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Four political objectives

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconciliation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

True patriotism

* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates King Mohammed VI of Kingdom of Morocco

NAY PYI TAW, 30 July—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a massage of felicitations to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Morocco which falls on 30 July 2008.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects monsoon paddy cultivation in Yangon Division

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspected paddy cultivation in Yangon Division this afternoon.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, inspected monsoon paddy cultivation in Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

The Prime Minister and party went to Ywathagy Station in Dagon Myothit (East) Township. Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin (See page 8)

Importance of constant maintenance of roads for durability stressed

NAY PYI TAW, 29 July—Central Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport held its 1/2008 work coordination meeting at the office of the State Peace and Development Council, here, this evening, with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

(See page 9)

MNA
Scale up anti-narcotic drug activities

Today, cases of production and smuggling of narcotic drugs are mushrooming in the world. In consequence, abuse of narcotic drugs such as opium, heroine, opium oil, and marijuana along with stimulant tablets produced with chemicals in combination such as ATS, Ketamine, ICE and Ecstasy is rampant around the world.

In many cases, some countries see violent crimes committed by the majority of drug addicts who abuse stimulant tablets excessively, following mental disorder. Serious crimes that are rife among teenagers and young people of educated class are also partially due to the use of stimulant tablets.

In particular, many young people around the world are abusing stimulant tablets variously, and that poses grave danger to human beings. Therefore, it is required to give educative talks on evil consequences of narcotic drugs to the youth on a broader scale.

Myanmar is now in pursuance of the 15-year drug elimination plan (1999-2014) through a variety of means. In that case, there has been successful outcome thanks to the cooperation of national people with the government. Moreover, the nation is joining hands with international organizations, neighbouring countries and regional countries in anti-drug activities.

In June 2008, the efforts the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department made in collaboration led to the exposure of 192 drug related cases, followed by action taken against the culprits. The entire mankind and its society are still under the threats of narcotic drugs. Thus, the entire people are duty-bound to continue to join hands with the government to step up anti-narcotic drug activities.
Iran tells developing states to fight world-power bias

TEHERAN, 29 July—

Iran’s president called on Tuesday for developing nations to unite to fight what he said was bias shown by the UN Security Council and other world bodies that only serve the big powers’ interests.

Iran wants to broaden its international support in a row over its nuclear plans with Western capitals, which President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says manipulate the Security Council and other bodies to act against the Islamic Republic.

Ahmadinejad accused world powers of trying to deny others peaceful nuclear energy while they stockpiled atomic weapons.

Ahmadinejad said the Security Council would never issue a resolution against the United States, Iran’s arch-foe, as long as Washington, like four other big powers, had a permanent seat. The permanent council members have veto powers.

A draft NAM statement backed Iran’s right to develop, research, produce and use peaceful atomic energy, while welcoming Teheran’s continued cooperation with the UN watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The final text has yet to be approved.

India, Pakistan meet over Kashmir clash

SRINAGAR, 29 July—

Senior Pakistani and Indian military officials met Tuesday to discuss a border clash in Kashmir, the first major skirmish between South Asia’s nuclear rivals since a 2003 cease-fire.

Pakistan’s Army spokesman Maj Gen. Athar Abbas told CNN that Pakistan “made our point clear” regarding the firefight, which he said began after Indian soldiers crossed the Line of Control that separates Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

But an Indian military spokesman, Capt Neha Goyal, told CNN Pakistani troops crossed the Line of Control and “started firing on our patrol,” killing an Indian soldier.

Abbas said “further action should be taken,” following Tuesday’s “flag meeting,” but did not elaborate. The meeting took place along the Line of Control.

Reports in India’s media said four Pakistani soldiers were killed, but Pakistan’s military “strongly denied the report of any (casualties) on the Pakistani side.”

Pakistan’s military also denied its forces crossed the Line of Control, saying the skirmish started when Indian soldiers tried to establish a forward post on Pakistan’s side of the line.

Fault forces Qantas plane to land

ADELAIDE (Australia), 29 July—

A Qantas passenger plane has been forced to make an emergency landing in Adelaide, Australia, due to a mechanical fault.

Local news reports say there was a problem with one of the landing gear doors. A Qantas spokeswoman said there was no risk to passengers’ safety at any time. The incident comes three days after a Qantas plane made an emergency landing in the Philippines after a large hole appeared in its fuselage.

A Qantas spokeswoman told The Canberra Times website that a Melbourne-bound Boeing 737-800 returned to Adelaide shortly after take-off on Monday night because it was believed one of the landing gear doors had failed to retract. Australia’s Civil Aviation Agency said the doors covering the wheel bay did not close properly after take-off, a malfunction which would have affected the plane’s aerodynamics but did not risk passengers’ safety or cause decompression.

Nigerian militants bomb two Shell-operated pipelines

LONDON, 29 July—

Nigeria’s main militant group said it bombed two Royal Dutch Shell PLC-operated oil pipelines early Monday and warned more attacks were planned over the next month, helping push up oil prices by more than $1 a barrel.

Shell confirmed one of the pipelines, Nembe Creek, was damaged and it was forced to reduce flows, but didn’t say by how much.

“We can say that part of Nembe Creek was damaged and that we have shut-in some production,” Shell spokesman Rainer Winzenried said, declining to confirm what caused the damage. Nembe Creek typically operates at about 130,000 barrels a day of capacity and feeds the Bonny oil export terminal.

Al-Qaeda chemical expert ‘killed’

ISLAMABAD, 29 July—

Reports from Pakistan say a leading al-Qaeda chemical weapons expert, Midhat Mursi al-Sayid Umar, has been killed in a missile strike.

Taleban officials in the tribal area of South Waziristan confirmed that he was killed in a missile strike that left at least six people dead.

The US, which has a reward of $5m on his head, said it had no information.

He was wrongly reported to have been killed in 2006 in a strike aimed at al-Qaeda deputy head Ayman al-Zawahiri.

Pakistan military spokesman Maj Gen. Athar Abbas said that it was still awaiting “authentic information” from the area.

Tongan king to give up role

NUKUALOFA, 29 July—Tonga’s king is giving up power in the South Pacific nation, the country’s news agency reported Monday.

King George Tupou V will let the prime minister guide the day-to-day governmental affairs, Tonga Now reported.

He will continue to hold on to judicial powers, including the ability to appoint judges and commute prison sentences.

George V, 60, announced his plans as the country prepares a days-long coronation ceremony that begins Friday. The decision, he said, is meant to prepare the country for parliamentary elections in 2010.

Tonga, with a population of 119,000, is the only monarchy that remains in the Pacific.

George V ascended to the throne after the death of his father in September 2006, and promised to speed up the changes.

Tonga is an archipelago of 171 islands directly south of Western Samoa. Less than a third of the islands are inhabited.

The present dynasty was founded in 1845 after the Tongan islands were first united.

Canadian troops in Afghanistan kill two children

KABUL, (Afghanistan), 29 July—

Canadian troops opened fire on a speeding car they feared was about to attack their convoy, killing a 2-year-old boy and his 4-year-old sister, officials said Monday.

NATO and the Canadian military said in statements that the troops near Kandahar opened fire Sunday after the driver ignored repeated signals to keep back.

Afghan and UN officials have urged international troops to avoid civilian casualties, which threaten to undermine support for the President Hamid Karzai and the presence of foreign forces.
Israel-Syria peace talks to resume under Turkish mediation

JERUSALEM, 29 July—Israel and Syria will begin on Tuesday a fourth round of indirect peace talks under Turkish mediation, an Israeli official said.

Two advisers to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert—Shalom Turjeman and Yoram Turbowitz—will travel to Turkey during the day to resume the talks, the source told AFP on condition of anonymity.

“Israel’s desire for peace is very serious,” the official said. “That is why we expect that the process that has been begun will soon evolve into direct bilateral negotiations with a view to achieving significant results.”

The Israeli-Syrian talks started in May after an eight-year freeze, and the third round was held in early July.

Under the format of the talks, Israeli and Syrian officials do not see each other and Turkish diplomats shuttle between them.

Israel and Syria have been formally in a state of war since the Jewish state was created in 1948, but the two countries since signed an armistice.

The last negotiations broke down in 2000 over the fate of the Golan Heights, the strategic plateau Israel seized from Syria in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and annexed in 1981 in a move not recognised by the international community.

After bombing, Turkish leader urges unity

ISTANBUL, 29 July—Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, eight government ministers and thousands of mourners stood as burial prayers were said at a local mosque on Monday for 10 of the 17 victims of Sunday’s double bombing.

The coffins, like many houses in the area around the bombing site, were draped with Turkey’s red-and-white flag.

On Monday, the country’s highest court began considering a prosecutor’s contention that Erdogan’s party, Justice and Development, or AK, had brought Islamic practices into politics in violation of the founding principles of the Turkish republic.

If the party is found guilty, it could be banned and 71 senior members, including President Abdullah Gul and Prime Minister Erdogan, could be barred from politics for five years. The court is expected to reach its verdict in two weeks.

Before the funeral, Erdogan visited the site of the attack, in the Gungoren neighbourhood, alluding to the case as he called for calm and urged nationwide solidarity.

“Our problem or issue right now is not the closure of AK Party, but the problem that Turkey struggles with,” Erdogan said in a televised Press briefing. “Our problem is to maintain unity and togetherness so that our nation can attain a better position.”

As he spoke, local residents chanted slogans against a Kurdish separatist group that is suspected in the bombing.

Doctor shot dead on honeymoon

LONDON, 29 July—A newly wed doctor was killed and her husband is in critical condition after being shot during their honeymoon on the Caribbean island of Antigua, the Foreign Office said on Monday.

The couple are believed to have been fired at by intruders during a botched robbery in their cottage at the sun a deep glowing red by the time Dutch tourists watched the sun set.

Relaxed on your holiday,” Duipmans said.

“You would like to be over the park. The petrol bombs were detected on the executive the famed park had charred more than 42 square miles, destroyed 12 homes and shrouded thousands of tourists during the summer.

By Monday, they decided it was time to go. “There was ash falling on our tent. We think we will go to the beach,” Duipmans said.

A wildfire burning almost completely out of control Monday outside the fumed park has charred more than 42 square miles, destroyed 12 homes and shrouded thousands of tourists during the summer.

Orange County Firefighters look at fires burning across the Bribec mountain along side the Mereved River on 27 July, 2008 in Briceburg, Calif. An out-of-control wildfire burning Sunday near an entrance to Yosemite National Park has destroyed eight homes and threatened thousands more as flames forced authorities to cut power to the park.

Unexploded bomb found in western Indian city

AHMEDABAD, 29 July—Police found an unexploded bomb in the western Indian city of Surat, one of the world’s biggest diamond-polishing centres, on Tuesday, three days after a series of bombs in the same state killed 45 people.

“After bombing, Turkish leader urges unity

Petrol bombs found underneath Indonesia train

JAKARTA, 29 July—Police have launched an investigation after a cache of up to 10 petrol bombs was found stashed underneath a train heading to the Indonesian capital Jakarta, officials said on Tuesday.

The petrol bombs were detected on the executive train after it had departed the West Java city of Cirebon, 225 km (140 miles) from Jakarta on Tuesday morning.

“In a day after bombs killed one woman in the IT hub of Bangalore.—Internet”

Small bomb explodes at Spain’s Torremolinos resort

MADRID, 29 July—A small bomb exploded on Tuesday at Spanish holiday resort Torremolinos without causing injury or any significant damage, a government official said.

There was no warning before the blast on the beach at Torremolinos in Spain’s southern Costa del Sol tourist area, the government spokesman said. Four bombs exploded along Spain’s northern coast earlier this month. Local authorities blamed those on Basque separatist group ETA, which has often bombed tourists resorts during the summer holiday season.—Internet

Fire destroys 12 homes near Yosemite National Park

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OPEC chief says current oil prices ‘abnormal’

JAKARTA, 29 July—Crude oil prices above $120 a barrel are “abnormal” and could fall to around $78 a barrel under the right circumstances, OPEC President Chakib Khelil said here Tuesday.

“If the dollar continues to strengthen and the political situation (regarding Iran) improves, then the long-term prices will be about $78 a barrel,” Khelil told reporters in Jakarta.

Khelil said:

Asked whether any members of the Organiza-

tion of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) should cut production if oil prices continued to fall, he said:

“No, I don’t think so. Why should they cut production?”

“They always want to make sure that there’s some good supply and demand and to satisfy the demand,” he said. —Internet

Merrill to sell troubled assets, raise capital

NEW YORK, 29 July—Merrill Lynch & Co, in a broad move to clean up its troubled balance sheet, said Monday it will sell a big slice of its toxic assets—backed securities and issue new stock to raise $8.5 billion of fresh capital.

The world’s largest brokerage, struggling to right itself as the credit crisis continues, said it will issue more than $200 million new common shares as part of the deal.

Merrill said it will write-down $5.7 billion because of additional losses on the sale of mortgage securities and hedging contracts. Chief Executive John Thain, who joined Merrill Lynch last year, had vowed in the past he wanted to avoid using a public offering to raise money. The latest move comes just over a week after Merrill reported a $4.6 billion second-quarter loss, where he raised $8 billion of much needed capital from asset sales instead of diluting the stock by issuing more shares. Perhaps the biggest benefactor in the deal is Temasek Holdings, the Singapore sovereign wealth fund that is already one of Merrill’s biggest investors.

The firm agreed to buy $3.4 billion worth of shares at a yet-to-be determined price, a potentially large percentage considering shares of the brokerage are down 54 percent this year.

Sony Q1 profit down 39 pct on weak mobile phone sales

Tokyo, 29 July—Sony Corp (6758.T) posted a 39 percent fall in quarterly operating profit on Tuesday, hit by losses in its mobile phone joint venture with Sweden’s Ericsson (ERICb.ST) and a firmer yen.

Despite the loss, the electronics and entertainment conglomerate raised its annual outlook to reflect a change in its accounting method.

The US economic slowdown, the yen’s appreciation and higher fuel and raw materials prices are eating into profits at Sony and other Japanese exporters, and thwarting cost-cutting plans.

The supplier of Cyber-shot digital cameras, Vaio PCs and PlayStation game machines suffered a sharp downturn at Sony Ericsson as demand fell for its more expensive phones. —Internet

Toshiba plunges into red in first quarter

Tokyo, 29 July—Japan’s Toshiba Corp said Tuesday it plunged to a net loss of 11.6 billion yen (108 million dollars) in the fiscal first quarter on problems at its semiconductor operations and a stronger yen. The figure is a significant reversal from a net profit of 20.6 billion yen made during the April-June quarter last year.

Toshiba’s operating loss reached 24.2 billion yen, compared with a profit of 21.2 billion yen a year ago.

Revenue slipped to 1.62 trillion yen from 1.66 trillion yen a year ago. —Internet

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Russia plans new carriers, subs to boost Navy

Moscow, 29 July — Russia announced plans on Sunday to revive its once-mighty Navy by building several aircraft carriers and upgrading its fleet of nuclear submarines in the coming years.

Russia’s power at sea is a shadow of the formidable Soviet Navy which challenged US military dominance in the Cold War. But, with a strong economy now from booming oil exports, it is seeking to raise its profile on the world stage by modernizing the Armed Forces.

Russia will build five or six aircraft carrier battle groups in the near future, RIA news agency quoted Navy Commander Vladimir Vysotsky as telling Navy Day festivities in St Petersburg, the second city. “We call this a seaborne aircraft carrier system which will be based on the Northern and Pacific fleets,” Vysotsky said. “The creation of such systems will begin after 2012.”

He said such carrier groups would operate in close contact with Russia’s military satellites, Air Forces and air defences.

Russia now has only one aircraft carrier, the Soviet-built Nikolai Kuznetsov, which was launched in 1985 but did not become fully operational for 10 years due to the turmoil following the Soviet Union’s collapse in 1991.

In fact, it is not even a fully-fledged aircraft-carrier, being officially called an air-capable cruiser. It carries fewer aircraft than US carriers and features a steam-turbine power-plant with turbo-generators, while all modern carriers are nuclear-powered.

Psychologist helps Chinese handball squads to release pressure

Beijing, 29 July — With only 10 days to go before the Beijing Olympic Games, both Chinese men’s and women’s handball teams walked out of their gym and received a pressure-relieving psychologic aid in their training camp here on Tuesday.

Psychologist Ding Xueqin, vice chairman of China Sports Psychology Society and professor of China Institute of Sports Science, has been working in the sport psychology community for years.

During her aid session, Ding pointed out to the handballers some possible pressure they could meet in the coming Beijing Games and taught them how to cope with it.

“Pressure is not a horrible thing. You need learn to get used to it and control it. You shall have a brave heart and learn to dance with the pressure,” Ding said in her speech.

She also told the handballers several ways to control the in-game mood and highlighted the importance of teamwork.

The one and a half hours’ aid session was filled with not only theories and instructions, but also games and stories, as well as communication time.— Internet

India looks to 100 developing nations for support on agri

Geneva, 29 July— Unhappy with the fresh proposal on agriculture at the WTO meeting here, India is looking up to over 100 developing countries for support to ensure that farmers remain protected after a global trade deal is signed for liberalizing the farm and other sectors.

“India is trying to get support of 100 developing countries, including Africa, LDCs and G-33—an agriculture alliance of the developing countries—to change the Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) provision,” an Indian official told PTI.

World Trade Organization Chief Pascal Lamy has circulated a new proposal on agriculture and non-agriculture market access Saturday which was discussed by the all the ministers in the greenroom.

The proposal suggests “SSM for above bound rate trigger is 140 per cent of base imports”. MNA/PTI

Pakistan party defends civilian control of spy agency

Islamabad, 29 July — The decision to put Pakistan’s main spy agency under civilian control was aimed at keeping the Army out of the diplomatic line of fire, the head of the ruling party said in remarks published on Sunday.

Pakistan Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani on Saturday put the Inter Services Intelligence Agency (ISI) under control of the Interior Ministry before flying off to Washington for talks with President George W Bush. Critics say the ISI played a major role in the creation of the Islamist Taleban movement, which took control of Afghanistan in the 1990s and harboured al-Qaeda until it was forced from power by US-led forces in the wake of the 11 September attacks.

Neighbouring India and Afghanistan have often blamed the ISI for masterminding acts of terrorism in their countries. — MNA/Reuters

US Army apologizes to 28 WWII Black soldiers

Washington, 29 July — The US Army has formally apologized to 28 Black soldiers, who were wrongly convicted of rioting and lynching of an Italian prisoner of World War II in Seattle about six decades ago.

“The Army is genuinely sorry. I am genuinely sorry,” Assistant Secretary of the Army for manpower and reserve affairs Ronald James was quoted as saying by Seattle Times. “We had not done right by these soldiers,” James said Saturday, besides calling the Black soldiers’ convictions a “grievous wrong”. The soldiers were convicted in 1945, a year after a clash between them and the Italian prisoners of war left one person dead and several others injured at Seattle’s Fort Lawton Army Reserve Centre. MNA/Reuters

Pakistan party defends civilian control of spy agency

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“Pressure is not a horrible thing. You need learn to get used to it and control it. You shall have a brave heart and learn to dance with the pressure,” Ding said in her speech.

She also told the handballers several ways to control the in-game mood and highlighted the importance of teamwork.

The one and a half hours’ aid session was filled with not only theories and instructions, but also games and stories, as well as communication time.— Internet

India looks to 100 developing nations for support on agri

Geneva, 29 July— Unhappy with the fresh proposal on agriculture at the WTO meeting here, India is looking up to over 100 developing countries for support to ensure that farmers remain protected after a global trade deal is signed for liberalizing the farm and other sectors.

“India is trying to get support of 100 developing countries, including Africa, LDCs and G-33—an agriculture alliance of the developing countries—to change the Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) provision,” an Indian official told PTI.

World Trade Organization Chief Pascal Lamy has circulated a new proposal on agriculture and non-agriculture market access Saturday which was discussed by the all the ministers in the greenroom.

The proposal suggests “SSM for above bound rate trigger is 140 per cent of base imports”. MNA/PTI

Psychologist helps Chinese handball squads to release pressure

Beijing, 29 July — With only 10 days to go before the Beijing Olympic Games, both Chinese men’s and women’s handball teams walked out of their gym and received a pressure-relieving psychologic aid in their training camp here on Tuesday.

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Mending wrong ways after learning lessons from a mistake is a sign of improvement. Deeming an impossible case to be possible, and a false case, to be true has adverse effects on the whole human society. Every truth has its value. Truth lies within objective conditions.

There is a saying that goes ‘Pride goes before a fall’. So, one must be free from ego and conceit while trying to find truth. According to some scholars, ordinary people are more likely to find truth than those with egoism.

A wrong decision of a person can have adverse effects on his society only, whereas a wrong policy of a political party can harm the entire nation. That is evidenced by the wrong decision the Burma Communist Party made to exercise the armed struggle policy that caused dire consequences to the people.

Now, the State Constitution (2008) has been adopted with the approval of 92.48 per cent of the voters, and plans are well under way to form a democratic government. However, local saboteurs are found to be turning their blind eye to the prevailing situations.

Some destructive elements at home and abroad are opposed to the State’s seven-step Road Map that is in progress for transition to democracy. Subversive elements are ignoring the truths, while regarding the Tatmadaw government as their enemy. They should have worked out the issue, keeping an eye on the prevailing situation of Myanmar in order to find out what the outcome of their activities are—fruitful results or undesirable consequences.

Myanmar is located in a strategic area, surrounded by Southeast Asian countries, Northeast Asian countries and Southern Asian countries. It is situated on the international water, air and land routes. It is not a landlocked country. With an entrance to the sea, it plays an important role in geopolitics in the region. It is rich in land, forest and mineral resources. It has a fine tradition of preserving and promoting traditions and culture. So, the people including members of the Sangha love and value their motherland and, they have been able to protect their country.

Having fallen under the rule of the colonials for more than 100 years, and the Fascists for three years, Myanmar people are capable of distinguishing between good and bad.

Myanmar has faced a wide range of stresses and strains due to variety of ideologies. It is still under the threats posed by those who are trying to push the nation into the abyss of havoc.

So long as some persons under alien influence and certain powerful countries approach the Myanmar issue just superficially, the solution to the issue is beyond their reach. Such policies as confrontation, riots, and economic sanctions are based on selfishness and personality cult, so they are just destructive acts, well far from the truth.

The State Peace and Development Council has promulgated the State Constitution through Announcement No 7/2008. Since then, the Tatmadaw government has won the trust and reliance of 92.48 per cent of the voters.

There are several points of why the government has won the trust and reliance of those who are knowledgeable enough to differentiate between constructive and destructive. They are as follows:

Today’s State leaders are well knowledgeable about the politics of the motherland; they have passed through times of the parliamentary system, Myanmar Socialist Programme Party, and the Tatmadaw government; they faced and overcame internal multi-coloured insurgency, intrusion of Kuomintang nationalist Chinese troops, various forms of internal armed insurgency, and political conflicts and crises; and they know well the conditions of the nation that have taken place in the course of the nation’s history. In spite of various forms of disruptions created by internal and external elements, the government has managed to achieve internal peace, build development facilities such as roads, bridges, hospitals, schools and dams, and it has served the interests of the nation and the people of its own volition.

There was a record public support in the referendum. So, there was a record public support in the referendum.

Learning lessons from the historic events, the people are well convinced that the government is implementing the State’s seven-step Road Map it has laid down for long-term practice of democracy.

However, saboteurs in the nation are detonating bombs, inciting riots, spreading rumours to create public panic, and calling for cuts in humanitarian aid to and economic sanctions against Myanmar to make commodity prices go up, and push the nation into ashes. So, I wonder if they are really persons who were born in Myanmar. They were committing destructive activities throughout the periods of the National Convention, drafting the State constitution, and the referendum, while having disregard for the desires of the people. If they think they are politicians who really love the nation and the people, they should not call for any economic sanctions against the nation and they should call for international assistance and work in the interests of the nation and the people.

Here, I would like to present an excerpt from the VOA’s broadcast on 15-7-2008 of an interview between the Bangkok Post and Professor Noam Chomsky, 80, who is held in highest esteem among world’s live scholars.

When asked what are the consequences of the enormous UK investment in Myanmar, of earlier US weapons sales, of recent Israeli weapons sales and of Chevron Oil’s continued supply of millions and millions of dollars in oil money, he said that the consequences of the US-UK-Israeli operations are, of course, to strengthen the Myanmar government.

That indicated the policy of ‘double face and double tongue’ national lackeys’ masters exercised.

When asked if he thought that mass protests would be successful in Myanmar, he said that mass protests did not usually work. The international community understands well that mass demonstrations do not yield any fruitful results.

The entire Myanmar people are opposed to riots.

He also said that the issues should be addressed through non-violent ways. So, destructive elements should choose non-violent ways instead of confrontation in working out the problem.

Therefore, destructive groups should have noticed that their practice of confrontation policy, and attempts to provoke riots and bomb attacks under the instructions of certain western countries that are putting pressure with the use of media tool, invading and imposing economic sanctions against other countries on the pretext of democracy and human rights do not contribute towards the drive for democracy transition and that will reduce the nation into one where anarchy reigns.

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Hnin Oo Khin

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Minister for Electric Power 2
inspects sub-power stations
NAY PYI TAW, 28
July—Minister for Elec-
tric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen
Khin Maung Myint to-
gether with officials con-
cerned, looked into Meiktila sub-power sta-
tion (Thapyaeaw) on 26
July.
Next, the minister pro-
cceeded to Mandalay sub-
power station (Tagunthaing) where he in-
spected control room and
arrangements for generat-
ing electricity from the
station to Shwesayan sub-
power station. Afterwards,
the minister went to
Shwesayan sub-power
station in which he in-
spected generating of
electricity to
PyinOoLwin,Yadanabon
Myothit and Kyaukchaw
sub-power stations via
Shwesayan sub-power
station and construction
works in the switch yard
of the station.—MNA

Talk on ITPEC will be
given on 2 August
YANGON, 29 July —
With the sponsorship of
Myanmar Computer Pro-
fessionals Association, a
talk on ITPEC will be given
by Joint-Secretary of
MCPA U Ye Yint Win at
Myanmar Info-Tech Build-
ing in Hline Township from
1 to 3 pm on 2 August.
The talk will largely
focus on advantages of
course syllabus for ITPEC
exam and job opportuni-
ties.
Members of MCPA,
computer enthusiasts and
those interested may attend
the talk. For further infor-
mation, contact the
MCPA’s office and dial
652276.—MNA

Minister for Construction
inspects construction tasks
along Nay Pyi Taw
Pyinmana-Pinlaung Road
NAY PYI TAW, 29
July—Minister for Con-
struction Maj-Gen
Saw Tun yesterday
inspected construction of
a suspension bridge along
Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana-
Pinlaung Road and gave
necessary instructions to
officials.
Accompanied by
officials concerned, the
minister arrived at the
briefing hall of Kogway
Yetagun road station of
Road Construction
Special Group-13 that is
engaged in the
construction of Nay Pyi
Taw Pyinmana-Pinlaung
road section and gave
instructions on
maintenance of the road
section.
Next, the minister and
party looked into the repair
and maintenance tasks
along the road, and
proceeded to Leinli
Suspension Bridge
construction project near
Leinli Village where they
inspected work being
carried out.
The 1760 feet long
suspension bridge is of
reinforced concrete floor
and steel beam type and it
is flanked by three feet
wide pedestrian lanes on
either side. The motor road
of the bridge is 28 feet
wide and it can withstand
75 tons of load.—MNA

Prime Minister General
Thein Sein inspects...
(from page 1)
reported on the area of the Ministry of Rail Transpor-
tation near the Ywathagyi Station and construction of
buildings and cultivation of monsoon paddy in vacant
lands.
Next, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and
Development Council Commander of Yangon Com-
mand Brig-Gen Win Myint reported on cultivable land
in four Dagon Myothit Townships.
Li-Gen Myint Swe also reported on cultivation
of monsoon paddy in Yangon Division.
In his discussions, the Prime Minister spoke on
use of vacant lands on the land of the department and
in industrial zones, reclamation of cultivable lands,
double cropping in a year and cultivation of high
quality paddy strain.
The Prime Minister and party inspected cultivation
of monsoon paddy in the environs of Ywathagyi
Station, near sluice gate of Nyaungbintha Creek in
Dagon Myothit (East), in Ward 98 in Dagon Myothit
(Seikkan) Township and cultivated lands.
Chairmen of the respective township peace and
development councils reported on cultivation of
monsoon paddy in their townships. The Prime Minis-
ter fulfilled the requirements.
The Prime Minister and party inspected cultiva-
tion of monsoon paddy along the ring road of Bago
River in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan).—MNA

Prime Minister General
Thein Sein inspects rain-fed paddy cultivation in Dagon Myothit (East) Township. — MNA

Rain-fed paddy cultivation in Dagon Myothit (East) Township. — MNA
Importance of constant maintenance...

(from page 1)
As represented by Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, members of Central Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport the ministers, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mandalay Mayor, the deputy ministers, members of Work Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, secretaries of State and Division Peace and Development Councils, officials and private entrepreneurs.

The Secretary-1 said the central supervisory committee is implementing the road and bridge construction projects in cooperation with private entrepreneurs for ensuring better transport and convenience of the travelling public in the country. He spoke of the need for the respective ministries, local authorities and private entrepreneurs to undertake the respective tasks harmoniously.

He said the government had allowed the entrepreneurs to build roads that can benefit them from economic point of view. Road work needs to be maintained constantly so that the work will be successful. The amount of investment is great and road sections are different from one after another according to the different conditions of the regions, he said.

He stressed the importance of constant maintenance of roads for durability. The government and local authorities will provide necessary assistance to the entrepreneurs, he added.

He said the government assigned duties to the entrepreneurs for ensuring better transport and smooth flow of commodities. Therefore, they are responsible for maintenance of the road. Local authorities on their part will provide necessary assistance to the entrepreneurs for the success of the tasks, he added. Next, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Maj-Gen Khin Zaw reported on measures taken in the respective regions for ensuring smooth and secure transport.

Secretary of Central Supervisory Committee Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported on roads to be built by the private entrepreneurs under BOT system and rules and regulations.

Next, officials of Asia World Co, Thawda Win Co, Shwethanwin Co, High Star Co, Shwetawng Co, Yuzana Co, Myanna Economic Holdings Ltd, Kanbawza Road Exploration and Industries Ltd, Max Myanmar Co and Myat No Thu Co reported on the work being done. The Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements and the meeting came to an end. — MNA

International relief supplies arrive

YANGON, 29 July—A total of 24,051 tons of relief supplies donated by Thai-based WFP (World Food Programme) arrived at Yangon International Airport today. — MNA

STI Education confers certificates on graduates, awards winners of essay, debate competitions

YANGON, 27 July —A mid-year graduation ceremony and final debate competitions of STI Education was held at Park Royal Hotel here on 27 July.

At the final competitions, two finalists of the category A debate teams which comprised 3 candidates competed for the topic of “It is better to be young and poor than to be old and rich” and in the category B debate, two teams representing TESOL and TEFL competed for the topic of “Money is the root of all evils”. Certificates of Diploma in TESOL, Diploma in Hospitality and Tourism Management, Diploma in Business Management, Diploma in Logistics Management, Certificate in TELF, Certificate in Business Management and English, Certificate in English Communication Skills and English-To-Go were conferred on graduates by STI Education.

STI’s visiting professor Mrs Jean Braid awarded winners of the essay competitions for the category A and category B. The winners of the debate for the category A were awarded by the Judge, Emeritus Prof Daw Khin Su Su Thwin and winners of the debate for the category B were awarded by Emeritus Prof Daw May Kyaw Myint. STI Education will start recruiting the students for the Bachelor Degree in Business Management of University of London (UOL), 3-year programme to be studied at Queensfield Business School (QBS). The students will be waived security deposit SG$ 5000. STI will introduce Diploma in Design (Interior, Exterior, multimedia) by Edith Cowan University (ECU), Australia in collaboration with Singapore Institute of Materials Management (SIMM). The diploma and degree will be awarded by Edith Cowan University (ECU), Australia. The architecture design these days is one of the highest ranking salary indexes and there are plenty of demands for those design diploma or degree graduates globally. — MNA

Mrs Jean Braid awards first-prize winner of essay competition. — MNA
Shwedagon Pagoda holds Pathana reciting ceremony

YANGON, 29 July — The Pathana reciting ceremony of Shwedagon Pagoda’s Pujaianya was held at the north prayer hall of the pagoda here this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and wife Daw Kyin Myaing.

The ceremony was opened with the three-time recitation of Namo Tassa by members of the Sangha led by Chairman Sayadaw of Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Bhaddanta Idhibhala, the commander and wife and the congregation.

Next, members of Yangon Division SNC Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Gunalankara recited Pathana verse and the congregation led by the commander and wife received the Nine Precepts from Bhaddanta Idhibhala. After that, the commander and wife and those present presented offerings to the members of the Sangha. And then members of the Sangha recited Pathana.

The Pathana reciting ceremony concluded till 1 August. — MNA

Sayadaw to deliver sermon on MRTV on 1 Aug

YANGON, 30 July — A sermon on advantages and disadvantages of those who are equipped with morality and those who lack of morality delivered by member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Nathmaw Kyaungtaik of Mawlameine Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Sumana will be on air on MRTV at 7 am on 1 August (Friday) (15th Waning of Waso 1370 ME). — MNA

Book on Myanmar poems published

YANGON, 29 July — A ceremony to publish a poem book namely Course of Myanmar Poems (classical+ modern poems) was held at Zin Min Aung Teashop near Sarpay Beikman, Kyauktada Township here this morning, with a discussion on history of Myanmar poems and modern poems by U Soe Nyunt (Dr Htila Sitthu).

Next, organizer of the book Min Yoe Yin explained the purposes of the publication of the book and the ceremony came to an end. The book consists of six classical poems and modern poems. — MNA

Rakhine Thahaya Association (Yangon) grants scholarships

YANGON, 29 July — Rakhine Thahaya Association (Yangon) conducted a ceremony to present scholarships to students of Universities and Colleges at International Business Centre here on 27 July. It was organized by Rakhine Social organization from abroad.

At the scholarship presentation ceremony, Patron U Kyi Min and Chairman of the association U Kyaw Zan Hla made speeches. Next, U Tun Aung Lin of Representative of Rakhine State Education Foundation explained the purposes of the scholarship providing programmes. They presented prizes to the outstanding students of Rakhine State who passed the matriculation examination in 2007 and granted scholarships to 66 students. The students received K200,000 each for their scholarships. — MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry football tournament goes on

NAY PYI TAW, 29 July — The Second Inter-Ministry football tournament continued here this evening. At Nay Pyi Taw football ground No 2, Ministry of Industry-1 won over the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries with 2-1. At Paunglong football ground, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture against Supreme court in the Group-B at Paunglong football ground. — MNA

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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

Congregation led by Managing Director of NPE U Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Aye receives Five Precepts from a Sayadaw during the ceremony to offer Waso robes to members of the Sangha. — MNA

NPE holds 11th Waso robe offering ceremony

YANGON, 29 July — Under the patronage of the Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win, families of the News and Periodicals Enterprise held the 11th Waso robe offering ceremony at Dagon Pariyatti Sarthintaik on Myomakyaung Street in Dagon Township this morning.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Dagon Pariyatti Sarthintaik Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Guna Nanda and members of the Sangha, and attended by Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Aye, the Vice-Chairmen of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, chief editors, deputy chief editors, managers and departmental officials, families of staff and guests.

First, the ceremony was opened with the three-time recitation of Namo Tassa and then the congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Guna Nanda. After members of the Sangha had recited Parittas, Managing Director U Soe Win and wife and the congregation donated Waso robes and offerings to members of the Sangha.

Next, the congregation shared merits gained and ended the ceremony and then offered Soon to members of the Sangha. — MNA
Ambassadors, diplomats, resident representatives of UN agencies and journalists view settlement of storm survivors in houses in Kyeinchaunggyi New Model Village in Bogale Township. — MNA

TCG Chairman, diplomats, resident representatives of UN organizations, officials of INGOs and MFCC observe reconstruction in storm-hit regions in Ayeyawady Div

YANGON, 29 July—The study group comprising foreign ambassadors to Myanmar, charge d’ affaires, military attaches, resident representatives of UN organizations, officials of INGOs, the president of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and member reporters totaling 148 led by Chairman of Tripartite Core Group Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu into three groups aboard six helicopters went on a field trip to storm-affected regions in Ayeyawady Division this morning and observed accomplishment of the reconstruction tasks.

Upon arrival at Labutta, Chairman of Myaungmya District Peace and Development Council U Aye Han briefed members of the study group-1 on losses and damages due to the storm, progress in carrying out reconstruction tasks, fulfillment of food, paddy straws, power-tillers and draught cattle, progress in ploughing the farmlands and then he replied to the queries raised by the members of the study group-1. On arrival at Pyinsalu, Head of Pyinsalu General Administration Department U Zaw Min Tun briefed members of the study group on progress in carrying out reconstruction tasks in the town and accommodation of storm victims at newly-built houses and then he replied to the queries raised by members of the study group.

Next, members of the study group viewed the storm victims who are being accommodated at the newly-built houses and observed progress in ploughing the farmlands and reconstructions and continued their visit to Theikpankon village.

At the village Pyapon District PDC Office, responsible persons from the village briefed members of the study group on reconstruction of the village and progress in ploughing farmlands. At Theikpankon village, the students who are doing lessons at Kyeinchaunggyi Village by helicopter and then they were conducted by responsible persons as they made observations on stay of respective storm-hit families at newly-built houses.

Upon arrival at Sethsau village, they viewed storm-hit families who are being accommodated at newly-built houses built by the State. On their way back to Yangon by helicopters, they viewed reconstruction of storm-hit towns and villages and progress in carrying out farming and fisheries industries.

Likewise, members of the study group-3 were welcomed by Member of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Col San Myint and Local Battalion Oo Lwin briefed members of the study group-3 on losses and damages caused by the storm in the township, accomplishment of rescue and accommodation operation, arrival of relief aids and progress in carrying out rehabilitation tasks and then he replied to the queries raised by members of the study group.

Next, members of the study group viewed health care services to the storm survivors carried out by specialists and the public health group, the students who are doing lessons at Bogale Township No. 1 BEHS, reconstruction of the damaged buildings and developments of the township.

Afterwards, they viewed documentary photos on reconstruction tasks being carried out by INGOs.

Afterwards, members of the study group accompanied by Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing arrived at the boat building station in Ohnpin village of Dedaye Township and observed building of fishing boats, fishing nets and engines and then viewed progress in carrying out rehabilitation tasks in the township.

At Pyapon Township No. 1 BEHS, members of the study group together with Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing studied the students who are doing lessons and repair of the buildings. On arrival at Dedaye, they viewed progress in constructing houses to accommodate storm-hit families.

Next, they conducted round Dedaye Township People’s Hospital and then viewed progress in repairing damaged buildings in the township and durable houses donated by Aden Company in Kyoma and Toe villages.

Afterwards, they arrived back in Yangon by helicopter in the afternoon.

Myanmar Pharmaceutical Index 2008 (First Edition). — MNA

YANGON, 29 July — The First Edition of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Index 2008 published by Myanmar Medical Association (MMA) and Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association (MPMEEA) is introduced to markets and sales was launched here today.

At the launching ceremony, Chairman of MMA Prof Dr U Kyaw Myint Naing and President of MPMEEA Dr Win Sithu extended greetings and Prof Dr U Myo Myint briefed on Myanmar Pharmaceutical Index 2008 (first edition).

The two associations published the book for the first time and they have a plan to publish the book every year. The book is published with the aim of providing names of medicines which are sold legally on markets, treatments and use of medicines and medical equipment, pharmaceutical companies, side effects and precautions. Besides, the book also contains lists of 60 pharmaceutical companies and 1,600 medicines. Pharmaceutical companies can put ads in the book. Per copy costs K4,000, and anyone can buy 100 copies at 15% discount and from 50 and 100 copies at 10% discount.

MMMA, Sarana Co Ltd, MPMEEA, universities of medicines, Inwa Book Shop, Medical Book Store in Wahdan, City Mart and Thet Wai Soe Book Shop (Mandalay). — MNA

Prof Dr U Myo Myint introduces Myanmar Pharmaceutical Index 2008 (First Edition). — MNA
One killed, hundreds stranded by New Mexico flood

CHICAGO, 29 July—Sweetened fruit drinks are often marketed as a healthy alternative to soft drinks but are just as likely to cause weight gain and increase the risk of diabetes, researchers said on Monday. "The public should be made aware that these drinks are not a healthy alternative to soft drinks with regard to risk of type 2 diabetes," Julie Palmer and colleagues at Boston University wrote in their report, published in the Archives of Internal Medicine. Type 2 diabetes, the most common form of the disease, is closely linked to obesity and has become more common worldwide.

Sri Lanka troops kill 30 Tamil Tiger rebels in north

COLOMBO, 29 July—Sri Lankan government forces killed 30 Tamil Tiger rebels in renewed fighting in the north of the island, officials said on Monday, as security forces gradually retake the Tiger's de facto capital. The government has dismissed a declaration by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) of a ceasefire in December.

Sweet fruit drinks found to lead to diabetes

The latest round of trade talks took place at the weekend in the districts of Jaffna, Vavuniya, Polonnaruwa, Mannar and Mullaitivu. "Troops have killed 30 LTTE terrorists in fighting on Saturday and Sunday," said a spokesman at the media centre for National security asking them to respond to the last two shocks. Nevis said the case has already been submitted to a grand jury, who were going to try to drop food and water to them by helicopter, Hart said. The deluge also destroyed 12 bridges in the area, all on secondary or residential streets. US Highway 70 and New Mexico Highway 48 were still open Monday. About 60 homes were flooded, according to the office of Gov Bill Richardson, who was scheduled to visit the area Monday afternoon.

One man was killed and hundreds of people were stranded in the New Mexico mountain town of Ruidoso by flash floods triggered by the remnants of Hurricane Dolly. The body of a man, believed to have been about 20, was found on Monday morning near the Rio Ruidoso after he was swept away by the flood Sunday night, Ruidoso Fire Department spokesman Ruidoso (New Mexico), 29 July—Levitra appeared to be more effective, the researchers said. Levitra and Viagra, known generically as tadalafil and sildenafil, respectively, help carry a chemotherapy drug past the blood-brain barrier, through the brain to treat malignant tumours, US researchers reported on Monday.

Tests in rats showed two erectile dysfunction drugs—Schering-Plough's Levitra and Pfizer's Viagra—helped carry a chemotherapy drug past the blood-brain barrier, according to law. Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above marks will be dealt with according to law. 

A former US police officer shocked a handcuffed Black youngster to death with an electric taser and may face a criminal trial, said a federal prosecutor from Louisiana on Monday.

Baron Pikes, 21, suspected of drug possession, was arrested on 17 January in Winn Parish. New Orleans. And Scott Nugent, a former police officer, handcuffed who showed no "pain or neuromuscular response" to the last two shocks. Nevis said the case has already been submitted to a grand jury, who were going to try to drop food and water to them by helicopter, Hart said. The deluge also destroyed 12 bridges in the area, all on secondary or residential streets. US Highway 70 and New Mexico Highway 48 were still open Monday. About 60 homes were flooded, according to the office of Gov Bill Richardson, who was scheduled to visit the area Monday afternoon.

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Baron Pikes, 21, suspected of drug possession, was arrested on 17 January in Winn Parish, New Orleans. And Scott Nugent, a former police officer, handcuffed who showed no "pain or neuromuscular response" to the last two shocks. Nevis said the case has already been submitted to a grand jury, who were going to try to drop food and water to them by helicopter, Hart said. The deluge also destroyed 12 bridges in the area, all on secondary or residential streets. US Highway 70 and New Mexico Highway 48 were still open Monday. About 60 homes were flooded, according to the office of Gov Bill Richardson, who was scheduled to visit the area Monday afternoon.

The body of a man, believed to have been about 20, was found on Monday morning near the Rio Ruidoso after he was swept away by the flood Sunday night, Ruidoso Fire Department spokeswoman Ruidoso (New Mexico), 29 July—Levitra appeared to be more effective, the researchers said. Levitra and Viagra, known generically as tadalafil and sildenafil, respectively, help carry a chemotherapy drug past the blood-brain barrier, through the brain to treat malignant tumours, US researchers reported on Monday.

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Virgin Galactic shows off mothership aircraft

MOJAVE, 29 July—The space tourism race marked a milestone Monday as British mogul Sir Richard Branson and American aerospace designer Burt Rutan waved to a crowd from inside the cabin of an exotic jet that will carry a passenger spaceship to launch altitude.

The photo-op was the public unveiling of the Richard Branson to launch an exotic jet that will carry a passenger spaceship to a crowd from inside the American aerospace design.

White Knight Two is the brainchild of Rutan, who made history in 2004 when his SpaceShipOne became the first private, manned craft to reach space.

SpaceShipOne accomplished it with help from White Knight Two's smaller predecessor, White Knight.

Secondhand smoke raises spouse's stroke risk: study

WASHINGTON, 29 July—Nonsmokers married to smokers have a greatly increased chance of having strokes, according to a US study published on Tuesday showing yet another hazard from secondhand smoke.

Being married to a smoker raised the stroke risk by 42 percent in people who have never smoked compared to those married to someone who never smoked, the researchers said.

This jumped to 72 percent for former smokers married to a current smoker, according to the study published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

Former smokers who were married to smokers had a stroke risk similar to people who themselves were smokers.

“Quitting smoking helps your own health and also the health of the people living with you,” Maria Glymour of Harvard School of Public Health in New York, who led the study, said in a telephone interview.

The study involved 16,225 people aged 50 and up who had never had a stroke. They were followed for an average of nine years.

Glymour said there is accumulating evidence about the number of health problems linked to secondhand smoke.

Russian sub sets world record in Lake Baikal dive

LACfE BAikal, 29 July — A Russian mini-submarine reached the bottom of Lake Baikal on Tuesday, setting a record for the deepest dive in a lake, expedition organizers said.

“The Mir-2 has reached the bottom of Lake Baikal at a depth of 1,680 metres (5,512 feet).” ITAR-TASS reported from the barge where the submarine was diving from.

The dive “set a record for submersion in freshwater,” Vesti-24 said.

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

Scientists plan to collect samples at different depths and hope to document the effects of global warming on the Siberian lake, as well as drawing the attention of the government to the need for greater environmental protection.

“We want to study and observe Baikal, preserve it,” Chilingarov said on Monday ahead of the dive as he inspected the Soviet-designed Mir-1 and Mir-2 submarines in the small port of Turk in the southern shores of Lake Baikal.
Confident US arrives in China; LeBron practices

MACAU, 29 July—Loaded with star power but wary of complacency, the US Olympic basketball team arrived in China on Monday with a word of caution from coach Mike Krzyzewski.

“We haven’t accomplished anything yet,” he said.

The team is taking its Olympic preparations to this southern Chinese casino enclave.

LeBron James joined the squad’s first practice in Macau with his right ankle taped. He sat out the Americans’ first tuneup against Canada on Friday with a sprain.

“For every game we step on the court, we know we have the talent and we know we have the strength to go out and be the best team on the court,” James said. “The chemistry right now is really good.”

Nadal closes in on Federer with Toronto tennis title

TORONTO, 29 July—Rafael Nadal lifted Spanish hopes of a dramatic change at the top of world tennis with his Toronto Masters victory on Sunday, the same day countryman Carlos Sastre won cycling’s Tour de France.

World number two Nadal defeated German Nicolas Kiefer 6-3, 6-2, tightening the race for the number one ranking still owned by Roger Federer in a year where Spaniards have enjoyed great sporting success.

“This year we are doing a lot of things very well and seeing a lot of very good sportsmen in Spain,” Nadal said.—INTERNET

Barcelona to take Messi on US tour despite Olympic row - report

MADRID, 29 July—Barcelona could take Argentine playmaker Lionel Messi on tour to Italy and the United States later this week even if FIFA orders the Spanish club to release him for the Olympic Games, a newspaper reported Monday. FIFA are expected to issue a ruling on Tuesday to settle a dispute between the Argentine Football Federation, who have called on the 21-year-old to stay in Spain, and Barcelona who want to keep the player for early Champions League matches in August.

Barcelona-based sports daily El Mundo Deportivo reported Monday that the world football governing body will likely side with the Argentines but the Catalan club will then take the dispute to the sport’s highest appeal body, the Court of Arbitration for Sport.—INTERNET

Jimmie Johnson performs a burnout on the main straight after winning the Allstate 400 at the Brickyard auto race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, on 27 July, 2008.—INTERNET

Johnson survives tire debacle at Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS, 29 July—It’s one of the biggest events of the year at a venue intended to help NASCAR showcase its racing. Instead, Sunday’s race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway left everyone apologizing to the fans for what could only be called a fiasco.

Hopefully NASCAR can bounce back better than Goodyear’s tires did over the course of a chaotic caution-filled race that ended with Jimmie Johnson winning his second 400-mile race at the Brickyard in three years.

Tire troubles derailed one of NASCAR’s crown jewel events when Goodyear’s product wasn’t durable to withstand more than 10 or so laps at a time.

“Every lap. Every lap I was concerned about it. Every corner, for that matter,” said Johnson, who beat Carl Edwards to the finish in a seven-lap sprint to the checked flag.

“As a group, we all knew we couldn’t push the envelope. I knew at the end, a seven-lap shootout, I could blast it off in there and I’d be OK.”

Johnson was indeed OK. Goodyear and NASCAR were not OK, left to explain why the race became a debacle.—INTERNET

Ailing Bartoli battles into second round in Montreal tennis

MONTREAL, 29 July—France’s Marion Bartoli overcame a stomach virus to dispatch British qualifier Melanie South 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 6-0 here and reach the second round of the 1.34 million-dollar WTA hardcourt tournament.

“I was not feeling good at all,” Bartoli said. “My legs were shaking. My arms were shaking by themselves. I was really dizzy. I got cold.

“The doctor gave me some tablets to take. They helped a lot in the third set, but it took a while for me to feel a little better. But I needed to come up with the win, so whatever it took, I had to hang in tough.”

Bartoli said players had been advised to take precautions to avoid spreading a virus that seems to be going around, including washing their hands often.

Bartoli, known mainly for her surprise showing in the championship match at Wimbledon last year, has struggled to build upon that success for most of this season.

Ranked 15th in the world and seeded 10th in this prestigious Tier One event, she reached just one semifinal in her first 14 tournaments of the season while being plagued by a wrist injury.

However, the 23-year-old reached the final at Stanford, California, two weeks ago.—INTERNET

Fabregas pledges loyalty to Arsenal

LONDON, 29 July—Arsenal midfielder Cesc Fabregas has slammed a report suggesting he is considering a move to Real Madrid.

Fabregas was a key member of the Spain squad that won Euro 2008 and according to a report last weekend in Spanish sports newspaper Marca he was quoted as saying he might move to the Bernabeu, especially if Arsenal did not win a trophy this season.

But in a statement the 21-year-old told Arsenal’s official website here Monday: “I have not spoken to any media so it’s frustrating to read quotes that I have supposedly said about my future.

“I have spent the summer relaxing with my family, friends and girlfriend and I return to training with Arsenal tomorrow (Tuesday).”—INTERNET

Goalkeeper Katy Roberts (L) of the GB women’s hockey team makes a save during a training session ahead of the Beijing Olympics at the Macau hockey centre in Macau on 29 July, 2008.—INTERNET

Rafael Nadal of Spain poses with the Rogers Cup trophy after defeating Germany’s Nicolas Kiefer in the final at the Rodd Centre at York University in Toronto. Nadal won 6-3, 6-2.—INTERNET

Arsenal midfielder Cesc Fabregas, seen here in June 2008, has slammed a report suggesting he is considering a move to Real Madrid.—INTERNET
The Bush Administration on Monday projected the US budget deficit will soar to record of nearly half a trillion dollars in fiscal 2009 as a housing-led economic slowdown cuts into government revenues.

The economic and fiscal deterioration will complicate efforts to bring the budget to balance and pose challenges for whoever takes over the White House in January, either Republican Senator John McCain or Democratic Senator Barack Obama.

“I believe whoever becomes the next president will have a very, very sobering first week in office,” predicted Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad.

Projecting the US budget in July 2008, the White House’s new prediction that the budget deficit will hit 482 billion US dollars in the fiscal year that starts 1 October, Conrad said that number easily could rise by an additional 80 billion US dollars when the full costs of the Iraq war are tallied next year.

Senator Barack Obama, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, has predicted that the deficit will have a very, very sobering first week in office, in a statement.

Chairman Kent Conrad, Republican Senator from North Dakota, Democr.

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White House sees record budget gap in 2009

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British soldier killed in Afghanistan

LONDON, 29 July — A British soldier was shot dead while on foot patrol in the southern Afghan province of Helmand on Monday, taking the number of British troops killed in Afghanistan this year to 27.

“The patrol received reports from locals that the Taliban were in the area but before they could take up defensive positions they received incoming fire, and the soldier sustained a single gunshot wound,” Britain’s Ministry of Defence said in a statement.

Five Russians kidnapped in Nigeria released

PORT HARCOURT (Nigeria), 29 July — Five Russian oil workers kid-
napped from their vessel off Nigeria’s Niger Delta last week have been released unharmed, a senior state security official said on Monday.

“They’re looking healthy but tired,” the official said, asking not to be named. The men were taken from a vessel believed to be working for the world’s eighth biggest oil exporter, has cut oil output by around a fifth since militants launched a campaign of sabotage in early 2006 to press for greater development in their neglected communities.

Insecurity in Nigeria, releasing hostages is common. — MNA/Reuters

Fire destroys Somerset resort’s historic pier

LONDON, 29 July — A major fire destroyed the 104-year-old pier at the Somerset resort of Weston-super-Mare in less than two hours on Monday, emergency services said.

Flames and thick black smoke shot high into the blue. About 80 firefighters from across the southwest were called to tackle the blaze, which started shortly before 7 am.

The fire gutted all the wooden buildings on the pier, although its iron supports and deck remained standing. Aerial pictures taken afterwards showed a mass of twisted, charred metal on the deck of the still-smoking pier.

WEATHER

Tuesday, 29 July, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Kayah State, fairly widespread in upper Sagaing, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfalls in Mon State, isolated heavyfalls in Kayin and Kayin States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mawlamyine (8.11) inches, Kawkareik (5.71) inches, Mudon (5.28) inches, Thaton (5.12) inches, Bhamo (5.00) inches, Kayan (4.92) inches, Hpa-an (2.72) inches, Thandwe (2.28) inches and Maungtaw (2.25) inches. Minimum temperature on 28-7-2008 was 68°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 29-7-2008 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 28-7-2008 was (0.6) hour approx. Rainfall on 29-7-2008 was (1.14) inches at Mingaladon, (1.18) inches at Kaba-Aye and (0.25) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (60.71) inches at Mingaladon, (68.15) inches at Kaba-Aye and (82.09) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southwest at (14:40) hours MST on 28-7-2008.

Forecast for Mandaly and neighbouring area for 30-7-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-7-2008: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-7-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Forecast valid until evening of 30-7-2008: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Chin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas will be experienced at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon. Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 30-7-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-7-2008: Some 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

Learning lessons from the historic events, the people are well convinced that the government is implementing the State’s seven-step Road Map it has laid down for long-term practice of democracy.