing at Manila airport on Friday after a "hole in its belly" caused it to lose cabin pressure, an airport official said.

Manila airport operations officer Ding Lima told local radio that the aircraft lost cabin pressure shortly after leaving Hong Kong bound for Melbourne. "The captain of the aircraft immediately called the control tower for an immediate landing," said Lima.

"There is a big hole in the belly of the aircraft near the right wing about three metres in diameter," he said.

He said the aircraft was carrying 350 passengers and 16 crew.

One dead in NH storms that levels several homes

DEERFIELD (NH), 25 July—Violent storms on Thursday in a 25-mile-long swath of central New Hampshire destroyed several homes, damaged dozens of others and left at least one person dead, authorities said as police and firefighters went door-to-door searching for more possible victims.

Other people were hurt, including the husband and baby grandson of the woman killed.

Gov John Lynch said at an evening news conference that about a dozen people were injured. There was no immediate word on how serious their injuries were. The National Weather Service was trying to determine whether a tornado was responsible for the damage, which stretched from about 10 miles east of Concord to beyond the eastern end of Lake Winnipesaukee near the Maine border.

Around Northwood Lake in Epsom, many homes in one area were badly damaged or destroyed by the storm, which tossed couches and refrigerators along with downed trees and other debris. Katie Toll's belongings were scattered around her two-story home, which was pushed off its foundation. A bed ended up wrapped around a tree.

Iran's atomic energy head says country won't retreat on nuclear technology

VIENNA, 25 July — Iran's atomic energy chief said Thursday that his country would not retreat in any form of the nuclear technology it wants and "will not give in to any pressure." Aghazadeh's comments came in response to new allegations by the IAEA that Iran had failed to cooperate with the agency over its nuclear enrichment programs.

"We will stand firm, retreat one iota is out of the question," Aghazadeh said. "We will continue to develop the technology in the field of nuclear enrichment."
Fresh nuclear incident in France

PARIS, 25 July—About 100 staff at a nuclear plant in southern France have been exposed to a low dose of radiation, power firm Electricite de France (EDF) says.

They were “slightly contaminated” by radio- active particles that escaped from a pipe at a reactor complex in Tricastin, an EDF spokeswoman said.

The incident comes two weeks after a leak forced the temporary closure of a reactor at the Tricastin facility.

Unenriched uranium had leaked into the water supply. The authorities lifted a ban on fishing and water sports in two local rivers on Tuesday.

EDF says Wednesday’s incident was not connected to the earlier uranium leak.

The company says that sensors detected a rise in the radiation level while maintenance work was being carried out at a reactor that had been shut since 12 July.

The rise in radiation prompted 97 EDF and maintenance subcontractors to be evacuated and sent for medical tests.

Suicide attack kills policeman in Yemen

SAN’A (Yemen), 25 July—A Yemeni security official says a suicide car bomber has rammed a vehicle into the Interior Ministry’s headquarters in eastern Yemen, killing a policeman and injuring eight others.

Smith, 22, was arrested at home a few miles away within a half-hour of the first 911 call about the shooting, police spokesman Reuben Gonzales said.

The security official says the attack took place early on Friday in Hadramut Province.

Two bombs explode in Gaza City

GAZA CITY, 25 July—Gaza security officials say two bombs went off in Gaza City early Friday, killing one man.

It is not immediately clear who was behind the attacks.

The first explosion took place just after midnight outside a cafe. The cafe has been hit twice in the past by similar attacks, presumably perpetrated by radical Muslims who also target record shops and Christian institutions.

The officials say the explosion killed an unidentified man who was apparently passing by at the time. Three people were wounded.

Drug smugglers get record sentences in Ireland

DUBLIN, 25 July—A trio of English cocaine smugglers were caught after putting the wrong fuel into their boat.

They received the longest drug-related prison sentences in Irish history Wednesday.

They are the first death sentences in Ireland since 2003.

Police arrested the trio last July after their dinghy sank off the Cork coast, dumping 1.5 tons of cocaine into the ocean. Police retrieved more than 60 bales of the drug with an estimated street value of $700 million, a record seizure in Ireland.

The smugglers’ inflatable dinghy sank after a member of the gang accidentally filled the twin Yamaha engines with diesel instead of gasoline, stranding them in unusually rough seas just a few hundred yards from shore.

Police said the cocaine originated in Colombia and had been brought from Barbados aboard a catamaran named “Lucky Day,” then transferred to the dinghy.

Indonesian crash pilot on trial

JAKARTA, 25 July—The pilot of an Indonesian plane that crashed at an airport on Java island last year, killing 21 people, has gone on trial accused of negligence.

A report into the crash at Yogyakarta concluded that he had been flying too fast and landed at too steep an angle.

Marwoto Komar’s defence team said they will fight the charges on the grounds that he managed to land the plane on the runway, probably saving lives.

The Boeing 737 skidded off the runway and burst into flames on 7 March 2007.

Venezuela denies report of Russian base

CARACAS, 25 July—Venezuela’s government denied Wednesday that President Hugo Chavez invited Russia to open a military base in his country, disputing a report by Russia’s Interfax saying that Russian troops were welcome in the South American nation.

“This is totally false,” Venezuela’s government said in a statement following the release of the Interfax report. “At no moment did the head of state make such an offer.”

Chavez said that military cooperation with Russia is proceeding “at full speed” as his government considers new purchases of Russian fighter jets.—Su30s — and parts for an integrated anti-aircraft system.

Chavez arrived in Russia on Tuesday to negotiate a number of deals involving weapons purchases, oil exploration and the creation of a joint financial institution. He refused to estimate the size of the arms deals when asked. “Don’t worry about the amounts — that’s our task,” Chavez said.

Venezuela, which spent US$4 billion on international arms purchases between 2005 and 2007, mostly from Russia and China, has a defence budget of US$2.6 billion, according to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies. Chavez traveled to Belarus on Wednesday.—INTERNET

Drug smugglers get record sentences in Ireland

DUBLIN, 25 July—A trio of English cocaine smugglers who were caught after putting the wrong fuel into their boat received the longest drug-related prison sentences in Irish history Wednesday.

Their gang was behind the attack on their homeland of Osama bin Laden. In January, two Belgian tourists and their Yemeni driver were killed in an attack on their convoy in Hadramut.

 Arrest made in Phoenix community college shooting

PHOENIX, 25 July—A former student shot three people on Thursday in a computer room at a Phoenix community college, injuring one of them critically, authorities said.

“This was not a random shooter going around the campus shooting,” Hill said, noting that two of the injured people were struck by stray bullets.

The shooting at South Mountain Community College was part of a running dispute between the suspect and one of the victims, said Sgt Andy Hill, a spokesman for the Phoenix Police Department.

South Mountain Community College students leave campus after three people were shot on 24 July, 2008 at the college in Phoenix. —INTERNET

Suicide attack kills policeman in Yemen

SAN’A (Yemen), 25 July—A Yemeni security official says a suicide car bomber has rammed a vehicle into the Interior Ministry’s headquarters in eastern Yemen, killing a policeman and injuring eight others.

The security official says the attack took place early on Friday in Hadramut Province.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. The car’s charred shell sat outside the building. The officials say investigators are still trying to determine who was behind the attack.

Al-Qaida continues to have an active presence in Yemen, the ancestral homeland of Osama bin Laden. In January, two Belgian tourists and their Yemeni driver were killed in an attack on their convoy in Hadramut.

INTERNET

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Man killed after crane collapse in Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY, 25 July—A crane holding a church steeple collapsed on Thursday morning, crushing a car and killing an 80-year-old man who was watching the construction, firefighters said.

A 78-year-old woman who was also in the car was transported to a hospital in good condition, ambulance officials said. The accident happened in the parking lot of a new church being built in southwest Oklahoma City at 10 am. A group of people had gathered to watch the installation of the steeple, said Deputy Fire Chief Cecil Clay.

There have been several deadly crane accidents around the country this year, including one in Houston last week that killed four contract workers and injured seven others. Crane-related deaths have also occurred in New York, Miami and Las Vegas.—INTERNET

Food price catastrophe in Africa

LONDON, 24 July—Rising food prices are pushing millions of people towards severe hunger and destitution across East Africa, prompting Oxfam to launch a new appeal to bolster its aid work in the region.

It says 13 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Oxfam’s Rob McNeil, who has just returned from the Somali and Afar regions of Ethiopia said: “This is a catastrophe in the making, we have time to act to before it becomes a reality.

“The cost of food has escalated by up to 50% in some places, leaving people who have suffered drought after drought in utter destitution.

“Some of the roads we travelled on were littered with dead livestock. There is little or no pasture or water for the animals that people rely on. People are increasingly becoming desperate.

“We fear that the worst could be yet to come as the crisis deteriorates across East Africa.”

Oxfam says that in Somalia, the cost of imported rice rose by up to 350% between the beginning of 2007 and May 2008.

I saw people in one village reduced to pounding the food pellets intended for their animals into porridge to feed their families.—INTERNET

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Samsung Elec Q2 net disappoints, outlook grim

SEOUL, 25 July—Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS) posted a lower-than-expected quarterly profit and faces a tough second half with a sluggish memory chip market and lower margins in flat screens and mobile phones. Shares in the $85 billion South Korean group, the world’s top maker of both memory chips and LCDs and its second-biggest handset maker, tumbled more than 4 percent on Friday after the results were released.

“It’s unlikely that we will be achieving a sharp recovery (in the third quarter),” said Chu Woosik, executive vice president of investor relations at the technology giant, which is ranked as Asia’s third most valuable global brand after Toyota and Honda.

Visibility for the memory chip market was “quite low,” he added.—INTERNET

Canadian teen dies after being shot with Taser

VANCOUVER, 25 July—A teenager wielding a knife died after police shot him with a Taser, the latest in a string of deaths linked to the stun guns, officials said on Wednesday.

Police spokeswoman Jacqueline Chaput said the 17-year-old boy was shot with electronic stun gun Tuesday after refusing to comply with repeated requests from the officers to put down his knife.

Chaput said the teen, who they did not identify, was confronted by police after breaking into car. She did not say how many times he was shot.

More than a dozen people have died in Canada after being hit with Tasers in the last four years.

In British Columbia, a public inquiry has been examining the use of Tasers. The inquiry has focused on the death of a Polish immigrant who died shortly after being shot with a Taser by Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers at Vancouver’s airport last year. A video taken by a bystander set off a public outcry and resulted in several inquiries into Taser use by police.—INTERNET

Hackers get hold of critical Internet flaw

SAN FRANCISCO, 25 July—Internet security researchers on Thursday warned that hackers have caught on to a “critical” flaw that lets them control traffic on the Internet.

An elite squad of computer industry engineers that labored in secret to solve the problem released a software “patch” two weeks ago and sought to keep details of the vulnerability hidden at least a month to give people time to protect computers.

Visibility for the memory chip market was “quite low,” he added.—INTERNET

Ford posts worst loss, puts turnaround plan into overdrive

CHICAGO, 25 July—Ford Motor Co announced plans to accelerate its vast restructuring plan on Thursday after the sputtering auto giant posted its worst quarterly loss in history. The 8.7-billion-dollar loss in the second quarter was largely due to hefty charges as Ford wrote down the value of its assets and recognized losses from auto leasing.

Excluding special charges, the operating loss was 1.0 billion dollars for the second-largest US automaker, or 64 cents per share, far steeper than Wall Street estimates of a loss of 27 cents a share.

Investors punished Ford, pushing shares down 15.5 percent to 3.11 dollars.

The automaker has now lost nearly 24 billion dollars since 2006 and recently backed off plans to return to profitability by 2009 as high fuel prices and a weak US economy have substantially cut demand in its home market.—INTERNET

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Pakistan vows not to allow militants to plot attacks

ISLAMABAD, 25 July — Pakistan said on Wednesday it would neither allow Islamist militants to plot attacks on its soil nor let foreign troops take military action on its territory.

The declaration by leaders of Pakistan’s three-and-a-half-month-old coalition came amid growing fears that the United States might take unilateral action against al-Qaeda and Taleban sanctuaries in tribal areas on the Afghan border.

Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani called a meeting of his coalition partners to discuss deteriorating security in Pakistan as he prepares for his first official visit to the United States.

MNA/Reuters

Thailand’s exports surge in June

BANGKOK, 25 July — Thailand’s exports in June remained impressive with their value surging by 21.4 per cent from the same month last year to a record high of 16.28 billion US dollars, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Permanent Secretary for Commerce Siripol Yodmuangcharoen on Tuesday said the export surge was boosted by a sharp increase of farm and agro-industry products including rice, natural rubber, vegetables and fruits, and frozen and processed chicken (up 51.7 per cent to 2.82 billion US dollars in value).

Imports in June totalled 15.64 billion US dollars in value, up 30.7 per cent from the same month one year before.

MNA/Xinhua

Mongolia fails to swear in post-election Parliament

BEIJING, 25 July — Mongolia failed to swear in its new Parliament on Wednesday because of a walk-out by opposition lawmakers, China’s news agency reported, in the latest twist following an election dogged by allegations of fraud.

Legislators from the opposition Democratic Party walked out in protest over what it says was cheating in the 29 June poll, which was won by the Mongolian People’s Revolutionary Party and which international observers say was largely free and fair.

Democratic Party leader Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj challenged the election result at the National Parliament, which threw off Soviet influence in 1990.

The latest delay sets back hopes that Parliament can quickly convene and approve mining agreements that would allow foreign companies to begin tapping Mongolia’s vast mineral wealth, which includes coal, gold and copper.

MNA/Reuters

Senior Zardari security officer killed in Pakistan

KARACHI, 25 July — Gunmen killed a senior security officer for Asif Ali Zardari, head of Pakistan’s ruling party, in the southern city of Karachi on Tuesday, police and party officials said.

Zardari is the widower of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who was killed in a suicide gun and bomb attack in the city of Rawalpindi on 27 December, while campaigning for an election that her party subsequently won.

Ejaz Durrani, a spokesman for Zardari in Karachi, said the assailants ambushed the security officer, Khalid Shehanshah, outside his house in Karachi’s upscale Defence neighbourhood.

Zardari, who was in Islamabad when the attack took place, condemned the killing. “The attackers got out of a white car and opened fire as Shehanshah was standing outside his house,” provincial Interior Minister Zulfiqar Mirza told reporters.

Shehanshah was a member of Bhutto’s security escort on the day she was killed.

Mirza declined to speculate who could have been behind the Shehanshah’s killing, but said it was aimed at destabilising the three-and-a-half-month old coalition led by Zardari’s party.

MNA/Reuters

EU threatens visa requirement for US diplomats

BRUSSELS, 25 July — The European Commission will propose forcing US diplomats to apply for visas to travel to the European Union from 1 January, 2009 unless Washington moves towards granting citizens of all EU states visa-free entry.

“No tangible progress has been made regarding the United States despite all efforts of the Commission and individual member states,” the EU executive said on Wednesday. “Citizens of 12 EU member states continue to require a visa when travelling to the United States,” a statement said.

“Therefore, the Commission will propose retaliatory measures eg temporary restoration of the visa requirement for US nationals holding diplomatic and service/official passports as from 1 January, 2009 if no progress is achieved.”

Most older EU states belong to the US visa waiver programme, which allows its citizens to travel without visas. But this does not apply to 11 of the 12 mostly ex-Communist countries that joined the 27-member bloc in 2004 and 2007, or older member Greece. Visas are a sensitive issue in EU-US relations.

MNA/Reuters

A structural part of an Airbus 320 is transported to Tianjin port on 24 July, 2008. Airbus has an assembly line in Tianjin, the first for Airbus outside Europe. The assembly of the first plane is expected to start in August, Xinhua News Agency reported. —INTERNET

A firefighter walks in front of a bus set on fire by unidentified people in Bogota, on 24 July, 2008. Eight buses were burned with homemade incendiary bombs in different neighbourhoods of the capital. —INTERNET

Tourists visit the new decorations erected on the Tian'anmen Square in central Beijing, capital of China, on 24 July, 2008. Parterres of the Olympic themes are installed on the square before the opening of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games on 8 Aug. —INTERNET
The harmonious cooperation of the entire people to address and surmount the situations triggered by the storm “Nargis” seems to support the saying that goes “Unity is strength”. Myanmar showed such a consolidated unity among them in times of emergency that they won the recognition of the international community.

Other people from four corners of the nation do not know personally and they are not relatives of local residents in the storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions. However, they are generously contributing relief supplies, cash, labour and technologies to the victims, as though the victims were their relatives.

From the regional point of view, the people of the nation stretching from Kachin State in the northernmost part to Tanintharyi Division in the southernmost part and from Rakhine and Chin states in the westernmost part to Shan State (East) in the easternmost part of the nation are not only providing money and local products but also contributing voluntary services.

From the racial point of view, in doing so, various national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan consider that they are the same, national brethren.

And from the occupational point of view, people of various classes and jobs such as servicemen, civilians, service personnel, merchants, farmers, doctors, engineers and vendors are making contribution as much as they can. Artists carried out special entertainment shows to provide the profits for the victims, and literati and media persons provided cash and kind constantly. In accordance with their motto “We will make donations through performances”, many dramatic performers form Mandalay organized special shows tirelessly. Drama star Po Chit said, “I’m very sorry for their situations, but I’m pleased to contribute to the relief and rehabilitation tasks. Actually, the people are our benefactors. So, we have to repay their gratitude when they are in need.” The words of the people are our benefactors. So, we have to repay their gratitude when they are in need. The words of the people are our benefactors. So, we have to repay their gratitude when they are in need.

In addition, associations of various religious faiths, prominent persons and Sayadawys of the religious organizations associated programmes to donate relief supplies. Many Buddhist monks such as Sitagu Sayadaw, Dhamma Ceri Sayadaw Shokolla, Dhamma Duta Ashin Cheikinda, Paris Buddhist Monastery Abbot, Nine Religious Titles Recipient Sayadaw, and Meta Shon (Shwepyitha) conducted sermon delivering ceremonies and received donations for the victims. Moreover, Christians of Baptist and Catholic Churches made donations and participated in the rescue and rehabilitation tasks actively, while Muslim and Hindi religious associations were making generous charities. Member Sayadawys of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee recited Metta parittas in a helicopter in the sky above the storm-hit areas. Various associations of all religious faiths organized ceremonies to say prayers and to deliver sermons to console the victims. That showed in Myanmar various religious faiths are harmonious without any disagreements among them.

Another salient point was the cohesion of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw. Since the time when the storm was still raging, the Head of State and national level dignitaries were laying down programmes to launch rescue and resettlement tasks. In the post-storm period, Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein stayed in the storm-ravaged areas to supervise the rescue and relief measures. Furthermore, the Head of State and the Deputy Head of State made inspection tours of the storm-hit areas, fulfilled the requirements and gave guidance. A minister has been assigned to each storm-struck township to supervise the relief and rehabilitation tasks.

So far, the government has spent billions of kyats on the relief and rehabilitation operation. That indicated the government’s parent-like loving-kindness for the people. Those who understood that the government always takes care of the people with loving-kindness and compassion in response showed their respect and reliance to the Head of State and officials concerned. Servicemen who share sorrows of the people took part in the rehabilitation tasks with heart and soul. It is very encouraging to note that more than 40,000 servicemen: over 20,000 in Ayeyawady Division and over 20,000 in Yangon Division have been participating in the relief tasks, giving health care, constructing houses and roads, ploughing fields, and growing small-scale crop plantations.

Despite, besides of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Red Cross Society, other social organizations, voluntary organizations, altruistic groups, and internal and international NGOs well deserve recognition for their active contribution in various sectors.

Overall, reconstruction and rehabilitation tasks have gathered momentum in a short time due to the fact that the entire people are doing their bit in collaboration in the drive. Now, the people of storm-hit areas have started a new life with better conditions than before the natural disaster with well-organized new towns and villages, tractors, fishing boats and fishing nets. That largely is due to the endeavours the entire people have made in concert to ease the sufferings of the victims.

It is not an exaggeration that considerable success has been achieved in a short time in the tasks. Myanmar’s reconstruction operation has made a good headway in no time if compared with the reconstruction tasks of other developing countries. Heru Prasetyo, Indonesian Tsunami expert from the tripartite group for preliminary observation of destruction in the storm for Myanmar, said that Myanmar’s measures were even better than the tasks carried out after the tsunami that occurred in Indonesia in 2004. In the earthquake that took place in a south Asian nation in 2005, the homeless victims had to stay in the tents for one or two years. Therefore, the entire Myanmar people can be proud for such a remarkable success achieved in a short time in addressing the situations caused by the most destructive natural disaster of its kind in the course of the nation’s history.

Myanmar people should maintain the consolidated unity that is the key to the achievement because to rise from a natural disaster is a long-term plan. It is also required of the entire people to maintain the already-achieved consolidated unity and participate actively in the drive for building a new nation. That is the national concern for the lifeblood for the nation.

Translation: MS
Myanmar Academy...
(from page 1)

In addition, researches on the effective use of forest products and bio-mass like moss of the sea that are able to generate energy are to be conducted.

The aim of the 7th Research Conference being held today is to ensure development of science and technology of the State and to practically apply the findings of researches conducted by the ministries and those conducted by the universities in the production lines of the agriculture, forest and fisheries sectors.

This being so, efforts are to be made in order to be able to apply the findings of researches in the practical fields in addition to presenting and discussing research papers. At the same time, the participation of private sector in research development is to be emphasized.

The government is placing emphasis on development of researches of private sector that is doing its bit in the development of national economy. And the State sector and private sector are to exchange views on the findings and cooperate to overcome difficulties in conducting researches. Only then, will the research work meet with success. The research’s findings are to be reviewed more often based on advantages and disadvantages, while applying them in the practical fields.

The task for human resource development is to be carried out in the long term and plays an important role in development of research work. Only experts who are skilled in modern technology can help sustainable development of research work.

As part of efforts for boosting production of crops and improving quality of crops, necessary research works are to be carried out to produce quality strains of ten major crops to meet the targeted production rate, to reclaim the arable land and to use modern cultivation methods from the time of land preparation to post-harvest period.

In the forest sector, research works are to be carried out to help environmental conservation including conserving forests, bio-diversity and ecosystem. The Head of State gave guidance that measures for sustainable development of the environment of the country are also conserving the heritage of the country and also will benefit the environmental conservation of the world.

Cyclone Nargis showed the importance of the mangrove forest. It is necessary to do research works for conservation, protection and systematic utilization of the mangrove.

In the livestock sector, research works should be done for livestock breeding, improvement of technology and conservation of marine resources. Besides, works are to be carried out for improvement of technology for packing and distribution and for safety of consumers. Research works should also be carried out for effectiveness of medicines and modern therapy for diseases including the bird flu. The cooperation between researchers and businessmen for livestock breeding can boost the production rate in the livestock sector.

For development of researches on agriculture, forestry, livestock breeding and fishery sectors, efforts are to be made on self-reliant basis to keep abreast of international community through modern technology, human resources, active participation of private sector and encouragement of the government.

All the citizens are taking part in the respective sectors in building the peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In conclusion, the minister urged the scholars to strive for effective application of developing high technologies to produce hygienic foods for the people and conserve forests, environment, bio-diversities and ecosystem while giving priority to food sufficiency of the nation, to use agriculture, meat and fish and forestry resources.

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo addresses 7th AGM of Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fishery Sciences.—MNA
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Advancements in information technology have opened up opportunities for research development.

In the long term applying advancements of technology for the national interest, and to lay down systematic plans for turning out new intellectuals and intelligentia generation.

President of the Academy Dr Myint Thein extended greetings and Secretary U Tin Htut Oo spoke words of thanks.

After the ceremony, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung posed for documentary photo together with the president and executives.

Storm survivors in Mawlamyinegyun Township receive medical treatment
YANGON, 25 July—A medical team comprising specialists provided medical treatment to storm survivors of villages in Mawlamyinegyun Township on a floating hospital from 21 to 23 July.

The team went to five villages on 21 July and two villages on 23 July and provided medical treatment to the residents. The medical team led by Physician Dr Mya Htwe Nge carries out health care services daily in storm-hit areas.

A medical team provides health care services to local people at 3rd-Mile Relief Camp in Labutta Township.

A medical team provides health care services to local people at 3rd-Mile Relief Camp in Labutta Township. —MNA

Cover story: Cyclone Nargis showed the importance of the mangrove forest. It is necessary to do research works for conservation, protection and systematic utilization of the mangrove.

The research conference will continue tomorrow.

MNA
1. Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
2. Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
3. Keeping genuine patriotism based on national solidarity alive and dynamic
4. Turning out younger generation who will continue to safeguard the national culture and character

Objectives of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

NPED Ministry holds coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development held a work coordination meeting at the ministry here this morning. It was attended by Minister for NPED U Soe Tha, Deputy Minister Col Thurein Zaw, departmental heads, heads of state/division and district planning departments and officials.

First, Minister U Soe Tha delivered a speech and the directors-general and heads of state/division planning departments presented the reports of their respective departments and future tasks. The deputy minister gave a supplementary report and the minister gave a concluding remark. — MNA

Relief supplies arrive

YANGON, 25 July—A total of 17,356 tons of relief supplies, donated by Thai-based WFP (World Food Programme) arrived at Yangon International Airport here today. — MNA

EP No. 1 Ministry plants trees

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 held a monsoon tree planting and fish releasing ceremony at the ministry near Padaukmyaung Dam (3) this morning. Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min planted a Gangaw (Mesua ferrea) tree at the designated place.

Next, Deputy Minister U Myo Myint, the directors-general and managing directors grew trees, and the minister and party viewed planting of trees by service personnel.

A total of 1567 perennial and fruit trees were grown at the ceremony. Next, the minister, the deputy minister, officials and staff put 80,000 fingerlings into the Padaukmyaung Dam (3). — MNA

Veterinarians inoculate draught cattle in Mawlamyinegyun Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July — Under the arrangements of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and supervision of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, a veterinarian team led by Assistant Director Dr Maung Kyan made field trips to 13 storm-hit village-tracts in Mawlamyine Tsp from 15 to 24 July.

They gave treatment to buffaloes and oxen and directly delivered 1,180 bags of feedstuff to local people. Today, the veterinarian team in two groups inoculated 190 draught cattle and gave treatment to 34 farming animals in Techaung, Thebyuchau and Yegyawgyi villages. Moreover, they held talks on husbandry knowledge in the villages. — MNA
Good deed

Good is the doing of that deed, having done which one does not repent and the result of which one experiences with delight and with a happy mind.

Dhammapada 68

Ministry of Forestry holds coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—The Ministry of Forestry held its state and division work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the ministry here yesterday afternoon with an address by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

After the opening address made by the minister, the state and division in-charge directors of the Forest Departments reported on progress of work and future tasks, and Director-General U Soe Win Hlaing of the FD and Deputy Director-General U Aye Myint Maung gave supplementary reports.

After that, the division in-charge directors of the Arid Zone Greening Department reported on progress of work and future tasks, and Director-General of AZGD U Tun Tun gave a supplementary report.

The second session of the coordinating meeting continued today at the same venue in which the state and division in-charge deputy general managers reported on progress of work and tasks to be implemented with the aid of charts.

Next, Managing Director of Myanmar Timber Enterprise U Win Tun gave a supplementary report.

The meeting came to a close with the concluding remarks by Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

Wellwishers make cash donations for storm victims

YANGON, 25 July—Wellwishers from abroad and at home have donated cash to storm victims continuously.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and officials accepted 200 viss and 50 bags of rice worth US $2,000 from Egyptian Ambassador Mr Youssef K Botros Hanna and K 1.2 million from U Win Tin and Daw Aye Nyein family of Richest Gems Co Ltd for construction of two houses to storm survivors.

Afterwards, the deputy minister and officials presented certificates of honours and thanked the donors.—MNA

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint accepts donation of Egyptian Ambassador Mr Youssef K Botros Hanna. — SOCIAL WELFARE
A journey to storm-hit area of Mawlamyinegyun

Article & Photos: Mawgyun Myint Aung (IPRD)

I was invited to attend an aid donation ceremony to a storm-hit area. It was learnt that the ceremony was to donate school uniforms and stationery to schoolchildren of Basic Education Primary School in storm-hit Tayoksu Village on 15 July afternoon. I was on board Vessel Ziwaka that left Mawlamyinegyun. Ten minutes later, the vessel turned to the water way heading for Yaylein Village. Along the route, I saw the farmland in the breeze. I also saw some fishermen in the river.

Tayoksu Village is included in the area of Lower Maudon Village-tract of Mawlamyinegyun Township. Indeed, Tayoksu, Konhtan and Kyungyar villages are located closely. The village, set up with 214 houses, is home to 1,005 villagers. According to the information from the local people, the village was established 99 years ago. Indeed, the severe storm Nargis did not spare Tayoksu Village. No. 27 BEPS was one of the losses and damages of the storm-affected village. The school collapsed in the storm.

Fortunately, storm victim students have no hardships in pursuing education. When the school was opened, three tents have been set up in the place of the school. Under the systematic arrangements of the local authorities, the schoolchildren could attend the school conveniently. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanadhaja of Yadanaabon Monastery of the village opened the prayer hall for the students. Myanmar people are ready to extend a helping hand to the needy persons. It is the adorable nationalist spirit of Myanmar people. They could take measures on rehabilitation in the storm-hit areas to gain more progress in a short time. The people obliterated traces of the cyclonic storm Nargis with nationalist spirit. On arrival at the ceremony, I had an interview with fourth standard student Ma Pan Ei Hlaing. She said, “I am a fourth standard student of Tayoksu BEPS. I was sad when I heard that our school collapsed in the storm. I had anxiety to attend the school. Now, I am very happy to be able to attend the school together with my friends. I thank all organizers for donation of school uniforms and stationery.”

At the ceremony, I had an interview with fourth standard student Ma Pan Ei Hlaing. She said, “I am a fourth standard student of Tayoksu BEPS. I was sad when I heard that our school collapsed in the storm. I had anxiety to attend the school. Now, I am very happy to be able to attend the school together with my friends. I thank all organizers for donation of school uniforms and stationery.”

In an interview, member of School Board of Trustees U Win Tin of Tayoksu Village said, “When I saw the collapsed school the day after the storm, I felt sadness. I was anxious whether the schoolchildren would be convenient to attend the school. Now, I am pleased to see the pupils learning in the classrooms. We all from the School Board of Trustees have held a discussion on uplift of students’ education standard.”

Actually, the ceremony held at Tayoksu Village showed sympathy of the well-wishers willing to give a helping hand to the victims of storm-hit area.

Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin:
24-7-2008

Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township made donations. The Sayadaw presented one set of school uniform, one dozen of exercise books and two pencils each to 113 students. In addition, the Sayadaw gave away one set of school uniform each to five teachers. Together with the Sayadaw, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Myint Kyi and Township Assistant Education Officer U Khin Shein handed the supplies to the students.

After the ceremony, I had an interview with fourth standard student Ma Pan Ei Hlaing. She said, “I am a fourth standard student of Tayoksu BEPS. I was sad when I heard that our school collapsed in the storm. I had anxiety to attend the school. Now, I am very happy to be able to attend the school together with my friends. I thank all organizers for donation of school uniforms and stationery.”
China to appoint first ASEAN ambassador

BEIJING, 25 July — China said here Thursday it plans to appoint its first ambassador to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to further strengthen bilateral strategic ties.

“This is a symbol of the in-depth development of China-ASEAN ties, which also shows that the China-ASEAN strategic partnership is moving forward,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told a press conference. — Internet

New terminal opens at Philippines capital airport

MANILA, 25 July — A new terminal opened at the Philippines’ capital airport on Tuesday, 11 years after the construction started.

The Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 formally opened with a pre-dawn flight, by Cebu Pacific Air, to the country’s central province of Aklan, Philippine news network ABS-CBNnews.com reported.

Tirso Serrano, assistant general manager of the terminal, said there would be eight inbound and outbound Cebu Pacific flights daily for the first week.

The “soft opening” of the new terminal materialized with the government’s three-billion-peso (67.4-million-US-dollar) payment to the terminal’s builder, the Philippine International Airport Terminals co, in 2006. — MNA/Xinhua

New oil field discovered in S-W Iran

TEHERAN, 25 July—Iran’s Oil Minister Gholam-Hossein Nozari said on Tuesday that Iran has found a new oil field with inplace reserves of about 500 million barrels in southwestern Iran, said a statement posted on a website affiliated with the Oil Ministry.

When attending the inauguration ceremony of the First Iran Petrochemical Symposium, Nozari announced the new discovery called Arvand, which is located near the city of Abadan in the southwestern province of Khuzestan, the statement said.

Iran has announced this month the discovery of two new oil fields with inplace reserves of more than 1 billion barrels. In addition, because the compounds can be mass produced, they have the potential to become as common as antibiotic creams and rubbing alcohol.

“We hope our finding is ultimately beneficial for people who suffer from non-healing wounds, such as foot ulcers and diabetic ulcers, as well as for treatment of trauma-induced wounds like burns,” said Menno Oudhoff, first author of the report. — Internet

Study finds compound in human saliva can speed wound healing

WASHINGTON, 25 July — Researchers from The Netherlands have identified a compound in human saliva that greatly speeds wound healing, according to their report published on Wednesday in The Journal of Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). The research team found that histatin, a small protein in saliva previously only believed to kill bacteria was responsible for wound healing.

This research may offer hope to people suffering from chronic wounds related to diabetes and other disorders, as well as traumatic injuries and burns. In addition, because the compounds can be mass produced, they have the potential to become as common as antibiotic creams and rubbing alcohol.

“We hope our finding is ultimately beneficial for people who suffer from non-healing wounds, such as foot ulcers and diabetic ulcers, as well as for treatment of trauma-induced wounds like burns,” said Menno Oudhoff, first author of the report. — Internet

China’s astronauts to wear domestic, Russian-made suits

BEIJING, 25 July — China has two types of space suits— one domestic, one from Russia — for three “taikonauts” in the third manned launch, reportedly scheduled for October, a senior scientist has said.

The taikonaut who would do the space walk might wear a domestic suit, designed according to local standards, including the seaming technology, said Zhao Changxi, general technologist with the Beijing Satellite Manufacturing Factory, in an online interview atsohu.com on Tuesday.

The factory is responsible for making the suits, the pipeline system and the main structure of the re-entry, orbital and ancillary modules.

According to Zhao, when the spaceship, Shenzhou VII, enters orbit, two of the three crew will go to the vacuum module. One will conduct a space walk; the other will be there for emergencies.

Zhao said neither space suit has a power system. An electric umbilical cord will link the taikonaut and the ship, providing power and information.

He said in the future, the country would rely on domestic suits.

He also said that cameras would be mounted outside and inside of the ship for live broadcasting.

China put manned spacecraft into orbit in 2003 and 2005. — Internet

Happy Anniversary

Wishing a very happy Anniversary to U Aye Aung and Daw Khin Mar, may you have many more happier ones to come without any obstacles in your way.

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**Scientists learn what makes Northern Lights flare**

WASHINGTON, 25 July — The multicolored aurora borealis and aurora australis — the Northern Lights and Southern Lights — represent some of Earth’s most dazzling natural displays.

Now scientists using data from five NASA satellites have learned what causes frequent auroral flare-ups that make this green, red and purple lightshow that shimmers above Earth’s northernmost and southernmost regions even more spectacular.

Writing in the journal Science, the scientists said on Thursday that explosions of magnetic energy occurring a third of the way between Earth and the moon drive the sudden brightening of the Northern Lights and Southern Lights.

**Experts say Australia’s ancient Aboriginal rock art at risk**

BURRUP PENINSULA, 25 July — Australia’s greatest ancient Aboriginal rock art is at risk of being damaged or destroyed because it sits at the epicentre of the country’s resources boom, experts say.

The etchings of men and animals on the rocks of the Burrup Peninsula, some of which are believed to be up to 30,000 years old, lie in Western Australia’s remote and mineral-laden Pilbara region.

Images carved onto the red rocks scattering the landscape include kangaroos, lizards and emu tracks as well as the extinct native Tasmanian tiger which died out on the mainland 6,000 years ago.

Among the most significant panels are those showing human faces and activities and what experts believe are mythical figures.

**Math study finds girls are just as good as boys**

WASHINGTON, 25 July — Sixteen years after Barbie dolls declared, “Math class is tough!” girls are proving that they are just as tough as boys.

That’s changing, though slowly. Women are now earning 48 percent of undergraduate college degrees in math; they still lag far behind in physics and engineering.

But in primary and secondary school, girls have caught up, with researchers attributing that advance to increasing numbers of girls taking advanced math classes such as calculus.

**Russian scientists begin trial exploration of world’s deepest lake**

MOSCOW, 25 July — Russian scientists leading a submarine expedition to probe the world’s deepest lake on Thursday carried out tests dives ahead of the start of the operation next week, reports said.

The trial runs at Lake Baikal lasted two hours with two submarines diving to a depth of around 420 metres (1,386 feet), the Russian media reports quoted the organisers as saying.

On Tuesday, the expedition will begin in earnest with the submarines attempting to descend 1,637 metres (5,402 feet) to the bottom of the lake which has a unique ecosystem and has never been explored.

The expedition is being organised by Artur Chilingarov, a pro-Kremlin member of parliament and an Arctic explorer who led the team of scientists that planted a flag at the bottom of the North Pole in August last year.

Previous missions have only descended hundreds of metres. Scientists will collect samples at different depths and hope to document the effects of global warming on the lake, as well as drawing the attention of the Russian government to the need for greater environmental protection.
Norman struggles to 75 at Senior British Open

TROON, 25 July—Four days after nearly making history at the British Open, Greg Norman labored to a 4-over 75 on Thursday in the opening round of the Seniors British Open to finish seven shots behind co-leaders Bruce Vaughan and Eduardo Romero.

In sunny conditions at Troon, Norman bogeyed six of the first 10 holes and was 6 over before he finally birdied the par-4 13th. He birdied the final hole with a pitch to 3 feet.

"Things just weren't going my way early on," Norman said. "I just had to hang in there and gut it out the best I could. The ball just wasn't rolling my way."

The Australian said wind blowing from the south, unusual for this course, had an impact on his game.

He got to the first tee and I never played this golf course in this wind before," Norman said. "I didn't feel that confident with some of the tee shots."

The 53-year-old Norman led the British Open at Royal Birkdale with nine holes to play Sunday and appeared on course to become the oldest winner of a major before he finished third behind Padraig Harrington.—Internet

Jankovic continues run at WTA top spot while Chakvetadze falls

LOS ANGELES, 25 July—Serbia's Jelena Jankovic moved closer to grabbing the world number one ranking from compatriot Ana Ivanovic on Thursday by beating Hungary's Melinda Czink 6-3, 6-2 at a 600,000-dollar WTA tournament.

Jankovic reached the Friday quarter-finals of the hardcourt event, where she will face Russia's Nadia Petrova, who eliminated fifth-seeded compatriot Vera Zvonareva 6-4, 7-5 in another third-round match on Thursday.

Should Jankovic win Sunday's final and grab the 95,500-dollar top prize, she will overtake idle Ivanovic, last year's winner here, and reach the world number one ranking for the first time in her career.

Internet

Barcelona crush Hibs 6-0 in Guardiola debut

EDINBURGH, 25 July—New coach Pep Guardiola led Barcelona to a 6-0 friendly win over Scottish side Hibs here on Thursday in his first match since taking over the Spanish side in June.

Former Chelsea forward Eidur Gudjohnsen opened the scoring after just five minutes with a well-placed shot from the edge of the area following a failed attempt by Hibs defender Chris Hogg to clear the zone.

Argentina's Lionel Messi added a second 11 minutes later after cutting to the front and shooting past keeper Andrew McNeil.

Gudjohnsen scored his second goal of the evening two minutes later and Pedro scored the fourth goal of the first half in the 28th minute after being set up by Messi.

The Argentine, who Barcelona are refusing to allow to represent his country at the Olympics so he can take part in early Champions League matches, slotted the ball home again in the 38th minute but the referee ruled he was offside.—Internet

Rafael Nadal of Spain shakes his head after defeating Igor Andreev of Russia at the Rogers Cup tennis tournament in Toronto on 24 July, 2008.—Internet

Zenit fined for racist incident

PARIS, 25 July—UEFA on Thursday fined Russian club FC Zenit St Petersburg 60,000 Swiss francs (36,880 euros) after its Control and Disciplinary Body ruled some of the club's fans had racially abused players from French side Marseille in last season's UEFA Cup clash.

The pair met in the last-16 and in the second-leg match in Russia on March 12 some home fans racially abused the visitors.

Marseille's Ronald Zubar told French radio after the game that "they throw a banana at us and made monkey noises" while he and black squadmates Charles Kabore and Andre Ayew were warming up.

"The spectators looked at us, openly making monkey noises."

Zenit, who won on to win the competition, rejected wrongdoing and insisted it was "opposed to all forms of racism."—Internet

Two sentenced to prison in NBA betting scandal

NEW YORK, 25 July—Two former high school classmates of disgraced NBA referee Tim Donaghy were both sentenced to more than a year in prison on Thursday for their roles in a betting scandal that embarrassed the league.

A federal judge in Brooklyn gave James Battista, a professional gambler and admitted drug addict, 15 months in prison for making bets based on inside tips. Thomas Martino, the scheme's middleman, was sentenced to a year and one day for paying the referee thousands of dollars for the tips.

The men, both 42 and former classmates of Donaghy in Springfield, Pa, apologized before being sentenced.—Internet

Barcelona's Lionel Messi (R) clashes with Hibernian FC's Steven Fletcher during a friendly football match against Scotland's Hibernian FC at Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh. Barca won 6-0.—Internet

Nadal and Djokovic ease into Toronto quarters, Roddick out

TORONTO, 25 July—Rafael Nadal and defending champion Novak Djokovic eased into the last eight of the Toronto Masters on Thursday, while a racket-champion Novak Djokovic eased into the last eight of the Toronto Masters on Thursday, while a racket-champion Novak Djokovic eased into the last eight of the Toronto Masters on Thursday, while a racket-champion Novak Djokovic eased into the last eight of the Toronto Masters on Thursday, while a racket-

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The men, both 42 and former classmates of Donaghy in Springfield, Pa, apologized before being sentenced.—Internet

Blanco’s goal, assist help MLS stars top West Ham

TORONTO, 25 July—Chicago midfelder Cuauhtemoc Blanco scored one goal and helped set up another, and Houston midfelder Dwayne DeRosario snapped a tie with a penalty kick to give the MLS All-Stars a 3-2 victory over English Premier League team West Ham United 3-2 on Thursday night.

The All-Stars are unbeaten in five years against foreign opponents. Blanco was chosen as the game’s most valuable player.

Forward Dean Ashton scored both goals for West Ham, which beat MLS’ Columbus Crew 3-1 in an exhibition match on Sunday that was marred by a scuffle between fans of both teams.—Internet

Internet
Italian climbers rescued from Pakistan’s deadly peak

Gilgit (Pakistan), 25 July—Two Italian mountaineers stranded for 10 days on one of the world’s deadliest peaks in northern Pakistan were rescued on Thursday, Pakistan Army rescuers said.

The climbers — Simon Keherer and Walter Nones — had been stranded on Nanga Parbat, also known as Killer Mountain, since 15 July when their colleague, Karl Unterkircher, fell into a crevasse and died.

“The weather had been bad but we have successfully rescued them after they descended to about 19,000 feet today,” Army pilot Lieutenant-Colonel Moin Uddin told Reuters shortly after he airlifted the pair in his helicopter to the northern town of Gilgit.

The 26,660 feet (8,126 metres) Nanga Parbat is the world’s ninth-highest peak. Its name in the Urdu language means Naked Mountain.

The peak at the western end of the Himalayas was first conquered by German Buhl, of Germany, in 1953 after 31 people died attempting it.

Since then more have died on its slopes and fewer people try to conquer it because it is regarded as technically one of the most difficult mountains to climb.

MNA/Reuters

Powerful aftershocks hit China quake area

BEIJING, 25 July—At least three powerful aftershocks hit southwest China’s quake area on Thursday, killing one elderly person and injuring more than a dozen, the official Xinhua news agency said.

A 5.6-magnitude aftershock struck Qingchuan county in northeastern Sichuan in the early hours of Thursday, killing a 60-year-old, Xinhua said.

At least four people were injured in the adjacent Ningxipang county in Shaanxi Province, including a man who jumped from the second floor of a hotel and suffered fracture on his left arm. Xinhua said.

It was the first of two pre-dawn aftershock that caused landslides and cut off some roads, it said.

Another aftershock, measured 6.0 on the Richter scale, hit the same area at 5:09 pm local time and was felt in places as far as the southwestern metropolis of Chengqing, Xinhua said. — MNA/Reuters

Leopard hunts crocodile

BEIJING, 25 July—In the past, crocodiles have long been known to kill leopards, but this time, onlookers at South African game park observed the reverse scenario — a leopard snatched a crocodile from the water.

American wildlife photographer Hal Brindley snapped the amazing moment as he was photographing hippo’s out of his car at a waterhole in Kruger National Park.

“It happened in about five minutes, then the leopard was gone. I drove away elated — it was the most amazing thing I’ve ever seen,” the photographer said, adding that “I asked many rangers in South Africa if they had ever heard of anything like this and they all said no.” On the footage, the big cat just emerged with the croc in its mouth and began to suffocate its prey, who gave in to the leopard after a fearsome fight.

Xinhua

WEATHER

Friday, 25 July 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State and lower Sagain Division, rain have been isolated in Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin and Shan States and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavy-falls in Kachin and Mon States, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainsfalls recorded were Langlon (7.24) inches, Thaton (4.76) inches, Dawei (4.73) inches, Pyapon (4.44) inches, Gwa (3.31) inches, Mawlamyine (2.84) inches, Homalin (2.48) inches, Myeik (2.44) inches, Myitkyina (2.28) inches and Loilen (2.24) inches.

Maximum temperature on 24-7-2008 was 85˚F. Minimum temperature on 25-7-2008 was 70˚F. Relative humidity at 09-30 hrs MST on 25-7-2008 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 24-7-2008 was (1.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 25-7-2008 was (12.12) inch at Mingaladon, (10.60) inch at Kabu-Aye and (0.79) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (57.52) inches at Mingaladon, (65.24) inches at Kabu-Aye and (77.48) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon-Kaba-Aye was (12) mph from South at (16:30) hours MST on 24-7-2008.

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

Forecast valid for evening of 26-7-2008: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagain and Magway Divisions, scattered in upper Sagain and Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Kachin, Chin, Shan States and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas will be experienced at times off and along Yangon Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of strong monsoon in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 26-7-2008: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-7-2008: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Weather outlook for last weekend of July 2008: During the coming weekend, one or two rain in Yangon Division, isolated rain in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.
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.

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

- 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.

Infectious diseases control measures taken in storm-hit areas

YANGON, 25 July — Deputy Director-General (Disease Control) Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein and officials met health personnel in Labutta Township and attended to their needs from 22 to 24 July.

At Labutta Township Hospital, the deputy director-general met specialists and doctors and gave instructions on providing of health care services to remote areas.

Officials reported on vaccination of children under five at the relief camps. The deputy director-general and party inspected preventive measures against malaria and DHF.

In meeting with responsible persons from WHO and UNICEF, the deputy director-general fulfilled the requirements. Next, he met with Dr Zaw Moe Shein and party who were undertaking health care services on board floating hospital.

2nd Inter-Ministry Football Tournament goes on

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—The second Inter-Ministry Football Tournament of Group-F matches continued at the designated places this evening. At Nay Pyi Taw football ground No.1, Ministry of Defence won over Attorney-General’s office with 8-nil.

At Paunglong football ground, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, the Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population, departmental heads of the respective Ministries, service personnel, their families and fans enjoyed the match. In the match, Ministry of Mines won over Ministry of Immigration and Population with 4-1.

On 26 July, Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs will play against Ministry of Hotels and Tourism at Nay Pyi Taw football ground No.1 and Ministry of Science and Technology against Ministry of Home Affairs at Paunglong football ground in the Group-G.

YANGON, 25 July—Members of the Township Red Cross Society supplied personal and household goods provided by Myanmar RCS to storm victims in Mawlamyinegyun Township.

The members delivered seven items of personal and household materials including mosquito net, blanket, aluminium pot and cup and soap to 597 households in Thuyechuang village and 422 households in Labutkwetechaching village on 21 July.—MNA

Health staff giving medical treatment to local people at 3rd-Mile Relief Camp in Labutta Township.—HEALTH

Personal and household goods for storm-hit villages in Mawlamyinegyun