Government has spent over K 231,113 million on border area development project since 1989

Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races meets

Prime Minister General Thein Sein addresses meeting No (1/2008) of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — The Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races held its coordination meeting (1/2008) at the Government Office here this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

Also present were members of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, chairmen of state and division work committees commanders, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the directors-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Government Office and the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, heads of departments and chairmen of sub-committees.

In his address, Prime Minister General Thein Sein said Myanmar is a country of noble tradition where over 100 national races live unitedly in the course of history. There are some barriers in border areas because of geographical conditions. Therefore much efforts are to be made for development of the regions to keep pace with inner regions of the country. The imperialists ignored the development of the border areas and national races during their rule. Moreover, there was internal strife in the regions for about 40 years after regaining independence because of evil legacy and instigation of the imperialists. As a result, the border areas lagged behind in development, he said.

Since its assumption of the State responsibilities, the present government has been making relentless efforts for prevalence of law and order and ensuring peace and tranquility upholding Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. At the same time, the government implemented State-level projects for development of border areas, he said.

(See page 8)

That’s my gold cup, give it back to me

The verbal attempts of destructive elements at home and abroad to jeopardize the referendum turned out to be fruitless.

PLAYWRIGHT MAUNG KYAUK DOE

Weather Forecast for (27-7-2008)

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

Yangon and neighbouring area:
Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Mandalay and neighbouring area:
Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Apply agricultural research findings on national scale

Now, food insecurity has become the major challenge for the whole world. Essential for everyone are food safety, irrespective of region and access to safe food. So, all agro-based countries are focusing on boosting production of crops.

For Myanmar, agriculture, forestry, livestock and fishery are major economic sectors. The government is taking measures for meeting the domestic food demand and ensuring food surplus such as supply of adequate irrigation water, providing advanced agricultural methods and high-yield crop strains, boosting agricultural production and transforming conventional farming into mechanized farming.

The forestry sector is of vital importance for national economic development and ensuring temperate climate. Thus, emphasis has been placed on conservation of the environment, biodiversity and forest resources.

In the livestock and fishery sector, steps are being taken with added momentum to achieve greater success in breeding and producing pedigree farm animals, taking disease control measures, improving livestock breeding methods and packaging and distributing methods, and conserving the nation’s waters and fish and prawn resources.

As today is the age of knowledge-based agriculture, it is necessary to scale up research work on boosting food production and use of advanced methods and technologies in combination to feed the burgeoning population of the world.

Efforts are being made to apply widely the findings of the research done by the researchers of various fields from the ministries concerned in the agriculture, forestry and livestock sectors, and that will contribute towards increasing crop yields and productivity, thus ensuring food security for the whole country.

Forestry Minister meets Sayadaw of Mahagaruna Buddhist Association of Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung met with Sayadaw Dr Gunaratana of Mahagaruna Buddhist Association of Sri Lanka Yama Monastery of Singapore at the ministry, here, on 24 July.

The Sayadaw came to make donation to storm-hit victims of Bogale Township.

Also present on the occasion were departmental heads of the Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and officials of Singaporean Red Cross Society.

Ministry of Religious Affairs donates Woso robes

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — Under the aegis of Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and wife Daw Aye Aye Tun, staff families of the Ministry of Religious Affairs held the Woso robe offering ceremony at the ministry, here, this morning.

First, members of the Sangha consecrated Buddha images at State Ovadaqaraya Zaygon Monastery delivered a Waso robe and provisions to the Sayadaw. Sayadaw Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Sayadaw came to make a merit and share with the Sangha.

Wellwishers donate cash to storm survivors


Today, the UMFCCI donated K 21 million, the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Women War Veterans, K 0.6 million, U Win Tin and wife Daw Aye Nyein and daughter Ma Zin Thi Win (Richest Gems Co Ltd), K 1.2 million, Woso robes and provisions to the Sayadaw. Sayadaw B h a d d a n t a Vimalabuddhi of Maha Zayyon Pali Tekkatho Monastery delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

After the ceremony, they offered meals to members of the Sangha.

On the behalf of Chairman of Financial Sub-Committee Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Vice-Governor U Maung Maung Win of the Central Bank of Myanmar accepted cash donations from the wellwishers at home and abroad at CBM (Yangon Branch) under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue in Yankin Township today.

More relief aid arrive

YANGON, 26 July — A flight carrying 34.049 tons of relief supplies donated by Thailand-based WFP arrived at Yangon International Airport today.
Chavez gets royal Spanish welcome

MADRID, 26 July —
Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has met Spain’s king for the first time since they fell out at a conference in Chile last November. The pair had talks over breakfast at King Juan Carlos’s summer house, on the island of Mallorca. The king famously told Mr Chavez to shut up after he accused Spain’s former Prime Minister, Jose Maria Aznar, of being a fascist. The remarks caused outrage and no shortage of diplomatic tension. Mr Chavez said before he left for Spain he would like to hug the king but also warned he was not about to shut up. The two leaders shared smiles and a warm handshake in front of the cameras, but there was no hug.—Internet

Chad rebels release US missionary

N’DJAMENA, 26 July —
Rebels in northern Chad have freed an American missionary after holding him hostage for more than nine months, his evangelical organisation has said. The Evangelical Alliance Mission (Team), based in Illinois, said Steven Godbold, 49, had been released near Bardai and would soon return to the US. Mr Godbold was captured in October by the Movement for Democracy and Justice (MDJT) on suspicion of being a spy. He had been helping an organisation transport equipment to drill wells. In January, the MDJT said its inquiries showed the missionary had not been working for the Chad’s government, but it did not let him go. “Godbold was ultimately released following extensive negotiations between his captors and Team,” the US missionary organisation said in a statement.—Internet

Eight abducted in Niger delta

PORTHARCOURT (Nigeria), 26 July —
Security sources say eight crew members have been abducted from a Swedish boat in Nigeria’s oil-producing Niger delta region. The sources say the gunmen boarded the Herkules ship Thursday and are still holding five crew members, who are Russian and Ukrainian. The sources say the other seven crew members aboard the Herkules were released Friday. Kidnappings are common in the West African country’s delta. They have mostly ended peacefully after ransom payments.—Internet

British soldier killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 26 July —
A British Army dog handler has been killed by insurgents in southern Afghanistan, the Ministry of Defence has said. The serviceman, who was part of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, died on patrol in the Sangin area of Helmand Province. Another six soldiers were wounded and an explosives sniffer dog was killed in the incident yesterday.

The dog handler’s death means that 112 British service personnel have now lost their lives in Afghanistan since the start of operations in November 2001.—Internet

Fresh clashes shake Lebanese city

TRIPOLI, 26 July —
Sectarian fighting has broken out again between rival factions in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli.

At least six people were killed, including a 10-year-old boy, and 30 injured in the clashes between Alawite and Sunni Muslims, officials said.

Fighting in the city led to five deaths and dozens of injuries earlier in July.—Internet

China ahead of US in Internet use

BEIJING, 26 July —
The world’s most populous country has also emerged as home to the world’s largest Internet population. Statistics revealed on Friday showed China to have definitively overtaken the US in terms of the number of its netizens. According to the China Internet Network Information Centre the country had 253 million people online by the end of June, a 56 pc per cent increase from the previous year.

In contrast, the US had an estimated 223.1 million Internet users in June, according to Nielsen Online, a research firm. However, Internet penetration in China is only 19 per cent and continues to lag behind not only America’s 71 per cent, but also the 21 per cent that is the world average.

Young people form an overwhelmingly high percentage of China’s cyber citizens, with high school students accounting for 39 million of the 43 million new Net users added over the last year. People aged below 30 accounted for 69 per cent of total web users.—Internet

Fighting kills 70 combatants in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 26 July —
Heavy fighting between Sri Lankan government forces and Tamil Tiger rebels along the front lines of their civil war killed 62 rebels and eight soldiers, the military said Saturday.

The fighting occurred throughout Friday in the Vavuniya, Jaffna, Welioya and Mullaitivu districts bordering the rebels’ de facto state in the north, said Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara, the military spokesman.

In the worst clashes, soldiers repulsed a predawn rebel attack in the Mullaitivu district that occurred hours after government forces captured rebel-held territory near a key supply route, Nanayakkara said.

Troops killed 33 rebels in the battle and recovered all of the bodies, he said.

Separate battles in Vavuniya killed 16 guerrillas and eight soldiers, while 12 rebels died in Welioya and another rebel was killed in Jaffna. Nanayakkara said.

Fighting has escalated in recent months after government officials vowed to crush the rebels and seize their de facto state by the end of the year.

Anti-HIV therapy boosts life expectancy by 13 years

WASHINGTON, 26 July —
The life expectancy for patients with HIV has increased by more than 13 years since the late 1990s thanks to advancements in anti-retroviral therapy, according to a new study published Friday.

Researchers from University of Alabama and other institutions around the world published their study in the British medical journal The Lancet.

Improved survival has led to a nearly 40 percent drop in AIDS deaths among 43,355 HIV-positive study participants in Europe and North America, bolstering the call for improved anti-HIV efforts worldwide, the authors said.—Internet

An HIV-infected patient displays medicine at a hospital in Payao Province, about 600 km (373 miles) north of Bangkok—Internet
**Military says US troops kill Iraqi editor’s son**

**Baghdad, 26 July**—The US military said Friday that bullets fired by American soldiers killed the 14-year-old son of the chief editor of a US-sponsored newspaper during a gunbattle this week in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk.

The military said Arkan Ali Taha was hit when soldiers came under heavy gunfire from a passing taxi and shot back. The boy was riding in the cab and the driver was later taken into custody, the statement said.

The father said his son was not involved with extremist groups and didn’t know how to use weapons. He said the boy had hired the cab to bring a set of keys to the newspaper. —*Internet*

**Six killed in series of explosions in Gaza**

**Gaza, 26 July**—Six Palestinians, including four Hamas militants, were killed and over 20 wounded in a series of explosions and attacks in Gaza City on Friday, according to the Interior Ministry of the deposed Hamas government and medics. Medics at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City said four militants and an eight-year-old girl were killed and 20 others injured in an explosion at the Coastal Road in western Gaza City on Friday evening.

Witnesses said they heard a huge explosion, adding that four Hamas militants inside a car was attacked by a homemade bomb. Hamas movement’s armed wing, al-Qassam Brigades said in a statement sent to reporters that unknown individuals attacked the car driving on Gaza coastal road, adding that all of the four Hamas militants were killed. —*Internet*

**Oil prices slide below 124 USD on falling fuel demand**

**New York, 26 July**—Crude oil resumed its slide and settled below 124 US dollars Friday on falling fuel demand caused by a slow economy and supply increase from the OPEC countries.

Light, sweet crude for September delivery dropped 2.23 dollars to settle at 123.26 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Futures touched 122.50 dollars a barrel during the trading session, the lowest intraday price since 5 June. Price has tumbled more than 24 dollars since the all-time peak of 147.27 dollars a barrel was achieved on 11 July.

The US Energy Department’s report this week showed that the US domestic fuel demand dropped to a lowest point since January 2007 with average 19.9 million barrels a day, signaling that the weak economy and high energy prices have curbed demand.

The OPEC will produce 32.9 million barrels a day in July, 200,000 barrels up from June, according to the preliminary estimates from an oil industry consultancy Petro Logistics Ltd. The dollar strengthened against the euro on Friday also helped to bring down the crude oil price. —*Internet*

**Imported luxury cars in China to face possible consumption tax rise**

**Beijing, 26 July**—Gas-guzzling imported luxury cars with heavy emissions are to face a possible car consumption tax rise in China, industry insiders predict.

The State Council, China’s Cabinet, held an executive meeting on Wednesday noting the significance of energy savings and made a special call on the country’s auto industry to cut back on gas consumption. But no exact standard or details of when the tax would be raised or when it would happen were released.

State Administration of Taxation (SAT) sources said the agency had held multiple discussions on the consumption tax rise. A draft plan had come out, but the final decision was yet to come.

Reflecting the anticipation of such a tax rise, some consumers in China may push forward their purchasing plans. This has led to a rise in import luxury car sales.

China Automobile Trading Co., LTD (CATC) figures show from January to May, 26,992 large cars were imported. This comprised a 41.38 percent share of total car imports. Sport utility vehicles (SUV) imports in the first five month surged 91.3 percent over same period last year.

One Chrysler dealer in Guangzhou, capital of the southern Guangdong Province, said the possible tax rise was prompting potential buyers to push forward their planned purchases. As such, the dealership was stopping its discounts activities designed to attract clients. —*Internet*

**Heavy rains kill seven people in S Korea**

**Seoul, 26 July**—Torrential rains that lashed South Korea this week have led to the deaths of seven people and left six others missing, the government said Saturday.

Six people were also injured, with one in critical condition, in landslides and flash floods triggered by heavy rain that started battering the country Wednesday, the National Emergency Management Agency said in a statement.

Two people were found dead Thursday after they were reported missing in Bonghwa, 150 miles southeast of the capital Seoul, the statement said. Three people also died Friday after their houses were pounded by landslides, it said. A day earlier, two South Korean soldiers were killed in a landslide near their army base in Yanggu, about 110 miles east of Seoul.

The rainfall also damaged or flooded about 620 houses across South Korea, prompting 1,240 people to seek refuge elsewhere, the statement said. About 940 people later returned home, but the rest remained in local schools, community centers and other facilities. —*Internet*
**President says Iran not to bow to big powers**

**TEHRAN, 26 July —** Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Saturday that the Islamic Republic will not bow to big powers, the English-language satellite channel Press TV reported.

“Iran’s resolve is based on dialogue and interaction in a rational and fair atmosphere,” Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying during an address at the inauguration of car manufacturing “Iran Khodro” Khorasan assembly in the northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi.

Iran will not yield to disrespectful or insatiable demands of the world powers, Ahmadinejad said.

Iran has been a pioneer among nations in several fields, including industry, science and culture, he said, adding, “Two or three governments have thrown obstacles in the path of Iran’s development.”

He said the wrath of corrupt international powers stems from the resolve of the Iranian nation to maintain its prominent international position in various fields, adding that “The Iranian nation has no need of world powers. It is rather the world powers that need the Islamic Republic.”

According to Press TV, with an investment of 140 million US dollars, the car body and paint assembly lines at the Iran Khodro Khorasan (IKK) plant will produce 45 vehicles per hour. The production capacity of the plant will reach 100,000 vehicles a year by the end of the current Iranian year.

**McCain gains on Obama among voters in 4 key states**

**NEW YORK, 26 July—** Republican presidential candidate John McCain is tightening the presidential race against Democratic rival Barack Obama in four key states, according to polls released this morning.

The four polls conducted by Quinnipiac University in partnership with the Wall Street Journal and washingtonpost.com show that McCain is running slightly ahead of Obama in Colorado, is close in Minnesota and has narrowed the gap in Michigan and Wisconsin. In Colorado, McCain was ahead 46% to 44%.

Obama led in Michigan, 46% to 42%; by 46% to 44% in Minnesota and by 50% to 39% in Wisconsin, according to the four state polls posted on the university website.

The new polling data come in a week in which Obama has virtually monopolized news coverage of the presidential campaign with a nine-day trip through war zones, the Mideast and Europe.

**UK troops kill Afghan civilians**

**KABUL, 26 July—** British troops in southern Afghanistan have killed four civilians and injured three others after a vehicle failed to stop at a checkpoint.

Soldiers opened fire on the vehicle in the Sangan district of Helmand, suspecting that those inside were insurgents, Nato said.

**Bomb Blast on Karbala Minibus Wounds Nine Iraqis**

**BAGHDAD, 26 July —** Iraqi authorities say a bomb explosion aboard a minibus has wounded nine civilians in the Shiite holy city of Karbala, 50 miles south of Baghdad.

Saleem Kadhum, spokesman of the Karbala health directorate, says a bomb left in a plastic bag has exploded inside the minibus, injuring nine civilians, including a woman.

**Deadly bomb blasts rock Bangalore**

**NEW DELHI, 26 July —** One person was killed and several others were injured on Friday in a string of bomb blasts in the southern Indian city of Bangalore, police said.

Police Commissioner Shankar Bidri confirmed the explosions, which occurred in the afternoon, and said it is not yet known who conducted the acts and why the bombings were set off.

Bangalore is home to many of India’s technology companies and call centers.
Two-thirds of US Hispanics back Obama

PHOENIX, 26 July — Two-thirds of US Hispanic voters support Democrat Barack Obama for president over Republican John McCain and the partisan gap among the United States’ fastest growing voter bloc is broader than at any point this decade, a study found.

The nationwide telephone survey by the Pew Hispanic Centre released on Thursday said 66 per cent of a sample of 2,015 registered Latino voters polled said they backed Obama, with 23 per cent supporting McCain, a senator from Arizona.

The survey said Obama’s strong showing represented a sharp reversal in his fortunes from the primaries “when he lost the Latino vote to Hillary Rodham Clinton by a nearly 2-to-1 ratio, giving rise to speculation in some quarters that Hispanics were disinclined to vote for a black candidate.”

The study said 65 per cent of Latino registered voters now identified with, or leaned toward, the Democratic Party, compared with just 26 per cent who said they identified with the Republican Party.

“This 39 percentage point Democratic Party identification edge is larger than it has been at any time this decade,” the study said.

MNA/Reuters

Volunteers who will serve as etiquette stewardesses during the forthcoming Beijing Olympic Games attend a dancing training in Beijing, capital of China, on 24 July, 2008. A total of 337 etiquette stewardesses are receiving a strict closed training on their postures.—XINHUA

Russia says opposes deadlines for Iran response

MOSCOW, 26 July — Russia said on Thursday it opposed any artificial deadlines being issued to Iran to force it to respond to incentives from world powers on suspending its nuclear activities.

But it also warned Teheran against dragging out the process.

Western powers suspect Iran is seeking to build atomic bombs. The Islamic Republic says its nuclear programme is a peaceful drive aimed at generating electricity so that it can export more of its oil and gas.

Six world powers, including Russia, last month offered Iran economic and other incentives in return for it suspending uranium enrichment, which the Islamic Republic has repeatedly refused to do.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum in Singapore that artificial deadlines complicated the issue.

“There should be no artificial limits from the point of view of extreme time frames, such as ‘today or never’, just as there should be no endless dragging out of the process,” Russia’s Interfax news agency quoted Lavrov as saying.

MNA/Reuters

Moderate and lower US earners under more pressure

WASHINGTON, 26 July — The trouble that began last summer in the financial markets raised the likelihood of a US recession, but for America’s middle class, the downturn has been under way for many years, experts plan to tell a congressional panel on Wednesday.

Hit with higher gasoline prices, declining homevalues, rising health-care costs and little or no income growth since 2007, the outlook for those in the middle class and those with even lower incomes is dire.

“The post-war period, the country grew together. Now we are growing apart,” said Kristen Lewis of the American Human Development Project, in testimony prepared for delivery on Wednesday to the congressional Joint Economic Committee.

MNA/Reuters

Colombia’s FARC rebels free eight hostages

BOGOTA, 26 July — Colombia’s FARC guerrillas have released eight hostages in the first such handover since the rebel group was tricked in an amilitary operation to free Ingrid Betancourt and 14 other captives on 2 July, the International Committee of the Red Cross said on Thursday.

The eight Afro-Colombians were kidnaped last week by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, while travelling on the country’s north-western jungle rivers. Their release to the Red Cross in the province of Choco appeared to allay concerns about the organization’s ability to work effectively in Colombia after its symbol was improperly used by the military in the July rescue.

MNA/Reuters

Bloomberg, Gates pledge $375m against tobacco

NEW YORK, 26 July — New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Microsoft Corp co-founder Bill Gates pledged 375 million US dollars on Wednesday to fight what they called a global tobacco epidemic.

The billionaires said the money would go to anti-smoking groups working with governments of developing countries such as India and China to curb tobacco use. Bloomberg, who championed New York City’s groundbreaking smoking ban in 2002, is adding 250 million US dollars over four years to a programme he started several years ago that has 125 million US dollars committed to it.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will invest 125 million US dollars over the next four years.

MNA/Reuters

Children hold a watermelon that grows on sand fields in Xingren township in Zhongwei City of northwest China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 23 July, 2008. —XINHUA

An Afghan youth prepares the mud for making jar at a pottery workshop in the city of Kandahar, Afghanistan on 24 July, 2008. —INTERNET
That’s my gold cup, give it back to me

Playwright Maung Kyauk Doe

Alanka Kyaw Swa Shwe Mann Tin Maung was once a national celebrity among Myanmar drama fans. Out of affection, some women presented him cheroots with gold coins in them. Dynamic performer Great U Po Sein was also presented cheroots with gold coins in them. Many of today’s people at the age of 60 to 70 were the fans of Shwe Mann.

Shwe Mann Tin Maung read and learnt a lot. He improved his dramatic career by reading. He sang as well as he danced with good innovations and hard work. Among his long dramas, “Let Wi Thondara” is still in the minds of his fans. He even won great respect of literati for his performance of the song “Meza Taungche.”

His talent was well evidenced by his role in the dramas based on Buddha’s true stories. He acted as minister Kaladuayi and comedian U Dat Shin, as minister Baka. Their dialogues in the drama completely won the heart and admiration of the fans. Short plays starring Shwe Mann Tin Maung were very attractive to the audiences. His play “Coloured glass balls merchants” aired many times by the Myanmar Radio is a good one. It is one of Buddha’s true stories stated in the treatise “550 Buddha’s True Stories”. In the past, a leading stage performer played the leading role only, and acted as the leading performer. However, in the drama “Ywe coloured glass ball” merchants” Shwe Mann Tin Maung played the role of a villain, thus proving that he was a very versatile performer.

The drama “Ywe Merchants” is like that. Once there were two ywe merchants who sold yweys, going along rivers and creeks by boat. The first merchant was rapacious and cunning. The other was good-hearted (would-be Buddha). The greedy merchant’s heart was completely filled with greed, anger and delusion, and he turned mad, as a result. He cried out, “Give back the gold cup to me, give back the gold cup to me.” Nonetheless, the boat carrying the gold cup is mine. Turn back the boat and come back here. Give back my gold cup to me.”

Shwe Mann Tin Maung’s performance was very brilliant.

In 1990, Myanmar politics saw multiparty democracy general election. Altogether 93 political parties out of 235 formed in a competitive manner in 1988-89 stood for election. There were by then various forms of canvassing for votes. Foreign broadcasting stations such as BBC, VOA, AIR and the like were airing fabricated news to mislead the people. Meanwhile, the insurgents launched a series of attacks against the government. In the meantime, over 80 political parties faded as not a single seat was won by their candidates, and there were only ten political parties left.

Whatever it is, large number of voters didn’t cast votes. No political parties won the majority of votes. But according to the yardstick of modern democracy, only a vote more in the election made a party become a winner. This being so, the majority of the NLD candidates were elected.

The press conference of the Information Committee of the State Law and Order Restoration Council held prior to the election issued an announcement that those who were elected in the general election on 27 May 1990 were to participate in the drafting of the State constitution. The press conference also announced that the State constitution was indispensable as the representatives-elect and the government would exercise the State power owned by the people in accord with rules and regulations of the constitution. The State issued the Announcement No 1/90, calling on the representatives of the National League for Democracy, National Unity Party, Shan NLD and other national races parties who were elected in the general election to draw the State constitution.

In June and July in 1992, leaders and representatives-elect from ten existing political parties were invited for discussions in which most of the representatives of the NLD took part. In accordance with the agreement reached in the discussions, the National Convention was held in January 1993 with the participation of some 100 delegates from the NLD. All the delegates to the National Convention held discussions and laid down the fundamental principles to be included in the drawing of the State constitution.

The NLD party was actively participating in the National Convention. However, in the late 1995, it walked out of the National Convention under the ultimatum of Daw Suu Kyi. The NLD delegates who were criticized the walking out of the Convention by the NLD left the party and some were expelled from the party. The NLD walked out of the National Convention, went against the emergence of the State constitution and launched various forms of attacks against the convention. The NLD insisted recognition of the 1990 election results, demanded convening of the Hluttaw and handing over the State power to it. Regarding that, it issued a string of statements to obtain the international assistance. The result of the general election held on 27 May 1990 became null and void since 26 May 1994 according to law. There were no election results in the world that are valid for over 20 years.

Despite a spate of hindrances and obstacles of the NLD, notorious foreign media, renegades and insurgents, the National Convention was successfully completed on 3 September 2007. The constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was written by 54 members of the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution from 4 December 2007 to 19 February 2008. The referendum holding commission and sub-commissions at different levels sought the approval for the constitution (2008), which was written in the interest of the people, in 278 townships on 10 May 2008 and in 47 storm-hit townships on 24 May 2008. And about 99 per cent of eligible voters cast votes on the constitution with 92.48 per cent of votes in favour. This meant that the people unanimously approved the constitution. Being approved by 92.48 per cent accounting for 93 people out of 100, the success in the approval of referendum is the national achievement.

The verbal attempts of destructive elements at home and abroad to jeopardize the referendum turned out to be fruitless. In recent interviews with the BBC, VOA, RFA and DVB, those from the NLD said to be spokesman and legal experts said that they didn’t accept and recognize the constitution (2008), that it was illegal, and that they preferred the result of the 1990 election. Again, we are hearing the voices of a group that is eager to come to power in disregard of the wishes of 93 per cent of the people under Myanmar political stage.

With that regard, I happened to remember the late Alanka Kyaw Swa Shwe Mann Tin Maung. It is my wish that Alanka Kyaw Swa Saya Shwe Mann presented himself to the audience the drama “Ywe Merchant” again.
Government has spent over K 231,113 million on border area development project since 1989

(from page 1)

He said national race armed groups in Kokang and Wa regions returned to the legal fold on 31 March 1989 and on 9 May respectively. Later, Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races led by Senior General Than Shwe was formed on 25 May 1989 and border areas development project was launched. On 31 May the same year, the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races was formed for close supervision of the project. National race armed groups returned to the legal fold one after another from the time the government had launched border area development tasks. Therefore, development tasks were implemented widely. In 1992, a new ministry was constituted for close supervision of the project. National race armed groups returned to the legal fold one after another from the time the government had launched border area development project since 1989. The State has opened 34 domestic science training schools and technical training schools in Sittway, Laikakaw, Pangang and Monla regions for their vocational education.

As regards the health sector, National Health Committee is placing emphasis on providing health care to border areas by adopting the policy of placing emphasis on providing health care not only to the locals but also to border areas.

As for the education sector, the government is giving priority to development of national race youths and enhancement of man power. Efforts are being made for development of national race youths and human resources in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and international organizations. Moreover, the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs formed Education and Training Department. The State has opened 34 domestic science training schools and technical training schools in Sittway, Laikakaw, Pangang and Monla regions for their vocational education.

As regards the border area development, Chairman of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance at the meeting (1/2007) of the Central Committee that national unity can be forged and a peaceful and developed nation be built only if the development gap between border areas and inner cities is narrow. So priority is to be given to the progress of national races.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister said, border area development tasks have been carried out since 1989. Due to the correct policy and the cooperative efforts of responsible officials of the State, organizations and the people of border areas, more success has been achieved than expected and peace and stability and development of the border areas can be witnessed. All in all, regional work committees, ministries and work subcommittees are to strive for more development of the border areas without being complacent about the economic opportunities for the ordinary people.

Next, Minister Col Thein Nyunt reported on border areas development work and financial statements, work being done, distribution of machinery, human resource development in the border areas and narcotic drug elimination tasks and development work in cooperation with UN agencies and international organizations.

The commanders submitted reports on region-wise work to be fulfilled.

The Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs reported on matters to be decided and documented. Afterwards, the committee members gave a presentation on national races development in border areas.

After responding to the reports, the Prime Minister made concluding remarks.—MNA

Ministry of Transport holds work coordination meeting

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe, 26 July—The Ministry of Transport held its work coordination meeting at the ministry, here yesterday morning.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe delivered a speech.

Officials of departments and enterprises under the ministry and those in charge in regions reported on work done and to be done. The directors-general of departments, the rector and the principal reported on the requirements and took part in the discussions.

The directors-general of departments reported on measures taken. Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung held a discussion about the reviews. The meeting came to a close with the concluding remarks by the minister. —MNA
Objective 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

USDA Secretary-General meets cotton growers

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo met with cotton growers of Nyaunggaing village in Meiktila Township on 24 July.

The Secretary-General called for boosting of cotton production. He inspected cotton plantation and saplings, and attended to the needs of the growers.

In Thazi Township, he received an inspection report from field officers and inspected the paddy cultivation and saplings of the local farmers.

In In Ahkyeepinbon village of Meiktila Township, the Secretary-General met with local farmers and called upon them to boost agricultural production and to participate in rural development work.—MNA

Rail Transportation Ministry honours staff’s children

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — Ministry of Rail Transportation held a ceremony to honour the children of the staff, having passed the matriculation examination for 2007-2008 academic year, at the meeting hall of the ministry here this morning. First, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min gave a speech at the ceremony.

Afterwards, the minister handed awards over to departmental heads for awarding the students who have passed the exam with three-distinctions and below. He also presented awards to four with six-distinction winner students.

Deputy Minister Thura U Thaung Lwin presented awards to five with five-distinction winner students and deputy minister U Pe Than to 18 with four-distinction students.

A total of 636 children of staff have passed the exam.—MNA

Work coordination meeting of Ministry of CPT held

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — The work coordination meeting for 2008 of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs was held at the ministry, on 24 July.

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw spoke on the occasion. Managers of States and Divisions reported on measures taken regarding the communications, postal service and telegraphs.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw speaks at work coordination meeting (2008) of Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs—CPT

Vice-Mayor inspects tax-free markets

YANGON, 26 July — Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa inspected Pantaya tax-free market in Bahan Township, Hanthawady tax-free market in Kamayut Township and tax-free markets in Yankin Township this morning.

At the meeting hall of Yankin Township tax-free market, the vice-mayor urged the officials to undertake five tasks of tax-free market systematically.—MNA

Construction Minister attends work coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July — Work Coordination meeting of the Ministry of Construction was held at the meeting hall of the ministry here this morning. It was attended by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, deputy ministers U Tint Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, departmental heads, superintendent engineers and officials.

The minister urged them to implement the projects in accord with the departmental rules and regulations and to use the fuel systematically.—MNA

English proficiency course No 1/2008 opens

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — English proficiency course No 1/2008 of the Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 was opened at the Training Hall of the Ministry here, yesterday. The course opening ceremony was attended by Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khan Maung Myint and extended greetings on the occasion.

Also present were Director-General Dr Thein Tun of the Electric Power Department, departmental heads and 20 trainees.—MNA

Health care services for storm survivors winner in Myaungmya

YANGON, 26 July — Under the arrangement of the Ministry of Health, a mobile medical team comprising Professor Dr Nyunt Thein of University of Medicine (1), the specialists and house surgeons performed health care to storm survivors in Myaungmya Township from 19 to 20 July.

They presented clothes and toys to 104 orphans and performed psychological support at Institute of Agriculture in Myaungmya. At a church, they gave medical treatment to 120 patients and presented personal goods to storm survivors.

On 20 July, they provided medical check-ups to the patients at Myaungmya District General Hospital and presented medicines and medical equipments for the hospital.—MNA
Prizes presented to outstanding students and staff

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July—Prize presentation ceremony for outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination in 2007-2008 academic year and staff of Ministry of Energy for their outstanding performance in the Central Institute of Civil Service was held at the ministry here this morning.

First, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi delivered an address.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay presented prizes to 37 outstanding students and three service personnel.

Present were the directors-general, managing directors, directors of departments and enterprises.

Next, Ma Hnin Ei Ei Khin, a six-distinction winner in the matriculation examination, expressed thanks. —MNA

Hninzigon Home for the Aged offers Waso robes

YANGON, 26 July—The 50th Waso robe offering ceremony was held at Thiri Yadana Dhammayon Hall of Hninzigon Home for the Aged in Bahan Township this morning.

Presiding Nayaka of Palikayi Monastery of Thakayta Township Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Maha Bhaddanta Ingisa invested the Five Precepts at the congregation. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Patrons, the chairman and members of the board of trustees for the home donated Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha.

The presiding Nayaka Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

Later, they offered meals to the Sayadaws. —MNA

Talks on organic fertilizer given

YANGON, 26 July — Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Supreme Groups of Company jointly organized talks on benefits of organic fertilizer at UMFFCI in Lannadaw Township today.

Chairman of Supreme Groups of Company Dr Sein Myint and wife Daw Myat Thandar donated K 1.8 million for building three houses in storm-hit areas to President U Win Myint of UMFFCI.

The experts gave talks on organic fertilizer and bio-insecticide, and answered queries raised by those present. —MNA

Thai Ambassador donates cash and kind to Int’l Institute of Abhidhamma, storm victims

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July—A ceremony to donate cash and kind to International Institute of Abhidhamma and storm victims was held at the HA of Sitagu International Buddhist Missionary Sasana Beikman at Pinlon Street in Dagon Myothit (North) Township this morning.

On behalf of the Thai Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Minister-Counselor Mr Prasas Prasavinit Chai presented certificates of honour to the minister-counselor.

Management Committee U Mya Than (Reit-Ambassador). Chairman U Mya Than presented certificates of honour to the minister-counselor. —MNA

Mobile Software launching seminar held

YANGON, 26 July—A mobile software product launching seminar of SiDA Technology Co Ltd was held at Myanmar InfoTech on Hline University Campus today. Matters related to English-Myanmar Dictionary comprising over 50,000 words was explained at the seminar.

UbiFind software for the dictionary can be installed at the mobile phone.

UbiFind software can be downloaded as the Demo Version from www.sidatech.asia on Internet for trial used. Activation code for UbiFind Dictionary is available at Sein Gayhar Super Markets in Yangon and other cash drop off centers. Moreover, the customers may get the Activation code at mobile phone shops in Yangon and Mandalay. These shops will provide necessary help for the customers.

The list of Cash Drop Off Centers and Mobile Phone shops is posted at www.sidatech.asia. The UbiFind English-Myanmar Dictionary (Pro-version) is being sold with K 19,000 per copy and that of Lite Version, K 9,500 per copy. —MNA
Computer professionals giving beneficial talks to IT enthusiast youth

There have been never ending advances in the age of information technology. As a result, most of youth are interested in IT that plays a vital role in all aspects such as economic, social and health sectors.

With a view to enhancing the information and communications technology, the talks on IT, to be organized by the Myanmar Computer Professionals Association (MCPA) and sponsored by the

"We will hold direct question-and-answer sessions."  
U Ye Yint Win  
Joint-Secretary (MCPA)

MCPA Joint-Secretary U Ye Yint Win of Biz Soft Company said, “We will reply queries that those who are friendly in basic computer knowledge may become computer technicians, that how the interested persons should try to become software engineers and software technicians, and that any person may become a software technician based on their level of interest in the subject in few years.”

To understand basic needs of information technology, the attendants will have the opportunities to hold question-and-answer sessions with the speakers directly.

"I will discuss how to develop programmes."  
U Win Htein Win  
Executive of MCPA

U Tun Khaing, Executive of MCPA and an official of Gusto Company, said, “I will give talks on developing programmes, solving problems of businesses, health centres and supermarkets through IT. At present, the software development plays a key role in solving problems to get the correct results in a short time. Today’s youth are interested in applying IT. I will hold a discussion on the point how to try hard to become a professional developer in the IT arena by creating the quality works on time.”

In an interview, U Win Htein Win, Executive of MCPA and an official of Gusto Company, said, “I will give talks on applying IT.”

"I will explain advancements of latest technology."  
U Nay Lin Than  
Executive of MCPA

"I will give talks on the points how to create better works applying IT."  
U Nay Lin Than  
Executive of MCPA

"I will discuss how to develop programmes.”  
U Win Htein Win  
Executive of MCPA

Myanmar Professionals Education Centre (MPEC), will be held at Room No. 205 of Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Township at 9 am on 27 July.

In an interview, explained, “I will discuss the basic needs of IT technicians, studies and practices and application of latest technologies. In the discussions with the participants, we will give talks about solving technical problems applying softwares and another topic that it is necessary to apply the computer professional developers is different from that of doctors and engineers. They have to abide by prescribed disciplines. They are always trying their best in various fields. I will give talks how to satisfy the needs of customers through IT. I will hold a discussion on the point how to try hard to become a professional developer in the IT arena by creating the quality works on time.”

In an interview, U Nay Lin Than, Executive of MCPA and responsible person of Integra Company, disclosed, “To become a software developer one does not need many years. There are a large number of youth who take interest in this field. The software developing industry at home requires youth’s participation. Today, as the IT is a smokeless industry, the youth may not encounter many difficulties to join the IT arena.”

The Myanmar Computer Professionals Association has been organizing workshops, training courses and seminars for turning out the youth to become IT technicians and for development of IT industry. It is sure that the forthcoming IT talks will be beneficial much to the youth.

Discussions and topics of MCPA

Date & Time  
27 July (Sun)  9-12 am

2 August (Sat)  1-4 pm  
9 August (Sat)  1-4 pm  
23 August (Sat)  1-4 pm  
6 Sept (Sat)  1-4 pm  
20 Sept (Sat)  1-4 pm

Topic  
How to prepare to become a professional developer  
ITPEC  
Cyber Threats  
Database  
PC based Control System  
IP Security
Unknown insects found in 110-million-year-old amber in Spain

MADRID, 26 July — The remains of several unknown insect species which became extinct long before dinosaurs stopped roaming the earth have been discovered in pieces of 110-million-year-old amber found in Spain, researchers said Thursday. Palaentologist Enrique Penalver said the amber discovered in the El Soplao cave in the northern province of Cantabria was in “exceptional” condition. “The conservation is incredible. You can study ‘exceptional’ condition,” he said.

NZ students offer cash for “arrest” of US’s Rice

WELLINGTON, 26 July — A group of New Zealand students has come up with a novel way of protesting against a visit by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, offering a cash reward for her “arrest” over US actions in Iraq.

Auckland University Students’ Association has offered $5,000 New Zealand dollars (3,700 US dollars) for any student making a citizen’s arrest of Rice during her 36-hour stay that starts later on Friday. “It’s primarily symbolic, but it’s a protest against her actions as secretary of state in Iraq and the authorization of the torture of suspected terrorist detainees,” said the student body’s president, David Do. Police said the stunt was disturbing, and warned no-one would be allowed to disrupt the visit. “We are obliged to ensure the safety and security of the visiting guest and we will not shirk from that task,” said District Commander Superintendent Brett England in a statement. MNA/Reuters

Building blasted in bank job

SYDNEY, 26 July — Thieves blasted an automatic teller machine (ATM) out of the wall of a bank in Brisbane with such force that the building itself might have been demolished, news reports said on Saturday. Police said on Friday’s explosion was so strong it blew the ATM into the street and damaged other buildings. The thieves were less successful in actually opening the ATM. They fled without stealing any cash. — Internet

Westfield exec refuses US Senate panel tax queries

WASHINGTON, 26 July — The group managing director of Australia-based Westfield Group, a major shopping mall group, refused on Friday to answer questions from a US Senate subcommittee investigating international tax havens. Peter Lowy cited his “constitutional right to not give self-incriminating testimony” when he was called to answer questions about his family’s involvement with LTC Bank of Liechtenstein. The Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations is looking at LTC Bank as part of a larger inquiry into wealthy Americans who avoid taxes by hiding assets in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, a tiny European principality. The practice deprives the US Government of 100 billion US dollars in revenues annually, according to lawmakers. Senator Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat and chairman of the subcommittee, said the Internal Revenue Service is investigating 147 US taxpayers with LTC accounts. — MNA/Reuters

Election loss deals crushing blow to UK’s Brown

GLASGOW, 26 July — Britain’s ruling Labour Party lost a parliamentary seat in one of its traditional strongholds, a stinging electoral setback for Prime Minister Gordon Brown, results showed on Friday.

Defeat in Thursday’s poll in the Glasgow East constituency, which Labour won with a huge 13,500 majority at the 2005 election, will fuel Labour discontent with Brown’s leadership and could lead to moves to oust him, some analysts believe.

The pro-independence Scottish National Party (SNP) scored a dramatic victory by a slim 365-vote margin as voters in Britain’s third-largest city turned against Labour in a local election.

The result adds to the deepening sense of crisis enveloping Brown, whose popularity has slumped since he took over as prime minister from Tony Blair 13 months ago.

Brown and Labour have been hurt by the credit crisis, which has hit economic growth and sent house prices sliding, as well as by rising food and energy bills. — Internet

Blasts at Gaza cafe, politician’s house

GAZA, 26 July — Bomb blasts rocked a cafe and a Hamas politician’s home in the Gaza Strip on Friday, killing at least one Palestinian in one of the biggest flare-ups in internal violence since Islamists seized the enclave a year ago.

Hamas blamed unidentified “gunmen” for the bombings, suggesting the involvement of a Palestinian faction. An Israeli Army spokesman said he was not aware of any Israeli activity.

The Hamas Islamist group took control of the Gaza Strip a year ago. Hamas security forces said the first bomb went off outside a popular cafe in the centre of Gaza City, killing a passer-by whose identity was not immediately known. A few minutes later, a second bomb exploded outside the house of Hamas politician and leader Marwan Abu Rass. Nobody was injured in that blast. MNA/Reuters

A woman uses a flashlight to rummage through the kitchen of her aunt’s house on 25 July, 2008 after power to the area was knocked out by Hurricane Dolly, in San Benito, Texas. Internet

INFORMATION FOR TENDER

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(TENDER NO. 4 (T)/ LBO(2)/2008-2009)

1. Sealed Tenders are invited for the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the Supply of 2,049,500±10% Metric Tons Lube Base Oil & Additives.

2. Tender Closing Date : 1-8-2008 at (12:00) noon

3. Tender Opening Date : 1-8-2008 at (13:00) hrs


5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing (28-7-2008) on payment of the One Hundred (100) FEC per set.

6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

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Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Italy returns antiquities
looted from Iraq

ROME, 26 July — Italy on Thursday returned 13 ancient Iraqi artefacts that had been smuggled out of the country after the US-led invasion.

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi gave the artefacts, which included a tablet and a lamp, to Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki during his visit. They were recovered by Italian police, who have been waging a campaign to recover stolen archaeological artefacts.

“It is an important and symbolic gesture about how Italy... treats objects of antiquity and always tries to return them to the countries where they belong,” Berlusconi told a joint news conference with Maliki, where some of the artefacts were displayed.

Maliki appealed to countries to follow Italy’s lead and return all antiquities that were looted and smuggled out of the country after the invasion.

France’s first lady also first in record sales

PARIS, 26 July — France’s first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy shot to the top of the charts with her latest album in its first full week on sale, a music industry body said on Wednesday.

The album has generated massive interest because it is the first by the Italian-born former model turned pop star since her whirlwind romance with President Nicolas Sarkozy, whom she married in February less than three months after they met.

The new record, entitled “Comme si de rien n’était” (As if nothing had happened) and released under the first lady’s maiden name Carla Bruni, hit the shelves on 11 July in a blaze of publicity.

Volkswagen, Peugeot, Fiat defy sector gloom

PARIS/FRANKFURT, 26 July — Volkswagen led a trio of European automakers which issued surprisingly strong results and held to full-year targets on Wednesday, sending their shares higher despite analysts warning the second half will be tough.

Volkswagen, Europe’s No 1 and the world’s No 4 auto group, said second-quarter operating profit rose 22 per cent to 2.12 billion euros (3.38 billion US dollars), easily topping market expectations.

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Over 1,000 died in US painkiller overdoses

WASHINGTON, 26 July — At least 1,013 people died of overdoses in several US cities from 2005 to 2007 after illegally injecting the highly potent painkiller fentanyl, US officials said on Thursday.

The fentanyl, at least some of which came from Mexico, was sold illegally by drug dealers on US streets, sometimes mixed with cocaine and heroin, according to a report issued by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Chicago area had the most deaths with 349, followed by Philadelphia with 269, the Detroit area with 230. Other deaths were reported in St Louis, Missouri, and the states of Delaware and New Jersey.

Emergency medical personnel reported finding some victims with the needle still in their arms, not having completed the injection because the drug was so powerful, said retired CDC public health service officer Dr Stephen Jones, who wrote the report.

Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan launch joint rail link

KARS (Turkey), 26 July — Leaders of Turkey, Georgia and Azerbaijan launched a railway project between the three countries on Thursday, building on links forged by gas and oil pipelines.

At a railway station in the eastern Turkish border town of Kars, the presidents of the three countries held a ground breaking ceremony for the $290 million Turkish section of the railway.

The three are linked by the BP-led <BP.L> Baku-Ceyhan oil pipeline and the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas line but trade links between Turkey and the Caucasus Region are limited.

Turkish President Abdullah Gul, Georgia’s Mikheil Saakashvili and Azerbaijan’s Ilham Aliyev placed three sections of railway track on a large map of the region in a symbolic launch of the project as confetti showered down.

“With this project the historic Silk Road is being reinvigorated,” Gul said in a speech.

“The project is open to all countries in the region who want to contribute to good neighbourhood relations, peace and prosperity,” he said.

Ozgun Yapi-Celikler joint venture won the tender last September for construction of the 76-kilometres (47-mile) Turkish stretch of the railway with a bid of 289.8 million US dollars, the lowest of 14 bids.

Rocks sit on a road following an earthquake in Iwatezumi. Residents of northern Japan said Friday that careful preparations and lessons learned from previous earthquakes limited the damage caused by the latest major tremor to hit the region. —INTERNET
Ferguson dismisses idea of British 2012 Olympic team

JOHANNESBURG, 26 July — Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson said on Friday the idea of a British soccer team playing at the 2012 London Olympics was a non-starter.

Ferguson had been named as the ideal coach for a combined team by 2012 organizing committee chairman Sebastian Coe last weekend, with Coe telling BBC Radio Five Live that he had discussed the issue with the Scot. But Ferguson, speaking in Johannesburg on the eve of Manchester United’s match against South African club Kaizer Chiefs in the final of a pre-season exhibition tournament, dismissed the idea.

MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 He sells from barrow
4 A benefice
7 Pink flower
9 Hunting whip
11 Make merry
13 Short poem
14 Steal cattle
15 Chirpy insect
17 Silly smile
19 Give out
20 Holm-oak
22 Long cut
23 Air nipped (anag.) (5-4)
24 Killer
25 Decide

DOWN
1 Domestic pottery
2 Snare
3 Milk curdler
4 Brood
5 Stringed instrument
6 Mourn
7 Linked
8 One end of earth’s axis
10 Prepared
12 Mourn
21 See-through photo (1-3)

Redknapp claims Kaboul coup

LONDON, 26 July — Younes Kaboul will snub interest from Sunderland and Aston Villa to join Portsmouth, according to Harry Redknapp.

The Fratton Park boss is confident he has beaten his Premier League rivals to the signature of the Tottenham Hotspur defender.

Kaboul, 22, looked all set to link up with fellow Spurs men Teemu Tainio, Pascal Chimbonda and Steed Malbranque at Sunderland after boss Roy Keane agreed fees for all four.

But even though Keane is believed to have met with the French defender, who struggled to find his feet in England after his move to White Hart Lane from Auxerre, there was rival interest from Pompey and Aston Villa.

MNA/Reuters

Beijing organizers sympathize with Iraqi athletes

BEIJING, 26 July — Beijing organizers expressed sympathy for Iraqi athletes on Friday after the suspension of the country’s National Olympic Committee (NOC) ruled them out of next month’s Olympics.

The Iraqi Government disbanded the NOC in May because of a dispute over how it had been assembled.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) set a deadline for its reinstatement but the government did not back down and the ban was confirmed on Thursday.

“We have noticed the relative regulations concerning the Iraq issue,” Sun Weide, spokesman for the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG), told a news conference on Friday.

“It is a decision made by the IOC according to relative regulations. It is an internal affair of the IOC. BOCOG feels sorry for the Iraqi athletes being unable to participate in the Beijing Games.” At least seven Iraqi athletes, two rowers, a judoka, a weightlifter, a sprinter, a discus thrower, a javelin thrower, and an archer, had earned places in Beijing.

MNA/Reuters

Goalkeeper Robinson leaves Spurs for Blackburn

LONDON, 26 July — Blackburn Rovers signed goalkeeper Paul Robinson from Premier League rivals Tottenham Hotspur for 3.5 million pounds (6.95 million US dollars) on Friday. The 26-year-old, who has 41 England caps but has fallen out of favour with club and country, becomes manager Paul Ince’s first signing since he took over from Mark Hughes a month ago.

Robinson agreed a five-year contract with Blackburn, the club said on their website (www.burnleyfc.co.uk).

MNA/Reuters

Cech eyes new Lamps deal

LONDON, 26 July — Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Cech is hopeful Frank Lampard will remain at Stamford Bridge for at least another season.

Lampard’s future at the Blues is uncertain amid interest from Italian giants Inter Milan.

Former Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho is keen to reunite with the England midfielder at Giuseppe Meazza.

However, the West London club are refusing to part company with Lampard this summer, despite receiving a £7.95 million bid from Inter.

Internet

Spectators cheer as the pack passes during the 19th stage of the Tour de France cycling race between Roanne and Montlucon, central France, on 25 July, 2008.

INTERNET
Residents walk on a debris-covered beach near buildings damaged by Hurricane Dolly on Bagdad beach, some 38 km (24 miles) from the border city of Matamoros on 24 July, 2008. After Hurricane Dolly unleashed a fury of damaging winds and wicked rain on the US-Mexico coastline and diminished to a tropical storm, widespread flooding along the populous Rio Grande Valley became the top concern on Thursday.—INTERNET

Danish soldier killed in Afghanistan, three wounded

COPENHAGEN, 26 July—A Danish soldier was killed in Afghanistan on Friday when his tank hit a mine or an improvised explosive device (IED), Danish Army Central Command said.

Three other soldiers were lightly wounded. The tank was on its way to assist Afghan soldiers and their British and American advisers, who had come under fire from insurgents.

Denmark has about 550 combat troops in Afghanistan. Eleven have died in combat so far and three others were killed while trying to dismantle a mine. —MNA/Reuters

Argentina rejects Lamy proposal on Doha trade talks

BUENOS AIRES, 26 July — Argentina rejected a free-trade proposal by World Trade Organization chief Pascal Lamy on Friday, saying the document was “not acceptable in its current form”.

Foreign Minister Jorge Taiana made the comments after a meeting of ministers in Geneva aimed at revitalizing deadlock-free trade talks, a government statement said. “Argentina rejects in its current state the document presented by Pascal Lamy to reach agreement in the Doha Round of trade talks,” Taiana said.

He added that leading farm goods exporter Argentina, along with other countries, had presented comments about Lamy’s proposal. “We’re negotiating and signaling that we want a better result,” he said. —MNA/Reuters

At least 45 killed as Congo boat sinks

KIVUMA, 26 July — At least 45 people were killed and another 100 were missing after a boat they were travelling on sank on a remote stretch of river in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a local government official said on Friday.

The accident happened on Thursday night after the boat struck a rock on the Ubangi River, said Mathieu Bela, district commissioner for North Ubangi in the far north of the Congo, on the border with Central African Republic.—MNA/Reuters

Weather

Saturday, 26 July, 2008
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Mawlamyine Division, rain have been scattered in Kayah and Shan States, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and fairly widespread in Kachin and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavy falls in Tanintharyi Division and isolated heavy fall in Yangon Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (5.43) inches, Myeik (4.21) inches, Coco Island (3.93) inches, Mawlamyine (2.63) inches, Thandwe (2.48) inches, Kyaukpyu (2.26) inches, Bago (2.13) inches, and Thaton (2.05) inches.

Maximum temperature on 25-7-2008 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 26-7-2008 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 26-7-2008 was 96%.

Total sunshine hours on 25-7-2008 was 27.7 hours approx.

Rainfall on 26-7-2008 was (0.47) inch at Mingaladon, (65.75) inches at Kaba-Aye and (78.19) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 25-7-2008.

Bay influence: Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 27-7-2008: Rain will be isolated to scattered in Shan and Kayah States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine, Mon States and Tanintharyi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (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 27-7-2008: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-7-2008: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-7-2008: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Make donations to the storm victims

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

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

☆ 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

2nd Inter-Ministry Football Tournament-2008 continues

NAV Pyi Taw, 26 July— The matches of the Group-G of the Second Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament 2008 continued at the designated venues, here, this evening.

At Nay Pyi Taw football ground No. 1, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, departmental heads of respective ministries, service personnel, their families and local football fans enjoyed the match.

In the match, Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs team routed Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries team with 11-1.

At Paunglaung football ground, Ministry of Science and Technology passed through Ministry of Home Affairs with 4-0.

On 28 July, Ministry of Commerce will play against Ministry of Industry-2 at Nay Pyi Taw football ground-2 while Ministry of Transport will compete against Ministry of Energy at Paunglaung football ground in the Group-H.

Taninthayi Division lifts trophy in 9th ISD-U-19 Football Tournament

NAV Pyi Taw, 26 July— The final match of the 9th Sports Minister’s Cup Inter-State/Division Under-19 Novice Men’s Football Tournament 2008 was held at Shan State Sports Ground in Taunggyi today.

In the match, Taninthayi Division clinched the title by winning a 4-1 victory over Kayin State.

Psychiatrists make field trip to Mawlanyinegyun Tsp

YANGON, 26 July — Under the arrangement of Myanmar Red Cross Society, a team comprising U Chit Pe and Daw Aye Moh Moh Lwin led by U Moe Hein went on a field trip to the villages in Mawlanyinegyun Township in order to raise the morale of storm survivors in cooperation with the members of the township Red Cross Society from 13 to date.

They organized counseling talks on boosting morale thirty times at storm-stricken villages in the township.