Survivors urged to work hard for improvement of socio-economic status

Prime Minister tours two townships in Ayeyawady Division

NAY PYI TAW, 28 July—Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the director-general of the government office and departmental heads, left Yangon for 3rd mile relief camp in Labutta Township by helicopter this morning.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut who is supervising the reconstruction tasks in the township and officials.

At the camp, Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut and the ministers, the deputy ministers and officials reported on implementation of the reconstruction and rehabilitation tasks in the storm-hit areas and provision of supplies for basic needs of the victims and their living. Next, the Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements.

The Prime Minister and party went to Pyinsalu in Labutta Township by helicopter. They met officials concerned and the Prime Minister gave instructions on reconstruction tasks.

Next, region in-charge Col Myint Sein reported on allotment of land in Pyinsalu, construction of houses, accommodation, distribution of farm implements and fishing gear, construction of temporary schools and learning of students. Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported on cultivation of monsoon paddy on 66,156 acres out of 141,358.

The Prime Minister gave instructions on timely cultivation of paddy on the targeted acres, application of power tillers and supervision by the officials concerned. (See page 8)

First round of Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament continues

NAY PYI TAW, 28 July—The group round matches of Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament continued at Nay Pyi Taw football ground No. 2.

Commerce trounced Industry-2 10-0 while Transport won over Energy 3-1 in the group-H. Livestock and Fisheries & Industry-1 and Education & Electric Power No. 2 continue in the group-A tomorrow.—MNA

Weather Forecast for (29-7-2008)

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

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

Mandalay and neighbouring area: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Tuesday, 29 July, 2008**

**Strive for further development of border areas**

According to geographical condition there have been transport barriers between the inner country and border areas. In the past, border areas lagged behind in development due to transport barriers such as mountains, ravines and valleys as well as internal insurgency.

At present, the government is implementing the projects for development of border areas and national races. The national race armed groups who have returned to the legal fold and local people are striving together with the government for regional development.

More infrastructures for transport, education, health and economic sectors are being built. With the emergence of the main tarred roads as well as new roads and bridges border areas are now easily accessible, thereby contributing to growing trade and commerce.

At the same time, steps are being taken for the youths of border areas to pursue education and receive vocational training after opening of 34 vocational training schools for women while technical training schools are being opened in Sittway, Laukkai, Panhsan and Mongla for men.

Technical training schools are being opened in 34 vocational training schools for women while and receive vocational training after opening of the youths of border areas to pursue education and develop the fruits of peace and stability the relevant ministries, local work committees and sub-committees and local people are to strive for regional development. Only then, will border areas be able to see further development year by year.

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**Minister attends monsoon tree planting ceremony**

**NAY PYI TAW, 28 July**—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended a ceremony to plant monsoon trees and put fingerlings into embankments, here yesterday morning. The ceremony was organized at the minister’s office in Nay Pyi Taw, MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw Takon, Nay Pyi Taw Publishing House and Nay Pyi Taw Press at the same time yesterday.

First, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan planted a teak tree, Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing, a Padauk tree and Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Aung Nyein, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Win and Deputy Director-General of IPRD U Ye Htut, teak trees at the designated places.

Next, the minister viewed the staff planting trees and then attended a ceremony to put fingerlings into the embankment and so did the dams and 3130 trees, planted. The Ministry of Information has set a target to plant 26500 trees in 2008 and started planting trees on 21 June 2008. Trees were planted on 27 July meeting the target.

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**Developing Officer of ACC leaves for home**

**YANGON, 28 July**—Under the supervision of Myanmar Olympic Committee, jointly organized by Asian Cricket Council and Myanmar Cricket Federation the Level “O” Cricket Coaching Courses were opened with the aim of ensuring the development of the development of Myanmar Cricket sports and of the emergence of qualified cricket instructors.

The Asian Cricket Council Developing Officer Mr Aminul Islam taught 30 trainees from 16 to 18 July in Taunggyi of Shan State (South) and 30 trainees from 20 to 23 July in Yangon.

Mr Aminul Islam left for Bangladesh by air on 24 July and was seen off at the airport by President of MCF U Nyunt Win. Vice-Presidents U Kyaw Kyi and U Zaw Zaw leaves Yangon for Kuala Lumpur to attend the meeting of Asia Football Confederation marketing and fund raising committee to be held in Malaysia from 28 to 29 July.

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**President of Myanmar Cricket Federation U Nyunt Win, vice-presidents and Developing Officer seen at Yangon International Airport**

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**People’s Desire**

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy
Local Japanese protest against US nuclear vessel’s visit to Sasebo port

Tokyo, 28 July—Local Japanese staged demonstrations Monday against the US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan’s visit to Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture, said reports from the southwestern port city of Nagasaki.

Local labour organizations and other bodies rallied on some 20 fishing boats and dozens of local residents gathered on high ground to protest against the vessel’s call to the port of Sasebo, where a US Navy base is located. The carrier, with a displacement of 102,000 tons, arrived earlier Monday via South Korea to lay in supplies and give a short break to its 4,266 crew members. The vessel left its home port of San Diego, California, in May, and is scheduled to leave Sasebo at midday Friday.—Internet

Mafia boss arrested when shopping

Rome, 28 July—A leading member of one of the most notorious clans of the Naples mafia has been arrested while shopping in Rome.

Local media name the man as Adriano Graziano, known as “The Teacher”, who was detained without a fight as he left a designer clothes store.

Mr Graziano, of the clan of the same name, escaped capture in May when police arrested 23 alleged members.

The Grazianos are known for a bloody war against the Cava clan of the Naples mafia, also known as the Camorra.

Investigators say Mr Graziano gave the orders for an ambush which killed the mother and sister in law of the rival clan chief in 2002.—Internet

Bombs, female suicide attackers kill 57 in Baghdad

Baghdad, 28 July — Suicide bombers struck a Shi’ite pilgrimage in Baghdad and a Kurdish rally in northern Iraq on Monday, killing at least 57 people and wounding nearly 300, police said.

Three female suicide bombers blew their explosive vests in the middle of pilgrims in Baghdad, moments after a roadside bomb attack, killing at least 32 people and wounding 102, Iraqi officials said.

In the oil-rich northern city of Kirkuk, 25 people were killed and 185 wounded when a blast tore through a crowd of Kurds protesting a provincial elections law, officials said.

The attacks were a devastating blow to the Iraqi public’s growing confidence in recent security gains that have seen violence in Iraq drop to its lowest levels in more than four years.

The attacks took place in the mainly Shi’ite Karrada district, which is several miles away from the destination of the pilgrimage in Kazimiyyah in northern Baghdad.

Most of the dead were women and children, police and health officials said.—Internet

25 July—About 100 militants raided a government centre Sunday near the border with Pakistan, and more than two dozen of the attackers were killed in the battle, authorities said. Two policemen also died.

The militants attacked the police guarding the district centre from four directions before being pushed back.

More than 50 militants died, policemen also died. The militants attacked the district centre from four directions before being pushed back.

Dozens of militants die in Afghan fight

Kabul, 28 July—About 100 militants raided a government centre Sunday near the border with Pakistan, and more than two dozen of the attackers were killed in the battle, authorities said. Two policemen also died.

The militants attacked the police guarding the district centre from four directions before being pushed back.

More than 50 militants died, while the rest fled into Pakistan, he said. Two policemen died and four were wounded. Sepa-rately, several militants were killed and four were detained during an operation in neighbouring Paktia province on Saturday, the US-led coalition said.

Afghanistan faces intensifying militancy, the Taliban from power.

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Palestinians call on Israel to rethink water deal

West Bank, 28 July—West Bank Palestinians are suffering a serious water shortage this year as a severe drought exacerbates supply problems, the head of the Palestinian Water Authority said Sunday.

Shadad Ateti said since mid-May, many Palestinians have been going without water for hours, and sometimes days at a time as a regional drought enters its fifth year. He called on Israel, which controls some 90 percent of water sources in the West Bank to rethink its water policies.

"Water shouldn't be a part of the conflict. It should be divided according to human needs equally," Ateti said.

Uri Shani, spokesman for Israel's Water Authority, says Palestinians are receiving more water than their agreed share under an interim peace deal. The drought has affected Israel as well, with fresh water supplies below their acceptable minimum, but there have been no cases of community water supplies being cut off.

A recent report by Israeli human rights group B'Tselem described water distribution as "unfair" and called on Israel to rectify the "built-in, constant shortage of water in the West Bank."

In the city of Nablus, residents report only receiving running water once a week. In the nearby village of Salem, there hasn't been running water for months and a nearby well is going dry.

Residents there say they pay for expensive water brought in by tanker truck.

Obama to turn campaign focus back to troubled economy

Washington, 28 July—Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama will convene an economic advisory board on Monday as he shifts his campaign focus from foreign policy to high gas prices to the faltering US economy.

Hitting the campaign trail again after a weeklong foreign trip, Obama travels to Washington to meet with a star-studded panel that includes billionaire investor Warren Buffett, former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker and Google chairman Eric Schmidt.

Polls show economic worries lead voter concerns by a wide margin.

After a week out of the country meeting world leaders and discussing foreign policy, Obama said he is anxious to shift gears to high gas prices, home foreclosures and bank failures.

Obama has accused McCain of clinging too closely to Bush's economic approach. Polls show a majority of voters prefer the leadership of Obama and Democrats on the economy.

Typhoon Fung Wong gains strength as it heads to east China coast

Fuzhou, 28 July—Typhoon Fung Wong, which was lashing Taipei on Monday morning, continued to strengthen as it headed toward the China coast, according to the observatory of southeastern Fujian Province.

The weather service forecast the storm would make landfall near Xiamen City in the province before midnight.

The observatory in eastern Zhejiang Province said the typhoon would sweep across the Taiwan Strait on Monday and make landfall between Xiapu and Jinjiang counties, Fujian at midnight, packing Force-14 winds at 42 metres per second.

Fujian authorities had evacuated 274,300 people and called back about 52,300 fishing boats as of 6 pm on Sunday.

Disaster relief personnel were sent to help those on fishing vessels get ashore, said Yang Zhiying, head of the flood control headquarters in Fujian.

Fung Wong, the eighth tropical storm to hit China's coast, would be the strongest of this year. It would strike along China's eastern and southern regions with heavy rain and strong winds, according to observatories in Fujian, Guangdong, Zhejiang and Jiangxi provinces.

The provinces issued orange alerts, or the second highest for bad weather.

A woman kisses her child as they make their way through the flooded village of Godalhar in Faridpur on 27 July, 2008. Several areas in north and northeastern Bangladesh remain inundated with floodwaters after the embankments of the rivers Jamuna and Padma collapsed due to heavy rainfall earlier this week.

Tensions surge after Gaza bombings

Gaza City, 28 July—Hamas and Fatah carried out tit-for-tat arrests on Sunday after deadly Gaza bomb attacks fuelled tension between the Palestinian factions.

In the West Bank, security forces loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas detained 20 Hamas activists in the city of Jenin. They netted 15 more in similar raids in Tulkarm.

A security official in Jenin said the Hamas detainees would be interrogated about arms caches and militant activities.

The arrests followed a crackdown in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, where Fatah officials said their Islamist rivals had rounded up nearly 200 Fatah men after one of three bomb blasts killed five Hamas militants and a girl on Friday.

Seven killed in attack in Iraq

Baghdad, 28 July—Seven Shiite pilgrims were gunned down Sunday in a town south of Baghdad, an Interior Ministry official said.

The attack occurred at 3 pm in Salman Pak when the pilgrims were walking to Kadhimiya in northwestern Baghdad to commemorate the death of revered figure Imam Moussa al-Kadhim, the official said.

Blindfolded Iraqis who were arrested by security forces during a raid are seen at the Iraqi police headquarters in Samarra, 100 km (62 miles) north of Baghdad on 27 July, 2008.
Beijing uses high-tech to prevent rain from dampening Olympic opening

BEIJING, 28 July—Beijing has mobilized all its science and engineering capability, including satellite monitoring and cloud seeding, to prevent rain from spoiling the extensively expected Olympic opening ceremony on 8 Aug as historical data indicate a 41 per-cent precipitation chance on that date.

The Beijing weather engineering office, under the Beijing Municipal Meteorological Bureau, takes the lead in the Olympic weather modification project.

The office doesn’t bother to change a lot. It is asked to prevent rain from falling during the three and half hours—from 8:08 pm to around 11:30 pm—onto the Bird’s Nest, the open-air National Stadium which will accommodate the opening ceremony.

A technology developed by American scientists, cloud seeding is achieved by shooting shells or rockets containing silver iodide particles into clouds.

The icy particles freeze drops in the clouds, make the drops continue growing and eventually fall out of the clouds.

The weather engineering office is weaving a defensive web from adjacent provinces to the Beijing suburbs.

Twenty-six control stations have been deployed to fend off clouds or delay their movement.

The office hires 32,000 people, and recruits light aircraft, rockets and shells to spread silver iodide crystals or dry ice in clouds 50 km upwind of Beijing.

New microwave oven material heats faster, saves energy

BEIJING, 28 July—Inventors of a new material to be used in microwaves say it heats food and beverages more quickly and saves energy.

A microwave oven bombards food with microwaves, which are absorbed by certain molecules, including water, fats and sugars.

The microwaves, powerful enough to kill viruses and bacteria, vibrate those molecules, heating the food.

"Conventional coffee cups are made from ceramic compositions which do not absorb microwaves and hence they do not heat up," explained Sridhar Komarneni, a professor of clay mineralogy at Pennsylvania State University. "When conventional ceramics are used for heating food, only food heats up and then the hot food heats up the ceramic."

Komarneni and colleagues in Japan made plates from a mix of 20 percent magnetite and 80 percent of a naturally occurring petalite mineral containing lithium, aluminum and silicon oxides. The new ceramic interacts with the microwaves and heats up, and "the microwaves heat up the container and hence the food," Komarneni told LiveScience. "Rice cooks in about half or less time."—Internet

Ecuador, Venezuela to set up joint venture to raise oil output

QUITO, 28 July—Ecuador and Venezuela will make joint efforts to increase the output of the Sacha oil field from 40,000 barrels to 70,000 barrels per day, Ecuador’s state oil company Petroecuador said Sunday. The two countries will sign a 25-year contract to form a joint venture company titled “Rio Napo” with the aim to “optimize” the management of Sacha, said Jose Ziritt, representative of Ecuadoran President Rafael Correa.

Internet

Death toll in Guatemalan garbage slide rises to 11

MEXICO CITY, 28 July—Ecuadoran rescuers found on Sunday another three corpses from the site of a garbage avalanche in southern Guatemala City, bringing the death toll from the mishap to a total of 11 so far, authorities said.

According to reports reaching here from Guatemala City, the three were identified as among the 10 missing.

Authorities earlier reported six dead, ten missing, and 12 rescued at the garbage dump, where inundating rains caused an avalanche of tons of garbage on Friday.

Mario Cruz, spokesman of the Volunteer Firemen, told the Press that the victims were foraging for valuables on the dump when the accident happened.

The garbage dump where the collapse took place is known as Sanitario Filler, the main dump in southern Guatemalan City.

A similar tragedy here a month ago killed eight people.

Internet

Ancient fish provides clues for future body armour

BEIJING, 28 July—A suit of armour first worn by an African fish almost 100 million years ago to withstand ancient carnivores is today providing clues to engineers designing body armour for soldiers of the future.

The armour of the fish, Polypterus senegalus, is so effective because it is a composite of several materials lined up in a certain way, the engineers state in a their analysis detailed in the 27 July issue of the journal Nature Materials.

Such fundamental knowledge holds great potential for the development of improved biologically inspired structural materials,” said lead MIT researcher Christine Ortiz, “for example soldier, first-responder and military vehicle armour applications.”

The fish’s shield would’ve been particularly critical in the past, when it had to fight off members of its own species along with the likes of typical predators, such as giant sea scorpions with biting mouth parts, grasping jaws, claws and spiked tails.

Today, though the armour may be overkill, it protects the fish from its own species and other carnivores in the water.
People’s goal must be brought to fruition

Kaytu Nilar

Under the historical requirements of Myanmar, everyone has to play a role in pursuance of the goal of building a democratic nation in consistence with State Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar that has been adopted with the approval of national people. That is a national duty which has come into existence in accordance with the democracy rights of the people.

The government, the people and the Tatmadaw are working in harmony to realize the goal. With the strength of national unity, they will wipe out all forms of disruptions caused by internal and external saboteurs. Doing so is ‘warding off the national danger under the national duty’, not deprivation of democracy rights.

Destructive elements at home and abroad, claiming themselves as democracy activists have been resorting to all possible means to disrupt democracy transition processes. The government has to take action against those who are hatching plots to commit subversive acts and those who are committing subversive acts. But that is not deprivation of democracy rights, either. The purpose is to ensure that the democracy transition processes are going smooth without hindrance.

To make it clear, Section (442) of Chapter (XIV) “Transitory Provisions” of State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar says, “The State Peace and Development Council shall continue to exercise State sovereignty, before this Constitution comes into force.” And Section (443) says, “The work done by the State Peace and Development Council to bring the Constitution into force shall be deemed to have been carried out in accordance with this Constitution.”

In other words, the government is given mandate to, on behalf of the people, kick out any disruptions to the goal of transition to democracy on the path paved by the people.

The government’s taking measures to ensure smooth transition to democracy without disruptions is neither deprivation of democracy rights nor suppression.

To be frank, subversive elements inside and outside the nation are lackeys of the neo-colonialists. In serving the interests of neo-colonialists, they are never worried that their motherland and the people may come under alien subjugation, and the whole nation may be ablaze with conflicts and may be reduced to ashes due to their acts to get funds and brokerage fees.

So, they have used ways and means to hinder nation-building tasks, taking advantage of political and economic sanctions imposed against the nation by neo-colonialists. In consequence, there has been a deceleration in building economic infrastructures and carrying out processes for transition to democracy. More than 60,000 female workers from garment factories lost their jobs, thus affecting the living conditions of more than 100,000 family members. Terrorist acts cost lives and limbs of a large number of innocent civilians. So, it has become very clear to everyone what the destructive acts have resulted in—a contribution towards democracy transition or a devastating blow to the nation and the people.

With the intention of disrupting the steps for transition to democracy, the subversive elements tried to decelerate the National Convention, a constituent assembly that was held in line with the desire of the entire people. However, the National Convention was successfully completed and fundamental principles and detailed basic principles to be included in the State constitution were adopted.

Then, the State constitution was adopted in accordance with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles. The government took measures for approval of the constitution through a referendum. The destructionists attempted to disrupt the referendum and persuaded the people to vote ‘no’. Nevertheless, 92.48 per cent of more than 27 million eligible voters approved the constitution by casting ‘yes’ vote for the constitution (draft).

The constitution adopted with the approval of the people is the path the people have chosen and paved for building a democratic nation. Now, neo-colonialists are conspiring with their lackeys to throw the democracy processes into disorder.

Actually, the public approval of the constitution (2008) means the people are opposing and abhorring the internal and external destructive elements. It also amounts to supporting the government. So, those anti-national elements have reached the situation in which their future looks dim as they are politically attacked by the people.

At last, they came to demand to call a Hluttaw (parliament) sticking to the 1990 election results. They said they could not accept the public approval of the constitution (2008) and it was illegal. They are also dissuading the governments of other countries and the UN from recognizing the approved constitution. It is shameful, indeed.

(See page 7)
Likewise, gem thief Pyithit Nyunt Wai (a) Maung Maung and cohort expatriates say that they do not recognize the Myanmar government as a member government of the United Nations. Some politicians of the West bloc and some follower groups of the neo-colonialists in the name of social organizations are demanding that the UN is not to recognize the constitution (2008) and accusing that the election to be held by the military regime will not be fair.

Just recently, Pu Kyint Shin Htan, U Thein Pe, Dr Myint Naing, U Nyi Pu and Dr Tin Min Htut of CRPP unreasonably sent an open letter to the UN Secretary-General. As usual, the letter attacked the seven-step Road Map saying that the constitution is illegal and demanding holding of talks with anti-government groups including NLD within a timeframe. In sync with them, a lackey group led by Khun Myint Tun in the name of Hluttaw representatives promptly issued an announcement supporting the letter sent to the UNSG. However, the general public do not accept their repeated announcements full of lies and slanders.

The State constitution (2008) has not been prescribed by force. The government let the people express their wishes freely to approve the constitution in accord with the referendum law, rules and regulations. It was not quite impossible to get the 92.48 percent approval even if the government used force in the referendum. Trying to stick to the 1990 election results is utterly contrary to Myanmar’s prevailing objective conditions and it is not possible at all.

In respect of the sovereignty of a nation, no international organization nor government has the right to interfere in the approval of the constitution that has been drawn in conformity with the nation’s prevailing conditions. It is the code of ethics included in the UN Charter which is to be respected by every member nation. Moreover, it is utter shame that slanderous accusations are being made to demand that the Myanmar government is not to be recognized as a member government of the UN. The successive governments of Myanmar have always followed and respected the codes of ethics as a UN member nation. In addition, Myanmar has been actively participating in the UN-led efforts for promotion of political, economic, science and technological, education and health affairs. Myanmar has had no history of encroaching upon any sovereign nation. Myanmar political, economic and military situations have never constituted a threat to the stability of the international community, the neighbours and the region. Myanmar has been a dutiful member nation of the UN without records of violating any codes of ethics.

Put it simply, the neo-colonialist nations and their followers are trying to use the UN as a tool in meddling the internal affairs of small developing nations. They try to put pressure on small UN member nations. They persuade those small nations with incentives. But the small nations including Myanmar are able to stay calm just because some member nations who are in total disagreement with the persuaders have stood by them.

Overall, the Myanmar people have approved the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in order to shape a genuine discipline-flourishing democratic nation with peace and stability of the State. It is the way the people have chosen of their own accord. They have held the belief that their goal of democracy will surely be achieved soon.

Translation: MS+ST

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

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint receives Italian Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Dr Giuseppe Cinti. — MNA

Health Minister receives Italian Ambassador

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 July—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint received Italian Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Dr Giuseppe Cinti at the ministry here this morning.

The Italian Ambassador discussed matters relating to the donation of medicines and medical equipment to the hospitals under the ministry and exchange of technologies through mutual visit of medical experts between the two countries.

The minister welcomed the exchange of views on medical science between the two nations and thanked for the wish to donate medicines and medical equipment to the hospitals under the ministry.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe, Directors-General and personnel of departments under the ministry. — MNA

More international relief aids arrive

Yangon, 28 July—International relief aids are continuously flowing to storm-affected regions. A plane from Thailand-Based WFP carrying 21,662 tons of relief supplies arrived at Yangon International Airport today.

MNA
Survivors urged to work hard for improvement...

(from page 1)

The Prime Minister and party inspected construction of houses by Max Myanmar and accommodation of the storm victims. In meeting with the victims, the Prime Minister said houses have been built for the victims with the assistance of the government and cooperation of the wellwishers and national entrepreneurs. Arrangements also have been made for survivors to resume their businesses, he said. He urged them to work hard for improvement of their quality of life.

The Prime Minister and party met members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association from Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions and Shan State (East). The Prime Minister and party left Pyinsalu for Labutta Township by helicopter at 10.45 am.

At Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Labutta Township, Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe reported on arrangements for cultivation of monsoon paddy in the Ayeyawady Division including the seven storm-hit townships as targeted, cultivation of paddy that boosts production and production of paddy in the years to come.

Chairman of NDPCC Prime Minister General Thein Sein meeting with the storm victims of Pyinsalu in Labutta Township.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence reported on conditions regarding completion of ploughing in some townships.

Next, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein reported on provision of fishing boats and nets and Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe on supply of relief items.

The Prime Minister and party went to Hlaingphone Village in Mawlamyinegyun Township.

They inspected reconstruction of Basic Education High School (Branch) in the village.

The Prime Minister met officials in the township and members of USDA from Shan State (North), Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions and gave instructions on reconstruction of the village.

The Prime Minister and party inspected construction of houses for the storm victims by Original Group Company.

The Prime Minister cordially greeted the victims and gave necessary instructions.

They arrived back to Yangon in the afternoon.

Cash donation for storm victims

YANGON, 28 July — Chairman of Financial Subcommittee Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe accepted cash presented by donors at the Central Bank of Myanmar (Yangon branch office) in Yankin Township here today.

At the donation ceremony, U San Kyi-Daw Hline Hline Oo (Ngwesandar boarding school) and U Kyaw Aye Lwin-Daw Thida Htay donated K 600,000 each for a house, Mr Chanin Sangkaturnvong in Bangkok, Thailand, K 178,570, DKBA in Myaingyingu Special Region K 3 million for five houses and donors through Myanmar Embassy in Beijing, China euro 468030.18 to storm victims.

Today’s donation for storm victims totalled K 4378570 and euro 468030.18.
**Sermons to be delivered at Botataung Kyaikdeup Pagoda**

**YANGON, 28 July**—
Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Maha-withaddhayon Pali Tekkatho Kyawngtaik of Bahan Township Tipitakadahara Dhammacakka Maha Bhaddanta Bhaddanta and his Sangha will deliver sermons to members of the Sangha.

It was attended by Vice-President of MWAFA Daw Khin Thet Htay, heads of departments and members of WAO. The congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nannasami. Next, members of the Sangha recited parittas. V.P. Daw Khin Thet Htay, Dr. Daw Khin San Ngwe of the Administration Department, Head of Financial Department Daw Aye Aye and members donated K 300,000 and Waso robes, robes for nun and nuns. After the donation, they shared merits for donations and offered a day meal to members of the Sangha.

**MWAF Financial Department offers Waso robes**

**NAY PYI TAW, 28 July**—The financial department of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation conducted a Waso robe offering ceremony at Dhammacakka Patipatta Parittas Yekhiin Yankin Township today.

It was attended by Vice-President of MWAF Daw Khin Thet Htay, heads of departments and members of WAO. The congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nannasami. Next, members of the Sangha recited parittas. V.P. Daw Khin Thet Htay, Dr. Daw Khin San Ngwe of the Administration Department, Head of Financial Department Daw Aye Aye and members donated K 300,000 and Waso robes, robes for nun and nuns. After the donation, they shared merits for donations and offered a day meal to members of the Sangha.

**Inter-State and Division Table Tennis Tournament 2008 held**

**YANGON, 28 July**—
The 21st Inter-State and Division Table Tennis Tournament 2008 jointly organized by Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Table Tennis Federation was opened at the Aung San Stadium here this morning.

Inter-State Table Tennis Tournament 2008 held jointly by Myanmar Table Tennis Federation and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Table Tennis Federation was opened at the Aung San Stadium here this morning. On behalf of the Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee, Director-General of SPED U Thaung Htaik accepted K 1 million donated by U Kyaw Sein (MD of Jewellery Luck Co Ltd and Olympic Hotel) and K 1 million by U Aung Khine Moe (Kangyimaung Video Production), Chairman of MTTF.

Altogether 16 men teams and 8 women teams are participating in the tournament which runs up to 3 August.

**Contributions to storm victims**

**YANGON, 28 July**—Wellwishers, from abroad or at home, who want to make any contribution, cash or kind, to the storm survivors may contact the following places.

Cash donation can be sent to Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue at No. 16-A on Sathmau Road in Yankin Township, Ph-09-8600109; Vice-President U Maung Maung Win of the Central Bank of Myanmar, Ph-09-8600102, Director U Maung Maung, Ph-01-543757, and Deputy Director U Kyaw Win Tin, Ph-01-543765.

Donation in kind may be made to Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ph-09-8600026; Fire Services Department (Headquarters), Mayangon Township, near Tooth Relic Pagoda, U Than Oo (Director-General, Relief and Resettlement Department), Trade Warehouse, 3 Ward, Mayangon Township, near Kyaukwaing Pagoda, Ph-09-8600025, 09-8600526 and 09-8600701, and U Aung Tun Khaing (Deputy Director-General, Social Welfare Department), Ph-09-8600702 and 09-8601003.

**Measures taken to fight dengue in villages in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Tsp**

**YANGON, 28 July**—A medical team carried out preventive measures against dengue fever in dengue-hit villages Nay in Taungnyo Station on 26 July.

The team comprising an assistant director of the Health Department under the Ministry of Health, doctors and staff of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township Hospital went to four villages in Taungnyo Station and fumigated houses, destroyed larvae in tanks and removed still waters. They also fumigated schools and monastic education schools in Taungnyo Station. Moreover, they gave educative talks on the dengue fever to the residents.
Global eco shocks may throw 16 mln people into poverty

New York, 28 July—Top United Nations experts on Latin America and the Caribbean have warned that global economic shocks could throw some 16 million people of the Americas into extreme poverty, threatening important gains toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the region. Concluding a two-day meeting at the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the regional directors of 13 UN agencies promised joint action to ensure continued progress on the MDGs in the Americas over the next two years. MDGs aim at sharply reducing or eliminating several social and economic ills by 2015. They were set by the world leaders at the Millennium summit at the United Nations.

“Latin America and the Caribbean have made real advances toward fulfilling the MDGs, particularly in areas like infant mortality, hunger and poverty reduction,” said PAHO Director Mirta Roses Periago.

“But not all groups have benefited equally, and the new global developments are a real threat to our progress. We need to mobilize and coordinate development action among UN agencies and the region’s governments to continue to fight poverty and promote sustainable and equitable development,” Periago said.

Polling starts nationwide for 4th election of Cambodia

KANDAC (Cambodia), 28 July—Polling started nationwide Sunday at 7:00 am local time (0000 GMT) in Cambodia for its forth general election and it will last until 3:00 pm local time (0800 GMT), according to the schedule of the National Election Committee (NEC).

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and his wife cast their votes at the polling station in the provincial Teacher Training Centre near his residence in Takmhao town of Kandal Province.

Freed US hostage was Chad rebels’ “guest of honour”

N’DJAMENA, 28 July—Freed US missionary Steven Godbold expressed relief to be on his way home on Saturday but said Chadian rebels had treated him as “guest of honour” during his nine months as a hostage deep in the Sahara. Godbold, 49, was captured in October as a suspected spy by rebels in the remote, mountainous north of Chad while helping a local organization transport equipment to drill water wells. He was freed late on Thursday to local officials in northern Chad and formally handed over to the US ambassador by the Chadian Government in the capital N’Djama on Saturday.

“My main feeling is relief at being released. I am very happy,” Godbold said. “I am very happy with everything the Chadian Government has done to obtain my release, and the way they have worked with rebel groups to achieve that.”

Macedonian Parliament approves new government

TIRANA, 28 July—Macedonian Parliament approved on Saturday a new government proposed by the Prime Minister elect Nikola Gruevski, news reaching here from Skopje reported.

The new government was voted in by 78 votes in the 120-seat Parliament which was boycotted by opposition parties.

Gruevski submitted a five-point programme of the new government to the Parliament: to achieve annual economic growth of at least 6 per cent, join the EU and NATO, fight crime and corruption, boost living standard and offer better education to all its citizens.

In Macedonia’s 1 June early general polls, Gruevski’s VMRO-DPMNE won a landslide victory with 63 seats. Gruevski chose the Democratic Union for Integration, an ethnic Albanian party who won most seats among two main Albanian political parties for co-governing.

China’s trade with ASEAN members continues to go up

BEIJING, 28 July—China’s trade with ASEAN members amounted to 95.5 billion US dollars in the first five months of this year, a growth of 26.9 per cent over the same period of last year, the General Administration of Customs said on Sunday.

The total included 50.27 billion US dollars in import value, up 22.3 per cent, and 45.28 billion US dollars in export value, up 32.6 per cent.

Trade deficit went down 1.96 billion US dollars, or 28.2 per cent, to 4.99 billion US dollars.

Trade deficit was mainly recorded in the new- and high-tech sector, which stood at 11.8 billion US dollars in such products, up 4.7 per cent.

The five months saw an import of 25.01 billion US dollars worth of new- and high-tech products from ASEAN members, up 16.7 per cent, and an export of 13.21 billion dollars worth, up 30 per cent.

China’s top five trade partners in ASEAN were Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and Philippines. The five accounted for 84.84 billion US dollars, or 88.8 per cent, of the total China-ASEAN trade volume. Most trade fell in the sectors of machinery and electronics. From January to May, the value of machines and electronics traded between China and ASEAN members increased by 27.4 per cent to 54.7 billion US dollars, or 57.2 per cent of the total.

MNA/Xinhua

Performers wear costumes depicting ancient Olympic themes at a rehearsal of a show featuring the mascots in Beijing on 25 July, 2008. The show is one of the Olympic themed cultural activities and will be performed in the Olympic Green.—INTERNET

Children enjoy tasting a 100-kilogramme (220 pounds) ice cream parfait during an opening ceremony of a summer festival in Yokohama near Tokyo, Japan, on 25 July, 2008.—INTERNET

A man rides a bike on a flooded street in the Ivano-Frankisk region, Ukraine on 27 July, 2008. Floods described by a senior government official as the worst in a century have killed 13 people in western Ukraine and four in neighbouring Romania, officials said on Sunday.—INTERNET
Nepali President calls for National Unity

KATHMANDU, 28 July— Nepali President Ram Baran Yadav called for national unity in his first address to the nation on Sunday evening.

“We are first of all Nepalis irrespective of which caste, creed or region we belong to,” said Yadav, the first president of Republic of Nepal, the youngest republic of the world.

Nepal was declared a federal, democratic republic at the first meeting of Constituent Assembly (CA) on 28 May. President Yadav took oath on 23 July.

In his first address to the nation at presidential residence Shital Niwas in the Nepali capital Kathmandu, Yadav called for national unity and solidarity to maintain communal and ethnic harmony. Yadav said he would remain committed to the principles of ethnic and communal harmony and national integrity.

The President said that he will extend complete support and play a coordinating role in the drafting of a new Constitution in stipulated time and bringing the peace process to fruition. The Interim Constitution stipulated that the tenure of the CA is two years.

“Respectable Nepali brothers and sisters, right now we are preparing to sketch the fate of Nepal and the Nepali people, and we have a big challenge of drafting a new Constitution within in next two years. It is the need of the hour for all the political parties representing the Constituent Assembly (CA) and the Nepali people to collectively move forward,” Yadav said. “Only the Constitution written by ourselves will draw an illuminating fortune,” he added.

In the televised address, Yadav also emphasized the need for scientific restructuring of the state in order to build economically and socially vibrant “New Nepal”. — MNA/Xinhua

Bombs kill 16 in a crowded Istanbul neighbourhood

ISTANBUL, 28 July — Two bombs exploded within minutes of each other late Sunday in a crowded pedestrian area of Istanbul, killing at least 16 people and wounding more than 150 in what the city’s governor called a terrorist attack.

The double bombing appeared to be the worst case of terrorist violence in Turkey in nearly five years and seemed to take the Turkish authorities by surprise. There were no immediate claims of responsibility, although Kurdish separatist militants were initially suspected.

Police forensic experts examine after an explosion in Istanbul, Turkey, late on 27 July, 2008. — Xinhua

Residents in buildings near the explosion sites hung Turkish flags from their windows and balconies in reaction to rumours that the separatists were responsible.

There was no obvious property damage in the area, although some windows were damaged. —Thus, at least 16 bodies exploded in the Indian city of Ahmedabad in Gujarat state on Saturday, killing at least 45 people and wounding 161, a day after another set of blasts in Bangalore killed a woman.

Two more unexploited bombs were found in the city of Surat on Sunday, one of the world’s biggest diamond-polishing centres, located in Gujarat state, police said. It is unusual for any group to claim responsibility, but India says it suspects militant groups from Pakistan and Bangladesh are behind a wave of bombings in recent years, with targets ranging from mosques and Hindu temples to trains.

India on alert after two days of bombings kill 46

NEW DELHI (India), 28 July— India’s major cities were put on high alert on Sunday, with fears of more attacks after at least 46 people were killed in two days of bombings that hit a communally sensitive western city and a southern IT hub.

Two more unexploited bombs were found in the city of Surat on Sunday, killing at least 45 people and wounding 161, a day after another set of blasts in Bangalore killed a woman.

Iran seeks NAM’s support of membership at UNSC

THEHAN, 28 July— Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki Sunday called on the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) member states to support Iran’s non-permanent membership at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the official IRNA news agency reported.

“Iran has been nominated for the non-permanent membership of the UNSC for the term 2009-2010, the elections of which will be held in New York very soon,” Mottaki said on the opening day of the 15th expert meeting of the NAM in Teheran.

The NAM, founded in April 1955 with 118 members as of 2007, is an international organization of states considering themselves not formally aligned with any major power bloc.

WTO talks boosted by banana row progress

GENEVA, 28 July— Talks to resolve a global trade deal got another boost on Sunday with progress towards settling a row over bananas and other long-standing disputes, but concerns grew about China’s openness to imports.

“There is very substantial progress on bananas” said Peter Power, a spokesman for EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson after a seventh day of painstaking negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO).
Gas cylinder explosion kills two, injures eight in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 28 July—Two people were killed and eight others injured in a gas cylinder explosion at a factory in Bangladesh’s Chittagong District, 242 kilometres southeast of capital Dhaka, Saturday. Police were quoted by private news agency UNB as saying the gas cylinder exploded with a big bang at the factory where cylinders are filled up with oxygen gas at about 11 am, killing one person on the spot while another died on the way to hospital.

The injured people were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. The tin-shed roof of the factory was blown away in the explosion. Police recovered the body of the victims and a case was filed.

The latest finding suggests in healthy people.

Researchers at the University of Kansas studied the Kansas Medical Centre in 56 healthy adults and those over the age of 60. The researchers measured cardiovascular fitness based on treadmill tests that measured oxygen consumption.

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Did global cooling lead to marine life biodiversity?

**BEIJING, 28 July** — An explosion in marine biodiversity that happened 460 million years ago could be the result of global climate change, according to researchers.

Scientists from the INSU-CNRS Laboratoire Paleoenvironnement et Paleobiosphère (CNRS) Université Claude Bernard Lyon and Australian National University in Canberra have found evidence of a progressive ocean cooling of about 15°C over a period of 40 million years during the Ordovician, a geologic period extending from 490 to 440 million years ago.

Until now, this geologic period had been associated with a “super greenhouse effect” on our planet. The results from this study were published in the July 25, 2008 issue of Science.

The researchers found that marine water at the beginning of the Ordovician (480 million years ago) was very warm (around 45°C), too warm for complex living organisms to develop. The temperature measurements were obtained from fossils of primitive eels called conodonts, whose geologic age was known by the researchers.

They analyzed a mineral found in these eels’ skeleton for changes in the ratio of two oxygen isotopes, which is dependent on the temperature of the ocean water in which the animals lived.

The early Ordovician was a time when our planet’s atmosphere was still very rich in CO2, causing a strong greenhouse effect and therefore very high ocean temperatures.

Children play in the surf as a New York City Police Department boat sits anchored off Coney Island near 23th Street in Brooklyn, New York, on 27 July, 2008. The police were searching for a ten-year-old girl who went missing on 26 July, 2008. 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.  

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**New Whitney Houston song leaked on Internet**

**BEIJING, 28 July**— Whitney Houston says it all in a new track making the rounds online.

“I want you to love me like I never left,” the legendary songbird trills in one verse from the three-minute, 39-second cut, Houston coos, “Yes, your girl is coming back.” What is expected to release her new-and much anticipated-album this coming fall.

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**Exploding Milky Way star undetected for 4 months**

**BEIJING, 28 July**— An exploding star in the Milky Way that somehow went undetected was recently discovered by an orbiting X-ray observatory although calculations show the star’s sudden brightness was clearly visible to the naked eye.

On 9 Oct, 2007, the European Space Agency’s XMM-Newton was turning from one target to another when it passed across a bright source of X-rays that no one was expecting. The source was not listed in any previous X-ray catalog, yet the mysterious object was lighting up XMM-Newton’s view of the cosmos.

The XMM-Newton team looked up three possible celestial candidates as at this location, including a normally faint star known only by its catalog number USNO-A2.0 0450-03360039. Acting quickly, Andy Read of the University of Leicester and Richard Saxton of ESA’s European Space Astronomy Centre (ESAC), Spain, e-mailed other astronomers about the newly-discovered X-ray source. Astronomers turned to the 6.5-metre Magellan-Clay telescope at Las Campanas Observatory in Chile, and found that USNO-A2.0 0450-03360039 had become 600 times brighter than normal.

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**China reports half of world’s new liver cancer cases**

**BEIJING, 28 July**— China has 350,000 new liver cancer patients every year, according to the Chinese College of Surgeons.

The deadly disease claims about 320,000 lives in the country each year, making it the third most common and second most deadly type of cancer, said Leng, who is also the director of Department of Hepatobiliary Surgery at Peking University People’s Hospital.

Surgery and liver transplants can offer a cure at the early stages, but most cases are only detected in the intermediate or terminal stages, when life expectancy falls to four to six months on average, Leng said.

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**Metallic molecules play role in curing cancer**

**BEIJING, 28 July**— A collaboration between chemists and biologists has made it possible to identify the effects of a new class of molecules primarily composed of metals and oxygen that are powerful inhibitors of an enzyme that is overactive in a number of cancers.

Polyoxometalates are anionic inorganic metal oxide structures that have valuable catalytic properties. They inhibit protein kinase, CK2, an enzyme that is instrumental in controlling cell proliferation and survival, making it an important target in the search for new medications. These results have just been published in the journal Chemistry and Biology by chemists from the Institut de chimie moléculaire (CNRS/UPMC) and biologists from the Institut de recherche en technologies et sciences pour le vivant (iRTSV, CEA de Grenoble/CNRS/Inserm).

Phosphorylation enzymes called protein kinases can attach a phosphate group to proteins that may be inactive enzymes.

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**Zebras gather at a leaky tube carrying water that has been condensed and that will be injected back into geothermal wells near the Olkaria geothermal plant inside the Hells Gate national park located near the central Kenyan town of Naivasha in June 2008.**
Fergie in fresh Blatter blast

Red Devils boss says FIFA president’s remarks were ‘unfortunate’

LONDON, 28 July—Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson believes FIFA president Sepp Blatter’s slavery remarks regarding Cristiano Ronaldo were ‘unfortunate’. Blatter claimed clubs that held players against their will amounted to modern day slavery, after commenting on the Red Devils’ refusal to allow Ronaldo his ‘dream’ move to Real Madrid.

Ferguson, speaking ahead of Sunday’s 2-1 pre-season victory over Portsmouth in Nigeria, feels Blatter’s remarks were needless and has even hinted he may be regretting involving himself in the issue.

Ronaldo only put pen-to-paper on a fresh five-year contract with United in April 2007 and Ferguson fails to see how high-earning players could possibly be compared to slaves.

“It was an unfortunate statement from someone in such a position,” said Ferguson.

“Slavery was abolished many years ago. These days footballers can earn five or six million pounds a year. Every year he’s getting older. He’s not getting any younger. Every year he’s spell at West Brom firmly behind him. Redknapp claims he is the 31-year-old’s biggest fan but I don’t think he will amount to modern day slavery, after commenting on the Red Devils’ refusal to allow Ronaldo his ‘dream’ move to Real Madrid.”

Keegan confirms support for jailed Barton

LONDON, 28 July—Newcastle United manager Kevin Keegan will welcome midfielder Joey Barton back to the Premier League club when he is released from prison.

“My view is to give him another chance and back him. He has served his sentence, he’s been punished for what he did wrong,” Keegan told BBC Radio on Sunday.

“The world is littered with people who deserve a second chance, got that chance and took it with both hands. I said I would stick by him and I intend to do that,” Keegan said.

Barton is due to be released shortly after serving a six-month sentence for beating up a teenager last year. —MNA/Reuters

Blues boss Scolari setting lofty targets for new players

LONDON, 28 July—Luiz Felipe Scolari wants his star-studded Chelsea squad to challenge on all European fronts this season. The Blues are again expected to push Manchester United all the way in the Premier League title race, along with reaching the latter stages of the UEFA Champions League.

Chelsea reached two finals last season, but it ultimately proved a frustrating campaign as the Blues boss set his team to battle for every trophy.

“We have four competitions this season and I want to try to win all four,” said the former Brazil and Portuguese national coach.

“It is the same for the players. It will be very difficult but we have the team for it, we have the players for it. Chelsea have also given me everything I have wanted.”

Harry focused on Kunan

Pompey boss wants veteran hit-man to stay

LONDON, 28 July—Portsmouth manager Harry Redknapp is hopeful veteran Kanu will sign a new one-year contract at Fratton Park.

The former West Brom, Arsenal, Inter and Ajax striker has been offered a fresh 12-month deal with the South Coast outfit, with the addition of a further season if he plays a certain number of games.

Redknapp claims he is the 31-year-old’s biggest fan and hopes the vastly-experienced hit-man will commit his future to Pompey after putting his disappointing spell at West Brom firmly behind him.

“Kanu hasn’t got a bigger fan in the world than me,” he told the club’s official website. “I took him from West Brom when a lot of people said he was finished, but he’s been fantastic for Portsmouth. “But, like anybody, he’s not getting any younger. Every year he’s signed a one-year deal. He’ll probably still be here when I’ve long gone.”

Blaze, who scored 29 matches.

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Barton is due to be released shortly after serving a six-month sentence for beating up a teenager last year.—MNA/Reuters

Laursen shocked by Bouma

Villa defender refuses team-mate’s injury

LONDON, 28 July—Martin Laursen admits he has never seen an injury as severe as that suffered by Wilfred Bouma at the weekend.

The Aston Villa left-back is now facing several months on the sidelines following a collision with Odense’s Baye Djibril Cisse that left him with a horribly dislocated ankle.

Bouma’s injury evoked memories of Eduardo da Silva’s last season, with Villa captain Nigel Reo-Coker left in tears when he saw its severity.

“I have never seen any injury like that before,” said Laursen.

“Willie was screaming and when you see someone of his character scream like that, you know he is in a lot of pain. It looked pretty bad and we know he will be out for some months but at least the skin was not broken, otherwise it could have been even worse.”

Having played all 38 Premier League matches for Villa last season, Bouma will be difficult to replace.—Internet
Three hundred evacuated in US town due to floods

WASHINGTON, 28 July—The New Mexico town of Ruidoso is put under flood emergency Sunday and nearly 300 people was evacuated from a local recreational park.

The flood, caused by remnants of Hurricane Dolly, has destroyed as many as 100 homes and at least 150 people are currently in shelters, local authorities told reporters.

Over 350 illegal immigrants land in Italy

ROSE, 28 July—Over 350 illegal immigrants arrived in Italy on Saturday soon after the Italian Government declared a national state of emergency to deal with a sharp increase in illegal immigration. Local media reported. The immigrants who landed in Italy by boat or were picked up by coastguards off the island were transferred to the nearby reception centres. According to Italy’s Ansa news agency.

Among the immigrants two Nigerian children, aged two and four died on the boat and their bodies were thrown into the sea, according to their father. On Friday the Italian Government declared a national state of emergency to combat illegal immigration.

According to Italian Interior Minister Roberto Maroni, the number of illegal immigrants arriving in Italy had increased to 10,611 in the first half of 2008 compared with 5,378 in the same period last year.

Qantas to inspect oxygen bottles after “747” emergency

SYDNEY, 28 July—Qantas was ordered on Tuesday to check all oxygen bottles on its fleet of Boeing 747s after investigators said an exploding oxygen bottle might have ripped a hole in a Qantas 747, forcing it to make an emergency landing at Manila.

Australia’s Civil Aviation Authority (CASA) said Qantas had agreed to inspect oxygen bottles on its fleet of 747s. The airline has about 30 of Boeing model.

In Manila, investigators from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau said there were no traces of explosive materials on the aircraft or passengers baggage.

“At this stage, there was no evidence whatsoever that this is a security-related event” said Neville Blyth, senior investigator from the safety bureau.

This is treated as a safety investigation and until such time as any evidence comes to light that this is a security-related event, the investigation will be conducted by the ATSB and the Philippines as standard safety event.

Blyth said one of the oxygen cylinders near the fuselage of the Boeing 747-400 was missing, but he declined to conclude it was the cause of the blast.

“I can’t speculate as to indeed the probability of that cylinder having caused the damage. The areas around the damage will be inspected, obviously, looking for evidence of where that cylinder may have gone and for its fragments.”

Qantas to inspect oxygen bottles after “747” emergency

WASHINGTON, 28 July—One 60-year-old person was killed and eight others wounded Sunday after a gunman entered a church in Knoxville, Tennessee, and opened fire with a shotgun, local mass media reported.

Five of the wounded people are in critical condition. The murderer is now in custody, the report said.

The airline has about 30 of Boeing 747-400.
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.

={'starshadow'} 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

People’s goal must be brought to fruition

Overall, the Myanmar people have approved the constitution of the Union of Myanmar in order to shape a genuine discipline-flourishing democratic nation with peace and stability of the State. It is the way the people have chosen of their own accord. They have held the belief that their goal of democracy will surely be achieved soon.

MRCS provides relief aid to storm victims in Mawlamyinegyun

YANGON, 28 July —Members of Myanmar Red Cross Society provided personal goods and household utensils to residents of the storm-affected areas in Mawlamyinegyun Township on 25 July. They delivered relief aids to 509 households of Kyahome, Padakaw, Thebyu, Tetekue and Shwebo villages of Kyahome village-tract in the township.

MRCS will continue to deliver relief aids donated by wellwishers to storm victims.— MNA