### Tatmadaw families, wellwishers donate cash and kind to monasteries, nunneries

YANGON, 27 July—Families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and public wellwishers donated rice, edible oil, salt, medicine, and cash to 22 monasteries and two nunneries in four Dagon Myothit Townships in Yangon East District today. The donation ceremony was held on the afternoon at Pitakat Thonebon Nikaya Sarthintaik in Pale Yadana Street, Dagon Myothit (South) Township and attended by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present were Presiding Nayaka Sayadaws and members of the Sangha and nuns of the monasteries and nunneries, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, senior military officers, departmental officials and members of social organizations. Lt-Gen Myint Swe and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Pitakat Thonebon Nikaya Sarthintaik Shweratu Tipitaka Dhara Tipidaka Kovida Dhamma Bandagarika Bhaddanta Silakkhandha Bhivamsa. Lt-Gen Myint Swe offered robes and offertories to the Sayadaw. Next, responsible persons offered the Sayadaw rice, edible oil, medicine and gram donated by Yangon City Development Committee, Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd, Myanma Marine Products Enterprise, Ministry of Mines and public wellwishers.

### Provisions for monasteries, nunneries and one home for aged in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July—Families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers donated provisions to 14 monasteries, three nunneries and one home for the aged in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township this afternoon.

At Mahawithutarama Zaygon Monastery in Ywakauk Ward of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung donated robes and provisions to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

Present were Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Mahawithutarama Zaygon Monastery State Ovadascarya Abhidhaja Maharathagura Bhaddanta Kavisara, Sayadaws, members of the Sangha, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, senior military officers, departmental officials and wellwishers.

Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and party took the Five Precepts from the Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, the minister, the deputy minister and party offered robes and provisions to members of the Sangha led by Bhaddanta Kavisara.

On behalf of families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air), Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Captain Naval Staff Captain Tin Aung San and Chief of Staff (Air) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint donated rice, edible oil, salt, medicine and gram to the Sayadaw. The Sayadaw accepted rice, edible oil, salt, medicine, gram and toothpaste from wellwishers. Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and (See page 9)


**PERSPECTIVES**

* Monday, 28 July, 2008*

**Strive for realization of economic plans**

The government is striving for strengthening national economy based on agriculture and for developing other economic sectors such as industry, forestry, livestock and fisheries, energy, mining, electric power and trade. It has been implementing the economic plans in order to achieve remarkable economic progress.

At the same time, the government is rendering necessary assistance to the entrepreneurs who are engaged in agriculture, industry, trade and services sectors. Officials in states and divisions and the people are to make concerted efforts for realization of the targets of the project.

It is necessary for factories, workshops and industrial zones to work hard to operate their industries at full capacity and boost production of marketable products of high quality.

With the united cooperation of the entire people including national entrepreneurs and service personnel, the economic plans of the State will surely be realized sooner.

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**All this needs to be known**

* Do not be frightened whenever flat-tered
* Do not be bolstered whenever flatter-
ed
* Do not be softened whenever appea-red

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**Redouble efforts for sustainable development of rural self-reliant libraries**

**Information Minister meets IPRD staff, local residents**

**NAY PYI TAW, 27 July** — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with local authorities, wellwishers, staff of division, district and township Information and Public Relations Departments and residents at IPRD office in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District this morning.

Staff Officer U Tin Htoo of IPRD in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township reported on rural self-reliant libraries in the township and work to be done in cooperation with local authorities, member of Union Solidarity Development Association and social organizations.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan made a speech saying that with the strength of local authorities and people, wellwishers, social organizations and IPRD staff, the five work programmes are being implemented for the sustainable development of rural self-reliant libraries.

The tasks are the national duty contributing toward the development of the State and the entire people. All in the respective regions are to exert their efforts for growing number of more readers and new publications in the already-established libraries, having private lands, buildings and furniture in the libraries in cooperation with local authorities and people and systematically forming library supervisory committees, he added.

After that, the minister presented the publications for the rural self-reliant libraries in Khit Aye, Nyaungjun and Ywathit villages in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township to the chairmen of village PDCs.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepted K 3 million from U Thein Aung family (Thein Company) and K 3 million from the wellwishers of the three villages and presented certificates of honour to them. And he also greeted those present.

The minister and party viewed documentary photos on libraries and wall magazines displayed in the office.

Today’s donations to the libraries amounted to K 6 million.

Also present were Director-General U Chit Naung of IPRD, officials, USDA members, town-selders and well-wishers. — MNA

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**Myanmar goodwill delegation arrives back from PRC**

**YANGON,** 27 July — At the invitation of Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU), Myanmar delegation led by Central Executive Committee Member U Aung Thein Lin of the Union Solidarity and Development Association arrived back here from the People’s Republic of China by air this afternoon.

They were welcomed back by CEC Member of USDA U Maung Pa, officials of the USDA headquarters and their families at Yangon International Airport. The members of the delegation arrived back on the same flight. — MNA
Iran says it has expanded number of centrifuges to enrich uranium

TEHRAN, 27 July — Iran’s president said today that the country dramatically expanded the number of machines it has producing enriched uranium, defying international demands for the country to halt the production of nuclear material. But President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, quoted by official and semi-official media, also seemed to suggest that Iran might be willing to stop adding any more centrifuges, a condition for preliminary talks to end the diplomatic standoff over Iran’s nuclear programme.

Ahmadinejad told scholars in the northeastern Iranian city of Mashhad that Iran possessed more than 5,000 centrifuges, which can produce nuclear material suitable for a power plant or, if highly enriched, an atomic bomb.

“We have more than 5,000 centrifuges in operation,” state television quoted Ahmadinejad as saying.

“The West wanted us to stop,” he was quoted as telling a group of scholars, “We resisted, and now they want to resume negotiations.”

In theory, 5,000 centrifuges running continuously can produce enough weapons-grade uranium for one bomb in seven months. —Internet

Turkish warplanes strike 12 PKK targets in N Iraq

ANKARA, 27 July — Turkish warplanes hit 12 targets of the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) in Mount Qandil region in northern Iraq on Sunday, a Turkish military statement said.

The statement issued by the army general staff, which posted on its website said that all the planes returned to their bases safely on Sunday.

Turkey has conducted frequent air raids on suspected positions of the PKK in northern Iraq. In February, it launched an eight-day ground incursion into Iraq.

The PKK, listed by the United States and Turkey as a terrorist group, took up arms in 1984 with the aim of creating an ethnic homeland in southeast Turkey. About 40,000 people have been killed in the over-two-decade conflict. —Internet

Explosions shake another City in India

NEW DELHI, 27 July — For the second time in two days, low-intensity explosions rocked an Indian city, this time in Ahmedabad on Saturday evening. The Indian government said cities across the country had been put on alert for similar attacks.

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Metal fatigue or explosion suspected on Qantas jet

A man stands next a Cuban flag in Havana on 26 July, about his plans to revitalize Cuba's state-run economy during the games. —INTERNET

SOUTH AFRICA, 27 July — The first athletes have checked into Beijing’s newly-built Olympic village, with 12 days to go until the Games.

China’s basketball star Yao Ming and hurdler Liu Xiang were present for a flag-raising ceremony at the heavily guarded site. In all 16,000 competitors will stay there during the games.

The flats—housing either four or eight people each—have been built to high environmental standard. Solar energy will power some of the buildings, residents will be able to drink the water straight from the tap.

Specially extended beds have been installed for taller athletes.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, a vice-president of Beijing’s organising committee, Chen Zhili, said: “We now welcome athletes from around the world to come to the Games.”

Chen added: “We will try to satisfy the needs of people from different cultural and religious backgrounds.”

Chinese athletes were the first to check into the village. —Internet

5.6 magnitude earthquake jolts most parts of Bangladesh

DHAKA, 27 July — A earthquake measuring 5.6 magnitude on the Richter scale jolted most parts of Bangladesh early Sunday with some students from Dhaka University were injured.

According to Weather Office of the Bangladeshi government, the earthquake took place at 00:50 local time (19:50 GMT) with the center in Sylhet district, 238 km northeast of capital Dhaka.

The earthquake lasted for around a dozen of seconds in capital Dhaka. Local television channel ATN reported in its morning bulletin that about 60 Dhaka University students jumped out from their dormitory and 25 of out of them were injured and taken to Dhaka Medical College University.

When Barguna district, 247 km south of Dhaka, was contacted after the earthquake, the people there also felt the earthquake. —Internet

A man stands next a Cuban flag in Havana on 26 July, 2006. President Raul Castro is expected to tell more about his plans to revitalize Cuba’s state-run economy in his speech on Saturday marking the 55th anniversary of the Cuban revolution against US-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista. —INTERNET

Beijing’s Olympic village opens

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Chinese athletes were the first to check into the village. —Internet

15 missing in boat capsize in W Nepal

KATHMANDU, 27 July — At least 15 people have gone missing when a boat capsize in western Nepal on Sunday.

According to a local leading news website, 15 others have been rescued.

The boat capsized in the Kanari River of Kailali district, some 470 km west of the Nepali capital of Kathmandu, on Sunday.

The cause of the accident and more details are awaited. Nepal has entered its raining season since the beginning of June. —Internet
Brazil’s Embraer to open two plants in Portugal

LISBON, 27 July — Brazilian aircraft builder Embraer is to open two plants at Evora in southern Portugal, the firm’s head announced Saturday at a ceremony attended by the leaders of both countries. Frederico Fleury Curado said the company’s move into Europe was “a step forward in the internationalisation of the group.” The two factories, producing metal structures and composite materials, are expected to be operational by the end of next year and provide 500 jobs.

Brazil’s President Inacio Lula da Silva said Portugal was “an excellent entry to the European market,” while Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Socrates called Embraer’s investment “of great importance for Portugal’s economy and industry.” Lula was in Portugal for a summit of Portuguese-speaking countries and was asked by Socrates to stay on afterwards for the public launching of Embraer’s project.

India’s State Bank profit up 15 percent on loan growth

MUMBAI, 27 July — India’s largest bank, the State Bank of India, said Saturday its net profits rose a better-than-expected 15.08 percent in the first fiscal quarter on loan growth. The bank reported net profit for the three months to June of 16.4 billion rupees (383 million dollars) against 14.25 billion rupees a year earlier. Total income rose 32.4 percent at 162.03 million rupees. Operating profit for the quarter rose more than 118 percent to 51.68 million rupees.

The bank said it wanted to use the money to expand its operations in the next three years. During the past decade it has lost market share, faced by stiff competition from private sector rivals such as ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank. On Friday, SBI shares had closed down 29.6 rupees or two percent at 1,448.75.

US shuts down two more banks

WASHINGTON, 27 July — The US Treasury has shut down two affiliated western banks as the impact of the US real estate crash rolls through the country’s financial institutions.

Late Friday, the Treasury’s Office of the Comptroller of the Currency took over First Heritage Bank of Newport Beach, California, and First National Bank of Nevada, based in Reno, Nevada, declaring both undercapitalized and facing losses that would wipe out their capital.

“The 28 offices of the two banks will reopen on Monday as branches of Mutual of Omaha Bank,” the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation said in a statement.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown (L) speaks with US Democratic presidential candidate Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) in the terrace at 10 Downing Street in London, on 26 July, 2008.  Internet

Artificial pancreas just years away, experts agree

BETHESDA, 27 July — Researchers working on an artificial pancreas believe they are just a few years away from a nearly carefree way for people with diabetes to monitor blood and inject insulin as needed. They believe they can link two current technologies — continuous glucose monitoring and insulin pumps — into a seamless package.

Such a mechanical pancreas could greatly reduce the need for fingersticks and injections of insulin that diabetics must now endure several times a day, researchers told a meeting this week at the National Institutes of Health.

LG Display to cut output by 10 pct in downturn

SEOUL, 27 July — LG Display Co Ltd, the world’s No 2 maker of liquid crystal display (LCD) screens, said on Sunday it would cut its panel output by around 10 percent until August because of weakening global demand.

South Korea-based LG Display joins Taipei rivals AU Optronics Corp and Chi Mei Optoelectronics Corp in the move to reduce production and ease an oversupply as market conditions deteriorate faster than expected.

“The output reduction will be around 10 percent level,” an LG Display spokesman said. “The utilization rate should rise again from September.” The company did not give the estimated financial impact of the reduction.

Members of the Hamas security forces inspect a burnt-out car at the scene of an explosion near the beach near Gaza City recently. Hamas-run security forces have swarmed across Gaza City, clashing with rival gunmen and arresting dozens of people after a bomb blast killed five senior Palestinian militants and a girl of five.

A man unveils a monument in the shape of a macaroni at a pasta festival outside the town of Borovsk in the Kaluga region, about 109 km (67 miles) south of Moscow, on 26 July, 2008.
Nigerian gunmen release eight expats but others still held in Iraq

LAGOS, 27 July — Gunmen in Nigeria released eight foreign oil workers seized from a vessel off the Niger Delta on Saturday but eight other people abducted in separate incidents were still being held, security officials said. The eight Russian, Latvian and Lithuanian men were seized early on Saturday from a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanker off the mouth of the Bonny river in the delta, a network of mangrove creeks which is home to Africa's biggest oil industry.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sagir Musa, military spokesman in the eastern Niger Delta, said the eight had been voluntarily released by their captors. “They have been released late this evening...I doubt that any ransom was paid,” Musa said, without giving further details.

Private security contractors said the men were thought to have been working for Global Gas and Refining Ltd, a Nigerian subsidiary of US-based Global Energy Inc, run by a prominent local businessman, which may have aided their rapid release.

Road accident leaves at least 32 dead in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 27 July — At least 32 people, including women and children, were killed and some 50 injured in southern Haiti when a heavily loaded truck plowed head-on into three oncoming vehicles when its brakes failed, officials said.

The accident occurred in the town of Cavaillon Saturday, authorities said adding two Canadians were among the injured. “The number of fatalities increases every hour because some of the injured are in very serious condition,” Judge Pierre Jasmy, who was at the scene of the accident, told AFP.

He said 19 people had died at the scene while the rest succumbed to wounds on the way to hospital in the nearby city of Cayes.

UN helicopters helped evacuate the injured to hospitals in various parts of the country.

Calif fire threatens homes near Yosemite Valley

MIDPINES, 27 July — A growing wildfire has forced the evacuations of 170 homes near the main entrance road to Yosemite National Park and is threatening more, fire officials said Saturday.

The blaze grew from about 1,000 acres to around 16,000 acres, or 25 square miles, between Saturday morning and evening, said Daniel Berlant, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. It is burning on both sides of a steep, rugged canyon along the Merced River.

“The erratic behavior is because there is so much fuel out there to burn,” Berlant said.

In Northern California, authorities said a firefighter died after being struck by a tree. Andrew Jackson Palmer was struck Friday while working on the Eagle Fire near Junction City, about 50 miles west of Redding.

Four swimmers dead, three missing in NY ocean waters

NEW YORK, 27 July — Four swimmers drowned and three were missing Saturday in two days of treacherous ocean currents at Long Island and New York City beaches, authorities said. At least three more had been rescued.

The missing included a 10-year-old girl who had been playing in the waters off Coney Island. A 10-year-old boy who was with her was rescued, police said.

Some authorities said the spate of swimmers being swept away seemed unprecedented.

In the Long Island community of Long Beach, where two people drowned and another disappeared, Police Lt Bruce Meyer said he “cannot recall there ever being back-to-back situations like this.”

The rough seas were due to a strong storm system that brought 8-foot waves to the area earlier this week, National Weather Service meteorologist Jim Connolly said.

Car bomb wounds local Sunni politician

BAGHDAD, 27 July — Police say a car bomb attack wounded a member of a Sunni political party and his son and killed two of his bodyguards.

Police say unknown gunmen also opened fire on the house of Zaki Obaid Fayadh, head of the local branch of the Iraqi Islamic party, in Fallujah about 40 miles west of Baghdad, Sunday’s explosion occurred in Fayadh’s garage.

Police say it appears that the bomb was planted under a car. The party is led by Sunni Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi.
Reconstruction and rehabilitation tasks at full stretch (2)

Kyaw Ye Min

I have presented in the first part of the article the amount of rice that was donated to the victims from 4/5 May to 14 July. Now, I will present relief supplies donated for restoration of businesses.

The two major businesses in the coastal regions are agricultural farming and fishery. Other businesses are salt farming and breeding of sea prawn. Products from these businesses are traded on a large scale. These businesses are all I remember.

The delta is the granary of our country. Alluvial soil is left by the river, so the region enjoys fertile soil. The region is so rich in natural resources that its local products of fish, shrimp paste, dried fish and dried prawn are enough for the entire people of the nation, and fishery business is thriving there. Running offshore and deep sea fisheries, the region not only satisfies the local demand of fish and prawn but also helps the nation earn foreign exchange through export of surplus marine products.

However, due to the strike of the storm ‘Nargis’, the region suffered heavy losses. A lot of paddy fields in the coastal regions were flooded by sea water. Embankments designed to prevent the regions from being flooded with seawater were destroyed. A lot of stored paddy strain and rice were lost. Moreover, a large number of cattle were killed. Trawlers, fishing boats, fishing nets, fishing gear, and shrimp paste and dried fish workshops were ravaged. Now, I would like to present the resilience and vigour of my relatives.

Just after the storm abated, the majority of my relatives had to take shelter in the relief camps because they had no other choices. However, none of them wished fulfilled by now. It is impossible that they can stay in relief camps for good, so they, sooner or later, will have to return to their home places, resettie down and restore their businesses. I think it is wise to start as soon as possible to carry out a task that is a must.

When I was in service in the coastal regions, I visited most of the villages and forests. Sometimes, my muscles were stiff while riding a motorized boat in a creek or canal, I moored the boat at a site on the bank, then I saw many fields that stretched to the horizon. The fields I saw were of only three kinds: salt farms, prawn breeding ponds, and paddy fields. The majority of them were paddy fields. I took many photos of greenish paddy fields, deep green paddy fields, golden paddy fields, and stubble fields with huge haystacks. I often happened to make acquaintances with families of farmers in paddy fields.

A boom in the agricultural business resulted in a growing number of paddy-storage enterprises and rice mills. I noticed many 50-ton and 100-ton rice mills on the banks of the rivers and creeks. Some local farmers owned five to 20 acres of paddy fields, while some owned 300 to 400. Such farmers had a good number of farm labourers and workers who rented their fields for cultivation. In the past, it had prosperity for development and a person could make profits easily even if he lent some money to farmers to get paddy in return in the harvest time.

All their hopes have been diminished by the severe natural disaster. However, that is a temporary crisis. Dwellers of the delta are equipped with unwavering spirit and tenacity. The remaining people of Myanmar did not ignore their sufferings. Now, due to the donations of the entire people, and relief supplies of international donors, they are in a position to rise from dire straits. Witnessing the situations in the post-storm period, some guessed that it would take a long time for the survivors to rise from the catastrophe. I also did not think they would be able to rise from the storm that quickly. My relatives have impressed me, showing their resilience, vigour and hard work.

The assistance of the government and internal and international donors served as an enormous encouragement to the storm victims who were eager to return to normal with renewed strength. The number of cattle donated up to 19 July 2008 stood at 2813, and of them, 1785 buffaloes and 433 oxen were donated by the government, 90 oxen by local companies, and 505 buffaloes by foreign countries and organizations. With the aim of transforming conventional farming into mechanized farming, several tractor camps have been opened, and three tractors and 8546 power-tillers have been provided. In that regard, the government provided 6473 power-tillers; local and foreign companies and individual well-wishers, three tractors, 1757 power-tillers, and foreign countries and organizations, 316 power-tillers.

Altogether 978,782 baskets of paddy seeds — 629,852.5 baskets by the government, 74,416.5 baskets by local companies, and 513,513 baskets by other nations and organizations — were provided. Local companies and well-wishers also provided fertilizer, water pumps, seeds of various kinds of vegetables and insecticides as much as they could. The government disbursed agricultural loans to storm survivors according to the acres they grow paddy. With assistance provided, out of 1.8 million sown acreage of the storm-hit towships, over 1.4 million acres (accounting for 76 per cent) were already ploughed and 1.14 million acres (accounting for 60 per cent) were already put under paddy. Cent per cent acres will be put under paddy soon. And the paddy production of Ayeyawady Division will return to normal soon.

(See page 7)
Reconstruction and rehabilitation tasks at full stretch (2)

Kyaw Ye Min

(from page 6)

In the fisheries sector, a local from the coastal region can earn his living with peace of mind if he has a fishing boat and a fishing net. Before the disaster, there were a variety of fishing nets and fishing boats along the coastal region. Fisheries were booming in Pyapon and Bogale with fishing nets stretching as far as one’s eye can see.

There were shrimps in abundance in rivers and creeks of Kadon Kani, Ahmar and Kyeinchaung. Fishing boats in Hainggyigyun, the mouth of Pyinkhayaring Creek, Sahu jetty and Pyinsalu were like an ant colony when they set out for work or on their return. This is what I had remembered the condition of fisheries in those regions.

In the aftermath of the storm, the condition had undergone a great change. Even large vessels were washed ashore and destroyed by high tides, and fisheries resources such as large and small fishing nets, fishing boats, trawlers, fishing rafts and outboard motors were no exception. Various kinds of fishing nets were lost and destroyed in the storm. Now it is not the season of salt industries. But arrangements have been made for construction of embankments to be able to resume salt industries.

Agriculture aid provided up to 19-7-2008

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<th>tractor (unit)</th>
<th>power tiller (unit)</th>
<th>paddy seeds (basket)</th>
<th>fertilizer (bag)</th>
<th>water pump (set)</th>
<th>vegetable seeds (basket)</th>
<th>fertilizer for leave (bottle)</th>
<th>insecticide (bottle)</th>
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<td>24380</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>978782</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>194 boxes 2400 kilo</td>
<td>8123</td>
<td>24380</td>
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</table>

Remarks

1. * provided by the government through Bill Payment System.
2. ** provided by companies through Bill Payment System.
3. *** purchased and provided by the government through Bill Payment System.

Fisheries aid provided up to 19-7-2008

<table>
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<th>fishing net (set)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3190</td>
<td>2455</td>
<td>12709</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remarks

1. Up to 9500 fishing boats each with the length of 21 feet will be provided.
2. Up to 6000 6.5 HP engines will be provided.

(Translation: MS + TS)
Tatmadaw families, wellwishers...

(from page 1) Then, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and military officers accepted K14,177,000 donated by Tatmadaw families, Yangon Division PDC, Yangon Division Myanmar Police Force, associations and public wellwishers, Lt-Col Khin Maung Hsint of Mingalardon Airbase, supplicated on the purpose of the donations. Today’s donations were 282 bags of rice, 183 viss of edible oil, 3800 viss of iodized salt, 12 bags of gram, 378 tubes of toothpaste, 1750 boxes of various kinds of traditional medicine, 1000 packets of chilly powder and 300 bottles of Satumadu and K14,177,000.

The similar ceremony for 27 monasteries and seven nunneries in Bahan Township was held at Mingalar Market Dhammayon in Bahan Township, Yangon West District this afternoon. Lt-Gen Myint Swe attended the ceremony. Also present were the Sayadaws, members of the Sangha and nun of the monasteries and nunneries. Pali Takkatho Nyaungdon Kyaunthaik Hla Yadana Monastery Sayadaw Pahtamakayaw Agga Maha Kyaw Vinaya Pali Paragu (Tha-Sa-Ah) Bhaddanta Narada Hvamsa administered the Five Precepts to the congregation. Lt-Gen Myint Swe offered Thigans and provisions to the Sayadaw.

The donations to the 27 monasteries and seven nunneries in Bahan Township were 531 bags of rice, 376 viss of edible oil, 3764 viss of iodized salt, 735 tubes of toothpaste, 7000 boxes of various kinds of traditional medicine, 25 bags of gram and K9,887,000.

Wellwishers offering provisions to Sayadaws at the 66th birthday of Mingala Toungtaw-U Sayadaw.— MNA

66th birthday of Mingala Toungtaw-U Sayadaw held

YANGON, 27 July — The 66th birthday ceremony of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujana of Mingala Toungtaw-U Monastery was held in conjunction with ordination to the Sayadaw at the monastery in Bahan Township today.

Members of the Sangha ordained Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujana at Zambudipa Ordination Hall and wellwishers offered provisions to them. After the donation, the congregation received the Five Precepts form the Sayadaw and shared merits.— MNA

MRTV offers Waso robes in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July — With the patronage of Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win, Waso robe offering of service personnel of Myanmar Radio and Television was held at Maha Zanieta Sarthintaik in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon today.

Present were members of the Sangha led by Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Myo Ma Thha Nada Sarthintaik Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Ardicca and Sayadaw of Maha Zanieta Sarthintaik Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Wunnaraha, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Director-General of MRTV U Khin Maung Htay, Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing, Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Aung Nyein and wife, and officials.

The congregation received Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Wunnaraha. Next, the minister and officials presented robes and offertories to the members of the Sangha. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ardicca delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

The minister and congregation offered alms to the members of the Sangha.

MRTV offers Waso robes in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon

Kamayut BEHS-2 holds annual meeting, prize presentation ceremony

YANGON, 27 July — The parents and teachers association annual meeting of 2007-08 academic year of No. 66th birthday of Mingala Toungtaw-U Sayadaw held

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Kamayut BEHS-2 holds annual meeting, prize presentation ceremony

2 Basic Education High School (Kamayut) was held in conjunction with the prize presentation at the school here yesterday.

It was attended by Township Education Officer U Maung Chit, Captain Win Lwin Oo of No 1 University Training Corp, members of School Board of Trustees and executives.

At the ceremony, the township education officer presented gifts to Headmistress Daw May Hla Yi and teachers.

At the prize presentation, the headmistress and trustees of the school board presented prizes to the outstanding students.

MNA

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MRTV offers Waso robes in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon
Provisions for monasteries...

(from page 1)
Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko accepted cash donation from wellwishers.

Captain Naval Staff Captain Tin Aung San explained the purpose of the donation. Member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana Mingalarzkyon Pali Teykatho Kyay�gtaikae Presiding Sayadaw Mahaganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi delivered a sermon, and Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and party shared merits gained.

Today’s donations to 14 monasteries, three nunneries and one home for the aged in Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana Township are 447 bags of rice, 162 viss of edible oil, over 291 viss of gram, 1,457 viss of iodized salt, 292 tubes of toothpaste, 3,894 bottles and 1,580 packets of traditional medicine and K14,970,000.

Agreement signed on improvement of prevention, control and eradication of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Myanmar project

YANGON, 27 July—The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and FAO signed an agreement on improvement of prevention, control and eradication of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Myanmar project—OSRO/MYA/801/WBK at the meeting hall of LBVD in Insein Township here this morning. The signing ceremony was attended by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, departmental heads, FAO Resident Representative Dr Shin Imai and officials.

The project takes three years from 2008 to 2011 and the World Bank will provide US$1,315,353.

Minister inspect factories in Thagaya Industrial Region

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July—Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein inspected mould workshop, welding workshop, machine equipment workshop, machine installing workshop and painting workshop under heavy machinery workshop project of the Ministry of Industry-2 in Thagaya Industrial Region in Yedashe Township, Bago Division this morning. He next left necessary instructions. Afterwards, the minister also inspected the diesel engine factory, turbine and generator factory, construction of technological training school buildings and road construction. He then stressed the need for completion of the projects ahead of schedule.

Cash and kind for storm victims

YANGON, 27 July—Wellwishers donated cash and kind to storm victims at the Fire Services Department here today.

Man sustains injury in mine blast

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July—Insurgent-planted mine explosion injured on a man at 3.15 pm on 23 July.

The man named Ko Myint Ngwe, 35, son of U Ohn Maung in Kyaukgyi Pauk village of Hantabin Township, Bago Division stepped on the mine, which blew off his right foot when on his way to the forest to collect bamboos. The insurgents are committing sabotage acts resorting to various means to harm the stability of the State and the rule of law, kill the innocent people and cause panic.

Objectives of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

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

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint accepts cash and kind for storm victims presented by wellwishers.—SOCIAL WELFARE

Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and officials accepted the donations and gave certificates of honour to the well-wishers.

Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt and Dr Shin Imai sign the agreement on improvement of prevention, control and eradication of avian influenza.—LBVD

Managing Director U Sein Oo of Sein Enterprise (Export & Import) and General Manager Mr Kuo Kun Shih of Known-You Seed Co Ltd presented seeds of vegetable worth USD 46,624.1 and U San Kyi Daw Hline Hline Oo (Ngwe Sandar Boarding School-PyinOol,win) a house worth K 600,000 and war veterans a house worth K 600,000 people of storm-affected regions.

Congregation led by Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung receive the Five Precepts from a Sayadaw at rice and provisions offering to monasteries and nunneries in Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana.—MNA

MNA
Chavez calls $100 oil “just and right”

LISBON, 26 July—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Thursday that he saw $100 US dollars per barrel as a fair price for oil and that his OPEC member nation does not want a higher price than that.

Oil traded around 125 US dollars a barrel on Thursday, slightly recovered from 7-week lows. The market’s recent pullback comes after prices hit an all-time high of 147.27 US dollars on 11 July.

“If the price stabilizes around 100 US dollars it would seem just and right,” Chavez, in Portugal as part of his European tour, said in remarks broadcast by Portugal’s SIC television channel.

“Venezuela has never wanted oil to cost more than 100 US dollars,” added Chavez, who warned 10 days ago oil prices could hit 300 US dollars per barrel if US oil company Exxon Mobil again freezes Venezuelan assets in a dispute over a nationalized oil project.

He also said then the collapse of a “speculative bubble” could send prices as low as 70 US dollars per barrel.

He said the market was driven by speculative factors, prices were too unstable and there was little OPEC could do.

MNA/Reuters

McCain says Obama’s judgment on Iraq failed

DENVER, 26 July—Republican presidential candidate John McCain slammed Democratic rival Barack Obama on Friday for poor judgment on the Iraq war, laying out in sharp terms his argument the Illinois Senator should not be commander in chief.

McCain, a Vietnam War veteran, said if Obama had succeeded in his effort to prevent last year’s boost in US troop levels in Iraq, American forces would have had to retreat under fire, the Iraqi Army would have collapsed and al-Qaeda would have found a safe haven.

“We rejected the audacity of hopelessness, and we were right,” the Arizona Senator added in a pointed reference to the title of Obama’s second book, “The Audacity of Hope.”

McCain, crystallizing his arguments over the Iraq war in his strongest language to date, warned that pursuit of Obama’s plan to withdraw US troops from Iraq over the next 16 months while boosting forces in Afghanistan could have disastrous consequences.

MNA/Reuters

Bolivia to fight cocaine trade with its own funds

LA PAZ, 26 July — Bolivia, the world’s No. 3 cocaine producer, will fund an anti-narcotics unit for the first time next year as it seeks to reduce foreign involvement in fighting trafficking, an official said on Friday.

The Andean country will invest 16 million US dollars in the unit, which now depends heavily on aid from the United States and the European Union.

“One of Bolivia’s responsibilities is to tackle drug trafficking. With our own resources, with our vision, with our hard work,” Ilder Cejas, an anti-narcotics adviser working for the Interior Ministry, told Reuters.

Cejas said the United States — which pledged about 25 million US dollars in anti-narcotics aid to Bolivia this year — will be allowed to collaborate with funds and advisers, but only within programmes designed by the government.

MNA/Reuters

Brazil’s Lula says hopeful for world trade deal

LISBON, 27 July—Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Saturday in Lisbon he remained hopeful that difficult talks at the World Trade Organization would result in a global trade deal.

But the leader of Brazil, one of the world’s main farm products exporters and a key negotiator in the proposed deal, said developed countries still had to open their markets more.

Compromise proposals revitalized deadlocked talks at the WTO on Friday but ministers warned that much work was still needed to get full agreement on a proposal.

“I keep hoping that the deal will be reached. Differences are normal because many interests are involved,” Lula told reporters in Portugal’s capital where he attended a summit of Portuguese-speaking nations, including poor African countries.

“What’s important is that there is a political understanding that we need this deal as it will be good for the world.”

The rich world needs to understand that free trade is not only about them wanting to sell (their products). It means that they have to be willing to buy as well,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters
Medical devices may shock or give incorrect readings

CHICAGO, 27 July — The Food and Drug Administration is warning doctors and patients that electronic devices such as pacemakers, cardiac defibrillators and insulin pumps can malfunction when people get computed tomography scans. The popular scans can cause medical devices to shock patients or start sending inaccurate signals, the FDA said in a public health alert issued last Monday.

The agency has received six confirmed reports of devices that malfunctioned after a CT scan, FDA spokeswoman Karen Riley said. No deaths occurred.

A study published last year by researchers at the Mayo Clinic found that CT scans frequently interfered with electronic heart devices, although the impact was temporary.

Devices that could be affected by CT scans include cardiac pacemakers, implantable cardiac defibrillators, neurostimulators, drug infusion and insulin pumps, cochlear implants and retinal implants, the FDA said.

Millions of Americans are now outfitted with these technologies. Virtually all of these people are already ineligible for MRI scans — another popular imaging technology — because metal parts in their devices can’t be exposed to MRI magnetic fields.

The alert recommends that CT operators use the least amount of X-ray exposure possible and stand prepared to treat adverse reactions.

Oil prices may fall to $70 if dollar toughens

ALGIERS, 27 July — Oil should be — trading at between about 70 US dollars to 80 US dollars per barrel — in the same range as those of the Iranian nuclear crisis is defused, Chakib Khelil, rotating president of the Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC), said here Saturday.

He made the prediction in his brief remarks to reporters, noting “there could be volatility … but normally long-term oil prices should move in that lower direction without the interference of geopolitics or of the US monetary policy.”

He said the recent meeting between senior US diplomat William Burns and Iran’s chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili in Geneva and the strengthening of dollar were the main factors that helped push the oil prices down rather than changes in supply and demand. “I do not see a fall in demand … (and) supply is the same,” said Khelil who is also Algeria’s Minister of Energy and Mines.

The OPEC head also voiced dissatisfaction with some European countries’ insistence on promoting bio-ethanol energy.

Four panda cubs born at Chinese breeding centre

B EIJING, 27 July — Four giant panda cubs were born within 14 hours at a breeding centre in southwest China, a mini baby boom for the rare animals, a state news agency reported on Sunday.

The births began Saturday at the Chengdu Panda Breeding Research Center when 9-year-old Qiyuan, or Magic Luck, gave birth to female twins at 5:24 pm and 6:16 pm, Xinhu News Agency reported, citing center expert Yang Feifei.

Eight-year-old Chenggong, or Success, gave birth to a cub at 7:51 pm, followed by 8-year-old Zhuzhu, or Pearl, who delivered at 6:55 am Sunday, Yang said.

The center currently has 71 pandas in captivity, Xinhuana said.
Russia slams Bush for linking Nazi and Soviet evils

MOSCOW, 27 July — Russia said on Saturday that US President George W Bush had insulted veterans of World War II by equating the evils of Soviet communism with Nazi fascism.

The Foreign Ministry said Bush had coupled Nazi fascism and Soviet communism as “a single evil” and thus “burt the hearts” of World War II veterans in Russia and allied countries, including the United States.

“While condemning the abuse of power and unjustified severity of the Soviet regime’s internal policies, we nevertheless can neither treat differently attempts to equate Communism and Nazism nor agree that they were inspired by the same ideas and aims,” the ministry said in a statement to mark Captive Nations Week, an annual event.

Bush signed a proclamation published on 18 July in which he called on the American people to reaffirm their commitment to advance democracy and defend liberty around the world. “In the 20th Century, the evils of Soviet communism and Nazi fascism were defeated and freedom spread around the world as new democracies emerged,” the proclamation said, according to a copy posted on the White House’s www.whitehouse.gov website.

MNA/Reuters

Hopes of reaching world trade deal revive at WTO

GENEA, 27 July — Ministers hailed an emerging trade deal on Friday, as compromise proposals revitalized deadlocked talks at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

But they warned that much work was still needed to get full agreement on the delicately crafted proposal.

“What’s on the table is not perfect, it’s not beautiful but it’s finally put together what will be a genuine boost for the world economy and particularly good for developing countries,” European Union trade chief Peter Mandelson said.

“There is an emerging deal but not a done deal,” Mandelson said after a make-or-break meeting of ministers.

The optimistic tone was a remarkable turnaround from the gloom at the WTO earlier in the day, when Director-General Pascal Lamy warned the Doha Round talks were on the brink of collapse because of the refusal of countries to negotiate.

And it represented an endorsement of Lamy’s strategy of restricting the talks to seven key countries to crack open the toughest issues, ranging from caps on farm subsidies to limits on special treatment for developing countries.

MNA/Reuters

Dozens of dead turtles found on Mexican beaches

MEXICO CITY, 27 July — The Mexican authorities said dozens of dead turtles were found on beaches in and round the southern coastal resort of Acapulco in recent days, local media reported on Saturday.

Environmental officials said 59 Olive Ridley sea turtles had been found dead, with some apparently killed by fishing nets.

Olive Ridley turtles, usually 2 to 2.5 feet long each, are the smallest and most abundant of the sea turtles. The Mexican Government declared the sea turtle a protected species in 1990 and fishermen are required to install devices to let turtles escape from their nets.

MNA/Xinhua

23 injured in factory explosion in central Romania

BUCHAREST, 27 July — Twenty three persons were injured on Saturday in the explosion of a sawdust drier at a wood processing factory in the city of Gheorgheni, central Romania, police said.

The explosion took place at SC Transduvana Industry in Gheorgheni and 23 workers, who were at that time in the section, were injured.

The explosion occurred in a silo where wood dust and sawdust were stored and a team of investigators are trying to find out the cause.

MNA/Xinhua

A wounded Palestinian boy lies on a trolley at Shifa hospital in Gaza City on 25 July, after being hurt in an explosion. Hamas-run security forces fanned out across Gaza City on Saturday, clashing with rival gunmen and arresting dozens of people after a bomb blast killed five senior Palestinian militants and a girl of five.

INTERNET

A modernized Soyuz-2 carrier rocket sent a Kosmos military satellite into orbit from Russia’s northern Plesetsk spaceport on Saturday, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

The rocket launched at 22:31 Moscow time (1831 GMT), a spokesman for the cosmodrome said.

The Soyuz-2 rocket was designed by the Samara-based CSKB-Progress design office for the Russian Defence Ministry and the Federal Space Agency. Comparing to the Soyuz, the vehicle can carry a heavier payload to orbits at an altitude of 200 kilometres, and the orbiting of satellites is more accurate.

Flight tests of Soyuz-2 of the 1A and 1B modernization stages are currently conducted. The rocket of the 1A modernization stage has been launched three times, with two from Plesetsk and one from Baikonur, and one rocket in the 1B stage blasted off from the southern cosmodrome.

Former Russian Space Troops Commander Vladimir Popenkov said earlier that the space troops were to conduct two launches for flight tests in 2008, and the Soyuz-2 rocket may be put into operation this year.

MNA/Xinhua
**Iran cleric says ultimatum will not help atom talks**

**Teheran, 27 July** — An influential Iranian cleric told the West on Friday an ultimatum would not help talks with Iran over its nuclear plans.

Afterwards, Western officials said Iran had two weeks to reply to the offer for Iran to return to its nuclear work in return for a halt to new steps towards more UN sanctions. Russia, among the six, has said it opposes artificial deadlines. “We have finally agreed to sit down and negotiate, then what is this about issuing a deadline and ultimatum?”

Let’s give this negotiation a chance with patience and perseverance,” former president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said in a Friday prayers sermon.

“Every time the situation (of the nuclear dispute) is about to get better, these Western hardliners and radicals begin diverting attention by various propaganda plays,” the mid-ranking cleric said in a speech broadcast live on state radio. — MNA/Reuters

**WTO asks US to lower farm subsidy ceiling further**

Geneva, 27 July — A compromise proposal to break a deadlock in talks on a global trade deal would require the United States to lower its ceiling on farm subsidies to about 14.5 billion US dollars, sources familiar with the talks said on Friday.

The United States said on Tuesday it was ready to cut its ceiling for trade-distorting farm subsidies by 15 billion US dollars a year to help unblock the World Trade Organization talks. A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the US offer still stood at 15 billion US dollars, compared to the current ceiling of 48.2 billion US dollars under WTO rules.

“We have always signalled that additional flexibility is contingent on an entire package containing additional market access,” the US official said. Under the compromise proposal, the EU would be required to lower its ceiling for trade-distorting farm subsidies by 80 per cent to 24 billion euros (37.7 billion US dollars) although that figure was within the scope of reforms already approved by the EU. — MNA/Reuters

**FDA faulted over unapproved uses of medications**

Washington, 27 July — When federal regulators catch a drug company peddling prescription medications for an unapproved use, it takes them an average of seven months to issue a warning, according to a draft report by congressional investigators.

It typically takes four more months for the company to fix the problem. During that time, a lot prescriptions can be written.

The report from the Government Accountability Office delves into a gray area of medical practice and federal oversight: the use of medications to treat conditions other than the ones the drugs were approved for, a practice known as “off-label” prescribing.

Although widely accepted, off-label prescribing can amount to an uncontrolled experiment. While some patients benefit, others get drugs that do not do them much good and end up wasting their money. Some people have been harmed by unexpected side effects.

Internet

**Air Force says officers fell asleep with nuke code**

Washington, 27 July — Three Air Force officers fell asleep while in control of an electronic component that contained old launch codes for nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles, a violation of procedure, Air Force officials said on Thursday.

The Air Force said the launch codes had been deactivated before the incident, but it was still a violation of protocol, prompting an investigation.

It is the fourth incident in the past year involving problems with secure handling of components of America’s nuclear weapons.

The incident occurred 12 July, during the changing out of components used to facilitate silos near Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota, according to Colonel Dewey Ford, a spokesman for the Air Force Space Command in Colorado.

Internet

**New space race heats up with unveiling of aircraft**

Los Angeles, 27 July — Aerospace engineers have been holed up in a Mojave Desert hangar for four years, fashioning a commercial spaceship to loft rich tourists some 62 miles above Earth.

Now the wraps come partially off the top-secret project.

British billionaire Sir Richard Branson and American aerospace designer Burt Rutan are due Monday to show off their mothership, which is designed to air launch a passenger-toting spaceship out of the atmosphere.

The rollout — a year after a deadly accident at Rutan’s test site — marks the start of a rigorous flight test programme that space tourism advocates hope will climax with the first suborbital joy rides by the end of the decade.

More than 250 wanna be astronauts have paid $200,000 or put down deposits for a chance to float weightless for mere five minutes.

“Having invested all my faith in it, I’m so excited to see the actual thing,” said artist Namira Salim, a customer who is lined up for a ride on Branson’s Virgin Galactic.
Ferguson unfazed by Ronaldo trip

LONDON, 27 July — Sir Alex Ferguson insists he has no qualms about Cristiano Ronaldo spending time in Los Angeles as he recovers from his recent ankle operation.

The Manchester United manager revealed the club have sent an employee to accompany the Portuguese winger.

"He was always scheduled to have this time off in Los Angeles. There was no harm in going there," said Ferguson.

"He’s doing some commercial things. I think he’s signed up with an LA-based company. I’ve someone there with him."

Ferguson dismissed as “a load of rubbish” reports Ronaldo has been drinking and partying excessively during his rehabilitation.

Refusing to be drawn on comparisons with David Beckham’s lifestyle, the United boss believes Ronaldo must use the extra attention he now receives to his advantage when he returns to action.

Sunderland sign France defender Chimbonda from Spurs

LONDON, 27 July — Sunderland have signed France full back Pascal Chimbonda from Tottenham Hotspur for an undisclosed fee, the Premier League club said on Saturday.

The 29-year-old former Wigan Athletic defender, who can play at right and left back and won his only French cap in a World Cup warm-up match against Denmark two years ago, has agreed a three-year contract with the North-East club.

"Pascal is one of these rare players who can play anywhere across the back line and that will be invaluable to us so naturally we’re very pleased to secure his services," Sunderland manager Roy Keane told the club’s website (www.safc.com).

Ajax agrees three-year deal with Barca’s Oleguer

AMSTERDAM, 27 July — Ajax Amsterdam have agreed a three-year deal with Barcelona defender Oleguer, the Dutch club said on its website (www.ajax.nl) on Saturday. The 28-year-old, who joined Barca from local side Gramenet in 2001 and helped them win the French Cup that year, has agreed a £1 million deal.

"Pascal is one of these rare players who can play anywhere across the back line and that will be invaluable to us so naturally we’re very pleased to secure his services," Sunderland manager Roy Keane told the club’s website (www.safc.com).

Bouma dislocates ankle as Friedel joins Villa

LONDON, 27 July — Aston Villa’s Dutch international defender Wilfried Bouma will miss the start of the Premier League season after dislocating his right ankle in Saturday’s Intertoto Cup win over OB Odense of Denmark.

The 30-year-old Bouma sustained his injury the same day as goalkeeper Brad Friedel, who has won 82 caps for United States, joined Villa from Blackburn Rovers for an undisclosed fee.

Former Liverpool keeper Friedel, 37, put pen to paper on a three-year contract, Villa said on their official website (www.avfc.co.uk).

Martin O’Neill’s side beat Odense 1-0 thanks to a second-half goal from winger Ashley Young, putting them through to the UEFA Cup second qualifying round 3-2 on aggregate, but the manager described Bouma’s injury as a major setback.

"It’s obviously a serious injury to a player who has been playing exceptionally well," O’Neill told the club’s website.

"He had a great season last year and will be missed. The injury is a big blow to us."

Villa launch their league campaign at home to Manchester City on 16 August.

Bouma also seems likely to miss the start of his country’s 2010 World Cup qualifying campaign, a trip to Macedonia in September.

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

MNA/Reuters

Tevez move to United to set British transfer record

LONDON, 27 July — Manchester United will sign Argentine Carlos Tevez for a British transfer record fee of 32 million pounds (63.52 million US dollars), according to newspaper reports on Saturday.

The 24-year-old forward, who joined United on an initial two-year loan deal from West Ham United a year ago, is expected to sign a permanent deal shortly.

According to reports, United will pay the fee to Media Sports Investment (MSI), the company that owns the Argentina international’s registration.

United’s chief executive David Gill, speaking in South Africa where the team are on tour, was quoted by newspapers as saying: "We have spoken to Carlos and see him as part of our long-term squad. “We have been pleased with his first season. He is a good age, a great player and well liked within the team. We know what we have to do and what we have to pay."

Tevez scored 19 goals in 39 appearances for United as they won the Premier League and Champions League last season.

MNA/Reuters
Mexico denies jalapeno peppers linked to US salmonell

Mexico City, 27 July — Mexico has denied Mexican-grown raw jalapeno peppers have link to the US salmonella outbreak that has sickened nearly 1,300 people, local media reported Saturday.

The denial came after the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned consumers on Friday to avoid raw jalapeno peppers, saying studies of food eaten by victims have showed the contaminated jalapeno pepper originated in Mexico. Local media quoted a government statement as saying that there is no scientific proof so far to say that the jalapeno peppers were source of the salmonella outbreak.—MNA/Xinhua

Parents of China quake victims can have 2nd child

BEIJING 27 July — Couples whose only child was killed or seriously injured in the 12 May Sichuan Province earthquake may have another, winning an exemption from China’s strict family planning rules, the China Daily said on Saturday.

The standing committee of the provincial People’s Congress passed rules on Friday setting out which couples would be allowed to have more children, the paper reported.

“Both officials and ordinary people said parents whose children died or were crippled in the quake had to be permitted to have another,” said Wang Yukun, vice-chairman of the standing committee.

More than 87,000 people were killed or are missing as a result of the 7.9-magnitude earthquake in the mountainous province in southwestern China.

Many of the dead were children because the earthquake struck during the school day and many school buildings collapsed, triggering calls by parents for investigations of allegations that official corruption had led to shoddy construction. —MNA/Reuters

Philippine Govt bans ships from leaving port due to typhoon

MANILA 27 July — The Philippine Government banned ships and boats from leaving port in the northern region of Cagayan Valley due to the threat from typhoon “Fung Wong”, locally called “Igme”, the national disaster coordinating council (NDCC) said.

“Fung Wong” brought about heavy rains to parts of northern Philippines and Metro Manila early Sunday morning. —MNA/Xinhua

Philippine Govt bans ships from leaving port due to typhoon

MNA/Reuters

Eskom shuts down second unit at nuclear plant

JOHANNESBURG, 27 July — South African state power utility Eskom said on Saturday it had shut down a second unit at its Koeberg nuclear plant but did not anticipate the move would lead to electricity cuts.

Eskom, which provides 95 per cent of the country’s power, took Koeberg’s Unit 1 generating station offline Friday after workers detected a suspected fault in the cooling system, Eskom spokesman Tony Stott said.

MNA/Reuters

Nice drive: Mexico’s Lorena Ochoa hits a drive during the Evian Masters Golf Tournament in Evian-les-Bains.

INTERNET

WEATHER

Sunday, 27 July, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been scattered in Kayah State, fairly widespread in Kachin and Shan States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and lower Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.40) inch, Mawlamyine (4.89) inches, Muadon (2.76) inches, Hpa-an (2.44) inches, Thetnizayat (2.36) inches, Patuao (2.05) inches, Thaton and Kawkareik (1.89) inches each, Kalay, Kanbalu and PyinOoLwin (1.77) inches.

Maximum temperature on 26-7-2008 was 82°F. Minimum temperature on 27-7-2008 was 71°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 27-7-2008 was 96%.

Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Northeast at (15:30) hours MST on 26-7-2008. Total sunshine hours on 26-7-2008 was (16) hours approx. Rainfall on 27-7-2008 was (1.34) inches at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.43) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (59.33) inches at Mingaladon, (66.22) inches at Kaba-Aye and (78.62) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Northeast at (35:30) hours MST on 26-7-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 28-7-2008: Rain will be fairly widespread to widespread in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Saguang, Ayeawady, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated to scattered in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas will be experienced at time off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon. Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 28-7-2008: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-7-2008: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-7-2008: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-7-2008: 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.

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

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

Health care services provided at 12 forward camps

YANGON, 27 July— Under the arrangement of Ministry of Health, doctors, nurses and health staff provided health care to storm victims at 12 forward camps in Sethsan, Kyeyingyoung, Hlinebone, Pyinsalu, Kwin Pauk, Thingangyi, Saluseik, Theikpankongyi, Poelaung, Pyinkhayine, Gadonkani and Kyonda villages in Ayeyawady Division.

So far, 471 out-patients have been treated and 10 patients in Pyinkhayine hospital and 19 patients in Gadonkani hospital undergone treatment.

Health education was given 31 times to the storm survivors. During the field trip to the villages, 333 survivors were consoled and measures were taken to supply potable water to 71 households.

Up to now, 1,194 fly-proof latrines were built at 12 forward camps in the storm-stricken villages.

Schoolchildren learning their lesson at affiliated middle school in Htiyarli Village, Mawlamyinegyun Township.— MNA

Reconstruction and rehabilitation tasks at full stretch (2)

At present, the government has provided 2455 engines. So far, local companies and wellwishers, foreign nations and organizations have not donated any engines yet.