YANGON, 30 July — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the concluding ceremony of monsoon paddy cultivation of Yangon Division for 2008-09, paddy transplanting contest of the division and prize presentation for outstanding persons in the agriculture sector for 2007-08, at the pandal near Dagon Bridge in Ngabyema Village of Thanyin Township this morning.

In his speech, Lt-Gen Myint Swe stressed the need to achieve success in realization of the economic plans of the State while the government, the people, the Tatmadaw and the social organizations are harmoniously building a new, peaceful, modern and developed nation. The agriculture sector is the most important in the economic sector as paddy is the staple crop or national crop of the nation, he added.

He pointed out that Yangon Division has so far put 1,119,453 acres of land under monsoon paddy against the target of 1.2 million acres, accounting for 93.29 per cent. Although monsoon paddy is being grown at some wetland and low-lying areas of the division, the ceremony to conclude cultivation of monsoon paddy was held by growing 894,852 acres of monsoon paddy on the proper cultivation areas against the target of 894,846 acres, he said.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe continued to say that efforts are to be made for increasing sown acreage and boosting production yearly. As a result, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe had set the targeted production for development of the agriculture sector and given guidance to grow quality strains of crops to gain the targeted production through correct cultivation methods.

The Head of State had urged the farmers to gain the targeted production of 10 major crops including paddy by applying four production boosting methods, and the targeted production of paddy is 100 baskets per acre, he added.

He said that it is necessary to yield 100 baskets of paddy per acre in Yangon Division and extend cultivation of Hsinthwelet and Hsinweyin paddy strains that can yield over 100 baskets per acre.

(See page 8)

Labour, Culture streak wins

NAY PYI TAW, 30 July—The group round matches of the Second Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament continued at designated football grounds, here, this evening.

In the group-B, Ministry of Labour outclassed Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 with 4-0 at Nay Pyi Taw football ground No. 2 while Ministry of Culture trounced Supreme Court 10-0 at Paunglaung football ground.

Ministry of Rail Transportation will play against Ministry of Construction, and Ministry of Information against CSSTB tomorrow.

MNA

Weather Forecast for 31-7-2008

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers.

Degree of certainty is (60%).

Yangon and neighbouring area: One or two rain or thundershowers.

Degree of certainty is (60%).

Mandalay and neighbouring area: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers.

Degree of certainty is (60%).
PERSPECTIVES
Thursday, 31 July, 2008

Better transport through constant maintenance of roads and bridges

Rich marine and land resources, easy and smooth transport and speedy flow of commodities are basic requirements for socio-economic progress.

According to geographical conditions, there are some regions with plenty of rivers and creeks, those with mountains, valleys and ravines and plains and highlands. The people can go easily from one region to another as a great number of roads and bridges have been built overcoming the natural barriers with the efforts of the government and the strength of the people.

Altogether 235 bridges which are 180 feet and above long including the eight facilities crossing Ayeyawady River have been built. There is a road network connecting every part of the entire Union. Travelling and transport of commodities have become speedy and they contribute towards the economic growth.

The government is building a lot of roads and bridges in cooperation with local organizations and national entrepreneurs as development of a region mainly depends on better transportation.

The amount of investment in road work is enormous and the road work is being done in conformity with the ground position and weather conditions. So, it is necessary to maintain roads constantly for durability.

Under the leadership of the government ministries concerned continue to build many roads and bridges in cooperation with local organizations, technicians and the national entrepreneurs so that transportation will be smoother and easier resulting in local and national economic development.

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

Minister inspects houses for storm survivors in Mawlamyinegyun

YANGON, 30 July —Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt inspected the construction site of 150 houses at Kyetshar Village in Mawlamyinegyun Township on 28 July.

Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd has donated 150 houses, one clinic and one office to the village that were built by TZTM Construction Co under the arrangement of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee.

Col Thein Nyunt inspects completion of houses in Mawlamyinegyun Township.

At the construction site, Minister Col Thein Nyunt greeted storm victims who would be accommodated at 40 houses of the site.

Next, the minister provided personal goods, edible oil, noodle, clothing, canned fish and rehydration salt to the households in the site.

The government has planned to construct 1,350 houses in Kyetshar, Shaukchaung, Kyahome, Nathmu, Kyunchaung and Hlinebone villages in the township.

USDA CEC member meets executives in Bago

NAY PYI TAW, 30 July —CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min met USDA members and executives of Toungoo District at Toungoo Township USDA office on 27 July. At the meeting, the minister gave instructions on regional development tasks, rural area development tasks and future tasks and fulfilled the requirements.

On arrival at Bago, the minister met USDA executives of Bago at the township USDA office and gave necessary instructions.

On 27 July, the minister inspected reinforced concrete sleeper factory (Pyundaza) in Pyundaza. He gave instructions on production of sleepers for meeting the target and timely transport of them to work sites.

Deputy Minister meets Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 30 July —Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung met a delegation led by Mr Liu Jiu Haitao of China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Cooperation at the meeting hall of the ministry here on 28 July. At the meeting, they discussed prospects of civil aviation between two countries. Also present on the occasion were the head of office of the Ministry U Win Khant and departmental officials.

Chairman of Aungmyethazan Tsp MCWA Daw Nan Mar Lar Swe and health staff taking preventive measures against DHF in wards.—MNA
Recriminations fly after trade talks failure

The talks — the latest attempt to complete the seven-year-long trade round — collapsed late yesterday, over India’s insistence that developing countries must be able to protect their agricultural sector against sudden surges of subsidised imports from the US and EU.

China, too, joined in the frenzy of finger-pointing, weighing in to support India. An editorial from the Chinese official news agency, Xinhua, lambasted the “selfishness and short-sighted behaviour” of wealthy nations for bringing down the negotiations at the 11th hour.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad also vowed no shift in policy. Last week he said Iran had installed more machines to enrich uranium, though a diplomat in Vienna questioned his figures.

The planet’s most important authority, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said on Wednesday, speaking just before a deadline set by world powers in a nuclear dispute.

Khamenei was quoted by radio as saying the West wanted to stop Iran mastering technology to make electricity.

“Tehran will press ahead with its nuclear path, the country’s highest authority, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said on Wednesday, speaking just before a deadline set by world powers in a nuclear dispute.

Khamenei was quoted by radio as saying the West wanted to stop Iran mastering technology to make electricity.

The Iranian nation by depending on its useful experience and advantages of 30 years of resistance does not pay any attention to threats, and will continue with its path,” said the leader, who has the last say in all state matters.

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Iran says to continue nuclear path before deadline

India: Police defuse 18 bombs at market

Ahmedabad (India), 30 July — Police in India have defused 18 bombs found Tuesday near the main diamond markets in the city of Surat. They’ve also issued a sketch of a young man believed to be linked to one of two explosives-filled cars discovered there.

Authorities say that four cars — two used in Saturday’s Ahmedabad attack and the two found in Surat Tuesday — were stolen in July from a Mumbai suburb.

An obscure militant group took credit for the Ahmedabad attack. Authorities are also investigating the computer of a 48-year-old American citizen living in Mumbai. They want to find out if an e-mail claiming responsibility for the attack was sent from it, or if unknown attackers accessed his wireless Internet connection.

Meanwhile, in the neighboring state of Rajasthan, police defused three crude bombs hidden inside plastic containers.

India: Pakistan breaches cease-fire again

Srinagar, 30 July — India’s military on Wednesday accused Pakistani forces of another cease-fire breach in Kashmir.

“Pakistanian troops fired six 82-mm mortar rounds in a span of one hour at our positions,” Indian defense spokesman Lt-Gen A K Mathur said Wednesday.

But the report was denied by Pakistan’s army spokesman, Maj-Gen Athar Abbas, who said there had been no “exchanging of fire from our side of the LoC (Line of Control),” that divides the Kashmir region between India and Pakistan.

Mathur said no Indian forces were wounded in the incident, and they “maintained restraint and didn’t retaliate.”

Breakthrough drug ‘could halt’ Alzheimer’s

Chicago, 30 July — British researchers say a new drug could effectively halt the progression of Alzheimer’s disease, offering hope to millions.

The pioneering research — a joint initiative between the University of Aberdeen in the UK and Singapore-based TauRx Therapeutics — was announced this week at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference on Alzheimer’s Disease (ICAD 2008) in Chicago. The product — rember™ — is the first drug to act on the “tangles” discovered by Alois Alzheimer over a century ago.

Tangles are made up of the protein, tau, which forms inside nerve cells in the brain. According to Aberdeen University, the drug works by dissolving these tau fibers to prevent a build up of tangles which destroy nerve cells and neurons critical for memory.

Trials were carried out on 321 people with mild and moderate Alzheimer’s disease in the UK and Singapore. If further trials are successful, the drug could be available by 2012.

Detangling protein is Alzheimer key

An experimental Alzheimer’s disease treatment targets tangles made up of tau protein in brain nerve cells. The drug is introduced before the nerve cells die. It keeps the protein from forming tangles.

Detangling protein is Alzheimer key

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Seven-square-mile ice sheet breaks loose in Canada

Edmonton (Alberta), 30 July—A chunk of ice spreading across seven square miles has broken off a Canadian ice shelf in the Arctic, scientists said Tuesday.

Derek Mueller, a researcher at Trent University, was careful not to blame global warming, but said it was consistent with the theory that the current Arctic climate isn’t rebuilding ice sheets.

“We’re in a different climate now,” he said.

“It’s not conducive to regrowing them. It’s a one-way process.”

Mueller said the sheet broke away last week from the Ward Hunt Ice Shelf off the north coast of Ellesmere Island in Canada’s far north. He said a crack in the shelf was first spotted in 2002 and a survey this spring found a network of fissures.

The sheet is the biggest piece shed by one of Canada’s six ice shelves since the Ayles shelf broke loose in 2005 from the coast of Ellesmere, about 500 miles from the North Pole.

Formed by accumulating snow and freezing meltwater, ice shelves are large platforms of thick, ancient sea ice that float on the ocean’s surface. Ellesmere Island was once entirely ringed by a single enormous ice sheet that broke up in the early 1900s.

Progress made in HIV prevention

New York, 30 July—There have been significant gains in preventing new HIV infections in a number of heavily-affected countries, a United Nations programme report says.

However, UNAids warns the Aids epidemic is not over in any part of the world. The report says prevention programmes have seen changes in sexual behaviour, and a drop in infection rates in countries such as Rwanda and Zimbabwe.

Condom use is also increasing among young people with multiple partners in many countries. Another encouraging sign is that young people are waiting longer to have sexual intercourse, the report says.

Wisconsin mill explosion kills three

Wisconsin, 30 July—A storage tank explosion at a northern Wisconsin paper mill Tuesday killed three workers and injured a fourth, the company that owns the mill said.

Packaging Corp. of America said in a news release that the three workers were fatally injured when a tank used to store recycled fiber exploded while they were performing maintenance on top of it.

The injured worker was standing on a platform at a lower level of the tank when it exploded, the company said. The worker’s condition was not immediately released.

They were all told to eat between 1,200 and 1,500 calories a day, and split into four different exercise programmes, varying the intensity and amount of exercise carried out.

After six months, women in all four groups had lost up to 10% of their body weight — but most could not keep this going.

The women who did maintain the 10% loss were those who reported doing more exercise, on average 275 minutes per week.

Condom use is also tough at first — but is worth the effort.

Exercise may be tough at first—but is worth the effort.

A guide plane leads a fire retardant plane near the leading edge of the Telegraph fire, left, in an attempt to slow its progression up Halls Gulch toward Greeley Hill, Calif., near Yosemite National Park on 29 July, 2008.

 họ are waiting longer to have sexual intercourse, the report says.

Two security personnel killed, 30 kidnapped

Mingora, 30 July—Two security personnel were killed and 30 Frontier Constabulary and police personnel were captured by militants in Kabal area of Swat on Tuesday.

The new incidents of violence took place a day after militants loyal to Maulana Fazlullah had killed three personnel of an intelligence agency on the Matta-Ronyal road.

The new acts of violence have dealt a serious blow to the May 21 Swat peace agreement between the ANP-led provincial government and militants.

According to officials, the militants attacked a joint military-police post in Kabal, some 35 kilometers west of Mingora, and captured 30 security men and 15 policemen.

Soon after the kidnapping, the security forces launched a search operation in Ronyal area.

Taliban spokesman Muslim Khan told Dawn that 33 security personnel had been taken hostage. They were asked to surrender or face death and they gave up, he said.

Two Taliban were injured during the clashes, he added.

Two security personnel, identified as Capt. Waqas and Subedar Ikram, were killed and 13 others were injured in an exchange of fire with militants in Akhun Kalley after the attack on the checkpost. The security forces, backed by gunship helicopters and heavy artillery, attacked militants hideouts during a search operation in Ronyal, Tehsil Matta.

A curfew was imposed during the search operation.
UAE to offer cash rewards to medalists at Beijing Olympics

ABU DHABI, 30 July — Athletes of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will receive cash rewards for winning medals at the 29th Olympic Games that will be held on Aug. 8-24 in China’s capital of Beijing, local newspaper Gulf News reported on Wednesday.

The decision to reward UAE medal winners at the Beijing Olympics was announced by Ibrahim Abdul Malik, the general secretary of the UAE National Olympic Committee (NOC) and general secretary of the General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare of the UAE.

The winner of a gold medal at Beijing Olympics will be rewarded one million dirhams (272,480 U.S. dollars) for his/her effort, Malik said.

Pig disease hits another Vietnamese province

HANOI, 30 July — “Blue ear” disease, or Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), has struck Vietnam’s southern Ba Ria Vung Tau province, raising the total number of affected localities in the country to 13, according to a Vietnamese veterinary agency on Wednesday.

From July 27-29, the disease sickened 160 pigs raised in the two districts of Long Dien and Tan Thanh, the Department of Animal Health under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said, adding that all the affected animals have been culled.

NATO soldier killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 30 July — A soldier with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) died of wounds on Tuesday by the insurgents’ attack in the restive southern Afghan province of Helmand, said an ISAF statement released here on Wednesday.

It occurred in Nahri Sarrj district of Helmand where the ISAF convoy was struck by the explosion manipulated by insurgents there, the statement said.

It is the ISAF policy not to release the nationality of any casualty prior to the relevant national authority doing so.

A total of 70,000 multi-national troops are deployed across Afghanistan with around 2,500 Canadian troops based in the restive Helmand province for maintaining stability and helping in reconstruction.

China’s retail sales up 23% in June, a 10-year high

BEIJING, 30 July — China’s retail sales hit 864.2 billion yuan (126.7 billion US dollars) in June, showing a 10-year-high growth rate of 23 percent year-on-year, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Wednesday.

The growth rate was 7.0 percentage points higher than a year earlier and 1.4 percentage points higher than in May.

Adjusted for inflation, the June growth rate was 14.8 percent, the bureau said.

British retail sales slide to 25-year low

LIMA, 30 July — Representatives of 25 developing countries, members of the so-called “Rainforest Coalition”, agreed on Tuesday to reduce gas emissions and avoid deforestation.

According to reports from La Paz, Bolivia’s administrative capital, the countries reached the agreement at their two-day meeting in the city of Santa Cruz, which began Monday.

The delegates agreed on the need for rich nations to recognize the efforts made by developing countries to reduce gas emissions, and to avoid the destruction and degradation of forests.

According to the agreement, member countries will consolidate their stand in their negotiations with developed countries in 2009.

It’s a political position with technical support, but it seeks a mechanism of practical, agile and simple implementation,” said Miguel Rojas, Bolivia’s Environment vice-minister.

Rojas also urged rich countries to recognize the mechanisms of compensation because each developing nation and region have different conditions to deal with.

Deforestation reaches 350,000 hectares per year in Mexico, 198,000 hectares in Ecuador and 75,000 hectares in Nicaragua.

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All Items from Xinhua News Agency

S Korea’s software exports rise 23.5% in 2007

SEOUL, 30 July — South Korea’s software exports gained 23.5 percent year-on-year in 2007 mainly due to the increase of overseas sales of package software and information technology (IT) services, a report by the Ministry of Knowledge Economy showed Wednesday.

According to the report, the total amount of exports of software and related services by South Korean companies reached 1.66 billion US dollars last year, compared with 1.34 billion US dollars a year earlier.

The sharp increase attributed mostly to sales of package software, whose exports jumped 26.2 percent year-on-year to 147.92 million last year, the report said.

Sales of IT services also grew 3.7 percent to 672.58 million US dollars from 609.87 million over the same period a year ago, the report said.

A cameraman take footage as a boy with Beijing Olympic logo haircut poses in Beijing, China, on 28 July, 2008. Wu Dasheng, a local Beijing barber, offers the boys in his neighborhood a free Olympic-themed haircut as part of his effort to cheer for the upcoming Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.
Do not make the goal of democracy far away from the people

Lu Thit

In democratic practices the people are the master. The desire of the people is important and their decision is final. All people have to agree and accept the decision of the majority. It is the very basic and simple practice of democratic system.

Nowadays anti-government groups led by NLD are talking about the term “democracy” repeatedly. It is disappointing to note that they refuse to accept the desire of most of the people and their decision. Anti-government politicians who are said to be those respect democracy cannot accept the very democratic practice. If they feel ashamed of their misdeeds, they should not live in the presence of the people.

As is known to all, the Tatmadaw government had to take up State duties unavoidable. Since then, the government has implemented the tasks for stability of the State, better economic life of the State and the people and national education promotion — the basic requirements for building a new country. With the better foundations of development, it laid down the seven-step Road Map and is implementing them. Now out of the seven steps, four have been achieved and the government is marching towards the step five with greater momentum.

It is not that the government is implementing the seven-step Road Map secretly after laying them down. It officially announced the programme publicly. As the people accepted it, the UN, the nations of the world and ASEAN nations also regarded it as the correct way to democracy development in Myanmar. The National Convention which is the step one was successfully held. Over 1,000 delegates from eight groups of whom national race delegates were the majority representing all the people attended the National Convention and held extensive discussions. They unanimously laid down the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles to be included in the State constitution. Based on the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles, the draft of the constitution has been drawn by legal experts including national scholars.

The referendum for approval of the draft of the State Constitution was successfully held on 10 and 24 May 2008. Out of the 27,288,827 eligible voters, 98.12 per cent cast the vote and 92.48 per cent voted ‘yes’. Therefore on 29 May 2008, it was announced that the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was adopted and approved through the referendum.

Internal and external anti-government organizations led by NLD criticized the approval of the new constitution by 92.48 per cent. They said there is no free and fair in the referendum that there was some influence and coercion over the people and that was why the constitution was illegal. Although they opposed the present government, the decision-maker was the people. Their opposition insulted the decision of the people and it was against the desire of the people.

Again, U Pu Kyint Shin Htan, U Thein Pe, Dr Myint Naing, U Nyi Pu and Dr Tin Min Htut of CRPP sent an open letter dated 21 July to UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon and the Security Council. In the letter, they said the seven-step Road Map was inappropriate and not effective and the constitution was illegal. They asked for dialogue with anti-government organizations including NLD during the set time frame. An expatriate group under the name of Hlutaw representatives led by Khun Myint Tun announced that they supported the letter. They did not know that the people did not accept the announcement which was full of groundless accusations. The people of Myanmar disgust at the act of those who long for the strangers.

The people of today are different from those of 1988. They have political, economic, social and health knowledge. They have mature thoughts and high quality and can distinguish the right and the wrong. They no long believe and support whatever the politicians say. They will support the good act and oppose the misdeeds.

The people of Myanmar today realize and believe in the government’s endeavours in the long-term interest of the State and the people from the time the government had taken up State duties. That is why the people fully support the national development process. In other words, they support the new constitution. It is a reflection of the people in response to the government’s goodwill towards the State and them.

Another point is that the entire people desire democracy. The present government is trying to introduce multiparty democracy system in place of one party system. The constitution that can bring about democracy system is essential. The people understand that democracy cannot be practised without a constitution.

Moreover, the people were well convinced and they accepted that the new State constitution is the best and the most appropriate one for them today. They also understand well that the government now dedicates itself to the drive for transforming the nation from the present administrative system into democracy people’s administrative system based on the constitution.

That was why the great majority of the voters voted in favour of the new constitution.

The referendum was held at the national scale in accordance with the law, regulations and procedures of international level norms. As a result, the entire people had opportunities to cast votes freely with comfort and convenience at the referendum, and it came to the knowledge of the people that any regions did not see pressure or force put on the voters. In the run-up to the referendum, NLD and anti-government groups were persuading the people to vote ‘no’ for the constitution through the mottos: “Vote-No” and “No-Vote”, but in vain. The majority of the voters cast ‘yes’ vote of their own accord. Anti-government groups also enjoyed the rights to cast votes freely. It made it clear when the stance of the people came out that the people did not accept the deceptions and organizing measures of the anti-government groups.

If even the government rigged the referendum and put pressure on the people, as they accused, the percentage of the ‘yes’ votes would not touch as many as 92.48 per cent. Actually, such a result was due to the people’s trust and reliance on the constitution.

(See page 7)
Do not make the goal of democracy...

(from page 6)

Now, the constitution has been approved, so both anti-government groups and pro-government forces can soon enjoy the rights to form political parties, organize the people, canvass for votes, and stand for election in line with the law. That is a giant step for transition to democracy to satisfy the people’s desire. They will also can enjoy the rights to stand for election in a just way in the multi-party democracy general elections scheduled to take place in 2010. If a person is elected by the people, he will be vested with the rights to hold talks and make decisions in the hluttaw (parliament) for the political, economic and social affairs of the nation.

Trying to achieve the goal of democracy through the multi-party democracy general elections to be held according to the constitution is the safest and the most suitable way that can guarantee national solidarity, transition to democracy and building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Surely, internal and external anti-government groups will receive a warm welcome and win the support of the people if they realize the truth and do their bit in harness to reach the goal ahead of schedule, while marching along the sole national path without infringing the democracy transition processes.

The State constitution (draft) national representatives and scholars had unanimously written in conformity with the objective conditions of the nation was adopted with the approval of the public. That is, in reality, the internal affairs of a sovereign nation and its national cause. Any other nation or organization, or international organization does not have any rights to interfere in it. No nation or organization will violate the regulations enshrined in the UN Charter that are to be honoured by every UN member. Nonetheless, so-called politicians with anti-government sentiment are taking unnecessary measures without taking into consideration the objective conditions of the nation, thus indicating their lack of political experience.

The people have chosen their path and set up their goal of their own volition. So, everyone who respects the people’s desire should accept the decision of the people. If saboteurs persist in their complaints that they oppose the State constitution, the constitution is not legal, and it should not be recognized, they will face the punishment of the people.

NLD, which gives shelter to CRPP, is, in truth, the west-looking group, as evidenced by the fact that it has been against the strength of the nation, thinking highly of and placing too much reliance on its alien masters in the course of its existence. It sticks to policies of confrontation, defiance against the government, utter devastation and four cuts with the intention of making the nation and the people get in dire straits. It did not show any positive response to the offer that if it quit such activities, the Head of State would hold talks with Daw Suu Kyi. And it declined the proposal, giving lame excuses. Its refusal has depicted who is to blamed for failure to hold a dialogue it has been demanding for long.

Myanmar exercises independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy. It honours the peaceful coexistence of world countries, with the aim of helping achieve world peace and achieving friendly relations between global countries. It maintains cordial ties with regional countries and world countries. It cooperates with the UN constantly. It has a role in works for development with a sense of duty in the political, economic, education, health and science and technology sectors and environmental conservation internationally-organized by the UN. Myanmar’s present political, economic and military affairs do not pose any threats to stability and peace of the international community, and regional and neighbouring countries. The attempts to diminish the role of a dutiful country through invented and exaggerated stories are absolutely unacceptable and abhorrent to the people and that committing such attempts is a betrayal to the nation.

Overall, the anti-government groups’ campaigns to oppose the State’s seven-step Road Map and the constitution and attempts to rely on alien elements including CRPP’s unnecessary measures and the support of Khun Myint Tun and cohorts for their masters are all designed to disrupt the efforts the government and the people are making in collaboration to translate democracy transition processes into reality. Democracy cannot be exercised through such subversive acts, and they will make the people further away from the goal of democracy. I would like to remind them that axe-handle national traitors will one day suffer evil consequences of their total disregard for the people’s desire and decelerating the people’s steps to meet the goal of democracy.

Translation: NY+MS

Health Minister receives British Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 30 July — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint received Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Myanmar Mr Mark Canning at the ministry, here, yesterday morning.

They discussed bilateral cooperation in health and supply of aids by Britain Government to storm-stricken areas.

The minister expressed thanks for supply of aids of British Government to storm-hit areas. The minister also explained the rehabilitation tasks being carried out in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

The minister continued to explain that over 2,400 specialists, doctors and health staff were sent to the storm-hit areas to provide health care services to local. The Ministry of Health achieved remarkable success in supplying potable water, carrying out sanitation, giving polio and measles vaccination and medical treatment joining hands with UN agencies and INGOs.

The minister and the ambassador focused on setting up the funds for three main diseases.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe and Directors-General and officials under the Ministry of Health.

Deputy Director-General Dr Win Myint accepts 70 water purifiers worth 123,900 US dollars donated by Advisor Mr Kieran Scott to World Vision (Myanmar).—HEALTH

World Vision (Myanmar) donates water purifiers

YANGON, 30 July—Advisor Mr Kieran Scott to the World Vision (Myanmar) this afternoon presented 70 water purifiers worth 123,900 US dollars to storm victims at the temporary control office of the Ministry of Health being run at the Emergency and Outpatient Department of Yangon General Hospital.

Deputy Director-General of the Department of Health Dr Win Myint accepted the donations.
Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends concluding ceremony of monsoon paddy cultivation...

(from page 1)

Only when per-acre yield of paddy exceeds the targeted production, will the income of farmers increase.

He stressed the need to prepare for growing of double paddy cropping on 26,033 acres of farmlands. With a view to supplying water for agricultural purpose, nine dams and 22 river water pumping projects are being implemented in Yangon Division. In addition three more river water pumping projects are under construction.

He said that efforts are being made for changing conventional farming into mechanical farming. In so doing, agricultural equipment such as Leyar-16, Leyar-22 power-tillers, paddy harvesters, direct seeding machines, paddy dryers and combined harvesters and technology are provided to the farmers.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, plans are made for cultivation of 100,000 acres of physic nut plants in Yangon Division this year for extracting bio-fuel, and he stressed the need for realization of plans in Yangon Division as an economic division.

Next, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint gave a speech.

The commander accepted reports on monsoon paddy cultivation presented by chairmen of District PDCs.

Next, Yangon Division Paddy Transplanting Contest 2008-09 was opened.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party attended the fish releasing ceremony organized by Fisheries Department and they put 25,000 fingerlings into farmlands.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party viewed paddy transplanting contest.

They looked into sample paddy plantations and natural fertilizer-used paddy plantations.

Next, they viewed manual pump and booths and special shops of ministries concerned, companies and associations at the pavilion near approach road to Dagon Bridge.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe presented awards to farmers of Taikkyi, Hlegu, Kayan and Thongwa Townships for their outstanding performance in agriculture sector for 2007-08.

Agricultural equipment such as Leyar-16, Leyar-22 power-tillers, paddy harvesters, direct seeding machines, paddy dryers and combined harvesters and technology are provided to the farmers.

Next, the commander presented prizes to responsible persons of Kyauktan, Taikkyi and Thongwa Townships in monsoon paddy cultivation, summer paddy and gram cultivation.

Managing Director U Tin Lwan of Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank presented awards to Kyauktan, Thongwa, Kayan and Hlegu Townships in resettlement of agricultural loans.

Deputy Director-General U Khin Ko Lay of Fisheries Department presented awards to Taikkyi, Twantay and Htantabin Townships for their outstanding performance in putting fingerlings into farmlands.

Next, the prize presentation ceremony of paddy transplanting contest followed. Commander of Mingaladon Air Base Col Thein Naing presented consolation prizes to Dagon Myothit townships and Hmau Htain Township and Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Commodore Win Shien, third prize to Hlegu Township.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe presented the second prize to Thongwa Township and first prize to Thanyin Township.

Next, Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint and Secretary of Yangon Division PDC U Hla Soe presented certificates of honour to entrepreneurs and companies.

Also present on the occasion were departmental officials, private entrepreneurs and responsible persons of companies, local farmers and people.

MNA
Nay Pyi Taw, 30 July — The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Deputy Director-General Daw Lè Lè Thein of the Planning Department under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

MNA

Relief supplies arrive

Yangon, 30 July — A stream of relief supplies from international community is constantly flowing to Myanmar for storm-hit areas. Altogether 43,578 tons of relief aid from the United Nations World Food Programme arrived at Yangon International Airport today.—MNA

Secretariat Member Minister U Aung Thaung attends prize presentation ceremony

Yangon, 30 July — Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and wife Daw Khin Khin Yi donated Waso robes and offerings to members of the Sangha from monasteries and Sarthintaiks in Natmauk of Magway Division at Dipinkara Sarthintaik in Natmauk on 26 July.

The minister and wife and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vayama and then members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Next, the minister made a speech at the prize presentation ceremony at the hall of the township in Natmauk and presented prizes to outstanding students who had passed the matriculation examination with distinctions and Township Education Officer Daw Khin Oo who accepted on behalf of the teachers.

Afterwards, prizes were presented to distinction winning students and outstanding students. Next, Head-master U Than Htay Aung accepted K 1 million donated by U Ye Myint and Daw Win Maw Tun family (Star Motorcycle Assembling Company).

At Natmauk Township USDA Office, the Secretariat Member met with the secretary and executives and members and gave necessary instructions and then attended a ceremony to present prizes to outstanding students at Kyaukpadaung Township Gymnasium.

Next, the Secretariat Member presented prizes to outstanding students who had passed the matriculation examination with distinctions for 2007-2008 academic year and met with secretaries, executives and members from five township USDDAs of Myingyan District and made a speech on the occasion.

MNA

Houses for storm victims seen at Satsan village, Bogale Township.—MNA

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
Sagaing Division USDA’s volunteers honoured

NAV PYI TAW, 30 July—The volunteers of Sagaing Division Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) who took part in the reconstruction and farming works in Ayeayawady Division were honoured at the office of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council in Monywa yesterday. On the occasion, Patron of Sagaing Division Union Solidarity and Development Association Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe and CEC member of USDA for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered addresses. The leaders of voluntary groups recounted their experiences. Next, the commander and the minister presented certificates of honour to them. At the monastery of Koebin Village, the minister offered Waso robes and provisions to the Sayadaw of the monastery. After that, the minister met with residents of Thasi, Tegyigon, Kyausiktron (North) and Kanpya villages of the township and gave exercise books and sports gear to them.

Minkan Dam in Myaing Township inaugurated

NAV PYI TAW, 30 July—Minkan Dam built near the village of Minkan in Myaing Township, Pakokku District, was inaugurated today. The dam on Padaukpin Creek near Minkan Village is the 39th one in Magway Division and the earthen embankment is 40 ft high and 2,100 ft long. The dam was built at the cost of K 254,40 million and it has a storage capacity of 390 acre feet.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint, departmental officials, members of social organizations and residents. Speaking on the occasion, Col Phone Maw Shwe called on local authorities and residents to help maintain dams and reservoirs in the region. Minkan Dam is built with the aim of underpinning the local rice sufficiency and greening Pakokku District, he said. He continued to say that Magway Division deserves to be called "Oil Bowl" as the edible oil sufficiency in the region has increased up to 429 percent. The division sets its target of 932,096 acres of irrigated fields to maintain the new irrigation facility that is expected to occur in the year 2006 and 2007.

Next, the minister formally opened the dam. Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint urged local people to maintain the new irrigation facility that is expected to occur in the region, he said. In Pakokku District, a total of 71 small dams and reservoirs are projected, and when 24 small dams and reservoirs have been built, 1,036 acres more have been put under paddy. Thanks to 31 more small dams and reservoirs constructed by the Irrigation Department, 4,697 acres more have been put under paddy in the district, he said.

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Minister looks into rehabilitation in Bogale

YANGON, 30 July—Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung attended a ceremony to hand over fishing boats and fishing gear to fishermen at Setsan Village in Bogale Township on 28 July. At the ceremony, the minister delivered an address and a townelder spoke words of thanks. Next, the minister inspected fishing boats and greeted the fisherman. After the ceremony, the minister went to Setsan Basic Education High School and inspected construction of temporary schools and viewed students learning at the school.

The minister also inspected resettlement of storm survivors in 108 houses, rural library, opening of shops, road works and beautifying tasks of the village. At the village of Kyainchaungy, the minister looked into resettlement of residents in 120 houses, opening of a clinic, renovation of Tilawkamarazein Pagoda, building of Nagayon Pagoda and library. He also presented cash to schoolchildren at the village.

The minister arrived at Myinkagon Village and inspected medicines donated by Htoo Trading Co Ltd to rural dispensary, Basic Education High School and cultivation of paddy fields.

Warning of high-tide

YANGON, 30 July—The public are hereby informed that exceptionally high spring of from 20.18 feet to 21.00 feet expected to occur in Yangon River during the period from 1st August to 5th August 2008. That it is not serious because the high tide reaches up to 21.7 feet high above datum in the year 2006 and 2007, and that the warning is issued only because high tide reaches over 20 feet above datum.

Students learning their lessons in a tent in the village of Mawlamyinegyu Township.
**Cathay Pacific says damaged plane posed no danger**

**HONG KONG, 30 July—** Cathay Pacific Airways said mid-air damage suffered by a Boeing 747-400 aircraft with 363 passengers on board involved an air-conditioning vent but there was no danger. The plane was on a flight on Tuesday from New York to Hong Kong via the western Canadian city of Vancouver.

**Rio Tinto to invest 2.15 bln dlrs in Brazil iron ore mine**

**SYDNEY, 30 July—** Anglo-Australian mining giant Rio Tinto announced Wednesday that it will invest 2.15 billion US dollars in a major expansion of its iron ore mine in Corumba, Brazil. The investment would boost annual capacity of the mine more than five-fold from 2.4 million tonnes a year to 12.8 million tonnes, with new production starting in the fourth quarter of 2010, the company said in a statement. Rio Tinto will also undertake a feasibility study for a further expansion that would take annual capacity to 23.2 million tonnes.

The expansion of Corumba would capitalise on increasing demand for iron ore in South America and the Middle East and increase Rio Tinto’s presence in Europe, the company said. “This is a very significant step forward in our drive to extend iron ore operations beyond the Pilbara region in Western Australia,” said Rio Tinto chief executive Tom Albanese.

**Iraq’s rebuilding planned at nearly $120 billion**

**WASHINGTON, 30 July—** Iraq’s coffers are bulging with oil money, yet some Baghdad residents go without electricity for much of the day and others get drinking water tainted with sewage. “They don’t need more money,” said Stuart Bowen, special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction. “But they are having a difficult time, apparently, spending the money that they have.”

Bowen Wednesday is releasing his quarterly report to Congress on efforts to rebuild Iraq’s shattered nation — a program now expected to spend $117.79 billion.

Aided by money from a postwar record in oil production, Baghdad itself is now set to spend an amount almost equal to the US share, the report says. That is, as of the end of the quarter on June 30 the US has appropriated $50.46 billion, the Iraqis are contributing $50.33 billion and international donors have pledged $17 billion.

**Honeywell to develop turbos for new Ford engine**

**DETROIT, 30 July—** Ford Motor Co has picked Honeywell International Inc to develop turbo-chargers for a V-6 engine in the automaker’s line of EcoBoost engines.

Honeywell said it will make twin turbos for the 3.5-liter V-6 EcoBoost engine that will go into the 2010 Lincoln MKS luxury sedan. Lincoln spokesman Mark Schirmer said he did not know how many turbochargers Honeywell will make for Ford or how much the company would be paid. Ford has said its EcoBoost line of four- and six-cylinder direct-injection turbocharged engines will be able to deliver performance of larger engines with a 20 percent improvement in gas mileage.

**Japan’s industrial output falls 2 percent in June**

**TOKYO, 30 July—** Japan’s industrial output fell 2 percent in June from the previous month on declining demand for passenger cars and factory equipment, the government said Wednesday.

The output returned to negative in June after a 2.8 percent rise in May that followed a 0.3 percent slip in April, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said.

Industrial shipments in June declined 3 percent from May, while industrial inventories gained 1.2 percent, the ministry said.

The results provide additional signs that Japan’s economy further deteriorated amid rising food and oil prices.

**HP, Intel and Yahoo study ways to make Web a utility**

**SAN FRANCISCO, 30 July—** Three tech giants — Hewlett-Packard, Intel and Yahoo — said on Tuesday they are teaming up on a research project to help turn Web services into reliable, everyday utilities. The companies are joining forces with academic researchers in Asia, Europe and the United States to create an experimental network that lets researchers test “cloud-computing” projects.

Web-wide services that can reach billions of users at once. Their goal is to promote open collaboration among industry, academic and government researchers by removing financial and logistical barriers to working on hugely computer-intensive, Internet-wide projects.

Founding members of the consortium said they aim to create a level playing field for individual researchers and organizations of all sizes to conduct research on software, network management and the hardware needed to deliver Web-wide services as billions of computer and phone users come online.
Small shrew is heavyweight boozzer

Bayreuth, (Germany), 30July—A tiny tree-shrew that lives on alcoholic nectar could pound for pound drink the average human under the table, scientists have discovered. Malaysia’s pen-tailed tree-shrew waits until nightfall to binge on fermented nectar from the bertam palm. The animal could give insights into how humans’ alcohol tolerance evolved, the scientists say.

Los Angeles, 30 July—City officials are putting South Los Angeles on a diet. The City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to place a moratorium on new fast-food restaurants in an impoverished swath of the city with a proliferation of such eateries and above average rates of obesity.

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Cuban farmers refuse food rations to help economy

HAVANA, 30 July — A group of farmers in western Cuba say they will no longer accept their government-provided rations of rice and beans and want others to help the economy by following their lead, a state-run newspaper said on Monday.

Cuban President Raul Castro has told Cubans the country must cut costly food imports and that the heavily-subsidized food rations for each Cuban is “irrational and unsustainable.”

The newspaper Trabajadores (Workers) said an agricultural cooperative in the state of Pinar del Rio had “renounced” part of the ration that includes beans, rice, cooking oil, sugar, coffee and a small amount of meat.

Two other groups in the state said they would stop accepting beans and rice next year, Trabajadores reported.

It said the Pinar del Rio farmers would “invite the rest of the other producers in other states to take the same step.”

Since formally replacing brother Fidel Castro in February, Raul Castro has taken steps away from the egalitarian ideal as he tries to improve the state-run economy by increasing productivity.

MNA/Reuters

Spain rejects banana deal between EU, Latin America

MADRID, 30 July — Spain has rejected the compromise reached by the European Union (EU) and Latin American banana producers on reducing EU import duty on the fruit.

According to reports from Geneva, Spanish Rural Environment Minister Josep Pueyo told reporters Monday that Spain would support high duty on Latin American bananas for “as long as possible.” According to the compromise reached on Sunday between negotiators from both regions, the EU would reduce the duty per ton on Latin American banana from the current 176 euros (about 276 US dollars) to 114 euros (179 dollars) in 2016.

The EU and Latin America reached this agreement during the ongoing Doha Round of the World Trade Organization (WTO) talks in Geneva, being attended by some 30 countries.

Pueyo said that the agreement on banana trade reached by the EU and Latin America is not definitive because the European negotiators were yet to inform the Ministers’ Council of the 27 EU member states about the contents of the document.

Xinhua

Two Ford Model T’s are shown on 25 July, 2008, as 15,000 Model T enthusiasts and visitors from eight different countries celebrate the week long event for the 100th anniversary of the Ford Model T at the 2008 Centennial “T Party” in Richmond, Indiana.—INTERNET

Tennessee church shooter angry at ‘liberals’

NASHVILLE (Tennes-see), 30 July — A man who opened fire inside a church, killing two people with a shotgun hidden in a guitar case, was frustrated at being unable to find a job and blamed liberals and gays, police said on Monday.

“It appears that what brought him to this horrible event was his lack of being able to obtain a job, his frustration over that, and his stated hatred of the liberal movement,” Knoxville Police Chief Sterling Owen told reporters of Sunday’s incident at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church.

Suspect Jim Adkisson, 58, who was being held on one million US dollars bond, had previously worked as a mechanical engineer in several states.

He described his violent plans in a four-page letter found at his home, which also explained that his age and “liberals and gays” taking jobs had worked against him.

MNA/Reuters

Sinha says US conspiring to control nation’s sovereignty

RANCHI, 30 July—The US is conspiring to control India’s sovereignty through the Indo-US nuclear deal, India’s former External Affairs minister Yashwant Sinha said on Sunday.

“The Vajpayee government had given us nuclear power and now the US wants its keys, so it is conspiring to control India’s foreign policy and its sovereignty through the nuke deal,” Sinha told a news conference here in the capital of India’s eastern state Jharkhand.

“Advani ‘ji’ has already stated that the BJP will renegotiate the deal when it returns to power,” Sinha, who is here as part of the BJP’s week-long programme to reach out to the people with its views on various issues, added.

He attacked the Left parties for rejecting a BJP proposal earlier for a special Parliamentary committee to look into the nuclear deal and recommended its suggestions to the government.

MNA/PTI

US troops killed Iraqi civilians in June incident

BAGHDAD, 30 July—The US military said an investigation into an incident in which American troops killed three Iraqis near Baghdad airport last month showed the victims were not criminals but innocent civilians. In a statement released at the time of the June 25 incident, the military said troops fired at a car near the airport after coming under attack. It called the three people inside the vehicle “criminals”, adding a weapon had been found in the car.

“A thorough investigation determined that the driver and passengers were law abiding citizens of Iraq,” the military said in a statement released late on Sunday.

No weapon was found in the vehicle, it added. The statement also said troops involved in the incident were not at fault. A man and two women were killed in the shooting, local officials said at the time.

The result of the investigation comes at a sensitive time for Washington, which is negotiating a new security deal with Baghdad to govern the presence of US troops in Iraq when a UN mandate expires at the end of the year.—MNA/Reuters
**S P O R T S**

**Scolari upbeat after Asian tour as side takes shape**

From Nicolas Anelka and Ashley Cole.

Most of the squad now have some match practice as they count down to their season opener against Portsmouth on August 17, and "Big Phil" likes what he has seen in the month he has been in charge.

"I have the players for exciting football and I have the players for us to be champions," said the Brazillian as the side left Wednesday for the Railways Cup, where they will face Lokomotiv Moscow and either Sevilla or Milan.

The World Cup-winning coach said this week he had finalised 75 percent of his starting 11 and now he wants players who underachieved last season to step up, not least France international Florent Malouda whom he claims was "wasted." —INTERNET

**Dementieva, Zvonareva ousted on Tuesday with goals over a Malaysian XI here without conceding any, win the Premier League.**

him he has a side that can son tour, saying he had Chelsea completed the by Cibulkova and won only 47 percent of her service at Dubai. Dementieva had her serve broken five times nine events since the Australian Open, including a title Wimbledon semi-final loss to eventual champion Van der Sar baffled by Ronaldo’s Real dream

Manchester, 30 July — Edwin van der Sar cannot understand why Cristiano Ronaldo would want to play for any club other than Manchester United.

One of the long-running sagas of this pre-season has been the on-off tale of whether or not Portugal winger is leaving Old Trafford for Real Madrid.

It now looks as if one of the stars of United’s English Premier League and European Cup-winning campaign of last term will be staying put.

And as far as experienced Dutch goalkeeper van der Sar is concerned, the forward, currently recovering in the United States from an ankle operation, is better off sticking with Sir Alex Ferguson’s squad than heading to Spain.

“There have been a lot of things said and it is a very personal situation but we have a great team here, we play in a great stadium, with great fans and we have an opportunity to win more,” said the 37-year-old keeper.

“It is not that the team is going backwards. We have other trophies to play for, like the Super Cup and Intercontinental Cup. You don’t get the chance to play in those competitions very often because you need to win the Champions League in order to qualify. In my opinion, being at Manchester United is a great way to play at the highest level and win trophies with a team that is very closely knitted together. —INTERNET

**Confident Federer makes great escape, Roddick a non-starter**

Cincinnati (Ohio), 30 July — Roger Federer waited until the last moment to start the rescue of his No.1 ranking, overcoming Robby Ginepri 6-7 (27), 7-6 (75), 6-0 on Tuesday at the ATP Cincinnati Masters.

The second-round drama in two hours, 13 minutes showed the Swiss just how tough it would be to hold off the field as he tries to extend his 235 weeks on top of the rankings.

With Rafael Nadal pressing, if Federer goes out in his title defence before the semifinals and the Spaniard wins the event – it would be his eighth of the season - the top ranking changes hands.

"I do enjoy the challenge that I’m the number one in the world,” said the Swiss. "I’d rather it be me than rather it be him."

"I’m on a great run with my ranking. If I would lose it I would want it back. I hope I can get on a run for the two massive tournaments ahead of us (the Olympics and US Open)." —INTERNET

**NASCAR apologizes for Indianapolis tire fiasco**

Charlotte, 30 July — NASCAR apologized Tuesday for the tire fiasco that ruined its prestigious race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway and vowed to avoid a repeat.

A durability issue with the tires Goodyear brought to Indy forced NASCAR to call cautions every 10 to 12 laps during Sunday’s 400-mile race to slow the action and force teams to change their tires before they failed. The longest run under the green flag was 13 laps, and Jimmie Johnson claimed the victory at the end of a seven-lap sprint to the finish in the second-slowest race in the 15 years NASCAR has competed at the Brickyard.

The drivers were disgusted, fans were frustrated and NASCAR is still trying to figure out why things went so wrong.

Elena Dementieva of Russia returns a shot to Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia during day 2 of Rogers Cup Tennis at Stade Uniprix on July 29, in Montreal, Canada. Cibulkova won 6-4, 6-2. —INTERNET

**Real Madrid players have become frustrated with the constant speculation over Cristiano Ronaldo’s, seen here in June, possible transfer from Manchester United which Spanish media reported Tuesday had become bogged down. —INTERNET**

**US stars hope NBA betting scandal over**

MACAU, 30 July — Team USA hoped the NBA betting scandal was over on Wednesday after ex-referee Tim Donaghy was jailed for 15 months, despite fears of further shock revelations.

Toronto Raptors forward Chris Bosh said Donaghy’s sentence, for helping gamblers and betting on games he officiated, would serve as a warning against corruption. “That was an unfortunate circumstance but I’m sure that other guys have seen it and they’re taking note to it and they won’t walk up that path,” Bosh said. “It’s an unfortunate situation. You just have to hope that every ref should be honest in their job.”

NBA commissioner David Stern has portrayed Donaghy as a “rogue” official working alone as he strives to draw a line under the embarrassing affair. Los Angeles Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant backed Stern and said he doubted illicit betting was widespread in the league.

“If it was, I’m sure a lot of stuff would have come out already,” Bryant said. “The commissioner has already stated it was a rogue incident and that’s what we’re going to go by.” —INTERNET

**Internet**
China’s openness to foreign media would remain after Games

BEIJING, 30 July — China will remain open to foreign media after the Olympic Games, the country’s press authority said on Wednesday.

Liu Binjie, minister of the General Administration of Press and Publication, said openness to the foreign media is a long-term policy rather than a makeshift "puff of wind."

"China’s open door to the foreign media will not close after the Games," he told Xinhua.

"We regard the May 12 earthquake and the Olympic Games press coverage as an ‘important test’ of the media operation system reforms and will explore building a more open and transparent media system after the Games."

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**UN urges prevention, education to fight AIDS**

MEXICO CITY, 30 July — About 33 million people in the world are HIV carriers and the only way to fight the disease is to prevent infection and educate the public, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) said Tuesday in a communiqué.

The 2008 report on the global AIDS epidemic produced by UNAIDS, was released Tuesday simultaneously in New York, Geneva, Johannesburg and Bangkok.

The numbers of new HIV infections worldwide decreased from 3 million in 2001 to 2.7 million in 2007, and the number of new infections among children fell from 450,000 to 370,000, the report says.

There has also been an increase in the number of patients who received some kind of treatment for the disease, which rose from 1 million to 3 million during the same time.

Anti-retroviral therapy for people living with HIV/AIDS helped reduce the number of casualties from 2.2 million in 2006 to 2 million in 2007.

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**US “AIDS” policies neglect Blacks**

WASHINGTON, 30 July — US policies and cash may be leading the fight against AIDS globally, but they have neglected the epidemic among Black Americans, the Black AIDS Institute said in a report released on Tuesday. While Blacks account for one in eight people in the United States, half of all Americans infected with HIV are Black, the report found.

"We are 30 percent of the new cases among gay men, 40 percent of the new cases among men in general, 60 percent of the cases among women and 70 percent of the new cases among youth," Black AIDS Institute CEO Phill Wilson told reporters in a telephone briefing.

"Yet...the US response to AIDS in Black America stands in sharp contrast to the international response to the epidemic overseas," he added.

Al Sharpton, a prominent activist and founder of the National Action Network, agreed. US policy makers seem to be much more interested in the epidemic in Botswana than the epidemic in Louisiana. This is an unnecessary and deadly choice. Both need urgent attention," Sharpton said.

Dr. Helene Gayle, former head of AIDS for the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and now president of the poverty-fighting charity CARE, said many HIV infected Blacks are not in traditional high-risk groups such as men who have sex with men, injecting drug users and sex workers.

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**L American water supplies in danger of contamination**

MEXICO CITY, 30 July — Water supplies in Latin America are in danger of contamination as 88 percent of the region’s sewage is poured out untreated, the Latin American Water Tribunal (TLA) warned Tuesday.

There are 103 million people in the region living without sewage systems and 153,000 people die annually of diseases related to water contamination, the TLA Scientific Committee spokesman Ricardo Valverde told media.

He said 77 million Latin Americans do not have access to drinking water, with two thirds of them living in rural zones.

Haiti is the country most affected by the lack of water, with an average of only three liters of potable water available per inhabitant per day, Valverde added.

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**Myanmar Weather**

**Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**

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Sharpton said.
Make donations to the storm victims

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

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

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

Witness may inform about misappropriation of internal and international relief funds and supplies

Anyone may dial the following phone numbers of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement if he witnesses or knows that the cash assistance and relief supplies donated from abroad and at home to the storm victims are kept for self-interest, traded, used for particular persons and organizations, or misappropriated for other purposes.

Head of Office Ph: 067 404021 and 067 404022
Deputy Head of Office Ph: 09 860 1002

Medical teams leave for storm-hit regions

YANGON, 30 July—Under the arrangement of the Ministry of Health, health care services are being provided to storm victims. Physicians, specialists, assistant surgeons and nurses left Yangon General Hospital by floating hospital yesterday morning.

A seven-member medical team, led by physician Dr Khin San Aye of Thingangyun Sanpya General Hospital left for Warazein floating hospital in Labutta Township, the six-member team led by Physician Dr Ohnmar of Yangon General Hospital for Sinkan floating hospital in Pyapon Township and another six-member team led by physician Dr Myint Myint Aye of Yangon General Hospital for Tannin floating hospital based in Bogale Township. The medical teams will give medical treatment to storm victims up to 11 August.

They were seen off by Deputy Director-General Dr Win Myint of the Department of Health and officials and provided with medicines.

An aerial view of town plan in Pyinsalu, Labutta Township.—MNA